



FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

SECOND PARLIAMENT

FIRST SESSION

1965-66

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

VOLUME 19

Comprising Period

13th—15th and 18th—20th October, 1965

PRICE: 5s NET

THE FEDERAL MINISTRY OF INFORMATION, PRINTING DIVISION
LAGOS

THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT OF NIGERIA

(FORMED BY ALHAJI THE RT. HON. SIR ABUBAKAR TAFAWA BALEWA
9TH JANUARY, 1965)

MINISTERS WITH PORTFOLIO (CABINET RANK)

PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

Alhaji the Rt. hon. Sir Abubakar Tafawa Balewa, P.C., K.B.E., M.P.

ATTORNEY-GENERAL AND MINISTER OF JUSTICE

Dr the hon. T. O. Elias.

MINISTER OF AVIATION

Dr the hon. Jaja Wachuku, M.P.

MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS

The hon. R. A. Njoku, M.P.

MINISTER OF DEFENCE

Alhaji the hon. Muhammadu Inuwa Wada, M.P.

MINISTER OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Alhaji the hon. Waziri Ibrahim, M.P.

MINISTER OF EDUCATION

The hon. R. O. A. Akinjide, M.P.

MINISTER OF ESTABLISHMENTS

The hon. J. C. Obande, M.P.

MINISTER OF FINANCE

Chief the hon. F. S. Okotie-Eboh, C.M.G., M.P.

MINISTER OF HEALTH

Senator Chief the hon. M. A. Majekodunmi

MINISTER OF HOUSING AND SURVEYS

Chief the hon. A. O. Ogunsanya, M.P.

MINISTER OF INDUSTRIES

Chief the hon. A. M. A. Akinloye, M.P.

MINISTER OF INFORMATION

Senator Chief the hon. Ayo Rosiji

MINISTER OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS

The hon. Shettima Ali Monguno, M.P.

MINISTER OF LABOUR

Prince the hon. Adeleke Adedoyin, M.P.

MINISTER OF LAGOS AFFAIRS

Alhaji the hon. Musa Yar'Adua, M.P.

MINISTER OF MINES AND POWER

Alhaji the hon. Yusuff Maitama Sule, M.P.

MINISTER OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND RESEARCH

Prince the hon. A. Lamuye, M.P.

MINISTER OF TRADE

Dr the hon. K. O. Mbadiwe, M.P.

MINISTER OF TRANSPORT

Zanna the hon. Bukar Dipcharima, M.P.

MINISTER OF WORKS

Alhaji the hon. Shehu Shagari, M.P.

MINISTERS WITHOUT PORTFOLIO (CABINET RANK)

MINISTER OF STATE (WORKS)

Alhaji the hon. Hashimu Adaji, M.P.

MINISTER OF STATE (INFORMATION)

Chief the hon. A. Akerele, M.P.

MINISTER OF STATE (EXTERNAL AFFAIRS)

Senator Alhaji the hon. Nuhu Bamali

MINISTER OF STATE (INDUSTRY)

Chief the hon. H. O. Davies, M.P.

MINISTER OF STATE (DEFENCE-ARMY)

Alhaji the hon. Ibrahim Tako Galadima, M.P.

MINISTER OF STATE (EXTERNAL AFFAIRS)

Senator the hon. D. O. Ibekwe.

MINISTER OF STATE (TRANSPORT)

Alhaji the hon. Usman Maitambari, M.P.

MINISTER OF STATE (DEFENCE-NAVY)

The hon. M. T. Mbu, M.P.

MINISTER OF STATE (FINANCE)

Onyiba the hon. Aja Nwachuku, M.P.

MINISTER OF STATE (LAGOS AFFAIRS)

The hon. T. E. Orodì, M.P.

MINISTER OF STATE (TRANSPORT)

Alhaji the hon. Abdul Ganiyu Razaq, M.P.

Federal Parliament Debates

MINISTERS WITHOUT PORTFOLIO (NON-CABINET RANK)

MINISTER OF STATE (CABINET-POLICE)	..	Alhaji the hon. Usman Angulu Ahmed, M.P.
MINISTER OF STATE .. . . .	..	Chief the hon. C. O. Akinfosile, M.P.
MINISTER OF STATE (COMMUNICATIONS)	..	The hon. Mbazulike Amechi, M.P.
MINISTER OF STATE (EDUCATION) ..	..	The hon. D. B. Babajide, M.P.
MINISTER OF STATE (DEFENCE AIR FORCE)	..	Alhaji the hon. Muhammadu Gauyama, M.P.
MINISTER OF STATE (ESTABLISHMENTS) ..	..	The hon. Ibrahim Gusau, M.P.
MINISTER OF STATE (INTERNAL AFFAIRS)	..	The hon. Akubakar Isandu, M.P.
MINISTER OF STATE (TRADE) .. . .	..	The hon. J. A. Jamabo, M.P.
MINISTER OF STATE (NATURAL RESOURCES AND RESEARCH) .. . . .	..	The hon. C. O. Komolafe, M.P.
MINISTER OF STATE (INDUSTRY) .. . .	..	The hon. V. L. Lajide, M.P.
MINISTER OF STATE (LABOUR) .. . .	..	The hon. S. Lana, M.P.
MINISTER OF STATE (MINES AND POWER)	..	The hon. D. M. Mapeo, M.P.
MINISTER OF STATE (TRADE) .. . .	..	The hon. E. I. Nkereuwem, M.P.
MINISTER OF STATE (COMMUNICATIONS)	..	The hon. F. E. Offor, M.P.
MINISTER OF STATE (HEALTH) .. . .	..	Senator the hon. M. A. O. Olarewaju, Sarkin Daji Ilorin.
MINISTER OF STATE (INFORMATION) ..	..	The hon. T. O. Oloyede, M.P.
MINISTER OF STATE (EDUCATION) ..	..	Chief the hon. B. O. Olusola, M.P.
MINISTER OF STATE (CABINET OFFICE) ..	..	Senator Chief the hon. J. I. G. Onyia, O.R.N.
MINISTER OF STATE (HOUSING AND SURVEY)	..	The hon. Abiola Oshodi, M.P.
MINISTER OF STATE (INDUSTRY) ..	..	The hon. J. O. Taiwo, M.P.
MINISTER OF STATE (AVIATION) .. . .	..	The hon. D. C. Ugwu, M.P.

Federal Parliament Debates
FEDERAL MINISTRIES AND DEPARTMENTS

Cabinet Office

PRIME MINISTER	Alhaji the Rt. hon. Sir Abubakar Tafawa Balewa, K.B.E., M.P.
MINISTER OF STATE	Alhaji the hon. Hashimu Adaji, M.P.
MINISTER OF STATE	Alhaji the hon. Usman Maitambari, M.P.
MINISTER OF STATE (POLICE)	Alhaji the hon. Usman Angulu Ahmed, M.P.
MINISTER OF STATE	Chief the hon. Olu Akinfosile, M.P.
MINISTER OF STATE	Chief the hon. B. O. Olusola, M.P.
MINISTER OF STATE	Senator Chief the hon. J. I. G. Onyia
MINISTER OF STATE	The hon. J. O. Taiwo, Esq., M.P.
PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARIES	J. A. Awoyinka, Esq., M.P. A. O. A. Duduyemi, Esq., M.P. Alhaji Sani Gezawa, M.P. M. Maina Waziri, M.P.

Ministry of External Affairs

MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS	Alhaji the Rt. hon. Sir Abubakar Tafawa Balewa, K.B.E., M.P.
MINISTERS OF STATE	Senator Alhaji the hon. Nuhu Bamali. Senator the hon. D. O. Ibekwe. Alhaji the hon. Abdul Ganiyu Razaq, M.P.

Ministry of Justice

ATTORNEY-GENERAL AND MINISTER OF JUSTICE	Dr the hon. T. O. Elias.
PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY	Vacant.

Ministry of Aviation

MINISTER OF AVIATION	Dr the hon. Jaja Anucha Wachuku, M.P.
MINISTER OF STATE	The hon. D. C. Ugwu, M.P.
PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY	S. A. Yerokun, Esq., M.P.

Ministry of Communications

MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS	The hon. R. A. Njoku, M.P.
MINISTER OF STATE	The hon. Mbazulike Amechi, M.P.
MINISTER OF STATE	The hon. F. E. Offor, M.P.
PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY	M. U. Ekpo, Esq., M.P.

Ministry of Defence

MINISTER OF DEFENCE	Alhaji the hon. Muhammadu Inuwa Wada, M.P.
MINISTER OF STATE (ARMY)	Alhaji the hon. Ibrahim Tako Galadima, M.P.
MINISTER OF STATE (NAVY)	The hon. M. T. Mbu, M.P.
MINISTER OF STATE (AIR FORCE)	Alhaji the hon. Muhammadu Gauyama, M.P.
PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY	Alhaji Aliyu Bissalla, M.P.

Ministry of Economic Development

MINISTER OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT	Alhaji the hon. Waziri Ibrahim, M.P.
MINISTER OF STATE	Alhaji the hon. Ahmadu Ribadu, M.P.
PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY	M. Abdu Bauchi, M.P.

Federal Parliament Debates

Ministry of Education

MINISTER OF EDUCATION ..	..	..	The hon. R. O. A. Akinjide, M.P.
MINISTER OF STATE ..	..	..	The hon. D. B. Babajide, M.P.
MINISTER OF STATE ..	..	..	Chief the hon. B. O. Olusola, M.P.
PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY ..	..	..	C. A. Bamgbose, Esq. M.P.

Ministry of Establishments

MINISTER OF ESTABLISHMENTS ..	..	..	The hon. J. C. Obande, M.P.
MINISTER OF STATE ..	..	..	The hon. M. Ibrahim Gusau, M.P.
PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY ..	..	..	Solomon D. Lar, Esq. M.P.

Ministry of Finance

MINISTER OF FINANCE ..	..	..	Chief the hon. Festus Okotie-Eboh, C.M.G., M.P.
MINISTER OF STATE ..	..	..	Onyiba the hon. Aja Nwachukwu, M.P.
PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARIES ..	..	..	S. F. Nwika, Esq., M.P. Chief D. N. Oronsaye, M.P.

Ministry of Health

MINISTER OF HEALTH ..	..	..	Senator Chief the hon. M. A. Majekodunmi
MINISTER OF STATE ..	..	..	Senator the hon. M. A. O. Olarewaju
PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY ..	..	..	Alhaji Hamza Gombe, M.P.

Ministry of Housing and Surveys

MINISTER OF HOUSING AND SURVEYS ..	..	..	Chief the hon. A. O. O. Ogunsanya, M.P.
MINISTER OF STATE ..	..	..	The hon. A. Oshodi, M.P.
PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY ..	..	..	N. A. Ezenbodor, Esq., M.P.

Ministry of Industry

MINISTER OF INDUSTRY ..	..	..	Chief the hon. A. M. A. Akinloye, M.P.
MINISTER OF STATE ..	..	..	Chief the hon. H. O. Davies, M.P.
MINISTER OF STATE ..	..	..	The hon. V. L. Lajide, M.P.
PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY ..	..	..	J. O. Olaore, Esq., M.P.

Ministry of Information

MINISTER OF INFORMATION ..	..	..	Senator Chief the hon. Ayo Rosiji
MINISTER OF STATE ..	..	..	Chief the hon. Abiodun Akerele, M.P.
MINISTER OF STATE ..	..	..	The hon. T. O. Oloyede, M.P.
PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY ..	..	..	S. O. Kolade, Esq., M.P.

Ministry of Internal Affairs

MINISTER OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS ..	..	..	Shettima the hon. Ali Monguno, M.P.
MINISTER OF STATE ..	..	..	The hon. M. A. Akubakar Isandu, M.P.
PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY ..	..	..	M. Salihu Abdul, M.P.

Ministry of Labour

MINISTER OF LABOUR ..	..	..	The hon. Prince Adeleke Adedoyin, M.P.
MINISTER OF STATE ..	..	..	The hon. S. Lana, M.P.
PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY ..	..	..	E. A. O. Gbeleyi, Esq., M.P.

Federal Parliament Debates

Ministry of Lagos Affairs

MINISTER OF LAGOS AFFAIRS ..	..	..	..	Alhaji the hon. Musa Yar'Adua, M.P.
MINISTER OF STATE ..	..	..	..	The hon. T. E. Orodi, M.P.
PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY ..	..	..	..	M. Audu Kirim, M.P.

Ministry of Mines and Power

MINISTER OF MINES AND POWER ..	..	..	..	Alhaji the hon. Yusuff Maitama Sule, M.P.
MINISTER OF STATE ..	..	..	..	The hon. D. M. Mapeo, M.P.
PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY ..	..	..	..	Alhaji Ahmadu Fatika, M.P.

Ministry of Natural Resources and Research

MINISTER OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND RESEARCH ..				The hon. Prince Alade Lamuye, M.P.
MINISTER OF STATE ..	..	..	..	The hon. C. O. Komolafe, M.P.
PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY ..	..	..	..	B. A. Adedipe, Esq., M.P.

Ministry of Trade

MINISTER OF TRADE ..	..	..	..	Dr the hon. K. O. Mbadiwe, M.P.
MINISTER OF STATE ..	..	..	..	The hon. J. A. Jamabo, M.P.
MINISTER OF STATE ..	..	..	..	The hon. E. I. Nkereuwem, M.P.
PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY ..	..	..	..	A. A. Ezenwa, Esq., M.P.
PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY ..	..	..	..	R. B. K. Okafor, Esq., M.P.

Ministry of Transport

MINISTER OF TRANSPORT ..	..	..	..	Zanna the hon. Bukar Dipcharima, M.P.
PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARIES ..	..	..	..	M. Balhatu M. Mohammadu Mustafa Umar, M.P.

Ministry of Works

MINISTER OF WORKS ..	..	..	..	Alhaji the hon. Shehu Shagari, M.P.
PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY ..	..	..	..	Alhaji Mohammed Bala Dutsinma, M.P.

WHIPS

GOVERNMENT CHIEF WHIP ..	..	..	..	Alhaji Bello Dandago, M.P.
DEPUTY GOVERNMENT CHIEF WHIPS ..	..	..	..	Alhaji Muhtari, Sarkin Bai, M.P. Mr A. U. D. Mbah, M.P.
				Mr A. F. Odulana, M.P.

PARLIAMENT

PRINCIPAL OFFICERS AND OFFICIALS

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE ..	..	..	..	Dr the hon. A. A. N. Orizu
DEPUTY PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE ..	..	..	..	The Rev. Amos M. Olaleye
SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ..	..	..	..	Alhaji the hon. Ibrahim Jalo Waziri, M.P.
THE DEPUTY SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ..	..	..	..	Dr the hon. B. U. Nzeribe
CLERK OF THE PARLIAMENTS ..	..	..	..	J. O. Adeigbo
CLERK OF THE SENATE ..	..	..	..	M. A. Tahir
CLERKS ASSISTANT ..	..	..	..	O. A. Coker M. Adamu Usman

Federal Parliament Debates

SECOND CLERKS ASSISTANT .. .	.. .	G. A. Okoye R. A. Amaefula
PARLIAMENTARY CLERKS .. .	.. .	T. I. Ojo A. A. Onafuwa S. W. Udo-Udom V. C. Ilona

OFFICIAL REPORT OF DEBATES—(HANSARD)

EDITOR .. .	.. .	C. I. Offodile
ASSISTANT EDITORS .. .	.. .	E. O. Elendu L. O. Antonio
OFFICIAL REPORTERS .. .	.. .	Mrs I. Harriman O. O. Onamuti D. O. Eneanya J. A. Akinbohun N. A. O. Hammed E. E. Omofuma U. Edet O. Ogunade J. O. Oyefeso P. C. Ndubisi Christopher Nnadi Miss S. A. Amadi A. Kosoko

OFFICE OF THE SERJEANT-AT ARMS

SERJEANT-AT-ARMS .. .	.. .	M. C. Onyeje
DEPUTY SERJEANTS-AT-ARMS .. .	.. .	M. Ahmadu Katsina, B.E.M. A. O. Obayomi

BUSINESS COMMITTEE

Mr D. O. Enefola	Chief D. N. Oronsaye
Mr David Dimka	Mr D. B. Babajide
M. Umar Galadima Kogo	Alhaji K. O. S. Are
M. Umaru Gella	Mr E. K. Swem
Mr A. U. D. Mba	Dr Olu Ibukun

STANDING ORDERS COMMITTEE

Alhaji Haruna, Wakilin Daji	Mr J. F. N. Obioha
Alhaji Yunusa, Wakilin Masaka	Mr S. A. Oyewole
Chief J. M. Udochı	Mr Ayo Fasanmi

HOUSE COMMITTEE

Alhaji Garba Jabo	Mr A. Abasi
Alhaji Zanna Musa Hindi	Mr E. K. Swem
Mr I. K. De Omamodia	Mr I. I. Akpabio
Mr A. Raji	Mr V. O. Onabanjo

Federal Parliament Debates

PUBLIC PETITIONS COMMITTEE

Alhaji Zakari Isa	Mr Okon Bassey
M. Ibrahim Muku, Sarkin Shanu Bida	Mr P. Ejukwa
Mr Peter Ipu	Mr E. O. A. Odeyemi
M. Zanna Isa Monguno	Mr B. O. Ike
Mr J. A. Yacim	Mr J. B. Eboigbodい
M. Yusha'u A. Mohammed	Chief I. O. Ajanaku
Chief Wahabi Aileru	

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

Alhaji Mohammed Munir	Mr L. L. Borha
M. Muhammadu Mustafa Umar	Mr B. N. Ukegbu
M. Yakubu Alanana	Chief A. Jinadu
Alhaji Ahmadu Ribadu	Mr M. F. Adeegbe
Mr E. A. Odo	Mr M. D. Iyorka
Mr S. Senu-Oke	Mr J. Udo-Affia
Mr F. I. Okoronkwo	



House of Representatives Debates

2265

[Announcements]

13 OCTOBER 1965

[Oral Answers]

2266

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

Wednesday, 13th October, 1965
The House met at 10 a.m.

PRAYERS

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr Speaker : I have to inform the House that I have received the following letter from Justice J. A. Adefarasin :

"Judges Chambers,
High Court,
Lagos.
19th May, 1965.

*The Honourable the Speaker,
House of Representatives,
Lagos.*

*Oath of Allegiance
Member of Parliament*

I have to inform you that in accordance with the proviso to Section 55 of the Constitution of the Federation, the following Member of Parliament was sworn before me on the 10th day of May, 1965 :—

*The hon. J. S. Tarka,
Member of Parliament for Jemgbar*

*(Sgd.) J. A. Adefarasin
Judge."*

OATHS

Oath of Allegiance was administered to the following new Members—

M. Ali Umaru	.. ..	Wukari
Alhaji Bashiru Muhammadu		
Ribadu	.. ..	Adamawa Central

OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

RESIGNATION OF A MEMBER

Mr Speaker : I have received the following letter from Chief G. B. A. Akinyede :

"12 Cow Lane,
Lagos.
8th September, 1965.

*Hon. the Speaker,
House of Representatives,
Lagos.*

Sir,

Resignation of Seat Ekiti Federal East Constituency by Chief G. B. A. Akinyede

At a press conference called by me on 4th of August, 1965, I stated that my party, the Action Group, had insisted that I should resign my seat in Parliament. I stated further that "as evidence of humility, loyalty and discipline I have no alternative but to bow to the wish of the party".

In furtherance of this I hereby beg to tender my resignation as a Member of the House of Representatives.

I can say that I enjoyed the lively atmosphere of Parliament during the short spell of time that I was a Member but what I enjoyed most was your decorum, humour and sagacious impartiality.

I should like my resignation to take effect from the date of my announcement, namely 4th August, 1965.

*Yours in the Service of the nation,
(Sgd.) G. B. A. Akinyede"*

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS
COMMUNICATIONS

Onitsha North Postal Agencies

O.453. Mr V. A. Emenogha asked the Minister of Communications, what is the total volume of business carried out in the year 1964-65 in each of the following postal agencies—Abatete, Otuocha, Awkuzu and Umuleri.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Communications (Mr M. U. Ekpo) : The units of business at the postal agencies in the year 1964-65 are as follows :—

Agency	Units
Abatete S.O.	32,459
Awkuzu	15,411
Umuleri	5,200

There is no postal agency at Otuocha, but at Aguleri Postal Agency, in Otuocha District, 13,908 units of business were recorded.

Ogoja, Obudu Postal Agencies

O.456. Mr J. U. Odey asked the Minister of Communications, if he will state the number of postal agencies under the Ogoja and Obudu post offices and the units of business transacted at each agency.

Mr Ekpo : There are no Postal Agencies under Obudu Post Office. Under Ogoja Post

House of Representatives Debates

2267

[*Oral Answers*]

13 OCTOBER 1965

[*Oral Answers*]

2268

[**MR EKPO**]

Office there are 7 Postal Agencies whose figures of business are as follows :—

	1963-64	1964-65	1964-66	(Opened 2-9-63)
Bekwara ..	—	6,154	—	
Irruan ..	4,378	4,870	—	
Kakwagom ..	7,208	9,041	—	
Okpoma Yala ..	4,718	7,835	—	
Mbube ..	6,054	8,873	14,659	
Okundi ..	6,742	10,497	18,034	
Yala Market ..	10,464	13,665	23,899	

The units of business for 1965-66 in respect of Bekwara, Irruan, Kakwagom and Okpoma Yala Postal Agencies will be available by the end of December 1965 when these Agencies shall have reached the next anniversary of their opening dates.

Dr B. U. Nzeribe (Orlu West) : Is the Minister of Communications aware that in spite of these large figures numbering up to thousands and millions, there are no stamps in these post offices, even in the General Post Office here in Lagos ?

The Minister of Communications (Mr R. A. Njoku) : I am aware that there is a shortage of stamps of some denominations, and action has been taken to ensure that adequate supplies are made available.

The Telephone System

O.457. Mr F. I. Okoronkwo asked the Minister of Communications, what plans he has to stop the constant break down in the telephone system after heavy rains.

Mr Ekpo : Adequate measures have been taken in the implementation of the current National Telecommunications Development Plan to guard against possible break down in future of telephone lines by heavy rains. In the Plan, there is a provision for a new local line distribution system whereby underground cables are laid in conduits in large urban centres and aerial cables are used in small exchange areas to protect telephone lines against all sorts of damage, including those caused by heavy rains.

After the completion of the National Plan in 1968, the present interruptions to telephone circuits after heavy rains shall become a thing of the past.

Telegram No. 1/77

O.458. Chief J. M. Udochi asked the Minister of Communications, why telegram No. Lagos 1/77 addressed to the Magistrate, Magistrate's Court, Auchi, and tendered for transmission in Lagos on 21st July, 1965 was not received by the addressee until 28th July, 1965.

Mr Ekpo : Owing to technical faults on the transmission lines between Ibadan and Benin City, the telegram in question was not received at Benin City for onward transmission to Auchi until 24th July, 1965. The telegram was delivered to the Benin Magistrate's Court and, upon the discovery there that the telegram was destined for Auchi Magistrate's Court, it was unfortunately redirected by ordinary post to Auchi instead of being returned to the Telegraph Office for onward transmission. Consequently, the telegram was eventually delivered with the ordinary mail at Auchi on 28th July.

The irregularity in this particular service is regretted and adequate disciplinary action is being taken against those liable for it.

On behalf of the Ministry, I would like to express our sincere apologies for any inconvenience the delay in the delivery of the telegram may have caused the hon. Member for Afenmai, and I can assure the hon Member that everything possible is being done to improve our telegraph service.

Afuguri Postal Agency

O.471. Dr R. C. B. Ngbaronye asked the Minister of Communications, when he will convert the Afuguri postal agency in Bende Division into a sub-post office in view of the very great increase in its volume of business.

Mr Ekpo : A Postal Agency is qualified for conversion to a sub-post office when its volume of business has reached 18,000 units *per annum*. The current figure for Afuguri Postal Agency is 14,975 which is below the required standard. The Postal Agency has, therefore, not yet qualified for conversion to a sub-post office.

Auto-Exchange for Umuahia

O.472. Dr R. C. B. Ngbaronye asked the Minister of Communications, when an auto-

matic telephone system will be installed in the newly built post office at Umuahia.

Mr Ekpo : An Automatic Telephone Exchange will be installed at Umuahia by 1968 after the implementation of Step IV of the current Telecommunications Development Programme.

Orlu Post Office

O.473. Mr F. A. Ogiye asked the Minister of Communications, how soon work on the extension of the Orlu Post Office will commence ; and when the telephone service there will be converted to an automatic exchange.

Mr Ekpo : There is a proposal in the 1962-68 Development Programme for a new Post Office building at Orlu, and the building will be started as soon as funds are available. Under Step IV of the National Telecommunications Development Plan, Orlu Telephone Exchange will be converted into an Automatic system in 1968.

Mr T. A. Mbegbu (Owerri North East) : May I know what the Minister of Communications intends to do to prevent the seizure of customers' money by many existing automatic telephone boxes, even when calls fail to go through ? I have in mind some specific cases in Onitsha.

Acting Appointments

O.474. Mr D. Senu-Oke asked the Minister of Communications what is the cause of so many acting appointments in his Ministry, whether all the officers who act draw the appropriate allowances ; and whether the slow rate of promotion in the various sections of his Ministry is responsible for this.

Mr Ekpo : The main cause of acting appointments in the Ministry is the periodic absence on vacation leave of the substantive holders of the posts for which acting appointments are held. In a Ministry such as the Ministry of Communications with about 12,000 established staff, there is always a number of graded posts made vacant throughout the year by the incidence of vacation leave, and these have to be filled by acting appointments. The acting officers usually draw appropriate allowances.

It would be wrong to infer that acting appointments in the Ministry are the result of a slow rate of promotion. The Ministry is comparable to others as far as promotion is concerned.

As soon as vacancies for promotion exist, necessary steps are always taken to fill them with suitable officers from the lower grades where practicable, or with qualified applicants from outside, depending on the circumstances.

Mr Senu-Oke : Would the Parliamentary Secretary confirm that in this Ministry we have some members of the staff who have been acting for more than two years ?

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Technical Aid Agreements

O.460. Mr F. I. Okoronkwo asked the Minister of Economic Development, if he will state with how many countries Nigeria has entered into agreements for technical aid.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Economic Development (M. Abdu Bauchi) : Up to the present, Nigeria has entered into technical co-operation Agreements with six countries namely Canada, Britain, the Federal Republic of Germany, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, and Yugoslavia. She has also entered into a similar Agreement with the United Nations Organisation and its Specialized Agencies. In addition, Nigeria receives Technical Assistance under the Special Commonwealth Plan from Australia, India and Pakistan.

Niger Delta Development Board

O.496. Mr W. O. Briggs asked the Minister of Economic Development, whether he does not think it is time to grant executive powers to the Niger Delta Development Board in view of the increasing restlessness and dissatisfaction of all persons in the "Special Area" with the present advisory capacity in which it operates and which has become useless.

M. Abdu Bauchi : There is, as far as the Government is aware, no indication of "restlessness and dissatisfaction" in the Niger Delta Special Area and it is not correct to say that the advisory capacity in which the Niger Delta Development Board functions has become "useless". The hon. Gentleman must be aware of the objectives which the Niger Delta Development Board is meant to achieve, as these are clearly laid in the Constitution of the Federal Republic.

House of Representatives Debates

2271

[Oral Answers]

13 OCTOBER 1965

[Oral Answers]

2272

Mr Briggs : Will the Minister tell this House that he has not received a series of delegations, petitions and letters, both from this country and overseas, from members of the special area ? Will he confirm or deny it ?

AVIATION

Training of Aviation Staff

O.461. Alhaji Isa Haruna asked the Minister of Aviation, what is the kind of training given to the staff of the Nigeria Civil Aviation ; and whether this is aimed at accelerating the pace of Nigerianisation of the professional and technical posts.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Aviation (Mr S. A. Yerokun) : The kind of training given to the staff of the Nigeria Civil Aviation is such as would fit them for the performance of duties connected with the safe operation of aircraft. Training is provided in such fields as Air Traffic Control, Aircraft maintenance, Aircraft Radio maintenance, Crash and Rescue, Piloting and other trades allied to the aircraft industry. The eventual aim in providing this training is to enable Nigerians to take over the various functions in the shortest possible time.

Airstrip for Obudu Ranch

O.462. Mr J. U. Odey asked the Minister of Aviation, whether he would consider the advisability of providing Obudu Ranch Plateau with an air strip for the use of tourists.

Mr Yerokun : Yes Sir, the Minister is proposing to examine the potentialities and possibilities of Jos and Obudu Plateaux as attractive health centres, beauty spots, and tourist resorts for Nigeria. If Obudu Plateau proves satisfactory, he will then consider the possibility of providing it with an air strip for the purposes mentioned above.

HEALTH

Nursing

O.465. Alhaji Isa Haruna asked the Minister of Health, what steps he is taking to modernize and reorganize the nursing profession in this country.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Health (Alhaji Hamza Gombe) : The modernisation of the Nursing service is a

continuous process to which the Federal Government has been devoting attention. Improvement in Nursing education is the key note to this modernisation.

The Nursing Council of Nigeria has recently approved the report of a Special Joint Committee on New Standards of Nurse training and will, as a result, be raising the standard of education required for entry into the profession. The teaching programme too is to be rearranged in such a manner that prevention of disease will receive a new emphasis.

Qualified nurses are now able to take advantage of refresher courses in Nigeria, and of short reorientation courses overseas.

Longer periods of study-leave ranging from 12 months to 2 years are granted to serving officers for post graduate studies overseas. In consequence of the awards made by the Federal and Regional Governments, and by countries offering technical assistance, Nigerian nurses are studying in the United Kingdom, Australia, Canada, India, Israel, and Western Germany. Two Nurses are in America studying for m.sc. Degree in Nursing Education. Very soon, Nigeria will become the first country in Africa to set up post basic courses for Nurses at degree level. The school will open this October at the University of Ibadan.

TRADE

Control of Retail Trade

O.468. Mr A. T. Mbegbu asked the Minister of Trade, what positive steps have been taken towards transferring retail trade to Nigerian traders.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Trade (Mr A. A. Ezenwa) : A National Committee on the Nigerianisation of Business Enterprises has been set up to study all the aspects of the wholesale and retail trade in the country, and make recommendations as to how best to ensure that Nigerians secure substantially and effectively, a share of the trade without disrupting the economy. The Committee started work last August and has already invited memoranda from the public. The report of the Committee is awaited.

Mr Mbegbu : Is the Minister aware that the recent duty increases, without sufficient time

lag, tend to liquidate the indigenous traders we are out to protect?

Mr Ezenwa : That question requires notice.

The Hire-Purchase Act

O.469. Mr A. T. Mbegbu asked the Minister of Trade, when the Hire-Purchase Act would become operative.

Mr Ezenwa : The Hire-Purchase Act was enacted by the Federal Parliament on 30th April, 1965. Following discussions at the last conference of Ministers of Trade, it was agreed that Regional legislatures should enact identical laws so that the Act may be brought into operation all over the Federation on the same date.

The Regional Governments have so far not introduced the bill in their legislatures. Until this is done, we cannot determine the effective date.

Coconut and Coconut Products

O.470. Mr S. A. Shitta-Bey asked the Minister of Trade, what is the total value of coconut and coconut products exported from Nigeria in 1964; what is their tonnage and value; and from what part of the Republic were they exported.

Mr Ezenwa : The total tonnage of coconuts (copra) exported in 1964 was 383 tons, valued at £17,512, and coconut oil exported in the same period amounted to 3,031 tons valued at £322,535. Exports are mainly from Badagry, Epe and the Eastern Region of Nigeria.

Dr B. U. Nzeribe (Orlu West) : In view of the incessant fluctuations in the international price of copra akin to what happened to the price of palm produce and cocoa in the forties, will the Minister consider the possibility of guaranteeing a price for copra such as the Marketing Board does for cocoa, palm produce and groundnuts?

Mr Ezenwa : The statistics are being studied.

Ownership of the Federal Palace Hotel

O.477. Mr D. Senu-Oke asked the Minister of Trade, if he will state the present owners of the Federal Palace Hotel at Victoria Island, Lagos; who are the directors; whether the

Federal Government has any shares in the establishment, and what is the value of the shares.

Mr Ezenwa : The Tourist Company of Nigeria Limited is the major owner of the Federal Palace Hotel. The company is in association with Messrs. Federmann Enterprises (Overseas) Limited based in Zurich. The hotel is at present managed by this company.

The Directors of the Tourist Company are:

Sir M. Bank-Anthony, who is the Chairman;	
Chief B. O. Ezeonyebuchi	Member
Mr I. A. Ajanaku	Member
Chief P. Awani	Member
Mr M. O. Shadeko	Member
Alhaji A. Ibrahim	Member
and Mallam Balang Balami	Member

The Federal Government has shares valued at £350,000 in the company.

Mr O. C. Ememe (Aba South) : Can the Minister tell us when this hotel was acquired and how much was paid by the Government.

Tourism

O.479. Dr R. C. B. Ngbaronye asked the Minister of Trade what measures he is proposing to encourage tourism in the Federation.

Mr Ezenwa : Measures already taken to encourage tourism in the Federation include the formation of the Tourist Association, a quasi-Government organisation, half of whose funds are provided by Government and one of whose objects is to assist in every way the improvement of the tourist and holiday accommodation, catering, transport, entertainment, and other amenities in the Federation of Nigeria.

In addition, the Minister is arranging to promote international and inter-Regional Trade Fairs to stimulate the movement of people, particularly overseas visitors. Action is also being taken to develop indigenous crafts and to establish an emporium. This will also attract oversea visitors.

The current bid spearheaded by my Ministry to secure the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development Headquarters for Nigeria will greatly encourage tourism.

House of Representatives Debates

2275

[Business Statement]

13 OCTOBER 1965

[Business Statement]

2276

BUSINESS STATEMENT

The Minister of Finance (Chief F. S. Okotie-Eboh) : I rise to make the Business Statement for the week and also to inform the House of Government's intentions with regard to the present meeting of Parliament.

This morning, a total of thirteen Bills will be presented to the House as follows :—

1. Police (Amendment) Bill
2. Currency Bill
3. Registered Land Bill
4. Remuneration of the President Bill
5. Control of Advertisements (Lagos) Bill
6. Lagos Local Government (Amendment) Bill
7. Workmen's Compensation (Amendment) Bill
8. Visiting Forces Bill
9. Oil Pipelines (Amendment) Bill
10. Parliament (Disqualification) Bill
11. Liquor Licensing (Amendment) Bill
12. Lagos Senators Bill ; and
13. Casino Taxation Bill.

The Second Reading and the remaining stages of five of these thirteen Bills will also be taken to-day. These five Bills are :

- (i) Police (Amendment) Bill ;
- (ii) Currency Bill ;
- (iii) Registered Land Bill ;
- (iv) Remuneration of the President Bill ; and
- (v) Control of Advertisements (Lagos) Bill.

Tomorrow, Thursday the 14th, the following seven Bills will be presented to Parliament :

- (i) National Day Bill 1965 ;
- (ii) Federal Electoral Commission (Remuneration) Bill 1965 ;
- (iii) Customs and Excise Management (Amendment) (No. 2) Bill 1965 ;
- (iv) Excise (Control of Distillation) (Amendment) Bill 1965 ;
- (v) Pensions (Transferred Service) Bill 1965 ;
- (vi) Trade Marks Bill 1965 ; and
- (vii) The Allocation of Revenue Constitutional (Amendment) Bill 1965.

In particular, the Allocation of Revenue Constitutional (Amendment) Bill the Second

Reading and the remaining stages of which will be on Monday the 18th will require at least two-thirds majority of the House and hon. Members are urged to be present on Monday.

The Second Reading and the remaining stages of the following four Bills will be taken ;

- (i) Lagos Local Government (Amendment) Bill,
- (ii) Workmen's Compensation (Amendment) Bill,
- (iii) Visiting Forces Bill ; and
- (iv) Oil Pipelines (Amendment) Bill.

On Friday, 15th of October, the Supplementary Appropriation Bill and the following seven other Bills will be presented :

- (i) Food and Drugs (Lagos) Bill 1965
- (ii) Excise Tariff Bill 1965
- (iii) Rent Control (Lagos) Amendment Bill 1965,
- (iv) Legal Practitioners (Amendment) Bill 1965,
- (v) Council of Ministers (Evidence) Bill 1965;
- (vi) Borrowing by Public Bodies Bill ; and
- (vii) Legal Education Pension Bill.

In addition, the Second Reading and the remaining stages of the following three Bills will be taken :—

- (i) National Day Bill ;
- (ii) Liquor Licensing (Amendment) Bill ; and
- (iii) Lagos Senators' Bill.

On Saturday the 16th, the Second Reading of the Supplementary Appropriation Bill will be moved. Debate on this Bill will be adjourned till Monday the 18th of October. Also, the Second Reading and the remaining stages of the following three Bills will be taken :—

- (i) Casino Taxation Bill,
- (ii) Parliament (Disqualification) Bill ; and
- (iii) Federal Electoral Commission (Remuneration) Bill.

Government proposes that the present sitting should adjourn *sine die* on Wednesday the 20th of October.

A further Business Statement will be made on Saturday covering the period Monday the 18th to Wednesday the 20th when Parliament should rise.

Mr B. N. Ukegbu (Owerri South-East) : I rise to make a few observations. I do not know what hon. Members feel ; but it is difficult to discern where we are going to when, Parliament not having met since April, we now have so many Bills being presented to us, and we are given only four full days with Friday and Saturday during which we sit for only a few hours to pass them. I think that hon. Members will take their duty seriously.

If we are lazy I think that it is the duty of the Council of Ministers to make full use of Parliament. They are not making full use of Parliament. How is it that for one year we are meeting for not up to 30 days ?

Mr A. F. Odulana (Ijebu-North-East) : On a point of order.

Mr Speaker : Order, order ! Will the Member for Ijebu-North-East (*Mr Odulana*) put away that newspaper first.

Mr Ukegbu : I am making these observations with due sense of responsibility. I would like the Minister of Finance and Leader of the House to take us into consideration and allow the House at least, to take ten days in discussing these Bills.

One of the Bills, Parliament (Disqualification) Bill, is a very important one and even though—*(Interruptions)*

Alhaji Mohammed Muhtari (Dambatta) : Subject to your ruling Mr Speaker, I think that Ministerial Statements are not subject to debate and I think the hon. Member is wasting our time.

Mr Speaker : Order, order ! It is quite true that Ministerial Statements are not subject to debate but it may be interesting if we allow the Opposition to have their say.

Mr W. O. Briggs (Degema West) : On a point of order, I would like to know from Mr Speaker whether there is an Opposition in this House.

Mr Speaker : I mean, "opposition to the statement."

Mr Ukegbu : Mr Speaker, I have always said it and I owe no apology to anyone by re-stating it. Hon. Members will agree with me that even County Councils sit once a month but the Parliament of the Federation sits not more than thirty days in a year. Why should that be ? Before we rise, we should like the Leader of the House to provide a calendar of the sittings of Parliament.

So many things are happening outside Africa ; there is foreign affairs to be debated and no mention is made here of it. There is the United Nations meeting, there is the O.A.U. meeting and there is the Commonwealth Prime Ministers' Conference, which has met, but this House has never had a chance of debating any of these things. Are we in a colonial Parliament or in the Parliament of an independent Republic. (*Applause*).

Mr Speaker : Order. According to the Standing Order of the House, the normal thing to do when applauding, is just to tap your desk slightly and not to clap.

My attention has been drawn to the applause from the Gallery. This is not allowed, and it is definitely out of order. Public opinion can be sounded in this House.

Mr Ukegbu : I must emphasise that I am not saying this with any sense of disrespect to the Council of Ministers or to the Leader of the House himself. It is only human that Ministers in all parts of the world should want Parliament to meet as few times as possible because that would make their work easier. If the Ministers are able to call us here when they are ready with a number of Bills and if they are able to rush us to stamp them in four days' time and go away, they will be more comfortable.

But I think the right of the people is meant to be protected by Parliament sitting and being able to pry into the working of the various Ministries.

If the Council of Ministers has no business, hon. Members have their business. They have question to ask and Motions to move. We met only once this year and during this present meeting, we have only one Tuesday for Private Members' Motion. I have here a batch of Parliamentary Questions, notice of which has been given since April ; there are

House of Representatives Debates

2279

[Business Statement]

13 OCTOBER 1965

[Business Statement]

2280

[MR UKEGBU]

also many Motions of great momentum but we have only one Tuesday and we cannot do anything about them.

I am saying this with respect and with a sense of seriousness that the constitutional duty and right conferred on Parliament have been abrogated by the way Government has been manipulating the sittings of Parliament. I am very serious and posterity will deal seriously with Members of Parliament themselves because if they refuse to be rushed, the Government cannot browbeat them. It is because we, as Members of Parliament, do not take our duties seriously that the Government is able to browbeat us.

It is not the Minister of Finance (*Chief Okotie-Eboh's*) fault; it is not the Prime Minister (*Sir Abubakur's*) fault; it is the fault of hon. Members themselves because they allow themselves to be used as a rubber-stamp. Why should it be so? I am saying it seriously, why should it be? Members of Parliament from various constituencies are representing millions of Nigerians. The time it takes Members of Parliament to fight their election is even three times greater than the number of days they sit when they are elected and they are still paid.

If the County Councils can sit once a month why, with things moving in Africa and all over the world in which Members of Parliament must be interested, should the Parliament of the Federation, an independent Republic with Embassies all over the world and a member of various world organisations, meet not more than thirty days a year? Yet things are happening—the world can go to pieces, Africa can go to nought—and still, this Parliament will not have a chance of debating them.

Our Prime Minister made such a wonderful performance in London during the Commonwealth Prime Ministers' Conference. He did such wonderful things by standing firm on the issue of Rhodesia and so on. Other Prime Ministers from Britain, Canada, Australia and the President of Ghana returned and reported to their Parliaments but when we were all bubbling with enthusiasm to congratulate him and to comment on these momentous events our Prime Minister—I do not know what was the cause—went to Bauchi and stayed there for months and we had no chance of congratulating him.

Alhaji Bello Dandago (Gwarzo): On a point of order, it is a pity that we have opened this Meeting with playing to the Gallery. After all, what is wrong with the Prime Minister going to Bauchi. There are others who go to Nsukka and other places.

Mr Ukegbu: I take an exception to this comment, Mr Speaker. I am not used to playing to the Gallery. I am speaking very seriously.

The Prime Minister, with respect, is a man all of us respect; he has an opportunity which many eminent Nigerians would have wished to have but they cannot have. He has that opportunity; he is the leader of this nation. What smaller men do is of smaller moment but what the Prime Minister of the Federation does is actually very, very important.

My final note is to the Council of Ministers. Hon. Members have little power and little influence. They cannot influence, they have little power to influence the course of affairs, but the onus lies on our Ministers, great nationalists and very important personalities.

It is on them that the responsibility lies, and history is going to look at the way they are making use of Parliament. There has been fanfare in the Constitution about one man one vote and many other things which have been cast away somewhere. Parliament has been provided for, and much money is being spent on hon. Members every year.

In this country, Ministers are leaders of Parliament, unlike other Republics where they are not Members of Parliament. But here, they are Members of Parliament, they sit on the Ministerial Bench and it is their duty to lead us. I do not want to say that it is a case of the blind leading the blind because there are only two of them who are wearing glasses like myself, the others see very well. But they are not leading us aright.

The Minister of Establishments (Mr J. C. Obande): On a point of order, the Member for Owerri South-East (*Mr Ukegbu*) is also wearing a pair of glasses.

Mr Speaker: I do not think that the Minister of Establishments needs to worry, because the Member for Owerri South-East (*Mr Ukegbu*) is wearing a bigger pair of glasses.

House of Representatives Debates

2281

[Business Statement]

13 OCTOBER 1965

[Business Statement]

2282

Mr Ukegbu : Finally, I want to say that before this meeting ends Members would like the Leader of the House to prepare a calendar of the sittings of Parliament which the Council of Ministers cannot override. The way the Council of Ministers summon Parliament, according to their whims and caprices, amounts to the same thing as having no Parliament at all.

If the Minister of Finance says that it will cost the nation so much money by way of mileage allowance to hon. Members, my answer to that is that the country stands to gain. There are many fishy things in the various Ministries which the Members can discuss if Parliament will meet often.

Parliament should be used as a deterrent against fraud in the various Ministries. There were many discrepancies discovered in the Public Accounts Committee which we cannot now debate in Parliament because of this rush.

When a Bill is presented we are given just a short time to discuss it, and a great responsibility lies on the Leader of the House who is a very hard-working Minister to make proper use of Parliament; otherwise, let the Council of Ministers abolish Parliament and rule by themselves. (*Several hon. Members rose*).

Mr Speaker : A statement on the Business of the House should not take a longer time than the Business itself. If we continue in this way we shall have very little time for the real Business of the House. However, I will call one or two more Members to speak.

The Minister of Housing and Surveys (Chief A. O. Ogunsanya) : Quite frankly, those of us on the Government Bench will be quite prepared to sit in Parliament for nine months. I am saying this sincerely on behalf of all my Colleagues in this House. We are prepared to sit here for as long as Members wish and we share the views of the Member for Owerri South East (*Mr Ukegbu*).

Now, I must say that I happen also to be one of the leaders of the parties in this Parliament to-day. I am one of the leaders of the N.C.N.C.—

The Minister of Transport (Alhaji Zanna Buka Dipcharima) : On a point of information, I was—

Chief Ogunsanya : I used to be one of the leaders of the party when the Minister of Transport was a member of our party, the N.C.N.C.

Alhaji Zanna Buka Dipcharima : As a matter of fact, when I was an executive member of the N.C.N.C. the Minister of Housing and Surveys was at school !

Chief Ogunsanya : The Minister of Transport is my friend, but incidentally, when we were forming the N.C.N.C. he was a Native Authority official.

Now, speaking seriously, I do not think that most hon. Members of this House, particularly those who live outside Lagos, can say with one voice that they will agree with what those of us who are Ministers are prepared to do.

Incidentally, the real call for hurry is from the Floor of this House. A number of the Members of this honourable House—and I speak with all sense of responsibility—particularly those from the regions, are always anxious to go back to their constituencies.

Mr S. Shitta-Bey (Lagos North Central) : On a point of order, I think it is better to call a spade a spade. If the Minister of Housing and Surveys wants to defend the Government by saying that Parliament should not meet for more than two months in a year, he should say so.

Mr Speaker : The Minister is entitled to his opinion.

Chief Ogunsanya : My hon. Friend, the Member for Lagos North Central (*Mr Shitta-Bey*) is still beclouded by the recent robbery in the Western Region.

Chief O. B. Akin-Olugbade (Egba South) : On a point of order, the Minister and the Member for Lagos North Central (*Mr Shitta-Bey*) are both victims of the robbery.

Mr Speaker : The Member for Egba South (*Chief Akin-Olugbade*) is now robbing the Standing Orders.

Chief T. O. S. Benson (Lagos North) : On a point of order, the UPGA members are now forming their own illegal government in the Western Region.

House of Representatives Debates

2283

[Business Statement]

13 OCTOBER 1965

[Business Statement]

2284

Chief Ogunsanya : The independent UPGA Member for Lagos North (*Chief Benson*).—

Chief Benson : On a point of information, I am not one of the UPGA Members of this House. I represent the N.N.A. in Lagos North constituency in this House.

Chief Ogunsanya : Now, some Members have said that the Council of Ministers does not want Parliament to meet often. Quite frankly, I think our job will be best done if Members of this House are prepared to come to this House all the time without having to return home in order to draw allowances.

Several hon. Members : No !

Mr Speaker : Order, order. Really, I am prepared to give the Government as much time, to have a say, as I have given the Opposition.

Chief Ogunsanya : I know that the Floor Members of this House would like to have the truth, and in trying to help the Government to make Members sit longer here, we will decide to have a roll-call so that no Member shall come for the Meetings of this Parliament and run back home at government expense without the House having risen.

Every Member of the House must be prepared to come to the House and while the House is still in session Members must be prepared to be here all the time.

When I was a little boy at school, I learnt—

Mr A. F. Odulana (Ijebu North East) : What did the Minister learn ?

Chief Ogunsanya : I know what I am going to say. The Member for Ijebu North East (*Mr Odulana*) had not the opportunity to learn. This much is said that action and reaction are equal and opposite.

Mr Odulana : I do not think I need any learning if *I can be able* to pay the Minister's school fees when he is learning.

Chief Ogunsanya : The Member for Ijebu North East (*Mr Odulana*) is my chief rival because he is always able and "can be able" !

Now, speaking to the point, if the Government is prepared to sit for a long time here, hon. Members must give the assurance that

when we meet, they will sit here and that they will not run back to their constituencies after drawing their allowances. When this is done, I am sure that the Leader of the House will do the rest.

Alhaji Tudun Wada Kano Inusa, Wakilin Masaka (Gaya North) : I rise to say something about the Business Statement made by the hon. Leader of the House. So many things have been said about it, but what I want to indicate to this Parliament is that, as far as we on this side of the House are concerned, if the Government does not summon the House, we know that everything is quite all right. Whenever there is anything wrong, we know very well that Parliament shall be summoned.

All the Bills to be presented here are non-controversial, and if there is anything which requires a long debate, we shall be prepared to stay here even for three months and debate it.

The hon. Minister of Housing was here in this House for quite a long time as a Floor Member, but he never made such a statement when he was a Floor Member of this Parliament.

The Member for Owerri South East (*Mr Ukegbu*) who spoke here earlier referred to the visit to Bauchi of the hon. Prime Minister. The Prime Minister visited Bauchi in order to take a short rest and to see his farm after his return from the United Kingdom ; some other leaders visited other places and stayed longer periods. (*Interruptions*).

Mr Speaker : There is too much noise being made and I do hope that Members will remember that their speeches are being recorded, and with Members drowning the speakers' voice, the speeches are not likely to be recorded.

Alhaji Tudun Wada Kano Inusa : If the Parliament will continue to sit here even for six months, nobody is going to be worried as far as we are concerned. And whenever we are called here, let us see that what we are called here to do is done well. Whether or not we are rushing the Bills, we know that they are going to be passed very smoothly, and as far as we are doing this, everything will be all right.

If some people are doubting the ability of the Council of Ministers, it is for them to discuss this with those Ministers in their parliamentary

House of Representatives Debates

2285

[Business Statement]

13 OCTOBER 1965

[Business Statement]

2286

meetings and not to come to this Parliament and talk about any member of the Council of Ministers.

Chief Okotie-Eboh : My hon. Friend the Member for Owerri South East (*Mr Ukegbu*), in the heat of his argument and oration to the Gallery, referred to the blind leading the blind, and he took his bearing from the glass-wearing of some Ministers and himself. It is clear that political blindness is synonymous with political short-sightedness, and short-sightedness being an exclusive preserve of short people like the Member for Owerri South East (*Mr Ukegbu*)—

The Minister of Housing and Surveys (*Chief Ogunsanya*) : On a point of order, I must remind the Leader of the House that we have many Ministers here who are short people.

Chief Okotie-Eboh : I want to say that no member of this Government is either blind or short-sighted and, therefore, the Member for Owerri South East (*Mr Ukegbu*) is the square peg in the square hole as far as blindness and short-sightedness are concerned.

Mr Ukegbu : On a point of order, the Minister's speech is most unparliamentary.

The Minister of Aviation (*Dr J. A. Wachuku*) : On a point of order, will the Speaker be kind enough to ask the Member for Owerri South East (*Mr Ukegbu*) to take off his glasses and walk for a short distance and we shall know whether he can see.

Chief Okotie-Eboh : Now, the hon. Member referred to—

Mr E. A. Odo (*Idoma West*) : On a point of order, the Minister of Finance was using abusive language on the Member for Owerri South East (*Mr Ukegbu*) by saying that he is a short man. He should know that about fifty per cent of our Ministers, just like the Minister of Housing, are also short people.

Chief Okotie-Eboh : My hon. Friend also spoke about colonial mentality. I do not know why someone who, on the Floor of this House, had claimed to be an intellectual should fail to retrieve himself from the colonial and neo-colonial mentality which he has exhibited from time to time on the Floor of this House.

Chief O. B. Akin-Olugbade (*Egba South*) : On a point of order, the hon. Minister of Finance has made a Business Statement and Members have been given the opportunity to express their opinion on the Business Statement and make recommendations. It is quite a good thing that we have had a lively atmosphere, but the hon. Minister of Finance is too big for this sort of brickbat he is throwing on the Floor of this House. What we want to know is whether the Government is prepared to afford us the opportunity to meet more often and perform our duty.

I have heard some people saying that that is not what I want to say. I agree that that is not what I want to say and I am not going to say it now. We know that many Ministers are very busy, as people say, going on tours, but the fact that Ministers go on tours does not make it a necessity that the House should not be meeting. We want the hon. Minister to answer the point, particularly the suggestion that we should have a calendar of sittings.

We should not worry about colonial or neo-colonial mentality because even in the old colonial days the Legislative Council was sitting for much longer periods than we are sitting now.

Mr Speaker : I think he is going to the point now.

Chief Okotie-Eboh : I am happy that the Member for Egba South (*Chief Akin-Olugbade*) has got time to say some of the things he had wanted to say which he knew would be blocked. However, let me come to the point and now let me speak quite seriously.

The points I made earlier are very important and germane to the points made by my hon. Friend. I want to say this: my hon. Friend had tried even to attack Parliamentarians when he said that they were not serious. What is the evidence of seriousness that has been exhibited by the hon. Member himself? He knows quite well that in accordance with our parliamentary practice and procedure, hon. Members can even produce and file Private Members' Bills, and I think it is to the credit of the President of this Republic that he is the one that has shown such light by filing a Private Member's Bill. The hon. Member

House of Representatives Debates

2287

[Business Statement]

13 OCTOBER 1965

[Business Statement]

2288

[CHIEF OKOTIE-EBOH]

has not a single Question or Private Member's Motion on the papers.

Mr B. N. Ukegbu (Owerri South East) : I have filed one here.

Chief Okotie-Eboh : My hon. Friend spoke about Motions at the United Nations and so on but he has not filed a single one here, yet he is an intellectual. The Parliament of the world—the United Nations—usually sits for not more than six weeks in the year.

Mr Ukegbu : They have no responsibility.

Chief Okotie-Eboh : The hon. Member cannot say that the United Nations has no responsibility. It is left for the public to say whether the United Nations has no responsibility.

Mr O. C. Ememe (Aba South) : On a point of information, the hon. Minister has forgotten that the Parliament of the World sits on committee basis, and that it is only the General Assembly that he is referring to. These committees have a longer period of sitting than we have.

Chief Okotie-Eboh : Mr Speaker, if my hon. Friend whose communistic ideologies have been metamorphosed in Aba had been patient, he would have heard what I was going to say. The Parliament of the World that has responsibility for peace, good government and order in the world, usually sits for six weeks in the year. After sitting for six weeks in the year, the Security Council, which is the governing body of the United Nations usually meets from time to time. The Committees also meet from time to time. This is the analogy I want to draw. The Parliament of this country is the Security Council of the country and what Parliament will decide—

Some hon. Members : No ! The analogy is wrong.

Chief Okotie-Eboh : Oh, yes !

Mr Speaker : Order !

Chief Okotie-Eboh : The analogy is clear except to those who are blind to it. But what I am saying is that if we meet in Parliament and we take decisions which are not implemented by the Government, the Member for Owerri South East (*Mr Ukegbu*) will be the first to

come back here and say that we have taken such and such a decision but that it has not been carried out. What does Nigeria need ? Is it any amount of grammar from the Member for Owerri South East (*Mr Ukegbu*) and other Members or hard work producing results, as this Government is doing ? What we want is the result and this result is being produced by Sir Abubakar's Government throughout the Federation day after day. The decisions are taken in accordance with Members' views here.

Chief O. B. Akin-Olugbade (Egba South) : On a point of order, Parliament is entitled to reports of the result and the Government will not have the opportunity to report to this nation their activities.

Chief Okotie-Eboh : I am coming to that.

Chief Akin-Olugbade : He is always coming to that.

Chief Okotie-Eboh : Wait a minute. Now, my hon. Friend keeps on anticipating me, knowing where I am going. As a good lawyer, he is entitled to do so, but I want to tell him to leave me to my own speech which I am making without wearing glasses like the Member for Owerri South East (*Mr Ukegbu*).

When these conferences are held and decisions are taken, they must be implemented. If hon. Members want hon. Ministers and the Prime Minister to sit in Parliament from morning to night and till day-break in a developing country, this is impracticable and useless.

Mr Ukegbu : What of Ministers of State ?

Chief Okotie-Eboh : I am coming to that.

Mr W. Briggs (Degema West) : On a point of order, I am surprised that the Leader of the House can say that. If it is only the Ministers who will carry on the running of the Government, what is the necessity of calling Parliament at all. We are elected to this House as representatives of the people and we are here to voice out the opinions of the people. When the Ministers discuss these things, they have got to report to us. I am very much surprised that the hon. Minister of Finance equates national Parliament with international Parliament.

Mr Speaker : Surely, this is not a point of order.

Chief Okotie-Eboh : What I am saying is that in Nigeria we bring in these Bills, we bring in also these Motions and put them before Parliament. Once decisions have been taken by Parliament, it is the duty of Sir Abubakar's government to implement and carry out these projects, and I said that this is being done. These Reports are laid on the Table of this House from time to time and it is left for Members to read their Standing Orders on parliamentary procedure to know what they should do.

Now, Sir, my hon. Friend wants a calendar. Well, by virtue of world affairs and by our developing circumstances, it is difficult to lay down hard and fast rules on when Parliament must meet and when not. Members have seen the Business Statement which I made this morning. What sort of dynamism do hon. Members want? Let them look at the number of Amendment Bills that we have brought. When I made my statement I said that I was going to make another Business Statement because this is not conclusive. If we start with one Bill to-day and Parliament debates it till the close of the day, that is the end of the business of the day. The Orders of the Day will be amended tomorrow accordingly. Nobody is going to rush hon. Members: that is the assurance that I am giving them. This is government business. If we cannot finish with one Bill to-day, it will be taken tomorrow. But if Members will have nothing to contribute except repetitions, talking about coconut from Badagry, then we will not be able to allow that.

Finally, I would ask hon. Members, as my Colleague the Minister of Housing and Surveys had said, to be present here as long as the House sits.

The last point is that when the teachers in the school of the Member for Owerri South East were almost going on strike because they could not get their salaries, he left the business of the House and went to the school.

Mr J. O. Ede (Idoma North) : On a point of order, what hon. Members want is the constant convening of the meeting of Parliament and not our coming here at a certain

time to stay for a very long time and go without coming back to continue the business. We want the meeting of the House to be convened more often.

Chief Okotie-Eboh : I thought I had finished, but let me reply to my hon. Friend. He is a very good businessman who wants to make money and collect huge profits. He wants to come here to-day, go back tomorrow collect allowance for that and return the next day to collect more money.

PRESENTATION OF PUBLIC BILLS

POLICE (AMENDMENT) BILL

Bill to amend the provisions of the Police Act relating to supernumerary police officers, presented by Minister of State (Alhaji Angulu Ahmed); read the First time; to be read a Second time—*This Day*.

CURRENCY BILL

Bill to make further provision for the destruction of counterfeit currency and for connected purposes and to repeal the West African Currency Notes Act, presented by the Minister of Finance; read the First time; to be read a Second time—*This Day*.

REGISTERED LAND BILL

Bill to amend and consolidate the law as to registration of land and titles and for matters connected therewith, presented by the Minister of Lagos Affairs; read the First time; to be read a Second time—*This Day*.

REMUNERATION OF THE PRESIDENT BILL

Bill to make provision for the salary, allowances and pension of the President of the Republic, presented by the Minister of Establishments; read the First time; to be read a Second time—*This Day*.

CONTROL OF ADVERTISEMENTS (LAGOS) BILL

Bill to provide for the control of advertisements in Lagos and for the imposition of charges in respect of their display, presented by the Minister of Lagos Affairs; read the First time; to be read a Second time—*This Day*.

LAGOS LOCAL GOVERNMENT (AMENDMENT) BILL

Bill to increase the permissible number of councillors on the Lagos City Council, presented by the Minister of Lagos Affairs;

House of Representatives Debates

2291 [Presentation of Public Bills] 13 OCTOBER 1965 [Police (Amendment) Bills] 2292

read the First time ; to be read a Second time—
Tomorrow.

WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION (AMENDMENT) BILL

Bill to supplement and amend section 34 of the Workmen's Compensation Act, presented by the Minister of Labour ; read the First time ; to be read a Second time—*Tomorrow.*

VISITING FORCES BILL

Bill to make provision with respect to military, naval and air forces of other countries visiting Nigeria ; to provide for the apprehension and disposal of deserters and absentees without leave in Nigeria from the forces of other countries ; to make provision with respect to the attachment of service personnel to or from the forces of other countries and with respect to the service together of such forces and Nigerian forces ; and for connected purposes, presented by the Minister of Defence ; read the First time ; to be read a Second time—*Tomorrow.*

OIL PIPELINES (AMENDMENT) BILL

Bill to amend the Oil Pipelines Act, presented by the Minister of Mines and Power ; read the First time ; to be read a Second time—*Tomorrow.*

PARLIAMENT (DISQUALIFICATION) BILL

Bill to make further provision with respect to disqualification for membership of Parliament, presented by the Minister of Communications ; read the First time ; to be read a Second time—*Saturday, 16th October.*

LIQUOR LICENSING (AMENDMENT) BILL

Bill to enable fees to be paid to certain members of the Licensing Board established under section 3 of the Liquor (Licensing) Act 1959, presented by the Minister of Lagos Affairs ; read the First time ; to be read a Second time—*Friday, 15th October.*

LAGOS SENATORS BILL

Bill to make for the purposes of section 42 (2) of the Constitution of the Federation provision as to the manner of selecting Senators to represent the Federal Territory, presented by the Minister of Lagos Affairs ; read the First time ; to be read a Second time—*Friday, 15th October.*

CASINO TAXATION BILL

Bill to impose a tax on the net gaming revenue of Casinos in the Federal Territory, and for related purposes, presented by the Minister of Finance ; read the First time ; to be read a Second time—*Saturday, 16th October.*

ORDERS OF THE DAY

POLICE (AMENDMENT) BILL

Order for Second Reading read.

Minister of State (Alhaji Angulu Ahmed) :
I beg to move, That the Police (Amendment) Bill, 1965, be read a Second time.

For the purpose of releasing regular members of the Police Force for the performance of certain relatively unimportant routine duties, it has been decided to employ Supernumerary Police Officers, whenever this is practicable, on duties connected with the administration of police offices, as personal orderlies to those entitled, and also for duties as guards in cases where it is necessary in the public interest for the Police Force to provide guards for public offices or installations.

The existing provisions governing the employment of Supernumerary Police Officers are contained in section 14 of the Police Act, but as these provisions allow for the employment on special duties of Supernumerary Police Officers at the request of private persons only, it is now necessary to amend the Police Act to enable this class of police officer to be employed on the before mentioned routine duties at the request of the appropriate superior police officer.

This Bill is simple and I hope Members will give it an easy and welcome passage.

I beg to move.

Minister of State (Alhaji Hashim Adaji) :
I beg to second.

Chief O. B. Akin-Olugbade (Egba South) :
I have read through this Bill and I would say quite sincerely that it is a welcome one particularly when we see the kind of work that is being done by the Nigeria Police and the Special Constables for whom this provision is being made as supernumerary police officers.

House of Representatives Debates

2293 [Police (Amendment) Bill]

13 OCTOBER 1965

[Police (Amendment) Bill]

2294

I think most Members of this House will agree that the Police Force which is under the operational control of the hon. Prime Minister has been doing a wonderful job in this country, particularly during times of tension and unrest.

Since we obtained independence in 1960, the Police have had to bear far more burden than any other institution or agency of the Government. The main reason, I dare say, is that unfortunately evil men abound in large numbers and evil forces are at work to disturb or to soil the good work which the Prime Minister has been doing.

People know that I am not used to adulation or flattery and that I like to describe things as I see them. I must say that but for the way the Prime Minister exercises his functions in controlling the operation of the Police in this country, things would have gone out of hand.

This Parliament is the mirror of our moral conscience and the mirror of our political maturity, and it is a good thing that we have the opportunity to let the world know what we feel about the many institutions or the Police Force in particular which is one of the backstays of any Government anywhere in the world.

The events of the past few weeks, particularly in the Western Region, have made most people realise the importance of the Police Force in this country and the important work which our Nigeria Police have been doing. It is true that evil men do not want the part which the Nigeria Police have been playing, to maintain peace and order, because they are ready at any time and at any cost to wreck the good work of the head of the well-meaning Ministers of the Federal Government.

There is a point which has been agitating the minds of those of us who are voted into this House to see to the control of expenditure of the Federal Government and I dare say that since 1962, the cost of maintaining the Nigeria Police, the Army and so forth in the Western Region is altogether out of proportion to the cost which the Nigeria Police operations entail in the other Regions.

The reason is that a large number of Police officers—about 5,000 of them—have been put on duty for the past few weeks in the Western Region in order to conduct an election into the House of Assembly.

Mr Speaker : May I remind the Member for Egba South (Chief Akin-Olugbade) that we are speaking about supernumerary Police, and not other Police.

Chief Akin-Olugbade : Thank you, Mr Speaker; but practically all categories of Police in the country were drafted to the Western Region. I have been there for three weeks. All of them were there, and some of them are still there, but it is my own duty as a Member of this House to point it out that the cost of maintaining peace in the Western Region is very, very exorbitant, and I think the day will come when this Government will call upon the evil doers in the Western Region to be surcharged with whatever extra expense has been incurred.

These past few days have witnessed a lot of things. The Western Region is contiguous to the Federal Territory which is the seat of the Federal Government. Although unfortunately some very few misguided Police Officers have performed their duties in a disgraceful way, the general impression which the Nigeria Police including the regulars, supernumeraries and the rank and file—created in the Western Region these past few days is one of admiration for the Force.

I wish that could continue, but I do not wish to make a long speech on the Second Reading of this Bill. There are one or two Clauses which, if I am given the opportunity, I would like to make my points upon later on.

The Minister of Finance (Chief F. S. Okotie-Eboh) : The Member for Egba South (Chief Akin-Olugbade) should not stop yet. He should use the whole of his thirty minutes.

Chief Akin-Olugbade : Mr Speaker, the Leader of the House has given me the opportunity to use the whole of my thirty minutes on this debate, but I have just been told that he has no authority to do so. That I know. As I was saying, a letter was addressed by the Leader of the UPGA in the Western Region to the Governor of the Western Region, the Prime Minister, the Regional Premiers and the President—I have a copy here—about the activities of the Police, requesting the Governor of the Western Region to ask for Police report on the conduct of the last election in the Western Region.

House of Representatives Debates

2295 [Police (Amendment) Bill]

13 OCTOBER 1965

[Police (Amendment) Bill]

2296

[CHIEF AKIN-OLUGBADE]

Well, I was an eye witness, and I am happy to say that in places where I worked during the election and after, in fact up till half past twelve o'clock this morning, both the Nigeria Police, the Army, and curiously enough, the Local Government Police, co-operated very well. Some Local Government Police were really exasperated with orders and counter orders from their political bosses but still, they supported our efforts in seeing that trouble did not start in the Western Region. That is why I say curiously enough some Local Government Police worked very well. They did their duties as they should.

There are places where thugs have been clothed with the uniforms of the Local Government Police and posted on duty ! In fact, I have the information, and I think the Prime Minister himself has been informed, that some of them were caught with ballot papers which were flying about the whole place on election day.

Mr Speaker : Order ! This is going away from the Bill.

Chief Akin-Olugbade : I am trying to say something about the work of the Police. But for the Nigeria Police, most of the electoral officers would not have been traced after they ran away. But for the Police, most of the returning officers appointed by the candidates of the N.N.D.P. in the Western Region would have escaped. In fact, the returning officer in Alhaji Adegbreno's constituency in the Western Region, that is, Egba South I, is the junior brother of the Federal Minister of Labour, Prince Adeleke Adedoyin. He has not put in appearance in that constituency up till to-day.

The Minister of Labour (Prince Adeleke Adedoyin) : For the information of this House, my brother was not a returning officer. My brother has got nothing to do with the election. On the contrary, my Parliamentary Secretary is now locked up in his house, and is unable to come here on account of the thuggery and hooliganism of the U.P.G.A.

Mr Speaker : Order ! May I appeal to Members to speak within the scope of the Bill.

Chief Akin-Olugbade : I was speaking on the glorious and admirable part which the Police played or are playing in maintaining

peace in this country, and that was why I had to make reference to the part which they played during the current events which are still happening. After all, it is in the interest of all of us to see that peace reigns in this country because if there is no peace nobody can be sure that he will escape. I do not want to die and nobody wants to die. That is why it is our duty as leaders of our own people to praise the institution that maintains peace.

I know there are serious complaints against the Nigeria Police by evil men who are making beds of thorns on which they will lie one day. Their children and their grand-children will lie on these beds of thorns.

Four years ago, August or October 1965 looked like eternity to these vandals who are working by very crude methods—methods which make me feel ashamed that I am a Nigerian—to turn this country into a dictatorship.

It is a pity that most of the people who essay to go into politics in this country, particularly in the Western Region to which I belong, are not imbued with the spirit of service to this country.

Mr A. F. Odulana (Ijebu North East) : On a point of order, the Member for Egba South (*Chief Akin-Olugbade*) is talking about Police (Amendment) Bill and at the same time mentioning the Western Region times without number. Are we discussing the Western Region or the Police (Amendment) Bill ? If the hon. Gentleman has anything to say about the Police in his constituency, I would like to refer him to the Authorities there. There is a Commissioner of Police in the Western Region. But if he has nothing to say let him sit down. We should not bring the affairs of the Western Region here for anybody to talk about.

Chief Akin-Olugbade : It is strange that a man like the Member for Ijebu North East (*Mr Odulana*) can raise a point of order, the kind of which he has just raised because he was the very person who told me that the N.N.D.P. was not going to campaign in the Western Region, but that they were going to win because they were going to use Form "D" in the Electoral Regulations. (*Interruptions*).

Mr Speaker : Order ! I do hope that Members will depart from discussing police

operations in the West and Western Regional Elections.

Chief Akin-Olugbade : This Form concerns certificates of results—

Mr Odulana : Mr Speaker Sir, I would like to say that the serious allegation which the hon. Member has just made against me, is false. (*Interruptions*)

Mr Speaker : Order, Order !

Chief Akin-Olugbade : It was after he told me this that I got hold of the Electoral Regulations of Western Nigeria and saw that this Form D is a Certificate of Results of Parliamentary Elections.

Mr Speaker : Order ! Really I cannot allow anything now beyond the Bill.

Chief Akin-Olugbade : I want to talk about the part which the Police played in the election. This is because one Mr Adeniran got signed results from Ekiti and he was arrested by the police in Ife and is still in police custody. This happened before the votes were counted.

Mr Speaker : This is not the time to say all these things.

Chief Akin-Olugbade : Mr Speaker, Sir, the report about which I am speaking now has got to the Prime Minister. The Police told us in Ibadan that they were handling the case of the man, but I know that the Member for Ijebu North-East (*Mr Odulana*) will enter a *nolle prosequi* for the man because it was he who asked him to sign 44 certificates of results before the votes were counted and send them to the Electoral Commission in Ibadan so as to form the government. If these 44 certificates are added to the 16 which were said to have been returned unopposed the total will be 60. That was what they wanted to do in order to form the government at 12 noon yesterday.

I will now go to the Bill. I would like to make one request through the Speaker to the Gentlemen in the Council of Ministers—some of them are sitting opposite me now—the hon. Minister of Defence (*Alhaji Inuwa Wada*), the hon. Minister of Finance (*Chief Okotie-Eboh*), the Minister of Establishments (*Mr Obande*) and the Minister of Trade (*Dr Mbadiwe*)—who are assisting the Prime

Minister in seeing that the tenets and principles of democracy are maintained in this country.

My appeal through the Speaker to these Gentlemen is that they should take over completely the operational control of the Nigeria Police from the Premiers of the Regions.

It is the Federal Government which pays the Nigeria Police and he who pays the piper must dictate the tune. We would like to ask the Prime Minister to take over the operational control of the Police completely because I know what happened in the Western Region recently.

As I said earlier, this Parliament is the mirror of our political maturity and the Federal Government is the mirror of our political power and sanity. It is the Federal Government that is known outside the world although some people from the Western Region globetrot all about looking for money to line up their pockets. But the day of reckoning is coming, it will come soon. I am making this appeal most seriously.

It was only recently that we voted some money for the maintenance of the Nigeria Police in one of the Regions and now I understand that the other Regions too are asking for votes from the Federal Government to maintain the Nigeria Police in their Regions.

It is a good thing that we vote money to maintain the Nigeria Police. But I must say that, just as in the case of the Army which is under the operational control of the Federal Government, the Nigeria Police should be under the operational control of the Federal Government.

If the Prime Minister likes to do so, he can hold on to the power; if he likes too he can pass this power to some of his trusted colleagues in the Cabinet.

I am not a Minister and I have never hankered for a ministerial post. If it were not because of vandals who still inflict unnecessary punishment and oppression on my people in the Western Region I would have quit politics. But as long as they are there, I will continue in politics until the last of them is removed.

I have nothing more to say on the Second Reading of this Bill. Thank you very much Mr Speaker.

House of Representatives Debates

2299 [Police (Amendment) Bill] 13 OCTOBER 1965 [Police (Amendment) Bill] 2300

Mr O. C. Ememe (Aba South) : I wish to welcome this Bill because through it the Government has been able to overcome one of the difficulties of allowing private persons to dictate to Government who to appoint as supernumerary police officers. Now, through this Bill the Government will be able to appoint many of these people from other police authorities in this country. I think this is a very welcome measure in this respect.

While this is so, I wish to appeal to the Prime Minister that Aba township has a very great demand for this type of officers mainly for the protection of the property of people, because our night-watchmen cannot cope with the wave of crime in Aba township. There are killings in Aba every day, and the Police cannot give full account of the killings there.

Very often people say that those who are responsible for those killings are robbers. I do not know whether the people really responsible are robbers. If we have many of this type of police officers I am sure that the wave of killings and crimes would be reduced in Aba where night raiders abound.

I would very much appeal to the Government to consider the conditions of service of these officers when they are appointed. It is not enough to appoint people to serve the Government. It is also good to give them very good conditions of service so that they may be diligent in their work. In this respect I wish to go further to discuss the other members of the Police Force.

I remember that during the last Federal Elections, without the Police Force, many of us would not have dreamt of coming to this House at all. In fact, some political parties used all powers within their control to make sure that some of us did not come back to this House, but I give glory to the Police Force for making that impossible.

I am to-day a living witness of the good work of the Police Force in the Eastern Region. I do not know if the Policemen who did this marvellous work should not be recommended for promotion for maintaining the democratic principles of this nation. I remember that when a political party wanted to make duplicate keys of the ballot boxes, and they appealed to the Policemen in charge to hand

over the ballot boxes to them for this purpose, the Policemen in Aba refused.

Mr F. I. Okoronkwo (Aba Central) : On a point of order, the Member for Aba South (*Mr Ememe*) is misleading this House. There was no such case in Aba. If there had been, the Prime Minister must have received a report from the Nigeria Police there. I was at Aba, and the Member for Aba South (*Mr Ememe*) was given every opportunity to win the election, otherwise he would not have been here. So, he is misleading this House.

Mr Ememe : I know that certain hon. Members who are challenging me would not have been in this House if everything was done according to the democratic principles of this nation.

I am praising the Police Force for being vigilant in their work. I do not see why any Member of Parliament should challenge me on this. Only those who tried to utilise the Police Force for their own evil ends can afford to challenge me on this. Others know very well that Policemen are trying to give us the protection we need for the sake of our human rights in this country.

In this respect it is very much disheartening to know that when a policeman did a nice job according to our democratic principles some political high authorities warned him seriously for performing the duty which the nation has reposed on him. Policemen have been warned seriously for doing their work. So, when the same high authorities go to another place and the Police act against their interest they try to blame the Police Force. That is very unfair.

If the Nigeria Police is strictly under the Federal Government there would have been no opportunity for any Regional Premier or any political leader to query policemen on their actions. At the moment the Prime Minister has indirectly given the opportunity to Regional leaders to query the Police Force or to direct the Police Force in any manner they like. That is not so good.

I would suggest that the Prime Minister should actually take upon himself to direct the activities of the Police Force throughout the Federation. If we allow some Regional Premiers to control our Police Force there will sooner or later be chaos in many areas as there

House of Representatives Debates

2301 [Police (Amendment) Bill]

13 OCTOBER 1965

[Police (Amendment) Bill]

2302

was during the last Federal Elections. We know very well, of course, that up till now enquiries are still going on in the East about what certain people did there.

