

**DEBATES IN THE FEDERAL  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

*FIRST SESSION*

*12th to 18th January, 1955*

COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

- His Excellency the Governor-General,  
Sir John S. Macpherson, G.C.M.G.
- The Acting Chief Secretary of the Federation,  
The Honourable R. F. A. Grey, O.B.E.
- The Attorney-General of the Federation,  
The Honourable A. McKisack, Q.C.
- The Financial Secretary of the Federation,  
The Honourable A. R. W. Robertson, C.M.G., C.B.E.
- Minister of Transport and Works,  
The Honourable Abubakar Tafawa Balewa, C.B.E.
- Minister of Land, Mines and Power,  
The Honourable Muhammadu Ribadu, M.B.E.
- Minister of Communications and Aviation,  
The Honourable K. O. Mbadiwe.
- Minister of Trade and Industry,  
The Honourable R. A. Njoku.
- Minister of Natural Resources and Social Services,  
The Honourable Adegoke Adelabu.
- Minister of Labour and Welfare,  
The Honourable Chief Festus Sam Okotie-Eboh.
- Minister without Portfolio,  
The Honourable M. T. Mbu.
- Minister without Portfolio,  
The Honourable Muhammadu Inuwa Wada.
- Minister without Portfolio,  
The Honourable Kolawole Balogun.
- Minister without Portfolio,  
The Honourable V. E. Mukete.
- Sir Frederic W. Metcalfe, K.C.B. . . . . . *Speaker.*

MEMBERS

(Arranged in alphabetical order)

- |  |                          |
|--|--------------------------|
| Mr H. O. Abaagu . . . . .              | Kwande Division.         |
| M. Abdulkadiri Makama . . . . .        | Central Zaria.           |
| M. Rilwanu Abdullahi . . . . .         | South West Central Kano. |
| M. Abdullahi, Magajin Musawa . . . . . | Katsina West Central.    |
| M. Abdullahi, Sarkin Eggon . . . . .   | Southern Division.       |
| M. Abdu Rahamani . . . . .             | North West Sokoto.       |
| Mr D. N. Abii . . . . .                | Owerri Division.         |
| Mr H. M. Adaji . . . . .               | North Igala.             |
| Chief J. O. Adedipe . . . . .          | Ondo North.              |
| Mr J. G. Adeniran . . . . .            | Ibadan West.             |
| Mr A. Adeyinka . . . . .               | Ibadan Central.          |
| Mr N. M. Agada . . . . .               | Abakaliki Division.      |
| Mr O. C. Agwuna . . . . .              | Awka Division.           |
| Alhaji Ahmadu, Sarkin Fulani . . . . . | North East Sokoto.       |

Mr F. U. Mbakogu .. .. .	Awka Division.
Mr J. Mboyam .. .. .	Mkambe Division.
M. Mohammadu, Sarkin Shira .. .. .	Katagum South.
M. Kalia Monguno .. .. .	South Dikwa.
Mr J. Mpi .. .. .	Ahoada Division.
Alhaji Muhammadu, Sarkin Burmi Moriki .. .. .	East Sokoto.
M. Muhtari, Sarkin Bai .. .. .	South West Kano.
Alhaji Mohamed Munir .. .. .	South Kano.
M. Ibrahim Nadabo .. .. .	Katsina South West.
Mr U. O. Ndem .. .. .	Calabar Division.
Mr F. E. Ngale .. .. .	Victoria Division.
Mr L. A. Ning .. .. .	Wum Division.
Mr J. L. Nsima .. .. .	Eket Division.
Mr A. Nwachuku .. .. .	Afikpo.
Mr S. F. Nwika .. .. .	Ogoni Division.
Mr J. C. Obande .. .. .	South East Idoma.
Mr F. T. Odum .. .. .	Ahoada Division.
Mr F. E. Offor .. .. .	Okigwi Division.
Mr D. A. Ogbadu .. .. .	South Igala.
Mr J. A. G. Ohiani .. .. .	Igbirra Division.
Mr L. P. Ojukwu .. .. .	Onitsha Division.
Mr D. E. Okereke .. .. .	Owerri Division.
M. Sanni O. B. Okin .. .. .	North Ilorin.
Mr P. H. Okolo, M.B.E. .. .. .	Onitsha Division.
M. M. A. O. Olarewaju .. .. .	South Ilorin.
Mr D. L. G. Olateju .. .. .	Oshun North.
Chief J. S. Olayeye .. .. .	Okitipupa Division.
Mr Z. B. Olokesusi .. .. .	Ekiti South.
Chief E. O. Omolodun .. .. .	Oyo South.
Mr N. N. Onugu .. .. .	Nsukka Division.
Mr D. K. Onwenu .. .. .	Port Harcourt Division.
Mr J. I. G. Onyia .. .. .	Asaba Division.
Chief H. O. Osagie .. .. .	Benin West.
Chief G. O. Oweh .. .. .	Urhobo West.
Mr E. O. Oyedeji .. .. .	Oshun South.
Mr V. D. Phillips .. .. .	Ijebu East.
Chief I. S. Popoola .. .. .	Owo North.
Mr A. Rosiji .. .. .	Egba East.
M. Abba Sadik .. .. .	North East Bornu.
M. Mohammed Sagir .. .. .	Katagum North.
M. Maina Saleh .. .. .	Bedde Division.
Mr M. A. Sanni .. .. .	Oshun Central.
M. Usuman Sarki, Sardaunan Bida .. .. .	Bida Division.
M. Shehu Shagari .. .. .	South West Sokoto.
M. Abare Shani .. .. .	Biu Division.
M. Sule Share .. .. .	Lafiagi Division.
Chief I. A. Sodipo .. .. .	Egba South.
Mr T. T. Solaru .. .. .	Ijebu West.



The Honourable M. T. Mbu, Minister without Portfolio.			
The Honourable	Mohammadu Munir	.. ..	South Kano.
The Honourable	Aliyu Bisalla	.. ..	Abuja Division.
The Honourable	J. C. Obande	.. ..	South East Idoma.
The Honourable	Nuhu Bamalli	.. ..	Central Zaria.
The Honourable	Ibrahim Usman	.. ..	Wukari Division.
The Honourable	S. O. B. Okin	.. ..	North Ilorin.
The Honourable	D. A. Ogbadu	.. ..	South Igala.
The Honourable	Hassan Yola	.. ..	North Central Adamawa.
The Honourable	Maikano Dutse	.. ..	East Kano.
The Honourable	Bukar Dipcharima	.. ..	East Bornu.
The Honourable	Patrick Dokotri	.. ..	Jos.
The Honourable	Yakubu Wanka	.. ..	Central Bauchi.
The Honourable	Muhammadu Bida	.. ..	North Central Sokoto.
Alhaji the Honourable	Usuman Gwarzo	.. ..	North East Kano.
The Honourable	Bello Dandago, Sarkin Dawaki	.. ..	South West Central Kona.
Chief the Honourable	H. O. Davies	.. ..	Oyo North.
The Honourable	L. P. Ojukwu	.. ..	Onitsha Division.
Chief the Honourable	I. A. Sodipo	.. ..	Egba South.
The Honourable	J. I. Izah	.. ..	Aboh Division.
The Honourable	Ohwotemu Oweh	.. ..	Urhobo West.
Reverend the Honourable	E. S. Bens	.. ..	Brass Division.
The Honourable	U. O. Ndem	.. ..	Calabar Division.
The Honourable	J. L. Nsima	.. ..	Eket Division.
The Honourable	D. C. Ugwu	.. ..	Nsukka Division.
The Honourable	D. E. Okereke	.. ..	Owerri Division.
The Honourable	N. M. Agada	.. ..	Abakaliki Division.
The Honourable	E. C. Akwiwu	.. ..	Orlu Division.
The Honourable	P. Ayuk	.. ..	Mamfe Division.
Dr the Honourable	E. U. Udoma	.. ..	Opobo Division.
The Honourable	T. T. Solaru	.. ..	Ijebu West.
Oba the Honourable	A. Aiyeola	.. ..	Ijebu Remo Division.
The Honourable	Jaja A. Wachuku	.. ..	Aba Division.
The Honourable	R. A. Fani-Kayode	.. ..	Ife Division.
The Honourable	A. Rosiji	.. ..	Egba East.
Chief the Honourable	S. L. Akintola	.. ..	Oshun West
The Honourable	Kalia Mongonu	.. ..	South Dikwa.
The Honourable	Usuman Kalgo	.. ..	Yauri and South Gwandu.
Alhaji the Honourable	Umoru Gumel	.. ..	East Kano.
The Honourable	Sadik	.. ..	North East Bornu.
The Honourable	Ahmadu Danbaba	.. ..	North East Central Sokoto.
The Honourable	Rilwani Abdullahi	.. ..	South West Central Kano.
The Honourable	Maina Saleh	.. ..	Bedde Division.
The Honourable	Abdurahman	.. ..	North West Sokoto.
The Honourable	Hassan Rafin Dadi	.. ..	Katsina South East.
Alhaji the Honourable	Adamu Danguguwa	.. ..	North West Central Kano.
The Honourable	Abba Jato	.. ..	North Dikwa.

[Oaths of Allegiance]

12th January, 1955

[Oaths of Allegiance]

The Honourable Usman Maitambari .. .. .	Central Gwandu.
The Honourable Abdullahi, Magajin Musawa .. .. .	Katsina West Central.
The Honourable Mudi Kazaure .. .. .	North Kano.
The Honourable C. O. Komolafe .. .. .	Ilesha Division.
The Honourable D. N. Chuku .. .. .	Agwu Division.
The Honourable H. O. Chuku .. .. .	Bende Division.
The Honourable D. N. Abii .. .. .	Owerri Division.
Dr the Honourable E. O. Awduche .. .. .	Onitsha Division.
The Honourable S. J. Mariere .. .. .	Urhobo East.
The Honourable Z. B. Olokesusi .. .. .	Ekiti South.
The Honourable Adebayo Adeyinka .. .. .	Ibadan Central.
The Honourable J. W. W. Johnston .. .. .	Special Member.
The Honourable F. Ngale .. .. .	Victoria Division.
The Honourable L. A. Ning .. .. .	Wum Division.
The Honourable S. W. Ubani-Ukoma .. .. .	Aba Division.
The Honourable T. A. Ajayi .. .. .	Ekiti North.
The Honourable L. J. Dosumu .. .. .	Lagos East.
The Honourable F. N. H. Ayeni .. .. .	Badagry Division.
The Honourable R. T. Alege .. .. .	Kabba Division.
The Honourable A. J. U. Ekong .. .. .	Uyo Division.
The Honourable R. N. Takon .. .. .	Ikom Division.
The Honourable N. G. Yellowe .. .. .	Degema Division.
The Honourable J. G. Adeniran .. .. .	Ibadan West.
The Honourable E. C. W. Howard .. .. .	Special Member.
The Honourable C. M. Booth, O.B.E. .. .. .	Special Member.
The Honourable E. A. O. Dada .. .. .	Egbado South.
The Honourable Abdullahi, Sarkin Eggon .. .. .	Southern Division.
Chief the Honourable J. Y. Dimlong .. .. .	Pankshin Division.
The Honourable Muhtari .. .. .	South West Kano.
The Honourable Iro, Sarkin Gabas .. .. .	East Katsina.
The Honourable Gondo Aluor .. .. .	Iharev-Massev Division.
Alhaji the Honourable Sarkin Burmi .. .. .	East Sokoto.
The Honourable D. K. Onwenu .. .. .	Port Harcourt Division.
The Honourable A. A. Ajibola .. .. .	Egbado North.
The Honourable P. H. Okolo .. .. .	Onitsha Division.
The Honourable E. O. Imafidon .. .. .	Benin East.
The Honourable J. Mpi .. .. .	Ahoada Division.
The Honourable M. A. Sanni .. .. .	Oshun Central.
The Honourable G. O. D. Ene .. .. .	Udi Division.
The Honourable F. E. Offor .. .. .	Okigwi Division.
The Honourable B. O. Ikeh .. .. .	Abakaliki Division.
The Honourable D. O. Enang .. .. .	Obubra Division.
The Honourable J. A. Effiong .. .. .	Enyong Division.
The Honourable S. F. Nwika .. .. .	Ogoni Division.
The Honourable Abubakar Garba .. .. .	North Bauchi.
The Honourable Ahmadu Babandi .. .. .	Gumel Division.
The Honourable Abdulkadir Maidugu .. .. .	Hadejia Division.

[Oaths of Allegiance]

12th January, 1955

[Oaths of Allegiance]

The Honourable Muhammadu Sagir	..	..	..	Katagum North.
The Honourable Ahmadu Rufai Daura	..	..	..	South East Kano.
The Honourable Ibrahim Iyan Katsina	..	..	..	Katsina South West.
The Honourable Shehu Shagari	..	..	..	South West Sokoto.
The Honourable E. Damulak	..	..	..	Lowland Division.
The Honourable T. O. S. Benson	..	..	..	Lagos West.
The Honourable F. O. Mbadiwe	..	..	..	Udi Division.
The Honourable J. M. Udochi	..	..	..	Kukuruku Division.
The Honourable Aja Nwachuku	..	..	..	Afikpo Division.
The Honourable H. O. Osagie	..	..	..	Benin West.
The Honourable H. O. Abaagu	...	...	...	Kwande Division.
The Honourable O. Bademosi	..	..	..	Ondo South.
The Honourable J. I. G. Onyia	..	..	..	Asaba Division.
Chief the Honourable J. S. Olayeye	..	..	..	Okitipupa Division.
Alhaji the Honourable Ahmadu, Sarkin Fulani	..	..	..	North East Sokoto.
The Honourable Jalo Ubandoma	..	..	..	Gombe Division.
The Honourable Marmani Bazza	..	..	..	Northern Adamawa Trust Territory.
The Honourable Ahmadu Fatika	..	..	..	Northern Zaria.
The Honourable Umaru, Dan Waziri	..	..	..	North Gwandu.
The Honourable Usman Sarki	..	..	..	Bida Division.
The Honourable Haruna, Wakilin Daji	..	..	..	Daura Division.
The Honourable Baba Dambatta	..	..	..	North East Central Kano.
The Honourable Usman Ungulu Ahmed	..	..	..	Kwara Division.
The Honourable M. A. O. Olarewaju	..	..	..	South Ilorin.
The Honourable Musa Hindi	..	..	..	West Bornu.
The Honourable Muhammadu Ubangari	..	..	..	Lafia Division.
The Honourable Hamza	..	..	..	Gombe Division.
The Honourable Umaru Karim	..	..	..	Muri Division.
The Honourable F. Mbakogu	..	..	..	Awka Division.
The Honourable A. E. Ukata	..	..	..	Bende Division.
The Honourable L. A. Lawal	..	..	..	Ibadan East.
The Honourable J. A. Akande	..	..	..	Egba North.
The Honourable J. U. Udom	..	..	..	Abak Division.
The Honourable Sarwuan Tarka	..	..	..	Jembar Division.
The Honourable J. C. Lucas	..	..	..	Special Member.
The Honourable Edgar Bathurst	..	..	..	Special Member.
The Honourable Abore Shani	..	..	..	Biu Division.
The Honourable Zubairu Bamu	..	..	..	Nassarawa Division.
The Honourable Muhammadu Bello	..	..	..	East Central Sokoto.
The Honourable Galadima Maikiyari	..	..	..	North West Bornu.
The Honourable Hassan Zuru	..	..	..	Kontagora Division.
The Honourable Ladan Fari	..	..	..	North Katsina.
The Honourable Mamudu A. Bayero	..	..	..	North West Kano.
The Honourable Isa	..	..	..	Borgu Division.
The Honourable Bukar Kadi	..	..	..	South Bornu.
The Honourable Baba A. Gurum Pawo	..	..	..	South Adamawa Trust Territory.

[Oaths of Allegiance]

12th January, 1955

[Adjournment]

The Honourable L. S. Fonka	..	..	..	..	Bamenda Division.
The Honourable J. Mbonyam	..	..	..	..	Nkambe Division.
The Honourable E. O. Fawole	..	..	..	..	Ikeja Division.
The Honourable E. O. Oyedeji	..	..	..	..	Oshun South.
Chief the Honourable J. O. Adedipe	..	..	..	..	Ondo North.
The Honourable M. A. Ajasin	..	..	..	..	Owo South.
Chief the Honourable I. S. Popoola	..	..	..	..	Owo North.
The Honourable O. Tobun	..	..	..	..	Epe Division.
The Honourable V. Duro Phillips	..	..	..	..	Ijebu East.
The Honourable E. O. Omolodun	..	..	..	..	Oyo South.
The Honourable D. L. G. Lateju	..	..	..	..	Oshun North
The Honourable Muhammadu Bello Alkamawa	..	..	..	..	East Central Sokoto.
The Honourable Muazu Lamido	..	..	..	..	West Sokoto.
The Honourable Maitama Sule	..	..	..	..	Kano Urban Area.
The Honourable Bello Sarkin Paiko	..	..	..	..	Minna Division.
The Honourable H. M. Adaji	..	..	..	..	North Igala.
The Honourable Gwani Dogo, Ungwan Rimi	..	..	..	..	Southern Zaria.
Alhaji the Honourable Aminu Tafida	..	..	..	..	North West Sokoto.
The Honourable Danbo Kaninkwon	..	..	..	..	Jema'a Division.
The Honourable Danmale, Madakin Gona	..	..	..	..	East Central Katsina.
The Honourable Baba Daradara	..	..	..	..	East Central Kano.
The Honourable J. A. G. Ohiani	..	..	..	..	Igbirra Division.
The Honourable Sule Share	..	..	..	..	Lafiagi Division.
The Honourable Maina Waziri	..	..	..	..	Potiskum Division.
The Honourable Abdu Sule	..	..	..	..	North West Idoma.
The Honourable J. Assadagu	..	..	..	..	Numan Division.
The Honourable Abdulkadiri, Makama	..	..	..	..	Central Zaria.
The Honourable Osita Agwuna	..	..	..	..	Awka Division.
The Honourable J. O. Igwe	..	..	..	..	Abakaliki Division.
The Honourable F. T. Odum	..	..	..	..	Ahoada Division.
The Honourable H. O. Akpan Udo	..	..	..	..	Ikot Ekpene Division.
The Honourable N. N. Onugu	..	..	..	..	Nsukka Division.
The Honourable N. A. Ezonbodor	..	..	..	..	Western Ijaw Division.
The Honourable P. Eleke	..	..	..	..	Okigwi Division.
The Honourable G. O. Ebea	..	..	..	..	Ishan Division.
The Honourable J. M. Johnson	..	..	..	..	Ibadan North.

#### Adjournment

##### The Minister of Transport and Works :

Sir, I beg to move "That this House do now adjourn."

##### The Acting Chief Secretary of the Federation :

Sir, I beg to second.

*Question proposed.*

*Question put, and agreed to.*

*Adjourned accordingly at twenty-five minutes past twelve o'clock until 10 a.m. on Thursday, the 13th of January, 1955.*



THE WEST AFRICAN INSTITUTE FOR OIL PALM RESEARCH  
(AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE, 1955

**The Minister of Communications and Aviation :**

*Second Reading*—Friday, the 14th of January.

THE WAR PENSIONS (AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE, 1955

**The Acting Chief Secretary of the Federation :**

*Second Reading*—Friday, the 14th of January.

THE LOCAL FORCES (AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE, 1955

**The Acting Chief Secretary of the Federation :**

*Second Reading*—Friday, the 14th of January.

THE LAGOS LOCAL GOVERNMENT (AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE, 1955

**The Acting Chief Secretary of the Federation :**

*Second Reading*—Friday, the 14th of January.

THE UNIVERSITY COLLEGE HOSPITAL (AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE, 1955

**The Acting Chief Secretary of the Federation :**

*Second Reading*—Today.

THE ADMINISTRATOR-GENERAL'S (AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE, 1955

**The Attorney-General of the Federation :**

*Second Reading*—Today.

THE EVIDENCE (AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE, 1955

**The Attorney-General of the Federation :**

*Second Reading*—Friday, the 14th of January.

THE CRIMINAL PROCEDURE (AMENDMENT) (LAGOS) ORDINANCE, 1955

**The Attorney-General of the Federation :**

*Second Reading*—Monday, the 17th of January.

THE INCOME TAX (AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE, 1955

**The Financial Secretary of the Federation :**

*Second Reading*—Friday, the 14th of January.

THE MILITARY PENSIONS ORDINANCE, 1955

**The Financial Secretary of the Federation :**

*Second Reading*—Monday, the 17th of January.

THE NIGERIA CENTRAL MARKETING BOARD ORDINANCE, 1955

**The Minister of Trade and Industry :**

*Second Reading*—Friday, the 14th of January.

**ORDERS OF THE DAY**

THE WEST AFRICAN INSTITUTE FOR TRYPANOSOMIASIS RESEARCH  
(AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE, 1955—SECOND READING

**The Minister of Communications and Aviation :**

Mr Speaker, I rise to move the second reading of "A Bill to amend the West African Institute for Trypanosomiasis Research Ordinance, 1950."

[*The West African Institute for Trypanosomiasis Research (Amendment) Ordinance, 1955*]

13th January, 1955

[*The University College Hospital (Amendment) Ordinance, 1955*]

You will be aware that this Institute carries out its work in Kaduna and Vom and is under the control of a Committee of Management. The Institute is carrying out valuable research into both human and animal trypanosomiasis and does this work on behalf of the Nigerian Government and the Governments of the Gold Coast and Sierra Leone. Under the original Ordinance the Chairman and the Director of this Institute were both appointed by the Secretary of State without consultation with the Governments concerned. In view of the constitutional changes which have taken place in these three territories, it is felt that these appointments should be made by the Secretary of State after he has consulted the Governments concerned, and the Amendment before you is to seek to right this decision into the main Ordinance.

Sir, I beg to move.

**The Minister of Land, Mines and Power :**

Sir, I beg to second.

*Question proposed.*

*Question put, and agreed to.*

*Bill accordingly read a second time.*

*Bill committed to a Committee of the whole House.*

**Mr Speaker :**

Committee stage when ?

**The Minister of Communications and Aviation :**

Now, Sir.

*House in Committee.*

*Clauses 1-3 agreed to.*

*House resumed.*

*Bill reported without amendment.*

*Bill read the third time and passed.*

THE UNIVERSITY COLLEGE HOSPITAL (AMENDMENT)  
ORDINANCE, 1955—SECOND READING

**The Acting Chief Secretary of the Federation :**

Mr Speaker, I beg to move that " A Bill for an Ordinance to amend further the University College Hospital Ordinance, 1952" be read a second time.

This, Sir, is just a formal Bill. It is designed to bring the legal arrangements constituting the Board of the Management of the University College Hospital into accord with the recent changes in some of the bodies entitled to representation on that Board.

Sir, in 1952, the House passed an Ordinance—The University College Hospital Ordinance, 1952—which provided, amongst other things, for the setting up of a Board of Management for the Hospital. Under section 5 of that Ordinance persons were to be appointed to the Board of Management of the Hospital by the Governor (as His Excellency's style then was, by the Academic Board of the University College, Ibadan, and by the Provisional Council of that College, and also by the Ibadan Native Authority. Since that Ordinance was passed there have been important legal changes in the basis of local government in Ibadan and in the constitution of the University College. As Honourable Members are doubtless aware, local government in Ibadan is now the responsibility of a District Council established under the Local Government Law, 1953, of the Western Region.



# Debates in the Federal House of Representatives of Nigeria

Friday, 14th January, 1955

The House met at 9 o'clock

Prayers

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

Oath

Oath of Allegiance was administered to the following new Member:—

Mr S. J. Una . . . . . Uyo Division

STATEMENT ON FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND PROCESSION

## The Acting Chief Secretary of the Federation :

Mr Speaker, Sir, if I may, I wish to explain to the House why it is that, although a number of Bills have been introduced at this our first meeting, there is not among them a Bill dealing with freedom of assembly and procession. At the Budget Session of March, 1954 (as those Honourable Members who were before and are again Members of this House will recall) the Honourable Member from Asaba—Mr D. C. Osadebay—moved the following motion :

“In view of the provisions in sections 36, 37, 38 and 39 of the Police Ordinance which negative the right of freedom of assembly and procession, this Honourable House hereby humbly prays His Excellency the Governor in Council to introduce legislation to make better provisions for securing freedom of assembly and procession with necessary safeguards for public order.”

This motion was supported by the Government and was unanimously accepted by the House. The then Chief Secretary, Sir Arthur Benson, when supporting the motion, informed the House that the Government was already contemplating amending those sections of the Police Ordinance that relate to the control of assemblies and processions. Draft legislation, he said, had already been drawn up and after consideration by the Council of Ministers, had been sent to the three Regional Governments for consideration. This draft legislation follows the lines of the United Kingdom Public Order Act, 1936, and is based on two principles : first, that no permit should be required for processions or public meetings ; and secondly, that powers should exist to control them in abnormal circumstances when a procession or assembly is likely to lead to an outbreak of disorder. This control can take the form either of imposing conditions to be observed in the interests of peace or, in more serious situations, of banning public meetings and processions for a limited period.

It was always the intention of the former Government of Nigeria to seek the accord of the Governments of the Regions in any legislation introduced for these purposes and, as I have said, the draft Bill had already been sent to the Regions when the House considered Mr Osadebay's motion. Since then, constitutional changes have made the maintenance and securing of public safety and public order a concurrent matter. I regret, however, that it has not been possible to get agreement on legislation that will be acceptable to the Federal Government and to the Governments of the Regions. The Government of the Eastern Region has not yet been able to give the matter its full and considered attention, and the comments of the Governments of the Northern and Western Regions on the draft Bill have revealed differences of opinion both with ourselves and with one another that are not altogether irreconcilable but which make it clear there is a long way to go before we can resolve them.

[Reply to the Gracious Message]

14th January, 1955

[Reply to the Gracious Message]

In Her Gracious Message, Her Majesty urged Honourable Members to recognise their responsibilities as wise legislators and to strengthen the relationship between the Federal Legislature and its counterparts, the Regional Legislatures. Many wise people whom I regard as political architects say that the success or failure of any constitution depends entirely on those who operate it. Those of us who took part in the framing of the Constitution do appreciate the great difficulties involved. It is the spirit of goodwill and mutual understanding that has brought this Constitution to being.

At the end of the Lagos Conference in their closing speeches the "Big Three" claimed that the present Constitution was of their own making and to that effect made a public declaration of their determination to give it a fair trial. I am confident that all Honourable Members have come here with the determination to implement what their leaders have toiled to achieve.

The question of relationship between the Federation and the Regions is one aspect of the Constitution which its authors can claim deserved praise. The Constitution was framed in such a way that all factors that might lead to difficulties between the Regions and the Federation have been taken into account. As a result of that, the election to this House was made separate and distinct, and there is also a clear distinction between the Federal and Regional subjects. It is by this means that cordial relationships between the Regions and the Federation can be preserved.

In Her Gracious Message, Her Majesty ended with a prayer that our deliberations in this House may be directed to promoting the common good of Nigeria as a whole and of our countrymen whose will and wish have placed us in this honourable position. Although at times we could not help being parochial or having a regional bias over certain matters, whoever reads *Hansard* will find that the paramount interest of the old House was the national interest.

Gentlemen, your predecessors have paved the way and I am sure you will not fail to follow their excellent examples. At the Budget Session of March, 1953, His Excellency made a memorable remark when he said it was not asking too much from Her Majesty the Queen to spare time to pay us a visit. We sincerely hope that we may look forward before long to welcoming our Queen in order that She may meet Her people in Nigeria who I know have been longing to see Her. She would also be able to see how this young country is growing with rapidity and yet with caution. Despite its comparative immaturity, Nigeria, by the will of God and with the guidance of Her Majesty's Government, will soon take her place with the more advanced countries of the world.

Mr Speaker, I will make at this stage a categorical statement in re-assuring the Queen that when Nigeria has come of that age, it is ever determined to be part of the Commonwealth of which the Queen is the Head. (*Hear, Hear*).

Mr Speaker, I beg on behalf of this Honourable House, through the Chair, of course, that our warmest and most dutiful thanks be conveyed by His Excellency to Her Majesty the Queen for the message of greetings and good wishes which she has graciously expressed to the Members of this House and through them to all the people in the Federation. We pray Almighty God that our Queen may live and reign long, and bring happiness, peace and prosperity to all Her people throughout the world.

Mr Speaker, I beg to move.

**M. Muhammadu Inuwa Wada, Minister without Portfolio :**

Sir, I beg to second.

*Question proposed.*

[Reply to the Gracious Message]

14th January, 1955

[Appointment of Committee  
of Selection]**Chief I. A. Sodipo :**

Mr Speaker, I rise to associate myself with the motion that this House do express our humble thanks to Her Majesty the Queen, for Her kind message of congratulations and cheer on this occasion of the first session of our new House of Representatives. It was extremely kind and thoughtful of Her Majesty to have us present to Her mind and to send us Her message.

Indisputably, we are on a one-way march to nationhood. Colonialism is moribund and the old spirit of defeatism and servility is dead. The cry everywhere is for freedom and the whole spirit of the people is geared to the demand for self-government. We are going to have self-government, because the collective will of the people demands it. It is now inevitable.

It is therefore gratifying to me that in this our adventure into the unknown, we have the goodwill and encouragement of Her Majesty. That presages that when a truly self-governing Nigeria arrives, the way has been paved for a genuine and enduring friendship and co-operation with the United Kingdom. Nigeria will take her place within the British Commonwealth of Nations.

The kind message of Her Majesty underlines our British connection and our British tradition of which we are proud.

God save the Queen. (*Hear, Hear*).

**Chief S. L. Akintola :**

Mr Speaker, we on this side of the House associate ourselves with the sentiment which this motion expresses. We associate ourselves with all that the Mover has said. The tributes paid to Her Majesty the Queen for Her continuous interest in the progress and advancement of Nigeria are more than deserving. We are really grateful for the message sent to this Honourable House by Her Majesty the Queen. It is an inspiring message and a thought-provoking one. If we are in a position to give any assurance, I may say that we assure the Queen through His Excellency that we are going to uphold and maintain the tradition which Her Majesty's Legislature in other parts of the Commonwealth had established, a tradition of which we are justly proud.

*Question put, and agreed to.*

**Resolved :**

"That a humble address be presented to the Governor-General praying His Excellency to convey to Her Majesty the Queen the loyal and dutiful thanks of the House of Representatives for Her Gracious Message."

## APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEE OF SELECTION

**Mr V. Mukete, Minister without Portfolio :**

Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to move

"That the Honourable Abdulkadiri Makama be appointed a member of the Committee of Selection."

In moving this motion, Sir, I am confident that the Honourable Mallam Makama is well-known to most Honourable Members as one who will discharge in a fitting manner the duties expected of Honourable Members of the Committee of Selection. I have no doubt, Sir, that his appointment will be very acceptable.

[Grants to Regional  
Governments]

14th January, 1955

[From 1953-54 Surplus]

money to the Regions. I am one hundred per cent supporting the last speaker for having cited and for citing examples in the Regions where the Government of such Regions had been utterly neglecting certain parts of the Region. The Northern Region is no exception. The Government in power in the Northern Region has utterly neglected the Middle Belt Region which I now represent. I am the leader of a political party in that Region, and I think when I speak, I speak the opinion of that Region. (*Hear, Hear*). Mr Speaker, Sir, for a long time the other places in the far north have been heeded and more attention has been paid to places in the far north, but in the Middle Region we have been utterly neglected by the party in power of the Northern Region. To cite an example, the Division of Kwande where I come from, and which I represent, has had nothing done there. There are new agricultural methods in agricultural work and so many other amenities for the development of the Region, but none of these things have come to the Division as yet. The Division I represent has a population of roughly one million, and Mr Speaker, you can just imagine, having a population of one million people, the amount of tasks to be done so that they can contribute to the general well-being of the country.

Mr Speaker, I would suggest rather that when this money is given to the Regions a warning should be given to each Regional Government that this money should be disbursed fairly for the good of the whole Region, because when this money is given to the Regional Governments it is known that something will happen. They will do with it what they want, they will use it for the projects they choose, and develop them, and neglect the projects which they should develop.

Mr Speaker, I beg to suggest that when this money is sent to each Region that a warning that every part of the Region must be developed should accompany it.

Mr Speaker, I beg to support.

**Mr J. A. Wachuku :**

\*Mr Speaker, Sir, on behalf of this side of the House, the Opposition, we warmly support the motion of the Honourable Financial Secretary. The speeches of the last two speakers seem to savour of "parish pomp"—what they say in the House of Commons. It seems that the last but one speaker has been so used to the atmosphere of the Western House of Assembly that it is naturally too early for him to divorce himself from the environment and get himself immersed in the Central atmosphere . . . . (*Hear, Hear*) . . . . (*Laughter*) . . . . I think it will be wise to warn Members not to warn the Regional Government about such matters, for we come here to discuss matters pertaining to the Federation of Nigeria and we should look at the exclusive lists and realise that certain subjects which we mention here do not fall within the competence of this House at all. I do not see under what rule or any section of the law the last speaker can call on the Federal Government to put a proviso in the grant warning each Government that you must do this and you must not do that. So that I think that a Member representing a particular party in the Central House if he feels that something that has not been done there in his Region, I think that he has got representation in his Regional House and that is the appropriate place for him to make such a speech. If the matter refers to Trunk "A" roads, then it is a Central responsibility, and it will be quite proper for him to raise it on the floor of this House. We are trying to be Nigerians now. We want to divorce ourselves from this Regional bias that has been responsible for tearing the country into bits. We do not want to begin now sowing seeds of dissension. The last two speakers were labouring themselves, one attacking the Western Regional Government, and the other the Northern Regional Government. It is most amusing from the Opposition's point of view to see an Honourable Member attacking his own Regional Government. I understand that his party and the party in charge of the Regional Government in the North are co-operating to work the new Constitution, but I do not think it is proper for him to come here and begin to attack that Government here. But the theme of my speech,

\* Speech not corrected by Member.

[Grants to Regional Governments]

14th January, 1955

[From 1953-54 Surplus]

Mr Speaker, Sir, is that we should confine ourselves to matters of over-all interest as far as the Federation of Nigeria is concerned. Leave Regional matters to Regional Houses. They are competent to deal with the money that they are given in whatever way they like and it is the duty of the particular political party that is in opposition in the Western House to be the watchdog and see that the money allocated from whatever source is allocated fairly to all sections of the Division under their jurisdiction and control. It is not a matter for this House at all. I feel myself compelled to make comment on this aspect of the speeches because if we do not stress this point now, we may find that this House, as it proceeds from day to day in its business, that we shall be listening to nothing but Regional subjects and the time of the House will be wasted. So, Mr Speaker, without going any further I say that we warmly support the motion of the Financial Secretary, and we hope that the Regional Governments concerned will make very good use of the money given to them . . . . (Hear, Hear) . . . . I am from the Eastern Region. The Western Region and the Northern Region have been spoken of here, but it does not mean that the Eastern Region should be left out . . . . (Hear, Hear) . . . . But all that I am saying, Sir, is that we can only come here and give friendly advice, that the interests of every Region in this country are the interests of this House. We have no legal right to compel the Regions to make use of the money given to them in any particular way.

Sir, I hope also that the Regional Governments will not always look to this House, searching through the Budget for future windfalls, because I think the Federation of Nigeria has enough work to do with the subjects under its own functions, and each Region in this country should do all it can to raise its own revenue and not always look forward to the Budget of the Central Government to look for windfalls to share amongst the Regions.

With these remarks, Mr Speaker, I beg to support the motion.

**Mr D. N. Abii :**

Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the motion that this surplus money be given to the Regions as has been allocated by the Financial Secretary. I have to thank the Government for the timely action in giving out this money. We from the Regions need the money and by this time of the year any Regional Government getting some grant from the Federal Government will be very happy and grateful because this is going to help to solve our problems for the next Budget Session coming next month in the Regions.

Secondly I have to thank the Government for the method of distribution which seems to have given happiness to all Members of this House and that method has been solved because of the goodwill of the Northern Members of this House. If they had come here to think of nothing but themselves, their own individual members in the North, then that would have dislocated the families to which they belong. So that the Government has done very well I think. I sincerely agree with what the last speaker has just said that there is no necessity for attacking Regional Governments in this House. I would like to say at the same time that I do not think they did attack their Governments. They sincerely presented to this House a complaint of what their fathers and mothers had done to them, and it is for this House to ask their Regional Governments to be kind to their children . . . . (Laughter) . . . . For, this time—this year 1955, as the last speaker has remarked, is the time that we can declare Nigeria to be a nation. Nobody should come into this House with Regional feelings ; we come here to make Nigeria one nation and only one nation.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to support the motion.