I would like to suggest to the Prime Minister to withdraw the opportunity which he has so far given to certain Regional Premiers in directing the affairs of the Police Force. We are not safe. Some of us who happen to have independent opinions in the country are not safe if these Regional leaders are given the opportunity to use the Police Force to do anything they like, and I am saying this mainly in respect of my own Region. The Prime Minister should try as much as he can to control the Police everywhere in the Federation.

Another point I would like to raise is that this Bill provides an opportunity for the Federal Government to take over the Native Authority Police Force. If the Force could be co-opted or if their officers could be regarded as supernumerary Police Officers it would be easy for the Federal Government to take over completely the Native Authority Police Force. Indeed, I think the Prime Minister, through the Police Council, should bring this matter to the knowledge of the Premiers so that these local police forces could be handed over to the Federal Government for control. If we are to have belief in this federalism, and if we are all elected from different parts of the country, there is no reason why we should not have confidence in the Federal Government; and if we have our confidence in the Federal Government, I am sure that the Prime Minister will be able to discharge his duty of being able to control all the police forces in the Federation. This includes the N.A. Police in the North, the Local Government Police in the West and also the so-called Court Messengers in the East.

These court messengers in the East are worse than the N.A. police and the local government police in the North and the West respectively. These so-called court messengers have no code of conduct at all. I do not know whose messengers they are, but they are worse than any Native Authority policeman one can think of in any part of the Federation.

Mr M. Nnorom (Okigwi North-East): On a point of correction, there are no court messengers in Eastern Region. We only have bailiffs, we have no court messengers.

Mr Ememe : I thank the hon. Gentleman for correcting me. These court bailiffs are the worst type of Native Authority policemen one can find anywhere in the Federation. Other Native Authority policemen are trained somehow, but these so-called court bailiffs have no training whatsoever. They arrest people at random without any just cause.

Mr S. Nnaji (Udi East) : On a point of order, we are discussing supernumerary constables and not court bailiffs.

Mr Speaker : So far, no Member has mentioned anything about Supernumerary police officers. I would like to draw the attention of the House again to the fact that we are discussing Supernumerary Police Officers.

Mr Ememe : Maybe some hon. Members have forgotten what I said at the beginning of my speech. I said that it is necessary through this Bill for the Federal Government to take over all local police forces as part of the Supernumerary police force, and then I started to analyse the reason why this is important. I then said that in the Eastern Region, we have court bailiffs and that these bailiffs are the worst type of policemen anybody can find anywhere in the Federation.

Mr F. I. Okoronkwo (Aba Central) : The hon. Gentleman has not paid heed to the ruling of the Speaker.

Mr Speaker : Will the Member for Aba South (*Mr Ememe*) please talk about Supernumerary Police and not about court bailiffs.

Mr Ememe : I do not know why some people are so much worried about court bailiffs, but I am trying to say that these court bailiffs should be converted to the Supernumerary police force. If this is done, then the Federal Government will be able to control these bailiffs and they will no longer be used as political thugs against any person who has an independent opinion in the country. This is where my concern lies, and in saying so, I mean that this nation should be saved from the wave of authoritarianism that is going on at present in this nation.

Certain people are misusing the authority given to them and they are trying to use the Police Force in carrying out their objectives. If

House of Representatives Debates

2303 [Police (Amendment) Bill]

13 OCTOBER 1965

[Police (Amendment) Bill]

2304

[MR EMEME]

we have one central place where all these police forces are controlled, at least we can look towards that one central place whenever we have complaints. If there is any blame, we put the blame there. But now we do not have any such thing. In the Eastern Region, for instance, one does not know where to pin down these court bailiffs because there are court bailiffs in Aba, there are court bailiffs in Nsukka, in Calabar and in several other parts of Eastern Region. There is no control whatsoever over these people and they are used by local politicians to whip their political opponents. They are used by politicians to destroy their political opponents. These court bailiffs can arrest anybody without warrants.

Mr N. Nwanodi (Ahoada Central) : On a point of information, the hon. Member is trying to tell this House that he used the court bailiffs in Aba to beat his N.C.N.C. opponent.

Mr Ememe : Mr Speaker, Sir, when talking about court bailiffs in Eastern Region, I am making a general statement. I am not talking about any particular place.

Mr Speaker : Will the hon. Member please leave court bailiffs alone.

Mr Ememe : It is very necessary that the Supernumerary police force be really utilised in Eastern Region to protect the property of the people, for as a result of modernisation or what some people term capitalism in the country, a wave of crime is being generated daily in certain parts of the country, and there is no way to control the crimes except the police force is increased.

In this respect, I would like to appeal to the Prime Minister to try and ask for more appropriation in order to build houses for the police in Eastern Region.

The police force in the whole Federation should be such that no one particular area is dominated by a certain type of policemen who continue to stay indefinitely in that one particular area without moving. We want policemen from the North in the East; we want policemen from the West in the East. We do not want policemen at Nsukka or Aba to stay there permanently.

Our policemen should be made to speak more than one Nigerian language. If this is done, they will be able to move from one Region to another and this will enhance the unity of this country. Our policemen can be trained within six months to speak another language. There are some hon. members here who can speak two or three Nigerian languages and I do not see any reason why our policemen cannot do the same. This is something that has been tried successfully in other parts of the world and I see no reason why it will not succeed in Nigeria.

We want policemen of Northern origin or of Western origin to be posted to Eastern Region. Political opponents of the N.C.N.C. are not safe in Eastern Region if this is not done. This is what happens also in the other Regions. We want people from the East to go to the North, we want people from the West to go to the East and we want people from the East to go to the West. I want this to happen so that we can have a united Federal Government of Nigeria under the leadership of the Prime Minister. I will not like a few people who are biased to be grouped in an area where they can torment political opponents as if they were their slaves. The Federal Government should utilise the opportunity they have in this respect.

I beg to support.

Alhaji Inusa, Wakilin Masaka (Gaya North) : In supporting this non-controversial Bill, I would like to draw the attention of hon. Members to the tremendous and important work done by the special constabulary since it was introduced in this country in 1956.

I do not see any reason why any hon. Member should not support this Bill. As some hon. Members have said, without the assistance and vigilance of our Police Officers many things could have gone wrong in this country, and where it has been necessary to make use of supernumerary policemen, they have been trying their best.

If one watches closely the activities of the Nigeria Police, one would see that they ought to be praised. We should not also fail to thank the Prime Minister who is in charge of the Nigeria Police and who has been taking care of everything happening in this country, whether big or small.

House of Representatives Debates

2305

[*Police (Amendment) Bill*]

13 OCTOBER 1965

[*Police (Amendment) Bill*]

2306

May I appeal through you, Mr Speaker, to the Minister of State for Police Affairs to see to it that the new supernumerary police officers to be engaged are given special training so that they can understand why they are engaged and what they are expected to do.

Every time the House meets, we praise the Nigeria Police for the good work they are doing. It is good for hon. Members to keep on praising the Police but we should take note that the accommodation we give to our policemen is very poor. If we keep on telling the world that we have a good Police Force, we should give our policemen good housing facilities. It is our duty to see that our policemen get what they deserve.

I would also like to point out that the uniform of some of our police officers should be changed. When we see some of our police officers on duty, they look like small boys being sent on errands. Our policemen are doing a lot of good work and we must do everything to encourage them. If there is any trouble anywhere in the country, it is our policemen that we see there first, even if their lives are in danger. We want our policemen to be satisfied that we appreciate their work.

I beg to support.

Mr A. F. Odulana (Ijebu North-East) : This is a welcome Bill, and I have no doubt all Members of this honourable House will praise the wisdom of the Prime Minister for bringing this Bill at this particular time.

We who live in the Western Region have experienced the need to have brought this Bill long before now, but it is never too late. We thank God that we have been delivered from the atrocities of some policemen who thronged the Western Region during the elections we had two days ago. During the last Western Region election, there were policemen in uniform stripping people naked, purporting to be searching them, whilst, in fact, the Federal Electoral Commission had made adequate arrangements for both male and female searchers.

I want to support the Member for Aba South (*Mr Ememe*) in his statement that the time has now come when the members of the police force must not be drawn from one Region or one tribe only. To-day, the

majority of the policemen in this country are from one tribe—at least 90 per cent or them are from a particular tribe. Since that is the situation, that tribe might find itself in a position to use the police force against any other tribe or region.

I know the fault lies with some tribes or some people who do not want to go into the police force, but now that the standard of the policemen has been raised—for it is now much higher than it ever was—I think we must have to share the strength in the police force. The North, for example, should have its own share, say 30 per cent of the total force, the West should have 30 per cent, the East should have 30 per cent, and the Mid-West should have 10 per cent. I think that is what it should be. But it is wrong for a particular tribe to dominate the whole police force in this country.

The Minister of Finance (Chief F. S. Okotie-Eboh) : On a point of order, I take very serious objection to the ratio of the allocation of the police force. How can my hon. Friend give 30 per cent to the North, give the same to the West, the same to the East, and reduce that of the Mid-West to 10 per cent?

Chief Odulana : I think I will leave the judgment of sharing to the Federal Government. I am sorry and I have to apologise to the hon. Minister of Finance. But I was only thinking that since his region—the Mid-West—is a small one with just about 2½ million people, 10 per cent of the total police force might be sufficient for that region. At any rate, the Minister of Finance, I think, agrees with me that it should be shared.

Mr D. O. Enefola (Igala South) : If at all it would be shared, North should have about 60 per cent.

Mr Odulana : Mr Speaker, Sir, I have got this to say under this Bill. The Commissioner of Police for the Western Region has done a very good job since he was appointed. The Provincial Police Officer in Ijebu has also done a very good job. For the past seven days, these policemen that I have mentioned and all those important officers under them, have never slept. I was in their company both right and left. I have never seen any of them—

House of Representatives Debates

2307

[*Police (Amendment) Bill*]

13 OCTOBER 1965

[*Police (Amendment) Bill*]

2308

Mr B. N. Ukegbu (Owerri South East) : On a point of order, I wish to point out that the Member for Ijebu North-East (*Mr Odulana*) has come here to-day to bamboozle us to close our eyes to the fact that the Federal Government sent the Police and the Army to guard robbers of ballot boxes and robbers of seats. These people—the Police and the Army—were there to guard the N.N.D.P. robbers who went all over the Western Region robbing seats. That was all they did.

It is no use for the Member for Ijebu North-East to come here and tell us about the Provincial Police Officer at Ijebu or about Odofin Bello because if it were not for these men, the Electoral Officers and Returning Officers who stole ballot papers and made away with them, would have met their doom—the doom which they deserve. But now the Army and the Police protected them and they stole throughout the whole of the Western Region and went scot-free. That is very bad.

The Minister of Labour (Prince A. Adedoyin) : The information given by the Member for Owerri South-East (*Mr Ukegbu*) is absolutely wrong. I would not call him a liar because he is a parliamentarian. The Police were sent to the Western Region in view of what happened during the Federal election when ballot papers were stolen by those who boycotted the election.

Several hon. Members : Shame ! Shame ! Shame !

Mr Speaker : Order, order ! I would like Members to show more interest in the Bill.

Mr Odulana : The Police and the Army were sent to the Western Region to see that law and order were maintained, to see that Okpara and his arch-gangsters did not come to invade us. I say so.

Chief Okotie-Eboh : On a point of order, commonsense and decency dictate that people should not make extravagant and irresponsible statements here. I would take serious objection to the mentioning of the National President of my party and Premier of a Region—Dr Okpara—and associating him with anything of the kind that the Member for Ijebu North-East (*Mr Odulana*) is talking about. He should be sensible enough not to do that kind of thing here.

Mr Odulana : I owe no apology to the Minister of Finance. Dr Okpara mentioned that he would come to the West, ban or no ban. That is why I say that he is an arch-gangster and arch-thug.

Mr Speaker : All this is not part of this Bill. I think I will insist on the contents of the Bill.

Mr Odulana : If people think they can blow me by the left, I will reply them by the right. But I urge them to listen to the voice of wisdom that has prevailed in the West during the last election. I was making a statement of fact about what actually happened in the Western Region. I was an eye-witness.

Mr Ukegbu : An eye-sore.

Mr Odulana : I am not an eye-sore. The Member for Owerri South-East (*Mr Ukegbu*) claims to be in the N.C.N.C. and yet he was—

Question put.

Several hon. Members rose.

Mr Speaker : If Members are prepared to discuss the Bill, then I will give them the opportunity to do so.

Mr Odulana : When I say that this Bill is welcome, I mean that every idea that is behind it—the appointment of supernumerary police officers—is welcome. Those that are going to be appointed should be people who have the intelligence and the wisdom to perform the duties allotted to them. Those who are going to appoint these supernumerary police officers are to be guided not to appoint people from one particular tribe.

We know the work that the Police can do in this country, and we know what they have done in the past. When we were in colonial bondage, we agreed with what our colonial masters did for us, but now that the destiny of our nation is in our hands, we must not make the mistake of appointing supernumerary police officers from one particular tribe, one particular region or one particular people. The appointment must be spread round the country.

I agree that police officers should be sent from the West to the North to work, police officers should be sent from the East to the West to work, but when they are there, they should take into consideration the fact that their loyalty is to the police force.

When I was in school some years ago, we were told to write a composition on the police force. We were asked to define the duties of the police officers. Police officers are to maintain law and order and to see that right is right and wrong is wrong. When one goes to Ijebu Ode from Lagos, one will see about four to five police Posts. What are the policemen doing there? They want to see what people have in their cars, which is all right, but the next thing they do is to collect tolls from lorry drivers!

Mr Speaker : Order! I do hope that the hon. Gentleman does really understand the scope of the Bill, otherwise he might be wise not to continue.

Mr Odulana : I am saying that only honest and intelligent people who will be loyal enough to work for what the Police stands for should be recruited or appointed as supernumerary police officers. That is the point I am making. We do not want people who will be put in police posts merely to collect tolls and when somebody brings up a report to them, they take it without first of all finding out whether or not the report was right or wrong.

What do we see to-day in the rank and file of the police force? Some policemen in this country to-day, as has been alleged, are transport owners. They run the transport business and build the best houses in the country, the nature of the salaries they earn notwithstanding.

Mr J. O. Edomwonyi (Benin Central): On a point of order, I think that the Member for Ijebu North-East (*Mr Odulana*) has not studied the Bill before this House. That is the reason why the hon. Gentleman is jabbering. I am sorry to say that what he is saying is entirely out of the Bill. He is talking about the duties of the regular police force. Therefore, I think he should be called to order. If he does not understand the Bill let him sit down and shut his mouth.

Mr Odulana : There was a constituency in the Western Region where a policeman went to the presiding officers and to the electoral officers there and demanded the ballot box from them, in spite of the fact that the electoral officer there had said that the election in that constituency was postponed. The police nevertheless said that the election must go on.

Hon. Members would like to know who the policeman was. The policeman was from special area, a special tribe in a particular Region. The policeman had promised the contesting candidate there that he would see to it that the election was held and damned the consequences. This type of thing should not be allowed to obtain in the rank and file of the police force. The policemen were sent to the Western Region to keep and maintain order, but it was not the duty of the policemen to go to the polling stations to conduct elections there.

In my own particular constituency, a police officer from Lagos told me that everything was all right at one particular polling station and when I got there—

Mr X. M. Akinsete (Ondo South-East): On a point of order, we are here to discuss the Police (Amendment) Bill, relating to supernumerary police officers. We are not here to discuss what was going on in the hon. Gentleman's constituency. In the meantime we are discussing supernumerary police officers.

Mr Odulana : When this Bill is passed, the scope of its effect will not stop only in Lagos; it will extend to all the parts of the Federation. It will affect the hon. Member's constituency and my constituency. The supernumerary police officers will be appointed in all parts of the Federation. Therefore, that is why my constituency, as affected by the Bill, was mentioned.

My idea about this Bill is that the right people should be appointed. People from one Region only should not be appointed. Policemen from other tribes should not be forced on other regions.

Mr Speaker, I thank you for giving me the opportunity to contribute to this Bill, and I thank the Prime Minister also for bringing up a very welcome Bill of this nature.

I support.

Chief J. M. Udochi (Afenmai): I got a copy of this gazette containing the Bill we are discussing now only yesterday and I can see that the date on the gazette is 28th September, I would like these Bills to be sent to us early enough so as to enable us study them.

The Bill before the House is a very important one. There are some parts of it that are very desirable, but it contains a very pernicious

House of Representatives Debates

2311 [Police (Amendment) Bill]

13 OCTOBER 1955

[Police (Amendment) Bill]

2312

[CHIEF UDOCHI]

principle to which I would like hon. Members to address themselves. I refer to the principle by which wealthy men could maintain an army of policemen for themselves. Hon. Members should read the Bill. This principle is in the Bill. This is a Bill which, if passed, will mean that every capitalist in this country could be in a position to maintain an army of policemen to himself.

It is true that they are called supernumerary policemen, but they have the same privileges and immunities as regular policemen. We are asked to pass a Bill to-day which gives power to anybody to maintain an army of policemen to himself. And who will that be? It will not be hon. Members because we have not got the money to maintain and to pay them. They are the rich men of the country who will be able to utilise this provision in the Bill.

To-day, we may have a God-fearing leader, but tomorrow, do we know who is going to occupy that seat of the Prime Minister? And who will have this Bill at his command to create a private army for people with money.

This is not the type of Bill we can rush. We need time to consider the principle of this Bill which I have never seen anywhere. I have never seen a place where private men could maintain an army of policemen merely because they have the money to pay for them. This is a Bill we have to consider very closely.

Chief Okotie-Eboh : On a point of order, the hon. Gentleman who is a well known legal practitioner, may wish, in the interest of his debate, to pin-point one or two sections of the Bill which will enable a capitalist like himself to acquire a number of policemen.

Chief Udochi : I am coming to that. Hon. Members will see that the Schedule to the Bill contains five sections. Four of them are very desirable. They will also see that some of these clauses were designed to make ordinary men perform the work of policemen in places where the peculiar skill of policemen are not really very necessary. Hon. Members will again see that one of them contains the principle I am now referring to, that anybody with money and who can afford to pay, can appeal to the Inspector-General to create for him the services of supernumerary policemen. But these special policemen will be officers who have the same privileges and immunities as policemen

Hon. Members are aware of the fact that the essence of a public servant is that of neutrality. That public servant should not be concerned with anybody. If one is arrested by a policeman, then one knows that he or she is arrested by an independent man. But if this Bill is passed and a rich man is allowed to create his own army of policemen, his own policeman can arrest anybody on the instruction of his master, not minding whether the person arrested committed an offence or not. When this happens, do hon. Members think that one can go to the court and obtain justice from the rich man? It is impossible.

This is not a Bill to be rushed. I have just referred to the time I got this Bill and I think it should be considered thoroughly. Let us not rush these things. This is our own country. What we do here to-day will be in existence in the next ten years.

I would still say that the fourth clause of this Bill which contains this principle needs a clear examination. We are not going to give power to people to create policemen of their own because supernumerary policemen, when created, will have the immunity and privileges of regular policemen.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Labour (Mr E. A. O. Gbeleyi) : On a point of order and speaking from personal experience, this morning from my house at No. 3 Church Street, Oshodi, I telephoned the Nigeria Police and reported that my life was in danger, but they did not turn up. I also tried in vain to get the Inspector-General of Police on the telephone. Later, a police van No. NPF 614 happened to be passing and I asked the police officer in it to stop and give me his protection so that I can get to the House of Representatives, but he refused. We are told that these people are independent but they seem to be one sided. I repeat that the police van is No. NPF 614.

Chief Udochi : I still maintain that the solution to my Friend's problem is not the creation of an army of private policemen. He will be the least able to maintain an army for himself.

The law we are making here is a law for the rich; those who will be able to pay for private policemen. Although it is put down that this provision is for the protection of property, I

would like to examine what is involved in this protection of property. The people's liberty can be involved. One may be passing on the road and a man protecting property challenges and arrests him. He is only protecting property! So, we should not be deceived by the fact that he is put here only in order to protect property. A supernumerary policeman does the work of a policeman. He is made a policeman and he has the privileges of a policeman. I say that the law that gives power to any rich man to have people with police immunities and rights for himself is undemocratic and wrong. Crimes should be punished publicly.

Minister of State (Alhaji Abdul Razaq) : My learned Friend is misleading this House. The Bill which we are considering is quite clear. It does not provide for any single person to create a police force for himself.

The point here is that the supernumerary police officers who will be created as a result of this law will still be under the direct control and direction of the Minister charged with responsibility for the Police. All that the Bill provides for, and which is quite clear on the face of the Bill, is that if any person, company or organisation requires police protection, he can so apply to the Minister for it. It does not provide that individual can create for himself an army of supernumerary police.

Chief O. B. Akin-Olugbade (Egba East) : The Minister of State for Transport should have read this Bill before making his statement. Section 14 (1) says :

"Any person (including any government department) who desires to avail himself of the services of one or more"—

it may be 100 in the case of multi-millionaires like the Minister of Finance or his mentors—

"police officers for the protection of property owned or controlled by him may make application thereof to the Inspector-General, stating the nature and situation of the property in question and giving such other particulars as the Inspector-General may require."

Then Paragraph 14B on page C 353 states :

"If at any time the Prime Minister is satisfied, as regards any police area, that it is necessary in the public interest for supernumerary police officers to be employed in that area, he may authorise the appropriate

authority to appoint persons as supernumerary police officers in the Force under and in accordance with the authorisation."

The Minister should please read his Bill before he makes any comments.

Alhaji Razaq : I have been repeated in the Bill. All I am saying is that my hon. and learned Friend the Member for Afenmai (*Chief Udochi*) is giving the impression to this House that any organisation that is rich enough can form this force of supernumerary police officers. But the Bill does not say that. The sections that have been read out are quite clear that the Inspector-General of Police is the person charged with responsibility for the direction and control of these forces.

Chief Udochi : I should not be misunderstood. I am not questioning the integrity of anybody. It is fortunate that we have a God fearing man now as our Prime Minister, but we must not make laws with an eye fixed on him that he will always be there to direct the affairs of the State. We are lucky to have him now, but we must not think that he will be there for ever. There may be a man who is less God-fearing tomorrow with this provision before him. Who knows who will be there tomorrow? The law says that any person can apply if he has the money to pay. It is completely wrong for us to make a law for people with money to guard themselves with supernumerary policemen.

The Minister of Finance (Chief F. S. Okotie-Eboh) : On a point of order, my hon. and respected Friend who is known for his forthrightness should not continue to raise unnecessary alarm and I lay emphasis on the words "unnecessary alarm."

Chief Akin-Olugbade : Is this because the Member for Afenmai (*Chief Udochi*) referred to rich men and the Minister of Finance is supposed to be a rich man? It will be difficult for him to go into heaven as for a camel to go through the eye of a needle.

Chief Okotie-Eboh : My hon. Friend has been doing so much politics in the West that he has forgotten his christian calling and the Bible. So, I will pray for him next Sunday. (*Laughter*).

House of Representatives Debates

2315 [Police (Amendment) Bill] 13 OCTOBER 1965 [Police (Amendment) Bill] 2316

[CHIEF OKOTIE-EBOH]

Quite seriously, my hon. Friend who has been speaking should realise, as a good lawyer, that people attach much importance to his standing in the community; therefore he should not raise alarm where there is none.

Several hon. Members : Do not bribe him!

Chief Okotie-Eboh : I am not bribing him. I am speaking the truth. I would not bribe any person with words. I am saying what I know of him. He is telling the House that if we pass this Bill such and such a thing will be done. I want to tell him that this is not a new provision; it is an old provision.

Chief Udochi : That does not make it right.

Chief Okotie-Eboh : Then the Member for Afenmai should have come here as a good lawyer to file a private Member's Motion that this section of the Bill be expunged from our laws. He should not wait until now to raise an alarm that we should not pass this amendment as if, whether or not we pass it, such a situation, if it did exist, does not exist now.

Section 14 Chapter 154 of the Laws of the Federation of Nigeria states as follows:—

“14 (1) If in any case application is made by any person for police officers to be employed on special duties—”

There is no need for anyone to invite my attention to the use of the words “police officers”. As a matter of fact, a policeman is a police officer. So, it does not matter. The law was passed on 1st April, 1943 and is still in existence. It continues:

“a Commissioner may enlist suitable persons as supernumerary police officers who shall be placed on such special service only.”

The hon. Gentleman refused to read Section 14 (2). He read Section 14 (1) to suit his purpose and left (2), like a clever lawyer that he is.

Section 14 (2) says:

“On an application under the foregoing subsection the Inspector-General may, with the approval of the Prime Minister, direct the appropriate authority to appoint as supernumerary police officers in the Force such number of persons as the Inspector-General thinks requisite for the protection of the property to which the application relates”.

The position is that if the application relates to your property—that you want somebody to protect your property—Section 14 (3) (b) makes it abundantly clear that the said police officer shall be employed exclusively on duties—and I lay emphasis on the word “exclusively”—connected with the protection of that property.

Both the Member for Afenmai (*Chief Udochi*) and the Member for Egba South (*Chief Akin-Olugbade*) are too decent to raise a point like this. I wish they had allowed somebody else to say this. I would have told such a person that if he was going to steal from my property and he was afraid of my policeman, then woe betide him. (*Laughter*).

I would like to say quite seriously that this Bill is meant for important industries and establishments, and the Member for Afenmai (*Chief Udochi*) has already been generous enough to say that the present Government will not misuse this Bill. This is agreed to. But this, like any other law, is being made both for now and for the future. All that I am saying is that the hon. Gentleman should not raise this alarm because what he is now saying is not in the mind of the Government.

Chief Akin-Olugbade : The Minister of Finance should not go on making a speech on this Bill. He is not the one who introduced the Bill to the House. This is just a point of order. He should allow the Prime Minister or his Minister of State in charge of Police to answer when we finish the debate. This is all I am saying. It is only a question of procedure. (*Interruptions*).

Some of these interrupting Members should be sent to older Parliaments to learn parliamentary procedure. They do not know a thing. They had never had the opportunity to contribute to a debate like this in this House. This is neither a local nor a district council.

Chief Okotie-Eboh : I am doing exactly what my hon. Friend the Member for Egba South (*Chief Akin-Olugbade*) did this morning. He was out of order and yet he was injecting his points in a disorderly manner.

In any case, knowing the importance of the man who was speaking, like any Parliamentarian here for that matter, and knowing how seriously people will take him, I did not want to wait for this alarm to be raised here without being

House of Representatives Debates

2317

[*Police (Amendment) Bill*].

13 OCTOBER 1965

[*Police (Amendment) Bill*]

2318

challenged till 3 o'clock, lest some other things happen. All I want to do is to seize this opportunity to explain the situation.

In the first instance, this is not a new law and, secondly, no permission will be given to anybody to recruit policemen for anything else; and furthermore, the supernumerary policemen asked to protect people's property are exclusively bound to protect that property alone and do no other duty.

Chief Udochi : With all due respect to the Minister of Finance, he knows very well that I am not one who takes delight in raising unnecessary alarm. I am seriously worried about the provisions of this Bill. He says it is an old law. It is not at all. In the old law which the Minister of Finance has just read, anybody who wanted to could apply for the existing police officers to help him. He had to pay the charge. But this is paying money to have an army around oneself.

According to the provisions of the law which the Minister of Finance has just read, anybody, or even a social gathering, can apply to the Commissioner of Police or whoever is responsible for policemen. This is not the same thing. This is a case of a man or a company with sufficient money to pay the cost applying to the Inspector-General of Police and saying that he wants, say, thirty supernumerary police officers in his service. He pays the cost. Everything is made out for him. He employs them and pays them. The money is allotted to the Inspector-General for the services rendered by these officers. These officers will guard the man's property. What I am saying is that these officers are not regular policemen but they have the rights and privileges of the ordinary policemen as well as the immunity of ordinary policemen.

Crimes can only be punished by the public, that is the State. When one is arrested by a policeman in the street, one is expected to go to court to face an agent of the State to state the case against one. But when you are arrested by a supernumerary policeman financed and paid by a capitalist, you go to the court to be prosecuted by an agent of the capitalist and not an agent of the State because he who pays the piper must call the tune.

Chief Okotie-Eboh : Is the member for Afenmai suggesting that if the Member for Owerri South-East (*Mr Ukegbu*) were to

come to steal on my premises, and my night-watchman were to apprehend him, he would not give evidence against the Member for Owerri South-East in the court?

Chief Udochi : That is quite different. He would be giving evidence as an ordinary man and not as a policeman.

Chief Okotie-Eboh : As a night watchman?

Chief Udochi : Yes, as a night watchman.

Chief Okotie-Eboh : What if he were to give evidence as a court bailiff? (*Laughter*)

Chief Udochi : I think I am quite concerned about the provisions of this Bill and I warn Members to consider the Bill seriously. If this Bill is passed into law, tomorrow we shall have the U.A.C. creating an army or a force of policemen of its own. I am sure that Members of this House would be the first people to come here and complain that they are being arrested by policemen who are not agents of the State but agents of the U.A.C., and that is what we are being asked to do.

We are making thugs policemen by the back-door because there is nothing prohibiting political parties from applying to the Inspector-General for a number of policemen to become supernumerary police officers though they are thugs. A political party can employ and pay supernumerary policemen.

We should not allow our policemen to be reduced to mere commercial articles. Anybody who can pay high enough will just have them. This is wrong. It is not fair to the policemen because we degrade them by this means of making it possible for anybody to become owner of policemen simply by paying for them. I seriously ask that the House should consider this provision when we come to consider this Bill Clause by Clause.

I beg to support.

Mr X. M. Akinsete (Ondo South East) : In opposing this Bill I would like to point out the seriousness of the Bill. Though Police appears to be a Federal matter it must not be forgotten that even the Commissioner of Police in any Region is at the mercy of the Premier of that Region.

Before a Bill of this nature is passed into law, there must be a reason for it. We have not been given a reason why a Bill like this should be passed into law.

House of Representatives Debates

2319

[Police (Amendment) Bill]

13 OCTOBER 1965

[Police (Amendment) Bill]

2320

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Labour (Mr E. A. O. Gbeleyi) : I would like the Members on the other side of the House to pass along Agege Motor Road through Mushin this afternoon after this sitting must have been suspended, and see what is happening there in the presence of Ibo U.P.G.A. policemen. They may then come back here and continue to say what they are now saying. There, people are being slaughtered in the presence of Ibo U.P.G.A. policemen.

Sitting suspended : 1 p.m.

Sitting resumed : 3 p.m.

Mr X. M. Akinsete (Ondo South-East) : Before we went on break, I was speaking on the Police (Amendment) Bill. I must say that police is a federal matter and as such we would have had no fear but for what is going on in some parts of the country now. A regional Commissioner of Police who is supposed to be under the Inspector-General of Police is more or less being dictated to by a Regional Premier. What is the purpose of allowing a supernumerary police officer to be appointed by any person as provided for in section one of this Amendment Bill ? Who is going to recommend the person to be appointed ? It is the man he is going to serve.

We have complained several times that in some parts of the country, particularly in the West, the local government policemen are professional thugs being kept by some Ministers. We are by this Bill going to give some sort of licence to those Ministers to appoint their thugs as supernumerary police officers. What is going to be the effect ? Why is it particularly necessary that supernumerary officers of the police should be appointed as is being provided for in Section 14 (d) (i) ? The result will be that when such an officer is appointed any moment he is no longer dancing to the tune of the man who appointed him, he could be given a month's notice of termination and another person appointed.

The Minister of Finance says that we have a similar Act passed in 1943. May I say that that law never envisaged the keeping of thugs. In the country to-day the people who are allowed to move about with police orderlies are the Ministers, the commissioners of police, the

magistrates and judges. But from Section 14 (c) (i) magistrates and judges are particularly excluded from going about with supernumerary police officers. Is there any complaint that the present crop of police orderlies are unsuitable ? This section reads, with your permission Mr Speaker, thus :

The appropriate authority may at the request of the Inspector-General or of the Commissioner of Police of a Region appoint any person as a supernumerary police officer in the Force with a view to that person's attachment as an orderly to—

- (a) a Minister of the Government of the Federation ; or
- (b) a Minister of the Government of a Region ; or
- (c) a police officer of or above the rank of assistant commissioner.

Why are magistrates and judges not allowed to go about with supernumerary police officers ? It is because they have nothing to fear and they are satisfied with the present set up. But why is it now necessary that Ministers, both Federal and Regional, should go about with supernumerary police officers ? Are they not satisfied with the present set up ? This is an indication that if a man can afford to have as many police officers as possible then, as has been said this morning, he could proceed to have them.

Chief Okotie-Eboh : The hon. Gentleman should also read Section 14 (c) (ii).

Mr Akinsete : I do not understand what the Minister of Finance is saying ; I cannot find that section in the copy I have.

Chief Okotie-Eboh : The hon. Gentleman should turn to page C354 and he will see what the Bill says about the duties of the supernumerary officers.

Mr Akinsete : I have not said anything about the duties yet, I am concerned with their appointment at the moment. What we are objecting to is the idea of Federal and Regional Ministers going about with supernumerary police officers when police officers of the Nigeria Police Force can be provided for them. That is what we are complaining about because this Bill seeks to give opportunity for Ministers to go about with glorified thugs in uniforms

like those of the local government police officers in the Western Region.

For instance, we all know what we experienced in the hands of both the Regional and Federal Ministers in the West during the last Regional election. I am strongly objecting to this Bill being passed because, if we do pass it, it will give an opportunity to vicious people who have no regard for the constitution of the land to wipe off the Opposition members, particularly those in Western Nigeria. Though we have a God-fearing Prime Minister at present, what if tomorrow someone else, like those we now have in the West, becomes the Prime Minister?

The Prime Minister : I am surprised that this Bill has fostered so much controversy. It is simply an amending Bill and I thought, honestly, that the House would not take more than ten minutes to go through it.

So much has been read into it, but all I want to do is to give Members the assurance that the police authorities will not appoint any glorified thug as a police constable.

Members are aware that we have now got very much enlarged Regional Cabinets as well as the Federal Cabinet. We have about twenty thousand members in the Nigerian Police Force. They are not enough, considering our population but, truly, we have quite a number of suitable people—ex-servicemen for example—who might well be appointed as supernumerary police officers. If we can make use of their services for duties which would not be regarded as completely the duties of the regular policemen, then I think the House will agree that we are saving not only money, but that we are also saving the rest of the members of the Force to concentrate on the maintenance of peace and order in the whole Federation.

I really do not see any reason why Members of the House should be reading so many things into this Bill. It is an amending Bill, and I know that when lawyers want to make trouble they can always do so.

I am quite aware that we had an election only a day or two ago, and people feel very strongly one way or the other about the trouble it engendered. But my Bill has no fault at all; my Bill is not responsible for those election

troubles at all. May I seriously ask the House that it will be much better for us to make progress, and I want to assure the House that there is nothing harmful in the Bill and that we shall always try to serve the best interests of the entire Federation.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill read a Second time; immediately considered in Committee; reported, without Amendment; read the Third time and passed.

CURRENCY BILL 1965

Order for Second Reading read.

Chief Okotie-Eboh : I beg to move—

That a Bill for an Act to make further provision for the destruction of counterfeit currency and for connected purposes, and to repeal the West African Currency Notes Act; be now read a Second time.

This Bill seeks to achieve two things: First, it seeks to extend the scope of Sections 271 and 272 of the Criminal Procedure Act which at the moment apply only to coins and not notes. The latter will now be covered by the Bill. Section 271 of the Criminal Procedure Act provides for the detention and destruction of counterfeit coins or any articles intended to be used for the purpose of making counterfeit coins, where a person is charged with an offence relating to counterfeit coins, whether such charge leads to conviction or not. On the other hand Section 272 of the same Act provides for the detention and destruction of counterfeit coins or any articles intended to be used for the purpose of making counterfeit coins, where no charge is laid.

Thus, Section 272 empowers any person to detain any counterfeit coins which come into his possession. It is clear therefore that the two Sections only make provisions for the seizure and destruction of counterfeit coins and articles for making counterfeit coins. The Act does not make similar provision for the seizure and destruction of forged notes or of articles intended to be used for forgeries.

The aim of this Bill is to cure this disability by empowering the Central Bank to impound forged notes, duly certified as such, and to deposit them with the Police pending prosecution. The Bill stipulates that no note, coin, matter or thing shall be destroyed unless a

House of Representatives Debates

2323

[Currency Bill 1965]

13 OCTOBER 1965

Currency Bill 1965]

2324

[CHIEF OKOTIE-EBOH]

Court orders its destruction in connection with a conviction for an offence as in section 271 of the Criminal Procedure Act.

Where, however, there is no conviction for an offence, the appropriate Magistrates' Court can, on application made in accordance with rules of Court, order the forfeiture and destruction of the notes or the instruments used for forging them on the grounds that the existence of any of them is a breach of the law.

In the absence of any conviction for an offence or any pending prosecution for such an offence, or of any order or a pending application for an order for forfeiture, notes and coins which have been voluntarily surrendered to the proper official of the Central Bank or to a superior Police Officer or are discovered in a lodgement made by a commercial bank with the Central Bank may be destroyed.

I am sure that this House shares my view that the provisions of this Bill are very essential. It is essential that a legal basis should be established for the detention and destruction of forged notes as is the case with regard to counterfeit coins. It is equally vital that the officials who have responsibility for seizing and destroying forged notes should have a legal basis for their action as they have in the case of counterfeit coins. I therefore commend this Bill to the approval of the House.

The other thing which this Bill seeks to do is to repeal the West African Currency Notes Act. I am advised that the West African Currency Notes Act is no longer applicable to the Federal Republic of Nigeria and is overdue for repeal. Provisions have therefore been made in this Bill, repealing the Act, since it no longer applies to Nigerian circumstances.

I beg to move.

The Minister of Establishments (Mr J. C. Obande) : I beg to second.

Alhaji Saidu Zango, Iyan Gari (Zaria Central) : In supporting this Bill, I should like to make some few observations. Though brief, the observations are of great significance to the people of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

I have noticed that the currency notes which came into use at the beginning of July this year bear no date whatsoever. With the indulgence of the Chair, it would do the

country a lot of good if the honourable Minister of Finance could explain to the public why this omission took place. But, if it is not an omission, may we know then the motive behind the idea of removing the date on the currency notes. I personally feel that without the date on the currency notes, counterfeiters can easily copy them and thereby cause the value of the money to fall and there may finally be inflation in the country.

Although what I am expressing now may be a layman's point of view yet, if the experts can tell us the wisdom of removing the date, we will only be glad to accept the explanation. At present, it seems that if a loophole is allowed it will enable the wicked to make huge sums of money from the good ones. I am confident that the honourable Minister will clarify the position so that the public may appreciate the good intention of what has been done by not putting dates on the new currency notes. I should be grateful if the honourable Minister could make a statement on this.

I beg to support.

Prince Ademola Olaniran (Oshun South-East) : I would rather not support this Bill in that I feel that it is high time our Government encouraged people in this country who are counterfeiting in this currency note business. I feel that we have to be proud in that respect, that we have some members of this Republic who are—(Interruptions).

Chief Okotie-Eboh : Does the hon. Gentleman come from Ijebu Division?

Prince Olaniran : No. I come from the same place as the Minister of Natural Resources and Research (*Prince A. Lamuye*)

Chief Okotie-Eboh : Do they make counterfeits in Prince Lamuye's place?

Prince Olaniran : Yes !

The Minister of Housing and Surveys (Chief A. O. Ogunsanya) : With the greatest respect, the hon. Gentleman is from Oshun and he should not trespass on our exclusive province.

Prince Olaniran : That is the business of the Ogbomosho man.

The Minister of Natural Resources and Research (Prince A. Lamuye) : We counterfeit in Ogbomosho. Yes, we do.

House of Representatives Debates

2325

[Currency Bill 1965]

13 OCTOBER 1965

[Currency Bill 1965]

2326

Prince Olaniran : With respect to the Minister of Natural Resources —(Interruptions)

Minister of State (M. Ibrahim Gusau) : That is the reason why they have formed a "counterfeit government."

Prince Olaniran : With respect to the Minister of Natural Resources and Research, there is a machine used in making counterfeit notes in his yard. I say that with authority.

Mr A. F. Odulana (Ijebu North-East) : The forged five-pounds currency notes were found with a culprit at Onitsha Market and the culprit was an Ibo man.

Mr V. A. Emenogha (Onitsha North) : The counterfeit printing machine found in Onitsha was discovered with a man from the Mid-West.

Chief Okotie-Eboh : I challenge my hon. Friend to name the person and the part of the Mid-West he comes from.

I want to know the place where the hon. Gentleman speaking comes from. I want him to name the person and the place he comes from as well as the Division he comes from in the Mid-West.

Prince Olaniran : I have to desist from my former plan. Prince Lamuye knows that he has been begging me to stop. He knows that he makes some notes.

Prince Lamuye : I think that I will raise a serious objection to the allegation made by the hon. Member for Oshun South-East (*Prince Olaniran*). Although we come from the same division, Oshun, it will be correct if he says that I have a ploughing machine in my yard rather than to say that I have a counterfeit-making machine. I am a farmer and that is the reason why I am a Minister of Natural Resources and Research.

Prince Olaniran : I think that the Minister of Natural Resources and Research (*Prince Lamuye*) has a counterfeit-making machine otherwise let him deny the allegation.

Prince Lamuye : The hon. Member for Oshun South-East (*Prince Olaniran*) should go and make that allegation outside and I will show him that he is making an irresponsible statement.

Prince Olaniran : I feel that it is high time we made arrangements to see that all things Nigerian are assisted and legalised. I would like to congratulate the man who was caught at Onitsha making those forged currency notes. It is a pride to this country that we have people of that nature who can generally be encouraged by the Government.

Mr M. S. C. Abani (Afikpo South) : This may not be a kind of question but we know that we have freedom of speech in this House. Must we allow this type of speech to go on in this way? I think that this is a responsible House and anybody who claims to be an hon. Member, representing about a hundred thousand people, should make a responsible statement.

Mr D. O. Ahamefule (Okigwi South-West) : I rise to support this Bill. It is a welcome Bill and I believe that the hon. Minister of Finance will work very hard to check people who are making counterfeit notes in this country. We have a lot of them and it is very disheartening to note that as soon as we started making our own notes people cleverly started counterfeiting the notes. While others are working very hard to make money and find means of livelihood, some people believe in dishonesty.

This is a very good Bill, and not one that should arouse controversy in this House.

I therefore support the Bill.

Mr A. F. Odulana (Ijebu North-East) : I rise to support this Bill, but I have one or two comments to make. If strict measures are to be taken so far as our currency notes are concerned, they should be on these new notes that have just been issued out from the first of July, 1965.

I have noticed the Bank of England notes and other notes from other countries—the dollar, the pound sterling and so on and so forth. But if the Nigerian Government, through the Minister of Finance, made the notes in the best way they should be made, there would be no reason for us to come and put up this Bill here.

Prince Lamuye : Advice the Minister of Finance in private.

Mr Odulana : I think that I should do it here actually.

House of Representatives Debates

2327

[Currency Bill 1965]

13 OCTOBER 1965

[Currency Bill 1965]

2328

Chief Okotie-Eboh : The hon. Member speaking is an Ijebu man.

Mr Odulana : I know that I am an Ijebu man and I am proud to be an Ijebu man, but Ijebu is not connected with the counterfeiting of these notes now. People who counterfeit them are from the other Regions. If we look at the face of this pound note which I am holding, we find that there is no date on it, as has been said by the hon. Gentleman who spoke first on this Bill.

Hon. Members will see that our one pound currency note has four ink marks in the front—black, green, pink and purple. The English one pound currency note has twelve complexions. At the back of our one pound currency note, there is only one colour—red—which is called ox-blood, and this smears ; it means that the ink is not good. The ink on one pound currency note of other countries in the world does not smear. The paper is all right. Anybody who is good in the art of counterfeiting will just put the ink on it.

An hon. Member is referring to the Eastern Region. I am not referring to the Eastern Region ; counterfeits are made all over the Federation and the world too. We are all guilty of it. If it is done in Nigeria, nobody can say it is from this or that Region. It is very easy to be copied. I would therefore advise the Minister of Finance to take stern measures by seeing to it that good materials are used for printing our currency notes. If this is done, people will be able to detect counterfeited currency notes.

I would like the Minister of Finance to see the stuff with which the American dollar is made. I am sorry I did not bring it here, but later on I will see the Minister of Finance and explain all these things to him. We should use the same stuff for our currency notes. This is just what I want to say about our notes. The Government should use good materials for printing our five-pound notes, one pound notes, ten-shilling notes and five-shilling notes.

I would like to talk also about our coins. The coins that we have now are not like the silver coins we used to know in the colonial days. This is independent Nigeria, still we cannot make the best for ourselves ! What

kind of independence have we got ? If one puts one shilling in one's pocket and one is beaten by rain or one forgets it in one's pocket and the clothing is washed, something like metal will be coming out of it. There is always a stain on it. It was not so in the past. I would advise the Minister of Finance to see to it that good materials are used for minting our coins.

As regards our pennies, the amount of dust one gets when one puts them in one's pocket is enormous. In Great Britain, pennies are made from copper. We should use the same material for our own pennies. We do not want to print our currency notes and mint our coins for people outside to copy immediately. The moulding machine that was used in counterfeiting five-pound currency notes a week after it was brought into being on 1st July this year had the same number as the one used here. It means that the people who are working there stole the moulding machine and the paper. I am not sure whether it is our own paper, but it has the same size as our paper. The number is the same as well as the printing art. One can only know that it is forged because of its quality.

If the Minister of Finance really means business, and if he wants this Bill to be supported by everybody, I would suggest that the best thing for him to do would be to send experts to London in order to learn the art of printing currency notes. The company formed for printing our currency notes is half-Nigerian and the experts there are British. Why should they print our currency notes with inferior materials when they print their own currency notes with good materials ? If they cannot do the job well, we should go to Australia to import experts or go to America and bring the people who help them to print their dollars.

In Great Britain, how many people are taken to court for forged currency notes ? They steal currency notes when they have been printed ; they cannot forge them. There are no counterfeit currency notes in England, and none of the hon. Members here can tell me any one instance where a man has been prosecuted in Great Britain for counterfeiting currency notes.

The Member for Ondo South-East (Mr Akinsete) rose—

Mr Odulana : I am not yielding for this UPGA man ; he will 'Upga' this House. He will sit down when he likes.

One hon. Member has said that I am misleading this House. I am not misleading the House. We have four ink marks in the front of our one pound currency note and only one at the back. I want the Minister of Finance to prove the contrary. This is the point I want to make.

Mr D. O. Enefola (Igala South) : This is a welcome Bill and it is non-controversial. I have but a few observations to make on it.

In the first instance, I would like to support what the Member for Ijebu North-East (*Mr Odulana*) has just said. It is a fact that the quality of our coin and the paper money that we have had since independence is not actually what should be expected. It appears that the quality of the materials used is such that it is very easy for crooks to make counterfeits.

Now that we have our own Security Printing and Minting Company, the people who are doing the job should take very strong precautions and see to it that good materials are used in printing our currency notes and minting our coins. If this is done, it will be very difficult for somebody to counterfeit currency notes and coins. If strong measures are not taken, people will still continue to counterfeit coins because they look alike. It is very difficult for people to know which is counterfeit and which is genuine money. Those who are concerned with the printing of our currency notes and the minting of our coins should try to conduct a research so that it will not be possible to forge them. It is very easy to accept counterfeit money unless one takes a careful look at it. One cannot do this when one is shopping because one is shopping with the minimum amount of time.

We would like to have a paper money that will be of such quality that people can spend it with confidence. Nobody can spend counterfeit money and, as the last speaker has said, now that we are independent, we should try to make things that will befit our status and things that will be worthy of emulation by other countries.

The new notes are very wide ; they are not all that colourful. In no small time, they are dirty. Take the small five-pound notes for

example. When one squeezes about two or three together, after a week of handling them, one will find that they will have become dirty to the extent that one may not like to handle them again. They look very dirty and unhygienic ; people would not like to touch such money. All these things should be taken into consideration.

We know that the nation is in a hurry and that we want to do things in our own way. In doing things our own way, however, we should not forget that anything done here should be done in a perfect way.

One other point I want to make on this Bill is this. Those of us who live in the rural areas know that there is less circulation of coins. There is shortage of coins all over the country. We always have difficulties in getting coins any time we are in need of them, and it is always difficult to change a shilling into pennies.

I know that the people in the urban areas may not agree with me on this because they have banks all over the place and they can go to these banks and have their monies changed into pieces any time they want, but this is not possible with those of us in the rural areas. If we have more coins in circulation, I think the position will be improved.

There is one other important point which I think a very few of us have taken note of. For instance, I have a shilling here which still bears the effigy of the British Queen. I feel it is high time that this should be changed. I know that this is the effigy that used to be on the coins minted by the West African Currency Board, but this effigy of the Queen is no longer found in coins of many other African countries.

If we do not want any colonial vestige to remain in this country we should remove the effigy of the Queen from all our coins and replace it with that of one of the leaders of this country.

With these few remarks, I beg to support.

Mr J. O. Edomwonyi (Benin West) : Much has been said about counterfeiting of money. All I want to add is that it is a fact that counterfeiting is doing a lot of harm to the economic life of this country. Many people have been ruined by the use of counterfeit

House of Representatives Debates

2331

[Currency Bill 1965]

13 OCTOBER 1965

[Currency Bill 1965]

2332

(MR EDOMWONYI)

money because the counterfeiters put a lot of these bad monies in circulation.

I feel that the Government should try its best and see that counterfeit coins and notes are stamped out completely in this country.

Another interesting aspect of these counterfeit monies is that policemen traffick in them, and I will tell Members how they do this. Any time they are in possession of the materials used in printing counterfeit notes what they do is to find somebody they have not been friendly with and plant these materials in his or her house. Then they arrange with themselves, bring a search warrant, and of course, the already planted money-making materials will be discovered and the innocent citizen who is not in terms with the police will be in trouble.

The Government should find a way of handling these money-making materials or counterfeit monies so that they do not get into the hands of policemen especially the junior members of the Force. I have seen several cases of innocent citizens in my area convicted for being in possession of counterfeit notes or coins which they knew nothing about.

Also, the discontinuation of the use of the old West African Currency Notes is long overdue. It is most surprising that the coins minted by the West African Currency Board are still in circulation in Northern Nigeria when they are no longer in use in the South.

I remember that when I visited Northern Region last year I found the old West African pennies and half-pennies still being freely used. I think the earlier these old coins are withdrawn from all parts of the country, the better it will be for all of us. There should be no privileged region in Nigeria as to the use of our notes and coins.

The illiterate elements in this country are still confusing the old currency notes which came into use two or three years ago with those which came out in July this year. They do not know which is genuine and which is not. I think the only one that should be in use now should be the latest on which is written—"Federal Republic of Nigeria".

Furthermore, I would like to associate myself with the views expressed by the Member for Igala South (*Mr Enefola*) that the present

effigy on our coins should be replaced by that of the President of this Republic.

I beg to support.

Mr F. I. Okorokwo (Aba Central) : This Bill is non-controversial but I would like to make a few observations on it. Many Members have said a lot about these counterfeit notes. All I want to say in addition is that the Minister of Finance should try and exhibit all counterfeit notes and coins discovered in the banks in order to educate illiterate Nigerians as to which notes or coins are genuine and which are not.

Those wicked people who want to get rich overnight have studied all the materials used in making these monies. From time immemorial, we have heard of counterfeiting of money in Nigeria and this will not be an exception ; the counterfeiting of the present Nigerian notes is not going to be an exception.

We are appealing to the Minister of Finance to take very strong precaution and even before people are employed by the Security Printing and Minting, the Government should make sure that the prospective employees are men of integrity who will not try to smuggle printed notes or the machines outside to make counterfeit money and try to become rich over-night.

The hon. Member who spoke earlier in this debate was able to describe in great detail how money is made and this detail I am sure many Members of this House did not know before. It may be he is one of the experts in counterfeiting because of the able way in which he analysed how currency notes are made.

He was able to tell us very many things that we could not think of. I am not imputing motive and I think that we should be grateful to him whether or not he is an expert in counterfeiting, because he has been able to give us certain information that will enable the Minister of Finance to take measures to stop counterfeiting of the new Nigerian currency notes.

I had earlier said that the Minister of Finance should try to exhibit some of the notes obtained from these counterfeiting experts in the banks and in the other public places so that the members of the public may be able to detect exactly and easily which are the counterfeit notes and which are the genuine notes authorised by the Government of the Federation of Nigeria.

The quality of our notes is very poor and it should be improved. The materials are very poor too, the Minister of Finance should therefore note that in printing further notes, the quality should be improved in order to reflect the good image of Nigeria and our mature nationhood before the outside world.

Printers and photographers are very busy to-day printing these notes and all the photographic materials ordered into this country should be examined because the first information we had of the printing of these new currency notes was from the photographers as announced over the radio some time ago. I am saying now that all the photographic materials imported into this country should be properly examined.

With these few remarks, I beg to support.

Chief Okotie-Eboh : I think that there are some relevant points raised by hon. Members to which I should reply.

I would like to take off from where the Member for Aba Central (*Mr Okoronkwo*) stopped. He has asked us firstly to display counterfeit notes so that members of the public may be able to know which are counterfeit notes and which are genuine ones.

I think that he means well, but I believe that that is an invitation to disaster because if we display counterfeit notes and people begin to examine them, people like my hon. Friend from Oshun, who wants to be protected because he is printing currency notes in his premises will go there and examine the notes carefully so that he can know the defects that make the counterfeit notes to be detected this time and correct them in the next production.

I think that what we should display and advertise is the genuine notes so that people may be able to know the genuine notes when counterfeit notes are given to them.

Members have also spoken of screening the people who are working in the Security Printing and Minting Company. The people are properly screened by the Police, each of them, and no illiterate person who cannot sign his name is employed there.

When any of the employees enters the premises he is searched, he signs his name, he will be given a card which bears his picture and specimen signature. There is also a room

for him to keep his own dress and put on his apron before he resumes duty. When he is going out, he also goes to the room, takes off the apron and puts on his own dress. He is searched again at the gate before he finally signs out of the premises. However, in saying all this, people should not think that I go there every other day; I have only been there once.

Now, my hon. Friend the Member for Igala South (*Mr Enefola*) says that there is a shortage of coins in the country. I would agree with him to some extent, but the thing is that the Central Bank, that is the bank of issue, is not a commercial bank. If there is a requirement for money on the part of business houses and so on, it is the commercial banks that will go to the Central Bank to make requisition for coins to be issued to them.

However, I assure the hon. Member that we will soon be ready with the minting of our money in Nigeria. Hitherto, we have not been minting any money in Nigeria. We are working on it so that we can change everything that is required to be changed.

The money we have now was not minted in our mints here. It was the old money in circulation and we cannot just withdraw them. But we are considering this very seriously and when we do this, we shall mint our own coins here and put more money into circulation. But, as I said, it is the duty of the commercial banks to requisition for coins. Whenever they do so, coins will be issued to them.

Hon. Members will agree with me that at the moment people prefer to carry notes rather than coins because coins are very heavy. In the rural areas where business transaction is still carried on in terms of two shillings, five shillings, and so on, it is necessary that we should give them more coins for their use.

As regards the point made by my hon. Friend about the quality of our notes, I want to say that the hon. Member and his friends contradicted themselves. They criticised the quality of our notes whereas they also said that the paper used in printing the money is very good. It appears that the Member for Ijebu North-East (*Mr Odulana*) is an expert in counterfeiting because the way he described the thing even I as the Minister of Finance did not know. What is the business of a man who is not an expert in analysing the type of ink used in printing paper money, the quality of the paper, the pictures and all the other details

House of Representatives Debates

2335

[Currency Bill 1965]

13 OCTOBER 1965

[Currency Bill 1965]

2336

Mr A. F. Odulana (Ijebu North-East) : As a Nigerian who is loyal to his country of birth, what I know is that a week after the release of the first notes from the 1st of July, there was a publication in the papers that counterfeits of the very new notes just released had been discovered at Onitsha. Then I asked myself and other friends how such a thing could be possible within so short a time.

I was told that these notes were not properly made. Then I put the colonial notes, the new notes, the Bank of England notes and other notes together and began to analyse them. It was then that I found the difference in the quality of ink used in making these notes, so that our notes may not be confused with the other notes made in other countries.

I did this sort of interest, not because I was going to make currency notes. I am not an Urhobo man, Isoko man, Itsekiri man or an Ibo man.

Chief Okotie-Eboh : It will be interesting to note that although the hon. Member is an Ijebu man, and with respect to other Ijebus, the name is synonymous with counterfeiting in Nigeria. When people talk about counterfeit money, they say "Ijebu money". They do not say "Urhobo money" or "Ibo money" but they say "Ijebu money". (*Laughter*).

The Minister of Housing and Surveys (Chief A. O. O. Ogunsanya) : The definition of the word "Ijebu" includes pure Ijebus and people who are called counterfeit Ijebus.

Chief Okotie-Eboh : I can hear an hon. Member mentioning counterfeit Itsekiris. The Itsekiris are Itsekiris. They are not counterfeit.

The Minister of Transport (Alhaji Zanna Bukar Dipcharima) : On a point of information, from Chief Awolowo we understand that the Itsekiris are the best Yorubas.

Chief Okotie-Eboh : The Itsekiris are very small in number but their history is as old as that of the Kanuris and it is a very renowned history. From the experience of the decent words of wisdom in parables by Itsekiri people, one will know that they have a very good cultural background like the people of the Minister of Transport.

Alhaji Zanna Bukar Dipcharima : Sir, I withdraw. The Itsekiris are culturally connected with the ancient, noble people of Bornu.

Chief Okotie-Eboh : But one thing is that the Itsekiris are not members of the Bornu Youth Movement !

My hon. Friend told the House that there is just one kind of ink on the face of the note which he exhibited. I thank God that the Deputy Speaker has taken the note from him and he will never get it again. There are at least 12 different inks on the face of these notes, and hon. Members who have them here should take them and look at them. If one looks at them, one will see very small marks and find different types of ink that have been used, even at the top the number is printed. At least, it is easy to observe colours like sky-blue, light green, purple, violet, light grey, ox-blood, red and black, on the face of them. It is not also difficult to see the white colour.

Chief Odulana rose on a point of order.

Chief Okotie-Eboh : Sit down, Chief Odulana. You cannot keep standing on a point of order when the Speaker did not listen to you.

Mr Speaker : Order ! The Minister of Finance.

Chief Okotie-Eboh : Counterfeiter ! (*Laughter*) So, Sir, the difference between the description by the Member for Ijebu North-East (*Mr Odulana*) and the genuine notes is that his description is that of a counterfeiter whereas this note is made by experts in the trade. The new notes that are in circulation have been praised by everybody. They are good notes and they do not need to be dated. Who has got notes dated from anywhere outside Nigeria ? We do not need to date our notes because if we do, the notes might be taken to be legal tender only for that day. Our notes carry the inscription on them, it is written that "*Central Bank of Nigeria promise to pay on demand the sum of*" "*one pound*" and if we put, say, 13-10-65 there, it means that such notes will only be payable on that particular date and no more.

Several hon. Members : No, No ;

Question put and agreed to.

House of Representatives Debates

2337

[*Registered Land Bill*]

13 OCTOBER 1965

[*Registered Land Bill*]

2338

Bill read a Second time and immediately considered in Committee.

Bill reported without Amendment.

Chief Okotie-Eboh : I beg to move, that the Bill be now read the Third time and passed into law. In doing so, I would like to clear one point only and that is the allegation made by the Member for Ijebu North-East (*Mr Odulana*) that the counterfeiter that was caught in Onitsha used moulds and that these moulds were impounded by the Police. He also alleged that the numbers agreed with those of the one used here. That is a very reckless statement. The man that was caught at Onitsha was a photographer who wanted to carbon-copy the notes with his camera and thought he could use the notes in the interior before the new note was in full circulation. That is the fact. There were no moulds. It was just a photostat and one can photostat any document and present it. That was what was done and the man was arrested and the papers that were used were not the type of papers used for counterfeiting money.

The hon. Member can go and ask the Police to let him have the facts. He should not come here to mislead the House by saying that somebody got moulds from here. How did he get hold of them? How does the hon. Member himself know the moulds were from here. He must be careful and stop making reckless statements.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read the Third time and passed.

REGISTERED LAND BILL

Order for Second Reading read.

The Minister of Lagos Affairs (Alhaji Musa Yar'Adua) : I beg to move—

That a Bill for an Act to substitute more suitable machinery provisions for those in the existing legislation in so far as they relate to investigation of claims under the system of compulsory universal registration of title to land in Lagos introduced by the Registered Land Act, 1964, be now read a Second time.

Opportunity is also being taken by this Bill to provide sundry and other Amendments found necessary to implement registration of title after the constitution of land registers.

There is in existence a Registered Land Act which this House passed in 1964. This Act was based on the Report of a working party appointed in October, 1959, to draft a suitable Act relating to registration of title to land and to formulate administrative proposals to implement such legislation.

Approval was then obtained and subsequently technical assistance through Commonwealth Technical Aid was sought. An expert who had operated a somewhat similar system of land registration in East Africa was sent here to study the existing Act and to make recommendations accordingly. A portion of this expert's Report reads as follows :—

"I would stress that Amendments (now) proposed are considered necessary as a result of the experience which others, including me, have acquired in operating a similar system elsewhere and are designed to fill gaps or rectify difficulties which would otherwise have only become apparent when the system is operating."

After studying this Report, my Colleague, the Attorney-General of the Federation and Minister of Justice, came to the conclusion that it would be better to repeal the existing Act and replace it. This would provide a tidier mode of dealing with the subject. This Bill embodies such of the Amendments as are generally acceptable to the High Court of Lagos as the administering authority.

As I have already stated, there is nothing basically new in this Bill. It is only a consolidation and Amendment measure and accordingly it provides for the repeal of the Act aforesaid; it is non-controversial and should commend itself to all sides of the House.

The Minister of Transport (Alhaji Zanna Bukar Dipcharima) : I beg to second.

Mr A. T. Mbegbu (Owerri North-East) : It looks apparently easy to rush this Bill. Those who have had anything to do with the registration of titles know and will realise that it is one of the most elusive aspects of the law of real property. It is true that even the Land Registration Act now applying in England is a consummation of years of cases on the English real property law and it may be true that

House of Representatives Debates

2339

[*Registered Land Bill*]

13 OCTOBER 1965

[*Registered Land Bill*]

2340

[MR MBEGBU]

experts looking at the situation of our land registration law scientifically will advise that this is appropriate now.

But it was only yesterday that we first saw this Bill, and those who feel that there is nothing controversial about it, not even the mere publicity that this Bill deserves, will be the first to be affected because we are now living in a Nigeria where it is very easy to counterfeit anything. We have just finished with counterfeiting currency notes, but the easiest things to counterfeit are documents of titles because very few people know about them.

As I have said, this Bill took us unawares and I am sure that all legal practitioners and solicitors and people who have had dealings in land matters will agree with me that it will take days to debate even one clause of this Bill. And I would count him as a genius who will look at this Bill and be able to contribute effectively to a debate on it within twenty-four hours outside his library.

The Registrar, as contemplated in this Bill, has the powers of a High Court Judge, and this is serious. I know that the Minister of Lagos Affairs will take every necessary step to see that people are not going to lose their interests in land as soon as this Bill comes into operation. As for deliberating on it, I think it is almost impossible for anybody to stand up and make an effective contribution to a Bill that contains as many as 167 clauses, and a host of technical terms.

We are, as my learned Friend said in the morning, being used as rubber-stamp, and if there is any occasion in which one can say that Parliament is just passing a Bill that they cannot, in the light of the circumstances, discuss, this is one of the examples, and I do not intend to support that this Bill be passed at this moment without a fuller discussion on it.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read a Second time and immediately considered in Committee.

Bill reported, without Amendment.

Motion made and Question proposed, That the Bill be now read the Third time—(THE MINISTER OF LAGOS AFFAIRS)

Mr M. S. C. Abani (Afikpo South) : My observation on this Bill is that those of us who have spent time looking through it find that it is voluminous and also that only very few Members, particularly the lawyers, have been given opportunity to make observations. It appears to us that the Bill was rushed with only very faint voices saying no. I do not know really whether we can now speak on it in detail at this stage.

Mr F. I. Okoronkwo (Aba Central) : This Bill was presented to this House to-day, and such a Bill which has 167 clauses was read and passed in less than five minutes. We must say that this should be condemned and that nobody is happy about it.

We are not against the presentation of such Bills, but we should like to read the Bills and understand exactly what their provisions are. It is very bad for Parliamentarians to come and pass Bills a word of which they do not understand.

I am therefore appealing to the Minister of Finance and Leader of this House not to present such Bills to us any time, because one day we will all pass a Bill that will outright condemn all the Members of this House.

I beg to oppose.

Mr M. A. Bashua (Lagos South Central) : Mr Speaker, I must say that I am really very distressed at the way in which this Bill has been rushed through Parliament this afternoon. Here is a Bill which has taken the experts who were brought down by the Minister so many months and perhaps a year to compile. Here is a Bill which has taken the Minister of Justice so many months to go through. Now, Parliament is being asked to pass it within five minutes ! As Member for Lagos, I feel really very much concerned that a law that is going to affect the interests of the people of Lagos is now being rushed at such a terrible speed.

The question of registration of land has been the subject of thousands of litigations. Sir, if you go to the Land Registry to-day and ask for the number of cases in dispute, you will be surprised to hear that there are so many of them. Now, Parliament wants to change that law without giving us the opportunity of looking carefully into it. I got a copy of this

Bill only this morning. It is really very voluminous. One would have expected that the people of Lagos who are so directly concerned would have been given the opportunity to read through this law by having it publicised so that if they have any objections or suggestions, they could bring them in.

Before the introduction of this Bill, it used to be the Registrar of Land (who has always been a lawyer) that sat over land disputes at the Land Registry. This power is now being transferred to an officer of the High Court. Who the officer of the High Court will be, we do not know. It may be the Registrar of the High Court, but it is not clear here who the person is going to be. It may be the Chief Registrar of the High Court, who is not a lawyer.

Alhaji Bello Dandago (Gwarzo) : I do not know whether the Member for Lagos (*Mr Bashua*) was asleep at the time an opportunity was given for the Second Reading of this Bill. According to parliamentary procedure, Sir, the speeches during the Third Reading are always short.

Mr Bashua : Well, if that is the guillotine method that was adopted in the past, I think it is wrong. I would say with due respect that we would need further information from the Minister about who the officer of the High Court would be. If a Registrar who does not know the law is appointed to adjudicate over the registration of land, I think it will be wrong.

With these few remarks, I beg to oppose the passing of this Bill.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read the Third time and passed.

REMUNERATION OF THE PRESIDENT BILL

Order for Second Reading read.

The Minister of Establishments (*Mr J. C. Obande*) : I rise to move—

That a Bill for an Act to make provision for the salary, allowances and pensions of the President of the Republic be now read a Second time.

Section 133 of the Constitution of the Federation provides that there shall be paid to the holders of certain offices, among which is included the office of the President, such

salaries and allowances as may be prescribed by Parliament. The purpose of this Bill is to enable the intention of section 133 of the Constitution, in so far as it affects the office of the President, to be fulfilled.

This is a short and non-contentious Bill : Clause 1 covering the salary and allowances of the President and Clause 2 making provision for the payment of the pension of the President in the event of his retirement.

As I have already said, the provisions of this Bill merely fulfil the intention of the Constitution and I know it will be welcomed by all Members of this House.

Sir, I beg to move.

Minister of State (Alhaji Hashimu Adaji) : I beg to second.

Mr X. M. Akinsete (Ondo South-East) : Mr Speaker, this Bill in itself is a bit interesting, but I would like to say that section 1 subsection (2) is something to be well considered. It reads :

There shall also be paid to the President such allowances as are considered reasonable by the Government of the Federation acting in its discretion.

Mr Speaker : Order ! Detailed observations on clauses should be left till the Committee Stage.

Mr Akinsete : Mr Speaker, in making provision for the President, the allowances should be stated. Allowances should not just be left to be determined by the Government. The President is supposed to be somebody without any political leaning and without executive powers. There is no doubt that in some cases the President of the Federation could be the leader of a political party in power. If that be the case, it is always very interesting when one is making laws to consider the effects of such laws in the near future when they get into the hands of political rogues.

The election in the Western Region is supposed to be free and fair, but when our friends on the other side who are rogues got into the stage—

Mr Speaker : Order, order ! This Bill is no concerned with elections.

House of Representatives Debates

2343

[*Remuneration of the*

13 OCTOBER 1965

President Bill]

2344

Mr Akinsete : What is the purpose of not stating the allowances to be paid to the President when the salary and pension are being stated ? The main purpose of that is that it could have two effects. In the first place, if the President of the Republic happens to be the leader of a political party in the near future, election expenses of that party may be debited to that clause to go as allowances to the President.

Moreover, where a party in power—

Minister of State (M. Ibrahim Gusau) : We would like the hon. Gentleman speaking to tell us if he is saying this out of experience.

The Minister of Finance (Chief F. S. Okotie-Eboh) : May I please ask my hon. Friend not to make such an analogy that makes the Government's financial system and policy ridiculous. How can a lawyer of his standing talk like that to make members of the public feel that Government money can be juggled like that ? This is impossible.

Chief O. B. Akin-Olugbade (Egba South) : On a point of order, the Minister of Finance could not answer effectively the question put to him about the £19 million he lent to the West Regional Government which had been diverted to use for political purposes.

Mr Speaker : That is an irrelevant point of order.

Mr Akinsete : Another effect of not stating the allowances to be paid to the President could be this that the party which is very keen on power and on remaining in office could try as much as possible to give allowances to the President in such a way that when it comes to the time of calling on somebody to form a government, he may be a bit tired, particularly if he was a member of the political party before being appointed President.

With these few remarks, I oppose this Bill.

Mr S. Sobowale (Epe) : I rise to support this Bill. I have only one short comment to make. The office of President is undoubtedly an exalted one and I do not at all quarrel with the fact that a President on retirement is to be given a pension, but to suggest that if a person who is elected President resigns the following day he should go on a pension of over £2,000 is, I think, a waste of public fund. I think, if the provision is for a pension on his retirement

at the expiration of his period of office, that will make sense. But it is just too bad to say that if a President chooses to resign he will also be given a pension. That is what this Bill provides for.

That is just the comment I want to make.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill read a Second time and immediately considered in Committee.

REMUNERATION OF PRESIDENT BILL :

CONSIDERED IN COMMITTEE

Clause 1—ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 2—(PENSION OF THE PRESIDENT).

Chief O. B. Akin-Olugbade (Egba South) : Clause 2 states that, and with the permission of the Chairman, I quote—

A pension of two thousand five hundred pounds a year shall be paid to the President on his resignation from office, or on his retirement on the expiration of the period of his tenure of office :

Provided that where any person is re-elected to the office of President no pension shall be payable to him during the period in which he again holds office as President.

Mr Chairman, this provision is not novel. In other countries where people practise democracy (I do not know the condition where people practise dictatorship) pension is always provided for Presidents who relinquish office either by way of resignation due to ill-health or other personal reasons or after retirement. But in other places where Presidents are elected into office, it is only men of substance that are elected President, otherwise, they may abuse the office. This is true because otherwise they may abuse the office. That is why it is only men who have undisputed loyalty to the state, people of substance, that are elected President.

Fortunately the position in Nigeria, at the moment, is ideal. But this is a law which is supposed to apply for all time, at least until it is amended or repealed. That is why I want to make this observation. I will try to avoid reference to the present President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria because, personally, I have no objection to a pension being given to somebody who has spent the better part of his working life fighting, with other colleagues of his, for the independence of our great country. But a time may come when political

opportunists—wreckers like the self-imposed saviours of Yoruba race—who are clamouring for a “fair share” of the national cake may wriggle themselves into the office of President—

The Minister of Finance (Chief F. S. Okotie-Eboh) : What is it called in Yoruba ?

Chief Akin-Olugbade : It is called *akara*.

These are people who entered into politics when they had nothing else to live upon ; people who were roaming the streets of Lagos with tattered shirts and worn-out shoes and who simply, because they could speak some good English and write some sweet editorials, have become notable politicians in this country. They have wrecked and ruined one region of the country and they are now on the way of ruining the Federation. God forbid that this should happen. The time may come when, in their clever way, they may wriggle themselves into the office of President. I think that this clause may be abused by these people, though I trust that the youths of the country who are coming after us will look after themselves.

We have not some men of sterling character at the head of the affairs of this country to-day who will adorn the office of President, but there are those who within two years—and one in particular—of becoming a Premier increase their assets to over £250,000. If such a man is put in the office of President with the prospect of receiving one house alone, which was given to his family, which is next-door to this premises and which costs over £130,000, within two years—and Members will know the man I am talking about because I am referring to Chief Akintola—

The Chairman : Order ! I do not think the hon. Member who is speaking is justified in boiling over these things.

Chief Akin-Olugbade : Thank you very much, Sir.

Mr Odulana rose.

The Chairman : Order, order !

Chief Akin-Olugbade : That is why, Mr Chairman, I should have thought that the prospects of opportunists looking forward to getting the hard-earned money of our less privileged people should be avoided. Most of us here are privileged because if we were

not in politics we would still have done well. But there are millions of our people who are not as privileged and from whom we collect direct and indirect taxes by way of increases on matches, candles and so on and so forth.

I think that this Clause should have been worded in a way to show that if a man becomes the President of this Federation and spends only five years there according to our Constitution he should be entitled to a pension of this £2,500. I do not say it is too much, but that the pension should be subject to a good conduct. However, I know that in the event of any future President of this Federation being qualified to earn this pension under this Bill, if those who are coming after us see that he is not entitled to have it they will amend it. That is the only consolation which I have.

However, now that we have no life President in this country I would respectfully urge the present Government to see to it that, in the event of there being a resignation or a retirement before the expiration of the period of five years during which the present holder of the office will serve, the money should be carefully spent and not frittered away.

An hon. Member has asked to know whether it is my business to have a say about the careful spending of public fund. I wish to say that I am a taxpayer, and I represent taxpayers here. So, it is my business.

Alhaji the hon. Nuhu Bamali, a Minister of State, has expressed the wish to know whether I am a prospective applicant. Well, I am qualified, and I am entitled to the office any day. However, I would like to grow very old before filling such an office, because I still play some pranks now as a youngman.

Finally, I would appeal to the Federal Government that in the event of the office becoming vacant they should search carefully, and not allow the rumour that we now hear about some opportunists angling for the office of President to materialise, because these opportunists are not wanted by their own people.

Mr N. Nwanodi (Ahoada Central) : It is my opinion that if we allow Clause 2 of this Bill to stand as it is now we will be creating a room for opportunists to do a lot of havoc. There is nothing preventing some people from seeing to it that we have a President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria each year by allowing

House of Representatives Debates

2347 [Remuneration of the President Bill] 13 OCTOBER 1965 [Control of Advertisements (Lagos) Bill] 2348

[MR NWANODI]

such Presidents to resign in order to draw pensions of £2,500 annually. It should be specified here that the President is only entitled to a pension after a successful completion of his term of office of five years.

That is the most important point. In fact judging from the responsibilities of this country, a President deserves a higher pension than is stated here. However, the point is that we must not allow this Bill to be used unscrupulously.

An hon. Member is asking to know whether a person who has been to gaol is also entitled to become a President. We know the people who will appoint ex-convicts as Presidents, and those people have already shown their hands. However, the point is that it ought to be made quite clear that the President is to receive his pension after a completion of his term of office of five years. If anybody resigns his office as President before the expiration of the period of five years then he should not be entitled to a pension, and that is all I have to say.

Mr A. T. Mbegbu (Owerri North-East) : A lot has been said about Clause 2 of this Bill, and we only hope that the Government will explain this very peculiar Clause to the House. the office of the President of this Federal Republic reserved for people who have worked for so long everywhere? Is it designed that qualified people are to man this high office for the purpose of pension? It beats my intelligence why there is no limitation as to the period a President will serve before he is entitled to get this pension.

I would like to assume that this is an honest omission because it is not impossible that a time may come when people might have to resign within twenty-four hours after being appointed to that office. Nothing is impossible in this present day Nigeria, because whatever accusation any person may make on the Floor of our Parliament will be treated as a joke.

I am saying with all seriousness that it is dangerous for Parliament to pass this Bill which can make a person to the White House or the Black House.

Several hon. Members : It is the "State House".

Mr Mbegbu : Let us assume that it is the State House in the Republic of Nigeria, but

from the rumours circulating lately it may soon become a Regional House. It is wrong for anybody to suggest that we are afraid. We are not afraid of anything. Some of us take consolation in the saying of great men that "when things come to their worst they are sure to mend" and that even under the present circumstance when people have lost faith in the ballot box and when Parliament can rush Bills, this country will still survive all odds.

I have reiterated this point because it seems that we are just being regarded as a mere Opposition. It is dangerous for any Parliament in 1965 to write a blank cheque and put it in the State House, or in the White House, or in the Black House.

Clause 2—(PENSION OF THE PRESIDENT.)—ordered to stand part of the Bill.

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

CONTROL OF ADVERTISEMENTS (LAGOS) BILL
Order for Second Reading read.

The Minister of Lagos Affairs (Alhaji Musa Yar'Adua) : I beg to move, That a Bill entitled "The Control of Advertisements (Lagos) Bill" be now read a Second time.

The purpose of the Bill is to legislate for the control of advertisements in public places in Lagos. It has been found that in view of the rapid development of industrial life in Lagos, it is essential that advertisements should be controlled in order to regularise and control the appearance of Lagos.

This is the practice that is obtaining in other similar capital cities of the world. The Bill when passed into law will give the Lagos City Council powers to restrict and control the erection of hoardings and advertisements in Lagos. There is great need at present to check the indiscriminate erection of advertisements which deface public buildings in Lagos, and also erection of neon lights and such other advertisements which constitute a danger to the cyclists and motorists in the City. The Bill when passed into law would also enable the Lagos City Council to obtain revenue from the control of advertisements as the Council would, as a licensing authority, be able to charge fees for the advertisements in places where it has given its approval.

Hon. Members will agree with me that the Bill will be a very useful one if properly executed and should bring the desired change to the facial appearance of Lagos. The Bill is non-controversial and I commend it to the House.

I beg to move.

The Minister of Defence (Alhaji Muhammadu Inuwa Wada) : I beg to second.

Dr B. U. Nzeribe (Orlu West) : I am very happy that the Government has seen it fit to bring forward this Bill at this time after some of us have, for more than four years, made efforts to get the Government interested in controlling advertisement in this country. But, unfortunately, this Bill is so mutilated and the scope so narrowed down that it is compelled firstly to deal with advertisement in Lagos alone ; and, secondly, it lays emphasis on charges and money-revenue to accrue from advertisements. This is the unfortunate thing because I had thought that the Government should at this time review the whole scope of advertisement in this country, because the idea of *laissez-faire* in economy like that of Nigeria where a large number of the populace are illiterate, and with the very rapid tempo of industrialisation, new goods are coming into the market and the masses of the people do not know what they are buying.

It is unfortunate to note that in this Bill, "advertisement" means any word, letter, model, sign, placard, board, notice, device or representation. It has been forgotten that to-day the biggest insult the Nigerian public receives is through the medium of the radio. Most of the advertisements made in Nigeria through the radio to-day are false, absolutely false, and sometimes misleading. It is very unfortunate for the Government to introduce a Bill on advertisement in Lagos which deals only with the displaying of placards. This leaves the major scope of the work untouched. If one listens to the radio in Nigeria, one will notice that even the N.B.C. which is financed by the Government with public funds, is used by businessmen and capitalists in Nigeria to spread false news to the consuming public. Medicines are brought into this country which are said to cure all types of diseases and a government sponsored agency like the N.B.C. is used as a medium for advertising this kind of product. Some tablets are said to cure a thousand and one diseases and the Government

allows this to be advertised by the radio to the Nigerian public who do not know their left from their right, at least in the medical field. This is unfortunate and indeed immoral.

There is no government in the world, not even America which is supposed to be the seat of capitalist movements, which allows this kind of uncontrolled traffic in advertising. In Nigeria to-day, even small children in school are taught songs which say that certain tablets cure certain diseases. But who knows whether this is true or not ? These things are happening simply because the N.B.C. wants to make money. I would have thought that the Bill should have its scope widened to cover all kinds of advertisement not only in Lagos but in the whole Federation.

As was passed here a few months ago that newspapers should accept responsibility for the kind of news they carry whether they are libellous or not, so also should the newspaper accept responsibility for the advertisements they carry. This is what obtains everywhere. It is true of England and America. It is wrong to peddle false advertisement in the country.

Chief Okotie-Eboh : On a point of order, if an advertisement says, "If you go Shell, you go well", does it mean that if the hon. Member does not go Shell he will not go well ?

Dr Nzeribe : I am sorry that the Minister of Finance and Leader of the House is mis-understanding what I am saying. There are three kinds of advertisements. Some advertisements are innocuous. If an advertisement says, "If you go Shell, you go well", it is harmless. It is innocuous. But if an advertisement says that if a person takes a tablet of Aspro all the diseases in his body will be cured, then this is a dangerous advertisement, because the masses of the people do not know whether the statement is true or not. It is the same thing with the illicit gin. The Government claims that the illicit gin is dangerous but the man-in-the-street does not know whether this is true or not. He knows the illicit gin is dangerous because the Government claims so. The duty of the Government is to protect the public ; it is only in primitive countries that the policy of *laissez-faire* is allowed to hold supreme in a consuming public. The time has come when the Government should introduce a Bill for pure food and pure drug.

House of Representatives Debates

2351 [Control of Advertisements]

13 OCTOBER 1965

(Lagos) Bill]

2352

[DR NZERIBE]

The Government has a way of fighting shy of things it does not like to do or things it cannot do. It is wrong to allow particularly media that are financed by public funds to be used to deceive the public. I am speaking in particular about the N.B.C. The N.B.C. has now been converted into a medium for spreading all types of falsehood on drugs and untried patent medicines and all kinds of concoctions. If anybody wants to advertise anything, all he has to do is pay money to the newspapers and the radio.

The time has come when the Minister of Trade, or the Minister of Health, or the Minister of Lagos Affairs, or the Minister of Finance should introduce a Bill to control advertisement in Nigeria. A penalty should also be provided for any person or newspaper that peddles false advertisement. If any person begins to peddle a mixture of clay and bulk and say it can cure all the diseases in the world, this is false advertisement.

May I also say that the Bill is too narrow in scope. A Bill should have been brought into this Parliament to control advertisement at large. This idea of fighting things we do not know should stop. If we do not know something, we should bend down and try to know it.

I think that the time has come when the Government should really take into consideration the life and security of the people of this country and begin to scrutinise things put out for sale, especially drugs and food. There are too many things being peddled in this country.

In supporting the passage of this Bill, I would like to say that the scope of the Bill is narrow and that Lagos is not Nigeria. The Minister responsible should introduce a new Bill which would affect all the media of information in this country.

I beg to support.

The Minister of Finance (Chief F. S. Okotie-Eboh): My hon. Friend the Member for Orlu West (*Dr Nzeribe*) is trying to be very clever. I can credit him for being clever in establishing schools and other things at Awomama but, in this case he is trying to steal the show from the Government.

Already, in Extraordinary *Gazette*, No. 78 of 9th October, 1965, a Bill entitled "The Food and Drugs (Lagos) Bill 1965," has been

published and in Clause 4 of the Bill, it is stated as follows—

"4. No person shall—

(a) label, package, treat, process, sell or advertise any food, drug, cosmetic or device in a manner that is false or misleading or is likely to create a wrong impression as to its quality, character, value composition, merit or safety ;" et cetera.

It is wrong for an hon. Member, after reading a Bill that is coming before Parliament to anticipate it, and then, try to criticise another Bill which is completely irrelevant. I dare say, that my hon. Friend, with due respect to him, should desist from playing this type of "Parliamentary undercut."

Dr Nzeribe : On a point of correction, the fact that the Food and Drugs (Lagos) Bill is coming before the House has nothing to do with the statement I made that a new Bill with a wider scope should be introduced to control advertisement all over the country.

Minister of State (Mr E. T. Oroti) : I only wish to make a few remarks on the point raised by the Member for Orlu West (*Dr Nzeribe*). Unfortunately, the hon. Member fails to understand the scope of advertisement by radio. It appears that the Member for Orlu West is not aware that the programmes on our radio are heard outside this country. Also, it should be remembered that advertisement is a residual subject and that, as far as we are concerned, we are limited only to the Federal Territory of Lagos.

In any case, I think that the hon. Member has made a very good point but he should have gone further to make an appeal to professional bodies such as the Medical Association and the Pharmaceutical Society to make representations to the Government with a view to seeing that a comprehensive legislation is passed in this Parliament so that the Regional Legislatures may follow suit.

I wish to point out that the primary aim of this Bill is only to improve the display of advertisement and, of course, to increase the way by which the Lagos City Council collects revenue.

I see nothing controversial in this Bill and urge the House to pass it.

Question put and agreed to.

House of Representatives Debates

2353 [Control of Advertisements]

13 OCTOBER 1965

(Lagos) Bill

2354

Bill read a Second time and immediately considered in Committee.

Bill reported without Amendment.

Motion made and Question proposed, That the Bill be now read the Third time—(THE MINISTER OF LAGOS AFFAIRS).

Mr M. A. Bashua (Lagos South-Central) : I am glad that I have the opportunity to speak on this Bill at last. This is the first time I would congratulate the Minister of Lagos Affairs for bringing a Bill which has been overdue.

We have been witnessing all over Lagos indiscriminate display of advertisement in corners and streets to the detriment of cyclists, pedestrians and motorists.

I am very happy that not only will the people of Lagos benefit by way of their safety on the road, the Lagos City Council will derive immense revenue from this Bill.

There is something which strikes me really very odd about this Bill and, it is that the definition of advertisement appears to be a bit wide. I know personally that an advertisement means the advertisement of wares or articles for sale. Although it is not so stated here and, it is possible that advertisement here may be stretched to mean the advertisement of a political symbol or anything. Take, for instance, the N.C.N.C. secretariat which advertises its party to the people with the neon light. I hope that advertisement should be really made to embrace advertisements of wares or goods for sale in order to exclude anybody coming into power in future attempting to bring down his political opponents by asking them to get permits before they could advertise their political parties to the people.

Another point I would like to comment upon is that the Lagos City Council has attained a city status, and I am always very shocked each time we are required to come to the Minister of Lagos Affairs for approval on any little thing we have to do. This is really very wrong. We are either given a city status or nothing. It is shameful, for example, under section 5 of this Bill, to require the Lagos City Council to seek the approval of the Minister of Lagos Affairs on any bye-law made under the provisions of this Bill.

The Federal Government can trust the Lagos City Council for having the people who are intelligent enough and who will not go beyond their bounds in passing any bye-law. It is better to reduce the Lagos City Council to a department or a Ministry rather than give it a city status which means nothing to us. I hope that the Minister will consider giving us some measure of responsibility instead of asking us to come for approval on any little matter.

I beg to support.

Mr A. T. Mbegbu (Owerri North-East) : In the definition of advertisement, the word "sound" or "music" is omitted. I am sure that the legal draftsmen who prepared this Bill took sound and music for granted in their definition of advertisement. The most disturbing aspect of advertisement to-day is the musical set that people carry about to advertise their wares. I do not know how this Bill can catch any person running round the town with sets of musical instruments advertising anything.

In this Bill advertisement is said to mean any word, letter, model, sign, placard, board, notice, device or representation which is employed for the purpose of advertisement. I do not know whether by the term 'representation', music and sound are also implied. I do not see how noise, for that matter, can be included in the term 'representation'.

One of the surest means of advertising these days is to make noise while people listen or look out. There is no provision as to whether the advertising instrument is moving around. I do not see how this Bill can stop a lorry driver from Agege driving his lorry all around Lagos with the body of the lorry displaying all forms of advertisement, while inside the lorry is a big musical instrument playing loudly to the people. How can such a form of advertisement be stopped ?

I am saying, without trying to take any more time, that the definition of advertisement ought to be widened to include noise or music so that this Bill might be able to stop one of the most injurious forms of advertisements that we have in Lagos to-day—advertisement through noise making.

I beg to support.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read the Third time and passed.

House of Representatives Debates

2355

[Adjournment]

13 OCTOBER 1965

[Adjournment]

2356

ADJOURNMENT

The Minister of Finance (Chief F. S. Okotie-Eboh) : I beg to move that this House do now adjourn.

In doing so, I would like to inform hon. Members that there will be a Tattoo to-night at 9 p.m. in Tafawa Balewa Square. Hon. Members are all cordially invited, and I hope they will all endeavour to be present.

I beg to move.

The Minister of Establishments (Mr J. C. Obande) : I beg to second.

Chief T. O. S. Benson (Lagos North) : As a result of the publication in the *West African Pilot* that "U.P.G.A. forms Western Government," there is a lot of trouble going on around Mushin and Ikeja areas—(Interruptions).

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved, That this House do now adjourn.

Adjourned accordingly at 5.16 p.m.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

Thursday, 14th October, 1965

The House met at 10 a.m.

PRAYERS

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

CABINET OFFICE

Illegal Export of Hemp

O.480. Mr J. M. Damla asked the Prime Minister, whether he is aware that trafficking in Indian Hemp by Nigerians travelling abroad, particularly students, is soiling the good name of Nigeria; and what action he intends to take to put a stop to this steadily growing evil.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister (Alhaji Sani Gezewa): The Prime Minister is aware that some Nigerians travelling abroad engage in the illegal business of trafficking in Indian Hemp. The general problem was discussed at the recent Narcotics Seminar held in Lagos, and more effective control measures are under consideration.

Transport for Mbaise Police

O.481. Mr A. T. Mbegbu asked the Prime Minister, when vehicles will be assigned to the Mbaise police post in Owerri Division.

Alhaji Sani Gezewa: A Land Rover has been allocated to Mbaise Police Station in Owerri Division since 1964.

Water for Mbaise Police

O.482. Mr A. T. Mbegbu asked the Prime Minister, whether he will make arrangements to provide the Mbaise police with some source of clean water supply in view of the acute shortage of water in the area.

Alhaji Sani Gezewa: Provision for the sinking of wells will be given consideration in connection with the Police Building Programme next financial year.

Bribery and Corruption

O.483. Mr B. C. N. Okeke asked the Prime Minister, if he is aware that some police officers

collect "toll" from motor drivers; and whether he will take steps to check this practice.

Alhaji Sani Gezewa: Every known case of bribery and corruption against any member of the police force is carefully investigated and where reliable evidence is available the accused is prosecuted. In order to stamp out such irregular and objectionable practice, it would be welcome if such cases are reported promptly to the Police Authorities.

Review of the Constitution

O.485. Mr F. I. Okoronkwo asked the Prime Minister, whether he will give an undertaking that all shades of political opinion throughout the country will be represented at the forthcoming conference for the review of the present Nigerian Constitution.

Alhaji Sani Gezewa: Yes, Sir.

Highway Robbery in Aba

O.486. Mr F. I. Okoronkwo asked the Prime Minister, if he will state how many cases of highway robbery have been recorded in Aba Province from 31st March, 1964, to 30th June, 1965; and what steps he intends to take to ensure safety of lives and property in the area.

Alhaji Sani Gezewa: Seven cases of highway robbery were reported to the Police in Aba Province between March 31st, 1964 and June 30th, 1965. Arrests were made in respect of six of the seven cases.

In order to combat the menace of highway robbers and ensure safety of lives and property in the Province, day and night armed police patrol has been intensified.

Revision of the Constitution

O.497. Dr R. C. B. Mgbaronye asked the Prime Minister, whether he can now make a statement about the procedure and time-table for the review of the Constitution.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister (M. Maina Waziri): The meeting between the Prime Minister and the Regional Premiers on the 1st of September agreed on the machinery for the review of the Constitution. This consists of a Constitutional Review Committee under the Chairmanship of the Attorney-General of the Federation

House of Representatives Debates

2359

[Oral Answers]

14 OCTOBER 1965

[Oral Answers]

2360

[M. MAINA WAZIRI]

with representatives of the Federal and Regional Governments whose duty will be to process memoranda submitted to it and formulate proposals for consideration at a Constitutional Review Conference which will be summoned later. The Committee, and later the Conference, will work out their own time-table.

Victoria Island Flats

O.507. Mr D. Senu-Oke asked the Prime Minister, if he is aware that the Federal Government built 200 rooms as boys' quarters for Parliament Flats at Victoria Island, most of which are some times vacant ; and if he will consider renting the rooms out to workers in the low income group on the staff of Parliament.

M. Maina Waziri : May I refer the hon. Member to the resolution passed by the House Committee of this House in April 1963.

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

The Passport Office

O.484. Mr F. I. Okoronkwo asked the Minister of External Affairs, what plans he has to ease the ever-growing congestion in the passport office ; and whether he will consider the advisability of establishing passport issuing offices in Regional Headquarters.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of External Affairs (M. Ibrahim Muku) : Government is doing everything possible to relieve congestion in Government offices including the Passport office. One step already taken in this direction was to transfer the issuing section from the Passport office to the Headquarters of the Ministry of External Affairs.

There are branches of the passport office in Kano and Maiduguri ; and the opening of new offices in the Regions is at present under consideration.

Travel to Eastern Europe

***O.487. Mr S. U. Bassey** asked the Minister of External Affairs, why Eastern European countries are excluded from Nigerian passports.

M. Ibrahim Muku : Nigerian passports can be duly endorsed for Eastern European countries and many Nigerians have travelled to

these places. The safety of our citizens is the paramount consideration in this matter of endorsements.

Representation in China

***O.488. Mr S. U. Bassey** asked the Minister of External Affairs, why Nigeria has not established an embassy in China.

M. Ibrahim Muku : Nigeria is not yet in a position to establish an embassy in China or in all other countries where we have no embassies at present. The rate at which we open diplomatic missions abroad is restricted by the availability of funds and trained personnel.

***O.490. Mr B. C. N. Okeke** asked the Minister of External Affairs, if he is aware that Nigerian citizens working in Ghana cannot repatriate their savings to Nigeria owing to the fiscal policy of the Ghana Government ; and whether he will make representations on behalf of those Nigerians to that Government with a view to finding a way to reduce the hardship caused by the present policy.

M. Ibrahim Muku : It is true that as a result of Ghana's Exchange Control Act of 1961 many Nigerians like other nationals living in Ghana face difficulties in trying to repatriate their savings to Nigeria. The act however does not make it completely impossible for Nigerians to repatriate some fixed quota home. This is possible as long as certain specific conditions, albeit difficult, are satisfied. The Nigerian Government has made representations to the Ghana Government in the hope of facilitating the repatriation of savings by Nigerians.

Representation in Israel

***O.500. Mr W. O. Briggs** asked the Minister of External Affairs, if he will state why Nigeria has no embassy in Israel although that Government has since opened an embassy in this country ; and whether the time has not yet come for Nigeria to return this courtesy to the Israeli Government.

M. Ibrahim Muku : Nigeria is not yet in a position to establish an embassy in Israel or in all the other countries where we have no embassies at present. The rate at which we open diplomatic missions abroad is restricted by the availability of funds and trained personnel. Government has already given an

House of Representatives Debates

2361

[*Oral Answers*]

14 OCTOBER 1965

[*Oral Answers*]

2362

assurance in this House that an embassy will be opened in Israel as soon as practicable.

Mr Briggs : May I know whether the failure to open an embassy in Israel has anything to do with the Israeli-Arab conflict and whether we are taking sides with the Arabs ?

M. Ibrahim Muku : This is a fresh question.

EDUCATION

African Students

O.491 : **Alhaji Isa Haruna** asked the Minister of Education, what is the present number of students from other African countries studying in our educational institutions.

Minister of State (Mr D. B. Babajide) : I regret to inform my hon. Friend that the answer to his question is not yet ready.

Education Grant to Regions

O.493 : **Mr B. C. N. Okeke** asked the Minister of Education, what were the grants made by the Federal Government to the Regional Governments and Education Authorities in Lagos for the advancement of Education for the period 1962 to 1968 ; and on what basis were the grants made.

Mr Babajide : Since the inception of the National Plan, the Federal Government has made the following grants to the Regional Governments and to the Education Authorities in Lagos during the period specified :—

A. Grants for Primary Education (1962-1968) :—

(i) Northern Region	£3,117,000
(ii) Other Regions	—

B Grants for advancement of Sixth Form Education in the Regions :—

Capital Grant (for all Regions) £135,000
Allocation so far made :

<i>Northern Nigeria</i>				£
1962-63	..	..	..	—
1963-64	..	..	..	3,074
1964-65	..	..	..	—

<i>Eastern Nigeria</i>				
1962-63	..	..	..	—
1963-64	..	..	..	—
1964-65	..	..	..	9,569
<i>Western Nigeria</i>				
1962-63	..	..	..	—
1963-64	..	..	..	10,071
1964-65	..	..	..	—
<i>Mid-Western Nigeria</i>				
1962-63	..	..	..	—
1963-64	..	..	..	2,204
1964-65	..	..	..	—

No allocation has, so far, been made for the period 1965-68.

N.B.—The grants for the development of Sixth Form Education, to the Regions, took into account the number of Sixth Form Secondary Grammar Schools in each region.

C. Federal Territory of Lagos

Primary Education—	£
1962-63	479,202
1963-64	516,097
1964-65	952,291
Secondary Education	
1962-63	259,794
1963-64	397,830
1964-65	280,342

Payment of grants, for education in the Federal Territory of Lagos is an annual affair and the figures cannot, of course, be known in advance.

West African School Certificate

O.494. **Chief J. M. Udochi** asked the Minister of Education, whether he has investigated the allegation made at the last sitting of the House by the member for Brass South, Chief N. A. Frank Opigo, that the West African Examinations Council by failing to appoint invigilators from outside the schools to conduct the West African School Certificate Examination has opened a flood gate of fraudulent practices in that examination.

Mr Babajide : The decision to entrust the supervision of the West African School Certificate Examinations to Principals was taken by the West African Examinations Council at a meeting attended by all the

House of Representatives Debates

2363

[Oral Answers]

14 OCTOBER 1965

[Oral Answers]

2364

[MR BABAJIDE]

Ministries of Education and Principals of Secondary Schools. It was felt that if Principals, charged with the responsibility for the up-bringing of the future leaders of this country, could not be trusted with the effective discharge of this aspect of the assignment, there was no guarantee that outside invigilators could. Furthermore, the All-Nigeria Conference of Principals, at their meeting of January 5, 1965, passed a resolution supporting the Council's decision which they agreed to give a trial.

Although the Council would however be prepared to review the present arrangement in the light of any adverse reports established against it, the allegation to the effect that the West African Examinations Council, by failing to appoint outside invigilators to conduct these Examinations, has opened a flood gate of fraudulent practices was not borne out by the experience of the 1964 Examinations.

O.495. Chief J. M. Udochi asked the Minister of Education, how many passes in Grade one in the West African School Certificate Examination were recorded throughout Nigeria in the years, 1960, 1961, 1962, 1963 and 1964 respectively.

Mr Babajide : The number of our passes, in the First Division, in the West African School Certificate Examinations during the five years, 1960-1964, are given below :—

Year	First Division in W.A.S.C.
1960 ..	510
1961 ..	747
1962 ..	639
1963 ..	1,322
1964 ..	1,271

Adam Egbuson

O.502. Mr W. O. Briggs asked the Minister of Education, why a Nigerian student in the University of Rome, Mr Adam K. Egbuson, who was preparing and was actually due to submit as his thesis, a design of a Kaplan turbine, conforming with specifications of the turbines to be installed at the Kainji Power Station, was refused much needed financial assistance by the Nigerian Embassy in Rome; and whether he will make a statement as to the conditions governing such grants.

Mr Babajide : It is not true that Mr Adam K. Egbuson was refused financial assistance. His application to our Embassy in Rome, for a grant of £150, was received in April, 1965, when the Embassy had not the necessary funds to meet his request. He was therefore asked to re-apply after one month, but he failed to do so. There are no rigid conditions governing such grants. Each application, for grant loan, is considered entirely on its merit by a Standing Committee set up for the purpose.

Mr Briggs : Is the Minister aware that for about three months Mr Egbuson was writing to the Embassy and without telling him that there were no funds the Embassy officials told him that he would not be considered?

Mr Babajide : I am not aware of that.

University of Lagos Provisional Council

O.503. Dr R. C. B. Ngbaronye asked the Minister of Education, when he intends to dissolve the Provisional Council of the University of Lagos.

Mr Babajide : I am afraid the Minister never had any such intention.

Dr Ngbaronye : Is the Minister of Education aware that the Provisional Council of this University has brought considerable disrepute to that institution of higher learning?

Mr Babajide : That is not true.

Lagos Education Bills

O.504. Mr F. A. Ogiye asked the Minister of Education, how much the Federal Government spent on primary and secondary education in Lagos in each of the years 1962, 1963 and 1964.

Mr Babajide : During the three fiscal years 1962-63, 1963-64 and 1964-65, the Federal Government spent the sums of £1,138,414, £993,217 and £1,397,015, respectively, on both primary and secondary education.

The breakdown of the figures is given hereunder :—

Year	Primary Education	Secondary Education
1962-63	£	£
Grants-in-Aid ..	479,202	259,794
Capital Expenditure ..	126,979	272,439
TOTAL	606,181	532,233

House of Representatives Debates

2365 [Oral Answers]

14 OCTOBER 1965 [Presentation of Public Bills] 2366

1963-64	£	£
Grants-in-Aid ..	516,097	397,830
Capital Expenditure ..	37,420	41,870
TOTAL ..	553,517	439,700
1964-65	£	£
Grants-in-Aid ..	952,291	280,342
Capital Expenditure ..	15,885	48,497
TOTAL	968,176	328,839

Education Grants to Regions

O.505. Mr F. A. Ogike asked the Minister of Education, how much did the Federal Government contribute to the cost of education in each Region of the Federation in the years 1962, 1963 and 1964.

Mr Babajide : The following figures show the contributions of the Federal Government to the cost of Education (Primary Secondary and University) in each Region from 1962 to 1964 :

North	Year	Federal Government Contribution	
		£	
1962-63	—	
1963-64	975,585	
1964-65	1,195,000	
East	Year	Federal Government Contribution	
West	Year	Federal Government Contribution	
1962-63	—	
1963-64	466,071	
1964-65	537,000	
Mid-West	Year	Federal Government Contribution	
1962-63	—	
1963-64	2,204	
1964-65	Not available	

O.506. Mr F. A. Ogike asked the Minister of Education, what fraction of the total amount spent on education by each of the regional governments in 1962, 1963 and 1964 was paid by the Federal Government.

Mr Babajide : The table, below, reflects the cost of education in the Regions, the amount and fractional analysis of Federal Government contributions to Regional Governments expenditure on Education during the years 1962-1964.

NORTHERN NIGERIA			
Total Cost of Education	Federal Govt. Contribution	Fraction paid by Govt.	
£	£	£	
1962-63	5,363,954 0 0	—	—
1963-64	6,085,733 0 0	975,585	.16
1964-65	6,458,951 0 0	1,165,000	.18

EASTERN NIGERIA			
£	s d	£	
1962-63	7,290,264 0 0	—	—
1963-64	7,037,731 0 0	696,382	.098 or .01
1964-65	7,686,018 0 0	784,069	.01

WESTERN NIGERIA			
£	s d	£	
1962-63	8,972,254 16 1	—	—
1963-64	7,843,072 16 4	466,071	.06
1964-65	6,279,260 4 1	537,000	.01

MID-WESTERN NIGERIA			
£	s d	£	
1962	—	—	—
1963	605,003 10 2	2,204	.003
1964	3,404,455 14 8	Not available	—

Mr C. O. Ememe (Aba South) : On a point of order, it appears many new Members do not know how to ask Questions that are relevant ; the result is that important Questions on the Order Paper are not asked.

Some of the Questions already asked ought to have come under Written Questions instead of allowing them to take the place of almost half of the very intelligent Questions which have not been asked to-day.

Dr R. C. B. Mgbaronye (Bende West) : The hon. Gentleman was not present when his name was called to ask his Questions.

PRESENTATION OF PUBLIC BILLS

NATIONAL DAY BILL

Bill to amend the Public Holidays Act, presented by the Minister of Internal Affairs ;

House of Representatives Debates

2367 [Presentation of Public Bills] 14 OCTOBER 1965 [Lagos Local Government (Amendment) Bill] 2368

read the First time; to be read a Second time—*Tomorrow.*

FEDERAL ELECTORAL COMMISSION
(REMUNERATION) BILL

Bill to make provision for the remuneration and allowances of the members of the Electoral Commission of the Federation, presented by the Minister of Internal Affairs; read the First time; to be read a Second time—*Saturday, 16th October.*

CUSTOMS AND EXCISE MANAGEMENT
(AMENDMENT) (No. 2) BILL

Bill to amend the Customs and Excise Management Act 1958 to make provision for the blending of spirits, oils and other goods and similar operations in a licensed warehouse, for the furnishing by excise traders of information required in connection with the administration of the excise laws, for the remission or repayment of duties of excise on excisable goods which are destroyed or defective, and for the licensing of excise agents, presented by the Minister of Finance; read the First time; to be read a Second time—*Monday, 18th October.*

EXCISE (CONTROL OF DISTILLATION)
(AMENDMENT) BILL

Bill to amend the Excise (Control of Distillation) Act 1964 by providing for additional grounds on which a distiller's licence may be refused or revoked, defining the period of time during which such a licence, unless previously revoked, shall remain in force, and authorising the making of regulations relating to the calculation, securing and collection of excise duty on distilled spirits, presented by the Minister of Finance; read the First time; to be read a Second time—*Monday, 18th October.*

PENSIONS (TRANSFERRED SERVICE) BILL

Bill to make provision for continuity of service for pension purposes in the case of transfers to or from the armed forces and the public service of the Federation, and to amend sundry Pensions Act to give effect thereto, presented by the Minister of Establishments; read the First time; to be read a Second time—*Monday, 18th October.*

TRADE MARKS BILL

Bill to repeal the Trade Marks Act and make new provision with respect to trade marks in place thereof, and for connected purposes, presented by the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Trade (*Mr A. A. O. Ezenwa*) read the First time; to be read a Second time—*Monday, 18th October.*

ALLOCATION OF REVENUE (CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT) BILL

Bill to amend with effect from 1st April, 1965, certain provisions of the Constitution of the Federation relating to the allocation of Revenue, presented by Minister of State (*Senator Chief J. I. G. Onyia*); read the First time; to be read a Second time—*Monday, 18th October.*

ORDERS OF THE DAY

LAGOS LOCAL GOVERNMENT (AMENDMENT) BILL

Order for Second Reading read.

The Minister of Lagos Affairs (Alhaji Musa Yar'Adua): I beg to move—

That a Bill for an Act to increase the permissible number of councillors on the Lagos City Council, be now read a Second time.

The purpose of this Bill is to give effect to the increase in the population of the inhabitants of the City of Lagos by increasing the membership of the Lagos City Council from 42 to 45 seats. Since 1959 when the Lagos Local Government Act was last comprehensively amended the population of Lagos has increased by over 250,000 according to the last final census which puts the present population at 675,000.

Hitherto, the allocation of seats in the Lagos City Council is governed by the provision of Section 15 (1) of the Lagos Local Government Act of 1959 which provides that there should not be more than 42 councillors representing the City of Lagos.

The total number of seats was fixed at 42 in order to enable each councillor to represent approximately 10,000 citizens. However, on the basis of one councillor representing approximately 10,000 citizens the number of seats on the present population basis would now be 67, that is an increase of 25 seats above the present figure.

House of Representatives Debates

2369 [Lagos Local Government
(Amendment) Bill : Second Reading]

14 OCTOBER 1965

[Workmen's Compensation
(Amendment) Bill]

2370

I have been advised that it would not be necessary to increase the present number of seats on the Lagos City Council to 67 and that it is sufficient if an increase of 3 seats is granted bringing the total number to 45. It is hoped that the 3 seats will give sufficient representation to the areas in which the increase in population in Lagos has been most noticeable.

I have to point out that the Bill when passed into law would not affect the present forthcoming elections into the Lagos City Council and that the number of seats that would have to be contested would still remain at 42.

I beg to move.

The Minister of Internal Affairs (Shettima Ali Monguno) : I beg to second.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read a Second time and immediately considered in Committee.

Bill reported, without Amendment.

Motion made and Question proposed, That the Bill be now read the Third time—(THE MINISTER OF LAGOS AFFAIRS).

Mr M. S. C. Abani (Afikpo South) : I do not know whether it is a printing error but the first line of the Bill states "BE IT ENACTED by the Legislature or the Federation of Nigeria"

I think the 'or' should be 'of' otherwise it will give a different interpretation to the law.

Alhaji Musa Yar'Adua : The error will be taken care of.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read the Third time and passed.

WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION (AMENDMENT)
BILL

Order for Second Reading read.

The Minister of Labour (Prince A. Adedoyin) : I rise to move—

That a Bill for an Act to supplement and amend section 34 of the Workmen's Compensation Act be read the Second time.

Under section 34 of the Workmen's Compensation Act, I am empowered to extend by order the provisions of the Act, concerning compensation for injuries, to cover incapacity

or death certified by a medical practitioner as having been caused by any disease specified in such an order.

The purpose of the Bill now before the House is to provide that in respect of certain occupational diseases which are to be specified in an order made by me, a medical board shall determine and certify such diseases instead of a single medical practitioner. It is further provided in the Bill that, in respect of a disease called byssinosis—(Interruptions).

Dr R. C. B. Mgbaronye (Bende West) : The word is pronounced "byssinosis" and not "bee-ssinosis".

Prince Adedoyin : I got the opinion of a medical practitioner that the correct pronunciation is "bee-ssinosis".

It is further provided in the Bill that, in respect of a disease called byssinosis, no compensation shall be paid to a workman so affected unless he had been in employment in a specified occupation for a minimum period to be specified in an order.

These proposals are designed (a) to remove certification of certain occupational diseases from a single medical practitioner to a medical board and (b) to make it possible for a minimum period in an employment to be laid down before byssinosis can be certified in a worker. These provisions were recommended by a meeting of medical officers representing the Federal and Regional Ministries of Health and private medical practitioners.

For the benefit of hon. Members the occupational diseases to be affected, besides byssinosis, include those arising from exposure to dust, liquid and vapour which cause inflammation or ulceration of the skin or mucous membrane of the upper respiratory passages or mouth and, in the case of the disease known as bagassosis, involving the handling of the fibrous residue of sugar cane. Byssinosis is caused by the handling of raw or waste cotton.

The Bill is not of a controversial character. It seeks to protect the interests of both the injured workers and employers in respect of diseases whose certification may give rise to controversies.

I beg to move.

House of Representatives Debates

2371

[*Workmen's Compensation
(Amendment)*]

14 OCTOBER 1965

Bill : Second Reading]

2372

The Minister of Mines and Power (Alhaji Yusuff Maitama Sule) : I beg to second.

Dr Mgbaronye : I rise to support this Bill. It is quite right to provide for compensation to workers when they are exposed to the hazards of occupational diseases. I want to assure the Minister of Labour that we shall not quarrel with the pronunciation of our medical terms.

In fact, I want to assure him that byssinosis is one of the diseases known as anthracosis. They are diseases that affect the lungs leaving deposits—things like silicosis in the coal mines. But that is beside the point. I want to continue by saying that in the interest of the workers it might be necessary—(*Interruptions*) I would welcome some sensible interjections and not noise.

The workers should benefit by a Medical Board, preferably, by having two or three doctors who make quite sure that the certification is correct. In many cases of this anthracosis, it is necessary to have an x-ray of the lung to determine the degree of disability the worker has suffered.

I hope that when this Board meets these points should be taken into consideration and that adequate compensation should be paid to these workers because the diseases generally continue to do much harm.

In other countries where these diseases of deposits in the lung have caused the workers to lose their jobs it has been found that the diseases are of a progressive nature. I hope that the board when they do invalid these people will be generous in the amount of compensation offered to the victims.

As I said before, I have no quarrel with the Bill except to point out these few observations and to assure the hon. Minister of Labour that the pronunciation is "byssinosis".

Mr L. L. Borha (Ishan East) : I rise to support the Bill. I do not want to clash with anybody on the pronunciation of this medical term. In any case, I would rather be persuaded by the sound advice given to the hon. Minister of Labour on the way to pronounce this word—byssinosis.

In any case, this is not purely a medical subject before us. We are dealing with a Bill that has to do with the provision of social

services and to that extent the intentions of the Bill are very laudable indeed and I would go further to say that I support the Bill subject to the following observations I want to make.

I see that in place of the practice in the past it is now intended to have a medical board. I think that the essence of the whole Bill should be to minimise any hardship that may arise by reason of delay in clearing an invalid when his claim for compensation has to be considered.

It seems to me that the proposal for a board comprising two or more doctors as well as the fact that this is intended to be subject to almost more and more appointments of alternative boards, implies that there is a recognition that the causes of this disease usually are controversial; and because they are controversial it is not always possible for a Medical Board comprising any number say about four or five as the case may be to return a unanimous verdict. In such a case what happens? It is possible that the majority verdict may not satisfy the worker, but the minority report might be fairer to the worker and thus give him a better basis for claim. In this case, I see that there is no provision in the Bill allowing for appeal to a Medical Tribunal.

This Bill is certainly patterned on the basis of the United Kingdom practice. And even there, the decisions of the Medical Board are subject to appeal so that either party that feels aggrieved can go beyond the certification of a Medical Board.

I do hope that the Minister of Labour will take this into serious consideration. I am aware, of course, that the Minister's technical advisers might tell him that this does not happen in the United Kingdom.

If the Minister is in doubt, I have an I.L.O. publication here to confirm this very contention that I am making. This makes a very serious lapse in the present proposals of the Bill, otherwise, I am prepared to support the Bill.

Mr A. T. Mbegbu (Owerri North-East) : In rising to support this Bill, I have to say that I do not intend to join in the forensic exercise now going on, but I would like to say something much more serious.

The Minister of Labour should have taken note that there are other parts of the Workmen's

Compensation Act which ought to have been reviewed at the same time. I consider this to be a serious omission when it is realised that this Act was first passed on the 1st of April, 1942.

Under section 6 of that Act, a sum of £800 is specified to be the ceiling for deaths arising from any sort of industrial accidents and under section 7 of the same Act, a maximum of £1,600 is the ceiling any workman can get in the case of total disablement.

In spite of the changes in the value of money since 1942, this ceiling has not changed and I wonder when it will please the Minister of Labour to review this aspect of the Law because everyone realises the phenomenal change in the value of money since 1942.

The Minister, in introducing this Bill, took a very good vision of what is going to happen in the next few years in view of the fact that it is in the textile mills and other light industries which are now springing up these diseases often occur. But it is curious to note that the Minister reserves the power to prescribe the periods, whereas in other Acts, the periods are specified.

It is the function of the Parliament to discuss whether the periods to be specified are reasonable or not. This no doubt will be in conformity with the trend of legislation that is expected from our broad-based national government. I do not see why this Parliament should not be taken into confidence when discussing matters that affect the people we represent. Why should it be left to the Minister to say that two years, three years, four years or ten years should be the period when this disease could be taken into account?

I think the Minister is of the opinion that the only place that these periods could be argued is in the office of his Permanent Secretary otherwise, I do not think that the Minister of Labour alone knows more about these industrial diseases than all the Members of Parliament put together. What is the purpose for reserving this right to the Minister?

These few comments would have been enough for a Bill such as this but for the fact that some parts of it are meaningless. I would like to draw the attention of the Minister to the

wording of Section 34 (c) and if he reads it once more, he will notice the big omission there.

Finally, it is a poor show that in the whole of this Bill there is no presumption as to death arising from industrial injuries, except in the case of these diseases. The difficulty that arises is that if a man leaves his house and goes to work and dies in the process, it is a member of his family who shoulders the responsibility of identifying his corpse in the mortuary. This Bill places the onus to prove the cause of death on the poor widow at home.

I would like the Minister of Labour to note this. There should be a presumption of death to the effect that when a workman sustains any injury and leaves the work-place for the hospital where he later dies, the burden to rebut that he died as a result of an industrial injury should lie on the employers.

That is not the case in this Bill and knowing what this country is, the claimant has to produce a doctor who might say something contrary to the opinion held by the employers. It is an uphill task and I have come across it several times.

Another anomaly in this Bill is the fact that certain categories of employees are not covered—the Police for instance. A policeman who has been in the service for five years gets only £104 if he dies in the performance of his duty, but a labourer who earns less than £14 a month gets nearly £600 if he dies even after he has worked for two years.

I feel that this Bill ought to be reviewed completely and steps taken to expunge most of the obnoxious sections of it.

I am sure that the Minister of Labour who is also a lawyer will take this matter very seriously because it concerns a profession which he has canvassed for during his younger days.

I beg to support the Bill.

Mr N. Nwanodi (Ahoada Central): I rise to support this Bill with some reservations.

The Member for Owerri North-East (*Mr Mbegbu*) has raised quite a number of very pertinent points. The idea of amending legislations piecemeal ought to be seriously looked into and checked because all the labour leaders and all the workers of this country

House of Representatives Debates

2375

[*Workmen's Compensation
(Amendment)*]

14 OCTOBER 1965

Bill : Second Reading

2376

[MR NWANODI]

know the inadequacies and difficulties of the present Workmen's Compensation Act.

Now, it has been said here that the ceiling for an accident resulting in death is only £800. Hon. Members would like to know that it is, in fact, thirty-four months' wages or £800, whichever is less. I wonder why it is not possible to base this ceiling on the principle of award of damages in cases of fatal accident, namely, taking the income of the deceased or the worker who is injured over a period involving his incapacity, quantifying it and allowing for discount in order to give his relations a substantial sum of money with which to maintain themselves? This should be the case because we all know what the nature of our society is. A man earns his wages not only for himself but also for his relations and extended family, and there is no reason why the Parliament of this country should not take that into consideration and give a worker an adequate remuneration.

The second thing which the Minister of Labour ought to think about is getting some opinion which will enable him to recast some of the definitions in the Act which appear to prevent the judges and magistrates of this country from applying the provision of the Workmen's Compensation Act. I am referring to such definitions as total incapacity, partial incapacity, temporary or permanent incapacity. I do not know what all these mean. The whole thing is just a muddle of terms calculated to prevent the workers from getting their legitimate compensation for injuries sustained in the course of their duty due to the negligence of their employers. This is not the sort of thing we should encourage in this country.

I therefore hope that when the Minister is deciding to streamline the whole Act he will take all these things into consideration and, in fact, consult the trade union leaders who ought to be able to give him some information about the difficulties to which the poor workers have been exposed in the past when trying to claim their rights under that Bill.

Finally, the Minister ought to think of extending the provision of these medical boards to cover other injuries rather than restricting it to this disease called byssinosis. What now happens is that when a worker is injured in the course of his employment, the

employer, contrary to the provisions of the law, hurries him immediately to the company's doctor. The worker himself being a pauper is not likely to get any favourable report from the company's doctor, and the court is more likely to look upon the company's doctor as being more qualified than a private doctor. But why is it that a worker who sustains an injury in the course of his duty, due to no fault of his, has to spend his own money to establish his case?

I am suggesting that in all cases, medical boards composed of two or three doctors should be appointed to look into cases of industrial accident and report. As an hon. Member has rightly suggested, the report of such boards should be subject to appeal to a higher panel of doctors, and when a worker has cause to appeal to such a higher panel the expenses of such an appeal should be borne by the employer and not by the worker himself.

If we accept some of these proposals then I think the workers of this country will begin to feel that the days when they are sure to get their rights are dawning. All these suggestions above should be taken very seriously, otherwise we shall be leaving the workers of this country to continue to suffer indefinitely.

Chief J. D. Odebunmi (Egba East) : In contributing to the debate on this Bill I have very few remarks to make. In industrial growth, Nigeria is expanding by leaps and bounds and adequate provisions ought to be made for the workers therein. Private firms too ought to look after their disabled workers well, not only when they are still managing themselves and working for the company but also when they retire.

All forms of labour have their physical after-effect to the workers. It is certain that every industrial set-up produces certain things which are not altogether congenial to the health of the workers. For instance, we have the cement factory, the coal mining industry, the crude oil industry and, of course, the petroleum refinery. All these have their own physical after-effect on workers. Even motor-driving has its own too. The fume of the powder breathed in by the workers in the cement industry is certainly not as fresh as the ordinary fresh air and this has some effect on the lungs, thereby affecting the physical condition of the workers.

The coal mining industry has—

House of Representatives Debates

2377

[*Workmen's Compensation
(Amendment)*]

14 OCTOBER 1965

Bill : Second Reading]

2378

Mr A. F. Odulana (Ijebu North-East) : On a point of order, the Member for Ahoada Central (*Mr Nwanodi*) has brought into the House a stick which has a dagger on it.

Mr Speaker : Will the Member for Ahoada Central (*Mr Nwanodi*) please take out the stick ?

Mr Nwanodi : I have with me here an umbrella and not a stick with a dagger. I do not carry daggers about. It is only the N.N.D.P. members who go about with daggers.

Mr Speaker : I think it is better to take out the umbrella.

Chief Odebunmi : In addition to the provisions already made in this Bill by the Minister of Labour, it is necessary that short and helpful lectures and regular medical attention should be given to workers in their different industrial set-ups. Private firms should be encouraged to look after the welfare of their workers.

As I said earlier on, motor-driving too has its own physical after-effect on the driver. Drivers are always open to the hazard of bad weather and this always results in acute malaria. The workers in the gas producing industries should also be well looked after.

Finally, I think I should agree with the Minister of Labour on the pronunciation of the word 'byssinosis', because of the explanation the Minister has given. There was a time in this country when the Member for Ijebu South-West (*Chief Bisi Onabano*) was called *Aiyekoto* because of his activities of nosing around for information. Therefore, if the Minister said he was "Bisi-nosing" around for the correct spelling of this word, then he will not be far too wrong in his pronunciation.

Prince Adedoyin : I thank hon. Members for contributing to the debate on this important Bill. Many Members have wandered far and wide but I did not call them to order because I wanted everybody to say what he likes so that we may all know the intentions of Members.

One thing I would like to point out is that the National Labour Advisory Council is now busy dealing with the review of the whole Workmen's Compensation Act. When this

Board reports in due course its report will be brought to the House.

This particular section has been brought separately on account of the fact that very recently we have got controversial cases. That is why I am not going far into what many Members have said concerning the Workmen's Compensation Act in general.

The Member for Ishan East (*Mr Borha*) wanted a tribunal to be set up. I am sure he is not serious on that.

Mr Borha : On a point of explanation, I want to assure this honourable House that I spoke with all seriousness and with every sense of responsibility. I may just proceed to disprove the contention of the hon. Minister that it is not correct that a medical board certification can be subject to the decision of a medical tribunal. I will quote from the Seventh Report of the I.L.O. Conference held in 1963—"Benefits in Cases of Industrial Accidents and Occupational Diseases". I will just quote the relevant portion which says :

"In the United Kingdom" (and this is the point I made earlier that the present Bill is based on the practice in the United Kingdom), "where 'loss of faculty' is the criterion of disablement, all claims for disablement benefit are referred to medical boards consisting of two or more medical practitioners appointed by the Minister. These boards may make a provisional or final assessment of the disablement and the degree thereof in the first instance. In the latter case, or after expiration of at least two years in the former, the injured worker, if dissatisfied with the decision, may appeal it to a medical appeal tribunal. The insurance officer, acting for the Government, may likewise appeal a decision of the medical board to the appeal tribunal".

If the hon. Minister is in doubt, I will give it to him and then he can read it for himself.

Prince Adedoyin : The Bill does not rule out the possibility of an appeal from one medical board to another.

The hon. Gentleman also raised the question of assessment of disablement, and not diagnosis of diseases. As far as that is concerned, I think the hon. Gentleman will be satisfied whenever he has any case that goes before

House of Representatives Debates

2379 [Workmen's Compensation
(Amendment) Bill]

14 OCTOBER 1965

[Visiting Forces Bill]

2380

[PRINCE ADEDYOIN]

the board. If he is not satisfied, another board might be convened to go into his case.

Before I resume my seat, I would like to point out that the word *byssinosis* is not an English word and as such 'y' cannot be pronounced 'i'. We do not say *abisemal*; it is *abysmal*, so that the 'y' there is quite in order. One can pronounce it the way one likes, but I am really very happy indeed to have the opportunity to teach my hon. Friends who are medical practitioners here the pronunciation of the name of a disease called *byssinosis*!

Question put and agreed to.

Bill read a Second time and immediately considered in Committee.

WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION (AMENDMENT)

BILL : CONSIDERED IN COMMITTEE

Clause 1—(AMENDMENT OF WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION ACT, CAP. 222).

The Minister of Labour (Prince A. Adedoyin): I beg to point out that there is a printing error in paragraph 34C of Clause 1 (i), lines 17 and 18, and I beg to move that the words in lines 17 and 18 be deleted. This is as a result of the devil in printing and the words should be left out.

The Chairman: I do not think any amendment will be required in this case as it is purely a printing error. It is a repetition of words which had already been printed, and with the leave of the House, this error can be corrected.

Clause 1—ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 2—ordered to stand part of the Bill.

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

VISITING FORCES BILL

Order for Second Reading read.

The Minister of Defence (Alhaji Muhammadu Inuwa Wada): I beg to move—

That a Bill to regulate the position under Nigerian law of detachments of the armed forces of other countries that come to Nigeria on the invitation of the Federal Government, and for purposes connected with the matters aforesaid, be read a Second time.

It is necessary, from time to time, for sovereign countries to become hosts to Visiting

Forces, either as a result of training arrangements and exercises in peace time or through defensive alliance during periods of national emergency. The need for such a legislation has arisen as Nigeria has had to seek training assistance from Armed Forces personnel of several friendly countries and has had a number of Visiting Forces from the Army, Navy and Air Force personnel of these countries. This has necessitated separate agreements defining the status and relationship between the military organisation of the Visiting Forces and our military and civil laws.

The Bill provides for a comprehensive legislation regularising the status of Armed Forces personnel who visit Nigeria or work with our Armed Forces.

Clause 2 of the Bill allows the Visiting Forces to have authority to enforce their own military law in respect of members of their own Forces.

However, under clause 4, the Laws of Nigeria remain paramount except where the members of the Visiting Forces concerned were acting in the course of their official duty. The clause also provides for the type of offences which members of the Visiting Forces would be liable under Nigerian Laws. These offences can be seen as a schedule to clause 4 after clause 15 of this Bill.

Clause 8 provides for the arrest of deserters and absentees without leave from the Forces of other countries in the same way as deserters and absentees without leave are dealt with in the Nigerian Armed Forces.

Clause 10 enables Visiting Forces to be placed in the same position as any of our Forces under the laws of Nigeria.

Clause 11 is based on section 9 of the Navy and Air Force Acts of 1964 which regulate attachment of personnel and provide for powers of command. The Army Act of 1960 has no such provisions, although because British Armed Forces personnel only were attached to our Forces, its sections 158, 159, 160 and 194 provided for the powers of command of members of Her Majesty's Force of the United Kingdom. It is, therefore, necessary to repeal these sections as well as section 9 of the Navy Act 1964 and section 9 of the Air Force Act 1964.

Clauses 12 and 13 make provision for the attendance of civilian witnesses and the obtaining of evidence as to proof of facts by certificates similar to what obtains under the Court-Martial Rules of our Armed Forces.

This Bill is straightforward and non-controversial and I hope that hon. Members from all sides of the House will support it.

I beg to move.

Minister of State (Alhaji Abdul Razaq) : I beg to second.

Mr O. C. Ememe (Aba South) : Sir, we welcome this Bill with mixed feelings. We really welcome Foreign Forces to Nigeria, but there are implications in this. To provide a special Bill to regulate these Forces appears quite genuine and straightforward. But I have to do my duty to the nation by criticising the points that deserve criticism so that the Government may, if they prefer, amend such clauses that need amendment.

I find it difficult to see a foreign soldier given such privileges and freedom that this Bill envisages to give. In fact, it is tantamount to giving them unrestricted freedom to do what they like in Nigeria. For instance, they will have the freedom to hold their own Service Courts over their own personnel but their own personnel must be qualified because we have an attachment clause. This attachment is that our Nigerian Army may attach personnel to the Visiting Forces and *vice versa*. This freedom of their having their own Courts when they are in Nigeria is not very good. Indeed, it gives to some nations who want to play havoc in this country a privilege of doing so.

There will also be freedom given to those foreign soldiers to use Nigerians as witnesses. This also is a loaded dice because having civilian witnesses invited by these foreign soldiers to their own Courts will conflict with our own internal freedom.

I am very apprehensive of this Bill. It is going to give certain friendly nations an opportunity of abusing the friendship between them and this country, because when we have visiting soldiers who come here perhaps in a large number, we will not be in a position to control their activity.

I view this Bill as if Government has some fear that our Nigerian Military Forces are not serving us adequately.

Mr D. O. Enefola (Igala South) : On a point of order, the hon. Gentleman speaking is totally irrelevant. He is not speaking about this Bill at all. What he is saying is different from what is embodied in this Bill.

Several hon. Members : He is an N.N.A. member !

Mr Ememe : Mr Speaker, Sir, I am pointing out these things in order that the Minister might view them with seriousness. They are not meant to catch headlines. The Minister should view them seriously because this Bill is going to entitle foreign soldiers—not just ordinary people—to come and enjoy these privileges in our own land. I hope that the Government is not losing confidence in the Nigerian Army. I hope not, because to make provision for foreign soldiers to come here and have this type of privileges—

Mr A. A. Raji (Ede) : On a point of information, I want hon. Members to realise that the Member for Aba South (*Mr Ememe*) is not a member of the N.N.A. He is an independent U.P.G.A. from the Eastern Region.

Mr Ememe : Mr Speaker, I want to cite an example to illustrate my point. Those who have visited Liberia, our neighbouring state, will realise—I am sorry to say this but I have to—what great influence the American soldiers have in Liberia because of this type of Bill. It is very possible that soldiers from the United States or from other friendly countries will have the opportunity—

Mr F. I. Okoronkwo (Aba Central) : On a point of order, the hon. Member is wandering about. He does not talk of Moscow again. Now he is talking of America. He has messed up with Soviet Union Friendship Society and he is now with the Chinese. He is just making a noise because he does not know where to start.

Mr Ememe : We can joke occasionally, but this is a serious moment because it is a Bill that will give privileges to foreign soldiers, and when these soldiers begin to shoot our people then we will understand what I am now saying.

My advice to the Minister is that we should learn a lesson from those who have already committed themselves in this way and see whether it will not be necessary to have these visiting forces to be governed by our own laws when they are here.

House of Representatives Debates

2383

[Visiting Forces]

14 OCTOBER 1965

Bill : Second Reading]

2384

[**MR EMEME**]

The Nigerian Army should have control over whatever the visiting forces do here because this is the only assurance we have. But when we give them the chance of establishing their own courts and calling their own witnesses and so on, too many things may soon get out of hand.

Soldiers cannot be easily controlled in that way and once they are given one inch they will take a whole mile. I do sincerely hope the Minister will take this into serious consideration.

MR SANU SOBOWALE (EPE) : I welcome this Bill. The only observation I would like to make is that it appears we are giving these visiting forces a blank cheque in some respects. It is not every punishment that is known to other countries that we necessarily recognise as punishment in this country.

The Bill only allows control where punishment by death has been imposed. But where the punishment is any other punishment, institutions are expected to carry them out.

Contrary to what one hon. Member has said, the purpose of this Bill, as I see and understand it, is only to regulate the discipline of foreign forces while they are in this country, and not to control Members of Parliament or members of the public. Even then, let us suppose that a foreign country views desertion so seriously that it prescribes amputation of both arms for the offender, under this Bill which we are now trying to pass, it means that if such a person is caught in Nigeria and the service court of that country finds him guilty, then it will be imperative for us to impose a punishment which we shall find very difficult to carry out since I do not know of any offence in this country which carries such a punishment.

I should have thought that the Minister would have at least taken the opportunity to give himself the power that any punishment awarded by a visiting force shall be subject to the confirmation of the Minister before it is carried out. It should not just be a question of death, but any punishment whatsoever imposed on the members of a visiting force should be made subject to the confirmation of the Minister of Defence before it is carried out. Otherwise we might in future find ourselves in a position of having to carry out a punish-

ment that is unknown to our law and our institutions.

MR S. U. BASSEY (EKET SOUTH-WEST) : I have much doubt about this Bill. I have doubt in fact because to-day in Nigeria there is an army and that army is expected to expand. If we have to bring any foreign soldier I fear very much that there is a motive behind it.

The motive is that the country to-day is in a very terrible position and foreign forces might be brought into the country under the pretext that they are going to have some training and if there is internal trouble here they might have to intervene.

The purpose of this Bill is not very clear. I think that we are only anticipating, and it may be right that we have fears about the future of our country. We still remember all that happened during last year's December elections and also the present elections in the West; all these things tend to show that the country might land on the rock one of these days, and people will start running helter-skelter.

Then people would like to have foreign troops to intervene and save those who are continuously plundering and exploiting the country. Where a disaster is expected the foreign troops will take care of them. I think the purpose of this Bill is to give greater protection to those who are plundering this country day in and day out, and I want hon. Members of this House to see the seriousness of this Bill and the purpose for which it is introduced.

The ordinary people of this country are law abiding, but some of those who are ruling the country are making the lives of the ordinary people most miserable; and in order to continue they have to find ways and means of safeguarding their interests, their properties, and everything that is dear to their families. The purpose of this Bill is to bring in foreign troops into the country and in times of internal strife to have the people to protect them.

THE MINISTER OF STATE (ALHAJI ABDUL RAZAQ) On a point of order, I think the hon. Member should desist from misleading this House and using this House as a forum for advertising his own ideas. He is reading a motive into the Bill which is not there. He is saying that we will use this Bill to bring foreign troops into this country. This is not true. It is quite

clear that the provisions of the Bill are made to meet the exigencies of visiting forces and it is an internationally accepted concept. So nobody is bringing in any Bill here to invite foreign forces to protect anybody.

Mr Bassey : All I am saying is that these foreign forces can be invited to stay here and if they are not expected to stay for long periods, there is no reason why we should provide so much for them.

These foreign forces will have to stay in the country for a considerable length of time, and if this is the case, if they are to stay in this country for a considerable length of time, what is the purpose? Are they going to replace our own troops in this country? Why do we need them?

The point is that there is a motive for this Bill which has not been brought to the knowledge of the Members of this House. Therefore, I want to call the attention of the Members of this House to the dangers ahead, before approving this Bill. We know that when there was crisis in the Congo, many foreign troops—

Mr A. F. Odulana (Ijebu South) : The hon. Gentleman, much as he has attempted to deceive the House, must make it known to us that the people in the Eastern Region are afraid of the Army here. We in the West and in the North appeal to these Visiting Forces to come to Nigeria because the deeds of the people in the East are evil. They do not want these Visiting Forces. The Police are for them. They should let the foreign forces come now to protect us.

Mr Bassey : To-day, there are political parties which want to keep themselves in power for ever and they must find ways and means of protecting themselves. I do not see why we should place a dangerous weapon at the disposal of political parties to annihilate the people of this country. Visiting Forces will not have mercy on our people. They can massacre our people indiscriminately. It is true.

Alhaji Muhammadu Inua Wada : I feel I must intervene here. It is true that the hon. Gentleman is attempting to mislead the House. There is no ulterior motive at all in the Bill. The Bill merely seeks to codify training arrangements made by all countries

with Armed Forces. For example, only two days ago there was an Italian battle ship in our harbour.

This is an accepted international principle. Ships visit countries on a friendly basis and even then, I have only recently come back from a tour of Western Germany. The Germans are helping us to train our Air Force personnel.

An hon. Member is saying that they should not help us, but he cannot do anything to help himself. The Visiting Forces we have in Nigeria cannot participate even in maintaining the internal security of Nigeria. They are not allowed to. They are only here simply to help us train our own armed personnel, and while they are with us, we must have this law to regulate their stay with us.

Mostly, the Bill is to regulate the conditions under which foreign officers of the Visiting Forces will have control over their own people, not over Nigerians. Let us take an example which everybody will understand. We have Embassies in foreign countries. Do Members want to say that if a member of our Embassy in Germany does something wrong against the German law, he must be tried according to Nigerian law?

Several hon. Members : No.

Alhaji Muhammadu Inua Wada : That is precisely the point.

Mr Bassey : I think, as a matter of fact, that it is the hon. Minister who is misleading the House. The point is that there is quite a difference between visiting battle ships which stay here for a few days and the question of providing accommodation for foreign troops in this country.

Alhaji Muhammadu Inua Wada : Could the hon. Member please point out to me a place in the Bill where there is provision for a contingent of a foreign power to come and stay in Nigeria?

Mr Bassey : This Bill provides that foreign forces could be brought under our own law if they are coming here to serve. That shows that they have to stay for a long time. The point which I am making is the fear that these foreign troops are allowed to be here—

A Member is saying that this is not a labour matter, but it is not only labour matters that are discussed in this House. After all, I was

House of Representatives Debates

2387

[Visiting Forces]

14 OCTOBER 1965

Bill : Second Reading

2388

[MR BASSEY]

elected from a constituency which is predominantly inhabited by peasants.

I am not quarelling with anybody, but I have my fears about the introduction of this Bill. However, it will be left to history to vindicate what I am trying to say about the future of this country.

M. Ali Umaru (Wukari) : I feel that this Bill is very simple. It is straightforward. It is something that we have to support in this House. The Bill which is called the "Visiting Forces Bill 1965" only gives a chance to Forces of other countries, whenever they come to us here, to have similar privileges and rights enjoyed by members of our own Armed Forces.

Well, I think if somebody comes to my house and has to stay with me for some time I would try to grant him some of the advantages which I enjoy. This is only natural. That is how I see the provisions made in this Bill.

I can see from this Bill that provision is made for what applies to the Nigerian Armed Forces to apply to these visiting forces. There is nothing wrong in that. It is only of recent that our own men were in the Congo. Our Armed Forces and the Police were in the Congo. Whilst there, if they were not allowed to enjoy the privileges which the Congolese Armed Forces enjoyed, would they have been successful in the execution of their work? We all know that they did a lot of good work in the Congo. Their good work helped to boost the image of Nigeria all over the world. Was that not so?

Some hon. Members : It was so.

M. Ali Umaru : Some of my friends are afraid of this Bill for the simple reason that they have been trying always to cause confusion in this country. They did it during the last Federal Election and even to-day they are still causing confusion at Mushin and Apapa in Western Nigeria.

It is this type of people who fear this Bill. Once one's heart is clean and one has nothing to hide there is no need for fear.

I think that if this type of Bill comes to this House we should all co-operate in accepting it. There is nothing wrong in it. The Government is our Government. We were elected by the people of this country and the Council of Ministers is a broadly based one on which every side is represented.

Mr Sanu Sobowale (Epe) : I think, as much as possible, Members should confine themselves to this Bill. We are not talking about elections now. We are talking about visiting forces. The Member for Wukari (*M. Ali Umaru*) is talking about the rigging of elections by radio done by the N.N.D.P. in the Western Region. That is a different thing.

Mr Speaker : I think the hon. Member should confine himself to the contents of the Bill.

M. Ali Umaru : Mr Speaker, Sir, that is my opinion, and I am sure that it is the opinion of everybody in this House. The Council of Ministers belongs to us and the Ministers will not plan anything that will be detrimental to the country. If they knew that this Bill would not be of any benefit to the country they would not have brought it here. Because of this, I give it my wholehearted support and believe that it will receive the support of the House.

With these few words, I beg to support.

Mr J. N. F. Obioha (Orlu North) : I rise to make my contribution to the debate on this Bill. Before I make this contribution I would like to make this observation, that most of the Bills that are brought to this House do not have any Preamble to enable Members of Parliament to adjust their minds to the purpose or the scope of the particular Bill. This is one of the causes of all the troubles in the debate as to what this is for and what it is not for.

This Bill as a whole seems to give a sort of immunity to all the visiting forces in Nigeria. For instance if one examines Clause 4 of the Bill, the amount of immunity given is too wide. If a member of a visiting force commits a crime against a Nigerian, for instance, he is allowed the liberty to have that offence tried by his own tribunal. This will be right if the offence is committed against a person from the visiting force only or against a property of the visiting force.

Clause 4 (1) states :

Where a person charged with an offence against Nigerian was at the time when the offence is alleged to have been committed a member of a visiting force of a country to which this section applies, then, subject to...

Mr J. A. Yacim (Igala North-West) : On a point of order, the Member for Orlu North (*Mr Obioha*) is dealing with Clause 4 when we have not reached the Committee Stage.

Mr Speaker : I am quite aware of this.

Mr Obioha : If I may continue on this issue, Clause 4 simply says that if at the time an offence is committed one happens to be a member of the visiting force then Nigerian courts have no right to try him. And it goes on to explain the situation under which it applies and if I may refer to subsection 2, paragraph (a) of Clause 4, it says :

Where the alleged offence, if committed by the accused arose out of and in the course of his duty as a member of the visiting force—

Let us suppose that a member of a visiting force injures a Nigerian citizen in the course of his duty, why should that Nigerian citizen be forced to submit to the kind of trial and law known only to the foreign court ?

I am saying that if somebody commits an offence in this country against a Nigerian citizen he should not be allowed such wide diplomatic immunity. This kind of immunity should only be extended to diplomats. Therefore this particular provision is not suitable because subsections (b) and (c) of Clause 4 (1) make provision for offence against persons in the visiting force and against the property of persons or what it calls followers of the visiting team but none for the Nigerian citizen.

If an injury is inflicted on a Nigerian by a member of the visiting force, may be a Nigerian is shot through negligence, and we do not know what are the provisions of the foreign law or tribunal, what will be the position of the citizen ? I would like to say that this provision is against natural law because it provides that somebody in his own country against whom an offence has been committed is not allowed the privilege of being tried by the courts instituted for his liberty and his rights. It is against natural justice and liberty, to compel a Nigerian to submit to a court established outside Nigeria.

This is my humble contribution to this Bill.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill read a Second time and immediately considered in Committee.

THE VISITING FORCES BILL 1965 :

CONSIDERED IN COMMITTEE

Clauses 1-5—ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 6—(ARREST, CUSTODY, ETC. OF OFFENDERS AGAINST NIGERIAN LAW).

Chief J. M. Udochı (Afenmai) : In Clause 6, I beg to move—

in line 47, page 432, to leave out from "shall" to "period" in line 48.

This means that I want the words "as soon as practicable after the expiration of that period" to be left out. This Clause deals with a member of the visiting forces who is in custody and our law provides that a man can be in custody for 24 hours during which period he should either be given bail or taken to court. Here, the clause provides for a period of three days. I think that to give this long period for a man to be kept in custody is not proper.

The Clause continues to say that at the end of three days he should then, as soon as practicable after the expiration of that period, be released on bail. I would like to say that it is very important that a man who is held in custody should either be taken to court or be allowed bail.

A member of the visiting force has more need for freedom to be able to prepare his case and for this reason I feel that after he has been kept in jail for three days, the law should be precise as to what should be done.

The phrase "as soon as practicable after the expiration of that period" lacks precise definition. It is a phrase which will be very difficult to use in the courts. It is a phrase which will allow authorities to keep men in custody for practically as long as they like because it says "as soon as practicable".

Any reason can be given for the impracticability of allowing bail. Any reason can be urged by the Authorities to keep a man in jail. I feel that this is unfair and I am surprised that such unprecise language can be allowed in this Bill.

I know that the Minister in his heart of hearts will realise that a man who is kept in custody and who is not taken to court should be allowed bail. Three days is quite a long period for a man to be in custody without bail and at the end of that period it should be definite that he should be allowed bail.

House of Representatives Debates

2391

[Visiting Forces]

14 OCTOBER 1965

Bill : Third Reading]

2392

[CHIEF UDOCHI]

This Clause will read straight if the Minister will accept to leave the words I propose to be left out and then allow the Clause to read—"if within the period he is not delivered into the custody of the Authority of that country he shall be released on bail." We should leave out those words which would keep him in custody perpetually.

I beg to move.

Alhaji Muhammadu Inuwa Wada : I oppose this Amendment. The words in question are purposely put there for a number of reasons.

The first reason is that the three days may either expire by midnight or on a public holiday. Furthermore, if a member of a visiting Force is arrested we sometimes find it necessary to inform his home country, and this may take a longer period than the three days provided.

However, I want to assure hon. Members that we do not mean to make the person concerned suffer unnecessarily.

Chief Udochi : I accept the explanation offered by the Minister of Defence, and I beg to withdraw my Amendment.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Clause 6—(ARREST, CUSTODY ETC., OF OFFENDERS AGAINST NIGERIAN LAW—ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clauses 7-15, ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Schedule agreed to.

Bill reported, without Amendment.

Motion made and Question proposed, That the Bill be now read the Third time—(THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE).

Mr F. I. Okoronkwo (Aba Central) : This Bill is actually a welcome one. However, some Members of this Parliament have expressed some fears about this Bill, but my appeal to the Minister of Defence is to take very good care of the visiting Forces so that they may not come here as spies for their home government. This is the only method that the Minister can adopt to safeguard the interest of this country, because some of the foreign Forces who may come might come here with the intention of causing confusion and spying for their countries. The Minister of Defence should also see to it that visiting Forces are well treated anytime they are visiting this country.

I beg to support.

Mr D. O. Ahamefule (Okigwi South-West) : A very strong observation has been made by a Member from Orlu, and I expected that the hon. Minister would be given the chance to give some explanation regarding the point which he made. The hon. Member in question observed that, according to this Bill, whenever a Nigerian is offended in his own country it is to be expected that he will be defended under a foreign law.

The observation here is that when a member of a visiting Force in Nigeria offends a Nigerian he will not be tried according to the law of this country but according to the law of his own country. In this case the Nigerian goes to a foreign country to give evidence. I feel that this is unfair. As far as we all know, the Nigerian Army has been highly commended all over the world, and we must guard against any possibility of our Army being corrupted by visiting Forces.

If a member of a visiting Force commits an offence against a member of his own Force, nobody will quarrel about his being tried under the law of his own country. However, we feel that it is quite unfair to lay down a law under which a Nigerian will no longer be able to seek redress under his country's law when he has been offended by a member of a foreign Force. I would like to have some explanation on this point.

Dr B. U. Nzeribe (Orlu West) : For some time in the past we have been quarrelling with the Government on one very important issue. We have opposed the policy of sending potential members of the Public Service to foreign countries for training when there is the possibility of training them locally. It seems that according to the brief explanation made by the Minister of Defence one of the purposes of this Bill is to enable foreign experts to come to Nigeria and help train Nigerian soldiers in this country. I want to give my commendation on this principle.

There are so many things that one could gain by being trained at home. In the first place, my observation is that when our men are sent abroad to be trained, although they gain a lot one way or the other, the environmental shock to which they are exposed at the initial

House of Representatives Debates

2393

[Visiting Forces Bill :
Third Reading]

14 OCTOBER 1965

[Oil Pipelines (Amendment) Bill] 2394

stage of their training is always great. This environmental shock can be avoided if foreign experts are brought to Nigeria to train our people on the spot. I hope that institutions of higher learning like the University of Nigeria at Nsukka, Ibadan University, Ahmadu Bello University and the rest of them should be expanded to have some faculties in which some members of our Armed Forces can be trained locally, and I feel that this is the reason behind this Bill.

I give the Government, through the Minister of Defence, my wholehearted co-operation and gratitude.

I beg to support.

Minister of State (Mr M. T. Mbu) : I want to clarify a point. I think there is some sort of misapprehension here by hon. Members who want some explanation on this.

“Offence” here is not intended and it is not to be understood to mean offence committed by members of visiting Forces against Nigerians.

It is quite clear in Clause 4 (a) that that is against the Nigerian law. In any case, the Minister has the discretion as to what to do in that case. We are being made to understand that the offence referred to in this Bill may be committed by members of a visiting Force against Nigerians and that such members may not be tried under the Nigerian law. That is not so.

Mr J. A. Yacim (Igala North-West) : I only have a piece of advice to give to the Government and especially to the Minister concerned with Visiting Forces. I would insist that such Visiting Forces to Nigeria at this time should not be visitors who would come here for physical training. We do not need visitors who are only interested in the training of soldiers for street parade. We should give room only to visitors who can give us technical knowledge and sound training for our Armed Forces. That is what we are seriously in need of in Nigeria to-day. We need only the technical experts in military training and not physical training experts.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read the Third time and passed.

OIL PIPELINES (AMENDMENT) BILL

Order for Second Reading read.

The Minister of Mines and Power (Alhaji Yusuff Maitama Sule) : I rise to move, That a Bill entitled Oil Pipelines (Amendment) Bill, 1965, be read a Second time.

This Bill is intended to amend certain portions of the existing Oil Pipelines Act which have earlier become obsolete or are no longer in consonance with the sovereignty of Nigeria. I would like, with your permission, Sir, to outline briefly the main amendments.

Up till now, permits to survey the route for an oil pipeline for the transport of oil and gas and the issuing of Oil Pipeline licences have been restricted to holders of oil prospecting licences and oil mining leases. This arrangement confers an undesirable monopoly in the hands of individuals or companies prospecting for or mining oil. Section 3 of this Bill amends section 4 of the Principal Act thus making it possible for individuals or companies, other than those directly connected with prospecting for or mining oil to be granted permits to survey the route for an oil pipeline and to be issued licences for laying oil pipelines and for the transportation of mineral oil, natural gas, and/or any product of such gas to any point of destination to which such persons require such oil, gas or petroleum products to be transported for any purpose connected with the petroleum trade or operations. Where the Minister considers it in the national interest not to grant such permits, the reasons for the rejection of the application will always be given and specified by the Minister.

The present Act permits the granting of pipeline licence for a period up to ninety-nine years with a proviso that the period granted should not be less than the unexpired period of any oil prospecting licences and their renewals, or of the resulting mining leases and their renewals. The effect of this is that licences have to be granted for periods ranging from sixty to eighty-five years. A period of sixty years is considered too long and measures have been taken in my Ministry to restrict the validity of such licences to a period not exceeding sixty years. In the light of the experience of other oil producing countries, however, this period has recently been reduced from sixty to thirty years with the right of renewal for another thirty years, if certain specified

House of Representatives Debates

2395 [Oil Pipelines (Amendment)]

14 OCTOBER 1965

Bill : Second Reading]

2396

[ALHAJI MAITAMA SULE]

conditions are fulfilled. The reductions in the periods of validity of licences effected so far have been achieved by direct discussions between my Ministry and the oil producing companies in Nigeria. It is proposed in this Bill that a pipeline licence shall be valid for a period not longer than twenty years in order that we may avoid the mistake that we have made in the past in respect of prospecting and mining licences and in the light of the experience we have gained in respect of other oil producing countries in other parts of the world.

It is becoming a common practice in oil producing countries to insert a "common carrier" provision in the Oil Pipelines Act. The effect of this is to empower the Minister responsible, in the public interest, to require the owner of an oil pipeline licence who has surplus capacity to make it available for the transportation of petroleum and its products by other persons under conditions agreed by the owner and such other persons, or failing to reach such an agreement, under conditions prescribed by the Minister responsible. As I said earlier, "common carrier" clauses are a feature of the Pipelines Licences in most oil producing countries and its introduction into this country would prevent unnecessary mushrooming of pipelines and ensure that pipelines are used in the most efficient and economic manner.

Sir, I will not take the time of this honourable House to go into details about other minor amendments proposed in this Bill, but I believe hon. Members would like to note the following :—

(a) that we are substituting the word "Minister" for "Governor-General", which is usual and has been the case with most other Bills which have come before the House.

(b) the deletion of the last five lines in section 14 and section 17 (a) and (b) of the Principal Act ;

(c) the amendment of section 30 of the Principal Act which lays down the fees payable for permits and licences because we have to collect some money for issuing these licences and permits. This amendment is intended to reflect the growing importance of the oil industry in this country ;

(d) the delegation of some powers conferred on the Minister to any officer in the Ministry, and this amendment is effected by the insertion of a new section 31A after section 31 of the Principal Act.

There is a minor amendment which I would like to move when we come to the Committee Stage for that is a typographical error. I am convinced that the amendments proposed in the Bill not only reflect the status of the Federal Republic of Nigeria as a Sovereign State, but that their approval would confer positive benefits on our people and also because of the importance that oil is gaining every day in this country. We feel in the Ministry, Sir, that as oil is so important and it is going to play a very important role in the economy of our country, it is only right and proper that we take very great care in order to see that we get the maximum benefit from this oil industry.

I beg to move.

Minister of State (Alhaji Abdul Razaq)
I beg to second.

Mr A. F. Odulana (Ijebu North-East) : The Minister of Mines and Power has just proposed the Oil Pipelines (Amendment) Bill 1965, to this honourable House. I am of the opinion that the Bill should immediately be taken as passed ; but it is necessary to inform the Minister that the efforts of his Ministry to bring this Bill to the House have been sabotaged by certain people in this country.

The Minister of Mines and Power has done a very good job to bring about this Bill. It is a straightforward Bill and a very good one too. In rising to support it, I have said here that some ill-willed people are working against it. I would like to say, with your permission, Mr Speaker, that this Bill is brought here for a certain reason—to give the people looking for oil in this country a data to work on. But in this newspaper which I am holding, it will be seen that certain people in this country who are enemies of progress, enemies of development, wrote in this paper—*West African Pilot*—that there is no oil found in the West. What is the reason for such a publication ?