**Mr B. O. Ikeh :**

Mr Speaker, I am rising to support this motion and in doing so I would like to express my deep appreciation of the equality of distribution of the surplus money. The way in which this money has been distributed gives us the feeling of one Nigeria, because it has been based on equality and not one Region having more than another, and the portion which has been given to the Southern Cameroons is also very fair. As my Honourable Friend has already said,



factory a Central matter? We do not want to come here and play to the gallery without being sure of our information. If we must speak in this House, Mr Speaker, we must speak with knowledge, we must speak with accuracy, we must make sure of our facts before we come here. We just cannot come here and speak for the sake of speaking. We do not want to come here just to play to the gallery. We do not want to come here just to speak to our people in our Division in order to show off in a most cheap way that we have been pleading the cause of our Division or constituency. Mr Leader . . . er, er . . . Mr Speaker . . . (Laughter. Cries of "Shame, Shame! Crisis! That's a surprise.") Mr Speaker, as I said before, I on behalf of the Opposition, support this motion.

**Mr J. A. G. Ohiani :**

Mr Speaker, I support the Financial Secretary's speech wholeheartedly. Well, I hope, in future, if such amount as stated by him is to be considered we should take into consideration that the North should be given proper consideration in order to bring the North to a level it has not attained. The North is prepared to co-operate, to associate with other Regions if they are prepared. The North has very much to do with Provinces and Divisions, and as such in future we hope that more money would be allocated to the North. I think everybody is aware of what this House is composed of and the number of representatives from the North. That is quite clear that the North is really very large and we would like to develop. Many young men from the North do not like to see the North to be as it has been in the past. Well, there is not any need for bringing matters of the Region to the Centre, really. It should be the duty of each Member to warn their members at home to hit hard, or hammer hard, in the Regions. Well, I need not waste time on this matter, but what I want, or I would like the Financial Secretary to note, is that the North should in the future be considered for more money.

**M. Bello Dandago :**

Mr Speaker, it is not because we have nothing to say on this side of the House that we have not been speaking. No. What many of us know on this side is that the motion before the House is simple and very plain—£3 million to three Regions, £1 million each. (Cheers and Laughter. Applause.) The question as to how to spend this money in the Regions, I think, is irrelevant at this stage. When money is given it is up to the person benefited to see how and on what he spends the money. So am of the opinion that it is now high time that the question is put. (Hear, Hear. Cheers. Applause.)

*Question "That the Question be now put" put, and agreed to.*

*Original Question put accordingly, and agreed to.*

Resolved:

"That this House authorises the following grants to be made from the net surplus in the accounts for 1953-54 of the former Government of Nigeria, the payments to be charged to the accounts for 1954-55 of the Government of the Federation.

	£
To the Government of the Northern Region .. .. .	1,000,000
To the Government of the Western Region .. .. .	1,000,000
To the Government of the Eastern Region .. .. .	1,000,000
To the Government of the Southern Cameroons .. .. .	100,000"

**ORDERS OF THE DAY**

THE NIGERIA CENTRAL MARKETING BOARD ORDINANCE, 1955—SECOND READING

**The Minister of Trade and Industry :**

Mr Speaker, Sir, I have very great pleasure in moving the second reading of The Nigeria Central Marketing Board Bill. It is a very important Bill, indeed. This Bill will complete the necessary legislative steps to carry out the decisions of the Resumed Conference on the

[*The Nigeria Central Marketing Board Ordinance, 1955*]

14th January, 1955

[*Second Reading*]

Nigerian Constitution regarding the Marketing Boards. Honourable Members will recall that that Conference decided that there should be a Central Marketing Board which would be responsible for the overseas marketing and export of the principal Nigerian commodities on behalf of the various Regional Marketing Boards and the Regional Marketing Board of the Southern Cameroons. It will be the duty of the Central Marketing Board also to lay down the standard of quality for such produce. I believe that Honourable Members are already aware that the three Regions, as well as the Southern Cameroons, have each now established a Marketing Board for the purchase of all scheduled produce in those Regions and in the Southern Cameroons. It now remains to finish the new structure by establishing the Central Marketing Board.

Now, Sir, I would like to say a few words on the composition of this Board as set out in the Bill. Members will find this under clause 4 of page 2. The Board will be constituted as follows:—

A Chairman; one official of the Federal Government; two members from each Regional Marketing Board recommended by the Governor in Council of that Region; one member from the Southern Cameroons Marketing Board recommended by the Commissioner of the Cameroons.

The significant fact about these appointments is that, in accordance with the idea of giving your Ministers increased responsibility, the Bill provides that the Chairman as well as the eight members will be appointed by the Minister. It was formerly the rule that this was done by the Governor-General in Council. This is in accordance with the provisions of more recent Bills that have been introduced into the House of Representatives.

Following the procedure adopted in the case of the Regional Marketing Boards, a Shadow Central Marketing Board has been established by the Governor-General in Council in advance of this legislation. The idea behind that is in order to enable the discharge of much necessary procedural and preliminary work and to enable it to start operations immediately you pass this Bill into law.

I now come to the functions of the new Board. These are twofold—operational and advisory. In its operational capacity the Board is empowered to make all necessary arrangements for the export, shipping and sale of produce which is subject to Regional Marketing Board control. Members will find this in clauses 12 and 13 of the Bill. It must have these powers because of the Federal Government's concern with and jurisdiction over external trade. It is responsible for calling forward produce for shipment and for making the necessary storage arrangements at the ports, including in particular, arrangements for the bulk storage of palm oil. The Board has also the duty of prescribing grades and standards of quality for produce which is subject to Regional Marketing Board control. In each Region and in the Southern Cameroons there will be produce inspection service, but at the port there will be check testing by produce inspectors and other produce officers who belong to the Central or Federal Government.

The further operational duty is placed upon the Board of purchasing all produce, subject to the proposed Ordinance, which is suitable for export and which is offered for sale to it by the Regional Marketing Boards. The Central Board may enter into arrangements with the Regional Marketing Boards in connection with the shipment and sale of the produce which it purchases from these Boards and which it sells overseas as Nigerian produce. It will continue to use the services of the Nigerian Produce Marketing Company. Under these arrangements the Board will pay to the Regional Marketing Boards the proceeds of sale in accordance with its purchase from each Regional Board.

Like the old Boards the Central Board will be the sole authority for the export of scheduled produce from Nigeria and all produce subject to its own Ordinance, (that is, the Bill which we are now considering) and produce subject to the Regional Marketing Board laws. Also all derivatives of such produce may be exported from Nigeria only by the

Therefore, Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to support. (*Hear, Hear.*)

**Mr R. A. Fani-Kayode :**

Mr Speaker, Sir, I, on behalf of the Honourable Members on this side of the House, beg to support this motion. We all know that the Regional Governments have been consulted on this Bill and we are all certain that there is nothing controversial in it. At the same time, as this morning seems to be a morning for advice and warnings and words of caution, as you have been informed by the Honourable the Minister for Trade and Industry that he is responsible for this Board, I can only pray as well as advise. I shall pray that he will bring to bear on the Board paramount efficiency, so that our exports may be properly placed on the world markets; that Nigeria as a whole can gain from this Board. Further, I pray to the Omnipotent that this Board shall not flip, shall not flap and shall not flop! (*Laughter.*)

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to support.

**Chief H. O. Davies :**

Mr Speaker, I rise to support the motion moved by the Minister of Trade and Commerce. I understand that this is an implementation of the arrangement arrived at in London and later in Lagos. For that reason the remarks which I am going to make are intended more as a prayer for future behaviour other than calling for any amendment of the present Bill. I should like to observe that the Federal Government of this country is at least co-equal with the three Regional Governments, possibly with a little tilt in its favour, because apart from being a co-equal Government it has an additional function of being the referee in the ring. For that reason I think it is only right and proper that future Boards should not be composed exclusively of members sent from the Regional Governments, but also should include representatives of the Federal Government. If you look at the composition of the Board you will see that the membership of eight is distributed as follows: two from the Eastern Regional Government; two from the Northern Regional Government; two from the Western Regional Government; one public officer to be nominated by the Federal Government; and one for the Cameroons. I hope that in future, when the membership of future Boards is being organised, the Central Government as a co-equal Government will be given proper representation.

Another point which I wish to observe is this. The members of the Board are representatives of the various Governments and for that reason I think it is important that the Governments which they represent should have the power at any stage to recommend their removal or replacement by other members. I have looked at the powers of the Minister to alter the membership either by removing a person who has been ill or incapable of discharging his functions. I think that the various Regional Governments should have the power to substitute a new member for one already there if for some reason or other it appears to the Regional Government concerned that such a change is necessary. It is even possible that one Government may go out of office and another put in its place which would not wish to retain the services of the existing member, and I think that will make a welcome change. I recommend this for the serious consideration of the Minister.

As I have said before, this Bill is a result of the compromise agreement between the representatives of the Regional Governments and I am not seeking to amend it in any way, but I hope that in future these suggestions will be taken into account.

With these few words, Mr Speaker, I support the motion.

**Mr J. I. Izah :**

Mr Speaker, Sir, the Bill before the House is a result of the London Conference and it is gratifying to notice that every section of the House is in support of the Bill. Personally I would like to draw the attention of the House to two salient points in the Bill. First, the power which the Bill confers upon the Minister of Trade and Industry. We notice that more power has been given to our Minister and I am sure Honourable Members will welcome it

[The Nigeria Central Marketing  
Board Ordinance, 1955]

14th January, 1955

[Second Reading]

because it is such Ministers with additional power and more responsible posts whom we welcome in this House. Then, I would have been more pleased with the Bill if our Nigerian private businessmen had had representation on the Board. There is no doubt that our businessmen are beginners in the art of trade and industry. By associating themselves with the Board, which I believe would be an expert one, their knowledge would be increased and the advice they would derive from such a Board would be invaluable to them in their trade and industry.

In the First Schedule to the Bill I notice that certain kinds of produce have been deliberately left out. I suppose these commodities are left out for our private businessmen to handle, but I feel it is a discrepancy in the Bill if they have not been allowed to associate themselves with this Central Board to undergo a period of education in the aspects of Nigerian produce which they manage.

So, Mr Speaker, with these few points I would like to end, and I would like to ask Honourable Members and the Minister to consider these points, especially the point that private businessmen would certainly find this Central Marketing Board very useful in their industry.

Mr Speaker, I beg to support the Bill.

**Mr A. J. U. Ekong :**

\*Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Bill. This Bill before us has definite merits ; I am referring particularly to the provision that the Board may render advice to the Regional Marketing Boards. This provision is likely to be of use to the Marketing Boards in the Regions, in particular the Eastern Regional Marketing Board which, at the moment, appears to be incompetent of fixing the prices of produce.

In the Eastern Region at the moment it is really distressing to see how the prices of palm produce are going down all the time. The people who live mainly by palm produce are the Ibibio people, and they do not appear to benefit at all from any of the great measures which the Eastern Regional Government is trying to boast of. They are constantly looking forward to the prices of palm produce, and I repeat, Mr Speaker, that it does not appear as if the Eastern Regional Produce Marketing Board is quite competent in fixing prices of produce. It is only to be hoped that the Eastern Regional Government will avail itself of the opportunity of getting the advice of this Central Marketing Board.

Mr Speaker, I beg to support the Bill.

**Mr F. O. Mbadiwe :**

\*Mr Speaker, I rise to support this Bill as presented to this Honourable House. I think the Members here will agree with me that produce is the life of any country, and I am very happy that this Bill was introduced at this early stage. I only want to make a very little observation, and that is that I would be extremely happy if our Bulking Stations would be enlarged in order that the volume of produce coming to these Bulking Stations would be handled with the least possible delay. I personally, being a produce buyer, noticed a lot of delays in bulking our produce with the result that after produce has stayed for a very long time, No. 1 per cent oil will automatically go to No. 5 or 6 per cent, and I think that if the Central House will support the Regional Governments more in granting more of loans and other amenities, we will be proud to say that Nigeria is a first class nation supplying first class produce . . . . . (Hear, Hear).

Take for an instance, Mr Speaker, a place like Port Harcourt that handles almost the whole produce of the Eastern Region with the exception of the very few produce that goes to Degema, Abonnema and Calabar. Without Calabar and Degema which handle a very small produce there is no other way to discharge your produce except Port Harcourt. Lorries, trains and wagons will be there for almost two weeks waiting to discharge their

\* Speech not corrected by Member.

## THE INCOME TAX (AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE, 1955—SECOND READING

**The Financial Secretary of the Federation :**

Monday, Sir.

## THE EVIDENCE (AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE, 1955—SECOND READING

**The Attorney-General of the Federation :**

Monday, Sir.

THE WEST AFRICAN INSTITUTE FOR OIL PALM RESEARCH (AMENDMENT)  
ORDINANCE, 1955—SECOND READING**The Minister of Communications and Aviation :**

Monday, Sir.

## THE WAR PENSIONS (AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE, 1955—SECOND READING

**The Acting Chief Secretary of the Federation :**

Monday, Sir.

## THE LOCAL FORCES (AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE, 1955—SECOND READING

**The Acting Chief Secretary of the Federation :**

Monday, Sir.

**Adjournment****The Minister of Land, Mines and Power :**

Sir, I beg to move that the House do now adjourn.

**The Minister of Labour and Welfare :**

Sir, I beg to second.

*Question proposed.***Adjournment Debate****Mr O. C. Agwuna :**

Mr Speaker, Sir, in supporting the motion for the adjournment, I would like to point out one slight irregularity which if not regularised right now or in the very near future might give Members the impression that our meetings here are going to be difficult. Mr Speaker, when His Excellency the Governor-General delivered his speech from the Throne he appealed to Members for co-operation. We would like to be encouraged in our effort to give that co-operation. But, if a series of Bills or Amendments to Bills should be brought before this House and we are supposed to pass these Amendments and Bills into law, with the advice that the Bills are non-controversial, and yet Members of this House have not been supplied with copies of the Standing Orders, one is bound to get a nasty impression that Members are faced with what I may describe as a team of soft pedal diplomats who are apparently harmless but decidedly very dangerous.

At this stage I would not like to leave this House with that impression, Sir, because I do not think that our Honourable Speaker himself is less affected by this irregularity than ourselves, but I would like an assurance that the irregularity will be regularised. Mr Speaker, Standing Orders constitute the catechism of parliamentarians, and just as a Minister of Religion cannot discharge his ministerial responsibilities efficiently without either his Bible or his catechism, so, too, Sir, the business of this House cannot proceed smoothly and orderly without Nigeria (Constitution) Order in Council and the Standing Orders of this House being made available to Members . . . . (*Interruption*) . . . .

[Adjournment]

14th January, 1955

[Adjournment]

**Mr Speaker :**

Order, Order, Order. I have listened to the Honourable Member who is complaining of the absence of the printed copies of the Standing Orders. I thank him for giving me notice of his intention to discuss that subject. The fact is that the old Standing Orders which were printed under the Old Constitution are now inapplicable in many respects without amendment. Amendments must be made to them; and the amendments necessary to bring the Standing Orders into line with our present Constitution have been drafted by my learned advisers and I am with them in the course of preparing the rather long list of amendments to the new Standing Orders which cannot possibly come before this House during this meeting.

I must ask Honourable Members therefore to be as patient as they can. What fault there is lies with me, and I must accept the responsibility. But we will try our utmost to get the newly drafted Standing Orders in a form which the House can readily understand by the time we meet in March, and I hope one of the first actions of the House then will be to approve the new Standing Orders in a form applicable to the new Constitution.

**Dr E. O. Awduche :**

Mr Speaker, Sir, speaking in favour of the motion for adjournment I would like to call attention to the fact that in his speech from the Throne the Governor-General indicated that we would, as nearly as possible, adopt the pattern of the British Houses of Parliament. There are two things I would like to observe and the first is the sitting arrangement in this House.

I find myself sitting on this side of the House and I am supposed to be a back bencher of the Government Bench. I quite admit that owing to the numerical insignificance of the Opposition we might find it difficult to accommodate them in that side of the House for which they properly due . . . . (Laughter) . . . . but I would wish that an arrangement be made as early as possible to adopt the pattern of the Mother Parliament.

Another point, Mr Speaker, I would like to mention is the conspicuous absence of the Mace from a new Parliament like this. I was surprised on the first day of sitting to find that the Table in front of the Clerk of the House was only meant to be a desk with blotting paper and a Register mainly for entering the names of Members of the House. That is a departure from the usual convention and is a point which I would like you, Mr Speaker, to look seriously into. I wish that as early as possible arrangements be made to see that this House adopts the pattern of the Mother Parliament.

**Mr J. A. Wachuku :**

\*Mr Speaker, Sir, I am very happy to support the last speaker with regard to the seating arrangements. Nothing would be more pleasing to the Opposition than for the Opposition to be given its rightful dues in the sense that the pattern set by the Mother Parliament in Westminster should be followed. The Opposition is very, very anxious that the arrangements suggested by my Honourable Friend should be made as quickly as possible. The normal sitting position of the Opposition is opposite the Government Bench and he suggested that it is due to the insignificance of the Opposition. I may say that though numerically it may appear to be insignificant, qualitatively the Opposition is expected to be reckoned with in this House . . . . (Applause) . . . . and therefore instead of being sandwiched as we are here, I think we should have sufficient latitude in order to expand our wings and give our looks to the Government being the watchdogs of the people of this country.

Therefore, Mr Speaker I most heartily appreciate the point raised by my friend and hope that the necessary arrangements be made, if possible before Monday, when the amendments to the Bill will be considered.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I support the motion for the adjournment.

\* Speech not corrected by Member.

[Adjournment]

14th January, 1955

[Adjournment]

**Adjournment***Question put, and agreed to.**Adjourned accordingly at five minutes to twelve o'clock until 10 a.m. on Monday, the 17th of January, 1955 pursuant to the Resolution of the House this day.*

# Debates in the Federal House of Representatives of Nigeria

Monday, 17th January, 1955

The House met at 10 o'clock

Prayers

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

Papers

**The Minister of Trade and Industry :**

Sir, I beg to lay on the Table of this House the following Regulations:—

Regulation No. 7 of 1954 entitled "The Produce Inspection (Amendment) (No. 2) Regulations, 1953."

Regulation No. 8 of 1954 entitled "The Ginger (Marketing and Export) (Revocation) Regulation, 1953."

Regulation No. 9 of 1954 entitled "The Cotton (Inspection for Export) (Amendment) Regulation, 1953."

**Mr Speaker :**

I have to announce that the following printed Papers already circulated to Honourable Members are deemed to have been laid on the Table:—

- (1) Annual Report of the British West African Meteorological Services for the year 1952.
- (2) Annual Report on the Treatment of Offenders for the year 1952-53.
- (3) Annual Report of the Department of Labour for the year 1952-53.

Ordered:

That the said Papers do lie upon the Table.