Several hon. Members : Fire, fire.

Mr Speaker : Order ! This is not relevant.

Mr Odulana : When oil is found in other regions, nobody says that oil has not been found in those regions, and it is because of the oil found in other regions that the Minister of Mines and Power is legislating this Bill. Oil has been found in the East and it has been found in the Mid-West. But no sooner oil was found in the West than the people of the Eastern Region, the Ibos, started to shout. All they want is the progress of their own oil company. I am just saying this to let the world know the covetous people, the greedy people in Nigeria who are—

Mr Speaker : What we are discussing is the Oil Pipelines Bill. I do hope the hon. Member will desist from attacking a section of the country and discuss the Bill.

Mr Odulana : The object of this Bill will be defeated if it is not made known to the outside world that this Bill is for oil found in any part of Nigeria. May I ask through you, Mr Speaker, from the Minister whether we are passing this law only for some Regions of Nigeria. When it is announced that oil is found in some parts of Nigeria, some people say it is false, and it is right for me to correct this misrepresentation.

The Minister of Housing and Surveys
(Chief A. O. Ogunsanya) : I think, with respect, that the Member for Ijebu North-East (*Mr Odulana*) should realise that some of us come from the Western Region, some from the Eastern Region and some from the Northern Region. He should not stir up Regional tribalism in this House.

Mr Speaker : I have already advised the hon. Member to desist from doing so.

Mr Odulana : I acknowledge the propriety of your advice that I should restrict myself to this Bill, but I am telling hon. Members here present that this Bill will defeat the object for which it is brought to this House if the question of the discovery of oil in any part of Nigeria is not discussed here. It is common knowledge that oil has been found in the Western Region in commercial quantity; anybody who is not satisfied should please keep quiet.

Mr Speaker : The Member for Ijebu North-East is giving too much strength to his argument based on this newspaper report, knowing very well that the Standing Orders do not

allow such arguments to be based on what is written in newspapers.

I think the less the hon. Member relies on the newspaper report for this purpose the better.

Mr Odulana : Thank you, Mr Speaker. I thank the Minister of Mines and Power for bringing this Bill. When its provisions are being utilised, the people of the Western Region will co-operate with the Minister to see that the Oil Pipelines Bill, 1965 serves all the Regions of the Federal Republic.

I support the Bill because oil has been found in commercial quantity in Western Nigeria.

Mr S. M. Ojukwu (Bende Central) : One would have nothing but praise for the Minister of Mines and Power for introducing this Bill. It is a Bill that shows that we are really progressing. We all know the danger of monopoly and we know that when the Act for which this Amendment is now being proposed was made, we were under colonial rule and our colonial masters made it to suit their purpose. Now that we are independent and God has so blessed us that we have oil in commercial quantities in this country, we are grateful to the hon. Minister for seeing it fit to open the door to as many companies as can comply with our requirements.

My only advice to the hon. Minister is that he should be very strict in granting licences, because it is only when there is very keen competition that we can get the best out of the oil industry in this country.

I beg to support.

Mr B. N. Ukegbu (Owerri South-East) : I say congratulations to the Minister of Mines and Power for bringing this Bill, because we all know the danger of exploitation to which oil producing countries are exposed in the hands of oil mining capitalists.

I would say the achievement of the Ministry of Mines and Power so far in ensuring that the benefits of the oil found in this country accrue not only to those who produce them but to the owners of the land as well, is commendable. But there is just one aspect of the operation of mining licences or prospecting licences that I want to draw the Minister's attention to, and this is actually reinforced by the fact that the present Bill deals with oil pipeline licences.

House of Representatives Debates

2399 [Oil Pipelines (Amendment)]

14 OCTOBER 1965

Bill : Second Reading]

2400

[MR UKEGBU]

Oil Pipelines in many countries are constructed over land, and even though the Minister of Mines and Power will be authorised by this law, as he was by the main law, to grant licences sitting here in Lagos, that is as it should be. But it appears to me that the proprietary rights of the real owners of the land in the Regions are hardly taken into consideration by the Ministry of Mines and Power. I am not being emphatic on that. It may be that the rights of the owners of the land through which the pipelines are constructed are taken into consideration in theory, but, in practice, land owners suffer as a result of the activities of mining companies and their agents. In spite of cries and protests from the people, little effort appears to have been made by the Ministry to protect these poor people.

I have an example to cite to the hon. Minister of Mines and Power, and it is a very recent one. This concerns the overhead transmission power lines granted by the Minister to the Electricity Corporation of Nigeria, to construct these lines from Afam after Aba to Onitsha. I am citing this instance because I am sure that when an Oil Pipeline licence is granted to oil companies, they will construct these pipelines over people's lands, and what happened in the case of the E.C.N. may also happen in the case of the oil companies who will be constructing oil pipelines.

In the case of the E.C.N., caterpillars of the companies constructing these power lines ran over people's farms, destroyed their farms and their crops—their yams, their cassavas and so on—and destroyed even their houses indiscriminately.

I happen to know that before these companies came to construct these lines, administrative officers in the provinces wrote circulars to the County Councils and to the people urging them not to make any trouble, but to allow these companies to carry on their work, and assuring them that adequate compensation would be paid to them, and paid promptly. I dare say too that if an oil pipeline licence is granted to an oil company, the same pledge and the same assurance will be given to the people.

But what have we seen? People have been reduced to near famine because of their farms having been destroyed, in the case of the

E.C.N.; it is almost two years now since that was done, and no compensation has been paid to these people at all. What was worse, the companies constructing these power lines (and the same may apply to the oil companies when these oil pipeline licences are granted to them) would not send their damage clerks, or shall I say, their so-called damage clerks, to check the value of the crops on people's farms before destroying them.

In my own area, and I am sure in most areas where these power lines pass, these companies destroyed indiscriminately, and sent their damage clerks months after the damage had been done, to the extent that it was not possible to make a real estimate of the damage caused to the people. This practice actually exposed the people to the black-mail perpetrated by these damage clerks. They collected bribes; they went round to the people asking them to pay so much if they wanted to claim so much. I know many innocent people who paid money even thrice to these damage clerks, and up till now they have been deprived both of their farms and crops, and of the money which they paid in order to claim some compensation.

In fact, in one instance, a poor man in my own constituency, had his whole compound obliterated. His whole compound was destroyed and he was left with nowhere to stay. Up till now, nothing has been done. No money has been given to him, no compensation has been paid to him to rebuild his houses or rehabilitate himself.

I have since been troubled about this myself. I am sorry, Sir, but I wish the hon. Minister of Mines and Power would bear with me on this. I wrote to the General Manager of the E.C.N. I took the trouble to write to him to complain about this—that this man has been rendered homeless and nothing has been given to him, not even an interim compensation. I think that some people have even taken the E.C.N. to court, but their cases have been adjourned, and adjourned and adjourned, so that they have not been given anything. These people, after all, are poor farmers.

Knowing the hon. Minister of Mines and Power as I do, I believe him to be a progressive man; he will not allow willing horses to be ridden to death. I am saying this with full consciousness of his capacity to act rightly.

Alhaji Maitama Sule : May I respectfully advise the Member for Owerri South-East (*Mr Ukegbu*) that we should talk about this Electricity matter outside, as it is the Pipelines Bill that we are discussing now.

Mr Ukegbu : I quite appreciate the Minister's advice, but I am only saying all this as a forewarning, so that maybe when the Minister issues pipeline licences, the same trouble which occurred in the case of the E.C.N. may not be repeated.

I was going to say that even though the Minister of Mines and Power knows all the powers conferred upon him by our various laws to issue licences and even leases over other people's land, he should not allow the Government to ride willing horses to death.

In more civilised countries where people are more conscious of their rights, I know it takes years for people to allow either pipelines or power lines to pass through their lands, and the Ministry concerned has to go into a lot of trouble to obtain court injunctions and so on. But in this country, our people accept law unquestioningly, and they have just emerged from a colonial administration where everything was put over them by force. Their land would be taken away from them while they would think they had no right to protest. But now, even though they are still under that impression, we their leaders and their Government, should not exploit that spirit of humility and unquestioning acceptance of powers of Government, and ride them to death.

If the Minister can assure us that when he is granting these oil pipeline licences or any such licences in his Ministry, he will do everything possible to protect the public rights of the people, we have no objection to this Bill.

Mr M. Nnorom (Okigwi North-East) : In rising to support this Bill, I beg to make a few observations. Under Section 3 of this Bill, which is said to replace Section 4 of the principal Act, "Permit to survey" may be granted to any company which makes application to the Minister. But there are a lot of these oil companies who will enter into the rural areas without any authority and erect trenches here and there, destroying farms and crops, as my hon. Friend has just pointed out.

I have another point to make here. Where a Minister charges a fee without taking into

consideration the claim of the owner of a particular land where such a survey may be carried out, the owner of the land might be brought to grave hardships. Again, in this Bill, there is no specific amount mentioned, that the Minister will charge per square mile or per acre of the land which the survey may be covering.

In Section 4 of the Bill, it is stated that no person other than the holder of a licence shall construct, maintain or operate an oil pipeline. It further states,

Every person who acts in contravention of subsection (4) shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a term of imprisonment not exceeding two years or to a fine not exceeding five hundred pounds or to both such imprisonment and such fine.

That is quite commendable. But in Section 8 it is stated that a licence may be granted for such period not exceeding twenty years as the Minister may direct. I have to say that twenty years is too long a period for an oil company to hold a licence. I would suggest that one year would be enough, and the licence could be renewed annually thereafter.

Finally, I have to congratulate the hon. Minister of Mines and Power for introducing this Bill. The suggestions or criticisms I have made are not intended to mean that I do not support the Bill. I have made them so that the Minister might note them.

I beg to support.

Chief B. L. W. Mabinton (Brass North) : This is a very progressive Bill. There is nothing I would like to add to it. It is so progressive that we who are in the mining industry very much welcome it, especially as it reduces the period of mining lease from ninety-nine to twenty years.

The only thing I would like to say, is to advise the Minister that oil is important and precious to this country. If oil is discovered in commercial quantities in any part of this country, it is the Ministry of Mines and Power that has the right to announce it to the outside world. All announcements and advertisements with regard to our oil must be handled by the Ministry of Mines and Power. Publications of oil discovered anywhere in this country outside the authority of the Ministry of

House of Representatives Debates

2403 [Oil Pipelines (Amendment)] 14 OCTOBER 1965 Bill : Second Reading 2404

[CHIEF MABINTON]

Mines and Power present a different picture to the outside world.

Whenever oil is discovered anywhere in this country, it has always been the Ministry of Mines and Power that announces it. Therefore, why should oil be reported to be found from a Region when that Regional Government has no power to announce it. The Chief Petroleum Engineer is in Lagos and the Minister in charge of Mines and Power is also in Lagos and as such the announcement as to the discovery of any oil should come from the appropriate Ministry in charge and not from any other particular person. It is dangerous to allow people unconnected with the Ministry of Mines and Power to announce the discovery of oil in this country.

I support the Bill.

Chief T. O. S. Benson (Lagos North) : On a point of order, it appears the hon. Gentleman speaking does not want oil to be found in the Western Region.

Chief V. O. Onabanjo (Ijebu South-West) : There is only one point I would like to touch concerning this Bill. I heard the Minister when speaking saying that he did not want to encourage mushroom pipelines to be constructed in the country. I quite share his fears about mushroom pipelines, but looking through the Bill, I do not myself think that the Minister has armed himself with sufficient powers to stop this because it looks as if it is permissible for a new company wanting a pipeline to approach another one. If it does not approach an existing company, it may look as if the new company cannot be directed by the Minister himself. The Minister cannot say that the company can still use that other pipeline and suggest to the company that, that is what to use. If the Minister has not got that power, then I do not see how he can stop mushroom pipelines from existing in the country.

That is the only point I wish to make and I hope the Minister of Mines and Power will take note of that.

Alhaji Maitama Sule : I think there is ample power for the Minister to direct any company that applies for a licence to construct

a pipeline. Every application has to come to the Ministry and when the application comes to the Ministry, we will process it and tell the company concerned whether we are prepared to grant it any licence or not. If we do not believe that there is need for asking yet another pipeline, we can direct the new company to the company that has already got a pipeline.

I do not think that it is necessary to have any provision in the law. We will deal with the matter in the same way as we are dealing with the monopoly of oil by processing applications very carefully, and making sure that every application is aimed at the promotion of the economy of Nigeria. I think we can in this way deal with any company adequately.

I would like to say that I am extremely grateful to the few hon. Members who have spoken on this Bill because they have shown their interest in this most important industry. I had sometimes complained that hon. Members did not take as much interest in the oil industry as they should, but I am now glad to say that I have seen a sort of a new awareness on the part of hon. Members in this field and I must say that they are taking very keen interest in the industry. Oil is so important, so intricate and complicated and sometimes it is mixed with a lot of politics. Therefore, I am calling on hon. Members to keep their eyes on oil. They should make constructive criticisms, suggestions and recommendations with regard to the improvement of the oil industry on the Floor of this House as well as outside. I am only an individual and I have very few experts in my Ministry. Moreover, I do not claim any monopoly of wisdom. If hon. Members could advise me from time to time, I would be very happy indeed.

On the question of compensation on destroyed property which was raised by my hon. Friend, the Member for Owerri South-East (*Mr Ukegbu*), there is a provision in the main Act which provides for that. There is a section in the main Act which provides that adequate compensation shall be paid to the owners of the lands that has been destroyed, or to the owners of the crops destroyed as a result of operation. If the owners of property as well as the companies concerned cannot agree, then the matter will be

House of Representatives Debates

2405

[Oil Pipelines (Amendment)]

14 OCTOBER 1965

Bill : Committee]

2406

referred to a court of law and the court of law shall decide.

But I know very well that some people had often complained that the compensation they were paid was not adequate. Compensation as well as rents are paid in accordance with the rates laid down by the Government of the Region concerned. The land belongs to the people or to the Government of the Region, and naturally it is they that have to say how much compensation should be paid and how much rent should be paid. We do not want to interfere unnecessarily with the powers of any Regional Government. And it is for this reason, therefore, that we leave it to them as is now the case.

Where we feel that the owners of land should be compensated more than what they are legally entitled to, for moral reasons, we tell the oil companies concerned. It is my feeling that it is not enough for the oil companies to say that they have fulfilled their own legal obligations under the law. They have in addition to these legal obligations moral obligations to the owners of the land. We have always tried to emphasise to them the need for them to try to fulfil these moral obligations, so that they may be able to gain the confidence of the people in whose areas they are operating. It is that confidence and that confidence alone that will make for the success of this oil industry. We are doing our best in that respect.

As to the question of monopoly, in the field of oil just as well as in the construction of pipelines, I can assure hon. Members that we are doing everything possible to encourage as many reputable, I repeat, reputable companies as possible, in the attempt to attract oil companies into Nigeria.

I will not invite what I call the adventurer type of companies. The adventurer type of companies will come in here and mess up everything for us. Our oil is so dear, so important and so precious that we cannot afford to invite the adventurer type of companies to come and make a mess of it.

We will encourage people to come, but they must be such people or such companies that have established what I call "international reputation". They must have the money, the technical know-how, the sincerity, responsibility and the integrity that we are looking for.

Unless they have these qualities, I am afraid I am not going to recommend or approve any licence for them.

In the same way, I am trying to see that anyone oil company or country for that matter will not monopolise our oil. I am trying to encourage oil companies from different parts of the world. This is very important. It is important, so that we may not be held to ransom by any one oil company or by any one country.

Nigeria is such a big country and oil is so important to her. The position that Nigeria occupies in the world to-day and Africa in particular is so high that we cannot afford to make a mistake. We must not fail. If we fail, it is Africa that fails.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill read a Second time and immediately considered in Committee.

**OIL PIPELINES (AMENDMENT) BILL :
CONSIDERED IN COMMITTEE**

Clauses 1-3—ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 4—(REPEAL AND REPLACEMENT OF SECTION 7 OF PRINCIPAL ACT).

Alhaji Yusuff Maitama Sule : I move in Clause 4, lines 42 and 49 to leave out the word "instalment" and insert the word "installation" in both places.

I beg to move.

Question, That the word proposed to be left out be left out, put and agreed to.

Question, That that word be there inserted, put and agreed to.

Clause 4—(REPEAL AND REPLACEMENT OF SECTION 7 OF PRINCIPAL ACT)—as amended, ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clauses 5-8—ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 9—(ADDITION OF NEW SECTION 17A).

Mr O. C. Ememe (Aba South) : I want the Minister to clarify this point about his attempt to destroy monopoly. There is a problem that has been raised by this use of the pipeline by other companies. Sometimes, when oil is mined from certain fields they may not be of the same chemical content and as a result it will be very difficult for an oil company to allo

House of Representatives Debates

2407 [Oil Pipelines (Amendment) Bill] 14 OCTOBER 1965

[Adjournment]

2408

[MR EMEME]

another oil company that is mining oil which is not of the same quality to use the same pipeline. If the Minister means that they should use the same way and lay their own pipeline in the same route, I think it will be admissible, but to say that they must all use the same pipeline irrespective of the chemical nature of the oils—

Alhaji Yusuff Maitama Sule : I believe that it is only reasonable, right and proper that if the oil is different in quality it cannot go through the same pipe. I believe that this is not the type of monopoly we are referring to. We are merely saying that where we have the same type of oil being produced and we can use the same pipeline for transporting it from one area to another, we will try to make the maximum use of that pipeline.

*Clause 9—(ADDITION OF NEW SECTION 17A)
—ordered to stand part of the Bill.*

Clauses 10-14—ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Bill reported with Amendment.

Motion made and Question proposed, That the Bill be now read the Third time—(THE MINISTER OF MINES AND POWER).

The Minister of Finance (Chief F. S. Okot-e-Eboh) : I just want to put it on record that nobody from the Government Bench has rushed this Bill and the Member for Owerri South-East (*Mr Ukegbu*) is here !

Alhaji Yusuff Maitama Sule : On a point of order, may I protest against this. There has been no trouble with my Bill and the Minister of Finance is trying to bring trouble.

Mr Speaker : I think the Member for Owerri South-East understands this quite clearly.

Mr D. O. Enefola (Igala South) : I would like to congratulate the Minister for all his efforts in trying to make this country an oil-producing country.

There is one important point and that is that almost every region of Nigeria has been reported as having oil and there is only one region left out. So, we are looking forward to the day when we shall hear that oil has been discovered in the Northern Region.

Alhaji Yusuff Maitama Sule : Our effort to find oil is not limited to any particular region. I would add that I do not believe that there is no oil in the Northern Region because the proof as to whether or not there is oil in any given area is to drill the area. Some of the most oil-producing countries in the world to-day were said to have no oil at one time. The desert is a good example.

I believe that some of these oil companies are reluctant to go to the North because in the event of any oil being found up north the cost of transporting it perhaps down to the south may be exorbitant. But we are trying to solve this problem. When the Niger Dam comes into stream and the River Niger becomes navigable up to Birnin Kebbi near an area where at one time there was a search for oil and where at this time, adjacent to that area in the Niger Republic, there is an oil company looking for oil, we are hoping that we can get an oil company to take up interest in that area and look for oil. When and if that oil is found it will be easy to evacuate down the River Niger because the river will have been made navigable by then.

Mr Enefola : That was the point I wanted the Minister to explain and he has explained it. But we cannot wait all that long. So, I am appealing to the Minister of Mines and Power to do all in his power to see that an oil company uses all its efforts to discover oil in the north. I will assure him that the transportation of the oil to the coast will be taken good care of.

Another point is that we are happy to know that Nigeria is producing oil. I would like to ask the Minister to investigate the possibility of reducing the price of petrol in this country. Petrol is not a luxury ; it is a necessity, as it is vitally needed to run cars.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read the Third time and passed.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion made and Question proposed, That this House do now adjourn—(THE MINISTER OF MINES AND POWER).

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved, That this House do now adjourn.

Adjourned accordingly at one o'clock.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

Friday, 15th October, 1965

The House met at 9 a.m.

PRAYERS

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

REPORT FROM THE BUSINESS COMMITTEE

Mr Speaker : The Business Committee has met and, in accordance with Standing Order 55 (1) (c), has decided that the following Private Members' Motions should be placed on the Order Paper for Tuesday, 19th October, as follows :—

- (1) Law for Relief of the Poor and Control of Beggary, No. 62 in the Order Book ;
- (2) Parliamentary Elections in Nigeria, No. 67 in the Order Book ;
- (3) Recruitment into the Army, No. 54 in the Order Book ;
- (4) Bridges over Level Crossings, No. 77 in the Order Book ;
- (5) Commonwealth Prime Ministers' Conference, No. 60 in the Order Book ;
- (6) Tribalism, No. 56 in the Order Book ;
- (7) Eradication of Tsetse Flies, No. 76 in the Order Book.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

HIS EXCELLENCY'S DEPARTURE FOR EUROPE

The Minister of Finance (Chief F. S. Okotie-Eboh) : As Members are already aware, the President of the Federal Republic will be travelling to Europe tomorrow for medical care. The Prime Minister has directed that as His Excellency's departure will be formal all Ministers will be at the airport to see him off ; and I would like to say that as many Members as possible desiring to be present are welcome. Accordingly Parliament will not sit tomorrow.

The business of the House scheduled for tomorrow will be re-arranged and I shall make a further statement on Monday. Immediately after the sitting this morning, I propose to discuss with Party Whips so as to decide with them (with their concurrence) whether there should be a night sitting on Monday or we should extend the sitting days beyond Wednesday.

Several Members : Extend the days.

The Minister of Housing and Surveys (Chief A. O. Ogunsanya) : I, as a Member of this House, prefer extension. We gave an undertaking here the other day that we could sit for as long as possible, and it is the view of all of us now in the Government Bench that there should be extension.

Chief Okotie-Eboh : On a point of order, it is very surprising that my hon. Friend and Colleague is unable to forget that he is no longer sitting opposite and that he is sitting on the Government Bench. How can he speak as a Member of this House; he can only speak as a member of the Government.

Chief Ogunsanya : I did say that I was representing all the Ministers on the Bench now.

Dr B. U. Nzeribe (Orlu West) : All jokes apart, if my fellow Floor Members of this Parliament are serious in their attacks on the Government, let us vote for an extension of the sitting period. Otherwise what is the sense in criticising the Government for rushing the House ? So let us vote now for the extension of the sitting period and let us sit till the next weekend.

Mr A. F. Odulana (Ijebu North-East) : If what the Leader of the House made is a Ministerial Statement, I think it should not be open to debate. If truly it is a Ministerial Statement that should be the end of it, and nobody should argue on it. A precedent will be created if Floor Members go on speaking on a Ministerial Statement.

Mr Speaker : The essence of parliamentary democracy is for the Ministers sometimes to sound the opinion of the Members on matters, particularly those affecting the running of the House. I think there is no harm in the Ministers feeling the ideas of the Members on this point. However, I think we have had quite enough of it and we shall go on to the presentation of public bills.

PRESENTATION OF PUBLIC BILLS

SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION
(1965-66) BILL

Bill to authorise the issue out of the Consolidated Revenue Fund of the sum of six hundred

House of Representatives Debates

2411 [Presentation of Public Bills]

15 OCTOBER 1965

[National Day Bill]

2412

and eight thousand seven hundred and seventy pounds for the purpose of making further provision for the service of the Year ending on the thirty-first day of March, one thousand nine hundred and sixty-six ; and to appropriate that amount for the purpose specified in that Act, presented by the Minister of Finance ; read the First time ; to be read a Second time—*Monday, 18th October.*

FOOD AND DRUGS (LAGOS) BILL

Bill to regulate the manufacture and sale of food, drugs, cosmetics and devices and to make provision for matters connected therewith, presented by the Minister of Finance ; read the First time ; to be read a Second time—*Monday, 18th October*

EXCISE TARIFF BILL

Bill to make better provision for the imposition of duties of excise and for purposes connected therewith, presented by the Minister of Finance ; read the First time ; to be read a Second time—*Wednesday, 20th October.*

RENT CONTROL (LAGOS) AMENDMENT BILL

Bill to make provision for tribunals to control rents in Lagos, to amend the Rent Restriction Act, and for related matters, presented by the Minister of Housing and Surveys ; read the First time ; to be read a Second time—*Wednesday, 20th October.*

LEGAL PRACTITIONERS (AMENDMENT) BILL

Bill to amend the Legal Practitioners Act 1962 for the purpose of transferring to the Solicitor-General of the Federation the functions of the Chief Registrar of the Supreme Court relating to the Legal Practitioners Disciplinary Tribunal, presented by the Minister of Communications ; read the First time ; to be read a Second time—*Wednesday, 20th October.*

COUNCIL OF MINISTERS (EVIDENCE) BILL

Bill to provide for the proof by certificate in certain cases of actions and decisions by the Council of Ministers, presented by the Minister of Communications ; read the First time ; to be read a Second time—*Wednesday, 20th October.*

BORROWING BY PUBLIC BODIES BILL

Bill to regulate the acceptance by certain bodies of external loans and credit facilities

and to authorise the Minister of Finance to give guarantees in respect of loans and credit facilities to be made or afforded to such bodies ; and for connected purposes, presented by the Minister of Finance ; read the First time ; to be read a Second time—*Wednesday, 20th October.*

LEGAL EDUCATION (PENSIONS) BILL

Bill to provide for making offices constituted by the Council of Legal Education pensionable, presented by Minister of State (*M. Ibrahim Gusau*) ; read the First time ; to be read a Second time—*Wednesday, 20th October.*

Mr O. C. Ememe (Aba South) : On a point of order, I do not know whether I am wrong, but looking through the Parliamentary Debates distributed this morning I have not been able to see some of the Questions asked yesterday.

Mr Speaker : What were the Questions and what Ministries did they relate to.

Mr Ememe : The Questions relate to the Prime Minister and the Ministry of External Affairs.

Mr Speaker : If I can remember very well, the hon. Gentleman came in after his Question had been asked yesterday.

Chief Okotie-Eboh : The Member for Aba South (*Mr Ememe*) is himself a 'question'.

Mr Speaker : We shall find out later whether the Questions have been printed or not.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

NATIONAL DAY BILL

Order for Second Reading read.

Chief Okotie-Eboh : I rise to move—

That a Bill for an Act to amend the Public Holidays Act, be now read a Second time.

This is a straightforward Bill, the purpose of which (as Members will find in the Explanatory Memorandum) is to provide that 1st of October shall be National Day and shall be observed as a Public Holiday in the Federal Territory of Lagos. Corresponding action is being taken by Regional Governments.

All of us are aware of this day and all that we are doing is to give it a legal sanction. I do not think that this is one of those Bills that my hon. Friend, the Member for Owerri South East (*Mr Ukegbu*) would question, and I commend it for the immediate approval of Members present.

Minister of State (Alhaji Ibrahim Tako Galadima) : I beg to second.

Mr B. N. Ukegbu (Owerri South East) : Contrary to what the Minister of Finance thought I do not intend to question this Bill, but I want to voice out one grievance which Members have felt since 1960. I think Members, representing the various constituencies and also having the constitutional prerogative of governing this Federation with the Council of Ministers, would like to play a more significant part in the National Day celebrations. They have been kept in the background by the simple practice of ensuring that Parliament is not sitting when the National Day comes around. We stay in our various areas and hear that there is state banquet and hear of all the ceremonies of the National Day celebrations, but we have no opportunity of seeing them at all.

It will not be out of place if the Government arranges for Parliament to be in session on or about the 1st of October, so as to enable hon. Members to play a significant part in National Day celebrations.

The Minister of Finance (Chief Okotie-Eboh) rose—

Mr Ukegbu : The Minister of Finance should not begin to attack me yet. I have not finished. The hon. Minister of Finance appears to be nervous when Members speak about their rights. If he does not want hon. Members to be here on the 1st day of October, then I recommend that he should also travel to Sapele and not stay here on that day. If he stays here as the Member for Warri, I want to be here as the Member for Owerri, because we have equal rights.

Chief Okotie-Eboh : Surely the hon. Minister of Communications can adequately represent Owerri here. We do not want the Member for Owerri South East (*Mr Ukegbu*) here. Speaking quite frankly, the hon.

Member should think again about the point he has made. All the Parliamentarians here are leaders in their own rights in their different constituencies, and on the National Day each of them should be in his constituency to celebrate with his people.

Several hon. Members : No.

Chief Okotie-Eboh : I know that they want to be here not because they want to be here to celebrate the National Day but because of money.

Mr A. E. Udo (Enyong East) : Those of us who had the opportunity to be in foreign countries when Nigeria was still a dependent country really appreciate this Bill just before the House. I remember that in 1957 when we were still under British domination, I happened to be on a guide tour of Washington, D.C. in America. In fact, of 51 other people from various other lands, I had the greatest shock of my life when I was conducted to a place where the flags of various nations were displayed in Washington D.C. Each of the 51 other people who went along with me was able to identify the flag of his own country. Then they turned round to me and asked me to show them the flag of my own country. I was not able to show them the flag of my country and I was greatly ashamed indeed.

Now, I am very thankful to our leaders who have given us independence through the hard work they have done, and for that reason I feel that this Bill which seeks to give us a National Day is a Bill of very great importance to some of us who have suffered shame in foreign lands.

I also recall that in days when we used to be under the British, we celebrated with fanfare the British Empire Day. Without any apology to my fellow countrymen who still hold titles of O.B.E. and M.B.E., I want to say that this National Day of Nigeria is a very important day to everyone of us. In fact, it is more meaningful to us as Nigerians than the British Empire Day was to us.

I remember one headmaster I had as a pupil who wanted to show his loyalty to the British Empire in his own way by compelling us to memorise the messages which were sent by the British Monarch on such a day. Here is an occasion for us to demonstrate our great loyalty to this country. Therefore, I sincerely support this National Day Bill.

House of Representatives Debates

2415

[*National Day*

15 OCTOBER 1965

Bill : Second Reading

2416

[*MR UDO*]

The first day of October should be viewed essentially as a day of thanksgiving. That is how I look at it. It is a day on which we should count all our national blessings. Unfortunately, the Bill before this House this morning does not specify clearly what this first day of October should be for. We simply are told that we are going to have the first day of October as a public holiday but the Bill does not explain to us why we should celebrate this day as a public holiday. Anyway, as I look at it, I think our leaders want to give us this day so as to remind us of the day on which we became free from the British yoke.

I hope that the Minister of Internal Affairs will consider the advisability of presenting before this House, at a later date, another National Day Bill which, I think, should be entitled a National Day of Mourning. The first day of October, I think, should be a National Day of thanksgiving, when we should thank God and all our leaders for all the good things that we enjoy in this country politically, economically and socially.

If we are honest with ourselves, we will appreciate the fact that we need prayers for our leaders and for this country as a whole, and that is why I am suggesting that National Day celebrations should not end only with drinking some more beer or some more whisky or something else. It should also include a day when we should all be on our knees and pray for this country. Events which have been taking place in the country from time to time—in fact, in recent days—show that we need a day like this—a National Day of Mourning—when everyone should be in sackclothes with ashes on and pray for the welfare of this country.

We know that there is corruption in this country and that there is spiritual wickedness in high places. These are the things we should pray about. Also in this country there is tribalism. In fact, even in this august House, where we all happen to be Members, there are some people who have not been able to get rid of tribal sentiments. From time to time they make provocative statements right here in this House. As leaders of the country, we should altogether rid our minds of these things.

Now, the events of people trying to get power by all means also call for prayer so that,

all in all, I think after this National Day of thanksgiving which should essentially be a day of rejoicing; we should also have a National Day of Mourning when everyone, including all the Members of this House, should pray for the welfare of this nation.

I beg to support.

The Minister of Communications (*Mr R. A. Njoku*) : I only rise to make a short statement because my hon. Friend and Colleague, the Minister of Finance and Leader of the House, has mentioned my name in this debate and I wish to say that personally I have no objection to the Member for Owerri South-East (*Mr Ukegbu*) and, indeed, any other Member of this House, being in Lagos for the National Day celebrations.

Chief Okotie-Eboh : Mr Speaker, I protest.

Mr Njoku : I see no reason why the National Day celebrations should not from time to time coincide with the sittings of this House. However, that may be, if this coincidence does not take place, naturally hon. Members can enjoy the National Day celebrations in their various constituencies. I think I have made my point clear.

Several hon. Members : No, no !

Mr J. O. Ede (*Idoma North*) : I rise to support the Bill and while doing so, I would like to associate myself with the views expressed by the Member for Owerri South-East (*Mr Ukegbu*) that all Members of this Parliament should be present during the National Day celebrations. We are the Lords of the day and being the Lords of the day, it is proper that we all should be present and witness or honour the occasion with our presence in Lagos.

Now as it stands, on the first day of October, Members are not allowed to be here simply because they are not invited. We ought to be invited on any special occasion such as the first day of October or any important day at all in Nigeria.

Mr A. F. Odulana (*Ijebu North-East*) : Even on a Sunday ?

Mr Ede : No, on Sundays people do not meet in the House.

To be brief, I want to say that the Government should not neglect the importance of Members' presence on any important occasion

and, therefore, from to-day onwards Members of this Parliament should be invited to any public occasion like the National Day celebrations or any important day that public celebrations are going to take place.

I beg to support.

Dr B. U. Nzeribe (Orlu West) : There is not much I want to say on this Bill, except to associate myself with the views expressed by the Member for Enyong East (*Mr Udo*), who made a very important point about the Bill—namely, that the 1st of October should be made a sacred day in the history of Nigeria.

One of the ways in which we can express in real concrete terms our loyalty to our nation is to establish a symbol to express this loyalty. There must be a symbol, some outwardly manifested way of indicating in concrete terms our loyalty to our nation.

In the history of mankind, there is never a movement—whether it is a religious, economic, social or political movement—that has no symbolism, a way of expressing its attachment and its loyalty. One of the invisible weapons that the British imperialists used on their colonies was its demand of absolute loyalty to a symbolism.

The Empire Day celebration has been cited. The Union Jack was almost second to God during the era of the British domination of the colonies and when the British National Anthem was sung during the imperial days, the Residents, the District Officers, the Assistant District Officers and even some of us who were then at the helm of affairs stood erect as statues, erect as a needle, because the British National Anthem was being sung.

To-day in Nigeria, when the National Anthem is sung, some people stand a-kimbo, some scratch their noses, some throw their agbadas up and down, some adjust their shoes ; it is just a national disgrace. This should be the one concrete way that all Nigerians should indicate that they belong to a nation. As a matter of fact, I think I can conservatively estimate that only about some ten *per cent* of Nigerians can sing our National Anthem ; in fact, less than ten *per cent* can sing the National Anthem. And what is worst is that when the National Anthem is sung, some non-Nigerians openly demonstrate their disrespect and nobody cares about it.

Only a few pretend to owe some kind of allegiance or loyalty to Nigeria and respect the National Anthem. So, I think that this Bill is most welcome and I certainly hope that the Minister of Information should now address himself more to teaching and informing the public of those things which are useful to us, so that they will not be recalcitrant and dissident, rather than giving out false and useless information. We want something meaningful. We want people to have respect for the National Anthem of the nation, respect for the Head of State, respect for those Nigerians who are sacred and respect for the so-called idea of unity and one nation.

Secondly, I would like to say something that is related to this. I have observed that on this first day of October, various cadres of heads of communities, heads of regions, heads of provinces, heads of local councils, heads of religious bodies, and so on, send messages of their own. Why should Nigeria not have one message from one Head of State trickling down to the lowest cadre of Government unit in Nigeria ? Why should we not have one message from the President and perhaps one from the Prime Minister circulated down to the class rooms—one message alone—rather than heads of county councils sending separate messages, trade union leaders, Provincial Commissions, village heads and Chairmen of Public Corporations all sending separate messages, and we have a conglomeration of messages meaning almost nothing. Most of them are empty messages meaning nothing.

One message from the Head of State and one from the Prime Minister is sufficient. Afterall, if the Premiers and Regional Governors want to send messages, they have their day of Regional self-government. There is too much clamour for recognition in this country and too much clamour for power which is lying in the shadow. Everybody wants to project himself by talking, and all these messages are meaningless except one or two that people can spare the time to think about.

Finally, and this is only ancillary to this question of the National Day Celebration. One of the reasons why honours and merits are conferred on people, apart from their own contribution to the progress of the nation, is to establish a standard that younger men and women should emulate. That is why the O.B.E. was awarded to some people free of

House of Representatives Debates

2419

[*National Day*

15 OCTOBER 1965

Bill : Second Reading]

2420

[DR NZERIBE]

charge, either because they had made a lot of contribution to the progress of the people or because they were stooges to the Imperial Government ; I do not know.

With our own independence, our own National Honours should not be debased. I am not quarrelling with anybody who has not been awarded any National Honours. I do not even care personally because I believe that honour eventually goes to the person that merits honour. I can say this on the Floor of this Parliament that there is a lot of grumbling at the way the honours are being profusely conferred on some people.

Some people deserve honours for the contribution they have made to the society. When a person has just been released from gaol or has just been acquitted by a court of law for some misdeameour or some other offence and the following day the Government of Nigeria confers on him an Order of the Niger, this is akin to what happened in the days of feudal England when Queen Elizabeth acknowledged piracy and burglary by conferring honours on the people because they stole from the Spanish ships on the high seas. This has come down to Nigeria now.

Some of these things are public sins. They are so glaring that no nation can compromise with such public scandals and, before the public knows what has happened, such people have been conferred with a medal. But for what ? So, I would appeal to the Government to set up a kind of scrutinising committee that will see that before an honour can be conferred on a person, that person's character and past performances should be thoroughly scrutinised and his contribution to national success and national advancement meticulously examined before he can be conferred with honours, not because somebody is a friend of a Federal or Regional Minister, or a Provincial Commissioner, or because somebody had helped to tight an election or he happens to be a tale-bearer. If something is not done about this, a day will come when in the course of time some Nigerians will refuse to accept these honours.

As a matter of fact if I were one of those who got honours this year I would have thought twice before accepting my own because the exercise was absolutely debased, it was diluted,

it was watered down. If the National Honour should continue to be meaningful, if it should continue to be a National Honour and one with dignity and respect, it should be awarded to the few who deserve it, the few who have made contributions to the growth of this nation.

I beg to support.

Mr J. N. F. Obioha (Orlu North) : I rise to support the Bill which is now before the House. In doing so I would like to address myself to the whole subject of public holidays in Nigeria. It is my opinion that this country is having too many public holidays.

In the provinces, or anywhere in Nigeria, one can see that the number of public holidays and the number of working days are almost coming very close to each other. The day we observe our National Day is a public holiday and I am saying what I am saying particularly to emphasise the fact that Nigerians are enjoying too much of public holidays.

Speaking more about holidays and recreations, I would like to say that it has also become famous in this country that there is laziness among the workers in this country. This is the only country where somebody at his table in the office has the full time to read newspapers and when one takes up the receiver of the telephone and makes a call he refuses to answer you. Rather he will go about enjoying a holiday in the office.

In addition, our legislation seems to be encouraging this attitude of laziness by creating too many holidays. I do not mean to say that the National Day should not be a public holiday. In fact it is the most important public holiday in this country. It is a day in which everybody would like to identify himself with the nation ; a day one would like to say, "Oh ! I am a Nigerian." I am saying that there is so much laziness among our people and this is becoming a disease in this country. This is the only country where one writes a letter to a Ministry or office and they will not have the courtesy of sending a reply or an acknowledgment to him for two or three months. That is an aspect of laziness.

By creating too many public holidays apart from the National Day the Government is indirectly encouraging the spirit of laziness throughout the country.

I would like also to use this opportunity to speak again on the National Anthem. If one goes to a public place in this country and the National Anthem is being sung one will be surprised to see how a lot of people go on talking and laughing as if the Anthem is just a matter of course. As a matter of fact I would like to suggest that there should have been a section in this Bill providing against this sort of abuse or want of respect for the National Anthem.

In this country there is a sort of irresponsibility amongst Nigerians in the way they talk about the President of the Republic or the Prime Minister or other Heads of some aspects of Government Machinery. This is the only nation where anybody can get up to talk anyhow in the newspapers criticising the Head of State or the Prime Minister in a way that looks very irresponsible. I would like to say that although it could be possible for the Prime Minister or the Head of State to do certain things which at times are not strictly in keeping with their honour, as responsible citizens we must at all times have a sort of respect towards the Prime Minister and the President of the Federal Republic when talking about them.

A lot of things that appear in the newspapers sometimes about the President of the Republic or the Prime Minister or other people that are highly placed in this country are not complimentary at all. We must be ashamed of the activities of some of the press of this country because of the way they exhibit a sort of mockery of the Head of State.

I would also like to use this opportunity to say that the National Day has become a way of penalising teachers and school children. They all come out on this day and do the march-past. But unlike what was the case during the days of the Empire Day celebrations the sports and the prizes awarded are so poor that they do not give any stimulus to these people. I think it is a way of punishing school children and teachers during the National Day celebrations.

I beg to support.

Mr S. O. Kamson (Ikeja North) : I would like to associate myself with the views expressed by Members on the other sides of the House. I would also like to thank the Speaker for giving those of us on this side of the House

the opportunity to speak on this Bill because many of the Members on this side of the House have complained to me that they have got up several times but that they could not catch the Speaker's eye. I am very happy now that the Speaker has been kind enough to call on me to speak.

I would like Members of this House to realise that many of us, and I should say all the Members, have dedicated their lives to serve this country in the best way they could. The Members must realise that they are serving millions of people and that the reason why they are here is that they want the betterment of their people.

I would like to point out that in other parts of the world, especially in Great Britain, the House of Commons for example meets at least for six months in a year and, speaking with the support of Members on the other sides of the House, I would suggest that this House meet at least three months in a year. This is necessary because we are being paid for coming here and it will be useless for us to earn money without working for it. Workers have been crying for enough salary but we are earning about £1,000 *per annum* without working fully for it.

If one wants to be a politician one has to do a full-time job. My suggestion to hon. Members is that we should be meeting more often here so that we can justify what we are being paid.

Mr S. M. Ojukwu (Bende Central) : In making his contribution to the debate on the National Day Bill, my hon. Friend and Member for Ikeja North (*Mr Kamson*) is talking about sittings of Parliament. This is quite irrelevant.

Mr Speaker : It is really irrelevant. I would like to draw the attention of Members to the fact that this Bill is concerned with the National Day and, as a matter of fact, the day being observed as a public holiday for the National Day is the only concern of the Bill.

Mr Kamson : I would like to say that all Members of Parliament should be in Lagos on the National Day, because it will not be grand enough if only Federal Ministers are left here for the celebrations. In addition, Members of Parliament want to come to Lagos as often as possible because they too like to be Lagosians like us. If they are not given the

House of Representatives Debates

2423

[*National Day*

15 OCTOBER 1965

Bill : Second Reading]

2424

[*MR KAMSON*]

opportunity to attend Meetings in Lagos most of them may not be privileged to come here.

Minister of State (*Mr Abiola Oshodi*) : On a point of order, the Member for Ikeja North (*Mr Kamson*) is a native of Ikorodu. He is not a native of Lagos.

Mr Kamson : The Minister of State is a Nupe man. He ought to be in the North and not in Lagos.

The Minister of Housing and Surveys (*Chief A. O. O. Ogunsanya*) : On a point of order, I would beg the protection of Mr Speaker against the Member for Ikeja North (*Mr Kamson*) opening Ikorodu to attack from all over Nigeria. He is exposing Ikorodu to attack by other Nigerians, and as I am a prince of Ikorodu and, by the Grace of God, Chief Are of Lagos, I must ask Mr Speaker for protection against Mr Kamson opening a clash between my hometown and my place of residence.

Mr Speaker : The hometown and the place of residence of the Minister of Housing and Surveys are both in Nigeria.

Mr Kamson : The Minister of Housing and Surveys is from my hometown, and he is also my cousin because we come from the same family. I must say here that whatever are his rights are my own rights.

I would like to go further from the National Day celebrations to the Meetings of this House. In this respect I would say that it is necessary that Members of Parliament should meet at least six months or three months in a year as is being practised in other parts of the world.

The National Day should be a public holiday, and school children all over the Federal Republic of Nigeria should celebrate it better than they now do in order to mark it significantly as the day when Nigeria freed herself from the colonial regime.

Chief P. O. A. Dada (*Ilorin East*) : I would like to congratulate the Minister of Internal Affairs for bringing this Bill to the Floor of this House. I think that it is, indeed, a great Bill, and it is something which we should all support. In supporting it I feel that our National Day should be a real one and not just a mere day like any other public holiday.

This is so in the rural areas, because people in the rural areas have not been able to know

that it is the day which is celebrated in view of the achievement of our independence. Therefore, the psychology has not gone inside their minds. I would like to see, as in the old colonial days of Empire Day celebrations when prizes were awarded to people, that the Ministry of Internal Affairs should in future vote enough money for prizes to be awarded to school children who should take part in the celebrations all over the country.

I think that our National Honours are just too cheap to earn. Our National Honours should be very difficult to earn. They should be earned just by village heads or ward heads as is the case now. I realise that more than two hundred people received our National Honours on our last National Day, and I feel that the number is just too many. However, I would not say that those who have received those honours should not hold on to them, but in the future it should be so regulated that very few people should qualify for them.

I beg to support.

Chief V. O. Onabanjo (*Ijebu South West*) : On a point of order, I was going to ask the Member for Ilorin East (*Chief Dada*) whether our National Honours were as cheap to get as the Western Regions ballot papers ?

Mr Speaker : This is not Question Time.

Mr J. O. Edomwonyi (*Benin Central*) : I am in sympathy with those Members who have expressed the view that we should all come to Lagos for the National Day celebrations. In the Regions little or no recognition is given to the Federal Parliamentarians. On several occasions important events had taken place in the Regions in which no step was taken to invite Federal Parliamentarians.

On our last National Day I had to run about for my own invitation when I noticed that all other Members of the Regional Legislature had got their invitations. I found that not only were drivers and truck pushers invited to these celebrations but thugs were also on the top list of invitees. I did not get any invitation, and I had to phone the Ministry responsible for my own invitation only to find out that all invitations had been sent out. I, therefore, started hunting for the invitations to the celebrations, and I must confess that I felt very much humiliated to find myself in this plight. I also consider this as a disgrace for not being recognised,

House of Representatives Debates

2425

[*National Day*

15 OCTOBER 1965

Bill : Second Reading]

2426

M. Ali Umaru (Wukari) : On a point of order, if I could remember very well, the Member for Benin Central (*Mr Edomwonyi*) was busy having audience with the Commissioner probing the Owegbe Cult in September. I do not know how it was possible for him to be invited to our last National Day celebrations.

Mr Edomwonyi : I am sure that if the Member for Wukari (*M. Ali Umaru*) was not a member of Owegbe Cult he would not have known such facts, and I can only deduce that he is himself a member of that Cult.

However, it is high time that the Regional Government should recognise Members of the Federal Parliament, and I feel also that the Federal Parliamentarians should be given preference over the Regional Legislators. I would also like to point out that when the Northern Premier last visited the Mid-West in connection with the launching of a boat at Koko, I was not sent any invitation despite the fact that I was billed to introduce the Guest of Honour, the Host and other Ministers of State at the ceremony. I think something must be done to see that the Regional Governments give recognition to Federal Parliamentarians so that due respect and honour can always go to them.

During the colonial days as has formerly been mentioned by previous speakers, the Empire Day used to be a glorious day, a day of jubilation, a day of joy and a day of feasting and merriment, particularly among school children. It used to be a day which every Nigerian looked forward to or prayed to see. But to-day, I am sorry to say, our National Day is an apology. It is an apology and the celebration is equally an apology in that there are no bunting, no feasting—

The Minister of Housing and Surveys (*Chief A. O. Ogunsanya*) : Where is the Member for Benin Central (*Mr Edomwonyi*) referring to ?

Mr Edomwonyi : I am referring to the Regions. Ministers sit down in Lagos here to enjoy life more abundant, forgetting other Members who entered the House with them on the same ticket. We entered the House on the same ticket and it is just a stroke of luck that some Members are made Ministers.

Mr A. F. Odulana (Ijebu North East) : What kind of feasting does the hon. Gentleman from the Mid-West want ? Is it an Owegbe feasting or what kind of feasting does he want ?

Several hon. Members : Ballot papers !

Mr Edomwonyi : When we talk of feasting, I can remember that when the Member for Ijebu North East (*Mr Odulana*) was a school boy he used to run to school on Empire Day with his plate or calabash in order to collect his share of the food.

Arrangements should be made to feed the school children on that special day. The day is for them and it should be made really enjoyable for them.

In addition to this, I have noticed that in certain respects traditional dances were made to take the place of school sports.

Chief Ogunsanya : There were school sports.

Mr Edomwonyi : Where ? Does the Minister mean there were sports in Lagos ? I am not talking about Lagos. I am talking about my place in the Mid-West where there were no school sports to celebrate the National Day. In certain cases, prizes were awarded up to the tune of £25 to traditional dancers for having to dance for ten minutes. This amount was paid to the winners, and the second prize of £15 went to the next group and so on.

The National Day is meant to be a day of remembrance of the achievements of our national heroes in giving us independence so that we might hand it down to posterity. We want the children to remember with clear minds what the National Day is when they become adults. They will surely take up the responsibility as we shall be handing down to them the yoke of our national Government in the near future.

As has once been mentioned, it is a fact that the multifarious messages from Governors, Premiers, Head Chiefs, Presidents of Houses of Chiefs, Divisional Advisers and Chairmen of Councils during the National Day are a national disgrace. Nigeria is one country. It is undivided except for the N.N.D.P. who are trying to divide Nigeria now. There should be only one message throughout the length and breadth of Nigeria during the

House of Representatives Debates

2427 [National Day Bill : Second Reading] 15. OCTOBER 1965 [National Day Bill : Third Reading] 2428

[MR EDOMWONYI]

National Day. There should be no other messages ; there should be no question of rivalry, no competition or equation. People should not say that because the President of the Federation delivered a National Day message in Lagos, the Regional Governors should deliver their own messages.

After all, they have their own Regional occasions to deliver these messages, for example, on the days the Regions became self-governing. For instance, the day of the creation of the Mid-West State is the occasion the Mid-West Governor has for delivering his own message. The message on the National Day should be given only by the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

Now, talking about the National Honours, it is a fact that it is a big disgrace. In the last list of Honours given out, I noticed that in my own Division, three people were given these honours.

The hon. Member who is asking where, should know that I am from Benin Division. In Benin Division, only three people were given National Honours. One of them is an Executive Officer, another is a Nurse and the third is a house wife to an engineer.

What contributions have these three people made to the progress of Nigeria ? What contributions have they made to the independence of Nigeria ? Even, let us go down to the Region. What contributions has any of these three people made towards the creation of the Mid-West Region which entitled them to this type of honour ? Therefore, I will agree—

Chief Ogunsanya : With the greatest respect to the hon. Gentleman who happens to be a good friend of mine, we are not competent here to question the act of the Regional Government in awarding honours within their own Regional list. This has nothing at all to do with us.

Mr Edomwonyi : I am grateful to the hon. Minister for his explanation, nevertheless, I think the explanation is not satisfactory in that the Regional Governments recommend and before such recommendations are made, I think there should be a line of thought, and there should be a principle laid down for the award of National Honours. It should not just be given to the favourites of certain people or their concubines and tale bearers.

Mr Odulana : The hon. Gentleman should be clear enough to state whether the people recommended in the Region are Owegbes or non-Owegbes because I am sure those people must be non-Owegbes hence he is boiling over the issue.

Mr Edomwonyi : With the greatest respect to hon. Members who may belong to Awo Opa or other societies, there is Awo Opa in Yorubaland and there is Ogboni in Yorubaland. Therefore, if there is Owegbe in Benin, there is no harm in it since no crime has been committed by the Owegbe. So, I am proud to say that I am an Owegbe.

As I said, there should be a policy for the award of National Honours so that honours should be given to those who merit them.

Finally, I would say that the public holidays are not too many because so far as I could calculate, there are only seven public holidays ; three Muslim days, three Christian days and one National Day.

I think that this National Day should be made a public holiday. I wholeheartedly support the Bill.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill read a Second time, and immediately considered in Committee.

Bill reported, without Amendment.

Motion made and Question proposed, That the Bill be now read the Third time—(THE MINISTER OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS).

Mr I. I. Akpabio (Opobo North) : In support of the Bill I have certain remarks to make here. It is a really good Bill, but what we are concerned with here is that the way in which this last celebration was made was very awful in many areas, especially in County Council areas.

Now that the Bill has come to Parliament and it is going to be accepted, I think there should be an allocation of funds to the different Regional Governments and this money should be used in the celebration of our National Day. I remember that in the days of the Empire Day, children used to be given prizes after sports and they always went home with the impression that the day had been well spent. But this is not the case with our National Day. The Regional Governments often say that they have not got enough funds for such expensive celebrations.

House of Representatives Debates

2429

[*National Day*

15 OCTOBER 1965

Bill : Third Reading

2430

It is very shameful to note that on our National Day, while there is a message from the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, there are also in the County areas, messages from the Provincial Commissioners.

The next point which I would like to make is that Members of Parliament are not invited to our National Day celebrations. In fact, we seem to be overlooked in the Regions. We hope that in future, all the 312 Members of Parliament will be invited to take part in the National Day celebrations. Invitations should be extended to all Parliamentarians so that those who like may come to Lagos and witness the celebration.

I beg to support.

Alhaji Inusa, Wakilin Masaka (Gaya North) : In rising to say a few words on the National Day Bill, I think this day should be regarded as a very important day, and as such, I feel there would be no harm done if all the hon. Members are invited to Lagos on that particular day because nearly everybody here was present at the Race Course on the day Nigeria attained our Independence. Inviting the Members to the celebrations would be to remind the Members of the important and remarkable thing they have done for the country.

If we fail to celebrate this great occasion, we are giving the expatriates in this country an opportunity to laugh at us because, during the colonial days, as so many other hon. Members have said, quite a lot of ceremonies took place on Empire Days. Now that we have our National Day and everything is in our hands, there is no reason why we should not do everything possible to celebrate this great day all over Nigeria.

In order to celebrate this day as it should be celebrated, sufficient money should be made available for the occasion. Members should be invited from their respective regions to Lagos. Sports should be arranged for school children and everything should be done to show that we accept this day and we thank God for giving us the privilege of freeing ourselves from the colonial powers.

Mr A. F. Odulana (Ijebu North-East) : I do not think there is anything more on this Bill that has not been said by the hon. Members who have spoken before me. The hon. Minister

of Internal Affairs who is a new Minister in that Ministry used to be one of us on the Floor of this House. He is well-known for his international reputation and wisdom and he has represented Nigeria on many occasions.

We are not fighting with this Bill because it is straightforward, but I think it affords Members an opportunity to make it known to the Prime Minister, who is the Head of Government, that Members have not been well treated in the sharing of amenities in our national celebrations. If we are not the elected Members of this House, we cannot be made Ministers. Members of Parliament, even in their respective regions are relegated to the background, and that is why Members are clamouring that they should be made to enjoy the amenities attached to the National Day Celebrations and the celebrations of all other important holidays.

I ask, with your permission, Mr Speaker, has any Member here been invited to lunch or dinner or tea by the Prime Minister or the President ?

Some hon. Members : No.

Mr Odulana : We are only invited to the State House for cocktail parties where we eat poor sandwiches and drink water. I know that it is not possible to invite everyone of us at the same time, but we could be invited on different occasions to the Prime Minister's house for lunch or dinner ; we could be invited to State House for dinner and to have a chat with the President. Only the Ministers enjoy all these things. This is our grievance.

I have sat on two occasions with the Prime Minister at important dinner parties overseas, and I know what it is to sit at table with Members of Parliament, Heads of State and important personalities ; and on these occasions, we numbered about 500. We are not here for legislation alone, we are here for social amenities as well. Members will agree with me that Chief Ogunsanya did not start enjoying it until he became a Minister and now that he is a Minister, he has forgotten about us.

Chief A. O. Ogunsanya : On a point of order, it would be risky inviting the Member for Ijebu North-East (*Mr Odulana*) without *ogiri* soup.

House of Representatives Debates

2431 [Liquor Licensing (Amendment) Bill] 15 OCTOBER 1965

[Lagos Senators Bill]

2432

Mr S. O. Kamson (Ikeja North) : The hon. Minister has not been able to invite anybody, even the members of his own constituency or people from Ikorodu.

Mr Odulana : I do not want to belabour myself about what the Minister of Housing and Surveys said. It is a compliment to the Ijebu and Egba people who eat *ogiri* soup, because the soup clears the eyes of any disease. I cherish it. I like it. (*Laughter*).

On a more serious note, I agree that the 1st of October must be celebrated as our National Day. It is an important day—a day which should be celebrated by all true Nigerians to the end of time. I support every Member who has spoken about this Bill.

We are not fighting the Minister of Internal Affairs over this Bill. We welcome his Bill, but it affords us a good opportunity to recall our rights. It is our right to share in and partake of all the social amenities connected with the celebration of the National Day.

I beg to support.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read the Third time and passed.

**LIQUOR LICENSING (AMENDMENT)
BILL 1965**

Order for Second Reading read.

The Minister of Lagos Affairs (Alhaji Musa Yar'Adua) : I beg to move,

That a Bill entitled "Liquor Licensing (Amendment) Bill, 1965", be now read a Second time.

The purpose of this Bill is to enable attendance fees to be paid to the Chairman and members of the Liquor Licensing Board who are appointed by name and not by office, and who are not hon. Members of this House or of the Senate.

This is a non-contentious Bill, as members of other similar Boards are entitled to remuneration. Moreover, the duties of the chairman and members of the Liquor Licensing Board are of such a nature as to deprive them of the valuable time which they could have profitably spent on their private business. The amount of the sitting fees to be paid will be determined by me in consultation with my hon. Colleague, the Minister of Finance.

The Bill is a very straightforward one, and I commend it to the House.

I beg to move.

The Minister of Establishments (Mr J. C. Obande) : I beg to second.

Mr P. O. Tokula (Igala North-East) : In supporting this Bill, I would like to remind the House, and especially the Minister of Lagos Affairs who is in charge, that while asking for approval to pay sitting or attendance allowances, care must be taken by the Board itself in discharging its duty effectively. This law is going to operate only in Lagos. I stress that the Board should be more observant.

For instance, in some liquor premises in Lagos here, some political parties seize the opportunity to make these premises a platform for vengeance against their political opponents. I have also noted on several occasions that some of these liquor premises are not well cared for. In this case, I am sure that if the Board does its work effectively, it will consider people thoroughly before issuing liquor licences to them.

In Lagos, some liquor premises are very dirty ; others are full of hooligans and the rest of them I would like to stress that before the Board issues a liquor licence, it should thoroughly inspect the liquor premises to see whether they are fit to be used as liquor premises ; the Board should also thoroughly examine the applicant for a licence to see if he is really worthy of being granted one.

I beg to support.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill read a Second time : immediately considered in Committee : reported without Amendment : read the Third time and passed.

LAGOS SENATORS BILL, 1965

Order for Second Reading read.

Alhaji Musa Yar'Adua : I beg to move,

That a Bill entitled "The Lagos Senators Bill, 1965" be now read a Second time.

The purpose of the Bill is to give effect to Section 42 (2) of the present Constitution of the Federation which requires that the selection of Senators representing Lagos in the Federal Parliament should be made in accordance with

House of Representatives Debates

2433

[*Lagos Senators*

15 OCTOBER 1965

Bill : Second Reading]

2434

an Act of Parliament. Hitherto the selection of these Senators had been governed by (a) the Senate (Appointment of Lagos Chiefs) Regulations, 1959 and (b) the Senate (Lagos Representatives) Regulations, 1959.

As a result of there being no genuine opposition party in the Lagos City Council this year, the Senate (Lagos Representatives) Regulations 1959, which provides for the Opposition Leader in the Lagos City Council to be on the Selection Committee had to be amended, and the Adaptation of Laws (Miscellaneous Provisions) Order 1965 was made to enable me to appoint a person to the Selection Committee so that the Committee would be a representative of shades of political opinion in Lagos. The present Bill incorporates this point of view.

I have compared this Bill with the two existing Regulations and found that the Bill merely combines in one legislation all the provision in the two Regulations and the Amendment of 1965 referred to earlier in my speech.

The purpose of the Bill is a simple one, and I therefore beg to move.

The Minister of Internal Affairs (Shettima Ali Monguno) : I beg to second.

Mr M. A. Bashua (Lagos South Central) : I was really shocked to hear the Minister of Lagos Affairs give a reason which is untenable for bringing this Bill to amend the Senate (Lagos Representatives) Regulations, 1959. Just what is wrong with the 1959 law has not been told us. On the other hand this is a glaring attempt by the Minister or the Government to smuggle people into the Senate who are not the representatives of Lagos. I can hear the Member for Ijebu North-East (*Mr Odulana*) objecting to that remark, but may I tell him that Senator Chief O. A. Fagbenro-Beyioku got into the Senate illegally. He was smuggled in illegally, and this is an attempt to legalise his illegal entry into the Senate.

Mr S. O. Kamson rose on a point of order—

Several Members : What Order ?

Mr Speaker : We have to be orderly. Is Mr Kamson raising a point of order ?

Mr S. O. Kamson (Ikeja North) : On a point of information, Senator Chief Fagbenro-Beyioku was not smuggled in because he has been a member of the Senate for a long time now. Besides, he has the right to be in the Senate since he is a Lagosian, unlike the Member for Lagos South Central (*Mr Bashua*) who is a bushman.

Mr Speaker : This is not a point of order, and it is very unparliamentary to call a fellow Member a bushman.

Mr Bashua : I am really not surprised that the hon. Gentleman who raised a point of information exhibits such gross ignorance of the law. Senator Chief Fagbenro-Beyioku's term expired with the end of the last Parliament.

The Senator (Lagos Representatives) Regulations 1959, says this in the appointment of Senators to represent Lagos, and I refer to Section 3. With the permission of the Speaker, I quote :

For the purpose of selecting persons for appointment as Senators representing Lagos in pursuance of subsection (3) of section 5c of the Order, there shall be a Selection Committee composed of—

(a) the Minister, who shall be Chairman of the Committee ;

(b) the Chairman of the Lagos Town Council ;

(c) the member of the Lagos Town Council appearing to the Minister to be the leader of the opposition for the time being in that Council.

4 (1) The Committee shall, subject to the provisions of section 5d of the Order, nominate persons to represent Lagos as members of the Senate to the number specified in paragraph (c) of subsection (1) of section 5a of the Order.

It goes on to say in 5 (1) :

On receiving notification of a nomination in accordance with regulation 4, the Town Clerk shall forthwith arrange for a meeting of all elected members of the Lagos Town Council for the purpose of voting for the confirmation or rejection of the nomination.

That is my point. Hitherto it was the elected members of the City Council that have been nominating their Senators. The members of the Lagos City Council were voted into the

House of Representatives Debates

2435

[Lagos Senators

15 OCTOBER 1965

Bill : Second Reading]

2436

[MR BASHUA]

Council by the people of Lagos, and these people should sit and nominate such Senators that would represent and reflect the views of the people of Lagos. Now the Minister wants to take away this constitutional right of the people of Lagos.

I have it on mandate from the people of Lagos to oppose this Bill vehemently, and I hope that many Members in this House who cherish constitutional rights all over Nigeria will agree with me that this is a Bill that should be dropped right now.

As against the 1959 law, this is the proposition of the Minister of Lagos Affairs and with the permission of the Speaker, it reads thus :

2 (1) For the purpose of selecting persons to be Senators representing the Federal territory in pursuance of section 42 (2) (c) of the Constitution of the Federation there shall be a selection committee which, subject to subsection (1) below, shall consist of—

(a) the Minister ;

(b) the chairman of the Lagos City Council ; and

(c) one other person appointed by the Minister ; and in deciding whom to appoint from time to time under paragraph (c) above the Minister shall have regard to the desirability of securing that the committee shall be reasonably representative of shades of political opinion in Lagos.

How can the Minister determine the shades of political opinion in Lagos ? I say that it is through the reflection of the position of the parties in the City Council that we can determine the shades of political opinion in Lagos.

Mr A. A. Raji (Ede) : I would like the hon. Gentleman who has the Floor to realise that there is bound to be amendments to any law passed in this House. So the 1959 regulations cannot be an exception.

(The Deputy Speaker in the Chair).

Mr Bashua : As I was saying, we require a lot of explanation from the Minister to convince us that this is not another attempt to make nominations to the Senate a question of political patronage ; that somebody who would go to the Senate to represent Lagos would be one who would dance round the Minister—somebody who would be the good boy of the Minister and somebody having no

influence or standing among the people of Lagos. This will be contrary to the spirit and letter of the Constitution of the Federal Republic.

This Amendment should be rejected, and I urge on the Minister and this House to leave the old law as it is. There is just nothing wrong in the old law. Nothing has been said by the Minister to show us that in the working of the 1959 law he has found it impracticable.

The Minister, when we objected to the method he was using to nominate Senator Chief Fagbenro-Beyioku, told us : "Look here, you are all now U.P.G.A.". Afterwards, we did not go into the Council as U.P.G.A.—it was N.C.N.C./A.G. And in the spirit and letter of the law Lagos has two shades of political opinion, the N.C.N.C. and the Action Group. If the Minister appoints—

Mr A. F. Odulana (Ijebu North-East) : This is the point where the hon. Gentleman is misleading the nation. For him to say that there are only two political parties in Lagos is wrong. As a lawyer he should not mislead the House. How can he account for what he has said ? That is the reason why his argument is baseless.

The Deputy Speaker : This seems to be an attempt to make a speech, and it is no point of order.

Mr Bashua : Unfortunately, the N.N.D.P. is unknown in Lagos, and I can very well assure the hon. Gentleman who interjected that no amount of money poured in, no amount of rigging of ballot papers, will make the N.N.D.P. win a seat in Lagos.

There is nothing to show that Senator Fagbenro-Beyioku was nominated by the people of Lagos. The Minister cannot convince us that Senator Fagbenro-Beyioku was representing any political shade of opinion in Lagos. He is a member of the N.N.D.P. I think that was his qualification. The N.N.D.P. is not represented in the Lagos City Council nor is the N.P.C. How did the Minister go to decide that Senator Fagbenro-Beyioku should represent Lagos in the Senate ? What this Bill is about to provide is an attempt to take away the rights of the people of Lagos to nominate people to represent them as people in the Regions of the Federation have been doing.

House of Representatives Debates

2437

[Lagos Senators]

15 OCTOBER 1965

Bill : Second Reading]

2438

Mr S. O. Kamson (Ikeja North) : On a point of information Chief Fagbenro-Beyioku is representing the N.N.D.P. in Lagos.

The Deputy Speaker : Order ! I would advise Members making contributions to stick to the Amendment Bill and refrain from dragging the names of people who are not here into their speeches. I would also like to warn the Gallery to stop applauding. Applause from the Gallery is out of order.

Mr Bashua : As if to add insult to the injury we are suffering in Lagos, Section 5 of the proposed Bill says that the nomination will have to be confirmed by the Minister and the Council of Ministers, unlike the old law which says that the Lagos City Council which is representative of the people of Lagos will confirm. In effect, the Senators to be appointed into the Senate in Lagos will have to be appointed by the Minister. I would like to say, with due respect, that all Members of this House should rise with me and reject the passing of this Bill.

I beg to oppose.

Mr A. F. Odulana (Ijebu North-East) : This is a Bill which is straightforward and welcome. To people who hate light and whose deeds are evil, this Bill is not straightforward.

The name of the hon. Gentleman who has just spoken is Bashua. In Yoruba the meaning of "bashua" is something that is worthless.

The Minister of Finance (Chief F. S. Okotie-Eboh) : On a point of order, I think that we cannot allow debate in this House to degenerate into the personal definition of people's names and so on.

The Deputy Speaker : I would rather say that the standard of debate in this House is getting low now, and I would like Members to try to raise it. Hon. Members should stop cracking small and expensive jokes, particularly with people's private lives and names.

Mr Odulana : I apologise, Mr Deputy Speaker, but I was trying to tell the Member for Lagos South Central (*Mr Bashua*) who, incidentally, is a member of the Lagos City Council, that if he is well educated and if he is a Nigerian, what stands against him is the name that he bears. He should not come to the Floor of this House and talk in the way he

did against Chief Fagbenro-Beyioku, a Senator of more than five years' experience.

Mr Bashua : On a point of correction, I was talking about his appointment, not the person of Senator Fagbenro-Beyioku.

Mr Odulana : If the Member for Lagos South Central (*Mr Bashua*) wants to talk against his appointment, he has a better way of doing that, but not by mentioning his name times without number. He now realises that what he gives with his left will be given back to him by another person with the right. I hope all right-thinking hon. Members in this House welcome this Bill.

Some hon. Members : No !

Mr Odulana : All we need to do is to thank the hon. Minister for bringing it up at this time. If something wrong had been done in the past, is it not open to correction ? Is it not open to amendment ? What is wrong if the Minister brings up the Bill ? Is he not the Minister for Lagos ? He is responsible for Lagos affairs ; so he knows the way to direct the affairs of Lagos. Therefore, through the Deputy Speaker, I thank the Minister for this Bill which is welcome. I hope all hon. Members who like this Bill will applaud me when I sit down.

(*Mr Speaker resumes the Chair*).

Mr V. A. Emenogha (Onitsha North) : This is a Lagos affair, but I have a little point to make. There is one Clause that I would like to touch upon. It says here that when a person is qualified and voted for and he is elected, a certificate showing that he has been elected should be lodged with the President of the Republic and with the Clerk of the Senate. My suggestion is that this Bill should include a Clause to state that a certificate should at the time the election is completed be given to the elected person in order to prevent any possible miscarriage of the errand from the place of the election to the President.

From my own experience in the East, the moment the votes are counted and one is elected, the Returning Officer there and then will give one a certificate. The certificate is carried yards or miles away for delivery. There is no guarantee that there cannot be a miscarriage of justice in the course of this

House of Representatives Debates

2439

[Lagos Senators

15 OCTOBER 1965

Bill : Second Reading]

2440

[MR EMENOGHA]

transition. Perhaps, it has even happened somewhere.

Several hon. Members : In the Western Region !

Mr Emenogha : That is one point I would like to make. Another point is that if we are really democratic, I must say that the Minister, though belonging to his political party, is for all. I think, based on democratic principles, it should be the Lagos City Council that should confirm the nomination. In fairness, I do not think it should be the Minister.

Some people have spoken about coming from the North, and I want to say that I am one of those from one of the largest constituencies—in fact, the second largest—and none of the members here polled more votes than I did. I polled more than 50,000 votes and few Members here polled as much as that.

M. Sule Abba Biu (Biu) : In supporting this Bill, I have two points to make. The first is about the remark made by the previous speaker who said something about nominating Senator Fagbenro-Beyioku to the Senate. I do not think that this particular Bill was intentionally made to be in favour of Senator Fagbenro-Beyioku. I believe that if the Government's intention was to squeeze Senator Fagbenro-Beyioku into the Senate—

Mr J. O. Ede (Idoma North) : On a point of order, Mr Speaker has already ruled that the name of Senator Fagbenro-Beyioku, who is not a Member of this House, should not be cast into the debate.

M. Sule Abba Biu : Definitely, if somebody has made an allegation, it should be replied to. I think that if the Government's intention had been to squeeze Senator Fagbenro-Beyioku into the Senate, there could be many possible ways of doing it, not going by way of this particular Bill.

The second point is on what some Members have said about the Minister. In this particular case, the Minister in selecting a person to represent Lagos in the Senate believes that he has no opposition—for instance, in the Lagos City Council as it is to-day. The Minister can be empowered to select this particular person and it should be in the interest of the people of Lagos. This is what I think.

Some hon. Members have said something about politics—that is, that some people are nominated to represent certain areas without regard to the interests of the people of the area. I believe that in the case of Senator Fagbenro-Beyioku there is nothing wrong in nominating him to represent Lagos. If the other Senators have been nominated under a certain law, I do not see any reason why Senator Fagbenro-Beyioku should not be nominated under the same law. Therefore, I am saying that this particular Bill is non-controversial and we should support it whole-heartedly.

I beg to support.

Chief V. O. Onabanjø (Ijebu South-West) : I would like to deal firstly with the point made by the Minister of Lagos Affairs when he said that because there was no opposition in the Lagos City Council—

Mr S. A. Abasi (Ibadan South) : On a point of order. I do not know whether an accused person can come here and accuse a Member of this House.

Chief Onabanjø : I am not even sure whether the gentleman asking the question is a Member of this House.

Now, when the Minister was speaking, he said that there was no opposition in the Lagos City Council and, therefore, he thought that this Amendment was necessary. I would have thought that the purpose of bringing Bills to the House is not just to serve a temporary situation, but to have a Bill that will last for all time. What guarantee has the Minister that even in the next election due to take place next month there will be no opposition? Has he lost hope for the N.N.D.P. entirely? Does he not believe that they will win a seat in the Lagos City Council and, therefore, constitute an opposition there?

I think that there is much more to this Bill. I can well understand the problem of the Minister. I once heard a friend say about the Minister of Lagos Affairs that he spends six days a week in Katsina and the one day left for the week, he spends it travelling between Lagos and Katsina.

The Minister of Establishments (Mr J. C. Obande) : On a point or order, I think the hon. Member should speak on the Bill, which has nothing to do with the private life of the Minister.

Chief Onabanjo : I was also going to give the asset side because, of all the Ministers, he is the only one that one could say has not indulged in globe-trotting. He keeps himself in Nigeria instead of squandering the nation's money running around the globe. I think that is to his credit.

Whatever happens, the purpose of having people appointed as Senators is to reflect the wishes of the Government of the day in a particular area. That is why the Eastern Government nominates Senators to come and represent the Region here. The West and the North do the same thing. Even the Mid-West is entitled to twelve Senators nominated to the Senate to represent the Region.

Chief Okotie-Eboh : I do not understand why my hon. Friend should use the words "even the Mid-West". He should not speak about Senators because he does not know what Senators are.

Chief Onabanjo : I would like to assure Members from the Mid-West that I did not intend to say that in any derogatory way. I was only thinking of the importance of the Federal Territory of Lagos as compared with a new Region like the Mid-West. I would have thought that Lagos, given only two seats in the Senate (I am not talking now about the Oba who is there as of right), the Minister should not still want to deprive them of the right of choosing these two men on their own. This is very bad.

We can only know the different shades of opinion in a place through a democratically elected Parliament. In Lagos, there is the Lagos City Council which is the assembly for the people of Lagos. We have had an example of what happened somewhere else. If the Minister wants the N.N.D.P. at all costs, it is still easy. We are having the election next week. They can start hawking ballot papers again and they will be there. Why go through the back-door?

However, what is being done now is not to rig the election, but to switch. Perhaps, there is a difference between rigging an election and switching, so that if they do not rig it, they switch the results.

Mr Speaker : There are no Senators who are elected here.

Chief Onabanjo : I mean nominated. I am grateful to the Speaker for the correction. I would appeal to the Minister of Lagos Affairs that he should know what he is trying to do. He may have genuine intentions, it is true, but for the moment we cannot talk of a strong opposition in the Lagos City Council. I am sure that the Prime Minister is not intending to dissolve Parliament very soon, in which case one might say that we want to have another selection of Senators.

In the normal course of events we will have another Parliament in the next four years. What then is the purpose of this Bill? By that time another Lagos City Council election will have taken place apart from the one of next month and an opposition will emerge. I was only then going to say that when the opposition emerges it may be possible to amend the Bill again and say that the Leader of Opposition should be a Member of the Selection Committee.

I do not think that this is a question of foresight. It may be a question of prophecy on the part of the Minister by saying that the N.N.D.P. will not be elected into the Lagos City Council. But, then, I am sure the Minister is not a prophet and I would like to appeal strongly to him that this Bill is unnecessary because we are not going to appoint any new Senators. (*Interruption*).

I hope the Member for Remo will allow me to speak.

The Minister of Labour (Prince Adeleke Adedoyin) : On a point of order, will the hon. Gentleman and Member for Ijebu South-West (*Chief Onabanjo*) refer to me by my portfolio?

Chief Onabanjo : I would have liked to refer to the Member, opposite by the title of his portfolio or office, but unfortunately the portfolios are so varied that I do not know who is the Minister for this or that portfolio. But I can call him *Seri ki Tulasi*.

That is all I have to contribute to this debate. I wish to appeal to the Minister to withdraw this Bill.

Chief A. Jinadu (Oshun North-East I) : The Member for Ijebu South-West (*Chief Onabanjo*) is trying to waste the time of the House.

House of Representatives Debates

2443

[Lagos Senators

15 OCTOBER 1965

Bill : Second Reading]

2444

Several Members : He has finished.