**Presentation of Public Bill**

THE SURVEY (AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE, 1955

**The Minister of Communications and Aviation :**

*Second Reading—Tomorrow.*

**MOTIONS**

REPLY TO THE JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS

**The Minister of Communications and Aviation :**

Mr Speaker, I rise to move a motion standing in my name:—

"That this House, deeply appreciating the friendly feelings entertained towards Nigeria by the people of the United States of America, extends its warm thanks to the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States for the message of greeting contained in the Joint Resolution adopted at the Second Session of the 83rd Congress."

Mr Speaker, at this Second Session begun and held at the City of Washington on Wednesday, the 6th of January, 1954, a Joint Resolution of the Congress was adopted to extend greetings to the Gold Coast and Nigeria. The text of this Joint Resolution reads as follows:—



[Reply to the Joint Resolution]

17th January, 1955

[of the U.S. Congress]

Mr Speaker, on behalf of the people of Nigeria we extend our warm thanks to the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States for their message of goodwill. We assure them of our friendly feelings towards them and offer them our hands of co-operation. We look forward when the delegation as suggested by the Resolution will visit this country and meet this Legislature at work. We assure them of a warm welcome.

Mr Speaker, I beg to move.

**The Minister of Transport and Works :**

Mr Speaker, I beg to second.

*Question proposed.*

**Mr U. O. Ndem :**

Mr Speaker, I rise to support this motion which has been so ably proposed by the Honourable the Minister of Communications and Aviation.

I am doing so for two reasons. Firstly, America as you all know was at one time a colonial territory under the British Government. She struggled to have her freedom, but there has always been on the part of an Imperial power several excuses, specious arguments that must be advanced in order to keep a subject people under subjection.

Yes, Mr Speaker, that wicked instrument of Government known as Imperialism had its full sway in America. But in the end the American people became determined to be free, and they did win their freedom but not without bloodshed.

Mr Speaker, after several arguments had failed, petitions had failed, delegations had failed, it was left to a commoner, Patrick Henry, to light the fuse. He made a memorable speech that shook all the American people. In the closing sentence he said: "I don't know what others may choose, but as for me give me liberty or give me death."

That was America two centuries ago. American War of Independence was a fight for freedom. She won her freedom and she also won the admiration of the whole world. In two world wars she has used that freedom to save democracy and preserve civilisation.

Indeed she has been described as the arsenal of democracy. Yes, Mr Speaker, "The stone which the builders rejected, the same is become the head of the corner." This can also be said of Nigeria in the future, who knows?

That is the reason, Mr Speaker, why I feel particularly moved by this message from the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America, this demonstration of goodwill, of love and hope; this gesture of friendship from the American people.

Another reason why I am supporting this motion is that there has always been a close association between this country and the United States of America.

America is a land of ideas. And as our great Peter Howard put it, "Ideas have legs." Students from this country who went to the United States came back to us with great ideas. I can refer with justifiable pride to the late Dr James Emmann Kweggir Aggrey who brought the idea of the black and the white keys. He also brought a slogan: he said, "Nothing but the best is good enough for Africa."

His ideas caught fire. They had legs and travelled through the streets of this country and revolutionised the thinking processes of young Nigerians. People studied them and changed.

Later on another son of Africa, born at Zungeru, went to the United States, and came back also with an idea. His was the enthronement of the common man. He too had a slogan. He said "Show the light and the people will find the way." He also brought the idea of self-government. He said "We must have self-government in our lifetime."

It was an idea that was strange at the time he brought it, but now it is coming to pass. (Hear, Hear.) (Applause.)

[Reply to the Joint Resolution]

17th January, 1955

[of the U.S. Congress]

**The Minister of Transport and Works :**

Point of Order. There is applause from the gallery.

**Mr Speaker :**

I hope not to hear any applause from the gallery. It is quite irregular and the Speaker would have to deal with it if it continues. Might I just add that Honourable Members—this applies mainly to the new Members of this House—should not show their feelings by the clapping of hands. The proper way to express appreciation of a speaker is to say “Hear, Hear” or, I believe it is sometimes done, to tap the desk in front. But not the clapping of hands.

**Mr U. O. Ndem :**

He enthroned the common man. So the ideas which were brought to us by this great national hero, Dr the Honourable Nnamdi Azikiwe, worked miracles amongst us.

Yet another great son of Africa, the Honourable K. O. Mbadiwe, Minister of Communications and Aviation, also returned from the United States as an American graduate. He also brought an idea. He said that Nigeria was great yesterday, Nigeria can be great today, but we want a “Greater Tomorrow” for Nigeria. We want Nigeria to be greater tomorrow than it ever was great in the past. Are we not seeing that Greater Tomorrow philosophy being translated into action ?

Mr Speaker, I do not mention these American graduates because I feel that they are the only people who have done something for this great country. I know very well that there are other people from British Universities and elsewhere, but as it happened the other day in this Honourable House, the handful of people who constitute the Opposition were very insistent that we should be relevant, so I am referring to these American graduates specifically in this case in order to be relevant to the motion before the House.

But all the same we have so many people who have contributed very largely to the progress of this country. Therefore, Mr Speaker, in response to the motion of thanks to the very kind message from the United States, I would say: Tell the American people that we have sufficient materials in this country to be able to establish a stable Government. We have sufficient materials in this country to build a great nation; materials like the great Sardauna of Sokoto, that great man whom Dr Azikiwe referred to the other day as a shrewd and wise statesman, firm but accommodating, bold but gentle, “sound in the noble parts”. (*Hear, Hear.*)

I also have to refer with pride to Chief the Honourable Obafemi Awolowo as one of the outstanding revolutionaries that we have in this country.

I refer, too, to the Speaker himself, with a wealth of experience which he has brought to us from the House of Commons.

And then the common man—the materials we have in this House. They come from all walks of life. They fill up this House which could aptly be described as the House of Commons.

Mr Speaker, these are the materials we have in this country. Tell the American people that, with their goodwill, we shall not fail. Tell them that we are ready.

Now as I am about to come to a close, I feel a gentle breeze coming to us from across the Atlantic. It fills this hall. It reminds us of the great responsibility which we bear. The breeze carries a gentle voice which speaks to Dr Azikiwe, it speaks to the Sardauna of Sokoto, it speaks to Chief Awolowo. This is the message it gives to each of them—a message from America :—

The Minister of Communications and Aviation in expressing the appreciation of this House to the Congress and Senate of the United States of America for their expression of good wishes for the success of Nigeria's new Federal House is a manifestation of the goodwill that should normally exist between people of different communities and nations sharing a common ideology, such as we share with the United States of America—the ideology of democratic rule and Government, where a Government of the people by the people controls their legislatures.

It will be no exaggeration if I should say that this message should be a stimulus to us Members of this Federal House to exact to the utmost our energy, tact and ability to see that this Constitution has a fair and unbiased trial, knowing that the outside world, besides members of the Commonwealth, will be watching us with unabated interest.

I am certain the whole House will support the motion seeing that it is what should normally be expected under such a circumstance, and besides, will be symbolic of reciprocal goodwill from one nation on her way to finding her rightful place among a Commonwealth of Nations, to one that has already found her place, and to one who amongst leading nations the world looks for bright example in the art of democratic governing.

I wish to place on record that if this motion is adopted in the spirit with which it is put forth, it will be the hands of the millions of people we all represent stretching hands across thousands of miles of sea to the people of the United States of America, who have always shown interest in the people of Nigeria and in things Nigerian, in brotherly fellowship.

Mr Speaker, I support the motion.

**Mr L. J. Dosumu :**

\*Mr Speaker, I rise in support of the motion standing in the name of the Honourable Minister of Communications and Aviation. It is true that it is an occasion for joy that a first class state like America should consider us worthy by sending us a message such as that which has been presented by the Minister of Communications. I go further to say that it is not an accident; there is every reason why the United States of America should send this warm greeting to us on this occasion, and we can only show our appreciation by reciprocating in the manner we are now doing in this Honourable House. As I said it is not an accident that the United States of America have thought it fit to send this message to us. We all claim to have sprung from the same Mother. America was at one time in her history in just the same position as we are today and it will be a great pleasure for them to see their younger brothers growing to maturity. Again America has every reason to send this message to us because if there is any country to which we look for a model, next to Great Britain, America is that country. In our model for our new Constitution we have drawn considerably from America, and as the Honourable Minister himself has remarked, we have patterned our own Constitution on America's. If there is anybody either inside or outside this House who is sceptical about the success of the Federal Constitution in Nigeria, let me advise him to look at America. If America can succeed in smoothly working its Federal Constitution I have no doubt that Nigeria is bound to succeed in this Constitution that we have adopted.  
(Hear, Hear.)

As I said America was bound to send this message to us, and we are in honour bound to send this message of thanks to her.

There is one more important feature, and that is that we have the same name, House of Representatives, as they do in America. We are Members of the House of Representatives, and this message that we are discussing before this House has been sent from the Joint Session of the House of Representatives and the Senate, so there is every reason that when we send messages to one another they should be fully reciprocated.

I have great pleasure in supporting this motion.

\* Speech not corrected by Member.

[Reply to the Joint Resolution]

17th January, 1955

[of the U.S. Congress]

**Mr P. M. Dokotri :**

Mr Speaker, it gives me great pleasure that I have been given an opportunity to align my sentiments with what has already been said by Honourable Members before me. This is the third attempt I have made to speak and had the opportunity of speaking—I think I should have owed the Speaker a grudge if I had not had the opportunity to speak. In associating myself with what has already been said, I feel that it is appropriate that we should, as we have already done unanimously, reciprocate this gesture which America has extended to us in Nigeria. Very many reasons have already been given, one of which stands out in my mind—the relationship between Africans and Americans. The relationship between Nigerians and Americans is unique in the world, and I think there is what might be called a kindred affinity. The Americans, as history tells us, are connected to West Africa as a result of the slave trade. This relationship although in one sense shameful in history at one time because of the slave trade, has steadily improved, and we welcome an even better relationship between us in the future. The world today is very jealous and envious of America and her riches, but America has had to work hard to achieve all that, and I feel that if Nigerians work as hard in the future, we shall some day be the envy of the world . . . (*Hear, Hear*) . . . and command the respect of the world . . . (*Hear, Hear*) . . . that the Americans command today.

We from the Northern Provinces of Nigeria are in one mind about people who are friendly towards us . . . (*Hear, Hear*) . . . Our feeling is, and always has been, to co-operate with others who have sincerity and honesty in their minds . . . (*Hear, Hear*) . . . The Northerner may appear to some to be a fool, but it is . . . (*Interruption*) . . .

**Honourable Members :**

No, No. Not in Nigeria anyway . . . .

**Mr P. M. Dokotri :**

He has a mind of his own and will speak it when he wants to . . . (*Hear, Hear*) . . . Honourable Members, I do not think the point needs to be stressed, this question of the gesture of goodwill, in fact the less said about it the better, because by saying too much as the saying is, “in trying to do a thing too well, we might overdo it”. Therefore I do feel that since America in its good intention and good mind has extended a hand of fellowship to Nigeria, I think we should reciprocate by sending a message of thanks and to say that we hope that this friendly relationship will continue for the betterment of the world.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to support the motion most sincerely . . . (*Applause*).

**Mr Kola Balogun, Minister without Portfolio :**

Mr Speaker, I beg to move “That the Question be now put”.

**The Minister of Land, Mines and Power :**

Sir, I beg to second.

*Question “That the Question be now put” put, and agreed to.*

*Original Question put accordingly, and agreed to.*

**Resolved :**

“That this House, deeply appreciating the friendly feelings entertained towards Nigeria by the people of the United States of America, extends its warm thanks to the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States for the message of greeting contained in the Joint Resolution adopted at the Second Session of the 83rd Congress.”

**Mr Speaker :**

I will take steps in your name to have the Resolution conveyed to the proper quarter.

friend, counsellor and guide. (*Hear, Hear.*) There was a time when some people in Europe seriously and, I should say, honestly believed that the African was inherently incapable of self-government. In 1902, at the opening of the Colonial Conference, the Chairman referred to some countries within the British Commonwealth of Nations the people of which would never be capable of governing themselves. But today, thanks to Providence and to the wise policy of the British Government and, of course, to the prodigious enterprise of our own people and their conspicuous impulse for ambition, Nigeria has leapt across the centuries and now we stand on the threshold of self-government . . . (*Hear, Hear.*) Mr Speaker, in 1956, or may be as soon as possible thereafter (*Laughter. Loud Laughter*) we shall attain full self-government. When that day does come, I venture to say, on behalf of this House, that Nigeria will seek no greater honour than to take her place beside the sister states within the Commonwealth of Nations. I am thrilled, and I presume all Members are thrilled, by the revolutionary transformation which is taking place in our society. The amazing thing about it is that with this development the British Government is not wanting in sympathy, in encouragement or in understanding. It is a tribute to British character that power, political power, is being surrendered with a smile. It is almost unnatural when we come to think of it that a people who were yesterday masters are fulfilling the role of friends and servants today with a smile on their lips. I think all the Members of the House would wish me to send a big "Thank You" to the people of Great Britain and to the British Government, through the Colonial Secretary who is present with us this day.

We thank them, not only for this unflinching and encouraging surrender of power, but also for the generous aid which they sent to us through the Colonial Development Fund and I hope that we shall continue to enjoy the benefit of it. (*Laughter.*)

We hope that Sir Winston Churchill, who has been mentioned by the Colonial Secretary, now in the zenith of his immortal career, will find a respite from his busy occupation in England to pay us a short visit. I think it will be appropriate for him to see that the unruly baby whom he entrusted to the man on the spot when he was in the Colonial Office about forty years ago has now grown into a handsome stripling. When he comes here, he will find in Nigeria, not only a warm climate, and a warm heart equal to, if not surpassing what he saw in Jamaica, but he will also find in this young country that the rising sun and the picturesque setting in this House will be a fit subject for the master artist with a brush!

I should not sit down, Mr Speaker, without saying a few words about Mr Oliver Lyttelton, the immediate predecessor of our august visitor today. Without his wisdom and tact, the Constitution which has brought this House into existence will not have been possible. Indisputably, the Constitution is not perfect. It has been very sharply criticised. I myself have had occasion to express my disappointment with the regionalisation of the Judiciary and the Civil Service. Be that as it may, I have thought and convinced myself, and I hope all the Members of this House will agree with me, that if any of us should have found himself in the position of the Colonial Secretary, whether in London or in Lagos, he could not have acquitted himself more honourably than the Colonial Secretary did. The Constitution which we have today is of our own making. The Secretary of State did not sit down as an arbitrator or a dictator. He was not a Moses handing the tablet from Mount Sinai. He was there as an ordinary English referee holding the ring. This Constitution we have pledged ourselves to work. We hope we shall succeed in working it. If it fails us we shall re-draft it, and re-draft it, until we find that Constitution which meets the aspirations of our people in their quest for happiness. We are learning through the hard school of experience, and I am particularly grateful that we have the opportunity for initiative—the opportunity to build up our own nation with our own hands. We are learning. We have now known that it is not easy to make a Constitution that will be acceptable to everybody. We have now known also that the best of constitutions will fail unless those who try to operate them bring to bear the spirit of love, compassion and tolerance. We are marching forward and we can promise, through the Speaker, to our august visitor today that he will find that we shall not let Great

[*Speeches by Members*]

17th January, 1955

[*in Response to Address*]

Britain down. (*Hear, Hear*). I hope that the Secretary of State is pleased with what he sees before him today, a band of Nigerians of different tribes and different nationalities, different garbs and different languages, sitting together in this House, one fire burning in each and every heart, and that is the fire to make Nigeria a united and strong country. When the day comes when we have our full self-government we shall remember the succession of Secretaries of State who have made this possible. We hope that his stay among us, brief though it may be, will be a pleasant one, and he will go back to the United Kingdom carrying happy memories of our beloved country.

Mr Speaker, I beg to say these few words to welcome our august visitor. (*Cheers*).

**M. Bello Dandago :**

Mr Speaker, I rise with great pleasure to welcome the Secretary of State to Nigeria. This visit, Sir, is certainly an encouragement to all our people and it will also show to the world in general our growing importance. There are bound to be obstacles on our march to progress and in a country of Nigeria's size and diversity, different problems have to be met before we achieve our national unity. Sir, Nigeria is young country with a bright future. If we, her people, are sensible enough to make the best use of the opportunity which the British connections have given us, Mr Speaker, I think this is the time and the place for me to thank the British people very warmly through the Secretary of State for their generous financial assistance given to us in the form of the Colonial Development grants. (*Hear, Hear*).

Mr Speaker, it is clear, Sir, to all of us that Nigeria cannot be fully developed with the capital which is locally available, and assistance from outside must be found. Mr Speaker, I mean financial assistance. (*Laughter, Loud Laughter*.) I want to inform the Secretary of State that Nigeria's greatest need at the moment is overseas staff. We want overseas staff. We want these people. People who are ready to come over to work with us, and for us. Sir, we want the technicians, technical experts, Mr Speaker, who will come over to help us to develop our resources, not for our own advantage alone, but to the advantage of the whole world. Sir, we of the N.P.C. do not believe in one-sided development. No. But we believe that if we are to march as a nation, if we are to be a nation, if we are to be a worthy member of the Commonwealth of Nations, then we must, Mr Speaker, I repeat we must, then we must see that our political, social and economic developments go hand in hand.

Sir, for a unique visit of a great man like this, no words would suffice. I will only say, Sir, on behalf of the Northern People's Congress, I welcome the Secretary of State. (*Cheers. Prolonged Cheers*).

**Chief S. L. Akintola :**

\*Mr Speaker, I must say that I am not speaking only for this side of the House, which is Her Majesty's Opposition. (*Laughter. Hear, Hear*). But I believe that I am expressing the sentiments of the whole of this assembly if I assure the Secretary of State that we welcome him wholeheartedly to this country. This visit of the Secretary of State is remarkable indeed. Mr Alan Lennox-Boyd has made history today. We have had several legislators in this country, from our childhood until we now attain what my colleague has previously described as adolescence, but this is the first occasion that a Secretary of State has honoured any legislature of this country with his personal presence. We have been highly honoured by Her Majesty's Government. Within the last twelve months we have had successive visits by two of Her Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State for the Colonies.

Both visits are very significant, and the presence of the august visitors too are equally significant. (*Hear, Hear*). Both of them are imposing personalities. (*Laughter*). They tower very high, not only in person, but even in knowledge and in sympathy towards the aspiration of the people of this country. Is the person of our august visitor today not significant that Nigeria, too, is growing in stature? And the very fact that we are not sent

\* Speech not corrected by Member.

**The Minister of Trade and Industry :**

Mr Chairman, I beg to move that on page 11 the words "Sections 32 and 33" be inserted as Marginal Note to heading of the Schedule.

*Question proposed.*

*Question put, and agreed to.*

**The Minister of Trade and Industry :**

Mr Chairman, I beg to move on page 12, paragraph 5, sub-paragraph (1), line 1, before the word "Board" to insert the word "old".

*Question proposed.*

*Question put, and agreed to.*

**The Minister of Trade and Industry :**

Mr Chairman, I beg to move that on page 12, paragraph 5, sub-paragraph (1) (b), line 1, before the word "Board" the word "old" be inserted.

*Question proposed.*

*Question put, and agreed to.*

**The Minister of Trade and Industry :**

Mr Chairman, I beg to move that on page 12, paragraph 5, sub-paragraph (2) (b), line 1, before the word "Board" the word "old" be inserted.

*Question proposed.*

*Question put, and agreed to.*

**The Minister of Trade and Industry :**

Mr Chairman, I beg to move on page 13, paragraph 7, sub-paragraph (10), after the word "day" at the end of the Proviso to the sub-paragraph, to insert the words "or in respect of which the old Board is a party to an arbitration commenced before the appointed day".

*Question proposed.*

*Question put, and agreed to.*

**The Minister of Trade and Industry :**

Mr Chairman, I beg to move on page 14, paragraph 14, line 4, before the word "Board" to insert the word "old".

*Question proposed.*

*Question put, and agreed to.*

**The Chairman :**

The question is "That the Fourth Schedule, as amended, be the Fourth Schedule to the Bill".

*Question put, and agreed to.*

*Fourth Schedule, as amended, agreed to.*

*House resumed.*

*Bill reported with amendments.*

**The Minister of Trade and Industry :**

Mr Speaker, I move that the Bill entitled "The Nigeria Central Marketing Board Ordinance, 1955" be now read a third time and passed into law.

**The Acting Chief Secretary of the Federation :**

Sir, I beg to second.

*Question proposed.*

[The Nigeria Central Marketing  
Board Ordinance, 1955]

17th January, 1955

[Committee]

**M. Ibrahim S. Usman :**

In this last stage of the debate in passing this Bill into law I have some comment to make. I would like to comment on the manner in which this Board and the Regional Boards should encourage and increase the prosperity of the country.

No doubt, the Marketing Boards of the country are the paternal guardians of Nigerian cash crops, and the value of export commodities should be standardised by the Boards who should find possible ways and means for their marketing somewhere in the world market where they will obtain higher prices in order to increase local price levels. It is by this means that the wealth of the producers might increase to add to the improvement in the field of social welfare. Automatically also it will swell the Government budget.

The Central Board and the Regional Boards, which we are today giving effect, must work in co-operation with one another. The development of production should be carried out in such a way as to enable them to become conversant with the existing terms in the economic system of the country as well as to help the people of this country to attain higher standards of living.

Now, Mr Speaker, I have to refer to the fact that the politicians are watching the work of the Government to see the extent of development that is attained so that the producers could benefit from their enterprise which is entrusted to the Boards through the Government. Referring to Section 3 of Part I of the Bill, Mr Speaker, we presume that the Governor-General shall add some items of produce which could be profitable and shall encourage effort for research work so that many valuable products should be developed to increase the output of our commodities in the world market.

Mr Speaker, I appeal through this House to the Boards in that the farmers or the producers of cash crops and other commodities for export which are within the competence of these Boards might accuse the Federal Government and the Regions for an unfair distribution of prices when there was no slump in the world market. Obviously, they accuse the Government due to the inefficiency and uncharitableness of the Boards responsible for their products. Such experiences do occur in some other countries. Mr Speaker, as the Regional Boards and the Central Board are statutory Boards, *i.e.*, are established under the provisions of the Laws of Nigeria, they should improve the economic productivity of the Nigerian market, and must make all necessary efforts to improve the economy of the people.

I presume that the establishment of many Boards in the country might likely absorb many crops through their transactions if their output were increased.

These Marketing Boards, Mr Speaker, should not only be responsible for controlling export goods, they must also do something to help the producers to develop and improve some mechanical means of mass production so that they can realise what the Boards and the Government are doing in their interest and the interest of the country.

To summarise this, Mr Speaker, the stabilisation of local prices should be so done as to increase the prices of cash crops to such levels as might attract the producers to greater effort and also stimulate their interest in increasing their output. Secondly, mechanical ways of production and technical processing must be introduced and encouraged to some extent.

Thirdly, Mr Speaker, loans to encourage enterprise should be made available in order to start farmers on their way to increased productivity under the supervision of the Boards . . . . (Interruption) . . . .

**M. Muhammadu Munir :**

On a point of order, Mr Speaker, is this a speech in support of the Bill or on the principles of the Bill?



**Mr Speaker :**

It is too late to make that point of order now. It cannot be taken on the Third Reading. Mallam Usman.

**M. Ibrahim S. Usman :**

That was the end of my speech, Mr Speaker ; I am very lucky that he came at the end of my speech. I support the third reading and the passing of this Bill into Law.

**M. Mormoni Bazza :**

Mr Speaker, Sir, in support of the Bill, I feel I have to conform with Mallam the Honourable Ibrahim Usman. His speech, Sir, reminds me of one important thing in connection with the sales of cash crops in this country. Propaganda is now in full swing all over the country to urge farmers to grow more cash crops. Some of these commodities cost less on foreign markets than they do on local ones. Cotton, to instance one, Sir, costs more within this country than it does abroad. Sir, I am aware of the fact that the high or the low price of a commodity depends on world's demand for it, and, Sir, its quality decides its price also. With all these in mind, Sir, I wish the Board could do all it can to regulate reasonable prices for every crop. This will urge farmers more than mere propaganda.

I sincerely support the third reading of the Bill, Sir.

*Bill accordingly read the third time and passed.*

## THE LAGOS LOCAL GOVERNMENT (AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE, 1955—SECOND READING

**The Acting Chief Secretary of the Federation :**

Mr Speaker, Sir, I do not move, and I ask that the Bill be withdrawn.

*Bill by leave withdrawn.*

## THE INCOME TAX (AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE, 1955—SECOND READING

**The Financial Secretary of the Federation :**

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that a Bill entitled "An Ordinance further to amend the Income Tax Ordinance" be read a second time.

The Income Tax Ordinance contains provision for exempting from income tax the official emoluments of the Officer Administering the Government of the Federation. Now that Governors of the Regions and the Regions themselves enjoy enhanced status, it is considered appropriate that the official emoluments of the Governors should be exempt from income tax, and that a similar exemption should be extended to an officer administering the Government of a Region so long as the Governor is away.

The Bill now before the House intends to make such provision.

Clause 2 of the Bill amends Section 9 of the Income Tax Ordinance, Chapter 92, and will exempt from income tax the total personal emoluments of any officer administering the Government of the Federation or of a Region for so long as that officer continues to administer the Government in question.

I beg to move.

**The Minister of Land, Mines and Power :**

Sir, I beg to second.

*Question proposed.*

[*The Income Tax (Amendment)  
Ordinance, 1955*]

17th January, 1955

[*Second Reading*]

**Chief S. L. Akintola :**

\*Mr Speaker, I beg to oppose the Second Reading of this Bill, and in doing so I must state that I am appealing to the Honourable Members on all sides of this House. This is a Bill intended to give exemption to the Officer Administering the Government of the Federation. In other words it is a Bill intended to enlarge the field of a policy that is not defensible at all, and I am quite sure that even the persons directly concerned would take serious exception to being treated differently from other citizens.

What is the principle of taxation itself? A man's income is taxed because he receives something and secondly because he can afford to pay the tax. Now what we are trying to do is to admit first that here is an officer, an important officer of the Government who is being fairly well paid, and we turn round and say that although he is fairly well paid, we must treat him differently from how we treat other people by telling him: "You are too big to pay tax; you are too noble to pay tax; you can have this and pay nothing at all". I oppose this on behalf of the Opposition because it is unjust, because it is unfair, because it is iniquitous, because it cannot be defended on grounds of logic or any conception of reason at all.

We go about the country and make laws. The hewers of wood, the drawers of water must pay tax. The man who draws only £30 a year must pay tax. By what stretch of the imagination in the name of all that is fair and just would you tell the Officer Administering the Government, who may be receiving £6,000 a year that he should not pay tax? By what system of logic? This is the highest legislature in the land. The courtier has every right to look to us as his own guardian, as his own trustee. I am not suggesting by any stretch of the imagination that the Officer Administering the Government should not be well paid. Pay him £20,000 a year if you like; pay him £100,000 if you like; but don't create an exemption which will make him look different from other members of the community. You may turn round and say: "Yes, after all the Governor-General himself does not pay." I agree, but is that even defensible? If the Bill to exempt the Governor-General is presented here we will oppose it and if we cannot undo that, our own contention is that we should not widen the field of injustice by adding to the number of exemptions. We are merely enlarging the field of injustice.

I am quite sure that even those who may benefit from this (I know them, those who are in a position to act for the Governor-General). I know they are all different men—men who believe in equity and justice. If you allow them to make a choice I am quite sure that they will claim exemption from the law which you are now making. They are worthy citizens like all of us. By what stretch of the imagination would you suggest that our present Chief Secretary is no less a citizen than the Minister of Transport. The Minister of Transport smilingly pays his own tax, (*Laughter*) and I am sure that our worthy Attorney-General with a smile on his face pays his tax. Are we suggesting that the Chief Secretary is less a citizen than either of them? The Financial Secretary himself who keeps all the money does not grudge paying his tax (*Laughter*). I know he may not like it but that is one of the things that although he does not like he does willingly.

Why then should we treat the Chief Secretary differently from others? He is a member of the team. It is even said that even among rogues there is a code of conduct. Even among our Ministers there must be a common code of conduct. We are all citizens and we pay tax. Why do we want to keep somebody out of it and allow him to beat his own track? This is not defensible at all, and I appeal to this House, not only to the Opposition, but to all sides of the House, that we must be able to lay an example for the people of this country. Those of us who go out and appeal to the citizens to pay tax, what are we going to show if we tell the common man that the man next to the Governor who earns very many thousands a year is out of it but that the ordinary man who perhaps does not make £5 a year should pay? Do you encourage citizenship in that respect?

\* Speech not corrected by Member.

People would say: "Yes, this has been the practice for years." But do not let us allow the old order to corrupt modern society. It used to be the practice in the North for the Emirs to be exempt from paying tax in the olden days. That tradition has been broken and the Emirs in the North pay tax now. They do not claim historical exemption. They do pay tax now. By what system, if you can violate that tradition for the Emirs, cannot you violate it for the Officer Administering the Government, even for the Governor-General. If you feel that the Governor-General should be paid £50,000 a year, we assure you that if we are convinced we will agree, but do not treat him differently from others. Our Ministers here, as I said, pay tax as worthy citizens, and I am appealing to you because I know that our Chief Secretary is a worthy citizen. By passing a Bill like this are we suggesting that there is an imputation on our Chief Secretary, or the potential Officer Administering the Government, whether he is a worthy citizen as we are or not?

Certainly, this Bill cannot be defended at all, and I appeal to the Government and to all sides that we are not opposing any Bill merely for opposition's sake. Even in the short space of our existence as an Opposition in this House we have demonstrated beyond doubt that we will oppose what we believe to be reasonable to oppose. Any measure by the Government which is calculated to be to the best interest of this country you can be sure that we will support, (*Hear Hear*) and I am appealing to you to reciprocate this sentiment by withdrawing this Bill and if it is not withdrawn, I will appeal to all sides of the House to defeat this Bill. You defeat it, not because you do not want to support the Government, but because you believe in justice and equity; not because you do not like those who have presented the Bill, but because you want others to follow their example. Don't you want other people to follow the examples of our worthy Ministers? Certainly we do. We want the Chief Secretary to follow the noble example of our gallant Financial Secretary, to follow the noble example of the Minister of Communications and Aviation, to follow the worthy lead of our Minister of Transport and Works.

Our Constitution has joined all these people together. By our own unanimous will that Constitution has more or less created a holy wedlock. "Those whom God has joined together let no man put asunder". Here is a Bill that is trying to break that holy wedlock; to put the Chief Secretary apart and all others apart, and I appeal to you to oppose this Bill.

Mr Speaker, I oppose the Bill.

**Mr T. T. Solaru :**

Mr Speaker, I rise to second the opposition of this Bill. In seconding this opposition I would not like it presumed that people on this side of the House are less generous than the Movers of this Bill. Indeed we do believe that the labourer is worthy of his hire. Indeed we do believe that one should not try to muzzle the ox that treadeth the corn. But are we not to believe that the principle of taxation, as has already been pointed out, is that the burden of taxation should fall upon shoulders most capable of bearing it? And are we going to argue that the shoulders of our Regional Governors and Officers Administering the Government are less frail than those of the ordinary Nigerians?

We have had it thrown at us from all sides that the average income of the ordinary citizen of this country is appallingly low. He pays tax, and yet by this Bill we are asked to consent to the exemption of people who are in a higher range of income from paying tax. If you argue it as a matter of privilege, it has been ably shown to you that this is not an age of privilege. In fact one happens to know that in England the age of privilege has long passed. Why should we seek to establish it in this country? If it is from the analogy that the Governor-General is exempt from tax, in the days gone by there might have been a justification for this principle when that officer bore the burden of Government alone. There were no "Simons" no auxiliary cross bearers then, no Honourable Ministers to share responsibilities

[*The Income Tax (Amendment)  
Ordinance, 1955*]

17th January, 1955

[*Second Reading*]

with him. He was not insulated from the hard knocks of fortune when the ship of state ran into troubled waters. He was not sheltered from the blazing glare of searching criticism. No, he had to go to Golgotha all alone.

But now, not only is the Governor-General furnished with a full complement of these auxiliary bearers, the Honourable Ministers on the Government bench, but even the Regional Governors are furnished with the full complement of these Honourable "whipping boys", and they all pay tax. I do hope that we will all unanimously agree to throw out this Bill. Now we have only three Regional Governors. You may think that this is insignificant, but how do you know that in the next year or two or the year after, or even ten years hence, (it is left to you, there won't be more than 6, 10 or 20 Regional Governors and Officers Administering the Government. So goes on the extension of this privilege. So, I hope that members here will think twice before they accept a Bill that is going to bring not only financial strain to bear upon our country but also establish a principle which cannot be justified on the basis of equity and fair play.

If you argue that Governors are not fully paid for the work that they do, by all means do, but this is not the way in which to remedy that. This is what I call a back door method of affording relief. I would rather be given my due than be treated in this way. If (and that is my last point, Mr Speaker), if Nigeria gave with one hand (take it for granted that we agree to this Bill; I know we are not going to) can the Government assure me that the United Kingdom would not take away with both hands? If we of this Federation subject our Governors to the gentle trimming scissors of the Nigerian income tax gathers, what is there to assure us that England on her part will not wield her shears mercilessly and shear these Governors and Officers Administering the Government to the skin. What is good for the goose is good for the gander. If they tax our officers I suppose it is fair play that they (our officers) should pay income tax in the country of derivation. If they are exempt here and are not exempt there I say, Gentlemen, you are robbing our Peter to pay their Paul.

Lastly, our Regional Governors are citizens of this country. It has been pointed out that they would not want that exemption and I remember that the Governor-General himself called this country "the country of my adoption". Would this Honourable House rob them of the privilege of supporting, by paying income tax, this country of their adoption? No, no, Sir.

**Mr D. E. Okereke :**

Mr Speaker, I rise to support this Bill. I suppose—and I think every member agrees, and every man and every woman in the country agrees—that our pattern is the democracy of England, the democracy of America, the democracy of all democratic countries. If your pattern is that democracy I do not think you can just eat your cake and have it.

If you must be democratic you must be democratic through and through, and I want to say that the grounds which the Opposition have put down are rather very lame.

Now, Mr Speaker, legally, constitutionally, ethically and historically, all students of law are very well aware (and I was a student of law myself and I studied constitutional history) that in the early days the Monarch, that is the King or the Queen, was the person who taxed his or her subjects to run the Government, and was tax free from immemorial times. History has handed it down to us, democracy has handed it down to us and we must accept it. Even I may add, if you will allow me, that Native Law and Custom allows it. Monarchs are the foundation of democracy, the beginning of democracy, the head of Government. If we are going to tax Monarchs, then we are going to tax God—that is impossible.

Let me tell you, Mr Speaker, and Gentlemen, that the Governor-General in his capacity in this Federation is the representative of the Queen. The Governors in the Regions are the representatives of the Queen. As the Queen is exempt, so is the Governor-General exempt and also the Governors of the Regions, and I therefore feel that the whole Bill is too correct and too good. I support it whole-heartedly.

[The Income Tax (Amendment)  
Ordinance, 1955]

17th January, 1955

[Second Reading]

emoluments. Let us exempt such money that is earmarked for visitors and guests—everybody who comes here, including myself, and everybody else—from taxation. But emoluments in the proper sense of the word, salaries of Officers Administering the Federal Government and the Regional Governments should not be exempt from tax at all.

We refer to the Queens and to the Kings. I may say it is true the Queen is not subject to the type of tax in the Statute, but the sources of the income of the Queen are not identical with the sources of the income of the officers administering governments. Read your Constitutional history and note the special provisions made . . . . . (Interruption—Page, please.) There are several books and I cannot refer you to pages, and there are several authors. So I think it will be rather *infra dig* for me to display my knowledge or my ignorance before this august House. I would rather shelve my ignorance than to expose it to people who may know better than myself or I may know better than. As we listened to the Secretary of State for the Colonies here this morning we must be prepared to acknowledge our limitations. But at the same time we will not agree to be misled by history upside down.

Mr Speaker, Sir, to summarise my speech, I will only say that the Financial Secretary has not convinced the Opposition that this Bill is necessary at this time or at any time in the very near future. No facts have been adduced to convince the Opposition that this Bill is necessary at all.

It has been pointed out to this House that the Emirs who are the Kings of the respective States before the advent of the British Government do pay tax. The Obas in the Western Region do pay tax, and the Chiefs and Obis in the Eastern Region do pay tax. They are the heads of their States. A State does not need to be a mighty territory. Luxemburg is a State, and the population is not up to a million. All the Ministers of State do pay tax. After all, the Secretaries to the Government hold so many portfolios. They are Ministers of Her Majesty and I do not see any reason why, if Her Majesty is exempt from tax, Her Ministers should not be exempt from tax. At the same time, how many exemptions should we have at the same time? On the other hand we are quoting them and placing them on the same basis as Her Majesty and yet you are telling me that they are agents of Her Majesty. How can an agent be equal to the principal?