Mr N. N. Anah (Awka Central) : I must say that this Bill is ill-intentioned. It is an indirect way of amending the Constitution. We have been promised that the Constitution will be revised as soon as possible. I do not know why our Constitution is being amended piecemeal. Why should we not wait for the day when the whole Constitution will be amended ?

The Bill, in fact and in short, is an indirect way of saying that one particular region should nominate the Senators more than the other regions. The Bill is quite clear on this, especially section 2 of it which says that the Minister not only will be one of the people to consider the selection but also the Chairman of the Committee and that he will appoint somebody else too. In other words the essence of the Bill is that these Senators will be appointed by the Minister simpliciter.

The only new person there is the Chairman of the Council and he is the only one. The Minister is there to preside and his nominee is there. Commonsense dictates that the Minister is not going to nominate somebody who will oppose whoever will be his nominee as a Senator. So that this Bill intends to give the Minister the power of nominating Senators. In fact it is an indirect way of refusing the people of Lagos their right to nominate their Senators.

I would like to say that I am quite sure that all sides of this House do see—

Several Members : No.

Mr Anah : I am saying this with all seriousness and with all the emphasis I can command, that all Members on all sides of the House do really see with me that this is an attempt to rob Lagos people of their constitutional right. I would like to pray the Members on the opposite side of the House to see that it is quite necessary and very expedient that this Bill should be referred back to the Minister who drafted it. If this Parliament should be made a forum whereby every Bill has got to be rushed through, whether we liked it or not, and whether the majority view liked it or not, I am quite sure that we may as well fold up and let the Ministers amend the Constitution rather than bringing it to the House.

Mr Speaker : We are not discussing the Business of the House.

Mr Anah : Why I am saying this is that even the Minister who drafted this Bill, and I am taking it for granted that he drafted it, because it was he who introduced the Bill, knows what I am trying to point out. If he were not the architect of the Bill surely this Bill would not have seen the light of day. What I am trying to say is that even the Minister who introduced this Bill knows in his heart of hearts that this is not a welcome Bill.

Mr D. O. Enefola (Igala South) : The Member for Awka Central (*Mr Anah*) is totally irrelevant and he has been imputing the wrong motives to this Bill.

Mr Anah : As I was saying, the Minister who introduced this Bill knows that unless he regards everybody else here as a fool or as one who is not able to think, he must realise that this is not a welcome Bill at all. The Minister ought to see the emptiness in the Bill itself without waiting for people to point this out. The Minister, in fact, ought to know that this is a broad-day-light robbery of people of their constitutional right. I am saying with all seriousness and emphasis at my command that it is robbery.

What I am trying to say is that if we really regard this country as one and as a democracy, if we regard this Parliament as a place where Ministers can introduce a Bill and it will be analysed and if it is found that the Bill means nothing or that it is an attempt to maltreat one section or the other, and that since there is no official Opposition in this House, the Bill ought to be referred back to the Minister. I in fact, pray the Minister who has introduced this Bill to think twice and withdraw the Bill. There will be no loss of face for him if he withdraws this Bill.

The Minister of Finance (Chief F. S. Okotie-Eboh) : On a point of order, my hon. Friend says that the Minister should think twice, but the Bill is being considered twice now. This is the Second Reading of the Bill.

Mr Anah : There is one thing that is apparent in this Bill.

We cannot, in fact, say that if the Minister charged with the responsibility for Lagos Affairs comes from some other side he will be given the mandate to select a Senator by himself. All these things are quite clear.

So, I am asking every honest Member of this Parliament not to vote in favour of this Bill and, in fact, I implore the Minister responsible for the introduction of this Bill to honourably withdraw it. In fact, I hope the Prime Minister will also advise him accordingly.

M. Sule Abba Biu (Biu) : Mr Speaker, I move that the Question be now put.

Question proposed—

Several hon. Members : No ! Aye !

Mr Speaker : Order, order ! We might, I think, continue a little bit further.

Mr P. O. Tokula (Igala North-East) : Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. In supporting this Bill, there are a few points which I would like to make clear to the Minister of Lagos Affairs. In the first place, Lagos, as we know, is a part of Nigeria. So, it is not Nigeria. Some Members are asking to know what I mean. I mean that Lagos is not Nigeria, it is only a part of it. Many people make this mistake. If we should select Senators from other parts of the Federation, I see no reason why that of Lagos should be by election. This is a complete election and I am sure every Member here can understand that.

Here, it is a question of voting and counting of votes, leaving the question of selection of Chiefs into the Senate. I thought the Oba of Lagos should have been given the opportunity of selecting any of his White Cap Chiefs into the Senate instead of holding an election among the Chiefs.

Mr Anah : It is provided for in the Standing Orders that Members should listen to the debate silently, but my hon. Friend, Mr Odulana has left his seat to disturb the debate and he has been making a lot of noise here.

Mr Tokula : It is stated that Chiefs should contest election, though it is also stated that only Chiefs are to vote. But I feel in my own opinion that Chiefs have been blessed and placed where they are by their birth rights.

Therefore, selection should take place instead of coming together to vote for a Chief to represent them in the Senate.

In the second place, in selecting some Members for the House of Senate to represent Lagos, I feel that since the Lagos City Council is capable of handling the affairs of Lagos, it should have been empowered to select the Senators to represent Lagos. (*Hear, hear.*)

While it is stated here that the Minister should be the Chairman of the selection committee, I feel that the committee should have comprised the highest Reverend Bishop of Lagos, and the Leader of the Muslim religion in Lagos including the Chairman of the Lagos City Council. These people should conduct the election.

Some of the earlier speakers on this Bill stressed and expressed the fear that something might happen if this Bill is passed into law. But what I am saying now is that it is quite possible for the party which these people feel will be in opposition to come to power after the next election. What I am saying is that after the next election into the Lagos City Council, the N.N.A. may likely be in power there, and I think these people are expressing fears that anything can happen if that should be the case.

I support the Bill.

Mr D. A. Agboola (Ila) : I rise to support the Bill. This Bill is very clear, it is non-controversial and straight-forward. I know that it is a welcome Bill because none of the Members representing Lagos has spoken against it. Those who have spoken against it are entertaining fears and we want to assure them that there is no ground to entertain fears about this Bill. It is because those who spoke against it—

Mr M. A. Bashua (Lagos South-Central) : I understand, Sir, that the hon. Gentleman speaking wants to become a Senator in Lagos, that is why he is talking like that.

Mr Speaker : This information is not required.

Mr Agboola : The people who have spoken against this Bill are not serious at all. They are greedy fellows, and they belong to the minority group. That is why they are entertaining fears. We are not offended if anybody

House of Representatives Debates

2447

[Lagos Senators

15 OCTOBER 1965

Bill : Second Reading]

2448

[MR AGBOOLA]

becomes a Senator in Lagos as long as such a person is not selected in the West, in the Mid-West, in the North and elsewhere—*Interruptions*.

Mr M. A. Bashua (Lagos South-Central) : On a point of information, I hope the Member for Lagos North (*Chief Benson*) has not come into this House with his thugs.

Mr Speaker : I am sure this is misinformation.

Chief T. O. S. Benson (Lagos North) : I am not like the Eastern Premier, Dr Okpara, who carries thugs about.

Mr Agboola : I also congratulate the Minister for introducing such a Bill on the Floor of this House. The people who are kicking against this Bill are the members of the Action Group, a political party which is no longer existing in Nigeria. That is why the people are afraid of this Bill. However, I wish all Members on the Floor of this House to support this Bill, because it is a straightforward Bill.

Question, That the Bill be now read a Second time, put and the House divided.

Ayes : 131.

Noes : 36

Name of Members

Abasi, S. A.
Abba, M. Sule Biu
Abubakar, M. Attahiru
Abubakar, M. Mohammed Sani
Adamu, Alhaji Sarkin Tafarki
Adamu, Alhaji Tafida Kazaure
Adiegbe, M. F.
Adeniji, M. A.
Adeparusi, J. A.
Agboola, D. A.
Ajanaku, I. C.
Ambursa, M. Shehu
Aminu, Alhaji Muhammadu Yawuri
Anah, N. N.
Aro, N. O.
Atiku, Alhaji Kano
Atiku, M. Umaru
Babandi, Alhaji Ahmadu
Badamasuiya, M. Ahmadu
Bankano, Alhaji Muhammadu
Bayero, Alhaji Abubakar
Bayero, M. Hamidu
Bello Alhaji Muhammadu Tilli
Benson, Chief T. O. S.
Borha, L. L.
Borkono, Alhaji Usman
Bungudu, M. Atto
Chinade, M. Muhammadu Yarima

Name of Members

Dada, P. O. A.
Dambo, Ibrahim Maikaita
Damla, J. M.
Danbapa, Alhaji A. Baba
Daudu, M. Umaru Marafan
Dimka, Malam D.
Eboigbodi, J. B.
Ede, J. O.
Edomwonyi, J. O.
Emenogha, V. A.
Enefola, D. O.
Essien, E. A.
Gaidam, M. Baba
Garba, M. Yusha'u A. Mohammed
Girema, M. Jibir
Gwarzo, M. Aliyu
Gwarzo, Alhaji Muhammadu
Gwate, Alhaji Muhammadu
Haruna, Alhaji Isa
Hula, Alhaji Bello Farar
Ibrahim, Alhaji Garba Gada
Idi, Alhaji Maska, Katukan Katsina
Iko, Alhaji Isa
Ilesha, Alhaji Yusufu
Isa, M. Ladan
Isa, Alhaji Zakari
Jabo, Alhaji Garba
Jatau, J. K.
Jiah, Abel Gelchi
Jinadu, Chief A.
Johnson, J. B. N.
Kamson, S. O.
Karni, M. Uwaisul
Kudu, Alhaji Datti
Kura, Alhaji Muhammadu
Mafara, M. Abubakar Tsofo
Mahuta, Alhaji Abdullahi
Mai, Bukar Machina
Maidugu, Alhaji Abdulkadir
Maigari, M. Haikali
Maikano, Alhaji Abdullahi
Maltumbi, M. Umaru
Mallambe, M. Mustafa
Mani, M. Iro
Mansuru, M. Umaru Gella
Mohamed, Alhaji Muhtari, Sarkin Bai
Monguno, Zanna Isa
Muhammadu, Alhaji Aliyu
Muhammadu, Alhaji Sarkin Gobir
Muku, M. Ibrahim
Muri, Alhaji Adamu
Nadabo, M. Ibrahim
Nadange, Alhaji Muhammadu
Nakura, Alhaji Ali
Na'ita, Alhaji Shehu
Nalado, Alhaji Muhammadu
Ningi, M. Muhammadu
Nnaji, S.
Nwaliyeji, V. A.
Nwankwu, J. O.
Nzeribe, Dr B. U.
Odekunle, E. O.
Odeyemi, E. O. A.
Odo, E. A.

House of Representatives Debates

2449 [Lagos Senators Bill : Second
Reading]

15 OCTOBER 1965

[Adjournment]

2450

Name of Member

Ogike, F. A.
Okay, D. D.
Olomoda, Alhaji Abdusalam
Omar, Alhaji Zubairu
Paiko, Garba Turakin Paiko
Rabi'u Alhaji W/Dabbobi
Rahar, Alhaji Abbas
Raji, A. A.
Ribadu, Alhaji Ahmadu
Ringim, Alhaji Saiyadi
Ribadu, Alhaji Bashiru Muhammed
Sandabe, Alhaji Mala Bukar
Sanusi, Alhaji Sarkin Abbas
Senu-Oke, D.
Shisha, V. T.
Tokula, P. O.
Uba, M. Ulenda
Udoch, Chief J. M.
Umaru, M. Ali
Yacim, J. A.
Yaro, M. Sule
Yola, Alhaji Abba
Yunusa, Alhaji Tudun Wada Kano
Yusufu, M. Musa
Zaiyana, M. Muhammadu
Zango, Alhaji Saidu
Zubairu, M. Gani

Ministers

Prime Minister
Defence : Minister of
Economic Development : Minister of
Establishments : Minister of
Finance : Minister of
Housing and Surveys : Minister of
Internal Affairs : Minister of
Labour : Minister of
Lagos Affairs : Minister of
Natural Resources and Research : Minister of
Trade : Minister of
Transport : Minister of
Works : Minister of

Ministers of State

Adaji, Alhaji Hashimu
Galadima, Alhaji Ibrahim Tako
Gauyama, Alhaji Muhammadu
Isandu, Malam Abubakar
Mapeo, D. M.
Mbu, M. T.
Olusola, Chief B. O.
Oshodi, A.
Razaq, Alhaji A. G.

Parliamentary Secretaries

Abdul, Malam Salihu
Adedipe, B. A.
Bala, Alhaji Dutsinma M.
Bamgbose, C. A.
Bauchi, Malam Abdu
Bissala, Alhaji, Aliyu
Dalhatu, Malam Sarkin Yola
Ekpo, M. U.
Ezenwa, A. A. O.
Fatika, Alhaji Ahmadu
Gbeleyi, E. A. O.
Gezawa, Alhaji Sani

Name of Member

Kirim, Malam Audu
Nwika, S. F.
Waziri, Malam Maina
Yerokun, S. A.

NOES : 36

Akinloye, S. A.
Akpor, J. A.
Akpabio, I. I.
Aliboh, P. E. O.
Asanbe, N. G.
Atanda, E. A.
Bashua, M. A.
Bassey, S. U.
Daniyan, J. S.
Ekenokot, U. O.
Eleke, P. O.
Eze, G. A.
Fasanmi, A.
Frank-Opigo, Chief N. A.
Ikeh, B. O.
Inyang, Ebong, Etim
Inyang, O. W.
Iyorkar, M. D.
Mabinton, B. L. W.
Mbegbu, T. A.
Nnaemeka-Agu, P.
Nnorom, M. N.
Nwangbo, N.
Nwanodi, N.
Nweke, O. O.
Obioha, J. N. F.
Odebunmi, J. D
Odey, J. U.
Ogundare, M. E.
Ogunyimika, S. E.
Okeke, B. C. N.
Sen, J. A.
Shitta-Bey, S. A.
Sobowale, S.
Tarka, J. S.
Ukegbu, B. N.

Tellers for the Ayes :

Alhaji Bello Dandago and Mr Odulana.

Tellers for the Noes :

Chief Onabanjo and Mr Ainsente.

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

Committee—upon Monday the 18th.

ADJOURNMENT

And it being 12 noon, Mr Speaker adjourned the House without Question put.

Adjourned accordingly at two minutes past twelve o'clock.

House of Representatives Debates

2451

[Oral Answers]

18 OCTOBER 1965

[Oral Answers]

2452

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA**

Monday, 18th October, 1965

The House met at 10 a.m.

PRAYERS

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

INDUSTRIES

Ogoja Province

O.459. Mr J. U. Odey asked the Minister of Industries, what industries are proposed by the Federal Government for Ogoja Province ; and where will they be sited.

Enyong Division

O.510. Mr O. W. Inyang asked the Minister of Industries, if he will consider siting a ceramic industry in Eastern Ibibio Ikono in Enyong Division where there was once a pottery centre.

Oshun Division

O.511. Chief Adebisi Jinadu asked the Minister of Industries, whether there is any proposal to establish industries in Oshun Division.

Minister of State (Mr V. L. Lajide) : Mr Speaker, with your permission, I wish to take Questions Nos. O.459, O.510 and O.511 together and to state that the role of the Federal Government in promoting industrial development in Nigeria is described in Sessional Paper No. 3 of 1958. The initiative in establishing industries in the Regions is a matter primarily for Regional Government Development Corporations and private investors.

Chemical Industry

O.528. Dr R. C. B. Mgbaronye asked the Minister of Industries, whether he is aware of the need to establish a chemical industry in the Federation ; and whether such industry will be sited at Umuahia in view of the obvious advantages.

Mr Lajide : My hon. Friend is aware of such a need. However, before setting up such projects, it is essential to carry out full-scale investigations of all the possibilities. At the appropriate time, these investigations will be mounted. The Minister is not aware of the obvious advantages of Umuahia.

Standards Organisation

O.529. Dr R. C. B. Mgbaronye asked the Minister of Industries, when he intends to establish the Nigerian Standards Organisation.

Mr Lajide : The Nigerian Standards Organisation will be established as soon as the necessary staff to run it is obtained.

Proposed Imo Paper Mill

O.530. Mr O. C. Ememe asked the Minister of Industries, why was the expert report on the siting of a paper mill at Imo River in Aba South constituency shelved.

Mr Lajide : The Minister is not aware of any expert report on the siting of a paper mill at Imo River.

Mr Ememe : Is the Minister very serious about this statement ? If he is, has he forgotten that the expert report cited the Imo River as the possible location of a paper mill ?

Shares in Industry

O.531. Mr D. Senu-Oke asked the Minister of Industries, if he will state all the industries in which the Federal Government has direct shares ; and what is the value of Government shares in each.

Mr Lajide : The Federal Government has investments in industries as follows :—

Name	Location	Amount £
1. Nigerian Cement Co. Ltd.	Nkalagu, Enugu, Eastern Region	450,111
2. Dunlop Nigeria Industries Limited	Industrial Estate, Ikeja, Western Region	50,000
3. Nigerian Sugar Co. Ltd.	Bacita Estate, Ilorin, Northern Region	435,000
4. Flour Mills Nigeria Ltd.	Apapa, Federal Territory	60,000
5. Nigerian Fermentation Industries Limited.	Apapa, Federal Territory	50,000
6. Nigerian Paper Mills Ltd.	Jebba, Northern Region	900,000
7. Nigerian Petroleum Refining Co. Ltd.	Alesa-Eleme Port Harcourt, Eastern Region	800,000
8. Bauchi Meat Products Co.	Bauchi, Northern Region	175,000

Name	Location	Amount
		£
9. Nigerian National Press Ltd.	Apapa, Federal Territory	1,000,000
10. Nigerian Security Printing and Minting Co. Ltd.	Lagos, Federal Territory	440,000

11. Tourist Co. of Nigeria	Lagos, Federal Territory	350,000
----------------------------	--------------------------	---------

Mr Senu-Oke : Will the Minister tell us whether the Federal Government has any representative controlling these industries?

Salt Industry for Badagry

O.532. Mr D. Senu-Oke asked the Minister of Industries, whether he will invite foreign investors to survey the possibilities of establishing a salt industry in Badagry Division in view of its close proximity to the sea.

Mr Lajide : Proposals for the manufacture of salt are under active consideration. As soon as a decision is taken on them the industry will be established in the area that is best suited for such a project.

WORKS

Maiduguri Feeder Roads

O.515. Malam Mustafa Mallambe asked the Minister of Works, whether he has any proposals to provide good feeder roads for the Maiduguri Railway terminus by taking over some of the trunk 'B' roads leading to Maiduguri.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Works (Alhaji Bala Dutsinma) : A study of the classification of all roads in the

Federation is shortly to be undertaken. The case for upgrading and/or taking over by the Federal Government of any particular road will be examined in the light of the report on this study when it is completed.

Ikom-Gboko Road

O.516. Mr J. U. Odey asked the Minister of Works, whether he will consider converting the Ikom-Efium-Obudu-Gboko road to trunk Road 'A' in view of the fact that it is the connecting link between Eastern Nigeria and between Nigeria and the Cameroun Republic.

Alhaji Bala Dutsinma : The World Bank has proposed shortly to undertake a study of the classification of all roads in the Federation. All cases for upgrading and/or taking over by the Federal Government of any particular road will be examined in the light of the report on this study when it is completed.

New Trunk "A" Road Projects

O.517. Mr B. C. N. Okeke asked the Minister of Works, how many miles of trunk "A" road he proposes to construct in Lagos and in each Region during the current Six-Year Development Programme; and how much has been earmarked for the execution of these projects.

Alhaji Bala Mohamed Dutsina : As the reply is lengthy and involves a lot of figures, I intend, with the permission of Mr Speaker, to publish it in the Official Report.

The reply is as follows :—

Project	Region	Mileage	Estimated Cost (£M)
1. Malu Road Bridge and Approaches	Federal ..	Bridge 92 feet, Road $\frac{1}{2}$ mile	0.096
2. Agege Motor Road	Federal/Western ..	Fed. (1 mile) West (4 miles)	0.8
3. Yaba Round about-Ikorodu Road	Federal/Western ..	4 miles	1.8
4. Second Mainland Bridge ..	Federal ..	0.95 miles	8.5
5. Apapa Road and Ijora Causeway	Federal ..	4.25 miles	7.5
6. Western Avenue	Federal ..	2.7 miles	4.1
7. Shagamu-Benin Road	Western/MidWestern	West (112) Mid West (42)	2.2
8. Otta-Idiroko	Western	39 miles	1.4
9. P.H. Wharf Approach Road (C) ..	Eastern	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	0.069
10. Niger Bridge and Approaches ..	Eastern/Midwestern	7.75	5.8
11. Port Harcourt-Aba Road ..	Eastern	40	1.7
12. Onitsha-Ihialla-Owerri Road ..	Eastern	56	2.26
13. Tegina-Daura Road	Northern	317	2.8
14. Sokoto-Jaredi Road	Northern	22	0.47
15. Funtua-Chafe Road	Northern	43 $\frac{1}{2}$	0.95
16. Lafia-Akwanga-Bukuru Road ..	Northern	138	0.90

House of Representatives Debates

2455	[Oral Answers] <i>Project</i>	18 OCTOBER 1965				[Oral Answers]	2456 <i>Estimated Cost (£M)</i>
		<i>Region</i>	<i>Mileage</i>	..	..
17.	Yelwa-Kontagora Road ..	Northern	64	..	..	..	0.65
18.	Aliade-Makurdi-Lafia Road ..	Northern	99	..	..	..	0.90
19.	Bauchi-Gombe-Yola Road ..	Northern	240	..	..	..	3.8
20.	Beni Sheik-Maiduguri ..	Northern	46	..	..	..	1.37
21.	Gusau-Sokoto-Jaredi-Yelwa Road	Northern	335	..	..	..	7.2
22.	Kaduna-Zaria Road ..	Northern	48 miles	..	..	..	1.2
23.	Zaria-Kano Road ..	Northern	111 miles	..	..	..	0.43

Benin-Shagamu Road

O.533. Mr O. C. Ememe asked the Minister of Works, how soon the narrow bridges on the new Benin-Shagamu road will be widened.

Alhaji Bala Mohamed Dutsina : Survey and design work are in hand on the narrow bridges on the Shagamu-Benin road, and it is proposed to replace all these bridges within five years, depending on the availability of funds.

Onitsha-Aba Road

O.534. Dr R. C. B. Mgbaronye asked the Minister of Works, how soon he intends to start widening and improving the Onitsha to Aba Road.

Alhaji Bala Mohamed Dutsina : A contract has been signed for the reconstruction of the Onitsha-Owerri road. The contractor and the staff of my Ministry are already on site to commence work. Due to the over-all ceiling placed on funds for road development in the current National Development Programme, I regret it has not been possible to provide for the reconstruction of the stretch of road running between Owerri and Aba in our 1962-68 Programme.

Victoria Island Parliament Flats

O.535. Mr D. Senu-Oke asked the Minister of Works, how much it cost to build the Parliament flats at Victoria Island; what was the total cost of building the 200 boys' quarters attached to the flats; and who are occupying them.

Alhaji Bala Mohamed Dutsina : The cost of the Parliament flats was £722,000. The 200 boys' quarters cost £45,000. My Ministry has no responsibility for the occupation of the flats or boys' quarters.

Mr Senu-Oke : Is the Minister of Works aware that these boys' quarters constitute a waste of public revenue?

JUSTICE

Treaties with Foreign Countries

O.519. Chief J. M. Udochi asked the Attorney-General and Minister of Justice, if he will state what treaties and/or executive agreements with foreign powers have been signed by the Government of the Federation since 1960; which of them have been debated by Parliament.

The Attorney-General and Minister of Justice (Dr T. O. Elias) : About 71 treaties and other international agreements were acceded to or concluded between October 1, 1960 and December 31, 1964. The hon. Member is referred to Gazette No. 77 of the Federation dated October 7, 1965 and showing a list of such treaties and international agreements.

In accordance with established procedure, printed copies of all these treaties and other international agreements in force have been laid on the table of the House from time to time, and Members have always been free to demand a debate on any of them.

O.520. Chief J. M. Udochi asked the Attorney-General and Minister of Justice, if he will state what treaties and/or executive agreements with foreign powers made by Regional Governments have been guaranteed by the Government of the Federation.

Dr Elias : Conclusion of treaties and international agreements is, under the Constitution of the Federation, the responsibility of the Federal Government and, hence, none of such treaties and agreements have been concluded by any of the Regional Governments.

Staff Vacancies

O.537. Mr M. N. Nnorom asked the Attorney-General and Minister of Justice, whether the staff vacancies which appeared

on page 8 of the Annual Report of the Ministry of Justice for the 1963-64 year have now been filled.

Dr Elias : The posts shown as staff vacancies in Appendix I at page 8 of the Annual Report of the Federal Ministry of Justice for the period October 1, 1963 to September 30, 1964, are, apart from those of Second Parliamentary Counsel, Parliamentary Counsel and State Counsel which have now been filled, promotion posts which are filled by the Federal Public Service Commission as and when serving officers qualify.

Arrears of Rent

O.538. Mr M. N. Nnorom asked the Attorney-General and Minister of Justice, if he will state how much has been collected out of the sum of £3,985 shown as arrears of rent in the Annual Report of his Ministry from October, 1963, to September, 1964.

Dr Elias : The sum of £2,368 has so far been collected out of £3,985 shown in the Annual Report of the Ministry of Justice for the period October 1963, to September 1964, as arrears of rent accruing from properties held in trust by the Public Trustee in the Office of the Administrator-General.

TRANSPORT

Inland Waterways

O.521. Alhaji Isa Haruna asked the Minister of Transport, if he has any plans to expand and improve the Inland Waterways transport to connect many towns and villages on our coastal areas.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Transport (M. Sarkin Yola Dalhatu) : The Inland Waterways Division of the Ministry at present runs a river transport service from Warri up to Aboh on the Niger and down the Nun River to Agbere. The Division also runs, on behalf of the East Regional Government, a similar service from Port Harcourt via Brass to Odi on the Nun River.

The responsibility for providing river transport services in the coastal areas, where the needs are not adequately served by private enterprise, is strictly not that of the Federal Government but that of the Regional Governments concerned,

Sombriero Company

O.539. Mr W. O. Briggs asked the Minister of Transport, what are the reasons for and circumstances leading to the withdrawal of the dock labour contract from the Sombriero Company and if he will make a statement as to whether the said company has been lacking in efficiency, guilty of fraud or any other offence which can justify such withdrawal ; and whether he intends to institute an inquiry.

M. Yola Dalhatu : Tenders for the supply of dock labour this year were invited for 8 contracts and in all 72 different contractors tendered. Of these, 19 were from well-established contractors in the port who regularly employ registered men and submit monthly returns to the Lagos Dock Labour Advisory Board. On examining the tenders, the Board found that all the recommended contractors' tenders were substantially lower than that of Sombriero Brothers with the exception of contract 2 for which Messrs W. Biney & Co. were recommended as the most suitable because of their particular experience with the mail boats at No. 6 Berth.

Whilst it is agreed that Sombriero Brothers had in the past carried out their work satisfactorily and are quite capable of working a normal import transit shed, it must be remembered that in awarding the contract the Ports Authority took into account the efficiency, experience, and relative prices of the tenderers. Against the background of these criteria, it was not possible for Messrs Sombriero to win any of this year's contracts and the Minister is satisfied that fairness and justice have been applied in awarding the contracts.

Professor Kalu Ezera (Bende East) : On a point of order, this House would like to know why an hon. Member on the Government Bench should be referred to as *Owegbe* chief or *Owegbe* proper by the Member for Ijebu North-East (*Mr Odulana*).

Mr A. F. Odulana (Ijebu North-East) : At the Alexander Enquiry, he said he was an *Owegbe* chief.

Mr Briggs : May I ask from the Minister of Transport whether it is not true that it is a Northerner who has been accepted to substitute the Sombriero Brothers,

House of Representatives Debates

2459

[Oral Answers]

18 OCTOBER 1965

[Oral Answers]

2460

The Minister of Transport (Alhaji Zanna Bukar Dipcharima) : Does the Member for Degema West (*Mr Briggs*) mean to imply that contracts are only to be awarded only to Southerners, and that Northerners are not also part and parcel of Nigeria ?

Mr Speaker : Any other questions require notice.

Mr Briggs : May I object very strongly to the manner in which the Minister of Transport got up to answer my question.

Pier Pontoons

O.540. Mr W. O. Briggs asked the Minister of Transport, when he intends to implement the promise by the Government late last year for the building of pier pontoons in Abonnema, Buguma, Tombia and Bakana.

Alhaji Zanna Bukar Dipcharima : Money has been allocated, but unfortunately the money was diverted to other areas. I am now looking into it so that something definite would be done for the Mid-West and the area of the Member for Degema West (*Mr Briggs*).

But he cannot blame me for this sort of thing, he ought to blame himself and his friends.

Mr Briggs : Is the Minister not aware that when last year this promise was made it was also stated that money had been allocated for the purpose, and where has that money gone to ?

Alhaji Zanna Bukar Dipcharima : May I respectfully ask the Prime Minister to take this "expatriate" (*Mr Briggs*) to Brazil so that Nigeria may be a peaceful country.

Dredging at Bonny Bar

O.541. Mr M. N. Nnorom asked the Minister of Transport, which firm was awarded the Bonny Bar dredging contract ; and what the value of the contract was.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Transport (M. Muhamadu Sagir Umar) : The Bonny Bar Dredging contract, (otherwise known as the Phase II Dredging Contract) at a total cost of £3,527,553 was awarded to the consortium of

(i) Nigerian Dredging and General Works Limited ;

(ii) Hollandsche Aanneming Maatschappij N.V. ;

(iii) N.V. Baggermaatschappij Bos En Kalis ;

(iv) Koninklijke Maatschappij "Adrian Volker" N.V.

Shipping

O.669. Mr S. O. Kamson asked the Minister of Transport, if he would nationalise all the shipping interests in this country.

Zanna Bukar Dipcharima : No Sir. It is a definite Government policy that we do not intend to nationalise industries other than those which have already been so nationalised. Shipping is an international affair; if we are to nationalise does it mean that we can only allow Nigerian shipping lines to operate ? What about the other nations' shipping lines ? Shipping is really an international affair and so will it remain.

Enugu Prison Training School

O.523. Mr P. Nnaemeka-Agu asked the Minister of Internal Affairs, whether he intends to remove the Prison Training School at Enugu to any other place.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Internal Affairs (M. Salihu Abdul) : Yes, Sir, he intends to do so.

Mr Nnaemeka-Agu : May we know the reasons for intending to remove the Prison School from Enugu ?

The Minister of Internal Affairs (Shettima Ali Monguno) : What we intend to do is in the best interest of the nation by transferring it to a more appropriate place.

Allocation of Quarters

O.525. Mr A. T. Mbegbu asked the Minister of Internal Affairs, if he would state on what basis quarters are allocated to prison warders serving in the Federal Territory of Lagos.

M. Salihu Abdul : Allocations of Prison Warders Quarters at Ikoyi are made strictly in order of seniority and need by a Housing Board comprising the Chief Superintendent (Head-quarters), Acting Chief Superintendent of Prisons (Lagos Area) and Superintendent of Prisons (Ikoyi).

O.526. Mr A. T. Mbegbu asked the Minister of Internal Affairs, whether he is aware that some warder-recruits and third class warders are being given preference, without any justification, in the allocation of quarters.

M. Salihu Abdul : No, Sir ! Allocation of quarters is made in order of seniority and need.

O.527. Mr A. T. Mbegbu asked the Minister of Internal Affairs, whether he is aware that senior warders with large families are being quartered in single rooms of the old colonial type, while bachelors of comparative junior status are allocated the modern two-room quarters ; and whether he will take steps to remove this anomaly.

M. Salihu Abdul : No, Sir. The Minister is not aware of the alleged anomaly. Available warders quarters in all stations are allocated strictly in order of seniority and need.

NATURAL RESOURCES AND RESEARCH

Ikeja Met. Office Tower

O.452. Mr S. U. Bassey asked the Minister of Natural Resources and Research, what the cost was of the tower attached to the Meteorological Office, Ikeja, and for what use it is intended in view of the fact that there is already a central tower about 50 yards away.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Natural Resources and Research (Mr B. Adedipe) : The cost of the tower which is nearing completion will be £1,450. It is intended that the tower will be used for the display units of radar storm detector, the facsimile chart receiver, and the radio teleprinter. It will also provide space for briefing aircrew adjacent to those display units. Its first floor will provide room for the storage of charts and messages, while the top floor will be used as an observing platform as well as accommodate the recording units of the wind recorder to be erected on the roof of the tower. Other towers in the vicinity are the Airport Control Tower operated by the Ministry of Aviation, and the mast which will carry the transmitter and receiver units of the radar storm detector operator by the Meteorological Division.

Fisheries Development

O.542. Mr W. O. Briggs asked the Minister of Natural Resources and Research, whether the Federal Government has concluded any agreement with the Israeli Government or an Israeli firm for the development of fisheries in the country ; and if not, whether he is thinking of calling for such co-operation, considering the well-known knowledge and experience that country has in the field of fishing, and its expressed willingness and anxiety to help us in that regard.

Mr B. A. Adedipe : No, Sir, the Federal Government has not concluded any agreement with the Israeli Government or any foreign government for development of fisheries in Nigeria. The Minister has not yet taken a decision on calling for co-operation from any particular country at present. However, any offer of assistance from any foreign government or agency will be given due consideration by the Federal Government.

Mr Briggs : This is not the question I am asking. The Israeli Government has promised to help us in the fisheries industry ; what consideration is the Minister giving to it ? That is my question.

The Minister of Natural Resources and Research (Prince A. Lamuye) : As far as I am concerned, the Israeli Government has not promised to give any help to the Federal Government on fisheries. The terminus which we are considering to build will promote fisheries in Nigeria, and until that is completed no assistance could be sought from any foreign government.

Achievements in Research

O.670. Mr S. O. Kamson asked the Minister of Natural Resources and Research, if he would make a statement on what his Ministry has so far achieved ; and what are his future plans.

Mr B. Adedipe : The answer to the Question is being prepared and it will be forwarded to the questioner in due course.

BUSINESS STATEMENT

The Minister of Finance (Chief F. S. Okotie-Eboh) : I wish to make the Business Statement for the period from to-day until the House rises on Wednesday the 20th October, as I indicated to the House the other day.

House of Representatives Debates

2463

[Business Statement]

18 OCTOBER 1965

[Sittings of the House]

2464

[MINISTER OF FINANCE]

Now I wish to report that I have sought the views of Party Whips and it has been agreed by all of us at a meeting held in my office in the National Hall that the House will have night sittings to-day and on Wednesday in order to cover the work which was scheduled for last Saturday. To-day, therefore, we shall take the Second Reading and remaining stages of the Customs and Excise Management (Amendment) (No. 2) Bill. The Second Reading of the Supplementary Appropriation Bill will be taken and the debate on the Bill and its remaining stages will stand adjourned till Wednesday, 20th October, in accordance with Standing Order 64. The Second Reading and remaining stages of the following eight Bills will also be taken to-day :—

- (1) The Allocation of Revenue (Constitutional Amendment) Bill ;
- (2) Excise (Control of Distillation) (Amendment) Bill ;
- (3) Pensions (Transferred Service) Bill ;
- (4) Trade Marks Bill ;
- (5) Food and Drugs (Lagos) Bill ;
- (6) Casino Taxation Bill ;
- (7) Parliament (Disqualification) Bill ; and
- (8) Federal Electoral Commission (Remuneration) Bill.

In addition, the Committee and remaining stages of the Lagos Senators' Bill will be taken.

Tomorrow, Tuesday 19th, October, will be Private Members' Business day and I do not propose to interfere with Private Members' business, nor do I intend that there will be a night sitting tomorrow.

But on Wednesday, 20th October, the debate on the Second Reading of the Supplementary Appropriation Bill and the remaining stages of the Bill will be taken. So also will the Second Reading and remaining stages of the following six Bills :—

- (1) Excise Tariff Bill ;
- (2) Rent Control (Lagos) Amendment Bill ;
- (3) Legal Practitioners (Amendment) Bill ;
- (4) Council of Ministers (Evidence) Bill ;
- (5) Borrowing by Public Bodies Bill ; and
- (6) Legal Education (Pensions) Bill.

I wish to report that there will be a night sitting on Wednesday, the 20th, if the business of the House is not concluded before 6 p.m. The House will adjourn *sine die* on Wednesday as was originally scheduled.

I want to invite the attention of the House to the Order Paper of to-day on which, under Orders of the Day, the Allocation of Revenue Constitutional (Amendment) Bill by the Prime Minister is shown as No. 5. With the concurrence of the House, this will be moved to 3, so that that will be moved before we take up the Customs and Excise Management (Amendment) (No. 2) Bill and the Supplementary Appropriation Bill, in order to release the Prime Minister for other urgent matters of the state.

Mr V. A. Emenogha (Onitsha North) : On a point of information, the last time the Minister of Finance did ask and I did promise to furnish him with the name and place of origin of the counterfeit moulder in Onitsha. I can give him the information now.

Mr Speaker : I think, for the convenience of the House, you should report it to the Minister rather than in the House. If you will hand over the information to him, that will suit the House better.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr Speaker : Under personal explanation, I would like to refer the House to the promise I made with regard to the investigation of the matter which the Member for Aba South (*Mr Ememe*) raised the other day. He said that the answers to his questions had not been reported in the *Hansard*. Well, I have investigated the matter and I have found that the answers were recorded in the *Hansard*.

Several hon. Members : Shame ! Shame !

NOTICE OF MOTION

SITTINGS OF THE HOUSE

Chief F. S. Okotie-Eboh : I rise to move—

That, this day, notwithstanding the provisions of Standing Order 5 (Sittings of the House), the House shall sit at the following times :—

From 10 a.m. till 1 p.m.

From 3 p.m. till 6 p.m., and

From 9 p.m. till 12 midnight.

I beg to move.

The Minister of Establishments (Mr J. C. Obande) : I beg to second.

Mr O. C. Ememe (Aba South) : On a point of order, I wish to apologise to the Speaker because my questions were not recorded in the side of the *Hansard* where oral questions were written but on the written questions' side ; that is why the error crept up.

Mr Speaker : Order ! I think you require to study Journalism a little bit more.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved—That, this day, notwithstanding the provisions of Standing Order 5 (Sittings of the House), the House shall sit at the following times :—

From 10 a.m. till 1 p.m.
From 3 p.m. till 6 p.m., and
From 9 p.m. till 12 midnight.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

ALLOCATION OF REVENUE CONSTITUTIONAL (AMENDMENT) BILL

Order for Second Reading read.

Mr Speaker : With the permission of the House and for its convenience, I would like to take item No. 5 on the Order Paper first, and I call on the Prime Minister to move the Motion.

The Prime Minister : I rise to move—

That a Bill for an Act to amend, with effect from 1st April, 1965, certain provisions of the Constitution of the Federation relating to the allocation of revenue be read a Second time.

Hon. Members, I think, are in receipt of the Report of the Fiscal Commission, Mr Binns. I want to start by saying that once again we are grateful to the Australian Government for making the service of the Expert available to us.

The revenue allocation system is a very complicated thing in any federal system of government. The Bill which I am presenting to the House is the result of the Fiscal Commissioner's Report. He gave certain alternatives, as hon. Members are aware. The Report first of all was called for by all the Governments of the Federation, and Mr Binns held meetings in all the Regions with the officials and with the Ministers concerned. The terms of reference of the Commissioner were approved by the Governments of the Federation too. The Report was considered

by the National Economic Council at its meeting in Enugu, and all the Governments, represented by the Premiers, approved that the recommendation made by the Commissioner in one of his alternatives should be accepted. The purpose of the Bill is to give effect to what the Premiers at the National Economic Council had already approved.

It is not my intention, Mr Speaker, to speak at length on this Bill which, I think, is straightforward. I commend it to the House.

I beg to move.

The Minister of Finance (Chief F. S. Okotie-Eboh) : I beg to second the Bill ably moved by our respected Prime Minister.

In accordance with Section 164 of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, the Federal Government, after full consultations with the Regional Governments, appointed, as you have heard, Mr Binns, the Treasurer and State Commissioner of Taxes in Tasmania, a State in Australia, to examine the appropriateness of and make recommendations for the formula for the allocation of proceeds of mining rents and royalties and the size in distribution of funds in the Distributable Pool Account.

Mr Binns' Report, as you are aware, was laid on the Table of this House on Wednesday, the 13th of October, 1965. The Governments of the Federation have had an opportunity of studying the Report generally and the recommendations in particular, and at the last National Economic Council it was unanimously agreed by all the Governments that the second of the two alternatives recommended by the Commission should apply. The Allocation of Revenue Constitutional (Amendment) Bill now before the House seeks to put into effect the agreement thus reached.

Although one of the guiding principles on which the sole Commissioner arrived at his recommendation was that the nature of the Federal Republic is such that the Federal Government must be in a position of paramount financial authority, and thus ensure that its financial strength would be the main guarantee of the financial stability of the Republic as a whole, any of the two formulae proposed by the Commissioner would reduce the level of revenue retained by the Federal Government.

House of Representatives Debates

2467

[Allocation of Revenue.
Constitutional]

18 OCTOBER 1965

(Amendment) Bill : Second
Reading]

2468

[MINISTER OF FINANCE]

For instance, under the formula now in operation, and using the figures in the current year's approved Estimates, the Federal Government would have retained £54.67 million from the general import, mining and general excise revenue. Under the second alternative recommended by Mr Binns and accepted by the Governments of the Federation the Federal Republic would now retain £51.78 million, thereby losing to the Regions some £2.88 million. Under the force of Mr Binns' recommendations, the Federal Government should have lost to the Regions some £3 million.

The spirit with which the Federal Government accepted the recommendations of the Fiscal Review Commission once again indicates our genuine desire to make sacrifices, if necessary, in the interest of national unity. The effective date of the re-allocation of revenue is the 1st of April last, and as soon as the Regional Houses pass resolutions signifying consent to its having effect as required by Section 41 of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, arrangements will be made to effect the necessary financial adjustments.

I beg to second.

Chief N. A. Frank-Opigo (Brass South) : Although this very important Bill has been moved by the Prime Minister and also though the Regional Governments have agreed to it, I think that the Constitution demands that this House should approve of it and in approving of it, we should not, I think, swallow everything hook, line and sinker.

Mr Binns, in making this report, proposed two alternatives ; but the second one has been adopted by the Governments. While considering this recommendation, it will be found that the allocation has been made in such a way that help should be given to the Western and Mid-Western Governments. That was the main point made by Mr Binns. He said that it is more expensive to administer two Regions than one and, therefore, since the Mid-Western Region has been cut away from the Western Region, the cost of administration has risen and, therefore, there should be need to help these two Regions.

In the first alternative, he said that the ratio should remain at 41, 31, 20 and 8 and then a

special allocation should be made by the Federal Government to these other Regions.

Following that principle, there was no need then to make any allocation to the Northern Region because he completely left aside the principle of needs as he said that it was difficult to make use of that principle to arrive at any useful figure. Therefore, it appears that there is an element of contradiction in the Commissioner, after rejecting that principle, allocating two more *per cent* to the Northern Region.

When we look at it carefully, we find that not only have we exceeded the five *per cent* (the five *per cent* which was left to the Southern Cameroons which has been lying fallow somehow because the territory had taken itself out of the Federation), but we have also added one more *per cent* to this five *per cent*, making six *per cent*. Now, out of the six *per cent*, two *per cent* has been allocated to the North, two to the Western Region and two to the Mid-West, and then the Eastern Region now loses one *per cent*.

It appears to me that the whole principle of revenue allocation is very wrong because no regard whatsoever has been had to the areas that produce oil, and it is from this distributable pool that this money is going to be given to the Regions.

Mr Speaker : Order ! This Bill is concerned with proceeds from the distributable pool and not from oil or any other product.

Chief Frank-Opigo : Oil royalties and rents contribute the greatest percentage to this pool, and without oil I do not think that this pool will mean anything. To-day, Nigerians are all smiling. We are happy simply because the revenue of this country has become buoyant all because of oil. If oil has not been found in Nigeria, we should have been in the same position as our sister territory over there.

Mr Speaker : Order ! I think we will make better progress if we discuss the contents of the Bill.

Chief Frank-Opigo : I am speaking about the contents of the Bill. What I want to say is that all the original figures should remain mainly because the Western Region and the Mid-West have not been able to settle their accounts up till now. If the assets and liabilities of these two Regions had been settled then we would be able to know which

House of Representatives Debates

2469

[Allocation of Revenue
Constitutional]

18 OCTOBER 1965

[Amendment) Bill : Second
Reading]

2470

Region actually is worst off financially and then we should be able to allocate this revenue more properly.

So long as the Western Region has not settled its accounts with the Mid-West, it is difficult to arrive at any useful figure. Therefore, this Bill should be shelved and then a special allocation should be made to the Mid-Western Region until such time that the Western Region settles its accounts with the Mid-West. That is why I brought in this question of oil and, therefore, that is why I said that this five *per cent* that was meant for the Southern Cameroons and which has been lying fallow should be given to the oil producing areas. A special authority should be made so that this five *per cent* from the distributable pool is given to the oil producing areas.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Housing and Surveys (Mr N. A. Ezenbodor) : On a point of information, it is the way that the Member makes his points. The Member is making these points on behalf of the special areas and, in order to assure the House that the Member is speaking on behalf of the people in the special areas and that he has the mandate of the people to speak on their behalf, I would like to show the House the mandate which the people have given to us.

Mr W. O. Briggs (Degema West) : On a point of order, may I request Mr Speaker to order all those Members who have taken that document from the Parliamentary Secretary to return it to him ? It is not right that they should ridicule that document.

Mr Speaker : Of course, it is really courteous and convenient that the special mandate from the special area be returned to the Parliamentary Secretary.

Dr B. U. Nzeribe (Orlu West) : On a point of order, true to history, in the Mosaic Law, God gave ten commandments to Moses and Moses broke it. In this case, the people from the Rivers area gave their mandate to the Member for Brass South (*Chief Frank-Ofigo*) and Hon. Ezenbodor and they have broken it. This is true to history.

Mr A. F. Odulana (Ijebu North-East) : Mr Speaker, I have seen that you, as the Speaker of this House, have allowed points of order and points of explanation to be raised, but I have

not seen in the Standing Orders where points of display have been taken into consideration. I do not think that is allowed in this House.

Chief T. O. S. Benson (Lagos North) : Will the Member for Brass South (*Chief Frank-Ofigo*) tell the House if he is supporting the creation of the Rivers State ? If he supports it, I also support it.

Chief Frank-Ofigo : Mr Speaker, the document that has just been shown to you contains about 10,000 signatures from people of the Niger Delta Special Area, authorising us to make this very humble demand. It is expected that we are going to make a more concrete demand during the constitutional review. Meanwhile we are only demanding this small figure of 5 *per cent*, to be allocated to the Rivers Area.

In making this appeal, I have already suggested that instead of adopting this ratio recommended by the Binns Commission, a special allocation of £1 million should be given to the Mid-Western Region until the time for the next review of the revenue allocation. One million pounds should be paid annually to the Mid-Western Region for the next four years when a review of this revenue allocation will take place again. Meanwhile what has been operating should continue, and five *per cent* should be given to the Special Area while £1 million *per annum* should be given to the Mid-Western Region.

I beg to oppose.

Mr B. N. Ukegbu (Owerri South-East) : I must say that I support this Bill proposed by the Prime Minister. In doing so, I would like to draw the attention of this House and of the Federation to the corollary which must be drawn from the fact that the various Regional Governments have been able to accept this recommendation of the Binns Commission.

On a point of order, Mr Speaker, I think the Member for Ijebu North-East (*Mr Odulana*) should not be interrupting my speech. He should speak in undertones while sitting down.

Mr Speaker : Order ! Order !

Mr Ukegbu : I think it is important that the people of this country should draw the inescapable inference from the fact that even though the allocation of revenue as proposed by this Bill has been heavily drawn against one Region, that Region represented by its

[MR UKEGBU]

Regional Government has been able to accept it. The country should know it. And I must say that I am happy that the Eastern Regional Government has found it possible to accept this.

With your permission, Mr Speaker, I would just like to refer to the comment made by the Binns Commission where it is stated that the present recommendation, while it favours the Western Region, the Mid-Western Region and the Northern Region, will affect adversely the revenue of the Eastern Region. With your permission, Mr Speaker, I would like to quote the relevant portion from the Binns Commission Report, page 34, which states as follows :

If the Commission's recommendations are adopted, the greatest overall benefit will undoubtedly accrue to the Northern Region. The Commission is convinced that this should be so. The North must be helped to the fullest extent possible to achieve a greater measure of parity with the other Regions.

At the same time the least benefit will accrue to the Eastern Region. This again is in accord with my general appraisal of the prospects for the several Regions. The immediate outlook and prospects are best in this Region.

The Western Region will benefit to some extent. The Raisman Commission felt that there was "a case for some check in the rate of expansion of Government services in the West". The situation has changed materially since then, and this Region is no longer in a relatively strong financial position. However, it should now be able to look to the future with greater confidence.

What I am saying is not being said with the spirit of antipathy to any of the Regions of the Federation because all of us wish that this country should be one. That is why we have the Raisman Commission formula or principle of seeing to it that every Regional Government is provided with the means of meeting its minimum responsibilities and that there should be even development and continuity. In other words this is as it is said in the Bible, that every man should be his brother's keeper. In other words again no Region of the Federation should swim in wealth while the other Regions are wallowing or drifting in poverty. This is very important.

Now, Sir, I would like to draw this corollary. If one Region can be called upon to make some financial sacrifice which over five years might amount to as much as £5,000,000 to help other Regions and that Region willingly accepts this, I think due credit should be given to it. I am not saying this because I happen to be from the Eastern Region; I am saying it as a Nigerian. There is a saying in Ibo language which states—

Several Members : Say it in Ibo.

Mr Ukegbu : I shall say it in the Owerri dialect. *Odigh nma iri omume rie nkata.* I will interpret it—

Alhaji Mohamed Muhtari, Sarkin Bai (Dambatta) : Mr Speaker, English is the official language here. The use of any other language is not allowed.

Mr Ukegbu : The interpretation is that "it is not good to enjoy the favour done to you and hide the fact that that favour has, in fact, been done." I am saying that to be acknowledged is half repaid. Why I am saying this is—

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Establishments (Mr S. D. Lar) : I am sure all Members of this House will agree with me that this practice is not new in the country. I would like the Member for Owerri South-East (Mr Ukegbu) to note that other Regions were used to this end in the past, especially when the mining industry was doing well in the North. At that time the proceed from the mining industry were shared among the Regions of the country.

Mr Ukegbu : The inferences I am drawing are not being drawn on the motive of self-glorification for Eastern Nigeria because I am not a member of that Government. What I am saying is this, that sometime after 1954 when the Constitution was amended for greater regionalisation, the assets of the then Nigerian Marketing Board were shared. Western Nigeria received £34 million, and the North received so much, but Eastern Nigeria received the least—£11 million—probably because the assets contributed by the then Palm Produce Marketing Board was supposed to be small. Again, they were shared on the basis of derivation. The Eastern Region Government then tightened

House of Representatives Debates

2473

[Allocation of Revenue
Constitutional]

18 OCTOBER 1965

[Amendment) Bill : Second
Reading]

2474

their belt, increased taxation and so on, and saved gradually until they were able to-day to be the place in the Federation where personal income tax is the highest. Also, the proportion of £6 million derived from personal income tax in the Eastern Region is the highest in the Federation where people pay as much as £476 on any income slightly over £2,000. Also, the proportion which the internally derived revenue of the Region bears to the revenue paid to it by the Federal Government is higher.

I am not saying this in self-gloration, as I have already said, but now, when there has been *mutatis mutandis*—

Chief T. O. S. Benson (Lagos North) : What does the Member for Owerri South-East (*Mr Ukegbu*) mean by that ?

Mr Ukegbu : I am sorry for the Member for Lagos North (*Chief Benson*) because he is a lawyer who does not understand latin and that goes to prove the fact that other people passed his law examination for him in London. He should not exhibit that fact here.

Chief Benson rose—

Mr Speaker : Order ! I am really not satisfied with the behaviour of some of the Members of this House. There is no need for Members to shout at the top of their voices simply because they want to speak. Is the Member for Lagos North (*Chief Benson*) raising a point of order ?

Chief Benson : It is possible the Member for Owerri South-East (*Mr Ukegbu*) is one of my in-laws from Eastern Nigeria, but nevertheless, I want to make it quite clear that nobody is anybody in Eastern Nigeria unless he received his education from Yorubaland. What he said amounts to misuse of parliamentary privilege, and I think he is wrong upstairs.

Minister of State (*Mr D. C. Ugwu*) : I think it will be a good thing for Members to be checked in making provocative statements. There is no need for my hon. Friend, the Member for Lagos North (*Chief Benson*) to insult the people of a whole Region on the Floor of this House.

Mr Speaker : Order ! While we appreciate that some Members try to crack jokes, at the same time, I think Members should be more careful in the way they throw their jokes

across the Floor of the House because quite a number of Members are likely to take matter very seriously.

Mr Ukegbu : I do not intend to be distracted from the point I am making by small jokes. I have made the point of the fact that when the going was tough for the Eastern Region and it was pushed to be on its own and to establish itself, it did not complain because it was in the Constitution. But now that the going has changed—that is the meaning of *mutatis mutandis*—it has been called upon to assist the other Regions, and I am pleased that it has done that with grace. That is one point I have been making.

Another point is this, and I am saying it not to embarrass any Region or the Federal Government as such. It is that we have heard so much in the last few months of—

Chief Benson : The Minister of State, (*Mr Mbaxulike Amechi*) does not speak any more. Why ? Look at him sitting near me.

Mr Speaker : The Member for Lagos North (*Chief Benson*) is wasting the time of the House

Mr Ukegbu : I want Mr Speaker to take notice of the fact that my time is being wasted by unnecessary interruptions.

As I was saying, the country has been hearing so much of the national cake. The country has been treated, in the last few months, to various statements and comments about sharing and getting a fair share of the national cake. It is, therefore, important that the country should also be made to know how this national cake was baked. The country should also know who contributed the ingredients of the national cake, because if we are going to share the national cake, it stands to reason that we must contribute to the baking of the national cake. It is necessary that people should know that the finances of the various Regional Governments are interwoven and inter-dependent. It is also necessary that the country should know that it has been stated by the Binns Commission that some Regional Governments should be assisted to improve the educational facilities they offer to their people. It is necessary that the country should know that some Regions will be helped to improve the medical services to be provided for their people.

House of Representatives Debates

2475

[Allocation of Revenue
Constitutional]

18 OCTOBER 1965

(Amendment) Bill : Second
Reading]

2476

[MR UKEGBU]

Why I am saying this is that it stands to reason that if all parts of the Federation are called upon to—

Chief Okotie-Eboh : On a point of order, my hon. Friend should declare his interest. He is an *Onye nkuzi* and a school proprietor, and he wants us to give grants to his school. We will not give him.

Mr Ukegbu : If there is a plan to help all parts of this Federal Republic to improve their educational and medical services, I must direct my appeal to the North Regional Government to look carefully into this matter. I am making this point because the North Regional Government is also obtaining a share here. If there are 29 million people in the North, I must point out that these 29 million people are made up of Nigerians, no matter their Regions of origin. I say this because I was myself at a time in the Northern Region, and I happen to know that many people there to-day who are supposed to come from the southern Regions were, in fact, born there.

The fathers of some Southerners in the North to-day have been living in the North for the past twenty years. They have since then been paying their taxes there. Their children were born there. They have become part and parcel of the Northern Region. If the Northern Region is, therefore, assisted in this way, it stands to reason that the North Regional Government should see to it that there is no discrimination in educational facilities to people from other parts of this Federal Republic domiciled in the North.

I must say here that blood-cuddling fears about the North Regional Government's policy went through many people when the North Regional Minister of Education stated at one time that his Government was going to limit the number of Southern students attending their secondary schools to 20 *per cent*. However, a great relief was obtained when the Premier of the North corrected the statement.

It would certainly not be right, if we were to be united financially, when people who have left their Regions of origin, either in the East or in the West, are not allowed to educate their children where they are domiciled and where they pay their taxes.

Mr J. O. Ede (Idoma North) : On a point of order, the Member for Owerri South-East (*Mr Ukegbu*) is only trying to mislead this House. He has never been to any part of the North to know what is happening there. As a matter of fact Southerners and Northerners even obtain honours degrees without any discrimination in the North.

Alhaji Mohammed Muktari, Sarkin Bai (Dambatta) : On a point of order, I knew the Member for Owerri South East (*Mr Ukegbu*) in Kano when he was a carpenter.

Mr Ukegbu : I do not want to be drawn into that. I used to know most of the Federal Ministers from the North. I knew some of them when they were clerks and teachers in Kano, and we were very friendly then. Unfortunately, I did not know the Member for Dambatta (*Alhaji Mohammed Muktari*) then, because he had not surfaced in Northern Nigeria at that time. I knew the Federal Minister of Mines and Power when he was then a teacher.

Mr Speaker : The Member for Owerri South East (*Mr Ukegbu*) is wandering very far.

Mr Ukegbu : I was drawn into it. However I am going to make a proposal, because, after knowing the facts revealed by the Binns Commission, that all parts of this country should help each other to improve their services, it is going to be heart-aching if we continue to hear of the sharing of the national cake. Therefore, I am going to say that a National Cake Sharing Commission should be established for Nigeria whose duty it will be to know all the ingredients which are to contribute in baking the national cake. The Commission is also to decide how fairly the cake is going to be shared so that it may not be possible for some people to get a lion's share in the guise of getting a fair share.

I now go to my final point. The financial relationship between the Federal Government and the Regional Governments is the next point now. The Minister of Finance has told us that the Federal Government is going to forgo about £2.78 million annually to the Regional Governments in the next four years. On this point I would like to say that the Federal Government's responsibilities in the Constitution are not commensurate with its share of the Federal revenue. The Government tends to lavish money on the services it renders.

House of Representatives Debates

2477

[Allocation of Revenue
Constitutional]

18 OCTOBER 1965

(Amendment) Bill : Second
[Reading]

2478

For example the Federal Government is offering eight years' free education in Lagos when the Regional Governments are struggling to make two ends meet in order to educate the teeming millions of Nigerians. Therefore, since residual powers in the Constitution belong to the Regions, it stands to reason that residual revenue should also return to the Regions.

Chief A. Jinadu (Oshun North-East I) : On a point of order, the Member for Owerri South-East (*Mr Ukegbu*) appears to me to be wasting the time of this House. It has become his habit, whenever he is speaking on the Floor of this House, not to speak to the point. All he does is to demonstrate. I would advise him to go out of this House for his demonstration.

Mr Speaker : That is not a point of order.

Mr Ukegbu : I am going to say something which many people may consider a heresy. However, I am willing to say it. With regard to this proposal of revenue allocation, it is all good as it appears that the Federal Government should spend so much money for the purpose of rendering the services of External Affairs and so on. Anyway, there is one fact which should be notorious. That fact is this. Our Constitution is much more advanced than our thoughts. Sections 136 and 140 are based on the assumption that Nigeria should be one, that the Federal Government should not discriminate, that the Federal Government should have as much concern for all parts of the country (all the Regions and all the people), and that no matter who is in charge of the Federal Government at any given time this person or political party should rise above party and sectional interests.

Even though it is a fact that people become Prime Ministers of a Federation by passing through an election sponsored by a political party, even though it is true that political parties and alliances win elections on their parties platforms in order to rule a Federation, it is a necessary corollary to work for one Constitution and to rise above political party sentiments in order to form a real Federal Government. They must not allow petty political considerations to override the overriding principles of the country. Therefore, in view of the money which the Federal Government gets here and there it becomes

actually weighted, and it makes it a big timber. The millions of pounds contributed by the various sections of the nation and the millions of pounds which the Federal Government derives from import and export and excise duties from the teeming millions of Nigeria have added a great weight to this Government. Since part of this money is retained by the Federal Government this has made the Government a heavy weight. So, anybody who forms this Federal Government and anybody who has such a weight or such a power must not be shackled by political party considerations.

If he is a President, he must be a president of the whole people; and if he is a Prime Minister, he must be a prime minister of the whole people. This is not to say that our Prime Minister is not being a Prime Minister of the whole people. This is not what I am saying at all. What I am saying is that—

Chief P. O. A. Dada (Ilorin East) : I am afraid the hon. Gentleman is wasting our time. He is saying that a Prime Minister should be a Prime Minister of all. In other words, he is saying that the Prime Minister is not the Prime Minister of all. But I want it to be recorded that the Prime Minister is a Prime Minister of all Nigerians.

Mr Ukegbu : I think that there are many of us who rise above party and region and think of the welfare and well-being of this nation, as Nigerians first and foremost. When such people speak, it would be nice for other Members to concede them the right even to say unpleasant things, because people say unpleasant things to their friends and their fathers. It is not the father alone who advises the son, but the son also advises the father.

What I am saying is that the Federal Government has overall responsibility for Nigeria and the Federal Prime Minister has overall responsibility for Nigeria, and if things go wrong in any part of the country, as they have gone wrong in the Western Region, the Prime Minister must step in. The Prime Minister must rise above his party—

Mr Speaker : Order. This Bill relates to finances.

Mr A. F. Odulana (Ijebu North-East) : I want to assure the Member for Owerri South-East (*Mr Ukegbu*) that nothing has gone wrong in the Western Region.

Mr Ukegbu : I will leave many things unsaid because I realise that, as Nigerians, all of us will read meanings into what I have said and all of us will discern those things which, for the purposes of public policy, I want to leave unsaid.

Finally, I am going to say that the people of Nigeria who have been made one because of the way they share their revenue, should also think and act as one, as they have been asked to do by their Constitution. Certainly, if they are all going to—

Mr D. A. Agboola (Ila) : On a point of order, the hon. Gentleman speaking belongs to the group of people that say one thing and practice another. Furthermore, he has exceeded his time.

Mr Ukegbu : I would like to wind up by saying that if we approve this Bill now, we shall have for the next five years entangled ourselves in one; we shall for the next five years have agreed to put our revenue in one; to put our financial destiny in one; and during these five years, everything must be done to ensure that we stay as one. But if this is not going to be the case, then, our Constitution might be amended to suit our thinking, unlike what it is in the meantime.

I will say that the Minister of Finance might want to explain to us what is proposed to be done by the Federal Government under the heading of Non-Statutory Allocations to the regions because we have now agreed to share the money. But there is another proposal made, that specific Non-Statutory Allocations, say for education, health and roads, could be made to the Regions. I would like to know what the Government wants to do about that.

I beg to support.

Alhaji Mohammed Muhtari, Sarkin Bai (Dambatta) : In rising to support the Second reading of this Bill, in the first place, it beats my imagination why the U.P.G.A. Members and, particularly, the lawyers among them, are so shortsighted, so tribalistic and so regionalistic that—

Mr A. T. Mbegbu (Owerri North-East) : On a point of order, members of my profession wish to express how much we respect the Member for Dambatta (*Alhaji Mohammed Muhtari, Sarkin Bai*). However, I do not

think it tells good of him to use unparliamentary language. I would like to remind him as a professional man, that the lawyers have not done anything against this Motion. We have not even contributed. No lawyer has yet contributed to this Debate.

Alhaji Mohammed Muhtari, Sarkin Bai : What I am saying is that they are so regionalistic that they have almost lost their senses of coherence. That is why the U.P.G.A. lose cases in the law courts.

Professor Kalu Ezera (Bende East) : On a point of order, my respectable friend, the Member of Dambatta (*Alhaji Mohammed Muhtari*), whom I have respect for, should not bring in the question of the U.P.G.A. losing cases in the law courts, on the Floor of this House. On the contrary, it is a very sad commentary that, in fact, some of us are losing confidence in our Judiciary.

The Attorney-General and Minister of Justice (Dr T. O. Elias) : May I ask the Member for Bende East (*Professor Ezera*) to withdraw that statement. (*Interruptions.*)

Mr Speaker : Order ! The House being in this mood, I think I will be a little bit more strict with the Orders. Is the Member for Bende East (*Professor Ezera*) willing to withdraw his statement ?

Several hon. Members : No !

Alhaji Mohammed Muhtari Sarkin Bai : As I was saying, U.P.G.A. lawyers, not only lose their cases in the law courts, but that is the very reason why they have lost their election into the Western House of Assembly.

Several hon. Members : Shame ! Shame ! Shame !

Mr Speaker : If the Member for Dambatta (*Alhaji Sarkin Bai*) is not going to speak on fiscal policy, I will ask him to resume his seat. (*Hear, hear*).

Alhaji Mohammed Muhtari Sarkin Bai : I am willing to abide by your ruling, Mr Speaker, and I will go straight to the Bill. We are not interested at all to hear somebody coming here to tell us how Eastern Region developed, how it has got oil, and how it is doing this or doing that. We are not here to listen to all that. We are here to see that our national cake is divided proportionately, and

House of Representatives Debates

2481

[Allocation of Revenue
Constitutional]

18 OCTOBER 1965

(Amendment) Bill : Second
Reading] 2482

that is the very reason why the N.N.A. has done its best to bring in the N.N.D.P. here to get its own share of the national cake. (*Interruptions*).

Mr Speaker : I cannot allow this persistent interruptions by some Members of this House. Really the House cannot tolerate all this.

Mr J. S. Tarka (Jemgbar) : On a point of order, I think that this Bill has been relegated to petty party politics, but if the Member for Dambatta (*Alhaji Sarkin Bai*) would be kind enough to keep his speech within the scope of the Bill itself, those of us who are interested would add our little contributions.

Alhaji Mohammed Muhtari Sarkin Bai : It was not my intention to speak on this Bill. I was prompted to speak because the Member for Owerri South-East (*Mr Ukegbu*) who spoke before me, made reference first to the educational policy of the Northern Government as far as Southerners are concerned, and secondly, he made reference to the person of our respected Prime Minister, Alhaji Abubakar Tafawa Balewa.

The time has come when all the Easterners, in fact Ibos—adults, children, lawyers, labourers, traders, and so on—should be grateful to God and to the North for providing sound education for their children since as far back as 40 years ago. To-day, we have Ibo teachers in primary schools because the North Regional Government is very realistic. Is that not being realistic?

Mr Speaker : The Member for Dambatta (*Alhaji Mohammed Muhtari Sarkin Bai*) is still drifting to tribalism.

Alhaji Sarkin Bai : I am here to tell the truth to this House. The reference made here to the Prime Minister by the Member for Owerri South-East (*Mr Ukegbu*), I think, is the most flagrant display of political irresponsibility ever made in Nigeria. We have in this country to-day, the most God-fearing Prime Minister in the person of our respected Alhaji Abubakar Tafawa Balewa, and not only Nigeria, but the whole world—(*Interruption*).

Mr Speaker : Order! There is too much noise made on my right.

The Minister of Aviation (Dr J. A. Wachuku) : On a point of order, I would like to point out to this House that the principle

of the Bill which is being debated is based on the unity of this country. From the time I was a floor Member here until I got to that Chair, the emphasis has always been to remind Members here that this is the only House that keeps this country, in substance, together. But when Members degenerate to a point of beginning to single out one linguistic group for attack, some of us, being human beings, may have to react. Yes, we have to. (*Interruptions*)

Mr Speaker : This is not within the contents of this Bill, and as a matter of fact, the Minister of Aviation is making a speech in the guise of a point of order.

Alhaji Sarkin Bai : In other words, in spite of the three years the Minister of Aviation was the Speaker of this House, he does not know the work of a Speaker. The Minister is very unfair to me. This point of order should have come during the time that the Member for Owerri South-East (*Mr Ukegbu*) was speaking.

Mr Speaker : The Member for Dambatta (*Alhaji Mohammed Muhtari Sarkin Bai*) need not comment on the Minister's point of order.

Alhaji Mohammed Muhtari Sarkin Bai : I was just saying that not only Nigeria but also the whole world has full and implicit confidence in the person of Alhaji Sir Abubakar Tafawa Balewa. He is one of the African leaders recognised as a mediator in any international trouble or conflict.

Chief O. B. Akin-Olugbade (Egba South) : On a point of order, those of us who are a bit far away from the Member for Dambatta (*Alhaji Mohammed Muhtari Sarkin Bai*) cannot hear what he is saying because the N.N.D.P. thugs on that side of the House keep on shouting.

Mr Speaker : This is really a breach of privilege.

Whereupon the Minister of State (Mr Mba-zulike Amechi) rose in his place and claimed to move, That the Question be now put.

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

Main Question put, and the House divided to satisfy the requirements of the Constitution.

Ayes, 241; Noes, Nil.

House of Representatives Debates

2483

[Allocation of Revenue
Constitutional]

Name of Members

Abani, M. S. C.
Abasi, S. A.
Abba, M. Sule Biu
Abdullahi, Alhaji Aminu, Tafida Sokoto
Abdullahi, Alhaji Rilwanu
Abubakar, M. Attahiru
Abubakar, M. Mohammed Sani
Abubakar, M. Tanko
Adamu, Alhaji Sarkin Tafarki
Adamu, Alhaji Tafida Kazaure
Adeegbe, M. F.
Adeniji, M. A.
Adeparusi, J. A.
Agboola, D. A.
Ajayi, J. A.
Akhigbe, J. O.
Akin-Olugbade, Chief O. B.
Akinsete, X. M.
Akpor, J. A.
Akpabio, I. I.
Aliboh, P. E. O.
Alkali, M. Modu
Allanana, M. Yakubu
Amadafu, M. Ahmadu Angara Doma
Ambrusa, M. Shehu
Anah, N. N.
Aro, N. O.
Atiku, Alhaji Kano
Atiku, M. Umaru
Babandi, Alhaji Ahmadu
Badamasuiyu, M. Ahamdu
Bankano, Alhaji Muhammadu
Barko, M. Kachalla
Bassey, S. U.
Bayero, Alhaji Abubakar
Bayero, M. Hamidu
Bayero, Alhaji Muhammadu
Bello, Alhaji Mohammed M/Asara
Bello, Alhaji Muhammadu Tilli
Benson, Chief T. O. S.
Borkono, Alhaji Usman
Bungudu, M. Atto
Chikelu, I. O.
Chinade, M. Muhammadu Yarima
Dada, Chief P. O. A.
Dambo, Ibrahim Maikaita
Damla, J. M.
Danbapa, Alhaji A. Baba
Dauda, M. Umaru Marafan
Dimka, Malam D.
Duwan, Alhaji Abubakar
Eboigbodi, J. B.
Ede, J. O.
Edomwonyi, J. O.
Ejukwa, P. I.
Ekenokot, U. O.
Eleke, P. O.
Ememe, O. C.
Emenogha, V. A.
Enang, Chief D. O.
Essien, E. A.
Eze, G. A.
Ezera, Dr K.
Gaidam, M. Baba
Garba, M. Kangiwa Madaki
Garba, M. Yusha'u A. Mohammed
Girema, M. Jibir

18 OCTOBER 1965

(Amendment) Bill : Second
Reading]

2484

Name of Member

Gwarzo, M. Aliyu
Gwarzo, Alhaji Muhammadu
Gwarzo, Alhaji Usman
Haruna, Alhaji Isa
Hindji, Zanna Alhaji Musa
Hula, Alhaji Bello Farar
Ibrahim, Alhaji Garba Gada
Ibrahim, Alhaji Iyan Katsina
Idi, Alhaji Maska, Katukan Katsina
Igwe, J. O. A.
Ikeh, B. O.
Iko, Alhaji Isa
Ilesha, Alhaji Yusufu
Inyang, Ebong Etim
Inyang, O. W.
Isa, M. Ladan
Isa, Alhaji Zakari
Iyorkar, M. D.
Jabo, Alhaji Garba
Jatau, J. K.
Jiah, Abel Gelchi
Jinadu, Chief A.
Johnson, J. B. N.
Kagho-Omomodia, J.
Kamson, S. O.
Karni, M. Uwaisul
Kudu, Alhaji Datti
Kumo, Alhaji Muhammadu
Kura, Alhaji Muhammadu
Layya, M. Shekarau Ka'a
Mafara, M. Abubakar Tsofo
Mahuta, Alhaji Abdullahi
Mai, Bukar Machina
Maidugu, Alhaji Abdulkadir
Maigari, M. Haikali
Maikano, Alhaji Abdullahi
Maltumbi, M. Umaru
Mallambe, M. Mustafa
Mani, M. Iro
Mansuru, M. Umaru Gella
Mbegbu, T. A.
Mohamed, Alhaji Muhtari, Sarkin Bai
Mohammed-Munir, Alhaji Mutallin Kano
Monguno, Zanna Isa
Muhammadu, Alhaji Aliyu
Muhammadu, Alhaji Sarkin Burmi
Muhammadu, Alhaji Sarkin Gobir
Muku, M. Ibrahim
Muri, Alhaji Adamu
Nadabo, M. Ibrahim
Nadange, Alhaji Muhammadu
Nakura, Alhaji Ali
Na'ita, Alhaji Shehu
Nalado, Alhaji Muhammadu
Mgbarenye, Dr R. C. B.
Ningi, M. Muhammadu
Nkom, S. W.
Nnaemeka-Agu, P.
Nnaji, S.
Nnorom, M. N.
Nwalieji, V. A.
Nwangbo, N.
Nwankwu, J. O.
Nweke, O. O.
Nyelong, M. D.
Nyong, I. E.
Nzeribe, Dr B. U.

House of Representatives Debates

2485 [Allocation of Revenue Constitutional Name of Members	18 OCTOBER 1965 (Amendment) Bill : Second Reading Name of Members	2486 Trade : Minister of Transport : Minister of Works : Minister of MINISTERS OF STATE Adaji, Alhaji Hashim Ahmed, Alhaji Usman Angulu Akerele, Chief A. Amechi, M. Babajide, D. B. Galadima, Alhaji Ibrahim Tako Gauyama, Alhaji Muhammad Gusau, Malam Ibrahim Jamabo, J. A. Komolafe, C. O. Lajide, V. L. Maitambari, Alhaji Usman Mapeo, D. M. Mbu, M. T. Offor, F. E. Oloyede, T. O. Orodi, T. E. Razad, Alhaji A. G. Taiwo, Chief J. O. Ugwu, D. C.
		PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARIES Abdul, Malam Salihu Adedipe, B. A. Bala, Alhaji Dutsinma M. Bamgbose, C. A. Bauchi, Malam Abdu Bissala, Alhaji Aliyu Dalhatu, Malam Sarkin Yola Ezenwa, A. A. Fatika, Alhaji Ahmadu Gbeleyi, E. A. O. Gezewa, Alhaji Sani Gombe, Alhaji Hamza Kirim, Malam Audu Lar, S. D. Okafor, R. B. K. Orosanye, Chief D. N. Umar, M. Muhammadu Mustafa Waziri, Malam Maina Yerokun, S. A.
		<i>Tellers for the Ayes :</i> Alhaji Bello Dandago and Mr A. F. Odulana. Noes, Nil.
		<i>Tellers for the Noes :</i> Mr B. N. Ukegbu and Chief J. D. Odebutumi. <i>Bill accordingly read the Second time and immediately considered in Committee.</i> <i>Bill reported, without Amendment.</i> <i>Motion made and Question proposed, That the Bill be now read the Third time—(THE PRIME MINISTER).</i>

MINISTERS

Prime Minister
Aviation : Minister of
Communications : Minister of
Defence : Minister of
Economic Development: Minister of
Establishments : Minister of
Finance : Minister of
Housing and Survey : Minister of
Internal Affairs : Minister of
Labour : Minister of
Lagos Affairs : Minister of
Mines and Power : Minister of
Natural Resources and Research : Minister of

House of Representatives Debates

2487 [Allocation of Revenue Constitutional 18 OCTOBER 1965 (Amendment) Bill : Committee] 2488

*The House divided, to satisfy the requirements
of the Constitution.*

Ayes, 209 ; Noes, Nil.