The Financial Secretary must labour hard if we are to be convinced at all. We have made up our minds to oppose the Bill and we will oppose it and oppose it vehemently because the facts have not been adduced both on the introduction of the Bill and in the course of the speeches that have been made. Therefore, Mr Speaker, Sir, on behalf of the Opposition we do ask the Government to withdraw this Bill because it is unnecessary and untimely and not wanted at all.

**M. Bello Dandago :**

Mr Speaker, Sir, I do not blame the Opposition party; they must have something to oppose. I am very sorry, however, that this is not a Motion to oppose. In the first place, there was a Governor here and he was exempted, and I thought it was only legitimately right—and Honourable Jaja Wachuku would agree with me—and commonsense demands also that the Governors in our Regions as principal symbols of Her Majesty the Queen should be exempted from tax. The fact is that the Governor-General is exempted from this tax and the Governors in our Regions should get the same benefit. Honourable Jaja Wachuku knows, he is only talking.

I do not know the reason why at any time before we came here no question was ever raised as to why the then Governor was exempted from tax. The then Governor, now Governor-General did not pay tax, and nobody raised that question. Even if anybody did, his objection did not take effect, to my knowledge!

**Chief S. L. Akintola :**

Not too late to amend.

[*The Income Tax (Amendment)  
Ordinance, 1955*]

17th January, 1955

[*Second Reading*]

**M. Bello Dandago :**

I am sorry, Opposition.

Mr Speaker, the question before the House is straightforward. Tax is a necessary evil ; I do not want to pay it if I can help it, but I do pay, and representatives of the Queen in the Northern, Eastern and Western Regions, representing Her Majesty should be exempted.

**The Minister of Natural Resources and Social Services :**

Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Bill which is before the House. The only relevant point which the Opposition has asked is on what principle is this Bill based. All the other speeches they have made so far are lacking in substance, and I will answer directly the principle on which the Bill is based.

**Chief S. L. Akintola :**

The common man in Ibadan pays.

**The Minister of Natural Resources and Social Services :**

The Queen in England is exempted from paying tax. Those of us who are living in the Queen's Commonwealth should also have the Queen's representative holding the same position as She holds in the United Kingdom. Due to the physical impossibility of having one individual in many places at the same time, overcome by the choice of duly selected representatives of Her Majesty the Queen, those who are the Queen's representatives are entitled to the Queen's privileges.

You may say that Queen's privilege is wrong in principle or that it is antiquated, but you cannot have it both ways. We are living under the regime of a constitutional monarchy and if you get up from all sides of the House and pretend—whether you are sincere or not we do not know—that you are basing your parliamentary democracy on the pattern of that of the United Kingdom, you must imitate that pattern in all its aspects. I will not quarrel with people who want other patterns of democracy—Chinese, Japanese or South American—but people who have it in their minds to have in this country the type of democracy in the United Kingdom must also submit to all arrangements by which that constitutional democracy is kept in being.

This kind of privilege is a serial one. It goes right down through different stages. There is no licence for the Governor-General's car. We are losing revenue because if that car is licensed we will be able to make some revenue from it. I am hoping very soon to see a frivolous motion by the Members of the Opposition asking that the Governor-General's car should be licensed. Going a little further down the scale of sliding privileges, Ministers, both Federal and Regional—I stand to be corrected—do not pay for their quarters, and wherever they are lucky to have Ministers in the Opposition I will yet see a motion being tabled at the appropriate place that Ministers should pay for their quarters.

**Mr Kola Balogun, Minister without Portfolio :**

On a point of order, Sir, Standing Order 26 (5)—Members shall not make unseemly interruptions while any Member is speaking.

**Mr Speaker :**

I do not think I should call any Member to account for any of the interruptions I have yet heard. We must be as tolerant as we can.

**The Minister of Natural Resources and Social Services :**

I thank you Mr Speaker and my Honourable Friend who is seeking protection on my behalf.

[*The Income Tax (Amendment)  
Ordinance, 1955*]

17th January, 1955

[*Second Reading*]

he sits tight on his own trunk. (*Laughter*). The Governors of every state ought to contribute towards the support of the Government in proportion to their respective ability, that is in proportion to the revenue which they respectively enjoy under the Government. The expenses of Governors to the individual of a great nation is like the expenses of management to the land tenure of a great estate who are all obliged to contribute to the proportion in the respective interest of the State. To observers of this Constitution what is called the equity of taxation is neglected in inequality of taxation.

One might ask what is the interest of the Governor in payment of tax. He has many interests. The most important is that he himself should be a model, a model to the country. It is his duty to teach his people to be able to pay tax without grumbling. Their Excellencies are always in the company of the Honourable Ministers of State. They are always in the company of the high officials of those bodies who are groaning under the burden of heavy taxation. It will be most embarrassing if Their Excellencies should be exempt from paying tax. The payment of tax is based on the idea of social justice. It is the civic duty of everybody to pay tax, or stand the principle of equality before the law. We must not go far off by not referring to other people's opinion in this matter and I think we should take this matter more seriously.

Mr Hitch in his book has commented thus ; page 134 :—

“It is the failure that under the present regime the taxes were mainly levied on the poor, the rich and the aristocrats being very largely exempt. A very common way in which distribution of revenue between different classes of the community has been started is by exempting State employees from income tax thus constituting them a privileged class. Where this occurs it is common to find their privileges backed up by legal exemptions in the name of ordinary law. The history of Germany and even of France provides many illustrations of the evils to which such privileges may lead. And in Nigeria we must not fail to learn from the mistakes of others”.

Mr Speaker, Sir, it is this very evil that this amendment seeks to perpetuate and extend in a country that only last year had one Governor and one only. Today we have three Governors and goodness knows what we are going to have next year. Maybe we will have seven more. If we want all these people to be exempt !

And now to refer to the objects and reasons given in the Bill. Because the office of the Governor has been created for each of the three Regions it is thought appropriate that a similar exemption should extend to the Governors. I think this is wrong. The very word Governor is not synonymous to freedom from taxation. Why should the Governors not pay when they are able to pay. Why should they not set very good example for people to emulate. I cannot understand why. It says, “it is thought it is appropriate”. Who thought ? The people are even embarrassed if they are asked to exempt themselves from tax. If I were in their shoes I would be embarrassed. So I would ask the Honourable Members to think twice. This is not a question of toeing party line. It is a question of the personal conviction. What do they think about the Bill. Would this be an asset to the Governor or to the Government of this country in general ? It is not a question of hardship. I am aware that the Governors have not expressed the desire for the present exemption. It only appears to have been for an act of sympathy. The whole idea is illogical and unwise. It is only the poor that should be exempted from taxation on humanitarian grounds. (*Hear, Hear*). Their Excellencies are not in that category. They should pay on political and on moral grounds. To carry through this Bill will stifle the rising morality of the tax-payer.

I more particularly oppose this Bill at this time of our national economy when heavier taxes are being imposed, particularly in the Eastern Region, where we have the promises of no taxation without consultation. In certain parts of the Eastern Region the women are now resenting the idea of their menfolk paying taxes. I do not mean that women pay tax.

[*The Income Tax (Amendment)  
Ordinance, 1955*]

17th January, 1955

[*Second Reading*]

Women do not pay tax but they resent their menfolk paying taxes and if you carry through this measure they will quote that even the Governor doesn't pay tax. That is why it must be thought very wise for us to think twice before we pass this Bill into law. Their contention might be supported by the very amendment we want to carry through this House. No one is free from the payment of tax. It is one of those things that we must encourage ourselves to do on moral grounds. The man in the street with little or no earning is forced to pay tax. The junior clerk does that, grumbling in his mind before he pays his tax. The man on the top even the Governor should pay his tax so that each of the Governors will say with pride "I too I have paid my tax".

Mr Speaker, I oppose the Bill.

**The Minister of Labour and Welfare :**

Mr Speaker, Sir, we on the Government Bench will certainly welcome constructive criticism from any Opposition any day. But when an Opposition desires to play politics which I may rightly call political stunt we shall not quiver positively to put them in their proper places. (*Hear, Hear*).

Mr Speaker, Sir, I would have thought, Sir, that people who claim to be aristocrats of intelligence would study their Bill and direct their criticism if it is constructive to the aims and objects of the Bill. I must say, Sir, that all the arguments that have been adduced by the Opposition in the morning and this afternoon are nothing short of a display of ignorance of the object of this Bill. (*Hear, Hear*). What is the object, Sir? The object of the Bill, Sir, is mainly "Now that the office of Governor has been created in each Region", a statement of fact. All that we want to do is that we thought it appropriate that similar exemption from the Income Tax Ordinance be extended to the Governors of the three Regions. Now, Sir, the Opposition, if they are intelligent as they want us to believe, should have thought before now that it is necessary for them to introduce a Bill to cancel the privilege which the Governor has enjoyed hitherto. What did they do? Did they not come here to play on the magnanimity of this Government? Magnanimous in the sense, Sir, that we feel that in order to play on the uniformity of Governors in the Regions, uniform privileges must be given to Regional Governors. Our Governor-General enjoys this privilege, and we feel rightly that the Governors of the Regions should enjoy that same privilege. I am sure that the Regional Governments both in the North, in the East and in the West will certainly join this Government in extending this privilege to their Governors. I therefore feel Sir, that we do not wish Government Bench to derogate the Governors that are manning our Regions and we do hope that this equality of privilege that we are extending to the Governors of the Regions will receive the greatest approbation of the Governments of the Regions concerned.

Sir, I beg to support the Bill.

**The Financial Secretary of the Federation :**

Mr Speaker, it is quite clear that the majority of Honourable Members support the Bill before the House whole-heartedly. A very small, but vocal, minority (*Hear, Hear, Applause*) do oppose it. A few days ago, last week, I heard a still small voice from that end of the House, when the question of seating was raised, saying that although the Opposition was small in quantity it was large in quality. If this is a taste of the standard of opposition (*Laughter*) I think it portends poorly for the future. I was of two minds whether I would exercise my right of reply because one Honourable Member said his party had made up their minds to oppose—and I have the strongest objection to running up against a brick wall—but I do feel that certain statements have been made that should be corrected and enlarged upon otherwise we may leave an incorrect impression. The Honourable Solaru asked Honourable Members to think twice. I do not think it is necessary for the majority of Honourable Members to think twice. I think it is just a small section at the other end of the House who should have second thoughts about



this Bill. Two Honourable Members in opposing the measure referred to United Kingdom taxation. They implied that if this exemption was allowed in Nigeria, the United Kingdom tax gatherer would step in rapidly and collect for the United Kingdom coffers any tax that was exempt here.

**Chief S. L. Akintola :**

If transferred.

**The Financial Secretary of the Federation :**

It is obvious, not on the whole. But no question of taxation in the United Kingdom would arise unless the officer concerned was ordinarily resident in the United Kingdom and he had remitted to the United Kingdom in the relevant year in connection with the year of his ordinary residence. In other words he will not be liable to tax in the United Kingdom except under certain circumstances which the officer concerned will be very careful to avoid.

Now, Sir, the Honourable Jaja Wachuku asked for facts. He has asked me for facts before in this House and I think of him as the "glutton for facts". What surprises me is that he asks me for facts and asks Honourable Members for replies to questions that it is none of my business to give, or any other Member of this House to give. He should marshal his facts before he comes to this Honourable House; he should find the answers himself.

One of the questions he asked was, did the Ministers in the United Kingdom pay tax. He also asked if the Prime Minister pays tax. There is no reason why I should answer because the question of Ministers, or the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom has absolutely nothing to do with it.

**Mr J. A. Wachuku :**

I asked whether they were exempted from tax.

**The Financial Secretary of the Federation :**

Whether they were exempted from tax? That is exactly what I am talking about. Whether a Prime Minister or a Minister pays tax or not has nothing, absolutely nothing whatsoever to do with this Bill . . . (*Hear, Hear*) . . . this Bill is dealing with the emoluments of Her Majesty's representative and is not dealing with Her Majesty's Ministers or anyone else. However, for the information of the Honourable Member—I am always willing to help—the Prime Minister draws a flat salary and a substantial part of his salary is tax free, but that part is counted as expenses. Ministers' salaries are not, of course, tax free.

The same Honourable Member referred to the pattern of our Constitution and that it was modelled on that of Great Britain. He had further remarks to say but that one particularly interested me. Now, Sir, Her Majesty's representative in self-governing Dominions, as far as I know in every single case, received emoluments that are tax free. I have served in five different Colonial territories and in every one of those the Governors' emoluments, or those of the officers administering the Government, were tax free. They are tax free in Jamaica with a population of one million and a bit; they are tax free in Barbados with a population of just under three thousand; they are tax free in Trinidad with a population of nearly seven hundred thousand; also in British Guiana, Uganda, and nearer home, the Gold Coast. If Honourable Members want me to go on listing these territories I will, but I think I have said enough. The population of the Western Region is seven million people and I am sure they do not want the Governor of the Region to have his official emoluments treated differently from what we find is the accepted practice in practically every territory. Who would imagine, in one's wildest thoughts, that we would have a debate of this nature today. . . . .

[*The Income Tax (Amendment)  
Ordinance, 1955*]

17th January, 1955

[*Committee and Third Reading*]**Honourable Members :**

No, No. No one.

**The Financial Secretary of the Federation :**

I think that on investigation one would find that in every territory Her Majesty's representative enjoys exemption from taxation. It is not a question of Nigeria ought to do it, it is a question of Nigeria *must* do it.

**Mr F. O. Mbadiwe :**

Mr Speaker, I beg to move "That the Question be now put".

*Question "That the Question be now put" put, and agreed to.*

*Original Question put accordingly and agreed to.*

*Bill accordingly read a second time.*

*Bill immediately considered in Committee.*

*House in Committee.*

*Clause 1 agreed to.*

*Clause 2.*

**The Chairman :**

A paper containing a would-be amendment was handed in, but I must point out to the Member who handed it in that no amendment to leave out the clause can be put to the Committee. It is a fact that the Chairman has to propose the question that each clause in turn stand part of the Bill, and when that question is proposed, it is up to that Member who wishes to reject that clause to vote against it. No amendment to leave out the clause is put from the Chair, because the Committee vote on the question of whether the clause should stand part of the Bill or not.

*Question proposed.*

*Question put, and agreed to.*

*Clause 2 agreed to.*

*House resumed.*

*Bill reported without amendment.*

*Bill read the third time and passed.*

## THE EVIDENCE (AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE, 1955—SECOND READING

**The Attorney-General of the Federation :**

Sir, I beg to move that "A Bill for an Ordinance to amend the Evidence Ordinance" be now read a second time.

This Bill deals with one point only, Sir, and that is to provide a suitable and up to date means of proving a previous conviction in criminal cases. As Honourable Members are aware, when a person is convicted the Court wishes to be informed as to his antecedents, character and previous convictions, if any, and it is necessary in the case of a man who has previous convictions that they should be proved quickly and certainly for the benefit of the Court. There is provision for this now in the Evidence Ordinance but it is not a method that is altogether satisfactory. It provides for a certificate to be given by the Court in which the accused person was previously convicted. Sometimes that means, if the conviction took place in another part of the country, delay in obtaining the certificate ; and there is also the objection that the certificate merely states the name of the person in question, and there are many people who bear the same name, so as a means of proving identity it is far from satisfactory. The method proposed in this Bill, Sir, makes use of the records of previous convictions kept in the Central Registry together with finger prints of convicted persons. Every person who is convicted, subject to certain exceptions,

[*The Evidence (Amendment) Ordinance, 1955*]

17th January, 1955

[*The West African Institute for Oil Palm Research (Amendment) Ordinance, 1955, Second Reading*]

has his finger prints taken and recorded at the Central Registry. When a person has been convicted and it is desired to prove his previous convictions, all that will be necessary, if this Bill is passed, is to produce three certificates. One certificate will show previous convictions and finger prints of the person then convicted. The second certificate will show the finger prints of the person in the subsequent proceedings whose previous conviction it is desired to prove. The third certificate will show that the finger prints on the first and second certificates are those of one and the same person. By this means, Sir, we shall have certain and quick evidence of previous convictions. As I have said, there are many people who bear the same name but there are no two people who have yet been discovered to have the same finger prints, and so this method will be more fair to accused persons and it will be more convenient to the Court.

Sir, I beg to move.

**The Minister of Trade and Industry :**

I beg to second.

*Question proposed.*

*Question put, and agreed to.*

*Bill accordingly read a second time.*

*Bill immediately considered in Committee.*

*House in Committee.*

*Clauses 1 and 2 agreed to.*

*House resumed.*

*Bill reported without amendment.*

*Bill read the third time and passed.*

THE WEST AFRICAN INSTITUTE FOR OIL PALM RESEARCH (AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE, 1955—  
SECOND READING

**The Minister of Communications and Aviation :**

Mr Speaker, I rise to move the second reading of "A Bill to amend the West African Institute for Oil Palm Research Ordinance, 1955".

Mr Speaker, Sir, this Institute is situated near Benin and in this place experiments covering oil palm industry are carried out on behalf of the Nigerian Government, and the Governments of the Gold Coast and Sierra Leone. Under the old Ordinance, Sir, the Secretary of State for the Colonies is empowered to appoint the Director and the Chairman of the Managing Committee without reference to the contributing Governments responsible for the finances of the Institution. As a result of the constitutional changes we feel that the time has come to democratise the machinery of appointment. Therefore under this amendment the Secretary of State for the Colonies will now consult the Governor-General of Nigeria and the Officers Administering the Governments of the Gold Coast and Sierra Leone before appointing the Director of the Institute and the Chairman of the Managing Committee and I feel, Sir that all the sections in this House will support this and welcome it as a democratic move.

Sir, I beg to move.

**Mr M. T. Mbu, Minister without Portfolio :**

I beg to second.

*Question proposed.*

*Question put, and agreed to.*

*Bill accordingly read a second time.*

[*The West African Institute for Oil  
Palm Research (Amendment)  
Ordinance, 1955*]

17th January, 1955

[*The Local Forces (Amendment) Ordinance, 1955—Second Reading*]

*Bill immediately considered in Committee.*

*House in Committee.*

*Clauses 1-3 agreed to.*

*House resumed.*

*Bill reported without amendment.*

*Bill read the third time and passed.*

#### THE LOCAL FORCES (AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE, 1955—SECOND READING

##### **The Acting Chief Secretary of the Federation :**

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that "A Bill for an Ordinance to amend the Local Forces Ordinance" be read a second time.

The object of this Bill, Sir, is to give a statutory authority for the establishment of cadet units in educational institutions in Nigeria—University College, Ibadan, secondary schools and the like—and to enable the making of regulations for the governance and organisation of those cadet units.

The Bill is quite short and is, I hope, simple and easy to understand without the need for wearisome explanation from me. But the establishment of cadet units is only one of a number of measures that the Government has taken or is proposing to take in pursuance of the same object, namely, the developing within Nigeria of Military Forces which may truly be said to be the forces of the Federation of Nigeria. The merit of the proposals, Sir, cannot really be understood except against the background of the other arrangements which the Government is proposing. I hope, Sir, that I may have your indulgence and that the House will bear with me if I give the background of what the Government has done and is proposing to do in this connection. I regret, Sir, that I cannot undertake to afford so entertaining a background as has been afforded for us in connection with the Bill which has occupied the greater part of our attention today. I can give no glimpses into Stuart England, Sir, but I do hope that as this is a matter of great interest to all parts of the House, Members will find what I have to say worthy of their attention.

In April 1953, there was held in Lagos a West African Forces Conference at which the Governments of the United Kingdom, of Nigeria, of the Gold Coast, of Sierra Leone and the Gambia were represented. Nigeria was represented by the then Chief Secretary (now Sir Arthur Benson), by the Honourable Abubakar Tafawa Balewa, by the Honourable Eni Njoku and the then Deputy Financial Secretary, Mr Baker-Beall. The objective of the four West African Governments in military matters was set out by the Conference in its Report in the following terms which have been accepted by the Government of the Federation and which I hope will be thoroughly acceptable to this House. They read:

"It is the desire of each Government to take its separate responsibility in respect of its military forces and to take such steps as may be appropriate to make it clear beyond doubt that its military forces are the national forces of its Territory, established for the purpose of ensuring the immediate defence of the Territory in an emergency and the maintenance of the peace, order and good government of the Territory, under the control and administration of the Government of that Territory."

That is to say, it is the desire of each Government ultimately to be responsible for its own military forces. To make that clear and to make clear the intention that the Military Forces in Nigeria should be the Military Forces of Nigeria, the Government of the Federation has recently decided that all our military units which were formerly comprehended within the designation "the Royal West African Frontier Force" shall be known in future as the "Nigerian Military Forces". The Government considered a number of alternatives but its

aim was to hit on some designation which would not be over-pretentious—it would be over-pretentious to describe our Forces as the Nigerian Army as they are not yet sufficiently large, or sufficiently diversified to merit that title—but at the same time the Government wanted something that would be truly descriptive and would have a good military ring to it. Now we were fortunate enough recently to be able to consult the Adjutant-General to the Forces, General Sir Cameron Nicholson, himself a former distinguished General Officer Commanding-in-Chief West Africa, and he gave his blessing to the title of “Nigerian Military Forces” and he secured for us the blessing of the War Office. I should say, Sir, that this title has a very respectable precedent in that it is the same sort of style as is used by two of the self-governing Dominions, Australia and New Zealand.

The Nigeria Regiment, that is to say, the infantry soldiers in Nigeria, will continue to be known as the Nigeria Regiment. It is a name well-known both in this country and abroad and it is one which already has a reputation of which the Nigerian soldier of the future can properly be proud, and which he will be anxious to enhance. It is proposed also, Sir, that the supporting units should have new names which will contain some word which clearly identifies them with Nigeria and the Government is in the process of discussing this matter with the War Office.

I should explain, however, that it is not intended that the honourable and distinguished title of the “Royal West African Frontier Force” should be abandoned. That, Sir, is a name which has its own laurels and very considerable laurels too. Next Sunday, Sir, we shall celebrate Myohaung Day, the 10th anniversary of an occasion when the two largest forces ever to be put in the field by West Africa, the 81st and 82nd Divisions, met on a victorious battle field. It is appropriate, Sir, that these reminders of the past should serve as a stimulus to equal high endeavours in the future. The four West African Governments have agreed that when their Forces are associated or acting in combination they shall be known collectively as the Royal West African Frontier Force, and I trust that the House will be pleased to know that that title is to be preserved in that way.

The titles of military units are a matter of considerable sentiment and of considerable importance as they are the support on which may grow valuable traditions, and they may be a valuable source of inspiration to the troops, but it would not serve to make our Forces Nigerian if we merely change their name. Some practical steps must be taken as well as these purely sentimental matters. The first practical step that has been taken is the agreement of the West African Governments to set up an Army Advisory Council. The recommendation of the West African Conference was as follows:—

“The Conference, taking into account the clear indication of the new role to be played by the four West African Governments in the administration of their military forces; their natural willingness to collaborate with each other and with Her Majesty’s Government in the United Kingdom on matters affecting the general well-being of their military forces; and the need to maintain the close association of the four West African Governments . . . . . recommended the establishment of an Army Advisory Council for West Africa, to which each of the four West African Governments should send representatives and of which the General Officer Commanding-in-Chief should be a member.”

The functions of that Council are:—

“(a) To consider and advise the Governments of the four West African territories on matters affecting the military forces in West Africa, and in particular on:—

- (i) matters pertaining to the recruitment, training, conditions of service (including pay and pensions) and welfare of African officers and other ranks;
- (ii) matters pertaining to works services and the provision of accommodation;
- (iii) matters pertaining to the general financial position and financial aspects of the development of the forces;

[*The Local Forces (Amendment)  
Ordinance, 1955*]

17th January, 1955

[*Second Reading*]

(b) To keep under review measures to further co-operation and co-ordination between the Military Forces of the four West African Territories.

(c) To inform West African Governments of Military developments in the United Kingdom and the Commonwealth which have a bearing on these matters."

The Council is to be composed of:—

- (i) A Chairman drawn in rotation from one of the participating territories ;
- (ii) Not more than two representatives from each of the territories ;
- (iii) The General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, West Africa Command, together with the Chief of Staff, West Africa Command, as his alternate ;
- (iv) The Council may co-opt officials to advise it on any matter coming within its terms of reference, but they shall not be members of the Council ;
- (v) The Chief Secretary, West African Inter-Territorial Secretariat is to be Secretary to the Council.

The first meeting of the Army Advisory Council is to be held at Accra next week—January 26th and 27th, and the Government has decided that Nigeria shall be represented by Chief Secretary, as the Member of the Council of Ministers with responsibility for Defence matters, and by the Minister of Transport and Works, the Honourable Abubakar Tafawa Balewa, who has considerable and detailed knowledge of what Government has been doing in the field of military policy during recent years.

I trust, Sir, that in giving the background to this Bill I shall not be thought to have wandered too far from it. The Bill is one of a number of measures directed towards a most important part of our aim to make our Forces truly Nigerian Forces, national Forces of the Federation, namely, the Nigerianisation of the Officer ranks in those Forces. As is stated in the "Objects and Reasons", Sir, it is hoped that the establishment of cadet units will encourage young men of good education and the necessary aptitude to consider taking up a military career so as to ensure a steady supply of African Officers for the Army. The House may therefore wish to hear from me some information of what is being done towards Nigerianisation and what is hoped to be done in the future.

There are two sources from which Nigerian officers may be found for the Nigerian Military Forces. The first one and the one from which most of the Officers now commissioned have come is by promotion from the ranks of the military units in Nigeria.

The second is by the direct entry of young men who have the standard of education and the other aptitudes to qualify them for training for commissioned ranks. If there is to be good officer material among the men, then the conditions of service must be such as to attract good men. One important proposal which, I hope, will result in attracting a good type of man to make the military forces his career is the proposal which is contained in a Bill already introduced in this House at this meeting—the Bill for an Ordinance for regulating Pensions and Gratuities to be granted in respect of service by African Officers and Other Ranks in Her Majesty's Forces of Nigeria, a matter, Sir, on which my Honourable Friend the Financial Secretary will shortly be addressing this House. In order to find the best available material for the military forces it is not the intention of the Military Authorities to sit quietly down at a few selected centres and wait for the boys to come in and seek to join. It is proposed to send special recruiting teams round the whole country and try by action on the spot to arouse interest in our forces as a career and to attract to them suitable young men. In the next financial year, Sir, we hope to introduce into the military system special techniques for ensuring that everybody who joins the forces is employed in a way most suited to his natural aptitudes. These techniques have been developed as a result of experience elsewhere, and have had quite remarkable success, and we are very fortunate that our General Officer Commanding, Major-General Inglis, is himself an expert on these matters and is very enthusiastic about the results that can be obtained from them. I think any family that sends a son into the Nigerian

Military Forces can be assured that he will be employed in a way most suited to his own particular talents. We have plans for enabling African non-commissioned officers who have the necessary military qualities but who have not been so fortunate as to have sufficient formal education to make them suitable for training for commissions—we have plans to give them additional instruction which will raise their general educational standard to the level of their military qualities. We also have arranged, Sir, for an increased number of Nigerian non-commissioned officers to be sent on specialised courses of training in the United Kingdom and elsewhere. But I must admit, Sir, that although we are making some progress in these ways towards the Nigerianisation of the commissioned ranks, we are not yet able to take advantage of the training facilities which have already been given to us. Nigeria may send each year six officer cadet candidates to the Royal Military Academy at Sandhurst. Honourable Members will no doubt be all acquainted with that famous name, the source from which the British Army gets the officers who have Her Majesty's regular commission. We are able, thanks to the enthusiasm and energy of successive General Officers Commanding and Commanders-in-Chief, to send six people there each year, and we can not get these six. We may send an almost unlimited number of candidates to Eaton Hall, which is the institution in the United Kingdom where candidates go who, for one reason or another, are not eligible for regular life-time commissions, but who may be eligible for what are called short-service commissions. We cannot get enough Nigerians, young Nigerians with the required standard, to come forward to take advantage of these opportunities and it must be frankly admitted that in both quantity and quality—words which I use today with some trepidation, in view of the previous references made to them—neither in quantity nor in quality have we been able to get what we would like. Now, it may be, Sir, that there is some prejudice in the mind of the young Nigerian against a military career. And there may be lack of knowledge of what such a career has in store for them. If that is so, we must dispel it. I do not wish to paint a gloomy picture. Since the House was last informed of the position, the number of Nigerian officers now serving has grown to twelve, seven of whom have regular commissions and five have short-service commissions. Two more officer cadets are at present in the Royal Military Academy at Sandhurst. Two are at Eaton Hall. We have eight more who are undergoing training in West Africa designed to fit them for admission to Sandhurst and four who are undergoing training preliminary to a course at Eaton Hall. So that, Sir, I hope, adds up to twenty-eight officers, either serving or officer cadet candidates who may shortly be expected to be commissioned. Of the twelve serving officers three have recently been promoted to the rank of Captain, and one of them has been given an independent command, so that Nigerians are making a creditable showing in the peace-time forces. But the twelve commissioned and another sixteen who may be commissioned are not nearly enough to provide the cadre of Nigerians officers required for forces which may be truly described as Nigerian.

So we must do something to convince the youths of this country that to serve in the armed forces of Nigeria is as valuable and honourable and, we hope, enjoyable a way of serving one's country as it can be served. One project, which has already had some success, and which is designed to this end, is the Boys' Company. The Boys' Company at the Regimental Training Centre at Zaria is now commanded by a Nigerian officer of the rank of Captain. Its object is to provide a reservoir of non-commissioned and warrant officers and skilled tradesmen for the Nigerian Military Forces. The training includes a full secondary education, the sports that are usually found in secondary schools and other activities of school boys, and all these in addition to a military education. The sons of serving soldiers are particularly encouraged to join this Company and it is hoped by this means to build up the tradition of family service in the Armed Forces which was so valuable a source of strength to India and Pakistan. Thirty boys, selected from all over Nigeria, were recruited last year. Thirty more will be recruited this year, and thereafter there will be an annual intake until the total number is 240. It is very encouraging, Sir, that for the first intake of thirty there were 706 applications, and all the reports that I have had show that the Company has got away to a promising start and the boys are developing, physically and mentally, beyond expectation.

[*The Local Forces (Amendment)  
Ordinance, 1955*]

17th January, 1955

[*Second Reading*]

Elsewhere in the Commonwealth, Sir, it has been found that the establishment of cadet units in secondary schools and universities has been a most valuable source of young men who might wish to make the Army a career and who are qualified by training and aptitude for commissioned ranks. The fact that a young man joins a cadet unit, certainly does not mean that he is committing himself to a military life. Voluntary service in a cadet unit will in itself, it is hoped, be a very valuable source of youth training whether a man wants to be a soldier or not. It will develop his self-reliance, it will give him self-discipline, it will bring out his powers of leadership and generally it should serve to make a fine citizen of him whether inside the Armed Forces or in civil life. And in the distressing event, which we all hope will never come, but for which we should obviously be prepared, in the event of this country being involved in hostilities, young men who have had some rudiments of military training will obviously be better fitted to take part in the defence of their own country than those who have not. But the object, which is particularly stressed in the objects and reasons of the Bill, Sir, is that the establishment of these cadet units will, I hope, encourage young men to consider taking up a military career.

The Bill is short and simple, Sir. It is in the form of amendments to the Local Forces Ordinance, the Ordinance which already provides for the volunteer units of the Nigerian Regiment and for a supplementary reserve of that Regiment. I should like, if I may, Sir, on a matter of principle rather than on a matter of detail, to invite attention to the clause enacting Section 59 (2) which stands on the second page of the Bill, where it says that "Cadet Units shall be affiliated to the Nigeria Regiment but shall not form part of that Regiment or the Local Forces". It may be asked why, if a cadet unit shall not form part of the Local Forces, we should provide legally for their establishment by seeking to include them in the Local Forces Ordinance. This is a matter, Sir, upon which, if any Member of the House is in doubt—as I myself once was—my Honourable Friend the Attorney-General would be prepared to enlighten him outside the Chamber. It does seem a contradiction in terms but it is a convenient way of doing things, and the point of saying that they shall not form part of the Nigerian Regiment or Local Forces is that the provisions of the Royal West African Frontier Force (Nigeria Regiment) Ordinance, shall not apply to them. That Ordinance applies to the Local Forces, under certain conditions, the sort of military discipline which is suited for soldiers in the true sense of the word but which will not be suitable for volunteer units of young men who are school boys or university undergraduates. Instead, the clause enacting Section 63 (h) on page 3 of the Bill provides that the Governor-General may make regulations for the enforcement of discipline in cadet units.

There is an unfortunate error in the clause enacting 63 (j) of the Bill as printed, and I mention this, Sir, lest it cause misunderstanding on a matter of principle. As printed, it says that the Governor-General may make regulations for the payment of allowances to cadets. There are some words omitted, Sir, which I shall seek to restore at the Committee stage. It would be entirely contrary to the whole spirit on which these cadet units are established if cadets should be paid. It is intended that they should be volunteer units and cadets should draw nothing in respect of their service. But the school or the university college or whatever it may be will probably incur expenditure in sending them on annual training courses or providing replacements for equipment and so on, and it is proper that we should take legal power to repay those amounts.

The regulations for which the Bill provides, Sir, will be made by the Governor-General, and before any such regulations were made the Governor-General would have the advice of the Army Advisory Council to which I have referred, and he would of course have the advice of the Council of Ministers on this matter, for which the Government of the Federation has exclusive responsibility.

The Bill is intended to provide a legal basis for the establishment of these cadet units but I am happy to say, Sir, that a practical start has already been made. A unit has been formed at King's College in Lagos, another unit has been formed at the University College,



Ibadan, where we are fortunate to have on the staff two officers who served with distinction with West African Forces during the war and who are willing to give up their leisure time in order to instruct and supervise the cadet unit. In the first place, Sir, each unit will be limited to thirty boys and two officers, who will be recruited from the teaching staff, and one permanent staff instructor recruited from retired warrant officers and non-commissioned officers of the Nigeria Regiment. Members will be pleased to know that the number of boys seeking to join the unit at King's College was greatly in excess of the number that could be taken in. We hope to see units established later in Government College, Umuahia, Government Secondary School, Zaria, and Government College, Ibadan. Indeed, Sir, we hope it may be possible to accomplish this before the present school terms are ended. And the Bill provides, in the clause enacting 59 (1), that the Governor-General may by Order establish other cadet units. We hope, Sir, to be able to find teachers who are willing to give up their time to do this and, as the units can only be successful if they have successful officers we mean to provide facilities for training teachers who can be instructors in cadet units. We hope thereby to give Nigerian schoolmasters an opportunity of playing a full part in this contribution to the development of Nigerian Forces.

In commending this Bill to the House, Sir, I should like, if I may, to pay tribute to the energy and enthusiasm which has been shown in this cause by the General Officer Commanding Nigeria District, Major-General Inglis, and by his staff. We have been very fortunate in successive General Officers Commanding in Nigeria and the fact that we are making some progress towards Nigerianisation is in large part due to their efforts. They have worked exceedingly hard, and with great enthusiasm to give effect to Government policy in military matters.

Sir, I beg to move.

**The Minister of Transport and Works :**

Sir, I beg to second.

**Mr Speaker :**

Before I put the question I just want to point out that the Chief Secretary asked for latitude in the debate in order to cover a subject slightly outside the Bill. That was granted, I think, by the general permission of the House and cannot, of course, raise a precedent for debate going far beyond the limits of the Bill.

*Question proposed.*

**M. Yakubu Wanka :**

Mr Speaker, I rise to support the second reading of this Bill and in doing so I should like to make some few observations. In the first instance, Sir, I am very grateful to the Federal Government for the proposals in making the conditions of service of military forces very much better than what it was before. The setting up, Sir, of cadet units in our colleges and schools is an achievement of vital importance, because it will be a means whereby our students will have great interest for military affairs and thereby play an important part in the running of our military forces. But, Sir, I do hope that when the Federal Government comes to operate this scheme, the setting up of these cadet units will be fairly even throughout the Federation, so that the Northern Region will not be left behind as in the case of Western education.

I should like, Sir, to take this opportunity to inform the Federal Government that the North is not satisfied with the system of admission of boys into the military school of Zaria. Because, Sir, this institution is supposed to serve the whole of the Federation but unfortunately the number of boys of Northern origin admitted to the school is very negligible. This is not because there are no boys of Northern origin who are prepared

[The Local Forces (Amendment)  
Ordinance, 1955]

17th January, 1955

[Second Reading]

to be admitted to the school. Well, Sir, I should say something is wrong with the machinery. I hope, Sir, that the Federal Government should examine the circumstances involved and then help in making this situation much better than what it is today. With these few remarks, Sir, I beg to support.

**Mr D. K. Onwenu :**

Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the motion on the Local Forces Bill so ably proposed by the Honourable the Acting Chief Secretary to the Federal Government, and in so doing, I dare say that if there is any gesture by which the Government is prepared to tap the inherent potentiality in the growing generation of this country, it is this.