<i>Name of Members</i>	<i>Name of Members</i>
Abani, M. S. C.	Ilesha, Alhaji Yusufu
Abdullahi, Alhaji Aminu, Tafida Sokoto	Inyang, Ebong Etim
Abdullahi, Alhaji Rilwanu	Inyang, O. W.
Abubakar, M. Attahiru	Isa, M. Ladan
Abubakar, M. Mohammed Sani	Isa, Alhaji Zakari
Abubakar, M. Tanko	Jabo, Alhaji Garba
Adamu, Alhaji Sarkin Tafarki	Jatau, J. K.
Adamu, Alhaji Tafida Kazuare	Jiah, Abel Gelchi
Adeegbe, M. F.	Kagho-Omomodia, J.
Adeniji, M. A.	Karni, M. Uwaisul
Adeparusi, J. A.	Kudu, Alhaji Datti
Agboola, D. A.	Kumo, Alhaji Muhammadu
Aliboh, P. E. O.	Kura, Alhaji Muhammadu
Allanana, M. Yakubu	Mafara, M. Abubakar Tsoso
Amadafu, M. Ahmadu Angara Doma	Mahuta, Alhaji Abdullahi
Ambursa, M. Shehu	Mai, Bukar Machina
Anah, N. N.	Maidugu, Alhaji Abdulkadir
Aro, N. O.	Maigari, M. Haikali
Atiku, Alhaji Kano	Malkano, Alhaji Abdullahi
Atiku, M. Umaru	Maltumbi, M. Umaru
Babandi, Alhaji Ahmadu	Mallambe, M. Mustafa
Babamasuiyu, M. Ahmadu	Mani, M. Iro
Barko, M. Kachalla	Mansuru, M. Umaru Gella
Bayero, Alhaji Abubakar	Mbegbu, T. A.
Bayero, M. Hamidu	Mohammed, Alhaji Muhtari, Sarkin Bai
Bayero, Alhaji Muhammadu	Mohammed-Munir, Alhaji Mutallin Kano
Bello, Alhaji Mohammed M/Asara	Mohammadu, Alhaji Aliyu
Bello, Alhaji Muhammadu Tilli	Muhammadu, Alhaji Sarkin Burmi
Borkono, Alhaji Usman	Muhammadu, Alhaji Sarkin Gobir
Bungudu, M. Atto	Muku, M. Ibrahim
Chikelu, I. O.	Muri, Alhaji Adamu
Chinade, M. Muhammadu Yarima	Nadabo, M. Ibrahim
Dada, Chief P. O. A.	Nadange, Alhaji Muhammadu
Dambo, Ibrahim Maikaita	Nakura, Alhaji Ali
Damla, J. M.	Na'ita, Alhaji Shehu
Danbapa, Alhaji A. Baba	Nalado, Alhaji Muhammadu
Daudu, M. Umaru Marafan	Ngaronye, Dr R. C. B.
Dimka, Malam D.	Ningi, M. Muhammadu
Duwan, Alhaji Abubakar	Nkom, S. W.
Eboigbodi, J. B.	Nnaemeka-Agu, P.
Ede, J. O.	Nanji, S.
Edomwonyi, J. O.	Nnorom, M. N.
Ejukwa, P. I.	Nwalieji, V. A.
Eleke, P. O.	Nwangbo, N.
Emenogha, V. A.	Nwankwu, J. O.
Enang, Chief D. O.	Nweke, O. O.
Essien, E. A.	Nyelong, M. D.
Eze, G. A.	Nyong, I. E.
Gaidam, M. Baba	Nzeribe, Dr B. U.
Garba, M. Kangiwa Madaki	Odekunle, E. O.
Garba, M. Yusha'u A. Mohammed	Odey, J. U.
Gwarzo, M. Aliyu	Odeyemi, E. O. A.
Gwarzo, Alhaji Muhammadu	Odo, E. A.
Gwarzo, Alhaji Usman	Ogike, F. A.
Gwate, Alhaji Muhammadu	Ojukwu, S. M.
Haruna, Alhaji Isa	Okay, D. D.
Hindi, Zanna Alhaji Musa	Okoroniwo, F. I.
Hula, Alhaji Bello Farar	Olomoda, Alhaji Abdusalam
Ibrahim, Alhaji Garba Gada	Olukotun, Alhaji S. A.
Ibrahim, Alhaji Iyan Katsina	Omar, Alhaji Mohammed Shekarau
Idi, Alhaji Masku, Katukan Katsina	Omar, Alhaji Zubairu
Iko, Alhaji Isa	Onugu, N. N.
	Opata-Otutu, Chief F.
	Orike, C. D.
	Orok, D. U.

House of Representatives Debates

2489	[Allocation of Revenue Constitutional Name of Members]	18 OCTOBER 1965	(Amendment) Bill : Third Reading]
------	--	-----------------	--------------------------------------

Paiko, Garba Turakin Paiko
Rabiu, Alhaji W/Dabbobi
Rahar, Alhaji Abbas
Rashid, Abdulkadir, Sarkin Dukku
Ribadu, Alhaji Ahmadu
Ribadu, Alhaji Bashiru Muhammad
Ringim, Alhaji Saiyadi
Saidu, Alhaji W/Ayyuka Daura
Saleh, M. Yarima
Sandabe, Alhaji Mala Bukar
Sanusi, Alhaji Sarkin Abbas
Senu-Oke, D.
Shisha, V. T.
Shitta-Bey, S. A.
Sulaiman, Alhaji Animu Dutse
Tokula, P. O.
Uba, M. Ulenda
Udo, A. E.
Udo-Affia, J.
Udochchi, Chief J. M.
Umaru, M. Ali
Umeukeje, T. A.
Unurhoro, M.
Usman, Alhaji Haruna
Yacim, J. A.
Yaro, M. Sule
Yola, Alhaji Abba
Yunusa, Alhaji Tudun Wada Kano
Yusufu, M. Musa
Zaiyana, M. Muhammadu
Zango, Alhaji Saidu
Zubairu, M. Gani

MINISTERS

Prime Minister
Aviation : Minister of
Communications : Minister of
Defence : Minister of
Economic Development : Minister of
Establishments : Minister of
Finance : Minister of
Housing and Surveys : Minister of
Internal Affairs : Minister of
Labour : Minister of
Lagos Affairs : Minister of
Mines and Power : Minister of
Natural Resources and Research : Minister of
Trade : Minister of
Transport : Minister of
Works : Minister of

MINISTERS OF STATE

Adaji, Alhaji Hashimu
Ahmed, Alhaji Usman Angulu
Akerele, Chief A.
Amechi, M.
Babajide, D. B.
Galadima, Alhaji Ibrahim Tako
Gusau, Malam, Ibrahim
Isandu, Malam Abubakar
Jamabo, J. A.
Lajide, V. L.
Maitambari, Alhaji Usman
Mapeo, D. M.
Mbu, M. T.
Offor, F. E.
Oloyede, T. O.

Name of Members	Name of Members
-----------------	-----------------

Orodi, T. E. Razaq, Alhaji A. G. Ugwu, D. C.	PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARIES
Abdul, Mallam Salihu Bala, Alhaji Dutsinma M. Bangboye, C. A. Bauchi, Malam, Abdu Bissala, Alhaji Aliyu Dalhatu, Malam Sarkin Yola Ezenwa, A. A. Fatika, Alhaji Ahmadu Gezawa, Alhaji Sani Gombe, Alhaji Hamza Kirim, Malam Audu Lar, S. D. Okafor, R. B. K. Oronsaye, Chief D. N. Umar, M. Muhammadu Mustafa Waziri, Malam, Maina Yerokun, S. A.	Name of Members

Tellers for Ayes :

Alhaji Bello Dandago and Mr A. F. Odulana.

Noes, Nil.

Tellers for the Noes :

Mr B. N. Ukegbu and Chief J. D. Odebunmi.

Bill accordingly read the Third time and passed.

**CUSTOMS AND EXCISE MANAGEMENT
(AMENDMENT) (NO. 2) BILL**

Order for Second Reading read.

Chief F. S. Okotie-Eboh : I beg to move—

That a Bill for an Act to amend the Customs and Excise Management Act, 1958, to make provision for the blending of spirits, oils and other goods and similar operations in a licensed warehouse, for the furnishing by excise traders of information required in connection with the administration of excise laws, for the remission of repayment of duty of excise on excisable goods which are destroyed or defective and for the licensing of Excise Agents, be read a Second time.

The principal Act which this Bill seeks to amend came into operation on the 1st of April, 1959. Since then, there has been a number of Amendments to it and the Amendments in this Bill have been found necessary in order to widen the scope of the principal Act to cater for recent developments in our country's economy and also to facilitate the transaction

House of Representatives Debates

2491 [Customs and Excise Management] 18 OCTOBER 1965 (Amendment) (No. 2) Bill : 2492
Second Reading]

[CHIEF OKOTIE-EBOH]

of business by members of the public with officers of Customs and Excise.

Section 81 of the principal Act provides for simple operation like re-packing, sorting and lotting of goods in warehouses. Recent developments have made it necessary for proprietors to undertake more intricate operations such as blending of spirits, oils and other goods in warehouses and it is envisaged that in the near future other operations of this type will become necessary.

Clause 1 of this Bill is designed to empower the Board of Customs and Excise to authorise these more intricate operations.

Up to about two years ago, the Schedule to the Excise Tariff Act which stipulates the goods which are liable to excise duty contained only four or five items. The current Schedule contains 25 items.

The expansion of this Schedule has resulted in a tremendous increase in the number and variety of proprietors producing excisable goods and the Board of Customs and Excise now has to cope with a number of problems which were not envisaged in the principal Act.

Clause 2 of this Bill seeks to empower the Board to demand and inspect invoices and other books or documents in the possession of manufacturers of excisable goods and also to ask, and receive answers to, questions which the Board may find necessary to pose in relation to excisable goods. The Clause also seeks to make it necessary for proprietors to produce such evidence as the Board may consider reasonable to support any answers supplied to its questions.

As the field of activities in relation to excisable goods expands, problems which had been restricted to one or two excisable goods have been spread to many more goods. One such problem is the relief which proprietors need in respect of goods which have become spoilt or otherwise unfit for use or sale and Clause 3 seeks to extend this relief which had previously been provided for beer only, to other excisable goods.

For importations and related customs business, proprietors have the advantage of appointing Agents who are licensed by the Board of Customs and Excise to transact business on their principals' behalf with

officers of the Board. Clause 4 of this Bill seeks to extend this privilege to manufacturers of excisable goods, and for the control of the Agents.

I hope I have explained the objects of this Bill in sufficient detail to warrant its smooth passage through the House, and I commend it wholeheartedly to hon. Members.

I beg to move.

The Minister of Natural Resources and Research (Prince A. Lamuye) : I beg to second.

Mr D. Senu-Oke (Badagry) : I wish to give my support to this Bill. The Bill is good and progressive in nature but it appears that it does not protect the interests of manufacturers well enough. As it stands, the Board will determine the manner of payment and even the time for the payment. I appeal very strongly to the Minister to reconsider the matter for when a certificate is given to a manufacturer showing that the goods or materials are out of use or bad or destroyed, as the case may be, the payment should be made immediately. The manufacturer should put up an application for claims and this should be paid without delay.

I say this because a manufacturer may be running his business on a short-term credit from the banks, and as the Bill stands now, he may not get his money back from the Board of Customs for more than a year. I am saying this out of experience. I would like the Minister to consider putting into this Bill a Clause which will make repayment to any manufacturer who became victim of this condition immediate.

Finally, I am suggesting very seriously to the Minister of Finance once more to dissolve the existing Board of Customs and institute a new one which will be more representative of expert opinion in customs and tariff revisions. Some proprietors have been completely ruined as a result of sudden changes in customs tariffs. I appeal to the Minister to look into this and see that the existing Board is dissolved.

I beg to support.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill read a Second time ; immediately considered in Committee ; reported, without Amendment ; read the Third time and passed.

SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION BILL

Order for Second Reading read.

Chief Okotie-Eboh : I have it in command from His Excellency the President to move—

That a Bill entitled "A Bill for an Act to authorise the issue out of the Consolidated Revenue Fund of the sum of Six Hundred and Eight Thousand, Seven Hundred and Seventy Pounds for the service of the year ending on the thirty-first day of March, one thousand, nine hundred and sixty-six ; and to appropriate that amount for the purpose specified in that Act," be read a Second time.

As hon. Members are very well aware, I do not normally take delight in making a lengthy speech on the occasion of the introduction of a Supplementary Budget. Indeed, it is my belief that the preparation of Supplementary Estimates should not be unduly encouraged, as the more you have of them the less effective and dependable your main annual Estimates will be shown to be. Such a state of affairs cannot sustain the necessary confidence in our economic policy that is so vital to business.

Thus, but for a very important statement which I intend to make later on during the course of this morning, my present speech would be a very short one. May I, through you, Mr Speaker, crave the indulgence of hon. Members for this. I should like to make a special appeal to them also to pay particular attention to this statement which I shall make, as it is vital, at least, for the education of some people who are not quite used to the financial terminologies that I shall apply in this speech.

Before going over to my statement, however, let me make a few remarks on the Supplementary Estimates. As hon. Members will see, the bulk of the provision under the Recurrent Head is being sought in order to enable Government meet the increase expenditure which has inevitably resulted, firstly, from the creation of the new Ministries and, secondly, from commitments which could not have been anticipated at the time the main Estimates for the current financial year were prepared. I have no doubt that hon. Members, fully knowing the background, must have expected that such a thing was bound to happen during the course of this year.

Apart from increases resulting from the creation of new Ministries, however, there are

one or two items of expenditure in the Estimates which relate to matters completely new to us. I refer in particular to Head 26—Ministry of Communications—where, as a result of a Federal Government decision to participate in the Satellite Communication Programme as from the 1st of October this year, the sum of £233,330 is now being set aside as Nigeria's contribution to the recurrent costs of that programme. Details of our participation in this world-wide effort to increase understanding between nations will, at a later stage, form the subject of a White Paper to be presented by my hon. Colleague and Friend. Suffice it to say that, for the moment, this House should kindly take note of the commitment and of the fact that the ultimate economic advantages to the Republic as a whole will be enormous.

Another item of expenditure which qualifies for a separate mention here is that covering increase in Personal Emoluments under Head 43—Board of Customs and Excise. It is common knowledge that, on several occasions in the past, references have been made to the inadequacy of the staff of this Board and to the consequent loss of funds resulting therefrom. I regret to state that with the increase in the responsibilities of the Board this shortage of staff has recently become more pronounced. The additional sum of £17,200, therefore, only represents the barest minimum of the amount required to cover the necessary personnel. I am sure hon. Members will agree that this is an expenditure aimed at boosting the revenue earning potential of the country and as such should commend itself to the full support of the House.

Having gone thus far, hon. Members may want to know what will be the effect of the present Supplementary Estimates on the budgeted surplus for the financial year 1965-66 as reflected in the Financial Statement appearing on page 11 of the Approved Recurrent Budget. As everybody is aware, the Federal Government, in its untiring efforts to protect local industry and to conserve the country's external reserves, was forced into increasing import duties on some luxury goods.

It is not unreasonable, however, to expect that some of these things will still continue to come into the country. Accepting this as feasible premises, one can safely assume that

[CHIEF OKOTIE-EBOH]

it is also feasible that the higher duties on these goods will have favourable reflection on revenue. To this extent, I feel confident that Members of this House will endorse my optimism and agree that the Federal Government should end the current financial year with a surplus on its Recurrent Budget.

Let me now turn to the Supplementary Capital Estimates, 1965-66. As can be seen almost the entire additional provision being sought is to enable the Federal Government discharge obligations to which it is already committed. As hon. Members are well aware, quite a good proportion of the projects in the current Six-Year Development Programme are of such magnitudes that it is not possible to contain them within any one financial year. Thus, the present exercise is in line with the accepted practice whereby funds are made available for such projects as and when necessary. Hon. Members will appreciate that my main concern in this matter has never been whether or not, once embarked upon, the Federal Government should proceed to complete such projects. I have never been in any doubt about this. My concern has been rather whether it would be in the economic interests of the country to juggle the priority ratings already assigned to the major projects under the Development Programme as a line of least resistance. To my mind, to do so will neither sustain the confidence the outside world has in the Development Programme nor show any sign of consistency in our economic policy generally. Thus, the less we think of such manipulations of our Development Programme the better off we will all be.

I have already referred to the measures which the Federal Government took recently in order to apply a brake to the rather precipitous fall in the country's external reserves. That problem and the one concerning the control of the amount of money circulating within the country are inseparable. To this extent, I now seek your permission to deal with both problems in the next part of my speech to which I have already referred.

I would like to take this opportunity to deal with certain fundamental misunderstandings about financial matters which are fast gaining ground even in circles normally regarded as well-informed. I refer here to suggestions which have been peddled in some quarters

that Nigeria should have no hesitation whatever in creating more money to enable it implement its development projects and, generally, to increase the volume of investable assets. Some people have gone even further than this: they have stated that now that we have our Security Printing Press all we need to do to be rich is to print more currency notes.

I am happy to note that Members reject this reasoning. This has not been said on the Floor of this House, but all hon. Members of this House will bear me out that it is the view of many people in the streets that we should do nothing but print the money and give to everybody. There should be no more work and we should all go to sleep. To say the least, these ideas are not only wayward and downright unrealistic, they are also capable of causing the greatest damage to the economic well-being of this nation. In my capacity as Minister of Finance, therefore, I consider it my duty to point out the fallacies surrounding them and to cleanse any souls that may have been contaminated by them.

Mr Odulana (Ijebu North-East) : The Minister of Finance should be well advised not to employ ex-convicts from Onitsha Market in the new Security Printing Press.

Chief Okotie-Eboh : I hope that the Member for Ijebu North-East (*Mr Odulana*) is not an ex-convict himself to be employed there. I want to assure him that we do not employ ex-convicts in the place; nor are the people in Onitsha market ex-convicts. There may be many ex-convicts in Ijebu market, I do not know.

Chief V. O. Onabanjo (Ijebu South-West) : On a point of order, I would like to ask for the protection of Mr Speaker, although, unfortunately, the Member for Ijebu North-East (*Mr Odulana*) has been bringing in the name of Ijebus. I would like to say that of all the supposed Members from Ijebu Province, I am the only Member representing Ijebu people because the others got in as smuggled Members.

Chief Odulana : All I know is that Members from Ijebu are all elected here, according to their constitutional rights.

Chief Okotie-Eboh : I do not intend to bother the House with the details of the factors which govern the issue of notes in any country. Suffice it to say that it is common knowledge

House of Representatives Debates

2497 [Supplementary Appropriation 18 OCTOBER 1965

Bill : Second Reading]

2498

that people everywhere accept and use currency notes as money only because there is something tangible, and of real value, behind those pieces of paper on which, if need be, they can always fall back. This is elementary. I should like to say, however, that while the ability to issue fiduciary notes, that is, notes not completely backed by a nation's assets, allows a Government some flexibility in regard to the money supply, this concept also implies that such a Government, wishing to take advantage of this facility, must be able to maintain public confidence in its ability to redeem these notes with other assets of values acceptable to the public. In the olden days, this other asset was gold. Nowadays, the backing for currency can either be assets in the form of gold or foreign securities, or foreign currencies such as dollars or sterling universally accepted as reserve currencies.

A Member is suggesting that it should be one hundred *per cent*, and I do not think I should say so. As I said, the fiduciary issue must be such that the reserves of the country or other convertible currencies are such that will give confidence to such fiduciary elements in our currency issue. This is not the field of my hon. Friend and he should stop interrupting.

The ability of Nigeria to earn and maintain external assets is, therefore, a very real factor in determining the volume of note issue that we can afford. To those of us who have expected that with the coming into operation of the Security Printing Press there will be enough money for all to play with, therefore, I must apologise for the disappointment my brief explanation is bound to cause them.

As I have already made it clear, we would be able to increase the note issue if we had more backing for the currency, for example, by accumulation of more external assets. The extent to which we can do this, to a great degree, depends on how much we are able to sell and earn in the international markets. Even when we are able to accumulate surpluses, however, we can never say for certain whether all our problems have been settled. For apart from the problems of external reserves there is another problem with which we, like others, have to contend. The availability and distribution among all claimants of the acceptable international means of payment have recently emerged as one of the greatest obstacles to

the flow of international liquidity generally; at present all the important financiers from practically all the industrialised countries of the world and from the International Monetary Fund and the other international finance agencies are seriously engaged in exploring possibilities to improve the situation of the so-called international monetary liquidity.

However, it is in the context of strengthening our country's balance of payments position on which so much of the overall strength of the Nigerian pound depends, that the measures which the Federal Government took recently have to be viewed. I refer to the tariff increases on certain commodities, the ban on imports from Japan and Hong Kong and the supporting measures taken to make these restrictions effective. Since these restrictions lead to some criticism and a certain amount of adverse and unfortunate public reactions, inspired by persons who ought to know better, I would like to explain why a healthy balance of payments position is of paramount importance to every citizen of this great Federation.

The concept of balance of payments, Sir, is nothing but the application to a whole country of the principle of balance between income and expenditure which every man has to follow if he wants to avoid bankruptcy and hold his head high among his fellowmen. I am sure we all agree that as an individual the man who keeps his expenditure within his income is a wise man. The same cannot however be said of the man who fails to do so. For, sooner or later, he will have to face the consequences of his failure.

Appearances apart, in this matter a nation, when related to the rest of the world, is not different from an individual. Nigeria has to pay for what she buys from other countries in the form of goods or services. These payments have to be made out of what Nigeria earns from the goods and services which, in turn, she is able to sell to the rest of the world. On its own, this transaction is simple and straightforward. Unfortunately, when other elements such as loans are taken into account, the picture becomes slightly more complicated. For with loans made available to us we may be able, in a given year, to buy more from the outside world than our earning capacity for that year can support.

[CHIEF OKOTIE-EBOH]

Even with this possibility, however, the problem of the balance between income and expenditure does not vanish into the thin air ; it is only delayed, for sooner or later, the time will come when we will be required to repay all the loans and interests accruing thereon. It is only proper therefore that we should prepare against the arrival of that time. That is why it is misleading to rely only on the short-term benefits of these loans.

I do not want to be misunderstood on this point. I do not want to leave anyone with the impression that there is something wrong with Nigeria borrowing from abroad any more than there is for a business man borrowing from a bank for the purposes of his business. One thing I do want to make clear, however, is that borrowing from abroad does impose some strain on the resources of developing countries such as ours. As hon. Members are aware, it takes time for investments made possible by capital borrowed from abroad to yield returns large enough to influence the balance of payments position. All the same, such investments do have some significant and immediate influence on the country's economy. Through their media more money will be injected into the economy. This will, in turn, lead to more buying. At this stage of our development, the latter event may very well mean more imports.

If, at the same time, our export receipts, for various reasons, fail to keep pace with the increased demand for imports, the result can easily be guessed. We will then have to draw on our external reserves to finance the increase in imports. This is precisely what has been happening over the past few years when, as everyone knows, our exchange reserves have been falling. As an illustration let me give the figures for the past three years :—

Chief O. B. Akin-Olugbade (Egba South) : Is it not exhausted now ?

Chief Okotie-Eboh : No, my hon. Friend will soon hear what I am going to say about it. I will tell him more. If it were exhausted he would not be here talking in the House because he would not be able to buy his beer or schnaps.

I will now give the figures for the past three years :—

1962—£124.1 million.

1963—£93.96 million.

1964—£76.9 million.

As at 30th June, 1965, the reserves stood at £79.7 million. Generally my belief is that one need not be unduly alarmed by occasional falls in reserves. However, if such falls become a regular feature of the economy then firm remedial action should be called for.

Despite the rather gloomy picture I have painted, Nigeria is still in a happier position than most countries. The likely increases in earnings resulting from exports of crude oil and petroleum products should offset any future falls in the reserves. This situation notwithstanding, however, I still find it necessary to emphasise that, as a matter of policy, we should stand ready to impose stern measures designed specifically to maintain or improve our balance of payments position should the need arise.

I need not describe to this well-informed audience the dangers this country will be exposed to should our exchange reserves fall to such a level that may impair public confidence in the value of our currency. It would be a sad day for Nigeria if our pound at home were ever worth less than a pound abroad, as is true of many countries in Africa to-day. We have however to learn from the mistakes of others and that is precisely what we have tried to do.

The recent measures which the Federal Government imposed were, therefore, absolutely necessary in order to protect the Nigerian pound and assure our struggling wage-earners and farmers that they can always get value for their money.

Chief V. O. Onabanojo (Ijebu South-West) : What about the Mercedes Benz ?

Chief Okotie-Eboh : My hon. Friend's own Mercedes Benz is newer than my own.

Chief Onabanojo : Has the Minister collected duty on it ?

Chief Okotie-Eboh : Which one ? Is it my own Mercedes Benz ? I have one but what is my hon. Friend's concern with another man's business ? He should not envy what belongs to another man. He should mind his own business.

House of Representatives Debates

2501 [Supplementary Appropriation] 18 OCTOBER 1965

Bill : Second Reading]

2502

Chief Onabanjo : Is the Minister suggesting that whilst he is prepared to impose duty on singlets coming into Nigeria, he is not prepared to collect duty on a Mercedes Benz 600 coming into Nigeria and yet he talks about public interest?

Chief Okotie-Eboh : Duty will be collected on any Mercedes Benz, whether it is 600, 260, 220SE or 190. Whatever the cars are, duty will be collected on them.

Mr U. O. Ekenekot (Opobo South) : Supposing they are smuggled?

Chief Okotie-Eboh : You are a smuggler!

Minister of State (Mr Mbazulike Amechi) : Is the Minister saying that Mr Speaker is a smuggler?

Mr Speaker : I protest on behalf of the House.

Chief Okotie-Eboh : Mr Speaker, Sir, I never said that you are a smuggler. I said that the Member for Opobo South (*Mr Ekenekot*) is a smuggler.

Mr Ekenekot : On a point of order, I protest, Mr Speaker, for being called a smuggler. I am not a smuggler. (*Interruptions*).

Mr Speaker : Order! He has smuggled in the point of order.

Chief Okotie-Eboh : I offer no apologies for what was done. On the contrary, I feel the Federal Government should be congratulated for a timely action and wish only to plead with Members to take note of my explanations and use their great influence to bring to the attention of the general public all that has been said here. It is imperative that we should all pool our resources together if our aim is to defeat stagnation and to build up a buoyant and self-sustaining economy.

Before I finish, Mr Speaker, permit me to sound another note of warning, and also to refer briefly to the question of creating more money by Government action, because there is a close connection between an unwarranted increase in the money supply and the loss in foreign reserves.

As I have explained, those of us who clamour for the creation of more money in order to implement capital projects are completely off the track. If we do this without a comparable

increase in productivity in real terms, all that will happen is that there will be too much money in the economy resulting in an increase in the demand for goods and services. But the volume of goods and services may not have increased at the same rate as incomes. Thus, there will be a situation in which too much money will be chasing after the same volume of goods.

This will inevitably lead to increases in prices all round. This is inflation, a word with which I feel sure all hon. Members are quite familiar. In some cases the effects of inflation can be minimised as the additional demand generated by an increase in money supply may be satisfied by increase in imports. But, as has been shown earlier, this, in turn will lead to loss of foreign exchange reserves. Thus, by these actions and reactions we will find ourselves in a vicious circle that we may find difficult to riggle out of. I have no doubt in my mind, therefore, that along the path of inflation lies disaster for Nigeria.

Increases in the note issue and Government deficits may lead to illusory prosperity for a while. But when foreign reserves are exhausted and import restrictions have to be imposed, the situation will be even worse. You are all aware of the developments in other African countries which have followed this superficially attractive path. I, for one, will not be a party to this sort of policy, and I sincerely implore hon. Members to take a similar stand.

I beg to move.

The Minister of Trade (Dr K. O. Mbaduwe) : I beg to second.

Mr Speaker : In accordance with Standing Order 64, the debate on this Bill stands adjourned until the next sitting day. Tomorrow being Tuesday, Private Members' day, the next sitting day for this purpose will be Wednesday the 20th.

**EXCISE (CONTROL OF DISTILLATION)
(AMENDMENT) BILL**

Order for Second Reading read.

Chief Okotie-Eboh : I beg to move—

That a Bill for an Act to amend the Excise (Control of Distillation) Act, 1964 by providing for additional grounds on which a distiller's licence may be refused or revoked,

[CHIEF OKOTIE-EBOH]

defining the period of time during which such a licence, unless previously revoked, shall remain in force, and authorising the making of regulations relating to the calculation, securing and collection of excise duty on distilled spirits, be read a second time.

Dr Mbadiwe : Aye !

Chief Okotie-Eboh : I am grateful to the Minister of Trade, (*Dr Mbadiwe*)—*man pikin*, caterpillar and timber of timbers !

Major excise industries like distillation of spirits and refining of hydrocarbon oils are virgin fields in this country.

The little experience which has already been gained in the operation of Hydrocarbon Oil Refineries Act 1965, No. 17 has indicated the inadequacy of certain provisions in the Excise (Control of Distillation) Act, 1964, No. 22, which came into operation on the 1st of April, 1964, and is designed to enable the Board of Customs and Excise to control and license for excise purposes the distillation of spirits which we envisage will begin in this country in the near future.

Apart from finding the premises proposed for distillation of spirits in a satisfactory state for the proper excise control of the goods, there are other conditions which should, be satisfied before the Board proceeds to accept the prescribed fee and to issue an applicant with a distiller's licence. Clause 1 (a) of this Bill seeks to rectify the omission of the reference to these other conditions.

The intention was that a distiller's licence should, like many other licences of the type, be taken out annually. Clause 1 (b) of this Bill seeks to make this point clear.

Clause 1 (c) seeks to rectify the omission of the reference to the power of the Board to revoke a distiller's licence as a result of the failure of the proprietor to comply with such further conditions as the Board of Customs and Excise may find it necessary to impose in relation to the premises in which distillation of spirits is undertaken or in relation to the distillation itself.

Section 3 of the Principal Act empowers me to make regulations in respect of certain aspects of the business of distillation of spirits,

but it is most essential that I should also have the power to make regulations in relation to the calculation, collection and securing of excise duty on the spirits distilled, and Clause 2 of this Bill seeks to empower me to do so.

Sir, these are the objects of this straightforward Bill, and I hope that hon. Members will have no difficulty whatsoever in according it an easy passage through the House.

I beg to move.

Minister of State (Alhaji Ibrahim Tako Galadima) : I beg to second.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill read a Second time ; immediately considered in Committee ; reported, without Amendment ; read the Third time and passed.

PENSIONS (TRANSFERRED SERVICE) BILL.

Order for Second Reading read.

The Minister of Establishments (Mr J. C Obande) : I rise to move—

That a Bill for an Act to make provision for continuity of service for pension purposes in the case of transfers to or from the Armed Forces and the Public Service of the Federation, and to amend sundry Pensions Acts to give effect thereto, be read a Second time.

For some time now, in order to expand the technical branches of the Armed Forces, civil servants have been allowed to take appointments as engineers, dentists and doctors *et cetera*. However, under the Military Pensions Act, as it is at present worded, only military service may be reckoned as pension earning and conversely under the Civil Pensions Act only service in a civil capacity may reckon. Because of this, although the pension earning constant and the conditions for the award of pensions are identical under both Acts, it is impossible to transfer an officer from one branch of the service to another with continuity of service for pension purposes. This means that if the officers concerned wish to continue their service careers, the only course open to them is to resign their original appointments, with the consequent loss of all accrued retiring benefits earned to date.

I am sure hon. Members will agree that this position is inequitable, considering that both the Armed Forces and the Civil Service are

House of Representatives Debates

2505 [Pensions (Transferred Service)

18 OCTOBER 1965

Bill : Second Reading]

2506

different arms of the Federal Government and that it is unreasonable to expect an officer to forfeit many years of pensionable service merely because he wishes to serve the Government in another capacity.

The purpose of this Bill now before this House is to overcome this difficulty, by making service in a military or civil capacity pensionable under either the Military or Civil Pensions Acts.

In this way it will be possible to allow the free transfer of officers, thus making use of their services where they are most required, without penalising the officers themselves.

I beg to move.

Minister of State (Alhaji Ibrahim Tako Galadima) : I beg to second.

Question put and agreed to.

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

Sitting suspended : 1 p.m.

Sitting resumed : 3.00 p.m.

PENSIONS (TRANSFERRED SERVICE) BILL :

CONSIDERED IN COMMITTEE

Clauses 1 and 2 ordered to stand part of the Bill. Bill reported, without Amendment ; read the Third time and passed.

TRADE MARKS BILL

Order for Second Reading read.

Chief F. S. Okotie-Eboh : I beg to move—

That a Bill for an Act to repeal the Trade Marks Act and make new provision with respect to trade marks in place thereof : and for connected purposes, be now read a Second time.

The purpose of this Bill is to bring up to date the law relating to trade marks. At the moment the present Trade Marks Act, Cap 199, contains a number of provisions which are either inapplicable or inappropriate in present circumstances, many of them having become so as a result of Nigeria's Independence.

I am sure that hon. Members in this House will agree that we cannot continue to have such laws in our Statute Book. The following Clauses contain a number of provisions and they are the most important ones. The Clauses are 17, 26, 33 and, finally, 63, which provides

for the publication of a Trade Mark Journal instead of the existing practice of its publication in the *Gazette*.

Now, I am sure all of us know that the Minister of Trade, who has now been styled the "Trader of the Nation", is quite an enthusiastic and an efficient Minister who would like to lend some grandeur and colour to his Ministry. I do believe that this progressive measure—

Mr A. F. Odulana (Ijebu North-East) : This is "Operation Fantastic" !

Chief Okotie-Eboh : The Member for Ijebu North-East (*Mr Odulana*) is himself fantastic.

So, I do hope that hon. Members will agree that this is a progressive measure and something that is required in our trading progress connected with our development.

I beg to move.

The Minister of Establishments (Mr J. C. Obande) : I beg to second.

Mr X. M. Akinsete (Ondo South-East) : I rise to support the Bill. This Bill, which is to repeal the Trade Marks Act, fully recognises the rights of a registered trader.

I am supporting this Bill with regard to sections 33 and 34, as it is an accepted fact that this Bill is based solely on the Trade Marks Act, 1938, of the United Kingdom. Many traders would not like to lose their trade marks if by coming to this country they will not be given the right to exercise control over their trade marks. However, by sections 33 and 34 of this Bill into operation, I am sure that everybody will be happy.

It is a definite part of the picture of international trade and industry to-day, that is, largely operating in foreign countries through agreements with foreign companies, either controlled subsidiaries or independent ones—agreements which involve particularly patent licensing, communication of know-how, engineering, chemical and technical instructions and other information from one company to another.

This Bill for a Trade Marks Act is something which has been in existence in many Commonwealth countries for well over ten years. I therefore hope that the Minister of Trade, who

House of Representatives Debates

2507 [Pensions (Transferred) Service

18 OCTOBER 1965

Bill : Third Reading]

2508

[MR AKINSETE]

has been described a very enthusiastic man about the trade of this country, will keep in regular touch with his law officers so as to be advised on Trade Mark Acts from time to time.

I beg to support.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read a Second time and immediately considered in Committee.

Bill reported, without Amendment.

Motion made and Question proposed, That the Bill be now read the Third time—(THE MINISTER OF FINANCE).

Mr A. F. Odulana (Ijebu North-East) : I am not arguing or quarrelling about this Bill, but I am afraid of the position of Nigerian traders so far as trade marks are concerned. When this Bill is passed, I want the Nigerian traders to have a fair share in the registration of trade marks. Expatriate traders should not deny them this opportunity. The Minister should see to it that our traders are not left out in the registration of trade marks. I know that quite a lot has happened in the past, but the Minister has given us an assurance on this Bill, that he is going to adjust the position of things, so that those things that have been wrongly done in the past, will be rightly adjusted for the benefit of Nigerians.

I know that when the manufacturers have manufactured the goods, the traders who sell these goods make the deal. I do not want the expatriate traders to register all the trade marks and leave the Nigerian traders with nothing. As I have always stressed in the past, I do not want Nigerians to be at the bottom of the ladder ; I want them on the top of the ladder. They should come first in everything progressive, from manufacturing to registration and distribution.

I am just sounding a warning note so that if anything detrimental to the interest of Nigerians comes up or tends to come up, it is the duty of the Minister to see to it that our interests are protected.

I support the Bill.

Dr B. U. Nzeribe (Orlu West) : This is another of the progressive measures that the Government has recently introduced to the House and to the nation.

As you know, Mr Speaker, for a long time now, we have, on the Floor of this House, been trying to emphasise that one of the secrets behind the fast development of England, America, Germany and the other countries which we are now trying to emulate, is the fact that the inventor is given the opportunity of harvesting the fruits of his invention. One of the purposes of this Bill is to give the inventor or the discoverer, the opportunity of harvesting the fruits of his labour.

I understand that one of the Ministers in the Ministry of Trade has recently flown to America to participate in a Patents Conference. I hope that very soon, the Minister of Finance and his friend the Minister of Trade will introduce a Patents Bill which will enable the inventor in Nigeria to be protected, so that for sometime, he can enjoy the monopoly of his invention.

I hope this law will not be like the illicit gin law which remains a law in the Statute Book like some souls in Purgatory. Nobody cares to bring it out, nobody cares to activate it. Let us hope that this law will be activated by law enforcement officers.

Mr M. S. C. Abani (Afikpo South) : On a point of order, I had wanted to correct the hon. Gentleman's impression that souls in Purgatory are forgotten and not brought out. This is contrary to religious teaching.

Mr A. T. Mbegbu (Owerri North-East) : I rise to support this Bill with reservation. As the last speaker but one has emphasised, there is only one thing on which Members from all sides of this House are agreed, and that is that indigenous businessmen should be given greater opportunities to participate in the trade of this country. We cannot emphasise that any more, and we hope that the Minister of Finance will listen to us.

It is very easy to take money out of the pockets of traders by way of excessive duties and imposition of import duties without warning, but when it comes to those aspects of our law where the Nigerian trader can take advantage of the situation and get his money back, the expatriates come in. This is serious and if the able Minister of Finance realises what people are asking for, he will then appreciate that they are not asking the Security

House of Representatives Debates

2509 [Food and Drugs (Lagos) Bill] 18 OCTOBER 1965 [Food and Drugs (Lagos) Bill] 2510

Printing Press to work overtime. They want more money. There are so many idle hands in the country, and most of them have become private businessmen. They should be encouraged. Artists are coming up and trade marks are now easily available within the confines of this country.

I beg to support.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill read the Third time and passed.

FOOD AND DRUGS (LAGOS) BILL

Order for Second Reading read.

Chief F. S. Okotie-Eboh : I beg to move—

That a Bill for an Act to regulate the manufacture and sale of food, drugs, cosmetics and devices, and to make provision for matters connected therewith, be read a Second time.

This is a straightforward Bill, and one which I am sure will receive the unanimous approval of the House. In the explanatory memorandum, hon. Members will find the purpose of the Bill which is to control the quality and purity of food, *et cetera*.

Section (1) of the Bill deals with the prohibition of sale of certain food, drugs, cosmetics and devices. Section (2) deals with the prohibition of the sale or advertisement of food *et cetera* as treatment *et cetera* for certain diseases.

It is also provided in the Bill that powers are conferred upon the Minister to obtain particulars in respect of certain substances. Under Sections (8) and (9), Members will find the designation of inspecting officers and analysts, and the powers conferred on these officers are clearly stipulated in the Bill.

I think it is a straightforward Bill, and I ask the House to pass it because I am sure, it is timely and opportune.

I beg to move.

The Minister of Establishments (Mr J. C. Obande) : I beg to second.

Dr R. C. B. Mgbarenye (Bende West) : I support the Bill because it is very welcome and overdue. The way drugs, cosmetics and things like that are circulated and sold in this country to the public, is simply scandalous.

There is no control whatsoever. My only quarrel here is that this Bill does not make adequate provision for the biological standardization of these drugs. Although the Minister has got inspecting officers, what the Bill has done really is to ask the manufacturers of these drugs to supply to the Minister, particulars about the efficacy of their drugs. This is open to abuse.

I think the Minister is begging the question. What he should have is a competent, well-equipped laboratory with experts who will test these drugs for us and, if necessary, perform clinical trials with them so as to really test the efficacy and claims of their manufacturers. I think this is one big disadvantage of the Bill, although it is a measure which, as I say, I support. It has not quite fulfilled the need for such a measure.

I think one should emphasise that in this country, the indiscriminate advertisement of certain agents which are claimed to be potent for all sorts of diseases is causing untold harm to our people, and I think a Bill of this nature should have gone farther to make these acts punishable by stricter sentences. I notice that we have punishments like £200 fine or six months imprisonment, but I do not think these are sufficiently deterring.

I must say again that the Minister should, in future, make some provision for the establishment of suitable laboratories fully equipped with experts who will analyse these drugs by themselves, not just appointing inspecting officers and analysts or asking the manufacturers of these drugs to supply to the Minister the tests or clinical trials that the manufacturers have conducted into these drugs. The Minister should set up an organisation that would fully test these drugs and make sure that the drugs actually perform what the manufacturers claim.

That is very necessary because the very health of our people is in danger. There is a flooding of all types of drugs in this country, which has been made almost a dumping ground for all sorts of preparations. One does not have to go very far to meet these vans with loud speakers on them, and dancers known as *Ajasco* or whatever you like to call them, trying to convince people that certain preparations made in all sorts of places are capable of producing all sorts of cure.

[DR MGBARONYE]

At least an attempt has been made to control this, and I welcome such an attempt very much. But I also hope that the Minister will go a little farther by establishing a laboratory equipped with officers who will actually test these drugs themselves.

I beg to support.

Chief N. A. Frank-Opigo (Brass South) : This is a very welcome Bill. There is nothing much controversial in it. But in section 2 of the Bill it is said that the drugs that would be used in curing all the diseases mentioned in Schedule 1 of the Bill could not be advertised or sold.

Professor Kalu Ezera (Bende East) : On a point of order, we are very much worried because during the debate on an important Bill like this, and particularly after the last speaker, the Member for Bende West (*Dr Mgbaronye*) has made concrete suggestions, we do not know who is the Minister in charge who will take account of these suggestions. May we, with respect, ask that the particular Minister in charge, and not the Leader of the House, should reply to this.

Chief Okotie-Eboh : I do not know the worry of my intellectual professor. Why do we have people like the Member for Bende West (*Dr Mgbaronye*) here? It is because of this kind of thing. My hon. Friend should not think that the constructive suggestions of the Member for Bende West (*Dr Mgbaronye*) will fall on stony ground. I congratulate him for his speech, and whatever he has said we shall take into very careful consideration.

Chief Frank-Opigo : Section 2 of the Bill states :

Save as otherwise provided by the regulations no person shall (a) advertise (b) sell, any drugs.....for the cure of any of the diseases mentioned in Schedule 1.

Then there are no regulations mentioned in the Bill. The Bill simply says that an Advisory Council will be set up which will make regulations to control the drugs that will be used for the cure of these diseases.

Among the diseases mentioned in Schedule 1 are such simple diseases as influenza, kidney disease, pneumonia, small pox and yaws. Well, we do not know how stringent these

regulations would be. If the regulations were such that people would find it difficult to get hold of drugs to cure things like influenza or yaws, I think the Bill might be doing more harm than good.

I say that because when we had the last outbreak of influenza, many people did not know what to use for curing influenza until the makers of *aspro* got it into their heads how useful it would be to advertise *aspro* to the people. So they put so many cars on the road and started advertising *aspro*, and this *aspro* was very useful in, at least, curing so many cases of influenza.

While there are very many serious diseases mentioned in this list, which would require very careful treatment by specialists, I do not think that diseases like yaws or influenza should come within Schedule 1 of this Bill. Yaws, small pox and influenza should have been removed from this list. This is my suggestion.

M. Sadiq Baba Danbappa (Tudun Wada) : This is a very opportune Bill and I support it. In doing so, I would like to point out one omission in the Bill. In some parts of the Federation, there are people who are manufacturing illegal drugs for sale to the public.

This Bill has nothing to do with the manufacturing of illegal drugs. The Minister should have an eye on these people who are manufacturing illegal drugs in this country, causing unnecessary deaths to people using these drugs.

In certain parts of this country, illiterate people prescribe drugs and medicine, and even give injection to people who are also illiterate. The policy of the Government is that people in villages should go to the nearest clinics or hospitals in their own area for treatment, but these hospitals are so few that they cannot cope with the needs of the people.

I do not know if the Minister is listening to me as I can see that everybody in the Government Bench is conversing. Instead of conversing with him, I think the Leader of the House should ask the Minister to listen to me.

I am talking about illegal drugs. People are using these drugs that are being sold in the country. This is a very serious situation. Everyone knows where these drugs come from.

House of Representatives Debates

2513 [Food and Drugs (Lagos) Bill] 18 OCTOBER 1965 [Food and Drugs (Lagos) Bill] 2514

If the Minister can amend this Bill somehow so that the manufacturers of illegal drugs can be brought to book, that will be welcome.

I beg to support.

Mr A. F. Odulana (Ijebu North-East) : I am glad that the Minister himself has now come in. When a Bill was brought up a few moments ago the Minister in charge had not come in. We discussed the bill and passed it; but when it came to discussing the Food and Drugs (Lagos) Bill it was pointed out that the Minister responsible was not present in spite of the fact that his colleagues are on the Bench. Perhaps this was because the Minister of Health is a Yoruba man—

Mr Speaker : I do wish the hon. Gentleman who has the Floor would try to get this idea out of his mind !

Professor Kalu Ezera (Bende East) : With the greatest sense of responsibility, may we appeal to the leaders of all Sides of the House to abstain from this type of debate which is far too low for an august body like this. I think we should ask the Speaker that such men as indulge in this type of debate should be repatriated from this country.

Mr Odulana : If I should be repatriated from this country, then anybody who is going to take my place should not be an ex-convict.

I must say this to the Minister of Health (although I am not competent to advise him on medical matters) that quite a large number of people are dying every day of illegally administered drugs. Injections are being administered in the markets in some Regions, like the Onitsha market where any kind of drugs manufactured in the world is found.

Mr N. N. Anah (Awka Central) : On a point of order, I want to remind the Member for Ijebu North-East (**Mr Odulana**) that dangerous drugs are not peddled in Onitsha market but in Ijebu market.

Mr Odulana : In point of fact, illegal drugs are sold in many markets in the Federal Republic, but for sure the Onitsha market is a notorious spot for illegal drugs.

Mr V. A. Emenogha (Onitsha North) : I must say that it is very surprising that an old Member of this House like the Member for

Ijebu North-East (**Mr Odulana**) should be joking with the name of Onitsha. Onitsha is too big a place to be ridiculed; it deserves respect. Each time the hon. Gentleman who has the Floor stands up to speak he must refer to Onitsha which is unlike Ijebu that is noted for counterfeiting. May I ask him to please respect Onitsha.

Mr Odulana : When account is taken of the number of people who die as a consequence of illegal administration of drugs, I think it becomes necessary in an assembly like this to advise the Minister of Health to try, by all means, to see that his inspectors are given the power to bring the culprits to book. The people carrying out the illegal administration of drugs should be brought to book and punished, otherwise they will intensify their activities. This practice is not limited to one Region, but is all over the Federation.

If a person goes to buy a patent medicine that is not properly sealed, that person will discover that he has bought something else. For instance, the *A.P.C.* sold in the markets or stores is a case in point. A dose of two or more tablets does not give any effect to a man with pains simply because the *A.P.C.*'s are made of chalk. That is the reason why I think the Minister should take into consideration the fact that this type of practice does happen. More so, the reports in the newspapers of people who have not the requisite qualifications and authority to administer injections taking people into a hide out and applying injections on them should not be discounted.

Such people are ignorant of the correct dosage to be applied for particular illnesses and the result is that their victims die. I think something should be done to stop it. That is what we want the Minister to look into.

We thank him for bringing in this Bill which will enable the government to punish all those found administering illegal drugs on people.

When I mention Onitsha market I do so not for the fun of it. There are other market places in this country too where quacks trade in drugs; but what I am saying about the Onitsha market (which cannot be denied by anyone) is that the peddling of illegal drugs is more rampant there.

Minister of State (Mr Mbazulike Amechi) : On a point of order, I do think that the hon. Gentleman is deliberately misleading this House. In the Onitsha market you do not find drugs or anything illegal. It is a market where people do honest trading and find a way to live honestly. It is not like the Ijebu market where people make money.

Mr Odulana : I am stressing that unauthorised persons should not be allowed to sell dangerous drugs. That is what I am asking the Minister to take note of, and to do everything possible to stop.

I beg to support.

The Minister of Health (Senator Chief M. A. Majekodunmi) : Comments have been made about my absence during the Second Reading of this Bill. Unfortunately, we were busy in the Senate.

I am very pleased to see that the House is in a buoyant mood over this Bill. It is a non-controversial Bill and is one the passage of which is long overdue. As Members themselves have commented, there has been such frivolous advertisement of remedies and drugs on our radio and press in this country that if we are not careful a great many more damage than has been done hitherto will be done. I am very happy indeed that this Bill has been accepted by the House, and I would urge—

Mr P. Nnaemeka-Agu (Enugu Urban) : While the Minister is replying to the points already made, I hope he will also have a look at Clause 17 which makes nonsense of the whole Bill—

The Minister of Health (Chief M. A. Majekodunmi) : Well, I assure my hon. Friend that the office of the Attorney-General in this country is regarded throughout Africa as one of the most efficient, and if he can point out to any irregularity with the drafting of this Bill, I assure him that the Attorney-General is here to answer him. The legal draughtsmen in that Ministry are experts and they have seen to it that this Bill is very well and accurately drafted.

But as everybody knows, not everything that one desires can be put into a Bill. There is a Clause in the Bill which enables us to make regulations to cope with circumstances which are as yet unforeseen.

Thank you, Mr Speaker.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill read a Second time and immediately considered in Committee.

Bill reported without Amendment.

Motion made and Question proposed, That the Bill be now read the Third time—(THE MINISTER OF HEALTH).

Dr R. C. B. Mgbaronye (Bende West) : The Minister has not assured us that adequate steps will be taken to equip us with laboratories to standardise our drugs. As I said earlier on, the manufacturers are required by this Bill to submit to the Minister what tests they have performed and what clinical tests have been undertaken to prove the efficacy of their own products.

The Minister should organise laboratory technicians and experts who will actually test these drugs and perhaps—we have now the University Teaching Hospital in Lagos—use some of the patients to make clinical tests before we can say that the claims of the manufacturers are correct. This is the point I am making. We all know that manufacturers tend to exaggerate the claims of what preparations they make.

I think that the Bill is a very excellent one. It is only a beginning, and I hope the Minister will bear this in mind.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read the Third time and passed.

Chief F. S. Okotie-Eboh : Mr Speaker, I would like to crave the indulgence of the House and of your good self to re-number the Orders of the Day, so that Number 9 becomes 10, No. 10 becomes 11 and No. 11 becomes 9. This will enable the hon. Attorney-General and Minister of Justice, who has got some other engagements outside the country on behalf of the country at the moment, to move his Bill now. After that we will take up the Casino Taxation Bill.

The two Bills, the Attorney-General's and mine, will not take more than 15 minutes, I am sure. After these we shall have to debate the Federal Electoral Commission (Remuneration) Bill throughout this evening.

House of Representatives Debates

2517

[Casino Taxation Bill]

18 OCTOBER 1965

[Parliament (Disqualification) Bill] 2518

Mr Speaker : Is it the wish of the House that we take up No. 11 before No. 10?

Some hon. Members : No, no!

Mr Speaker : Order! With dissentient voices, I am not inclined to allow the change. So, we shall take up the Casino Taxation Bill.

CASINO TAXATION BILL

Order for Second Reading read.

Chief Okotie-Eboh : I beg to move—

That a Bill for an Act to be known as the "Casino Taxation Act, 1965", for the purpose of imposing a tax on the net gaming revenue of Casinos in the Federal Territory, and for related purposes, be read a Second time.

The purpose of the Bill now presented to this honourable House is to make provision, for the imposition of a tax at 12½ per cent on the net gaming revenue which, in effect, is the gross revenue, less winnings, paid out to patrons or their nominees by the casino company. Provisions have also been made for the assessment and collection of the tax, for appeals against such assessment, for offences and penalties generally, and for other related purposes.

The Casino Taxation Act, when passed by Parliament, is to come into force as from the date of its passing, but it is deemed to have come into force on the 1st April, 1965, in respect of any casino operating in the Federal Territory immediately before the date of the passing of the Act. Indeed, casino tax is already being collected from the only casino operating in Lagos, as this is the condition on which it was granted licence to so operate.

The Bill is non-controversial and I, therefore, commend it for the acceptance of this honourable House.

I beg to move.

Minister of State (Alhaji Ibrahim Tako Galadima) : I beg to second.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill read a Second time; immediately considered in Committee; reported, without Amendment; read the Third time and passed.

PARLIAMENT (DISQUALIFICATION) BILL

Order for Second Reading read.

The Attorney-General and Minister of Justice (Dr T. O. Elias) : I rise to move—

That a Bill for an Act to make further provision with respect to the disqualification of Members of Parliament, be read a Second time.

The object of this Bill is a brief one of supplying an omission in our Parliamentary legislation, required under section 45 of the Constitution of the Federation. Section 45 (1) (c) requires that provision shall be made by Parliament for disqualifying certain people from being Members of either the House of Representatives or the Senate, if they have been found guilty of any offence involving dishonesty.

The Bill does not place a perpetual ban on such persons, but only requires that for five years from the date of their completing their sentence, or being discharged, they cannot become Members of Parliament. After five years, they will be free to become Members of Parliament and the offence must be one that involves dishonesty.

When Members look at the schedule, they will find the attempt we have made to include all those offences that involve dishonesty under the Criminal Code as well as the Penal Code of Northern Nigeria.

The second object of the Bill is to suspend the disqualification for membership of Parliament where somebody has been adjudged to be a lunatic or otherwise declared to be of unsound mind, or has been sentenced to death or to a term of imprisonment exceeding six months, or has been adjudged a bankrupt. The Bill seeks to suspend any action where an appeal is pending before a court of law in respect of this five-year period.

I beg to move.

Minister of State (Alhaji Ibrahim Tako Galadima) : I beg to second.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill read a Second time and immediately considered in Committee.

**PARLIAMENT (DISQUALIFICATION) BILL :
CONSIDERED IN COMMITTEE**

*Clauses 1-3—ordered to stand part of the Bill.
Schedule agreed to.*

House of Representatives Debates

2519

[*Lagos Senators Bill* :

18 OCTOBER 1965

Committee]

2520

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

Chief Okotie-Eboh : I would like to appeal to the House for co-operation on the programme. We know that hon. Members want to debate item 12—Federal Electoral Commission (Remuneration) Bill—now and, in order to do that, I want to ask Members that we take item 13, which is only the Committee stage, and which will take us about five to ten minutes, and then when we have done that, if Members are agreeable, when it is six o'clock, I propose to move that the House do adjourn till tomorrow.

Mr Speaker : I think it is for the convenience of the House that we take item 13 before item 12 and, if there is no objection, we shall now proceed with the item.

LAGOS SENATORS BILL :

CONSIDERED IN COMMITTEE

Clauses 1-2—ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 3—(SHORT TITLE, EXTENT, DEFINITION AND REVOCATION).

Mr S. A. Shitta-Bey (Lagos North Central) : I would like to refer to Clause 2, where provision is made—

The Chairman : The Question is on Clause 3. Clause 2 has already been disposed of and you cannot speak on it any longer.

*Clause 3—ordered to stand part of the Bill.
Schedule agreed to.*

Motion made and Question proposed. That the Bill be now read the Third time—(THE MINISTER OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS).

Mr S. A. Shitta-Bey (Lagos North-Central) : Much has been said about this Bill but I am rather shocked at the composition of the Committee that will elect Senators for Lagos. It is well established, according to the Constitution, that in the Regions the Regional Governments do appoint Senators, whereas in the Lagos Territory the City Council is the only authority responsible for the appointment of Senators for Lagos. Now a Committee is going to be set up which will replace the City Council for the appointment of Senators for Lagos. I am not trying to insinuate—

The Minister of Finance (Chief F. S. Okotie-Eboh) : How old is the Member for Lagos North-Central (Mr Shitta-Bey) ?

Mr Shitta-Bey : I am 35 years old, Sir.

Chief Okotie-Eboh : But you are not 40 years of age yet.

Mr Shitta-Bey : In five years' time I will be 40 years old. I would like to add, and I have explained it to the Minister concerned, that in future Members of Parliament for Lagos should be consulted on this type of Bill. I think if he did so we might have had suggestions to make.

It is rather surprising that now, that the people of Lagos are asking for the creation of a Lagos State, should be the time that the freedom to choose those who will represent them in the Senate will be taken away from them. Instead of the Minister being in the Committee and appointing another person as well as the Chairman of the Lagos City Council to be with him, one would rather have suggested, if this change is desirable, that the Oba of Lagos be included in the Committee. This is because he is the person that symbolises the expression of the people of Lagos.

The Oba of Lagos should be included in this Committee. Apart from that he should be made the Chairman of this Committee while the Minister for Lagos Affairs together with the Chairman of the Lagos City Council could be members of the Committee. If that happens the fears of the people of Lagos may, to some extent, be allayed.

This is because, in that respect, we would have been in a position to say "here you are, we have our Oba as Chairman of the Committee and we also have the Chairman of the Lagos City Council, a person elected by the people on the Committee"; then we shall have the Minister there too who can use his normal power to influence one against the other or one in favour of the other. But membership of the Committee should be left to the Chairman of the Lagos City Council and the Oba of Lagos.

We know that the Oba of Lagos is such a responsible first citizen of Lagos that that type of position should be given to him. In future I think this type of thing should be considered. The Minister can however still do something for us by withdrawing this Bill and replacing it with a fresh one after due consideration with the Members from Lagos.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill read the Third time and passed.

House of Representatives Debates

2521 [Federal Electoral Commission 18 OCTOBER 1965 (Remuneration) Bill : Second Reading] 2522

FEDERAL ELECTORAL COMMISSION
(REMUNERATION) BILL

Order for Second Reading read.

The Minister of Internal Affairs (Alhaji Shettima Ali Monguno) : I beg to move, That the Bill entitled the Federal Electoral Commission (Remuneration) Bill, be now read a Second time.

The purpose of this Bill is to prescribe the salaries and allowances of members of the Federal Electoral Commission and this is in accordance with section 133 of the Constitution of the Federation which provides that such salaries and allowances shall be prescribed by Parliament. This Bill is certainly non-controversial and I commend it to the House.

I beg to move.

The Minister of Establishments (Mr J. C. Obande) : I beg to second.

Mr W. Briggs (Degema West) : This is a very important Bill and therefore it must be approached by all sections of this House with the highest sense of responsibility, particularly in view of contemporary events in this country. Because of this, Mr Speaker, I am suggesting that this particular time is not opportune for the introduction of such a Bill, and that the Bill be deferred for at least six months.

I am making this as a solemn Motion and moving that this Bill be deferred for at least six months.

Who are the people whom the Minister is asking this House to give more money? It is the Electoral Commission. After the disgraceful happening, the rape of democracy, the evils that have been perpetrated in the Western Region; the debasement of all standards, moral, legal, and political in the Western Region; the high-way and open-faced robbery which has been committed in the Western Region, I think it is adding insult to injury to ask us again in this House to give more money to Mr Esua and his colleagues.

Mr Speaker : If the Member will try to keep away from mentioning names it will be better.

Mr Briggs : Mr Speaker, Sir, I take your ruling and I would like to substitute "Chairman" for the name which I have mentioned.

Mr Speaker, Sir, you would have liked to be in the Western Region during the last election there. I was there for about two weeks and I saw things with my own eyes. (*Interruptions*).

Mr Speaker : Order, order! Will hon. Members please try to keep their voices a little bit lowered.

Mr Briggs : I was one of the people who were present in the Western Region. People of this country and people from all over the world were present to see the disgraceful things that happened in the Western Region. Ballot papers were flying in the streets—

Mr Speaker : Order, order! Will hon. Members please try as much as possible to allow debate to progress. I am not prepared to allow the Members who want to disturb this debate to do so. After all, Members are entitled to speak their minds on the Floor of the Parliament.

Mr Briggs : As I was saying, ballot papers were flying about in the streets. Policemen were finding people with ballot papers. Ballot papers were found in women's houses and even District Council officials were among the people with whom ballot papers were found. Mr Speaker, in which election in the world have as many as sixteen candidates out of ninety-four been returned unopposed? (*Shame*).

Mr Speaker : Order! I wish again to appeal to Members please to refrain from too much raising their voices when saying "shame".

Mr Briggs : Thank you, Mr Speaker. Many of our candidates' polling agents, were prevented from entering the polling stations, they were also prevented from entering some of the counting stations.

Mr A. F. Odulana (Ijebu North-East) : This is a very serious point. If the hon. Gentleman continues to bring in the name of the Western Region into this Electoral Commission (Remuneration) Bill debate, he will be irrelevant in every respect. We on this side would like to remind him that the Head of the Electoral Commission is an Easterner, the Head of the Police is an Easterner and the Head of the Army is equally an Easterner. What then is he complaining about?

Mr Briggs : I do not intend to reply the Member for Ijebu North-East (*Mr Odulana*) in the terms which he wanted. Here are people who say that they have won an election and yet can never put out their faces at Ibadan in the day time. I challenge any of them—I was born in the Eastern Region—but I challenge either the Minister of Information (*Chief Rosiji*) or the Minister of Education (*Mr Akinjide*) to go with me in their own cars to Ibadan, and then we will come out and walk in the streets. (*Shame*).

Chief Rosiji rose—(Shouts of Shame, shame ! *Ole !*).

Mr Speaker : Order, order ! The Minister of Information.

Chief Rosiji rose—(Shouts of Shame ! *Ole !* Able Minister !)

Mr Speaker : Order, Order ! The Minister of Information.

Chief Rosiji : Mr Speaker, the hon. Member—

Several hon. Members : Sit down ! Shame ! *Ole !* Able Minister !

Mr Speaker : Order, order ! Just as the Member for Degema West (*Mr Briggs*) is entitled to speak and say his mind, so is the Minister of Information (*Chief Rosiji*) entitled to make his point of order.

Chief Rosiji : Mr Speaker, I have just come back from Ibadan and Abeokuta where I held meetings upon meetings, and I accept the challenge of the Member for Degema West (*Mr Briggs*) to go to Ibadan and Abeokuta with him and see if he will come back alive.

Mr Briggs : I am, of course, sorry for the Minister of "Mis-information". He represents nobody but himself. As I said, I am sorry for the Minister of "Mis-information" (*Chief Ayo Rosiji*). He represents nobody but himself. He was rejected by his own people, unwanted by the electorate, and he was brought in by the back door. (*Interruptions*).

Mr Speaker : Order, order ! Will hon. Members please remember that this is the highest legislature in the country. Members do not seem to realise this; if they do, they should please try to keep order as far as they can.

Mr Briggs : I shall not comment any longer on the Minister of Information, Chief Ayo Rosiji, but in view of the disgraceful episode which happened in Western Nigeria I think that this is not the time to introduce this Bill. However, I shall give a catalogue of some of the disgraceful incidents there—

Minister of State (M. Ibrahim Gusau) : On a point of order, I wonder if this Bill is primarily for the West Regional Election.

Mr Speaker : This is not question time.

Mr Briggs : This House will not agree to any money being paid to the Electoral Commission, because they have disgraced not only Western Nigeria, which was the show-piece of West Africa, but they have also disgraced the whole of Nigeria.

Mr Ian Smith, that race baiter, even cites Western Nigeria as an example of his facts that he will never hand over power to Africans in Rhodesia. That is the situation in which we are. That is the place where Western Nigeria has put us, and I know that investors will never come in there because of the situation there now.

As everyone knows, in many places the results were transposed—the votes of successful candidates were read for the defeated candidates. (*Interruptions*.) As an example, in Ondo North Constituency where Chief Adekeye won by 13,099 votes to defeat his opponent who scored 1,870 votes, his opponent who scored only 1,870 votes was declared as the successful candidate.

Chief Babatola in Ekiti won 7,800 votes while his opponent scored only 800 votes, but the N.B.C. announced that his opponent had won—(*Interruptions*.)

Several hon. Members : Shame ! shame !

Minister of State (Mr S. Lana) : On a point of order, quite seriously we are discussing the Federal Electoral Commission, and the Member for Degema West (*Mr Briggs*) is referring to the results of the last election in the Western Region. If Mr Speaker allows him to discuss Regional elections we shall also—(*Interruptions*.)

Mr Speaker : Order ! If Members can only allow me to hear what the Member for Degema West (*Mr Briggs*) has to say on this Bill, I shall then be able to rule on that point.

House of Representatives Debates

2525 [Federal Electoral Commission 18 OCTOBER 1965 (Remuneration) Bill : Second Reading] 2526

Mr Briggs : On the morning of the 12th of this month, that was Tuesday, the N.B.C. flashed out as a highlight of the Election the defeat of Chief Olowofoyeku in Ilesha Urban Constituency—

Mr Lana : Was the Member for Degema West (*Mr Briggs*) there?

Mr Briggs : I was at Ibadan, and the news was repeated twice in the afternoon of that day. However, by the evening the same N.B.C. announced that by that time Bola Sadipe had lost and Olowofoyeku had won.

One Mr Olusa who said that he has crossed carpet at Owo won as an U.P.G.A. candidate. After he had won it was announced there that he won, but after some time the W.N.B.S. and later Rosiji's N.B.C., which used to relate its own news items from the W.N.B.S., announced that Mr Olusa had lost the election. So, Olusa who was in a fix declared for the N.N.D.P., and immediately after that time another news items flashed out again that Olusa had won the election—(*Interruptions.*)

Several hon. Members : Shame!

Mr Briggs : I now come to something very important, because we have got so many of these things. I would like to inform this House that I have with me here certificates of the results of the last Parliamentary Election in the Western Region—(*Interruptions.*)

Mr Speaker : Order!

Mr Briggs : The document which I now hold is Form 'D', "Regulation 46 : Certificate of the Result of Parliamentary Election". I shall now read the content of the document. With your permission, Mr Speaker, I quote:—

"I Gbolahan Lajide, hereby certify that:—

(i) I was the Returning Officer for the Parliamentary Election held on the 11th day of October, 1965, for Oshogbo North II Constituency;

(ii) the election was contested:

(iii) the candidate received the following votes:—

Name	Symbol	Votes
Kola Oyedele	Palm Tree	8,251
Jimoh Efunkunle	Hand	4,238

(iv) the following candidate was declared elected:—"(*Interruptions.*)

Mr Speaker : Order!

Chief A. Jinadu (Oshun North-East I) : On a point of order, frankly speaking, my hon. Friend, the Member for Degema West (*Mr Briggs*) must desist from attacking personalities and the Western Region, because he is one of the people who were busily engaged in sending thugs, arms and ammunition to the Western Region, while the Premier of the West, Chief S. L. Akintola, the *Are Onakakanfo*, was busy reconstructing the damages which those people had done. Therefore, I would like Mr Speaker to advise the Member for Degema West (*Mr Briggs*) to desist from referring to the last elections in the Western Region.

Mr Briggs : I know it is unpardonable; it is the fact that I am putting to them starkly and they cannot take it.

On paragraph 4, the following was declared elected—

Name	Symbol	Date
Kola Oyedele	Palm Tree	12 October, 1965

(Sgd.) *Returning Officer*

This is the photostat copy.

But instead of Kola Oyedele being declared as having won, you will be very, very sad indeed to hear, Mr Speaker, that the man who was declared as having been elected was Jimoh Efunkunle, the man who scored 4,238 votes. In spite of this declaration, it was announced on the Government N.B.C. that Jimoh Efunkunle had won. And that is one of the criminal anomalies. (*Interruption.*)

Mr Speaker : Order, order!

Mr Briggs : We have many of such things and we shall produce them at the appropriate time. It was this same way that an Electoral Officer, on the day before election, was caught with 44 certificates of those who had already won before the election took place!

You will remember, Mr Speaker, that two broadcasts were made, one by Richard Akinjide the other by Chief Fani-Kayode, telling the electorate on the eve of the election that whether they voted for them or not, they would win.

There was an incident at Mushin here. People were talking about Ballot Boxes, and so one small girl told the people that if they were looking for Ballot Boxes, they were in her mother's house.

[MR BRIGGS]

In Badagry, long before the election, a Ballot Box had been stocked with more than 5,000 ballot papers.

On Tuesday, at 11.30—

Mr A. F. Odulana (Ijebu North-East) : On a point of order, Standing Order No. 26. Whilst the Member for Degema West (*Mr Briggs*) is being irrelevant, he continues to mention that election has been rigged in the West. Have they not rigged the office of the President through UPGA? (*Interruptions*).

The Minister of Trade (*Dr K. O. Mbadiwe*) rose on a point of order.

Mr Speaker : It is out of order to drag in the name of the President on the Floor of the House. I very much deprecate this type of statement and I do hope that the Member for Ijebu North-East (*Mr Odulana*) would not make this type of statement again.

Several hon. Members : Withdraw it! Withdraw it!

Mr Briggs : On Tuesday morning at 11.30, a day after the election, Alhaji Adegbenro, was announced by the N.B.C. as having lost the election.

Mr Speaker : Will the Member for Degema West (*Mr Briggs*) wind up?

Mr Briggs : On Tuesday morning at 11.30, a day after the election, Alhaji Adegbenro, was announced as having lost the election, but up till to-day, Mr Speaker, there is no counting of votes in his Constituency.

In Ikeja East Constituency, here are the results :—

Mr N. O. Alowonle, N.C.N.C. 11,325

Mr R. A. Agbayiya, N.N.D.P. 2,754

Mr J. O. Ademosu, Independent 1,099

Mr Speaker, because they know that the UPGA candidate has won, up till to-day, there has been no announcement of the result.

The Minister of Transport (Alhaji Zanna Bukar Dipcharima) : On a point of order, a matter is appertaining to a Region and which is purely regional should not be discussed here.

Secondly, refusing to listen to other people's point of view and shouting them down while insisting that theirs must be heard, is a law of the jungle which we of the N.N.A. will never accept.

Mr Briggs : For Mushin II Constituency, here are the results :

Mr V. A. Oshinjinrin, N.C.N.C.	10,893
Mr S. O. Sanusi, N.N.D.P.	698

Mr Speaker : Order, the Member for Degema West (*Mr Briggs*) has exhausted his time.

Chief V. O. Onabanjo (Ijebu South-West) : In contributing to this debate I would like to be as non-controversial as possible. This Bill asks that certain sums of money should be voted for the members of the Electoral Commission. The truth really is that the Chairman of the Federal Electoral Commission is also the Chairman of all the other Regional Electoral Commissions and that is why it is relevant to discuss the activities of the Chairman and the members of the Commission as regards what happened in the Western Region during the recent Western Election.

Mr Esua who is the Chairman of the Commission is a man I have a lot of respect for because he was my headmaster at school, and I believe that as one who has passed through him I owe a lot to him. But as I have always said, many of us here can defend the character of Mr Esua but Mr Esua is the best defender of his own character, integrity and honour.

I remember when I was on the old *Daily Express*—Chief S. L. Akintola was then a Central Minister—I used to write a column “Comments by Aiyekoto”. Chief Akintola then sent me a piece which he wanted me to put in my column. In the piece he described Mr Esua who was then the Secretary of the N.U.T. as a congenital idiot.

I said that I was not going to put anything of the sort in the column which I was then editing because I thought it would be unwise and improper for me to do so. I am just wondering now, considering the events of the past few days, whether I have not made a mistake in rejecting Chief Akintola's piece.

Be that as it may, we have had two experiences from Mr Esua. First of all, the Chairman went on the air in December and made promises to the country. These promises were never fulfilled and he almost sent the whole Federation into flames. Now, he has done the same thing again. He told the country that the ballot papers were very safe,

House of Representatives Debates

2529 [Federal Electoral Commission 18 OCTOBER 1965 (*Remuneration Bill : Second Reading*] 2530

but it is common knowledge that these same ballot papers were all flying in the air in Ibadan and all over the Western Region.

In fact, Mr Esua as the head of the Commission saw a lot of the activities of his friends. They have just come out of their hiding. The Minister of Information, (*Chief Ayo Rosiji*) and the Minister of Education (*Mr Akinjide*) have just come out of their hiding after perpetrating the worst crimes that one can imagine in any civilised society.

The truth is this. I have been told by the Minister of Natural Resources and Research (*Prince Lamuye*) that whatever crimes they might have perpetrated in the Western Region were not up to one tenth of what happened in the Mid-West during the election there, and I want him to swear on his honour if he wants to deny that he told me that.

The Minister of Natural Resources and Research (*Prince Alade Lamuye*) : On a point of information, there was no time that I engaged in any such discussion with the Member for Ijebu South-West (*Chief Onabanjo*).

Chief Onabanjo : I am really ashamed that the Minister can deny what he told me, for I am sure that, not quite ten minutes after he discussed that with me, I repeated what he told me to the Minister of Finance—

Chief Okotie-Eboh : What ?

Chief Onabanjo : I told the Minister of Finance (*Chief Okotie-Eboh*) what the Minister of Natural Resources and Research (*Prince Lamuye*) told me, that whatever crimes they might have perpetrated in the West was not up to one tenth of what Chief Okotie-Eboh did in the Mid-West.

Chief Okotie-Eboh : What did I do ?

Chief Onabanjo : It is quite clear from what happened in the West that we have got to deal much more firmly with the law relating to electoral procedure in this country. Before the election, the N.N.D.P. saw to it first that they had on the Electoral Commission their own men who would help them to rig the election.

There was a Dr Akinola who was put on the Commission. Immediately he was appointed to the Commission, the Minister of Education here saw to it that he appointed him to be a

Member of the Provisional Council of Ibadan University even though he was just a lecturer there. It was just a way of bribing him. Immediately after that, Dr Akinola became the Head of the Department of Geography in the Lagos University.

That is not all. When the preparations were on, all the N.N.D.P. candidates dictated who should be the electoral officers in their areas. In the past, civil servants had always been almost invariably the electoral officers. In one particular case, it was a Minister of Education who appointed his own Private Secretary to be the electoral officer in his own home constituency. He is Mr Olusola. They got people appointed like that; people appointing their cousins as electoral officers !

But that is not all. They saw to it also that electoral officers were kidnapped. Mr Esua also issued a release and stated to the world that electoral officers were kidnapped. Now, what did we get ? They told us, "Well if you are not satisfied, go to the courts". Whose courts ? They asked us to go to the courts. But that is not the purpose.

Now, after they have gone through all that, we managed to have 78 people who filed their nomination papers. Even though we had six people more with validity certificates, they still refused to have these people regarded as having filed their nomination papers. These are not things that we are proud of.

After this broad daylight robbery, we had the elections. I was in the fortunate position of staying in Police custody on the day of the election at Ibadan, and I found ballot papers being brought in. Even Nigerian Policemen—I can pardon the Local Government Policemen—were being involved in these ballot papers. In Ijebu-Ode one was found with ballot papers ; the same thing happened in Ibadan. An Army Lieutenant came to the Police Station to report that he found ballot papers. He drove to the Police Station. Those people on the other side of the Chamber are to blame.

Every time we talk about democracy in Africa everybody looks upon the Prime Minister of Nigeria as the one who should go outside and talk about democracy. Any surprise then that Mr Ian Smith, Prime Minister of Southern Rhodesia, spoke in the way he did about Nigeria ? What is the need ?

[CHIEF ONABANJO]

Somebody spoke to me yesterday and suggested that when the Organisation of African Unity is meeting, we should lobby Members about what is happening. I said, "lobby who? People who themselves are only interested in the one party system?" I would have suggested that it is Nigeria who should give the other countries the lead. It is in Nigeria that we say that we are practising parliamentary democracy. But the whole thing now is a mockery and it would be impossible for the Prime Minister to go outside this country and begin to talk about parliamentary democracy with his backyard stinking as it is in the West.

But, that is not all. Even an hon. Member here from the Upper House, Senator Chief Ayo Rosiji, recently lost an election in his constituency. In that same constituency to-day, we have been told that their man there defeated the other candidate. They did everything they could. Electoral officers were changed three times in that same constituency. They just sacked the man and brought one thug from Ogbomosho. When he was caught, they changed the electoral officer over night. Now, this is the sort of thing that enable them to go through.

What do we do with our electoral system? Mr Esua has proved to us twice that he is incapable of doing the work. I am not one of those people who would like to say that he is corrupt, because the charge of corruption had been brought up when last we discussed the question of the Electoral Commission. All I said on that day was that he had made so many mistakes that I could only pray that God might forgive him his sins.

To-day, Mr Esua may say "My hands are clean". Probably, so; but I wonder whether his feet are clean as well. That is the important thing. His hands may be clean but what about his feet?

I can see hon. Members from the N.N.D.P. side looking morose and gloomy; they are suffering from guilty conscience. What we ask for is a decent election. Here are people who have said "Oh, we have the mass of the people with us." But when they had the simple challenge to go and meet the people they began to "shee shee" in their trousers! Yet, they say they are men. But this is not the time to inflame emotions.

The only pity of what has happened is that after this broad day light robbery, we have a man like the Minister of Education talking about ruthlessness, saying that they were going to be ruthless. He is a coward. Only a coward talks about being ruthless with other people. Here is a man who has not even got the mandate of the people talking of being ruthless. Is this the time to talk about ruthlessness? He has been in hiding. They talk of treason. They feel that the best way out of the thing is to bully people—sending this one to prison and arresting this one. They will not solve the problem of the West in that way. It is impossible.

The worst thing that has happened in the West was that they were assisted by the connivance of some Members of the Nigeria Police in what went wrong with ballot papers. I will give you two examples, Mr Speaker. On Friday before the election which was going to be held on Monday, the Chief Electoral Officer for Ibadan went to Parliament Building, where ballot papers were kept, together with three other electoral officers, to demand that seven bales of ballot papers relating to Ibadan constituencies be given to them. The Assistant Superintendent of Police there refused, and they got in touch with the Chief Superintendent of Police whose name is Mr Lasekan who ordered that the papers should be released to them. We got to know and immediately they contacted the Inspector-General of Police.

Minister of State (Alhaji Usman Angulu Ahmed). The Member for Ijebu South-West (*Chief Onabanjo*) who has no power—(*Interruptions*).

Chief Onabanjo : I do not know whether the Member for Kwara (*Alhaji Usman Angulu Ahmed*) sitting on the opposite side, is the Minister of Police Affairs. If he is, I think that he will do this country a lot of good if he just listens and takes notes instead of raising unnecessary interruptions. The truth is this—

An hon. Member : How many of them?

Chief Onabanjo : They are too many. A member is asking whether their base is broad. The base is too broad.

House of Representatives Debates

2533 [Federal Electoral Commission 18 OCTOBER 1965 (Remuneration) Bill : Second Reading 2534

Now, they got in touch with the Inspector-General of Police and also got in touch with the Regional Commissioner of Police, and the candidates involved in these three constituencies went to see the Commissioner who was surprised himself that these ballot papers were being released. He said that the ballot papers should be returned the next day. In fairness to him, he said so. They were returned but he could not get all the seven bales returned.

But that is not all. At a quarter to two on Sunday morning, I got a telephone call from Ado-Ekiti, saying that Chief Fani-Kayode, the Deputy Premier, and another man, Mr Lakanmi, were at the Police Station demanding that the ballot papers be handed over to the Senior Electoral Officer. I can hear the N.N.D.P. Member right opposite me saying that that was the right thing to do. I am only happy that he is confirming what I am saying.

However, as I was saying, Fani-Kayode again contacted the Inspector-General of Police and got in touch with Mr Odofin Bello, the Commissioner of Police in the West. Mr Ayinde Oluwole an N.C.N.C. member and myself went at 3.45 a.m. to see Mr Odofin Bello. He telephoned Ado-Ekiti and it was confirmed that Chief Fani-Kayode was there demanding the ballot papers. The point is this, nobody is suggesting that the Senior Electoral Officer should not have the ballot papers, but why was it necessary for Chief Fani-Kayode and another N.N.D.P. man to be present? That was how it was possible for ballot papers to be put in ballot boxes long before the election started. In fact, in Ondo Central constituency, thirty-one boxes already filled with ballot papers were discovered before 8 o'clock in the morning! These boxes are now lying in police custody in Ibadan.

Is this how to run an election? I would have thought that these people would bow down their heads in shame, but they are shameless people; the whole lot of them. Look at this one sitting right opposite me, he is dosing off after spending three or four sleepless nights planning evil and robbery.

The Minister of Information (Chief Ayo Rosiji): The hon. Member has a right to make his speech but he knows that it is much beyond him to insult me the way he has been trying to do. If he keeps a good tongue in his head, may be he will have a longer span of life.

Chief Onabanjo : Quite honestly, the Chief was actually dosing when I was speaking. At least I have achieved something. He is now wide awake to listen to more of what I am going to tell him. He was one of those people who planned this rigging and switching of election results. He was also one of those who planned the robbery in the Western Region, and I do not see why he should be hurt about it. I thought he had only descended two steps down; he has now gone four steps down because he is now referring to my own father. I am not going to do that to him. He ought to be ashamed of himself. I think his background is such that he ought not to speak the way he has done.

However, we have people on the Electoral Commission who by their training and background ought to give this country the best, but, unfortunately, this is not the case. I am not the one to plead the cause of the Commission. Mr Esua will come out sometime to say what has happened. The members of this Electoral Commission knew what was happening. The Minister of Information saw to it that the N.B.C. did not report the results. In the past, the N.B.C. used to have their transmitters at the counting stations and then we always heard them say that they were taking us back to, say Ado-Ekiti to listen to the results. But this time, nothing like that happened. They made the arrangement and they refused the N.B.C. to do this.

The Minister of mis-Information, so planned things as to suit his purpose. As a matter of fact, he has given this country a very bad name abroad. He has even tried to get the help of the British High Commission in order to gag the BBC. What does the Minister think he is? Does he think that the BBC is like the N.B.C.?

M. Aliyu Umaru (Wukari): My point of order is on irrelevancy. I believe that the Federal Electoral Commission and the West Regional election are not synonymous, and as such it is irrelevant for the hon. Member, instead of discussing the Federal Electoral Commission of which Mr Esua is the head, to start discussing the Western election. As far as the West Regional elections are concerned, Mr Esua is only the Chairman and he alone did not work on the Commission.

Chief Onabanjo : I was talking about the part the Ministry of Information played in the last Western Regional election.

Chief Rosiji : I must say categorically that I never at any time, either directly or indirectly, got in touch with the British High Commissioner. Never. The way these people carry on using the privilege of this House to tell all sorts of downright lies is regrettable.

Mr Speaker : Will hon. Members please detach the British High Commission from this controversy.

Chief O. B. Akin-Olugbade (Egba South) : Although the Speaker has just ruled that the British High Commissioner should not be brought into the debate in this House, it is public knowledge that the Deputy High Commissioner in Ibadan was the first to congratulate Chief Akintola over the fraudulent results of the last Western election. They will leave this country. (*Prolonged Interruptions*).

Chief Onabanjo : I thought the Minister was going to raise a point of order. The Minister now protests about his innocence in—

Minister of State (M. Ibrahim Gusau) : We have been debating this Bill for more than one hour, and the debate has been concentrated only on the West Regional election. This Bill before us allows us, and this Parliament is competent, to speak on the Federal election itself.

With respect, Mr Speaker, I would like you to allow us to debate in this Parliament the plan which was organised in the last Federal election in the East, and the boycott by the Federal Electoral Officers in the East. The plan which was organised in the East, and in which all the Federal Electoral Officers in the East participated, should be debated in this House.

Chief Onabanjo : Now, Sir, when only a few days ago, the Premier of Western Region wanted to broadcast, the broadcast flopped, and the same Minister of Information was the one who tried to force the N.B.C. to make sure that this broadcast was put on the air from Lagos, even though the Western N.B.C. had been closed down.

Minister of State (Chief J. I. G. Onyia) : I would like hon. Members to tell me whether they take cognisance of section 28 of the Standing Orders. Section 28 (4) states:

"During a sitting all Members shall be silent or shall confer only in undertone." 28 (5) says : "Members shall not make...." (*Prolonged Interruptions*).

Mr Speaker, Sir, I have one thing to say. I want to say one thing responsibly. During the speeches here, mention was made of our Prime Minister. I wish to say here categorically that our Prime Minister is one of the most democratic men we can have in this country. He can represent us anywhere in the world on democratic basis. He is competent to do so. It is the people here who make his work difficult. The people here have mortgaged their conscience, and are disturbing Nigeria. They were the people who never cared to fight—(*Interruptions*).

Chief Onabanjo : There are two things I would like to say about the role the Federal Minister of Information played in all this ugly episode.

Before the election, the controller of the N.B.C. in Ibadan and the Director-General of the N.B.C. were invited to Ibadan. Who were the people present at the meeting with the Premier? They were the Minister of "mis-Information", the Minister of Education (Mr Akinjide), and Mr Akinloye. They were all there. They were there addressing these people as Ministers or as N.N.D.Pers. It was downright blackmail, and the meeting lasted for well over four hours. Blackmail and brain-washing, and that was how it was possible for them to get the N.B.C. to rig by radio.

The second thing is this. Here is a petition—

Mr Speaker : The hon. Member has exhausted his time.

Minister of State (Mr M. Amechi) : Under Standing Order 30 (1), I want to move that the debate be now adjourned.

I do not know how some Members feel about this, but I do not think it is only a simpleton who will regard these sharp disagreements here as mere political differences of opinion. It is unfortunate that this Bill has come up at a very bad moment psychologically. A number of statesmen have made a

House of Representatives Debates

2537 [Federal Electoral Commission 18 OCTOBER 1965 (*Remuneration Bill : Second Reading*) 2538]

lot of sacrifice to create this Federation. When this Federation was founded those of us who were the younger followers of the elder statesmen that gave birth to this Federation had expected to find a Federation of equal and free citizens, a Federation where democracy shall be respected and a Federation where the rule of law shall prevail.

It will be a misunderstanding or an understatement if we think that these sharp exchanges that go across this Floor are merely exchanges over, perhaps, this last election in the West. We ought to be honest enough to admit that this country is seriously sick and that there is a state of unhealthy political atmosphere in the country.

I would like to say that if there be anything that would add to the schism that already exists in this country, it is the responsibility of everybody in position to try and prevent it. We are looking for an opportunity when at the appropriate level Members will speak with frankness and candidness because everybody knows—I am not picking out any particular Region for mention—that there is no agency for the maintenance of law and order in this country which is functioning properly to-day. The Judiciary has been rendered into a political party secretariat—(*Prolonged interruptions*).

Mr Speaker : Order, Order ! When a Member is raising a point of order or moving a Motion, "That the debate be now adjourned", it should not normally be followed by long speeches and, particularly, a controversial one.

The Attorney-General and Minister of Justice (Dr T. O. Elias) : This morning there was a virulent attack upon the Judiciary. Again this afternoon—(*Prolonged interruptions*.)

Dr K. O. Mbadiwe rose on a point of order—

Mr Speaker : The Minister of Trade (*Dr Mbadiwe*) should be as cool as possible until the "come comes to the come".

Mr Amechi : In my attempt to move this Motion I meant very, very well. I am only personally worried about what is going on in this country—(*Interruptions*.)

Mr Speaker : Order, Order ! Members must refrain from behaving like market women. Those Members who interrupt while the Chair is making a ruling will be less likely to catch the Speaker's eye for the rest of the sitting.

Mr D. A. Agboola (Ila) : If there is any Federal institution in this country that does its work efficiently and impartially it is the Electoral Commission, and its work should not be open to debate by Members of this Parliament.

The Western election has come and gone. The N.N.D.P. by the Grace of God has won the election. The U.P.G.A. is embittered at the outcome of the election because it spent a lot of money to win the election but failed woefully to do so. The A.G. is dead in the Western Region.

The N.C.N.C. have been opposing all progressive moves in this country and as an evidence of this let us look at their reaction to the two census counts. After the first census result they were not contented. A fresh one was instituted, again at the expense of the taxpayers. They let all the money go into the drain, yet they were not contented. They took the matter to court and failed to get judgment in their favour. Again at the moment they are not contented with the result of the last Western election.

Take, for instance, the last Federal Elections. They went to the President and requested that the election be postponed because things were not going the way they wanted. They did all in their power to cause trouble during the last Federal elections, but we thank God that we are here to-day. During the last Federal elections, the U.P.G.A. put their confidence in the local Government Police and they lost. They put it in the Nigeria Police they even lost that, and they put their confidence in the Army because most of the officers in the Army are their men. They failed.

Mr V. O. Onabanjo (Ijebu South-West) : On a point of order, I have just looked at the Member speaking properly and I have started wondering whether the Minister of Finance put any extra duty on shaving blades.

Mr Agboola : They said that an election was not held in Adegbeno's constituency. The U.P.G.A. had known of their defeat before the election because they had no support in the West. That was why they threatened to kill all the electoral officers. They said all the electoral officers must run for their lives and as a result of this statement, one of the electoral officers was killed by this set of people.

[MR AGBOOLA]

Anything pertaining to the last general elections in the Western Region must not be discussed on the Floor of this House. If they are not satisfied, they should go to the courts.

When somebody contested an election and failed he would not be satisfied with it. The Eastern Region has gone to the Yorubas in order to gain their end. It is paining them that they lost the election. That is why they are not happy; we are standing on their toes and they must cry. I will give some example to show that the Eastern Region is determined to put this country into confusion.

Mr Speaker : Order ! I think the hon. Member should refrain from commenting on the Eastern Region Government and relate his speech to this Bill.

Mr A. F. Odulana (Ijebu North-East) : On a point of explanation, if what is bad with the U.P.G.A. is ten times in the dark, you must allow us to say it. If you see one lunatic in the day, you will see twenty more lunatics in the night. These people rig elections in the East and they think that is what we do in the West. Far be it from us. The election in the West was free and fair.

Mr Agboola : If the E.N.B.S. were the only broadcasting station in the country, there would be trouble. The E.N.B.S. was broadcasting false news during the Western Nigeria elections. If the E.N.B.S., as I said before, were the only broadcasting station in this country, surely there would be war. We thank God that we have the N.B.C. to put things right. *The West African Pilot* also gives false news. The U.P.G.A. members in this House want to take the forum of this House to tell the nation that there is no guilt in them, and that we are the guilty people. As far as we are concerned, we have nothing to hide. We have no complaint. Everything is well with us, and that is why we have won the elections. The Yoruba people will never be servants to the Ibos again.

I beg to support.

M. Jibir Girema (Numan) : I rise to support the Bill entitled "The Federal Electoral Commission (Remuneration) Bill, 1965."

The Federal Electoral Commission is an independent body entirely. It is like the Federal Public Service Commission and it is

neither against nor in favour of anybody or party. We are all hon. Members of this House and we must face the fact, otherwise people can come here in the future and say that we have made it difficult for people to be appointed by the Federal Public Service Commission.

The fact is that some people wanted to rule this country without winning an election and they wanted the Electoral Commission to rig the election for them. If we are to face the fact in this country, we must admit that if there is a Regional election to-day in the North, it is the N.P.C. that must win. If there is a Regional election in the East, it is the N.C.N.C. that must win, and if there is any Regional election in the newly created Mid-West Region, it is the N.C.N.C. that wants to win. The N.N.D.P. is a legitimate and democratic party in the Western Region and it has to win the Regional election in the Western Region.

We are all human beings, but we have to be honest with ourselves. We cannot be deceived by any confusion which people may cause in this country. If any party cannot campaign during elections, it cannot blame anybody. There is evidence that there was a free and fair election in Western Nigeria. If there was no free and fair election in the Western Region, how could a common woman defeat a Minister ?

Chief Okotie-Eboh : On a point of order, I would like my hon. Friend to withdraw the word "common". How can he say that a woman is common ? We were all born by women.

M. Jibir Girema : If we want to be honest with ourselves, we should leave the Federal Electoral Commission to do its job. It is pointless for any Member of this House to come here and begin to say this or that. Where was he on that day ? The people responsible for declaring the election results are the Electoral Officers or the Returning Officers. It is pointless and baseless for anybody to think that any other person could declare election results.

We can never be deceived in this country. We know what is right and that is what we do. By the Grace of God the Electoral Commission will continue to do justice to all corners of the Federation. I appeal to all right-thinking Members of this House to give their full support to the Electoral Commission.

House of Representatives Debates

2541 [Federal Electoral Commission 18 OCTOBER 1965 (*Remuneration*) Bill : Second Reading 2542

People say that something has gone wrong here, something has gone wrong there and everywhere. But more than 2,000 Police and Army officers have been in the Western Region and as such law and order was maintained in the Region throughout the election time.

The Federal Electoral Commission, whether it is conducting a Federal or Regional election should be left alone to carry out its responsibilities. Opportunity is open to every political party to campaign vigorously so as to win an election and once any political party fails to campaign properly, it will lose the election and the members of that political party cannot come to this Parliament to shout at anybody with annoyance. Some Members have said that I am shouting. I talk very loudly and hon. Members know that I always want to be brief and speak to the point.

There is no doubt that in Nigeria to-day, the N.N.D.P. is efficient. Every reasonable person in this country will agree that the recent election in Western Nigeria was free and fair and that God has returned the N.N.D.P. to power in the Western Region.

Chief O. B. Akin-Olugbade (Egba South) : On a point of information, my hon. Friend will remember that history is replete with facts that those who have helped dictators to rise to power will in the end be victims of such dictators.

Mr Jibir Girema : History has already repeated itself ; some people have always wanted to seize power illegally in this country, and they have always failed as they have done in the Western Region. I am very sure that if anybody wants to do any havoc throughout the Federal Republic of Nigeria, God will not agree. Any party that is able to form a Government in this country, that party has honest intentions and a clean heart. But any party with bad intentions will never be able to form a Government in this country. It will always suffer and be in the Opposition for ever and ever.

Chief Akin-Olugbade : There is not much time left to discuss this matter, but I do think that Members of this House will realise one fact that what we enjoy to-day by way of democracy in this country was fought for by many people, some of whom even laid down their lives.

But for the part played by these people, many of us who are here to-day may not have been here. The Bill on the Electoral Commission is topical but we have tried to do some exercise to find out in what ways elections in this country had been rigged. I would respectfully—(*Interruptions*). I will not answer to these interruptions. The facts which I would like to state have been put down as follows :—

1. There were fifteen candidates fraudulently returned unopposed during the last Regional elections. The sixteenth was a withdrawal.

2. Refusal to allow U.P.G.A. candidates at polling and counting stations.

3. Ballot papers distributed before polling day.

4. Refusal to conduct elections where fraud was foiled.

5. Police recovery of ballot papers.

6. Inadequate supply of ballot papers in polling stations.

Dumping of ballot papers in N.N.D.P. boxes.

8. Dumping of ballot papers before polling began. These are evidences. They are in the hands of the Police.

9. Millions of ballot papers found with N.N.D.P. agents.

10. Exchange of ballot boxes already fraudulently filled to the brim for the official one while removing them to the counting stations.

11. False announcement of results.

It is in our constitution that our people will be given the opportunity to choose the Government they want at least once in every five years. There are those of us who feel that it is highly immoral for us to rob our people of the right which they have to exercise only once in five years. What I am saying to-day is not for myself, and it is not for many of us here, but the unfortunate thing is that certain Yoruba political leaders have made up their minds to soil the good name of this Federation.

M. Ali Umaru (Wukari) : On a point of order, what the Member for Egbat South (**Chief Akin-Olugbade**) is telling us has already

House of Representatives Debates

2543 [Federal Electoral Commission
(Remuneration) Bill]

18 OCTOBER 1965

[Adjournment]

2544

[M. UMARU]

been circularised. It is there in the pigeon holes. It is nothing but U.P.G.A. rag which is useless. (*Interruptions.*)

Chief Akin-Olugbade : What we do in this House is taken cognisance of not only by our people but by the whole world at large. The main reason—(*Interruptions.*)

Mr Speaker : Order, order.

Chief Akin-Olugbade : The main reason why the world admires Nigeria to-day is that it is about the only democratic oasis in the political desert of the continent of Africa. And now some people, who hail from dismal poverty, who are half educated, who are social outcasts, who are notorious criminals by nature and by birth but have found their way into this House and into other Regional Houses, want to ruin the good name which many of us have fought to get for this country.

Unless and until the provision in our constitution for election to be held before a Government is installed is adhered to, we shall continue to fight for justice for our people; we shall continue to fight for their freedom to exercise their political rights, we shall continue to fight for probity in public life.

What has happened in the Western Region, I know that for a fact, even among these N.N.D.P. thugs—(*Interruptions.*)

Minister of State (Alhaji Abdul Razaq) : On a point of order, there are no thugs here.

Chief Akin-Olugbade : The hon. Gentleman opposite me is the head of the thugs.

Alhaji Abdul Razaq rose from his seat.

Chief Akin-Olugbade : The Member for Ilorin Town (*Alhaji Abdul Razaq*) knows how he won the last Federal election in his constituency.

Alhaji Abdul Razaq : It was just in the same way that the Member for Egba South (*Chief Akin-Olugbade*) won his.

Chief Akin-Olugbade : No, I was not in the country when I won.

The Minister of Trade (Dr K. O. Mbadive) : On a point of explanation, this Bill will form the structure in a proclamation to the people of this country that we shall think again before the works which we have done for many years will be reduced to dust. We shall not allow it. (*Shouts of K.O., K.O.*) (*uproar*).

Mr Speaker : Order, order !

ADJOURNMENT

The Minister of Finance (Chief F. S. Okotie-Eboh) : I beg to move that this House do now adjourn until tomorrow morning.

The Minister of Establishments (Mr J. C. Obande) : I beg to second.

Question put and agreed to.

Adjourned accordingly at 6.00 p.m.

House of Representatives Debates

2545

[Death of a Member]

19 OCTOBER 1965

[Oral Answers]

2546

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

Tuesday, 19th October, 1965

The House met at 10 a.m.

PRAYERS

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

DEATH OF A MEMBER

Mr Speaker : I regret to have to inform the House of the death of S. U. Alumona, esquire, Member for Nsukka Central, and I desire, on behalf of the House, to express our sense of the loss we have sustained and our sympathy with the relatives of the hon. Member.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS
FINANCE

U.D.C. Interest Rates

O.547. Mr J. M. Damla asked the Minister of Finance, if he will state why the U.D.C. raised the interest in loans made to Members of Parliament for the purchase of motor vehicles from 4 per cent to 8½ per cent; and if he will assist Members by arranging to reduce the interest to 4 per cent.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Finance (Mr S. F. Nwika) : It is not correct that the interest rate on U.D.C. loans is 8½ per cent. In fact, the interest rate for U.D.C. loans was reduced from 6½ per cent to 6 per cent in June.

The rate of interest chargeable is the subject of an agreement between Government and U.D.C. and is on a predetermined sliding scale fixed according to the Bank Rate ruling from time to time. If, therefore, the Bank Rate goes up, the interest rate chargeable by U.D.C. increases within the limit of the agreed scale.

The U.D.C. rate of interest is tied to the Bank rate, since the Bank Rate governs the rate at which the U.D.C. itself borrows. Should the Bank Rate fall, as was the case a few months ago, the U.D.C. rate of interest, in accordance with the agreement between the Company and Government, would be accordingly reduced.

It may be interesting to Members to note that the present rate of interest chargeable in the United Kingdom for motor vehicle hire-purchase agreements is 9½ per cent.

Alhaji Yunusa, Wakilin Masaka (Gaya North) : Is the Minister aware that the U.D.C. is no longer required in this country, and that the sooner it goes away, the better?

M. Ali Umaru (Wukari) : Is the Minister aware that the U.D.C. agreement is one-sided in that it is only favourable to the U.D.C. and detrimental to the Government; and secondly, that the cost of living in the United Kingdom is much higher than the one in Nigeria, and as such, there should not be any comparison at all?

Several hon. Members : Answer! Answer!

Mr Nwika : I am not aware.

Professor Kalu Ezera (Bende East) : We would very seriously request that the live wire of this Parliament which is Question Time should not be treated lightly. We request that supplementary questions be answered to the point.

The Minister of Natural Resources and Research (Prince Alade Lamuye) : I think that Members should bear with us. There are some questions that require long notice. Members cannot expect Ministers to give them off head answers which are not relevant to the questions asked. So, Members should give us ample notices and we will give them adequate answers.

The Parliamentary Secretary has answered the main question in this case, and the supplementary questions, I think require notice. Those questions that require notice should be submitted to us with due notice so that Members will get adequate answers.

Professor Kalu Ezera : Quite frankly, most of us know the practice in other Commonwealth Parliaments. If, in fact, our Parliamentary Secretaries or Ministers do not know this fact, let them go to London and learn. The issue is that if the U.D.C. is under question, all the implications of the agreement with the U.D.C. should be studied so that Parliament can be kept fully informed. The idea of telling

[PROF. KALU EZERA]

us "I am not aware" all the time, is very bad. It is infact unparliamentary.

Alhaji Mohammed Muhtari (Dambatta) : Mr Speaker, what the Member for Bende East (*Dr Ezera*) is saying is perfectly right. Further more, I am fully aware that the officials in the various Ministries should seek further information, so that in case of any supplementary questions, the Parliamentary Secretaries should be able to answer.

The Minister of Internal Affairs (Shettima Ali Monguno) : In as much as Members would like to find reasonable answers given to their supplementary questions, it would be appropriate to ask Members to frame their questions in such a way that they could get the type of answers they would like given them. People who on emotional grounds get up to ask "Are you aware" should normally expect to be told "I am not aware". Members should bring what they are aware of to the attention of the Ministers concerned, so that they could be given the necessary answers.

Industrial Bank Loans

O.548. Mr J. M. Damla asked the Minister of Finance, if he will state the names and addresses of all persons and firms that have received loans from the Industrial Development Bank, the amounts loaned to each and the conditions under which each loan was granted.

Mr Nwika : No, Sir. Universally honoured banking ethics which my hon. Friend is bound to respect preclude him from divulging information on the transactions between the Nigerian Industrial Development Bank and its customers in the manner required by the hon. Member.

Tin, Lead and Zinc

O.563. Mr M. N. Nnorom asked the Minister of Finance, if he will consider a tax relief on tin and lead zinc.

Mr Nwika : I am not quite sure that I understand the hon. Gentleman's question. I do not know whether he is referring to the tin and lead zinc which we produce locally in primary forms or to those imported for industrial purposes.

In any case, there are at present no export duties on tin ore, smelted tin and lead and zinc ores. On the other hand, zinc ingots, semi-processed lead and certain categories of tin plate of iron and steel can be imported duty free by approved manufacturers.

Unless the hon. Gentleman has some other things in mind, there is apparently no tax from which a relief is necessary in respect of these commodities.

U.D.C. Vehicle Loans

O.564. Mr M. N. Nnorom asked the Minister of Finance, why Members of Parliament get their motor vehicle loans from the U.D.C. alone when there are various Credit Banks in Nigeria.

Mr Nwika : When Government decided to stop making motor vehicle advances to hon. Members and civil servants so as to conserve funds for the implementation of the National Development Plan, it negotiated with Hire-Purchase Companies to take over the granting of loans for this purpose and eventually entered into an agreement with the U.D.C. whose terms were more favourable to the hirers than the other offers.

It is a condition of the agreement that Government should guarantee the repayment of each loan in case of default by the borrower.

Members are not obliged to go to U.D.C. by taking advantage of Government guarantee and are free to obtain loans from any source of their choice. If Members, however, obtain loans from other sources on less favourable conditions than the preferential terms offered by the U.D.C. by virtue of the agreement between the Government and that company, the Government cannot guarantee such loans.

Mr D. Senu-Oke (Badagry) : Is the Minister of Finance aware that that is not the practice, in spite of that answer?

Mr Nwika : I am not aware.

M. Ali Umaru (Wukari) : There are strong rumours circulating that the Minister of Finance is a shareholder in the U.D.C. and that is also the reason why he has given such preference to that company at the disadvantage of Members of this House. I want this point to be clarified whether it is true or not.

House of Representatives Debates

2549

[Oral Answers]

19 OCTOBER 1965

[Oral Answers]

2550

U. D. C. Shares

O.478. Mr D. Senu-Oke asked the Minister of Trade if he will put forward a proposal to the Government on the possibility of buying controlling shares in the U.D.C. since all Federal civil servants, Senators and Members of Parliament obtain motor vehicle loans from the firm.

Mr Nwika : No, Sir. As hon. Members are aware, the Government had to hand over to the U.D.C. the business of granting vehicle advances to civil servants and Members of Parliament in order to release resources for development purposes. To buy controlling shares in the firm as suggested by the hon. Member will negate this policy.

Moreover, investment in the U.D.C. by the Government will not have any bearing on the Government's current economic programme which is designed to enhance the country's economic growth.

Mr Senu-Oke : Will the Minister confirm that this is an indirect way of introducing another Lombard in the guise of U.D.C. ?

Mr Nwika : No, Sir.

Mr O. C. Ememe (Aba South) : Why is it necessary for the U.D.C. to punish Members of Parliament by depreciating the loans which we got from them over three years instead of the normal five years ?

Sale of Goods by Customs Board

O.566. Mr D. Senu-Oke asked the Minister of Finance, how much he realised from the sale of goods by the Board of Customs and Excise in respect of Government Notices Nos. 420 and 421 at the Lagos Airport Ikeja and Idiroko respectively ; and what was the import duty payable on the goods.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Finance (Chief D. N. Oronsaye) : The amount realised from the sale of goods at Lagos Airport (Ikeja) in respect of Government Notice No. 420 was £177-4s-0d. The import duty payable amounted to £83-4s-2d. Only a small portion of the goods at Idiroko in respect of Government Notice No. 421 was sold. The amount realised from the sale was £4-18s-0d and the import duty payable was £2-15s-10d. The unsold items of goods have been transferred to the Government Warehouse, Apapa.

Mr Senu-Oke : What of the freight on the unsold goods transferred ?

Chief Oronsaye : The freight on the unsold goods will be determined by a notice which will appear in the *Gazette* later.

U.D.C. Company Tax

O.567. Mr D. Senu-Oke asked the Minister of Finance, what was the total company income tax paid by the U.D.C. from 1st April, 1960 to 30th March, 1965 to the Federal Government.

Chief Oronsaye : The provisions of Section 14 of the Companies Income Tax Act, 1961 and Section 9 of the Personal Income Tax (Lagos) Act, 1961, do not allow the Federal Board of Inland Revenue to divulge particulars of any person's income and tax payable thereon. The disclosure of such information as is required by my hon. Friend will not only embarrass the taxpayer concerned but will spoil the confidence which taxpayers in general have in the Board.

If any information which may be given to the Board in connection with personal tax or company tax were to be disclosed to the public, taxpayers would naturally feel reluctant to supply such information to the Board. The withholding from the Board of the particulars of income and the sources from which such income accrue to taxpayers will lead to wider tax evasion than at present and such evasion will adversely affect the revenue from income tax.

U.S. "Project Loans"

O.568. Mr O. C. Ememe asked the Minister of Finance, what steps is he taking to control or stop any possible interference in our internal affairs by the United States Government which encourages "project loans" to Nigerian organisations as distinct from direct Government to Government loans.

Chief Oronsaye : I am not aware that the United States Government is interfering "in our internal affairs". I do not understand what the hon. Member means by "project loans".

Mr Ememe : On a point of explanation, "project loans" are those loans which are given to specific organisations in the country and not to Nigerian Governments as such. So, the

House of Representatives Debates

2551

[Oral Answers]

19 OCTOBER 1965

[Oral Answers]

2552

[MR EMEME]

Minister ought to know that these loans are interference in our internal affairs.

Chief Oronsaye : What the Member for Aba South (*Mr Ememe*) means by "project loans" makes it clear that such loans are covered by what the Minister of Finance had been stressing in his Budget Speeches all along. It is, therefore, obvious that they are Government to Government affairs, and they have always been done through Governments. So, it does not amount to interference in our internal affairs.

O.569. Mr O. C. Ememe asked the Minister of Finance, how soon Nigeria will adopt the decimal currency system.

Chief Oronsaye : In his 1964 Budget Speech, the Minister informed this House that the Federal Government had appointed an Official Committee to investigate and report on the desirability of, and the problems involved in introducing the decimal system of currency in Nigeria.

The Committee has submitted its report, and its recommendations are being examined by all the Governments of the Federation. I regret that the Minister is unable to indicate how soon the decimal system of currency will be adopted in Nigeria until the Committee's report and other matters relating thereto have been studied.

O.570. Mr O. C. Ememe asked the Minister of Finance, if he will state how much money was repatriated from Nigeria by expatriate firms since Independence; which firms were involved; and to what countries the amounts were repatriated.

Chief Oronsaye : An estimated total amount of £150.5 million has been repatriated from Nigeria by expatriate firms since Independence made up as follows:—

£27.0 million in 1960
£23.3 million in 1961
£30.0 million in 1962
£29.1 million in 1963
£41.1 million in 1964

These amounts represent transfers in respect of capital, profits, dividends, interest payments, service charges and commissions, home remittances, and pension funds.

Too many firms are involved. It is not possible, therefore, to provide a list of them.

The countries to which these funds are repatriated (that is, countries of origin of the firms involved) are mostly the United Kingdom, West European countries, United States of America and Canada.

Mr F. I. Okoronkwo (Aba Central) : May I know from the Minister whether this is not a pure indication that foreign investors are afraid to allow their money to remain in Nigeria in view of the present circumstances and the rape of democracy in Nigeria ?

Chief D. N. Oronsaye : It is certainly not. The hon. Gentleman should look at it in the back-ground of how much capital there is in this country at the moment.

INFORMATION

The National Press

O.549. Mr E. O. A. Odeyemi asked the Minister of Information, if in view of the fact that the National Press is running at a loss, he has plans to enable it to pay its way.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Information (*Mr S. O. Kolade*) : Yes, Sir. A general reorganisation has already taken place in the Nigerian National Press resulting in the removal of some Senior Officials and the suspension and replacement of the members of the Board of Directors by senior civil servants. Since then, there has been a marked improvement and with the new proposals which the Minister will place before the Council of Ministers in the very near future, it will not be very long before the Nigerian National Press begins to pay its way.

Professor Kalu Ezera (Bende East) : Since the issue of the National Press is in fact a national one and, since we know that the National Press is chronically sick, would the Minister give the assurance to this House either that the National Press will be scrapped or that the Minister will not interfere ? The Minister should not interfere with the Management of the National Press.

Mr Kolade : At present, the Minister is not interfering in the affairs of the National Press,

House of Representatives Debates

2553

[Oral Answers]

19 OCTOBER 1965

[Oral Answers]

2554

Motor Vehicle Spares

O.550. Mr F. I. Okoronkwo asked the Minister of Information, whether he has experienced any difficulty in purchasing spare parts for Chevrolet, etc., in his car pool as has been the case with the Ford cars.

Mr S. O. Kolade : The Ministry has not experienced any difficulty in purchasing spare parts for its minibuses. The only occasion when difficulty was experienced was in respect of the Chevrolet cars and the agents had to make a special order to meet our need.

Mr Okoronkwo : May I know from the Minister whether he is not aware that some of the 39 Independent Galaxy cars used by his Ministry are dismantled with no repairs because of lack of spare parts?

Mr Kolade : That is not correct.

Mr Okoronkwo : The Parliamentary Secretary is a lair.

Mr Speaker : This is very improper, and I call on the hon. Member to withdraw his statement.

Mr Okoronkwo : I withdraw.

National Press Finances

O.551. Mr F. I. Okoronkwo asked the Minister of Information, if he will state the financial loss of the Nigerian National Press as at 31st March, 1965.

Mr Kolade : The operational losses of the Nigerian National Press Limited for the period 1st April, 1961 to 31st March, 1965 were £613,423. As I have already indicated in answer to Question No. O.549 by the Member for Ikeja Central, (*Mr Odeyemi*), in the very near future the Minister will submit to the Council of Ministers, a proposal which is designed to counter the present trend and to enable the Nigerian National Press to pay its way.

Mr Okoronkwo : The National Press is doing a lot of dis-service to this nation by publicising tribalism and sectionalism. Any newspaper established with Federal Government money should serve the needs of the nation.

MINES AND POWER

North Geological Surveys

O.552. Mr J. M. Damla asked the Minister of Mines and Power, which parts of Northern Nigeria are presently being geologically surveyed; and if he will state whether oil has yet been discovered in any area in the North.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Mines and Power (Alhaji Ahmadu Fatika) : Sixteen thousand square miles of parts of Sokoto, Niger, Katsina, and Zaria Provinces are at present being geologically and geophysically surveyed. Similar survey had been carried out in an area of about three thousand square miles of Kabba Province, and mineral deposits discovered are now being appraised.

Geological surveying is also in progress in parts of Zaria and Benue Provinces.

No oil has as yet been discovered in any part of Northern Nigeria.

Electricity Consumption

O.553. Chief Adebisi Jinadu asked the Minister of Mines and Power, what are the units of electricity consumed in Western, Eastern, Northern and Mid-Western Nigeria respectively, in the years 1961-62, 1962-63, 1963-64; and what are the amounts of tariff paid in these regions for those years.

Alhaji Ahmadu Fatika : The answer to this Question is long and with your permission, Mr Speaker, it will be circulated in the Official Report.

The answer is as follows :—

The units of electricity consumed in the different Regions as well as in the Federal Territory, year by year, from 1961, are as follows :—

Region	1961-62	1962-63	1963-64
Western	48,666,934	54,222,275	64,476,787
Eastern	105,318,353	121,136,147	154,766,787
Northern	77,821,750	95,577,671	109,485,855
Mid-			
Western	9,962,783	11,353,010	13,322,835
Federal	192,901,283	241,427,423	299,161,732

The Corporation's tariffs are not designed on regional basis. Details of tariffs are contained

[ALHAJI AHMADU FATIKA]

in the Standard Published Tariff leaflets, available to the public on request.

Survey of Odo-Otin

O.554. Chief Adebisi Jinadu asked the Minister of Mines and Power, when he intends to carry out the geological survey of Odo-Otin District Council area.

Alhaji Ahmadu Fatika : All parts of Ibadan Province (including Odo-Otin) have recently been geologically surveyed on the scale of 1:100,000 and the results published in Bulletin 31 of Geological Survey, together with maps on the Scale of 1:250,000.

Compensation for Destroyed Mangrove

O.573. Mr W. O. Briggs asked the Minister of Mines and Power if he is aware that several thousands of mangrove trees in Degema Division have been destroyed by oil companies in the course of prospecting for oil; what are the conditions of their operation in these areas; and whether he will make a statement on the amount of compensation given by the oil companies to the indigenous owners, naming in each case the oil company concerned, the persons to whom the compensation was paid; and how much was paid to each of them.

Alhaji Ahmadu Fatika : The Minister is aware that some mangrove trees have to be cut down by oil companies in the course of prospecting for oil in the Degema Division. It is a condition of their operation that compensation shall be paid for economic crops and trees cut. The position, however, is that the Minister has delegated his powers under the oil prospecting licences and oil mining leases regarding the payment of compensation for economic crops and trees to his regional colleagues. In the case of the Eastern Region, these powers were delegated to the Honourable Minister of Agriculture.

I have been made to understand from my hon. Friend's enquiries that the regional authorities have laid down specific rates of compensation for such damage. It is the regional authority, therefore, who is in a position to supply the required analytical details about the compensations already paid.

Dr B. U. Nzeribe (Orlu West): About this time last year, a lot of damage was done by the

contractors of the E.C.N. at Afam and I asked the Minister of Mines and Power many times when the people would receive compensation. This question has always been evaded and I hope the Minister will make a statement on it.

The Minister of Mines and Power (Alhaji Yusuff Maitama Sule) : I have always advised the hon. Gentleman to write to the Electricity Corporation of Nigeria and find out exactly what the position is.

I believe that rather than the Minister refraining from answering the Question, it is the Member for Orlu West (*Dr B. U. Nzeribe*), who is refraining from heeding my warning and taking my advice.

Mr Speaker : Actually, this Question is out of order, because it is not relevant to the original Question.

It is now half past ten o'clock and no further Question can be entertained.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr A. F. Odulana (Ijebu North-East) : I would like to make a personal statement in connection with the speech I made on the Floor of this House on Wednesday, the 13th of October, 1965, and which appeared on page 24 Volume 19, No. 1 of the *Hansard* of the same date. In that speech I referred to Dr Okpara as an arch-gangster and arch-thug when tension rose on all sides of the House.

I want to make it clear particularly for the benefit of outsiders who are not here in this House, that it has never been my wish at any time to injure the personality of Dr Okpara.

As you are aware, Mr Speaker, the speech was made in answer to provocative attacks and remarks made by some hon. Members against the West Regional Government.

I want to say that I have great respect for the personality and the office of Dr Okpara as the Head of the Government of Eastern Nigeria.

In view of the foregoing, I should be pleased if you, Mr Speaker, would expunge the particular portion referred to from the *Hansard* in order to allow wise counsel to prevail in the interest of the peace and happiness of our great country, Nigeria. (*Applause*).

House of Representatives Debates

2557

[*Emoluments of*

19 OCTOBER 1965

[*Senators and M.P.s.*]

2558

Mr Speaker : In view of the nature of the statement and the hon. Gentleman's withdrawal, I direct that the statement be deleted from the *Hansard*.

NOTICES OF MOTION

EMOLUMENTS OF SENATORS AND M.P.S.

Mr J. B. Eboigbodi (Asaba West) : I beg to move—

That in view of the rising cost of living in the country, this House prays the Federal Government to increase the salaries and allowances of Senators and Members of Parliament and make statutory provision for pension and gratuity to be paid to them after they have served in Parliament for a number of years to be determined by the Government.

In my opinion, my humble demands are as follows—

(1) That the salaries of Members of Parliament should be raised from £900 to £1,500,

(2) that the Consolidated Allowances should be raised from £266 to £500, and

(3) that the pension/gratuity scheme for Members who have served two terms of ten years should be considered and implemented.

Hon. Members will no doubt agree with me that these requests or demands have been necessitated by the fact that the cost of living in Nigeria has gone up considerably, especially in Lagos and urban areas after the last Morgan award.

I would like to draw the attention of the Government to the fact that the salaries of hon. Members have remained static since the 1959 general election, in spite of the fact that we all suffered a ten *per cent* cut in our salaries as an austerity measure two years ago.

Hon. Members will no doubt recall that our Prime Minister in the course of his speech in Parliament during the Committee Stage on 21st April, 1965, categorically stated thus—

"When we, Mr Chairman, as politicians cut down our pay by ten per cent, I told this House that I did not like it because I did not think that was the right way to show the sacrifice. It was politically done and I think it was politically wrong because I still maintain,

Mr Chairman, that I did not see any reason, why this ten per cent should be cut from our salaries. I still do not see why it should be done."

Hon. Members may be aware of the fact that in the United Kingdom, the salaries of hon. Members are declared tax free, considering the heavy expenses incurred by them in the course of their duties to their respective constituencies. In this country elections are too expensive to run and hon. Members' salaries are taxed hundred *per cent*.

Furthermore, in the United Kingdom and other Commonwealth Parliaments where Members enjoy fat salaries and more amenities, their Parliaments are still responsible for the payment of the salaries of the personal secretaries attached to hon. Members.

I pray that the implementation of my requests, if approved, should be made retrospective from the 1st of April, 1965.

In consideration of the above claims, Members of Parliament are quite willing to attend meetings of this House more frequently in order to render such national services that will be commensurate with their remuneration.

This Motion is long over due and, therefore, it is non-controversial. The text of the Motion points out the increasing cost of living with regard to the fact that hon. Members maintain two or more regional constituencies in one Federal constituency.

The demand for an increase in the salaries of workers has been looked into except for the case of teachers which is still under consideration and I am sure they will soon get it.

We are always out to make great sacrifice and this sacrifice makes it difficult for hon. Members to compare their emoluments with those of Parliamentarians from other Commonwealth countries.

We are compelled by necessity to ask for this increase in our emoluments.

I shall be grateful if these my requests will meet with the approval of the whole House. As I said before, this Motion is non-controversial and I commend it to this House for consideration.

I beg to move.

Mr J. A. Akor (Ahoada North-East) : I beg to second.

Mr Ayo Fasanmi (Ijero Ekiti) : Only a few days ago, on the Floor of this House, the Member for Owerri South-East (*Mr Ukegbu*) said that Members of Parliament were not working very seriously and that the salaries being paid to them—

Mr T. A. Mbegbu (Owerri North-East) : The Member for Ijero Ekiti (*Mr Fasanmi*) is mis-informing the House. What the Member for Owerri South-East (*Mr Ukegbu*) said was that Members should be given more opportunity to work harder.

Mr Fasanmi : Mr Speaker, Sir, (*Interruptions*).

Mr Speaker : Order, order. I do hope that Members will please allow the Member for Ijero Ekiti (*Mr Fasanmi*) to make his speech.

Mr Fasanmi : As I was saying, it was only a few days ago that the Member for Owerri South-East (*Mr Ukegbu*) said, on the Floor of this House, that we were only working for thirty days in one year and he thought that we should work for more days.

To-day, we are being called upon, under this Motion, to increase the salaries of Members for working for only thirty days in a year.

Mr N. N. Anah (Awka Central) : On a point of order, I remember that on the Floor of this House, during the life of the last Parliament, one Member criticised the allowance being paid to Members of Parliament ; but I also understood that he was the first to draw that allowance. I would therefore like my hon. Friend to give us an assurance that if this Motion is carried he would not draw the increased salary.

Mr Fasanmi : At the end of my speech, I shall give an assurance.

As I was saying, we are now being called upon to increase the salaries of Senators and Members of Parliament for working for thirty days in a year. This is highly immoral. It is a subtle attempt to turn Members of the Parliament into a privileged people and this should be resisted. Workers in this country have, time and time again, been agitating for

increase in salaries. What do we do ? We only set up different commissions of enquiry and in the end the workers do not get anything.

Workers in this country are only living from hand to mouth and we are being called upon to-day to condone daylight robbery and the workers of this country are going to resist this robbery.

Most of the people who voted for us to come into this House are farmers. If one goes to the Western Region to-day, one will discover that the cocoa farmers cannot get anything for their cocoa and yet those of us who have been appointed to come into this House are becoming more and more greedy.

Inspite of the sufferings of the farmers and the workers who are only living from hand to mouth, we are being called upon to legalise daylight robbery in this Parliament.

I would like to warn of the dangerous consequences of our action in this Parliament. If this Motion is passed we shall have pressed the trigger for a possible revolution in this country.

Mr Speaker : I do hope that the Member for Ijero Ekiti (*Mr Fasanmi*) will be a little bit more careful in his speech.

Mr Fasanmi : What I would have expected under this Motion is that Parliament should sit more often. I would have expected a sort of attempt to peg increases in the price of articles in this country so that the workers can live really more abundant. But this we have not done.

What we now want to do this morning is to legislate so that we can increase our salaries without taking into consideration the fate of millions of our supporters all over the country.

The Minister of Finance has been going round the world in order to raise loans to finance the Six-Year Development Plan. What is the fate of this Plan ? Inspite of the fact that this Plan is not making satisfactory progress, we are being called upon to-day to increase the salaries of Senators and Members of this House. I must say, Sir, that this is morally indefensible. (*Interruptions*).

I cannot understand why Members will not allow me to speak. I cannot see why they should be shouting me down. This sort of

House of Representatives Debates

2561

[*Emoluments of*

19 OCTOBER 1965

Senators and M.Ps.]

2562

thing has happened in this House before. We decided to reduce our salaries but came back to increase the same salaries by the same amount by which it was, in the first instance, reduced. And to-day, we are here again to increase the salaries of Members of this House.

I would like to say that if this immoral Motion is passed, the people who voted for us to come to this Parliament will never forgive us. As I said earlier on, I would like to press that this Parliament should meet more often and if we meet more often to deliberate on the issues affecting the nation, then there may be a case for an increase at an eventual date. But at the present moment, the Motion is most inopportune and therefore, I beg to oppose.

Mr Speaker : I would like to know from the House whether, in accordance with Standing Order 25, we should continue with the Motion. Is it the wish of the House that we should continue with the Motion ?

Several hon. Members : Yes.

Mr A. F. Odulana (Ijebu North-East) : I want to speak on this Motion in order to make it abundantly clear to the outside world that all the Members in this House are not doing any odd thing unknown to other parts of the world ; we are doing the correct thing—(*Interruptions.*)

Mr Speaker : Order. If there is no objection, then I would call on the Member for Ijebu North-East (*Mr Odulana*) to continue with his speech.

Mr Odulana : It is a Motion that is agreed to by all sides of the House. We are all interested in the Motion and I would like to make it clear to one or two Members who have spoken against the Motion that all parties agreed that it should be brought here. All the Whips in the House agreed to it and I am greatly shocked at the attitude of the Action Group Members to the Motion.

Mr Sanu Sobowale (Epe) : On a point of order, I would like to say, Sir, speaking for the Action Group, that we were not consulted on this Motion at any time. We only saw it on the Order Paper and we have no hands in it.

Mr Odulana : We were appointed by the individual parties in this House to discuss it and we agreed to it ; there is no doubt that we

all have agreed to it. We have all been discussing it all about here and they have never indicated that they are going to oppose it here.

They just want to catch the headlines of the newspapers to prove to the outside world that they have no hands in it. We are heart and soul in it and we are not going to listen to their attacks on this Motion.

If I may say this, I am voicing out the sentiments of every Member of this House. The question as to whether this House meets twice or once in a year has nothing to do with the salaries of Members. Whether this House sits or not, Members continue to maintain the dignity of being hon. Members. They must prove it to their constituencies and they must prove it to the outside world.

We do not want to be puppet hon. Members and that is the reason why we have thrown this idea to all Members and it has been agreed to ; that is the reason why the Motion is brought here. As far as we are concerned, we do not want to earn money by the back-door and that is why we have brought this Motion to the Floor of the House to be debated.

Chief A. Frank-Opigo (Brass South) : It is a great pity indeed that hon. Members here who know what they suffered before they were elected into this House choose to be so hypocritical, to play to the Gallery and to catch newspaper headlines, all because they want to be vain glorious. Only those Members who, by some other means, have gained entrance into this House, will not support this Motion. If a Member actually contested an election and won it, he will know that he had spent much more than what he is supposed to earn in five years.

All this talk in the newspapers that we are earning too much money for doing no work is trash.

Even though we are accused of not putting up enough time here, it is not difficult to explain that for the few weeks or months we spend here, if one were a businessman, a doctor or a lawyer one would have lost something. For that period of time that we leave our offices in order to do our work here, we have lost something. Therefore, the sacrifice that we are making is enough.

[CHIEF A. FRANK-OPIGO]

The fact is that if the public really want us to be full-time Parliamentarians and they want us to do our work here, which we are prepared to do, then we must resign ourselves to this work. For us to do this work satisfactorily, we must be able to earn something which will give us some balance with which to fight the next election.

Any Member who says that we are earning too much here is a hypocrite. After all, there are only about 312 Members here and if we take away the Ministers, the number will come down to about 272. If each Member is paid even £2,000, the amount we are going to spend is just about £500,000, compared with the amount in the Estimates we are passing in this House.

The money we are going to spend in paying the Members is much less than what we spend on a small bridge somewhere or for just fifty miles of road. It costs about two million pounds to build about fifty miles of road. Although we should not compare ourselves with roads, it is very well known that what we earn is very small compared with the allowances that some other people earn.

Mr Speaker, if any Member tells you that we are earning too much he is indeed betraying us. In my own constituency in Brass South during the last Federal election, we had about two hundred polling booths and you know very well that in those two hundred polling booths, we had to get four hundred agents to help us to look after the boxes. For those few days alone we spent a lot to feed and keep those four hundred polling agents, apart from the cost of transport and so on.

Mr X. M. Akinsete (Ondo South-East) : On a point of order, is the Member for Brass South (*Chief Frank-Opigo*) talking in terms of thugs kept or in terms of party agents ?

Chief Frank-Opigo : I am talking in terms of party agents and not thugs.

I do not think that there is any need for us to make a long speech. Everybody is aware that we spend much more than we are supposed to earn in five years. Therefore, this Motion is most welcome.

Before I end my speech, I would like to remind Members that some of them know very well that out of the £900 we are supposed to earn we go home with £21 or £15 a month.

When we get a loan from the U.D.C. to pay for a small car like Peugeot, we are charged 6½ per cent multiplied by three, which is 19½ per cent, and not 6½ per cent as the Minister was trying to say. When that amount is subtracted from our pay some of us go home with little or nothing.

Mr S. Shitta-Bey (Lagos North Central) : On a point of order, the Member speaking should realise that whatever money he spent in order to win his election is not relevant to the salaries of Members here.

Chief Frank-Opigo : What a Member spent before getting into this House is most relevant since he spent that money in order to get into this House.

One will find that contrary to the idea being carried outside, in the press and elsewhere, that Members are earning too much, they earn very little. If one takes the trouble to inspect the relevant vouchers in the Office one will find that after subtracting car advance repayment and taxes, Parliamentarians earn less than £20 a month. That is a disgrace indeed. I do not want to belabour this point.

We even have to give primary, secondary and even university scholarships to members of our constituencies. With what are we going to finance all these things ?

I beg to support.

Mr L. L. Borha (Ishan East) : I have listened with very mixed feelings to the views expressed. I am in sympathy with the Motion but I do not agree with it because, in the final analysis, the problem that faces this nation is not that of providing for Parliamentarians alone. There are millions of our countrymen who are unable to make both ends meet ; in fact, they are unable to have two square meals a day.

It seems to me that the proper course of action for us here is to bring up a Motion calling upon the Government to make it possible for people to have value for their money so that when Members have even ten pounds a month it will be enough for them to have a comfortable living. If Members ask that an increase be granted now they will, in fact, transfer the burden of the increase onto the common man in the country.

In view of these reasons, I am unable to support the Motion.

House of Representatives Debates

2565

[*Emoluments of*

19 OCTOBER 1965

Senators and M.P.s.]

2566

M. Aliyu Umaru (Wukari) : I rise to support the Motion, that in view of the rising cost of living in the country, this House prays the Federal Government to increase the salaries and allowances of Senators and Members of Parliament and make statutory provision for pension and gratuity to be paid to them after they have served in Parliament for a number of years to be determined by the Government.

The salaries drawn by Members of this House are not too much ; in fact, they are too small. For a Member to able to serve his constituency conscientiously he must fortify himself financially. A legislator in Nigeria is not only a Member of Parliament ; he is also to his village a dispensary attendant and an agricultural assistant ; he is the servant and at the same time the godfather of the people. Everybody in the constituency goes to him for all necessary assistance.

Some Members have the notion that once they are Members of Parliament all they have to do is to come to this House and play to the Gallery. But that is not enough. As Parliamentarians we have to employ constituency secretaries whom we have to pay. It is pertinent to know that some constituencies are a thousand miles square and Members have to cover these areas. Therefore, Members have to use money to buy petrol and maintain their vehicles. Therefore, I see no reason why the salaries of legislators should not be increased.

There are some Members who say that the salaries of Members should remain as they are now or be reduced. Such Members are those who never spend a month within their constituencies or even in the country. Often one hears that they are in Moscow or such other places to look for money. They prostitute themselves to collect money and then come here to tell us different stories. If the salaries of Parliamentarians are increased, they will be able to serve their constituencies to the best of their ability. There will be no reason for them to prostitute themselves or the country much less for them to grow beard in order to be recognised as socialists, whereas such people are really pseudo-politicians. They are not politicians in the real sense ; they are bread and butter ones. It is those of us who are here crying for more pay that are ready and prepared to serve Nigeria.

It was only yesterday that we passed a Bill about the disqualification of Members. A Member without a good pay and a reasonable means of living can be disqualified from membership of this House, however good he is. There are some Members who get to this House by deceiving and collecting tallies from market women. That is dishonesty and a dishonest Member is not supposed to stay in the House.

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

The Minister of Defence (Alhaji Muham-madu Inuwa Wada) : I rise to reply on behalf of the Government and also to inform Members as you, Mr Speaker, rightly pointed out at the beginning, that this Motion was not originally intended to be on the Order Paper and was not one of the Motions to come before this House this morning, and that Government did not have an opportunity to consider it.

Therefore, my reply is that we have listened carefully to the views expressed by Members and have taken account of them. These views have been recorded in the *Hansard*. We shall study them. When the time comes for the Council of Ministers to give consideration to this, that is the time when the Governments official view will be formed. But now it is not our intention to ask Members to vote one way or the other. It is a free Motion and anybody can vote the way he deems fit.

Mr S. A. Babatunde (Ilorin Central) : There is just one point I want to make by way of a reply to what the Minister of Defence has said on behalf of the Government.

If we Members of Parliament can voluntarily vote on Government Motions, I do not see any reason why the Government should feel reluctant to vote on Private Members' Motions.

Alhaji Inuwa Wada : The Member for Ilorin Central (*Mr Babatunde*) has been in this Parliament long enough to understand what is meant by collective responsibility. In the Council of Ministers any decision taken is the responsibility of everyone of us, and once a Minister takes a decision that decision is binding on all other Ministers.

As I pointed out, this Motion was not in the original list of Motions to come up for debate this morning, and that is why we have not studied it. I cannot therefore give you the

House of Representatives Debates

2567 [Emoluments of Senators and M.Ps.] 19 OCTOBER 1965 [Car Advances for Senators and M.Ps.] 2568

[ALHAJI INUWA WADA]

final views of the Council of Ministers on it. I have only promised the House that anything said here will be taken care of and when we come to consider the Motion—

The Member for Owerri North-East (Mr Mbegbu) rose—

Alhaji Inuwa Wada : I would like to advise hon. Members not to allow their feelings to run away with them so much so that they will forget parliamentary procedure. I am sure that the Member for Owerri North-East (Mr Mbegbu) knows very well that two Members cannot be standing at one and the same time.

I am sure that all that Members want is a favourable consideration of their views, and I have told them that their views will be considered by the Government.

Mr Speaker : I would not normally have liked to interfere with the debate, but when it comes to a question of explanation and points of view between Members of Parliament and the Government, perhaps I might be allowed by the House to make a comment.

Since this Motion has not gone through the appropriate stages—that is through the Business Committee and so on—before coming to Parliament, I think the Government's point of view should be respected. The Minister has said that they have not had time to study the Motion properly. Since the Government has had no time and the House, surely, has more time, after Government's consideration, henceforth to file such a Motion later in this session or at any other session, perhaps the House might consider what the Minister said.

Of course, I am not to interfere with debates and my views should not be regarded as an imposition by the Chair. I have said this simply because this is a case between the House and the Government.

Mr A. T. Mbegbu (Owerri North-East) : We are really not pressing for a few odd pennies and I could see that a fundamental principle has arisen from this debate. Throughout the civilised world, the Government is responsible to Parliament. I do not see why the views of all the Members of the House should not be respected. We are prepared to go with the Government but, as has rightly been pointed out by the Minister of Defence,

this is not a Government Motion. All we are trying to do is to register our collective feelings and we shall ask the Government to consider our feelings after we have registered them properly,

Whereupon the Member for Okigwi South-West (Mr D. O. Ahamefule) rose in his place and claimed to move, That the Question be now put.

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

Main Question accordingly put and agreed to.

Resolved : That in view of the rising cost of living in the country, this House prays the Federal Government to increase the salaries and allowances of Senators and Members of Parliament and make statutory provision for pension and gratuity to be paid to them after they have served in Parliament for a number of years to be determined by the Government.

CAR ADVANCES FOR SENATORS AND MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT

Mr Speaker : I must inform hon. Members that what applies to the Motion which we have just finished discussing also applies to this one. It has not come before the Business Committee, but a short notice has been given of it.

I also want to refer the House to Standing Order 25 which reads as follows :

Notice shall not be dispensed with in the case of a Motion or in respect of any other proceeding for which notice is required except with the consent of Mr Speaker and the general assent of the Members present.

In this case, I would like to apply the Standing Order by getting the consent of the House.

Is it the wish of the House that this Motion should be debated ?

Several hon. Members : Aye ! Aye !

Mr Speaker : I think there is no dissentient voice. The Motion will thus be debated.

Mr J. B. Eboigbodi (Asaba West) : I rise to move the Motion standing in my name—

That the Federal Government should henceforth grant car advances to Senators and Members of Parliament instead of the United Dominions Corporation (Nigeria)

House of Representatives Debates

2569

[*Car Advances for*

19 OCTOBER 1965

Senators and M.P.s.]

2570

Ltd. at three *per cent* interest, and that the period of repayment should be raised from three to four years.

It is unthinkable that the Senators and the Members of this Parliament, who are the accredited representatives of the people of this country and therefore are the custodians of our law and finances, and who are supposed to be looking after the welfare of the people of this country, should be asked to take car advances from a foreign body like the United Dominions Corporation (Nigeria) Limited or any other body for that matter. The Government, to which we belong, is very much greater in everything than any firm or corporation. The present condition under which the U.D.C. grants advances to people places unnecessary burden on all Members of this House.

For example, after the monthly instalment has been deducted from a Member's salary, he is left with about twenty-three pounds for the month. It is impossible for a Member to carry the responsibility of his constituency and then maintain his car with this meagre sum of money.

The interest rate charged by U.D.C. on car advances is too high. Every civil servant is given a car advance by the Government. The Members of this Parliament should also be getting loans to buy their cars from the same Government of which we are all part and parcel.

The Motion is a straightforward one. I do not want to take the time of the Members of the House. I would want their opinions on it. My demand is simple, straightforward and non-controversial. I commend it to the House which I am sure will welcome it.

I beg to move.

Mr J. A. Akor (Ahoada North-East): I beg to second.

Mr O. C. Ememe (Aba South): This Motion points out one of the defects of this Government. I am not here to criticise the Government as such, but to point out that the highest Legislature of the land has not commanded the respect of the Government because, if a foreign firm is entrusted with the responsibility of giving us car advances and at the same time squeezing out money from the Members of Parliament, what do we think will

happen to the people in the street? Foreign firms will kill them because they are in a position even to control the Nigerian Parliament. This is very unfair.

I do not know who made this type of arrangement. That arrangement could not be made without some sinister motives on the part of certain people. Mr Speaker, I find it very difficult to believe that the Nigerian Government has not got enough money to give advances to Members of Parliament only. I find it very difficult to believe also that the Federal Government would entrust this responsibility of catering for the interest of Parliamentarians to a foreigner—somebody who does not even want us to have our independence, much more to have our economic freedom. I think that this is belittling the Nigerian Parliament. Why should a foreigner be made to be in a position to seize our cars when he likes?

I remember that many Parliamentarians do not now earn more than twenty pounds a month. This is true because after this horrible firm, U.D.C., has deducted all kinds of interest, and all kinds of assumed depreciation on their money, we are left with practically nothing. I know some Parliamentarians who, because they took just a little bit of salary advance, for the last four months have not got any penny in their accounts. This is horrible indeed. Why should the Members of Parliament be belittled by the Government? If there is no money to give Parliamentarians these facilities, then there should be no money for the Government to do any other thing.

I know very well that we have voted money here for Ministers to put carpets and all kinds of decorations in their flats. We have voted money here for some people to claim ten pounds a night in addition to their salaries while they are overseas; yet these very people are not sensible enough to consider that some of these Parliamentarians spent also exactly the same amount of money they spent in the election.

I will only put the burden of this blame on our Cabinet Ministers because they know very well the crucible through which all of us passed before coming to this House. They all know that practically no Member has come to this House without spending at least five thousand pounds. They all know, and yet they feel that

[MR EMEME]

in spite of all these debts on our heads, in spite of all these inconveniences, we should be treated as church rats.

I am not trying to say that the Ministers are not humane enough, rather I am saying that they have not considered it necessary to get the feeling of the Floor Members with them. We like our Ministers to be in very good positions, but let me tell you, Mr Speaker, that after listening to what Sir Abubakar said during the first Parliament—that Ministers have opportunities to have business, in short, that they are Ministers on part-time basis—that is what it means—we find that these Ministers are also being paid three thousand in addition to all their allowances. Yet, these very Ministers do not find it expedient to consider us, the Floor Members of the House. They like to pack us bag and baggage and give to a foreigner to exploit. I feel that this is very unfair indeed.

If there is no money in the Federal fund, we should be in a position to get the money from anywhere. We can borrow it from America or from the Soviet Union. They are ready to give us the money, and when they give us the money, the Government should not please forget the Members of the House. That is what we mean. Please do not forget the Members of the House. We are not envying the positions of the Ministers. They are our representatives. The Cabinet is the representative of the House. When Members of the Cabinet are enjoying, they should not forget those who are the Floor Members.

This matter of car allowances is only one item in the demands of Members of Parliament for their rights. When I say their rights, I mean their rights. Members know that civil servants in the high categories get car advances from the Government and the Government, in addition to this, pays them basic allowances to cover what they have borrowed from the Government. Therefore, the civil servants do not spend any money in buying their cars. But Members of Parliament spend their last pennies in buying the cars which they use for the services of the nation. This is very unfair. Members of Parliament have no basic allowance at all. The only allowance we have is the mileage allowance and a little consolidated allowance for touring our constituencies. That is all ; it is only a touring advance.

We have no basic allowance and in fact, we have no money with which to repay what we have borrowed from the Government or from any company for that matter. But I know that our Ministers are enjoying the same privileges that civil servants are enjoying. I know some of them who are getting basic allowance of about £75 every month. This amount is for basic allowance alone. Ministers do not pay anything at all for the cars they buy ; but we spend our last penny to pay for the money we have borrowed to buy our cars.

The Cabinet of this Federation should be sympathetic with us. What we are praying the Government is that this agreement which was made with a foreign firm, the United Dominions Corporation, should be scrapped. This agreement should be scrapped now. We do not want to be further insulted by a foreigner. We should be independent and that independence should be reflected in Parliament.

I wish to state that the Cabinet Members are also Members of this Nigerian House of Representatives. They all contest elections and they know our burden. I am therefore very sure, that they are now going to be more serious with the Floor Members and that they are going to scrap this vicious agreement which they have signed with the U.D.C.

The Nigerian Government should afford the money to give car advance to Nigerian Parliamentarians. Besides, we pray the Cabinet to withdraw all those agreements which most of us have already signed with this foreign firm and let us sign another agreement with the Nigerian Government.

We do not want to be vassals of a foreign firm. Afterall, if a foreign firm has such control over the Nigerian Parliament, then nothing is left of this nation, because it is only the Parliament that the foreigners should be afraid of. If a foreigner holds all of us in bondage, how can they be afraid of us.

I therefore say, without spending much energy on this Motion, that our Ministers especially the Cabinet Ministers should understand the difficulties we are confronted with. They know that in every constituency, Parliamentarians are looked upon as the first citizens of the nation. Is that not so ?

Several hon. Members : Yes.

House of Representatives Debates

2573

[Car Advances for

19 OCTOBER 1965

Senators and M.P.s.]

2574

Mr Ememe : If we are looked upon as the first citizens of the nation, I do not see why civil servants should be getting £4,000 when Parliamentarians are getting £900. I do not see why civil servants should be getting free cars when we are paying for our own cars. This is completely incompatible with our position. Therefore, I pray that the Federal Cabinet should revise the whole system, scrap this U.D.C. agreement and draw up a Federal Government agreement for the Members of this House.

I beg to support.

Chief V. O. Onabanjo (Ijebu South-West) : I would like to strike a different note on this Motion. First of all, there is the suggestion that the Federal Government should grant car advances to Senators and Members of Parliament. I am quite sure that the Members who put down this Motion have not taken into consideration the financial position of the Government itself.

Mr N. N. Anah (Awka Central) : I do not know whether the hon. Member has arrogated to himself the functions of the Minister of Finance so as to be able to know the exact financial position of the Government.

Chief Onabanjo : I am not the Minister of Finance but I think every Member of Parliament who is doing his work conscientiously should be in a position to know what the financial position of the Federal Government is. But this is not the point.

Chief P. O. A. Dada (Ilorin-East) : The Member for Ijebu South-West (*Chief Onabanjo*) should remember that we are speaking on advances for the Members of this House and not for the N.I.P.C.

Chief Onabanjo : The point I am making is that even the suggestion that the Government should grant these advances at three *per cent* interest rate, is I think, criminal because already most of the loans being taken by the Federal Government are taken at a much higher interest rate, from four *per cent* to about six *per cent* and here we are, asking the Federal Government to give out this loan again to us at the rate of three *per cent*. Who bears the loss ?

Mr Ememe : On a point of order, the hon. Gentleman is one of those claiming petrol rebates and he knows very well that he is given

these petrol rebates not because he deserves it as such but because he is a Parliamentarian. If he comes here to give the impression that he is saving the nation's money, why can he not forgo his petrol rebate ?

Chief Onabanjo : I know that the hon. Members who have made up their minds that they must have these advances at all costs will interrupt me but I want to assure the hon. Member who claims to be the "voice of Moscow", that at no time have I claimed any petrol rebate.

Some time ago, Parliament took the decision to increase salaries of Members of Parliament. It was rushed through Parliament and Members got £1,000. But then, the reaction outside was different, and when the troubles started in the labour unions, the Members of Parliament were hiding. It was only left to Members of the Cabinet to bear the brunt of the trouble then. We are at it again. There have been increases in duty—

Mr S. A. Babatunde (Ilorin Central) : The Member for Ijebu South-West (*Chief Onabanjo*) has been evading questions. As an opposition Member, how does he know the finances of the Government. He only wants his name to appear in the newspaper headlines. That is all he is trying to do.

Chief Onabanjo : I am the last person to court newspaper headlines. I have written thousands myself.

To come to the point, Sir, Members like to compare themselves with civil servants by saying that the civil servants are getting this, therefore, they must get it, the civil servants are doing that, therefore they must do it. I am sure we are not civil servants. Anybody who wants to be a civil servant can go to the Public Service Commission. It is there for him. When we said that we were coming here, we meant that we were coming here to serve.

But I think that we enjoy quite a number of privileges as M.P.s. which the civil servants do not enjoy, and I do not think that the right attitude is to say that because civil servants are doing certain things, therefore we must also do those things.

I have said that the finances of the Government are not buoyant enough to bear all these things. Each time we speak on the Floor of this House, we appeal to the people outside.

[CHIEF ONABANJO]

We are having our Development Programme. Everybody must make his own sacrifice. We are telling the people outside to make sacrifice, but when we are asked to make the sacrifice here, we cannot lay the example. How do Members go out to tell the trade unions that they must not talk of any increase in salaries, in wages, whilst we are, at the same time here, doing all we can to take more than we are entitled to from the national cake?

Several hon. Members : Fair share! Fair share!

Chief Onabanjo : Fair share? That was the slogan of the robbers in the West. Fair share!

Mr D. O. Enefola (Igala South) : If the Member for Ijebu South-West (*Chief Onabanjo*) is a wanted person, and he does not take his time, I will go and inform the Police that he is here. (*Laughter*)

The Deputy Speaker : Members of Parliament enjoy immunity and cannot be arrested in this House.

Chief Onabanjo : It is really revealing to know that the Member for Igala South (*Mr Enefola*) is a Police informant.

I will appeal to Members that whatever may be our financial problems individually, this Motion is ill-timed. It is not at this time that our national leaders are appealing to the people in the country to make more sacrifice in order to see our Development Programme through, that Members of Parliament should be talking of increases in pay, car advances at three *per cent* interest, while the Government will be taking loans from abroad at six *per cent* interest.

It is unwise and I cannot see the Minister of Finance going out to America to ask for loan when he knows that he might be asked: "Well, what do you do with this loan? You take it at six *per cent* and then you go and give it to a few people at three *per cent*.

Nobody knows what the Government attitude itself is. I do hope that the Government's spokesman will get up and appeal to the Members to drop this proposal, at least, for the time being. Let us see the Development Programme through first.

Mr J. A. Yacim (Igala North-West) : On a point of order, we appeal to the Deputy Speaker to protect the hon. Members of this House from

the Member for Ijebu South-West (*Chief Onabanjo*). This Motion is seeking for a way by which we the Members of the honourable House who have been using large and roomy cars, in which we can carry our supporters, can get car advances at 3 *per cent* interest. Our cars are not like the hon. Member's *Volkswagen*, which is small and does not permit him to give a lift to anybody.

The Deputy Speaker : The Member for Igala North-West (*Mr Yacim*) is attempting to make a speech. That was not a point of order.

Chief Onabanjo : On this question of Members going round, is it being suggested that just because somebody who has been riding a bicycle before, happened to be voted into Parliament, he should begin to ride Chevrolet? That is the point I could make from the statement of the Member for Igala North-West (*Mr Yacim*).

In any case, that is not my own idea of service. I am not quarrelling with this thing. I know what it is. Those who have to spend £10,000 or £20,000 to get elected, those who have to bribe electoral officers to keep away from polling stations, or bribe returning officers not to announce results, must have their money back.

Mr Babatunde : The speech of the Member for Ijebu South-West (*Chief Onabanjo*) amounts to teaching this Parliament thrift. Does he consider that the Action Group Government exercised thrift in the use of Government money when they were holding it?

Chief Onabanjo : I was never in the Action Group Government, but the Member for Ilorin Central (*Mr Babatunde*) should ask some of the people sitting opposite there who were in the Government, and they will tell him what they have done with the money.

Mr A. F. Odulana (Ijebu North-East) : On a point of information, the Member for Ijebu South-West (*Chief Onabanjo*) is my townsman, and he is my relation for that matter.

Chief Onabanjo : I am not (*Laughter*).

Mr Odulana : How can he come here to deny that he was never in the Action Group Government. Who created the N.I.P.C. from which he earned £4,000? It is a denial of fact.

House of Representatives Debates

2577

[Car Advances for

19 OCTOBER 1965

Senators and M.P.s.]

2578

The Deputy Speaker : I think that this Motion is on Car Advances for Senators and Members of Parliament and not on N.I.P.C. or the Action Group.

Chief Onabanjo : I can well understand those who are being haunted by the ghost of Action Group or even the N.I.P.C. because there were some of their leaders who got £40,000 to clear their debts, but who would not own up.

In any case, Sir, I know many Members do not like what I am saying, but they can still be patient. All these points of order or disorder will not help. The thing is this, we are asking for ourselves what we are denying to other people outside.

My appeal is that we should shelve this proposal for the moment. There is this other point. I raised, during the Budget Meeting, this question of U.D.C. because I do not think it is right that the U.D.C. should have the monopoly. If there are other finance houses that are prepared to bear the burden, then let it go to them as well. But I think it is wrong to ask the Federal Government to bear this burden.

Already, all the Governments of the Federation, in advances to civil servants, are having more than four and a half million pounds locked up—four and a half million pounds which could have been used in carrying out a number of other development programmes in this country.

This question of granting advances should be a job for outside finance interests. If the rate being charged by the U.D.C. is considered too high that is a matter for negotiation between the Cabinet who made the arrangement and the U.D.C. But the U.D.C. is a business enterprise, it will not take a loan from the Barclays Bank at six *per cent* interest and turn round to give it out at five or six *per cent* interest.

As my countryman, the Member for Ijebu North-East (*Mr Odulana*) knows that if one is to be very good at business—

Mr M. Nnorom (Okigwi North-East) : I would like to ask the hon. Gentleman who has the Floor whether he has been briefed by the U.D.C.

The Deputy Speaker : This is not question time.

Chief Onabanjo : That is why I still say that I do appreciate the feelings of Members about the rate of interest and about the monopoly of the U.D.C., but on this question of monopoly my own suggestion will be that the Government should look for other finance houses which are prepared to give out advances.

On the question of rate of interest, it is a matter for the business company concerned, but I do not think it is right and I repeat that it is highly immoral for us to ask the Government to give us loan at three *per cent*.

There is one last point I would like to make and it is that whatever we do we must understand that we are not representing ourselves but we are representing others, and I would therefore appeal to the Federal Government not to accept this Motion.

Mr A. F. Odulana (Ijebu North-East) : I would like to make this correction before the hon. Gentleman speaking concludes his speech. What the Motion before us seeks to do is that the Government should make it possible for every Member of Parliament to take his car advance from one source. There are some Members in this House who have had their advances direct from the Government paying three-and-a-half *per cent* interest, while there are others who have been pushed to U.D.C. to take theirs at six-and-a-half *per cent* interest.

If it has been possible for some Members to have advances from the Government at a relatively low rate of interest, why should others not have the same treatment?

The Deputy Speaker : I think that the Member for Ijebu North-East (*Mr Odulana*) is not leading the House aright; the substance of the Motion is that the Government should make possible the granting of advances at three *per cent*.

Chief Onabanjo : I am grateful to the hon. Member for the explanation he has made but there is a lot of scandal surrounding this three *per cent* from the Government and six *per cent* from U.D.C. There have been cases of Members taking advances in two places, both from the Government at three *per cent* and then from the U.D.C.

[CHIEF ONABANJO]

That is not a thing to be paraded here and I think we should save ourselves the embarrassment of bringing that issue to this House. I do hope that the Government, in spite of the unpopularity of the measure, will stand up against Back Benchers this time because when the reaction comes from outside it is the Government who will bear it, and those of us who are Floor Members will be hiding away in our constituencies.

Mr N. N. Anah (Awka Central) : I would like to say that this is a welcome and well-timed Motion. The principle upon which the Government works is that each Member of Parliament is entitled to an advance of £1,500 for the purchase of a motor vehicle. This is only put down on paper but never carried out in practice.

If a Member asks for the amount in order to make his own personal arrangement, he will be told by the Government to go to the U.D.C., but the U.D.C. will not give out the £1,500 as stipulated by Government. All the U.D.C. does is to make arrangement for the requisitioner to get any car of his choice and begin to repay that sum back to the company. In other words it is nothing but a hire-purchase company, charging a tremendously high rate of interest.

What is unfortunate is that at the beginning of this present Parliament certain Members made applications direct to the Government for the grant of the £1,500, at the rate of three *per cent*. The applications were approved and the advances are to be repaid within four years. But this approval did not suit the whims and caprices of the U.D.C.; it protested to the Government, and approvals were cancelled, except for those who were fortunate to have cashed the £1,500 in good time. So that an anomaly still exists to-day, with some Members having got a loan of £1,500 at three *per cent* interest, repayable within four years, and others having been pushed to the U.D.C. and to get their advances at eight *per cent*, repayable within three years.