Today, self-government and independence are within the horizon, but it will be a vaulted self-government or independence if we have no organisation of defence manned by skilled labour from our rank and file. Up till now, our people look upon the local forces as a set up requiring unskilled labour from us. This is so, because up till now, only the unskilled seem to be recruited, so that those who have completed their course in the secondary school or university regard it as *infra dig* to enlist in the local forces.

The myth will now be exploded by the passing of this Bill, so that cadet units can now be established and attached to secondary schools and colleges.

Here, like other subjects taught in the secondary schools and colleges an appeal is made to the taste of the students. Enlistment in the cadet units is in no way compulsory. It is just a means of creating a stimulus which will, other things being equal, evoke the interest of the students who may, at the end of their course in the secondary schools or colleges, decide on their own volition to have a military career.

Sir, I have also to add that if any success is to be achieved in this regard, much able hands and high technique are required, because wrong presentation will result in insipidity, and will tend to do more harm than good.

Surely, Sir, there is no gainsaying it that this measure is likely to be misinterpreted in some quarters, or by some parents and guardians of the prospective students.

Much onus therefore lies on the Honourable Members here present to explain the project as of their own making, and such as will bring about self-realisation for Nigeria as a whole. There is no doubting the fact that the success of this project will enable Nigeria to take her right place in the scheme of things within the comity of nations.

Mr Speaker, Sir, apart from other benefits which this project will bring to Nigeria, it will also be an avenue for more employment of our skilled labour. Nigeria will thus be spared the distress of becoming a land of penpushers.

Sir, an army of ours manned and officered by aliens is still a pointer to the fact that with self-government Nigeria will *de jure* be free, but will *de facto* continue to be tied to the apron string of imperialism.

Sir, what a national pride it will be for this country when our local forces will have been manned by our indigenous sons!

With these few words, Mr Speaker, I beg to support the motion.

**M. Nuhu Bamalli :**

Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to support this Bill.

Sir, few Bills have come before this House today, if any at all, which have brought more vividly to everybody's mind here the meaning of self-government than this one. I pray, Sir, that even before the end of the life of this House we shall look on the Government Bench and see a Minister entitled "Minister of Defence for Nigeria". (Hear, Hear.)

I would not have spoken at all this afternoon, Sir, but for a point touched upon by the Honourable the Chief Secretary about the formation of a Boys' Company in Zaria. I should inform you, Mr Speaker, that I have come from Zaria. I have a very practical experience of that school. The Honourable the Chief Secretary has just said that over 700 applications were received last year for admission into that school. Mr Speaker, I am pleased to say that I have come from a region that has a very old military tradition behind it. It is true that 700 applications have come forward and I am sure that more than three-quarters of that number came from boys of Northern origin. In Zaria alone, Sir, where I live, I know fourteen boys now leaving primary schools who have actually applied but who have been rejected, and of the thirty boys who are now in the school only one is a Northerner. Mr Speaker, Sir, it has always been the policy of my party that Nigerianisation to us means nothing without Northernisation and I do not think that what is happening at Zaria Boys' Brigade now does much to bring that about.

Therefore, Mr Speaker, with these observations I beg to support the Bill.

*Sitting suspended for fifteen minutes.*

*Sitting resumed.*

**Chief E. O. Omolodun :**

Mr Speaker, this side of the House has been noted as the side for opposition, but at the same time this side has made known its intentions that whenever a Bill is introduced, or any matter is introduced, in the interest of Nigeria it has been ready to support it wholeheartedly. (*Hear, Hear.*)

I rise, therefore, to support this Bill, but at the same time I have something to suggest and if this Honourable House thinks it well to admit it so much the better. I am referring to section 63 of the Bill, which reads: "The Governor-General may make regulations for any purposes connected with the establishment, conduct and organisation of cadet units, and, without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing power, may make regulations governing all or any of the following matters— . . ." Without even bothering to read the whole thing, I would say "Alone and alone, God is not lonely in Heaven." I am therefore suggesting, Mr Speaker, that there ought to be set up an Advisory Board which would advise the Governor-General in all matters connected with this Bill.

Mr Speaker, I support the Bill.

**M. Abdulkadiri Makama :**

Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to support this motion. I too have come from Zaria where this school is situated and so I would like first to endorse what my colleague from Zaria has said, and in supporting the motion I only want to make the feeling of the N.P.C. about this school known and I want to say it with emphasis. We are so annoyed about the intake for this school that what we really want is a fully fledged inquiry into it.

Mr Speaker, I support the motion.

**Mr R. A. Fani-Kayode :**

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to support the Bill before the House, but with this addition. I should like first to refer the House to section 59 (1) of the proposed Bill, which reads: "The Governor-General may, by order, establish a cadet unit to be the cadet unit of a college named in the order." In other words the speed with which these units are established all over the country lies with the Governor-General and, I suppose, the Council of Ministers only. But I would like this House to treat with great seriousness the Bill before it. We are on the eve—on the threshold—of self-government in this country and it is no use crying for self-government unless we have the wherewithal for self-preservation. The first duty of a self-governing state is to have the forces to defend herself from external aggression and all

[*The Local Forces (Amendment)  
Ordinance, 1955*]

17th January, 1955

[*Second Reading*]

our talks about self-government will be absolutely abortive unless we are prepared, starting from now, to accept the full responsibilities for the defence of our own realm. It is, therefore, with that in mind that I am suggesting that the spirit of this Ordinance should be not to confine these cadet units as we have them now in state colleges—twenty from one college and ten from another—but should have them on a wide scale.

It is true that this House may not be all in agreement as regards the time when we shall achieve self-government. Some say 1956; some say as soon as possible; but whether it be 1956 or as soon as possible, it is now that we have to start thinking of our own forces. We thought a lot about education, and the revenue that this country is spending on education itself is tremendous. But no amount of education will save anybody in this country if, on attaining self-government, South Africa becomes a Republic and decides to come over to Nigeria to pay us a visit. When I say a visit I do not mean a courtesy visit, but a visit with arms. Mr Speaker, Sir, I am not trying to be dramatic in this House. I am saying that we should face the future with realism. It is time that we devoted more of the revenue of this country towards the preservation of our country when we are self-governing. It seems as if most of our funds are used in ways that are not actually going to that end. We have Ministers, Sir, earning fabulous salaries; we have emoluments all over the place . . . (*Interruption: "In the West".*) . . . yes, in the West, the North and the East. Some people, Sir, I understand have even lost the concept of struggle for freedom, which has been our sole object in coming to this House. (*"Shame, shame."*) We sit down in the comfort of our soft furnishings and may easily forget everything that we have to do. Ministers may forget that we have already made promises to the electorate before we got here. I am saying, Sir, with all respect, that it is about time we did something about it because I know that from someone on the Government Bench the question will soon come: "Where will the money come from if we are going to have these establishments all over the place in all our colleges?" The money should come from drastic cuts by Government all over the place. We have expatriates in this country and we do not grudge them what they are paid, but we who call ourselves nationalists should not come to this House without setting an example by cutting down our own emoluments, and I hope the Government Front Bench will start thinking about it and set an example. I can assure you, Mr Speaker, Sir, that we on this side of the House will welcome such drastic cuts. (*Hear, Hear.*) I am also certain, Sir, that if this House were to set an example the Regions would follow, and I am also certain, Sir, that orders for soft furnishings in Ministers' flats would not be repeated as they have been repeated in certain regions in this country.

Now, without going much further, Sir, I am saying that in all seriousness we must believe that self-government means a lot more than just governing ourselves. We in this country must start thinking of living in a bigger group and I am saying with all seriousness again that unless we are prepared to arm ourselves the even fantastic expansion of Russian Communism to this country is not impossible. We cannot be hiding behind England's skirts the whole time and shouting at them whenever there is some danger: "Come over to Macedonia and help us." British troops cannot be always at our disposal. So I am suggesting, as has been suggested by an Honourable Member in this Opposition, that this Government should establish a board or a council of people in order to see that the expansion of these bodies is not left solely within the Council of Ministers, because this council would be able to see that each Region had its own complementary cadet units in every station it possesses, and I am saying this, Sir, because one speaker from the Bench on the Speaker's right said that in some places only one Northern candidate or student had been admitted to the Boys' Company. That is surprising, but if there were representatives from the East, from the West and also from the North sitting together they would be able to apportion these cadet units and companies all over the country in order to see that this scheme is effective in each Region. It is only for the purpose of efficiency that I am asking that this Bill be passed, but the spirit of it should be, Mr Speaker, that it should be widely distributed all over the Regions—all over Nigeria—and should not be the privilege of only a few schools like King's College and

I regret, Sir, that my information about what is happening in the Boys' Company is so different from that which the Honourable Yakubu Wanka has, and I regret, Sir, which the Honourable Nuhu Bamalli and Mallam Abdulkadiri Makama who come from Zaria have, but I gladly undertake to make the enquiry they ask for. I regret, Sir, that it will not be what I understood the Honourable Members wish it to be—a full-scale enquiry, a commission of enquiry or an enquiry with due formality. I do not think anything of that kind is required, but my information is not that there is only one boy of Northern origin in the Boys' Company, but that there is a majority of boys of Northern origin in the Boys' Company. However, I shall inquire into that, Sir, and I assure the House, Sir, that preference is being given to the sons of serving soldiers or former serving soldiers, and as the North has a very fine military tradition I hope that we shall continue to find many boys, the sons of Northern fathers, ex-soldiers or serving soldiers, who will come forward. But, Sir, it is the Government's intention to serve all the country and to try and provide a well-balanced force. I give, therefore, Sir, no undertaking that any Region will be given preference over any other. All things being equal, preference will be given first to the sons of serving soldiers and ex-soldiers, and the boys who will be recruited will be the cream of those who come forward.

**Mr N. A. Ezonbodor :**

\*Mr Speaker, Sir, as much as I support the motion for the establishment and organisation of Cadet Units whole-heartedly, I would like to make some observations on the conditions of and the treatment in such training centres. Why I would like to do so is that all wise and well regulated states have been particularly careful to mark and correct the various abuses which occur from time to time. Among those, some of the most striking in our country today are the present unfair and unlimited disciplinary measures, ill-treatment, unnecessary orders, undue punishment imposed on recruits. I have heard and witnessed sufficiently in most of the Army training centres and I saw and experienced it myself in the Nigerian Police Training Depot. There recruits are more or less treated like prisoners. It is my experience in such . . . . . (Interruption) . . . .

**The Acting Chief Secretary of the Federation :**

On a point of order, Sir, Standing Order 27, is the Honourable Member referring to the Nigerian Military Forces or to the Nigerian Police Force ?

**Mr Speaker :**

I hope the Honourable Member, if he continues his speech, will make it quite clear to which forces he is referring.

**Mr N. A. Ezonbodor :**

\*I was trying to make examples of such training centres, that is why I cited the case of the Police Force. I was not speaking particularly about the Police Force. This training concerns mostly intelligent young men in this country and in that case I would like fair treatment to be meted out to these young men who will be engaged as Cadets in Training. I would also like to alter the word "force". I should be afraid at a time of financial consciousness and awakening if the training is to be run in accordance with the literal meaning of the word "force". I would like to point out that the Federal Government should see about the smooth running of the units when they are established.

Sir, I support the motion. (Hear, Hear. Laughter.)

\* Speech not corrected by Member.

**The Minister of Labour and Welfare :**

Sir, I beg to move "That the question be now put".

**The Minister of Transport and Works :**

Sir, I beg to second.

*Question "That the Question be now put" put, and agreed to.*

*Original question put accordingly and agreed to.*

[The Local Forces (Amendment)  
Ordinance, 1955]

17th January, 1955

[Committee]

*Bill accordingly read a second time.*

*Bill immediately considered in Committee.*

*House in Committee.*

*Clauses 1-3 agreed to.*

*Clause 4.*

**The Acting Chief Secretary of the Federation :**

Mr Speaker, Sir, I do not propose to move the amendment which stands in my name in Supplement No. 5 to the Orders of the Day, but to move the amendment in the terms that I now hand over, that is on page 3 of the Bill, line 13, which is the last line before the Objects and Reasons, to leave out the word "to" and insert "and expenses in respect of the training and instruction of".

In explanation, Sir, I would say that the Bill as printed contained an inadvertent error. It is not the intention that allowances should be payable to Cadets. As I said, Sir, in moving the Second Reading of the Bill, that would destroy the spirit of voluntary service upon which such Units are founded, but it will be necessary to ensure that neither the members of the Units nor the institutions to which they are attached are out of pocket over the expenses incurred on training courses, replacement of equipment and so on, and that would be accomplished, Sir, if the Governor-General were empowered to make regulations for the payment of allowances, and I think, Sir, it is preferable to use also the words "and expenses" lest some over-meticulous auditor query us and say that to pay for the resoling of a pair of boots worn out in route-marching is not an allowance but is an expense. I therefore, Sir, move that the clause be amended by leaving out "to" and inserting "and expenses in respect of the training and instruction of".

**Mr Speaker :**

If the Chief Secretary quoted page 3, line 13, perhaps the Bill which I have before me is differently printed because the line is obviously line 6 on page 3.

**The Acting Chief Secretary of the Federation :**

I regret, Sir, I have another printed copy. It is page 3, line 6.

*Question proposed.*

*Question put, and agreed to.*

**Mr Speaker :**

I want to warn Mr Fanni-Kayode before he moves the first clause that, if it is rejected, he will not be able to move the second clause because the second clause is dependent on the first. He therefore, I think, should be given the opportunity of saying what the duties of the Advisory Council will be under the second clause if he is granted the Council under the first.

**Mr R. A. Fani-Kayode :**

Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to ask leave that this amendment to the Local Forces (Amendment) Ordinance be made.

The first point I wish to raise in support of the request for an Advisory Council is that contained in the speech of the last speaker from the N.C.N.C. bench, regarding ill-treatment or the treatment of Cadets. I believe in the first instance that the Council will be a buffer between Government and the community, and also a buffer between the Cadets and the Government. It is easy to say that we need Cadet Units, but we know that the minds of the public will not rest assured unless there is some machinery to which they can look forward for an assurance that their children are properly looked after. It is

[Adjournment]

17th January, 1955

[Adjournment]

Sir, the Members of this Board are natives of one particular Division, not even a Province, and a Division which does not produce the commodity dealt with by the Marketing Board. Incidentally, Sir, one of the members is a transport owner, he has nothing to do with produce and another, Sir, is a contractor who knows nothing about how to handle these products and even how they are produced. Yet they are the people placed on these Boards. The shadow Board, of course, will normally constitute the real Board as the Bill has now been passed.

Now I wonder, Sir, whether the Minister responsible really satisfied his conscience that he was serving the interests of the producers of the area of production by appointing these two men into this Board, particularly as these men represent one particular Division.

**Mr H. O. Akpan-Udo :**

Mr Speaker, is the Member referring to the Central Marketing Board which is within the legislation of this House ?

**Dr E. U. Udoma :**

The last speaker is ignorant of what I am trying to say. Sir, I am registering a protest on this issue and I hope the Minister concerned will take note of it. It is not in the interests of this country to practise partiality. We on this side are for justice for everyone.

**Mr J. I. G. Onyia :**

Mr Speaker, Sir, an announcement was made some time ago that a Bill to implement the motion of Mr D. C. Osadebay, my predecessor here as a Member for Asaba Division would come up at the next Budget Session and when passed would apply to the Federal territory of Lagos only. The Regions would be left to apply the law if they so desire. I refer the House further to the editorial of the *Daily Times* of today. While I welcome the announcement, what however has agitated my mind ever since the announcement and on which I want to make the observation is: should matters on the exclusively Federal legislative List be dealt with in consultation with, or through the Regional Government ? Or direct by this House ? If the former, then we are going back to the old set-up, in fact if not in law. If the latter, I then cannot understand the announcement made about the proposed Bill.

The subject that may be said to relate to this question of freedom of assembly would appear to be "Citizenship" and "Police" which are on the Federal List and not on the Concurrent List. Even if it were on the Concurrent List, section 58 of the Constitution gives the answer. There is no section of the Constitution which stipulates for such a procedure of consulting as contained in the announcement. I would like to be directed to one, if any.

His Excellency the Governor-General during his opening speech for this Session said: "When I read through the exclusive Federal List my eyes lit up when I came to the item 'Citizenship of Nigeria'." He also pointed out that "the most important feature of the elections you have just fought is that they were direct to this House and not as in the Constitutional arrangements which prevailed before 1st October, 1954, through membership of the Regional Houses." To my mind it is not only an indication but a reminder that Members of this House do represent all the Regions for over-all interest of Nigeria without a regional bias. On an issue such as this it is for us to decide whether or not the whole country should be bound by one common law. It is a matter which transcends party political attachment.

**Mr Speaker :**

Order, Order. I hope the Honourable Gentleman who is now speaking will just give the Minister enough time to make a few remarks in reply, because the "Adjournment" is supposed to give time to the person who raises a grievance and to the Minister who desires to answer it.

[Adjournment]

17th January, 1955

[Adjournment]

**Mr J. I. G. Onyia :**

A Nigerian citizen must know his common right or basic right wherever he goes in this country ; it should not be one thing here and another there.

**The Minister of Trade and Industry :**

Mr Speaker, if I may for a few moments reply to the comments made about the composition of the Central Marketing Board by a Member from the Eastern Region. I am happy to say that the Honourable Gentleman who raised this question was a member of the sub-committee which was appointed during the revision of the Constitution to go into the Marketing Board structure in Nigeria. I would like to remind him that one of the gentlemen who has been recommended by the Eastern Regional Government was also a member of that sub-committee appointed to go into the structure of the Marketing Board with Dr Udoma, but he is here now trying to give the impression that this man knows nothing about Marketing Boards, he knows nothing about produce sales, and so on.

Now, I would like to say this that the two gentlemen who have been recommended by the Governor-in-Council of the Eastern Region are natives of areas of great and heavy production.

I want also to refer the Honourable Gentleman to section 5, sub-section (2), paragraph (c) of the Marketing Board Ordinance which has been passed. "Two shall be appointed on the recommendation of the Governor-in-Council of the Eastern Region, to represent the Eastern Regional Marketing Board." These two gentlemen, I would like to inform the House, are members of the Eastern Regional Marketing Board, and they were elected by all the members of that Board, and recommended to the Eastern Regional Executive Council, who passed on the recommendation to the Minister. These people were not just pitch-forked into the Central Marketing Board. I would like to say, therefore, in that regard that it is the conduct of another Government which should not be the subject of debate in this House.

**Mr Speaker :**

Order, Order.

**Adjournment**

*And it being six o'clock, Mr Speaker adjourned the House without question put, pursuant to Standing Order 4 (7).*

*Adjourned accordingly at six o'clock until 10 a.m. on Tuesday, the 18th of January, 1955.*