In fact, if one wants a loan from a bank I think one can get it at the rate of nine *per cent* interest; therefore the U.D.C. charges only one *per cent* less than that charged by the banks.

As the Mover of the Motion rightly pointed out, after making the monthly deduction for one's car a Member is left with only £21, and he still calls himself an hon. member who should disregard his private affairs for the business of Parliament.

I know I would be interrupted by the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Trade (*Mr Ezenwa*) because I know that Parliamentary Secretaries get about £40 every month as basic car allowances whilsts Ministers get £75. So he cannot be bothered with the fate of the Floor Members. As a matter of fact, we are quite willing to sit for a much longer period if the Government makes our so doing worthwhile. What is important is that the condition under which we work ought to be improved.

Alhaji Mohammed Muhtari, Sarkin Bai (Dambatta) : On a point of information, whether Members received their advances from the Government or from the U.D.C. the rate of interest is the same. As far as we have been told it is six *per cent*, and the period within which to repay the loan from the Federal Government is now being reduced to two years. At least we have just been so informed.

Mr J. B. P. Lafinhan (Ogbomosho South) On a point of information I have my own copy of the agreement I signed with the U.D.C. here; it is clearly stated that this is a hire-purchase agreement and the rate of interest is 8 *per cent*.

Mr Anah : I do not agree with my hon. Friend the Member for Dambatta (*Alhaji Muhtari, Sarkin Bai*). The rate of interest on such loans given by the U.D.C. is 8 *per cent*, but if you get your loan direct from the Government, it is 3 *per cent* and you will have a longer time to repay. The U.D.C. will not even allow one as much time to repay this loan as would enable one to have something sizeable at the end of the month with which to maintain the family. The hon. Minister of Housing and Surveys does not seem to realise this difficulty because he is now in the Government Bench.

The Minister of Housing and Surveys (Chief A. O. O. Ogunsanya) : Mr Speaker, my point of order is that I am shocked to hear the Member for Awka Central (*Mr Anah*) saying that he hopes to maintain himself and his family by what he earns from this House.

House of Representatives Debates

2581

[Car Advances for

19 OCTOBER 1965

Senators and M.Ps.]

2582

Mr Anah : My hon. Friend, the Member for Owerri South-East (*Mr Ukegbu*) has called for more constant sittings of Parliament, in other words, to make membership of Parliament a full-time job. If that is what he means, then we have got to live through what we get from Parliament.

The point I am making is that the principle on which the Government has pushed us to a hire-purchase company is entirely wrong. I am sure they had not actually considered the feelings of hon. Members before making this arrangement. The result is that a foreign company has held this Parliament to ransom, and we have also been subjected to all sorts of unconscionable treatment by the U.D.C. I do not know actually the brain behind this.

I can hear an hon. Member mentioning the name of the Minister of Finance. I do not want to mention any name because I know this is collective responsibility. It was the decision of the Government and not a particular individual's decision. They were the architects of this and they know it, but what I am saying is that the Ministers who formulated this policy do not taste the bitter part of it, since they do not take their own loans from the U.D.C. They get their loan from the Government.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Trade (*Mr R. B. K. Okafor*) : I would like, on a point of information, to tell the Member speaking that I obtained my own advance for a car from the U.D.C. and up till now I pay 8 per cent interest.

Mr Anah : When I was talking of Ministers, I did not talk of half-Ministers, nor did I include apprentice Ministers.

Mr Okafor : Mr Speaker, is the Member saying that in the broad-based Government we have four categories of Ministers : a Minister with portfolio, that is a full Minister ; a Cabinet Minister without portfolio, that is a three-quarter Minister ; a Minister without portfolio and of non-Cabinet rank, that is a half-Minister ; and lastly a Parliamentary Secretary, who is a quarter-Minister ?

Mr A. F. Odulana (Ijebu North-East) : On a point of order, that is not a statement that should come from the mouth of a Parliamentary Secretary. If the Minister does not know the right thing to do in this House, he

should be told. I think he has made a very bad statement in this House. It is unbecoming of a Parliamentary Secretary to say that there is a half-Minister, a three-quarter Minister and so on. What we have in this House are Ministers.

The Deputy Speaker : Order ! I think we should now go back to the main body of the debate. The hon. Parliamentary Secretary asked a question as to whether there are four categories of Ministers. He did not make a statement.

Mr Anah : I do not intend to answer this question, but as far as I am concerned, I know there are three categories of Ministers : a full Minister ; a Minister without portfolio and an apprentice Minister who is a Parliamentary Secretary and who is a half-Minister. (*Laughter*).

The Deputy Speaker : Order !

The Minister of Trade (*Dr K. O. Mbadiwe*) : On a point of explanation, as far as I know, the President's Ministers, whether they have portfolios or not, have the stamp of authority conveying to them the power to deliberate on the nation's affairs. It is not what they carry that makes them Ministers. It is the authority, the Ordinance and the Constitution that make it possible for them to exist.

Mr Anah : I am very grateful to the hon. Minister and I accept his explanation.

Well, going back to my point, I am really saying, in all seriousness, that this arrangement which the Government has made, whereby we are pushed to a hire-purchase company, is not welcome.

I have it on good authority that the U.D.C. will make non-sense of the new Hire-Purchase Act which was recently passed in this House, and I am quite sure that one of the reasons for withholding the implementation of the provisions of the new Hire-Purchase Law is the difficulty of finding where the U.D.C. can be placed. In other words, if we want to implement the new Hire-Purchase Act, where do we place the U.D.C.? If we ask the U.D.C. to respect the new Hire-Purchase Act, they will withdraw and hand over to the Government.

House of Representatives Debates

2583

[Car Advances for

19 OCTOBER 1965

Senators and M.P.s.]

2584

[MR ANAH]

Actually, this foreign firm is holding the highest Legislature of this country to ransom and I do think that the sooner we declare our own economic independence, the better for us, even if it means being in debt, for we are sure to pay the debt sometime. I am sure that we are big enough to balance our Budget.

What I am calling upon the Ministers to do is to forgo some of their allowances and do less globe-trotting in order that some money will be saved, at least, to make life more abundant for the Floor Members who okay most of the Bills they bring here, whether we like them or not.

This arrangement is really very bad and I am quite sure that all sides of the House agree with me that a new arrangement must be made forthwith. The making of such a new arrangement should not be delayed "until funds are available"—an expression which is nothing but a diplomatic excuse given by our Ministers. I am emphasising that this arrangement must be made now and that the Government, in making it, should make it possible to have those loans already got from the U.D.C. refundable by Government itself.

I do not think that this Motion should take us an unduly long time in passing because, as the Mover had said, it is certainly a very welcome Motion. It is not controversial, and I firmly believe that all sides of the House will approve it.

Chief P. O. A. Dada (Ilorin East) : I would like to support this Motion. As was pointed out at the last session, the rate of interest of the U.D.C. is exorbitantly high. This Company does not take the economic position of this country into consideration.

Further, I would like to say that there should be no discrimination in the advances which hon. Members take. If hon. Members are to take advances from U.D.C., then all of us including the Ministers should take car advances from U.D.C.

Minister of State (Alhaji Hashimu Adaji) : I wish to assure my hon. Friend that all Ministers take their car advances from the U.D.C. and we pay interest at the rate of 8 per cent.

Chief Dada : It may be that the hon. Minister who has just spoken is an exception I wish to insist that what is good for the goose

is also good for the gander. My contention is that we should all take car advances from the same source without exception—either from the U.D.C. or from the Government at a lower rate of interest. There should be no discrimination whatsoever.

I beg to support.

Mr N. G. Asande (Owo Central) : I thank you, Mr Speaker, for the opportunity you have given me to speak. I wish to support the Motion.

A lot of hardship is suffered by Members of this Parliament in the repayment of U.D.C. advances. A situation whereby hon. Members are left with only £20 every month as a result of the repayment of U.D.C. advances is an intolerable one. How is an hon. Member to maintain his family on £20 ? This is particularly so in the case of the teachers among us who, as from next year, may be displaced from the teaching field and are expected to live solely on this balance of £20. Certainly, such a situation as this makes paupers of Parliamentarians. It is a very bad situation.

It is regrettable that the public transport system in this country is not as good as that of any other civilised country of the world. If our transport system is good, anybody who does not like taking an advance because of the repayment difficulty can make use of public transport facilities. Parliamentarians must use cars in this country in order to be able to carry out their parliamentary duties, hence they are compelled to take a car advance and to assume this heavy financial burden.

This House should appeal to the Government to ensure that the rate of interest dictated by U.D.C. is reduced. If the U.D.C. is not prepared to reduce its rate of interest, then the contract with that Company should be scrapped and a fresh arrangement made so that hon. Members can get their advances from some other place which will ease the tension created at the moment by the U.D.C.

I am appealing that the Motion should be carried and that Government should do all in its power to see that a fresh arrangement is made and that those advances already taken from U.D.C. are cancelled.

This subject has been brought to this House many times before. We have, since the resumption of this session, raised this question

House of Representatives Debates

2585

[Car Advances for

19 OCTOBER 1965

Senators and M.P.s.]

2586

many times, and our Ministers have always denied that the rate of interest charged by U.D.C. is 8 per cent. But from the agreement read out by an hon. Member this morning, it is beyond doubt that the rate of interest is definitely 8 per cent. Surely, it is too high.

I will illustrate my point. One must repay an advance of £1,500 in three years including the fantastic interest of £300.

This House must consider this matter very seriously because it makes hon. Members unhappy. Hon. Members cannot do their work successfully if they are made to remain in a state of unhappiness. The Government should ensure that hon. Members are contented, so that they can do their work well, by giving them an advance which does not place a financial burden on them.

I beg to support the Motion.

Mr S. U. Bassey (Eket South-West) : This Motion has raised a very important issue. The issue at stake is the extent to which the Federal Government allows exploitation in the country. Having contested the election and won, I do not feel I should come here to labour for a private company. At the moment, all Members of this House are being subjected to very serious exploitation by a foreign company, and I am very shocked that even hon. Ministers could confess that they too are being subjected to this exploitation by the U.D.C. All hon. Members must be shocked to hear this that the hon. Ministers too take advances from the U.D.C. at the same rate of 8 per cent. If this is true, Sir, it is a very wrong policy of the Government.

However, I know why some of these companies are set up. The fact is that most of our hon. Ministers are directors of these companies and they empower the companies to exploit even hon. Members of the Parliament. We could have had some consolation if this 8 per cent interest was being paid to our Government, since we know it would be spent in financing our development schemes. But what beats me personally is that the bulk of this money is carried out of this country. I know the Finance Companies here in Nigeria and I also know the havoc which they are doing. To our great shame, some hon. Ministers and hon. Members are among their directors.

Several hon. Members : Name them !

Mr Bassey : I will not name them here. But the fact is that most of the companies in the country have hon. Members on their boards of directors, and it is because of this that we are facing this type of exploitation by these companies.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Finance (Chief D. N. Oronsaye) : On a point of order, much as we would like to hear Members speaking of grievances, and so on, we would want them to respect the truth. When people make such allegations as the Member for Eket South-West (*Mr Bassey*) is just making, we would like them to mention names. In the absence of names being mentioned, their allegations are meaningless.

Mr Bassey : I know that truth is very bitter, and yet it must be told. I am a labour man and I am in the field. I have very startling information and some Ministers are involved. I do not want to embarrass anybody, but I am saying that the condition which the people of this country are subjected to is appalling. The people of this country are being subjected to brutal exploitation by foreign firms, and even Members of this Parliament are also subjected to this heartless exploitation by the foreign firms. If the statement made by a Minister here is correct, it means that the members of the Government are also subjected to the same exploitation, and this is really disgraceful.

I have been thinking of the way in which the ordinary people of this country could be protected against brutal exploitation. I did not win an election to come here to work for the U.D.C. When they claim eight per cent compound interest from a person's salary, what remains ? I have a constituency to look after. I must maintain my prestige as a Member of Parliament, and so should every Member of this honourable House.

I am sorry that much has not yet been done to help the ordinary people of this country, and our Ministers should know that they are like the proverbial ostrich burying its head in the sand and thinking that it is not seen. They should mind what they plan in secret because we are seeing them. It is very disgraceful for them to come to the Floor of this House and watch for what Members will

House of Representatives Debates

2587

[Car Advances for
Senators and M.P.s.]

19 OCTOBER 1965

[Law for Relief of the Poor
and Control of Beggary]

2588

[MR BASSEY]

say, and when a Member speaks they say, "Name the Minister ; name the Minister", as if they are not here looking at our faces and listening to what we are saying. And if I should name them, they are not going to do anything.

The Minister of Housing and Surveys
(Chief A. O. Ogunsanya) : While the hon. Member was speaking, I was the only Minister looking at him, and I know that he is used to speaking bitterly as the leader of labourers. On this occasion, let him not cover me up. If I am the one he is talking about, he should mention my name.

Mr Bassey : I think that there is no point in my mentioning the name of anybody here. I do not want to mention the name of any Minister, although I know what is going on. All I am saying is that our Ministers should be more vigilant because we would hate to be further exploited even on the Floor of this House.

This Motion is very important and we have gone down to the root of it. We want the Government to take this assignment off the hands of the U.D.C. Let the Government grant us the advances, charge us even ten *per cent* interest and, as loyal citizens of this nation, we are going to pay because we know that the money will go into the purse of the nation for the development of our country. All we hate is for the foreign firms to come here and exploit the law-makers of the land. It is very disgraceful ; it is most brutal and it is unfor-givable.

I beg to support.

The Minister of Defence (Alhaji Muhammadu Inuwa Wada) : The attitude of the Government on this Motion is the same as the views we expressed on the first Motion.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved : That the Federal Government should henceforth grant car advances to Senators and Members of Parliament instead of the United Dominions Corporation (Nigeria) Limited at three *per cent* interest, and that the period of repayment should be raised from three to four years.

LAW FOR RELIEF OF THE POOR AND
CONTROL OF BEGGARY

Mr T. A. Umeukeje (Awka South) : I rise to move the motion—

That this House prays the Federal Government to carry out an extensive survey in order to determine the various categories of paupers and beggars in this country with a view to introducing legislation making special provision for their welfare and maintenance.

The Motion indeed as it is considers the poor as everyone's brother or sister—an unfortunate brother or sister, of course—who in one way or the other deserves public sympathy because of certain inevitable deprivation imposed on him or her by nature. There is no element of controversy, therefore, in the fact that the poor people of this country are part and parcel of our society. They own this land with us and their unfortunate conditions actually should excite the sympathy of everyone, and the Governments of this Federation should view them as a special problem. Some sane planning should be made for their decent existence and they should not be left to roam about hopelessly like brutes of the worst circumstances.

There is a tendency in this country, sometimes in this honourable House, for motives of certain speeches to be misunderstood. I am making this observation because we know that beggars move like ocean currents. They have no definite destinations and we see them in all parts of the country, so that when one begins to examine their characteristics and their qualities, there will be a tendency among certain people to think that they are being considered with reference to a particular part of the country. Well, that is not the intention.

We see these unfortunate people everywhere and they move from one part of the country to another and, amongst most of them, there is a similarity of characteristics. Throughout history, in every age and everywhere, in every country, region or town, the poor has been seen. Therefore, no particular district, division or region of this Federation should feel that it is being implied that beggars and poor people are members of only its own region or town.

In introducing this Motion I have not an eye on striking newspaper headlines, or of increasing the volume of the *Hansard*. Rather, I want

House of Representatives Debates

2589 [Law for Relief of the Poor 19 OCTOBER 1965 and Control of Beggary] 2590

to press for the practical usefulness of man to man. I want to remind the Government that these poor people are too deranged to think of sending a delegation or electing representatives to present their views in the Parliament. These poor people are our brethren who own this land with us and they need our help. We have to plan for them where they cannot plan for themselves, and such planning should be thorough and not a haphazard affair.

Since they cannot think of their personal decency and well being, we as the more privileged people—privileged from the point of view of better health, better material wealth, greater intelligence, greater opportunities for more refined education, *et cetera*—should not leave the poor to constitute a disgrace to our society. Something should be done to alleviate their sufferings. Something should be done to make them better clothed, better housed, sure of more regular supply of food, less exposed to the pains and groans of disease and, in general, they should be raised higher than as hitherto on the scale of civilization. They are to appear as members of a planned society.

It will be worth while at this stage to find out who are the poor and the beggars this Motion has in view. What are they like? Some are blind and cannot practise any craft or have not been trained in any profession on which they can depend. Some are deaf and dumb and cannot be educated. Some are so disabled by accident that they are physically unfit for any manual work. Some are people who, by accident of birth or nature, developed some abnormal appearance and the society refused to bring them up alongside other human beings who have normal shape. Some are people who prospered well during their early life but who, owing to their having made no provision for their later life and overtaken by certain vicissitudes, have become mentally deranged and sunk into moral and social apathy for which they are condemned into a later life of drift, wretchedness and serfdom.

Some are people who have had their limbs chopped off by leprosy, or people whose energy and mental powers have been sapped and undermined by various forms of diseases; venereal disease being no exception. Some are people who, through the laziness and negligence of their parents and guardians

during their early lives, were not trained to concentrate and learn to work. Some are old men and women who have no succeeding issues or relatives to cater for them during their old age. Some are really ineducable idiots who, despite all efforts to direct or have them trained and disciplined, must be inclined to the habit of wandering.

Some are mad or insane people or victims of other forms of mental and nervous infirmity. Some are lame in the legs, paralysed in some limbs, weakened by polio, or made to look awkward by some spinal disorders. Some simply make themselves moral, social and economic misfits by undesirable methods of living such as exuberant drinking or smoking of hemp.

Some are people disgusted with our own type of capitalist and highly nepotic society and who resort to thuggery and violence when they cannot secure jobs or when they lack exceptional brilliance and have not got well-placed relatives to smuggle them into the offices nor have they money to bribe their way through the tangle of interviewing officials. All the various situations reviewed are what have created so many beggars that we find on the streets.

And what is it that disturbs the mind about these beggars and paupers? It is their lowly conditions which cause observers' hearts to go pitapat. Some have huge sores on their toes uncared for. Some have pus coming out of their eyes and ears. Some live in swamps and rubbish accumulations, clad in rags. Some may go without food for many days, and under the very eyes of their privileged brothers and sisters they pine away in wretchedness and want. When they move about they constitute terrible disease carriers in some market places and on the highways.

Some of the beggars have lost commonsense and move about unclothed, thus constituting a disgrace to the community and the nation. Sometimes they block the road in the face of oncoming traffic, thereby constituting great danger and a public nuisance.

Some mad pregnant women have been known to give birth to babies right on the streets, and such cases constitute nothing short of a scandal and disgrace to the human race. In the streets of certain big towns—I am sorry to have

[MR T. A. UMEKEJE]

to cite instances because I would like to mention names of places—for example Ibadan, near Dugbe Market, blind women beggars continue bearing numerous children whom they collect round themselves near the roadside to be brought up in the art of begging and in the hope of meeting some passers-by for the purpose of begging. In some of the ferries crossing from Onitsha to Asaba or *vice versa* even demobilised soldiers who fought in Burma during the Second World War sing or shout about, showing pictures of themselves depicting when they were in their bloom as soldiers. And they disturb passengers by importunate begging.

In the trains throughout the whole length of the Nigerian Railway all sorts of beggars constitute a terrible nuisance to the passengers. They go into and come out of the trains in every station with great ease and with dirt and disease. Most of them move with impunity among the clean and healthy, spreading infection. Some sing in a croaking voice or sound a high-sounding musical instrument, regardless of their listener's disgust for such unmelodious and unattractive music. Some of them beg by force and insultingly when they fail to get a donation readily. Others disappear with passengers' luggage.

At every motor park, in front of big business houses, church gates and the like, these beggars are around to make us see their neglected state with the hope that their presence will make their neglected state felt. We have seen enough of this neglected state of theirs and we realise that they must be helped by the State.

I think it is high time the Federal Government and the Regional Governments decided on definite steps to be taken to relieve these poor people. Some steps aimed at including all the poor in the Federation in some sort of relief arrangement must be planned. There is no doubt that the various Governments have been doing something in isolated cases to rehabilitate certain categories of the poor, but these are rather far short of the expectations of a modern society.

Therefore, in case any Amendment may come up calling for Government to be congratulated on what it has so far done to relieve the poor, I think this is not yet necessary at this stage because they have not done much.

Maintaining one or two schools for the blind where they even hold competitive examinations under a Mission and some patients are rejected while their blindness continues, and, I dare say, sponsoring one or two Cheshire Homes for the disabled and a few asylums for the insane and many other mental cases, are too scanty an arrangement for a vast Republic like Nigeria.

Moreover, certain sections of the Federation neglect their sick people, paupers and beggars more than others. Such *laissez faire* as the apathy and lethargy imposed by some sort of religious ostracism should now give place to progressive planning to better the lot of humanity in this country.

At this stage of our national growth, some far-reaching plans should be evolved to extend to all the ramifications of vagrancy, so that in the comity of nations Nigeria may really claim to be a land well governed in the interests of the masses and a land whose children are blessed in peace and plenty as stated in our National Anthem.

One may ask then what is the Government expected to do with regard to the relief of the poor. I think that the Government can carry out a comprehensive research to find out the various categories of the beggars and paupers and the exact causes of this state of life. The Government also can devise some very effective curative measures which should include universal free and compulsory primary education throughout the Federation; free medical treatment; a crusade for full employment and increased state social institutions.

Also it is my wish and suggestion to this Motion that the Government should introduce a Bill with no further delay for a law—the type of Poor Law that has been tried in other civilised countries—which should group the poor into classes, create a Board with departments and local organisations as well as funds for the administration of poor relief. The Government should also consider specific treatments suitable for different classes of paupers and place the supervision under a Ministry, say the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare, Health or Internal Affairs.

Let me give some examples of such specific treatments for various classes of the poor. The disabled poor who cannot be maintained inside private houses by members of their

House of Representatives Debates

2593 [Law for Relief of the Poor 19 OCTOBER 1965 and Control of Beggary] 2594

extended family circles should be taken to welfare centres ; the poor who are chronically sick should be taken to special hospitals opened for them ; and lepers should be restricted to leper villages and clinics.

Mad men, who should be collected and restricted to asylums and special mental hospitals where specialist medical Practitioners will look after them, are at present left to roam about. It is to be regretted that up to this stage the Nigerian Government has no effective way of treating mad citizens, and in most divisions they are left to roam about constituting danger to others. It is only herbalists and ju-ju doctors who seem to have effective methods of handling these insane people.

Deformed, able bodied people such as the deaf, dumb, lame—

The Minister of Housing and Surveys (Chief A. O. Ogunsanya) : On a point of order, I just want to call attention to the fact that our responsibility is in so far as the Federal Territory of Lagos is concerned. To that extent, I would say Yes, but otherwise the hon. Gentleman should refer the matter to the Regional Governments.

Mr Umeukeje : I believe that if the Federal Government gives the lead in this particular matter, the Regional Governments will follow. Moreover, all the Governments work in consultation with one another.

Mr A. F. Odulana (Ijebu North-East) : On a point of order, all the Members of this House are not drawn from the Federal Territory alone. We are from all the nooks and corners of Nigeria. So, the hon. Gentleman now moving this Motion is advising the Government, and the Government should listen to that advice. After all, all the beggars in Lagos do not come from Lagos alone. All the beggars from Ikorodu are here in Lagos

Chief Ogunsanya : The beggars from Ikorodu are in the N.N.D.P. benches.

Mr Speaker : Order ! Will the hon. Member moving his Motion please wind up his speech ?

Mr S. Shitta-Bey (Lagos North Central) : On a point of order, I would have thought, and indeed it is my belief, that the Member for Ikeja North (*Mr S. O. Kamson*) is one of the beggars from Ikorodu.

Mr Speaker : Order ! I think that this joke is an unprovoked joke, and should not be allowed to continue.

Mr Umeukeje : I said at the beginning that these beggars and paupers have no opportunity of electing their own representatives into this Parliament. I was saying that these partially deformed and disabled beggars should be taken to special schools or institutions where they can be taught and, on graduating—

Chief A. Jinadu (Oshun North-East) : On a point of information, the Action Group Members here have all left. I do not know what is happening to them all.

Mr Speaker : If Members will avoid unnecessary interruptions, the Mover of the Motion will have the time to finish moving it before one o'clock.

Mr Umeukeje : I am suggesting that on the graduation of these disabled people from the special institutions, the Government should form co-operative organisations for them, for the production and marketing of certain commodities. Furthermore, the able-bodied poor who are idiots should be collected into centres where efforts will be made to drill them to some uniformity of regular work and activity. I am saying this because I believe that if animals can be tamed in the Zoo, then human beings can be tamed with greater ease.

For able bodied poor people who are unwilling to work, some form of forced labour will have to be introduced as is known to have been tried in other countries where people are fed but made to work in order to supplement the cost of their feeding. They can be employed on mere menial jobs like the cleaning of public places, the cutting of new roads, *et cetera*, at low rates of pay and in keeping with the following principle. The principle is that the hangers on ought not to be raised higher than him on whom he hangs, or as Jeremy Bentham put it in 1831 :

Maintenance at the expense of others should not be made more desirable than self maintenance.

This means that the independent labourer of the lowest class should be made to feel that he has a higher status than an able bodied pauper receiving relief. This will check any drift from working class to voluntary pauperism.

[MR UMEUKEJE]

For the poor who are aged, since pension is limited to a few retired civil servants and the provident fund arrangement is new and not yet widespread in this country, a law should be introduced to provide for some sort of old age allowances.

On the suggestion for a central control, the Federal Government should establish a four-man commission which will be responsible to a Minister. A Division which may be made up of two or three constituencies should form the unit of local administration, and the centres for the administration of poor relief should be created at convenient places in the various Divisions of this Federation. Such centres should have officials such as the following : a Secretary, a Matron, a teacher, a medical officer and an inspector.

The poor law fund can be raised as follows : a 50 per cent grant given by the Federal Government ; a 25 per cent grant given by the Regional Governments, and a 25 per cent contribution from the various County areas from which these beggars come.

This Motion seeks, as I have said, better treatment and more organised living for this category of citizens who have not been properly considered in the scheme of things. I think it has no element of controversy and it should command general sympathy and approval from all sides of the House.

I beg to move.

The Minister of Labour (Prince A. Adedoyin) rose—

The Deputy Speaker : Order ! The Motion has not been seconded yet, and it is to be seconded by the Member for Enugu Urban (*Mr Nnaemeka-Agu*).

Mr P. Nnaemeka-Agu (Enugu Urban) : I rise to second this Motion which has been so ably proposed by my hon. Friend and Member for Awka South (*Mr Umeukeje*). As he has pointed out, this Motion is strictly non-controversial. The Motion is to the effect that this House prays the Federal Government to carry out an extensive survey in order to determine the various categories of paupers and beggars in this country with a view to introducing legislation making special provision for their welfare and maintenance.

This legislation has been long overdue. It is an accepted fact that the problem of pauperism and vagrancy in this country is now one of national malady. It is just the opposite of the national cake which some of our friends have been thinking of how to distribute. Therefore, it is a malady which calls for a concerted effort in order to be able to find a solution. In this concerted effort it is necessary to realise that there are, in fact, broadly speaking, three categories of paupers.

In the first place, we have those of them who are, strictly speaking, invalids due to some accidents or some natural misfortune. Some of the members of our society are less fortunate than we are, and these ones easily attract our sympathy. They are either sick, maimed or lame or the like. Some of them may be lepers or may be suffering from all sorts of odious diseases. But beyond these, there are those of them who are physically fit but would not wish to work. They would not work, and some of them are of the making of us politicians. I have in mind, people like political party thugs. They are encouraged to sit down and depend on these political leaders.

Mr N. N. Anah (Awka Central) : My hon. Friend the Member for Enugu Urban (*Mr Nnaemeka-Agu*) relied a lot on thugs, but now he is condemning them because he has won the election.

Mr Nnaemeka-Agu : My hon. and learned Friend the Member for Awka Central taught me how to make use of thugs !

Those ones who would not work but who are capable need a different treatment from those who would wish to work but are invalids. For this category of paupers, it is necessary that we classify them. Those of them like political party thugs should be found some work to do and given gainful employment, and others who, due to one reason or the other, are unemployed, should be forced into work houses and given compulsory labour.

The Deputy Speaker : Order ! It is now one o'clock, and sitting is suspended till three o'clock.

Sitting suspended : 1 p.m.

House of Representatives Debates

2597

[*Law for Relief of the Poor*

19 OCTOBER 1965

and Control of Beggary]

2598

Sitting resumed : 3.00 p.m.

Mr Nnaemeka-Agu : As I was saying before the Sitting was suspended this afternoon, the problem of paupers and beggars in this country is one which should be regarded as a national malady and which would need the co-operation of all. However, the more peggng problem is not the problem of those who are invalids, because they have the sympathy of everybody in the society. The greater problem comes from those of them who are valid and capable but who are not prepared to work, and the solution of this problem will need the co-operation of everybody, especially the big men who engage them on tips, doles and so on.

In any event it is necessary to introduce legislation making malingering an offence in our society. It is also necessary to introduce legislation which will make it compulsory for every able bodied man or woman in our society, who is able to work and find a job, to work and not to depend upon others.

The third group of paupers are those who are able to work and are willing to work but cannot work because they cannot find a job. Now, it is for this third class that the Government still has a greater responsibility. I do appreciate the fact that our Labour Exchanges are already doing some marvellous work in trying to find jobs for the teeming millions of our school leavers. However, we need a more positive economic policy and co-ordination in our economic investments so as to make it possible for as many members of our society as possible, particularly the school leavers, to find jobs.

It is not a sound policy if, for examples, our Government tends to encourage so much investment in luxuries that there will be very little left for investment in the essentials of life. However, if we change our national economic policy to such an extent that we invest in those essentials of society (those essentials which will be able to give employment to a large number of our school leavers) it will be easy to come across those people who want to work but do not find jobs, as unemployment will be reduced to the minimum in our society. In addition, this will also make it easy to know those who do not want to work.

The point, therefore, in my own view, is that all our paupers should be classified into

these three groups. Those who are invalids and are not capable of working should be put into where they can find themselves in the best possible use to this country. For example, the mentally sick should be put into mental institutions, and the physically infirm could be put into any job or engagement that would enable them to find some little contribution to the economic welfare of the society.

I beg to second.

The Minister of Labour (Prince Adeleke Adedoyin) : This appears to be the time to raise a point of order on this Motion, and I rise to do so. I wish to say that this Motion is out of order, and it should be thrown out.

This Motion violates Standing Order No. 26, subsection 4, which reads as follows :—

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

The word "Session" means from the opening of Parliament to the day the Parliament is prorogued. You, Mr Speaker, know that, this year, this honourable House passed a Resolution in this vein as follows :—

That this House appreciates the efforts of the Federal Government on the rehabilitation of beggars, and notes with satisfaction that a special committee is already examining the matter in respect of Lagos.

I refer to page 2012 of Volume 18, No. 27, of the Official Report. Since the beggars and the poor are synonymous terminologies in this context, and the present Motion is not for a rescission of the main Resolution, it is, therefore, out of order.

So, Mr Speaker, I am subject to your ruling—

Mr Speaker : I would like to see this Official Report, if the Minister of Labour has a copy, in order to make a ruling on this.

Mr T. A. Mbegbu (Owerri North-East) : On a point of order, before a ruling is made, I am craving the indulgence of this House that we should consider the interpretation of the Standing Order, because I feel very strongly that the Minister of Labour has not taken all he read into consideration.

Prince Adedoyin : It is the ruling of Mr Speaker that I am waiting for, and not any debate on what I said.

Mr Mbegbu : It is a question of the construction of the Standing Orders.

Mr Speaker : Actually, according to Standing Orders, and according to the explanation made by the Minister, I am inclined to think that this Motion is out of order and, therefore, should be deleted from the Business of the House.

PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS IN NIGERIA

Mr D. Senu-Oke (Badagry) : I rise to move the Motion standing in my name on the Order Paper which reads as follows :—

That this House is of the opinion that necessary amendments to the Constitution should be made to enable elections to the Federal and Regional Legislatures to be held at the same time in order to minimise the enormous expenditure incurred under the existing system.

In bringing this Motion to this honourable House, I am aware of the provisions of certain sections of our Constitution dealing with parliamentary elections to the Federal and Regional Legislatures. The provisions were laid down to guide the citizens of this country who wish to contest elections to the Federal and Regional Legislatures.

Since the 1st of October, 1960 when this country became independent, many things have happened and are happening as a result of the present system of holding parliamentary elections at different times to the five Legislatures in the country. Many Nigerians who took part in the struggle for independence which this country got through the help of God and the great leaders of this country without bloodshed, are beginning to think of a solution to the present problem of parliamentary elections in this country.

At this stage, I want to make a serious appeal to all the Members of this House to give this Motion very serious consideration, and look at the benefits they stand to gain if this Motion is accepted. I think that the time has come when a machinery should be set up which would make it possible for elections to the Federal and Regional Legislatures to be held

at the same time throughout the Federal Republic. This Motion is non-controversial, and I would appeal to Members not to kill the good intentions of the Motion by introducing politics into it.

The question we must ask ourselves at the moment is what is wrong with the present system of conducting parliamentary elections ? The first point is that the present system of conducting parliamentary elections in this country is too expensive, it costs this young and rapidly developing nation a lot of money. At the moment, we have five Legislative Houses in this country, namely, the House of Representatives, the Northern House of Assembly, the Eastern House of Assembly, the Western House of Assembly and the Mid-Western House of Assembly. Elections to each of these Houses cost the nation nothing less than £1 million.

The second point is that the present system of conducting parliamentary elections in this country sows the seed of dis-unity, bad blood, hatred and bitterness. This is not what we expected when we agreed to the introduction of a parliamentary system of Government into this country.

When we come to this House every morning, the first thing we do is to offer a general prayer. The last paragraph of the prayer we offer always reminds us that we must live together as one nation and do those things that will cement the unity of this great country. If during the course of our putting the Constitution into practice we discover that certain provisions of the Constitution are not in the best interest of Nigeria and that they attempt to divide us by setting one tribe against another, I think that as leaders of this nation we should amend the Constitution by putting into it provisions, those things which will promote the unity of this country.

The present system of elections to the Federal and Regional Legislatures are very unpopular, primitive in nature, unprogressive and it is below the standard expected of this country. It removes the hopes and the aspirations of the future generations of Nigerians. The present system of conducting parliamentary elections in this country does not give the serious and responsible citizens of this country any hope that parliamentary democracy will thrive in this country. I am now praying the House

House of Representatives Debates

2601 [Parliamentary Elections

19 OCTOBER 1965

in Nigeria]

2602

to view seriously, any attempt by any individual to rob us of the privilege of parliamentary democracy in this country and make the rule of law a "rubber stamp".

Previously, we had confidence in the Judiciary of this nation. But to-day some leaders, in the course of rigging elections, have openly said that their opponents should take them to the courts and that their opponents should meet them there.

The law courts are our last hope and they are the places where we expect justice to be done. But I will leave that now. I will not go into details here.

Mr A. F. Odulana (Ijebu North-East) : On a point of order, in order that hon. Members may have confidence in what the Mover of the Motion is saying, I would appeal to him to look at the Speaker of the House when talking, so that we may not say that the hand of the hon. Gentleman speaking, is that of Esau whereas his voice is that of Jacob.

Mr Senu-Oke : For the purpose of a free and fair election, and in order that the electorate may be afforded the opportunity to vote once in five years, I am suggesting that elections should be arranged in such a way and manner, that the whole nation will go to the polls to elect Members of Parliament and those of Regional Legislative Houses in one day. Arrangements should be made for a qualified elector to go into a polling booth to vote for the candidates of his choice at the same time, thus killing two birds with one stone.

I do not intend to bore the House with the details of how this could be done, but I am prepared to submit a concrete memorandum to all the Ministers responsible for elections.

Mr J. M. Damla (Pankshin West) : On a point of order, I am surprised to hear what the hon. Gentleman is saying. Will the hon. Gentleman explain to the House how we can hold the Federal and Regional elections the same day and at the same time? He should again tell us how we can separate the polling booths and how we can sort out the people in order that they may go and cast their votes?

Mr Senu-Oke : I would like to appeal to my hon. Friend to have patience and listen to me a little bit more. I have already mentioned that it will take the whole of the time of the

House, if I begin to give the details of everything. But I am prepared to submit a concrete memorandum to all the Ministers responsible for elections in this country. They will then be in a position to examine my suggestions and work with them.

Mr A. D. Raji (Ede) : On a point of order, I would like the Member for Badagry (*Mr Senu-Oke*) to know that two things cannot occupy a space at the same time. We cannot hold the Regional and Federal elections on the same day and at the same time.

Mr Senu-Oke : I have earlier said that I do not intend to bore the House with the details of how these things will be done. As a young nation, we are still learning and we can even copy what other nations are doing. Let us take for instance, the French system of election. The French system of election could be borrowed and practised here. In the French system, when a candidate for an election is returned unopposed, votes will still be cast for him in order to determine the percentage of votes with which the candidate was elected.

I do not also want to take the time of the House by giving the details of this system but, as I have always said, I am prepared to submit my suggestions in the form of a concrete memorandum, if the Constitution is amended in accordance with my request. If this is done, this country will stand to gain by saving millions of pounds. It is therefore, my prayer that this Motion be accepted by the House.

The Unity of this country is assured if my prayer is granted. Parliamentary Democracy should be upheld by this country with pride. There is no need preaching to other nations the essence of unity, when we are not united. There is no need for us to try to unite other nations, when charity has failed to begin at home.

I am appealing to Members of this House to consider the terms of this Motion very well. This Motion belongs to the House and that is exactly the reason why I appealed to hon. Members earlier on, that this Motion should be insulated from politics. I am not introducing any politics into it.

We all have struggled to achieve independence for this country. The present Government was set up by our leaders who think more about the faith and unity of this country,

[MR SENU-OKE]

unlike us politicians. The present Government, as we all know, was set up by Sir Abubakar Tafawa Balewa in a broadly based manner. In the light of this, I personally believe as an individual that the peace of this country is really going to be achieved. I am definitely sure that the Prime Minister and all those who are very serious and very responsible in promoting the peace and progress of this country, will take this Motion into consideration.

This Motion needs the sympathy of the House, and I hope the House will take it seriously. As I have said, this Motion should not be mixed with politics. It is a Motion of the House.

Therefore, Mr Speaker, I beg to move.

Mr B. N. Ukegbu (Owerri South-East) : I rise to second the Motion so ably proposed by my hon. Friend the Member for Badagry (*Mr Senu-Oke*).

In the light of recent events which have shaken national confidence in the value of elections, it is difficult to think of a Motion which is more timely than this one.

The Motion calls for steps to be taken for the amendment of that part of the Constitution which deals with elections, in order that, among other things, the cost may be reduced. I shall even go further and say that it is essential not only that the price of elections be reduced, but that the value of these elections should also be increased and guaranteed.

In view of what has happened in recent elections, it is obvious that this could only be achieved by means of entrenched Clauses in the Constitution, and not by means of electoral regulations which could be manipulated by parties in power to stultify the right of the electorate to make a free choice of their government.

I emphasize again in this Motion that we are only seeking to advocate the powers that be to seek an amendment to the Constitution to improve our electoral machinery, both as to value and to price. I therefore, intend to analyse the present—

Minister of State (Mr T. E. Orodì) : On a point of order, on our part, we take objection to the use of the word "price". We on this side of the House are not priceable commodities.

Mr Ukegbu : When I say *price*, I mean money that is spent on elections. We spend about a million pounds to conduct the elections. The amount of money thus spent is what I call *price*. But the value is what we actually obtain from these elections.

I hope that will now be understood.

Chief V. O. Onabanjo (Ijebu South-West) : On a point of order, the Minister of State for Lagos Affairs (*Mr Orodì*) was one of the Members who crossed over even before Parliament assembled in 1959. He should tell us at what price that was done.

Minister of State (Mr E. T. Orodì) : I want to assure the Member for Ijebu South-West (*Chief Onabanjo*) that at the time his ideas were worthwhile copying I agreed with him and when I disagreed with him I went back to the polls and came here with increased majority. I challenge him to do the same.

Mr Ukegbu : I hope nobody will be nettled. I do not intend to be controversial but it is imperative that when events have taken place we must learn from our experience and when we learn and try to analyse, we should do so without bitterness towards anyone.

I say that in the light of recent events and recent elections, it is for us to assess whether the present constitutional provisions are capable of achieving their intended objectives.

As my hon. Friend has said, we are the founding fathers of this Constitution who went to London and later on drafted it in Lagos. Our main objective then was to erect a super-structure of parliamentary democracy which was based on free and fair election. It is for us now to assess whether the Constitutional provisions which they laid down for us are capable of achieving these objectives.

Sections 41 and 43 of our Constitution establish a Parliament of 312 Members, not counting the Senators. Then for the purposes of electing Members to this Parliament Section 50 provides for an electoral commission.

The electoral commission according to subsection 9 of Section 50 when exercising its powers over elections shall not be subject to the direction or control of any other person or authority. This fact has been correctly but very cynically pointed out by Chief S. L. Akintola

House of Representatives Debates

2605 [Parliamentary Elections

19 OCTOBER 1965

in Nigeria]

2606

in connection with the controversy over the conduct of the last West Regional elections. It is one thing for provisions—constitutional or legal provisions—to be made but it is another thing for these to be stultified or thwarted for other purposes.

Also according to section 52, subsection 2 of this Constitution even though the registration of voters and the conduct of elections including, of course, the nomination of candidates shall be under the direction and supervision of the Electoral Commission, the hands of the Electoral Commission could be, and, in fact, have been disastrously tied by electoral regulations sponsored by parties in power to facilitate rigging on massive scales.

Finally, section 53 of the Constitution lays down how the validity of individual election can be tested. Here again, an existing Legislature, according to the Constitution, has the power to provide by regulation the conditions, the manner and circumstances in which election petitions can be made to the courts as well as the powers, the practice and even the procedure of the High Courts with regard to election petitions.

It is this very fact which is very important because there is no limit to what political parties can do or what politicians can do and who doubts that politicians in power all over the world would like to continue in power and might be ruthless enough and want to do anything to continue in power. When they consider being in power a matter of life and death, they can do anything. But it is for the electoral provisions—

Mr E. O. A. Odeyemi (Egba East) : The Mover and the Seconder of this Motion are just wasting the time of this House for the fact that they have not given us the opportunity of having the Federal and the Regional elections at the same time. We know that the same people will vote for the two elections.

Mr V. A. Nwalieji (Nsukka West) : With the greatest respect to everybody in this House, I think the time has come when we should demand from some of the Members what they want time for on the Floor of this House.

Mr Ukegbu : I want to state that Members, no matter to what political parties they belong, should realise that there exist an *esprit de corps*

among Members of the Parliament. When we come here to discuss the affairs of the nation they should forget from what party they come, from what part of the country they come and let us look at the matter objectively.

After making the foregoing analysis of the present provisions of the Constitution with humility, I have no hesitation whatever in stating that these provisions which were apparently copied from the practice of parliamentary democracy in the United Kingdom have proved themselves woefully inadequate to ensure free and fair elections in this Republic.

It is true that in the climate of public morality existing in the United Kingdom these provisions have guaranteed free and fair elections in England. But I will try to show that recent events have shown that it is obvious that in the very hot climate of Nigeria where public morality appears to be measured in terms of buildings, the number and weight of motor cars and where power is the beginning and the end, of everything, in a Republic where almost everybody from the smallest even unto the greatest is willing and ready to justify or condone or at least acquiesce in any action however heinous and criminal such action may be so long of course as it succeeds and clothes itself with wealth or power,—surely, in such a Republic, in such a climate of public opinion the present constitutional provisions regarding elections have proved woefully inadequate, ineffective, useless and have been hopelessly discredited. That is why it is imperative that these provisions of the Constitution regarding elections must be amended.

The very concept of electoral commissions which are independent and subject to the direction or control of no other person or authority, has been recently vitiated and nullified by the enactment of electoral regulations sponsored by ruling parties and calculated to facilitate and legalise cheating, fraud and mass rigging.

In this case, the hands of the electoral commissions have been tied however good their intentions. I say that even though, as one of the Premiers has pointed out, the Constitution provides that the Commission shall be under the control of direction of no other person or authority, what could anybody do about the chairman and members of an

[MR UKEGBU]

electoral commission who boast their independence by day while at night, for one reason or the other, allow themselves to be used as ready tools by ruling parties who openly declare their remaining in office as a matter of life and death?

Has not this notorious fact been amply demonstrated by the conduct of the last Western Regional elections?

M. Aliyu Umaru (Wukari) : On a point of order, the Member for Owerri South-East (*Mr Ukegbu*) has started again to accuse members of the Electoral Commission. This body has been an object of attack from time to time in this House. Yet I know this very well that it was this very hon. Gentleman and his co-travellers, who induced Canon Adelaja and Mr Akenzua to resign from the Electoral Commission on the eve of the last Federal Elections. They also induced Mr Aniagolu from the East, who has now been promoted to the post of a High Court Judge, to resign from the Electoral Commission.

It is they who did all these things. And now they have come here to accuse these very people. If we politicians do not corrupt these people, believe me, we shall have the best of satisfaction from them. It is people like my hon. Friend who corrupt them and now he comes here to accuse them unnecessarily.

The Member for Owerri South-East (*Mr Ukegbu*) always takes Mr Esua to task whereas Mr Esua, was in the forefront of the nationalist struggle in this country. The only thing is that he never told us that he was a politician.

Mr Speaker : This is making a speech in the guise of a point of order.

Mr Ukegbu : If it would give comfort to my hon. Friend, the Member for Wukari (*M. Aliyu Umaru*), I should like to state categorically that what I am saying is not with particular reference to any special electoral commission. I am speaking generally on the concept of electoral commission. That is what I am saying and I crave the indulgence of my hon. Friend, and all other Members to make deductive reference to electoral commissions.

When events take place in a country, events that we may or may not be able to reverse, that nation will perish that is not able to learn from such events that are taking place. Events

will occur as long as the country remains as one and as long as the people in the country act and counteract. Events will occur but it is left to us to make deductions from these events.

Members will serve themselves and the country well, if they allow us to make deductions. I am not particularly attacking any electoral commission. It is for all of us to make our deductions from the things that I am saying. And what I am saying is that when ruling parties have declared that their staying in office is a matter of life and death, it stands to reason that such parties are willing to do anything.

But it is the constitution which is the basis of political power and the basis of constituted authority. It must be realised that governments are not small things. Governments control the army and the police, and governments are able to indict citizens through their Attorneys-General and Directors of Public Prosecutions.

We are no longer in the olden days when people's clans and tribes could stand up and rescue them from the arms of the law. But this time we have learned to live under a government. We have learned from the colonial masters to submit ourselves to the wish of our people and to be judged.

The government has such tremendous powers to arrest an individual and put him in a cell and to further arraign him before a court and finally sentence him to severe terms of imprisonment. It is essential that such a government should derive its powers from the will of the people, freely expressed without being hampered and I am saying this with particular reference to the whole country and not to any particular region. It is for all of us to draw our inferences.

I am saying that it has become a notorious fact, amply demonstrated during election periods that our leaders can no longer place absolute reliance on the present constitutional provisions with regard to elections.

I am further saying that even conceding, for the purpose of argument, that an electoral commission, able and determined to be independent could be established, have recent events in the Western Region not proved that however good the intentions of the commission may have been, it is the Chief electoral officers,

House of Representatives Debates

2609

[Parliamentary Elections

19 OCTOBER 1965

in Nigeria]

2610

who are servants of the government of the day assisted by electoral and returning officers, who are again assisted by presiding and polling officers, all of whom were directly and indirectly appointed by the party in power and its candidates, that it is these people who, in the final analysis, ensure that elections may or may not be free and fair?

In this Motion, we are advocating constitutional amendments because recent events have proved that in spite of the constitution Members of Parliament could be made to represent not the electorate in the constituencies but individual electoral officers by the recently discovered or invented method of these officers either allowing themselves to be kidnapped or simply taking French leave out of their constituencies during the period of nomination and later returning to declare their chosen candidates as having been returned unopposed.

Minister of State (Mr S. Lana) : On a point of order, I want to remind the Member for Owerri South-East (*Mr Ukegbu*) that during the last Federal elections the Electoral Commission in the East was influenced with the result that the whole elections were postponed in the Eastern Region not by the Federal Government but by somebody else in that Region.

Mr Ukegbu : Mr Speaker, Sir, when I chose to contribute to the debate on this Motion, I knew that it would serve no useful purpose to attack particular places and so on. I know that there are leaders in this country who, like Atlas, are bearing the responsibility of our country on their shoulders and who speak for us in the councils of the world. Therefore, the fact that an error has been committed in the Eastern Region does not justify the same error being committed on a massive scale in any other region.

I am holding no brief for anyone. We are only asking that the constitutional provisions, as at present, should be amended because it has been shown that as a result of what I may describe as heroic and almost super-human efforts some candidates have succeeded in being officially accepted as nominated, that in spite of the present constitutional provisions, the basic democratic principle of one man one vote could be overridden and nullified by electoral, returning and presiding officers by the simple process of making stamped ballot

papers available on a massive scale to their favoured candidates to the extent that while the electorate have only one vote each, on the principle of one man one vote, the presiding officer may have about 2,500 ballot papers to himself which he can comfortably dump into the ballot box of his chosen candidate before polling even starts.

We have further seen that to make sure that the electorate do not even have sufficient time to cast their single votes, some presiding officers could, with impunity, even delay the opening of polling stations for several hours so that when other people come to cast their votes time may have reached for them to go away. By these and several other methods the electoral officers can make sure that their own candidates, in the mean time, get their ballot boxes filled up.

As we have seen, Sir, the only remedy that could lie in law would be to go on to tedious election petitions, which may take years, in our present circumstances, to be settled. Even the present Constitutional provisions, if they have to be amended, should be done now; now is the opportune time.

It has even been shown that where in spite of all the difficulties and obstacles—it does not matter where they are, whether in the Eastern Region, in the West or anywhere—candidates succeed in being elected by winning a majority of the votes in a constituency and have been declared elected to the hearing of the ordinary people, they could, by manipulating broadcast in the Electoral Commission, declare other people to be elected; this is switching of results.

So when somebody complains, what could you do. The logical thing is to say, "Go to the courts". As you know, Sir, when one goes to the court, the procedure laid down by the Electoral Regulations makes it so complicated that one can go on fighting for two years. An hon. Member here came in with five hundred votes from Lagos North and he is still a Member.

In October he has completed one year, the case has not been settled and nobody knows whether it will take two or three years to settle the election petition. He can finish his terms and the election petition is still pending, in view of the congestion in our courts.

[MR UKEGBU]

The worst part of it is that we are individuals and we are almost insignificant individuals, and the majority of us have little or no influence to steer the course of affairs in the Federation of Nigeria. We can only appeal to our leaders. Whether they come from the North, from the West, from the East or from the Mid-West, they are our leaders and by the course of events, history has placed the leadership of this country in their hands at such an epoch making period. Let us not forget that all of us will die like the late Minister of Defence who was one of the architects of independence for this country, who suffered and stayed in this House of Representatives for so many years. The architects of our independence bore the weight of the country on their shoulders.

The late Minister of Defence is gone now. At the last meeting, he was mourned by our Prime Minister, our present Minister of Defence and the Minister of Finance. He has gone into history and he can only be remembered.

After all, we are independent and our history is going to be written. By then we shall all have gone and there will be no question of rigging of history because the historians will not be seeing the individuals they are writing about. They will only come to Parliament and see the sources. They are not going to care whether Ukegbu is there or not, his bones will be smouldering in the grave, and then they will write about him.

Winston Churchill is gone and his people to-day are writing about him. So it is to these people that we are appealing. I am an hon. Member on the principle of one man, one vote. All hon. Members have little influence; it is only to our leaders that we can appeal, to see the ills of the country, to diagnose them and to apply radical remedies where these are called for.

I am saying, Sir, that the worst part of it which our present Constitution provisions stipulate and which the Electoral Regulations at their present state also make imperative, is that if it can be seen by ordinary common sense that massive rigging has taken place or has been practised on a wide scale—not even in a shameful and disgraceful scale but even if it can be seen by everybody both in overseas and in Nigeria—our hands are tied as things are at present. All we can do is to go to the court.

In the meantime, a fraudulent Government could be unfairly but legally formed, and the spoils of office could be unfairly but legally shared. Even the true owners of the national cake could be imprisoned and if they are not imprisoned, they would be left with no alternative but to go to the courts and carry tedious legal procedures. These can take years.

Recently we were told that some people had been boasting and saying, "All right, you go to the courts. By the time your case is heard, we could have destroyed all the evidence, we could have got all the envelopes, and transferred all the ballot papers as we like. We control the electoral officers, we control the stores where these ballot papers are going to be kept." Therefore, what can anybody do about it?

Is it impossible that a remedy could be found? Is it impossible that those who are captains of the ship of state could steer the ship to stay out of trouble waters to port? The onus lies on our leaders and they must find a remedy to cure the ills of this great Republic, great that is, if the leaders want to make it so.

The foregoing is a diagnosis of the electoral disease—the "byssinosis" which is now a plague spreading from the Western Region and attacking the Republic. In spite of the Constitutional inoculation, this plague is spreading; that is a danger. Once a plague has started, who knows where it can go.

I would like to reply the hon. Member who has just interjected that I do not mind, I leave that to him, I leave it to Nigeria and I leave it to the world to judge. But the trouble is, once a plague has started, the wind blows it and who knows where it will end.

May I humbly, with your permission, Mr Speaker, and the indulgence of the House, prescribe the following Constitutional remedies:—

The first one is that we should appeal to our leaders in the present Constitutional Amendment to make a provision—this provision that I am going to advocate does not mean that who will win will not win—it is good that any man who would win and would take the power to arrest others, imprison them, refuse them bail, jail them or even to recommend execution, in the case of treason. It is important that in the

House of Representatives Debates

2613 [Parliamentary Elections

19 OCTOBER 1965

in Nigeria]

2614

field of human nature where we are all equal, where it was known that even before the coming of the British, the average Nigerian could put up his face and show, if he was arrested that he could appeal to the people in his village. "What have I done? I am innocent." They would all rally round him and they would save him from danger. That is no more Sir.

Mr Speaker : Would the hon. Member please wind up.

Mr Ukegbu : I am coming down Sir. My first proposal is that when we are amending the Constitution, our leaders should see to it that a provision is made that once the Government of the day has dissolved the House, whether House of Assembly or House of Representatives, all Ministers except the Prime Minister or the Premiers should vacate their offices.

The second proposal is that the Electoral Commission assisted by top military officers and Permanent Secretaries should make all Electoral arrangements.

The third one is that only military officers who are disciplined and therefore, have no time for bribery and corruption, should serve as Electoral and Returning Officers. The rank and file of the military forces should serve as Presiding and Polling Officers because they are willing and able to do it and they are not going to be influenced like the ordinary people.

This is not new in the constitutional practice of the world. Only these officers should serve as Presiding and Polling Officers, but only in that election results should be transmitted to the country by the independent wireless system of the military forces and the Police.

The people should ensure that the National Broadcasting Corporation goes to the counting halls and see by themselves what the results are and not depend on the results which have been given to them after being treated and doctored by Government Officers.

The last thing I want to say is that a special election tribunal should be set up and election petitions should not go to the ordinary courts where, due to congestion, they can be there for two or more years. Also outstanding people who are proposed as members of this special tribunal should be subject, as in the case of jury, to objections by leading political parties.

This will prevent anybody who is a political party agent from finding himself into an election tribunal. This is what I am saying.

Where it can be proved that in spite of all these arrangements massive rigging and massive fraud have taken place, instead of asking people to go individually to file their election petitions, a judicial tribunal should take place to examine the conduct of the election and to recommend to the powers that be whether the wish of the electorates has been stultified or whether a free and fair election has taken place.

Finally, I want to say that it has been proved that in human affairs things often get worse before they begin to get better. It can be seen that the very system of parliamentary elections that is now obtaining is no use. Since, free and fair election is the foundation on which parliamentary democracy rests, and since it has been proved and proved very abundantly recently that in spite of our present constitutional provisions, this precious foundation of free and fair election has been severely corroded, it is the duty of all patriotic Nigerians—all our leaders—to agree that the time has come to call in the foundation engineers, who are our founding fathers. Most of these founding fathers are still alive and these foundation engineers should now re-examine this structure critically and rebuild it firmly, for once the foundation has been washed out the super-structure cannot but collapse.

I beg to second.

The Minister of Internal Affairs (Alhaji Ali Monguno) : I rise to propose the following Amendment—

Line 1, leave out from "That" to end and add—

"this House is of the opinion that all present proposals involving amendment to the Constitution should first be made to the Committee appointed by the Prime Minister and the Regional Premiers for the purpose of reviewing the Constitution."

The need for this Amendment is obvious. The suggestion that all parliamentary general elections be held at the same time is a matter that concerns not only this Government and the Federal Parliament but also, to no less

[ALHAJI ALI MONGUNO] extent, the Governments and the Legislatures of all the Regions. The Federal Government has no power over regional elections and, therefore, a resolution of this House will not be binding on Regional Governments.

Another factor is that effect cannot be given to the Motion unless the Federal Parliament and all the Regional Houses are first dissolved at the same time. This will require the dissolution of Parliament and some of the Regional Houses before their five years' span or that their lives be extended until such time as the last of the Regional Houses of Assembly to be elected has run its normal course.

These are important political issues and I am strongly of the view that they can only be settled in a conference between political parties and governments.

I therefore beg to move the Amendment.

Minister of State (Alhaji Abdul Razaq) : I beg to second.

Mr A. T. Mbegbu (Owerri North-East) : I rise most humbly to oppose the Amendment. The Amendment proposed by the Minister of Internal Affairs no doubt raises a technical constitutional problem, and we are all aware of that.

I want to say that I have earlier raised the point that the time has come when we should examine what the Members of Parliament need time for other than debate. We want to take this exercise at least for the worth of it. There is no doubt that the spirit behind this Motion is a desire for a change, that is, out of the feeling that we have come to the end of the line.

I want to say with the greatest emphasis that the end of the rule of law is the beginning of the rule of force. History has borne this out throughout the primitive world from the time of Plato. As students of political history will realise, Plato suggested that rulers should be philosophers, but when he realised that it is impossible to make all rulers philosophers he then advocated that there should be law so that if any person goes wrong then the law can take charge of him.

Now, we have neither philosophers nor law. What then should we have? We should have a rule of force. I am saying that when we

find that the supreme law of the land can be broken with impunity, we need a new measure. The old one is out of date and it is at this time, without any political clinging, that every true loving citizen of this country should start to think of what we should do in the interest of our good name and in the interest of posterity.

On October 2nd, 1960, I was in a very cold room in London. I tuned my radio and heard a voice. It was the voice of the Nigerian Prime Minister himself as he was making his Independence Speech. There was a note in the speech and that note was this. The Prime Minister said that if we failed, that should not be for want of ambition. I considered it for a second. The point that struck me first was whether that was said out of fear or whether it was what was going to happen in future. But later on, I came to the conclusion that that was a statement of determination. I might be wrong. Where are we now? Where are we heading to?

Tomorrow, in less than twenty-four hours from now, the Prime Minister of this so-called great country—(Interruptions)

Mr A. F. Odulana (Ijebu North-East) : So-called ?

Mr Mbegbu : Yes, so-called great country. Most of us are ashamed to be Nigerians.

The Minister of Natural Resources and Research (Prince A. Lamuye) : Why ?

Mr Mbegbu : Because of what the Member for Iwo East (Prince Lamuye) and his colleagues have done in the Western Region.

Minister of State (Chief B. O. Olusola) : With due respect to the Member for Owerri North-East (Mr Mbegbu), we know that he has just passed out from Igbosere Law School, but he should watch his words.

Mr Mbegbu : It may appear to a layman that I have just passed out from School but I should not listen to him. He should take the School list and find out when I passed out.

What I am saying is that in less than twenty-four hours from now the Prime Minister will be going to Accra to sit amongst other leaders of the emerging African States. Now, how can he look at the faces of his colleagues and feel comfortable when the news of the world is

House of Representatives Debates

2617

[Parliamentary Elections]

19 OCTOBER 1965

in Nigeria

2618

about what has happened in the Western Region of Nigeria? How can he—(Interruptions).

Mr Odulana : I just want to drive this point home to the Member for Owerri North-East (*Mr Mbegbu*) that the Prime Minister will feel very happy at the Accra Conference. The last election in Ghana was no election. It was selection. We have democratic election in Nigeria. For that reason, we do not select our candidates here but we actually elect them.

Mr Mbegbu : How I wish we had a democratic election in Western Nigeria! I should not have bothered whether U.P.G.A., N.N.D.P N.C.N.C., N.N.A. or N.P.C. won the election. I am not interested about which party wins any election into this Parliament. At no point—(Interruptions).

Mr J. M. Damla (Pankshin West) : I am very surprised and I want the hon. Member speaking to explain to the House what is the reason why the Ibos are so embittered about the outcome of the Western Region election.

Mr Speaker : Order, order! Members should not make tribal references on the Floor of the House.

The Member for Owerri South-East (Mr Ukegbu) rose—

Mr Speaker : Order, order! We do not want points of disorder.

Mr Mbegbu : I feel very strongly that we are discussing the theories of democratic election. I am not here to speak for the Ibo man.

The Minister of Internal Affairs (Alhaji Ali Monguno) : On a point of order, with all due respect to the hon. Member speaking, if he is speaking on the original Motion, all the Motion seeks to do is to ask the Federal Government to arrange for all elections in this country to be held at the same time. It is neither concerned with the procedure of elections, nor is it seeking to do anything about the recent elections held in the Western Region.

Mr Mbegbu : I very much appreciate the good intentions of the honourable Minister of Internal Affairs. But I would like to tell the Minister that facts are few. If actually the whole purpose of the Motion is that we want all Regional elections and all elections within the

Federation, including the local council elections to take place at the same time, then one sentence could have dismissed the whole argument. I said earlier that the technical points raised by the Minister of Internal Affairs cannot debar us from discussing what our present system had led us into. We cannot, as human beings, demand a change unless there is need for it. I am saying that the need for the review is based on the outcome of the present election.

I want to draw the attention of the Speaker to the behaviour of the clown of this House, the Member for Ijebu North-East (*Mr Odulana*) who has been interrupting me in an undertone.

A point has been raised on the Floor of the House that priority should be given to election petitions. Obviously, every lawyer knows, including those who are still in the Igboere Law School, that according to our procedure, election petitions are given the highest priority. Now, what excuse have we for putting off an election petition for one year? Does it not buttress the argument that the Judiciary has now been turned into political party secretariat?

Alhaji Inusa, Wakilin Masaka (Gaya North) : The hon. Member speaking is really irrelevant because this Motion has nothing to do with election petitions.

Mr Mbegbu : It may well be that this is a psychological exercise. Give the people a chance to air their grievances and then cool down. I have an important note of warning to sound. If we are not going to have any Constitution, by all means let us have no Constitution, no procedure. But if we are going to have one, we ought to respect it, and I am suggesting very strongly that the time is opportune for the leaders of this country to devise a means of curbing the excesses of politicians, and I am not excluded.

I quite honestly feel that if we keep every mind occupied during election time, and if we have all the elections together, then there will be few evil minds left for machinations. There will be no curfews and politicians will have the opportunity of going out to tell the public why they want to be voted for and why they want power. The whole essence of political exercise during elections is to be able to explain to the electorates what our views are

[MR MBEGBU]

on current affairs. It is just too bad that we have got to a stage where people can win election without contesting it.

As I have said earlier on, I seek the leave of this House to reject the Government Amendment and to support the original Motion.

I beg to oppose the Amendment.

Alhaji Inusa, Wakilin Masaka (Gaya North) : I rise to oppose the original Motion and to support the Amendment. It is clearly stated in the original Motion, according to my understanding, that if any regional election is to be held, it should have to be held at the same time as elections in the other Regions. How is this possible? The explanation of the Minister of Internal Affairs is quite clear to everybody in this House. Really, it would be very difficult to have a Constitution in this country which will enable the Western Region, the Eastern Region and the Mid-Western Region, to hold their elections at the same time.

We have more than one difficulty to overcome in our elections in this country. When elections are held, there are two, three or more candidates standing in one constituency, each hoping to win the election. After the elections, those who fail come up to say that this thing is wrong or that thing is wrong, just because they are not satisfied and they must say something against the person who won the election. If the politicians of this country will not be sensible enough to accept what they have been created with by God, then no force whatsoever will save this Federation from the troubles which politicians are trying to cause.

Two memorable events, which I would not like to mention here, have taken place in the history of this country. I would like to remind Members of this honourable House that this Parliament is a Legislature that should set very good examples. It is therefore disappointing to see that Members of this House are trying to bring in things that will give a bad impression of Nigeria both inside and outside this country and make innocent people who have nothing to do with politics to suffer.

I know that if there is any trouble in this country, it must be a struggle for power. Everybody wants power. Everybody wants to say, "I am the leader". Talking about leadership, I want to remind Members that Nigeria is naturally divided and it would be

wrong for, say, somebody from the North to try to control the people of the Eastern and Western Regions. This is very wrong.

Mr Mbegbu: On a point of order, the geographical division of Nigeria is North and South.

The Minister of Transport (Alhaji Zanna Bukar Dipcharima) : Ethnically, the South is divided between the Neolithic negroes of your area and the Bantu negroes of the West. There is no collision between some parts of the South and the North other than between the South and the South.

Alhaji Inusa, Wakilin Masaka : As I was saying, the "angry people's politicians" in this country are trying to cause trouble in this country. Some of them were Members of the old House and I can quite remember that at that time things were done with their consent, but as soon as anything went wrong, they would say that they had no hands in the whole business, and then they would blame it on a particular government. What sort of a thing is that?

It means, in effect, that they are only fighting for themselves. I see no reason why they should meddle in the affairs of Western Nigeria. The election was held in Western Nigeria and the Government was formed by the Yoruba people in Western Nigeria. I see no reason why any other region should concern itself with the affairs of Western Nigeria.

If there is any election in Eastern Nigeria to-day, there is no doubt that they will announce 50 candidates as unopposed, and all of them will be Ibos. There is no doubt about that.

If one refers to the candidature of Western Nigeria in the recent election, one will find that the Action Group candidates contested in the same constituency with those of the N.C.N.C. I know this is the time when the N.C.N.C. will realise their mistake. They should not be friendly at all with the Action Group. The Action Group is a party which has outlived its usefulness. We shall be very happy if the N.C.N.C. will realise what is going on in the Action Group as a political party.

If the N.C.N.C. will not realise this but continue to ally with the Action Group, there will be no end to the confusion in this country.

House of Representatives Debates

2621

[Parliamentary Elections]

19 OCTOBER 1965

in Nigeria

2622

Where the Action Group has no supporters, they will tell their friends in the Eastern Region that they have supporters.

Mr Speaker : Will the Member for Gaya North (*Ahaji Yunusa*) please depart from attacking the Action Group !

Alhaji Inusa Wakilin Mesaka I am trying to explain why the Amendment to this Motion is necessary. It is stated by the Minister of Internal Affairs in his Amendment that a Committee will be appointed by the Prime Minister and the Regional Premiers for the purpose of reviewing the Constitution. If any Member is opposed to this Amendment, it means that he does not understand the motive behind this Motion.

It will not be possible to hold elections into Regional and Federal Legislature at the same time. Elections into the Federal Legislature can be held alone but those of the Regional Legislature should be held at other times.

I beg to support the Amendment.

Mr J. B. P. Lafihan Ogbomosho South) : I rise to support the Amendment ably moved by the hon. Minister of Internal Affairs and, therefore, oppose the original Motion moved by the Member for Badagry (*Mr Senu-Oke*); the coconut farmer. I want to point out to Members that—

The Minister of Housing and Surveys (Chief A. O. Ogunsanya) : I must protest on behalf of the Oba of Badagry against the Member for Ogbomosho South (*Mr Lafihan*) referring to natives of Badagry as coconut farmers.

Mr Lafihan : I want to point out that here, we are talking in terms of people—the noble people of this great country of ours, Nigeria. When the Mover of the original Motion and his supporters talk of holding Federal elections and Regional elections on the same day, then they are not thinking in terms of people or in terms of what is practicable; they are only theorising.

Certain attempts have been made in the past 24 hours to villify the Electoral Commission and to cast aspersions on a Government that has been elected and brought to power by the will of the people under the able leadership of Chief S. L. Akintola.

If people have not tried in a certain manner to bring into disrepute a Government that is equal in status and in all respects to the Federal Government, I do not see why people should go on talking about the recent election in Western Nigeria.

The original Motion seeks to hold these elections at the same time in order to minimise the enormous expenditure incurred under the existing system. The Motion does not have anything to do with the way the election was conducted by the Electoral Commission.

I also want to refer to what the Mover of the original Motion said. He said that the Motion was not controversial, but from the moment he uttered that sentence, he introduced highly controversial matters. We who come from the Western Region, we who are here representing the Western Region want to make one point clear to this honourable House, and this is the point. We deserve to have peace in Western Nigeria. We deserve to have peace. It does not matter what any foreign Government thinks about the Western Region, the opinion of Eastern Nigeria mercenaries does not matter, we will have peace in Western Nigeria. (*Prolonged interruptions*).

The Obas, the Ministers, the Premier and all of us in Western Nigeria are determined to have peace, and we shall have it.

People can go on bribing *Reuters*, sending twisted news to the B.B.C. and the London *Observer*. We do not mind all that, we are concerned with peace coming to the West. The Minister of Housing and Surveys happens to have gone to the same university—the University of Manchester—that I attended, but he has now changed. He is no longer a Westerner; if he is, surely he would join us to pray for the return of peace in Western Nigeria.

The Minister of Housing and Surveys (Chief Ogunsanya) : Although the Member for Ogbomosho South *Mr Lafihan*) is from the same university with me, he displays the fact that he is a new boy. He is wrong in thinking that I do not want peace in the West. I want peace for the West and in that case I desire that people who want to rob in the West should be got rid of, and there will be peace.

Mr Lafinhan : The Minister of Housing and Surveys who got his degree two years after I had mine has now had a second thought. In this country our Prime Minister is a Godly man. He is a great man and this country will continue to be great.

To-day our Prime Minister is the greatest figure in the whole country. I am mentioning him because I know he is a great apostle of peace and unity; that is why those of us from the West have our greatest respect for him because he prays for peace and works towards it.

I beg to support the Amendment.

Mr Senu-Oke : When I was moving the original Motion I made a very serious appeal that I would not like politics to be introduced into it and that I would be grateful to the Members for respecting my feelings.

I have listened to the Amendment proposed by my very good Friend, the Minister of Internal Affairs, and I am pleased to say that the text of his speech really demonstrates that the Government is quite alive to what is going on to-day.

The Amendment is progressive and in that light I know that the Government is sincere and I am happy about it. But may I draw the Minister's attention once more to what I said when I was moving my Motion on the economic strains that the present electoral system brings to the nation.

I maintain that the present system sows the seeds of disunity, bad blood, hatred and bitterness and it is my hope that the constitutional review committee will bear all this in mind.

There is no doubt that the Prime Minister is well aware of the happenings in this country to-day, and he and other responsible leaders of this nation know where the shoe pinches. All I have to add is that the committee appointed by the Prime Minister to review the Constitution should be fully representative of the various shades of opinion in the country.

I have, as already pointed out, listened to the text of the Amendment and I accept it.

Question, That the words proposed to be left out, be left out, put and agreed to.

Question, That the words proposed to be added, be there added, put and agreed to.

Motion, as amended, put and agreed to.

Resolved : That this House is of the opinion that all present proposals involving amendment to the Constitution should first be made to the Committee appointed by the Prime Minister and the Regional Premiers for the purpose of reviewing the Constitution.

RECRUITMENT INTO THE ARMY

Chief D. Enang (Obubra) : It is most gratifying that I am privileged to move the Motion standing in my name thus:—

That, in the interest of fair and even distribution of army personnel throughout the ethnic groups of the country, this House prays the Government to base recruitment policy on provincial rather than regional quotas.

As far as I am concerned, the Federal Government's policy in adopting the system of "provincial quotas" is in fact overdue. What this Motion seeks to do is to request that recruitment officers should conduct their enlistment into the army at the provincial headquarters, and not that the present system of carrying out interviews at the Regional headquarters should be abolished. No, that is not what is meant.

In the first place, this Motion is non-controversial, secondly, it will be, when carried, be a safeguard especially for the minority elements in the remote parts of the country against the fear that the present system is a deliberate attempt to inject ethnic distinctions in enlistment into the army.

Thirdly, the fare for travelling to and from any Regional Headquarters for enlistment into the Nigerian Army will, no doubt, be minimised. Presently, the enlistment centres into the Nigerian Army are based on the quota system, that is, Enugu for Eastern Nigeria, Ibadan for Western Nigeria, Kaduna for Northern Nigeria, and very soon I hope, Benin City will be for the Mid-Western Region.

The qualifications of a good recruit and subsequently of a full-fledged soldier of the Nigerian Army are—with your permission, Mr Speaker, I quote:

- (1) You must be, at least, 5 ft 6 in.
- (2) You must have good sight and good hearing.
- (3) You must not be lean or bow-legged.
- (4) You must have all your toes and fingers.

House of Representatives Debates

2625

[Recruitment into

19 OCTOBER 1965

the Army]

2626

- (5) You must have good teeth.
- (6) You must not have bad scars, open wounds, craw-craw, guinea-worms or intestinal worms
- (7) You must be between the ages of 17 and 25 years.
- (8) You must not have plastics.
- (9) You must not have been convicted by a civil court or served a prison sentence.
- (10) You must not be an ex-soldier.
- (11) You must be intelligent, smart, plain and trustworthy.

Please note that the Ministry authorities cannot refund any expenses you may incur on your journey to the recruiting centre or if you are rejected, your return fare. If you fail in any one of the above requirements, please do not report here because we shall not be able to enlist you.

For your information, Mr Speaker, what I have just read here is a matter of formality only to deceive the unfortunate class of applicants from the remote areas. The chances of competing for these positions are indeed remote as far as the youths in the minority areas are concerned, especially the chances of recruitment into the Boys' Army Company.

The present enlistment policy into the Nigerian Army, based on regional quotas provides more and more room and uncalled-for patronage for certain privilege classes to get in unnoticed and in fact, at the expense of the best that could have been enlisted if we had based recruitment on provincial level.

Chief V. O. Onabanjo (Ijebu South-West) : On a point of order, I do appreciate the points being made by the hon. Member but he appears to be qualified for the post of a regimental Sergeant-Major, because he speaks in the way Sergeant-Majors give orders.

Chief Enang : For the information of the Member for Ijebu South-West (*Chief Onabanjo*) I was a regimental Sergeant-Major in the Army.

The present enlistment policy for recruitment into the Army is something we had already experienced from the Nigeria Police Force in the mid-colonial days. We can conveniently save the situation now that it is not too late.

It is noted with satisfaction that the present Nigeria Police Force, based on provincial level rather than on the Regional Headquarters level creates, quite frankly more impact of goodwill. It gives more satisfaction in that every applicant has a fair and adequate opportunity of competing for enlistment into the Nigeria Police Force, unlike what it used to be when it was based on the Regional Headquarters' level. This is just the same thing that this Motion stands for.

Let this honourable House, in passing this non-controversial Motion, direct that the recruitment officers of the Army should conduct the enlistment of personnel into the Nigeria Army from one province to another at the Provincial Headquarters, in order to make it possible for our boys who want to make the Army a career to succeed.

The demonstrations of the Army personnel on the 13th of October, 1965, at the Tafawa Balewa Square, which was described as a military tattoo, provide adequate reasons why every corner of this country, no matter how remote or small, should be proud. The Nigerian Army is our own Army. We want to project our own image to the outside world. We want to show that it is an Army of a mighty nation owned by all the ethnic groups of this great Federation of Nigeria.

I beg to move.

Mr I. I. Ejukwa (Ikom) : I wish to second this Motion which has been so ably moved by the Member for Obubra (*Chief Enang*). I think as an ex-Regimental Sergeant-Major he has dilated sufficiently on the subject and I think we stand a very little chance of arguing against his point.

In my opinion, this Motion is necessary and quite timely in order to avoid the present situation in which school-leavers from rural areas are denied the opportunity of joining the Army, irrespective of the sufferings which they encounter through the process of recruitment

Much as some of us have no serious quarrel about the present quotas allotted to individual Regions, what we generally object to is that the quotas are not evenly distributed among the provinces which form the component parts of each of the Regions. The present system of recruitment which is based on the Regional

[MR EJUKWA]

Headquarters' level deprives a lot of school-leavers from the provinces of their chances into the Army. That is the snag in it.

Apart from gaining military prowess, the recruits ought to have the opportunity of learning trades of all sorts. This is so because on several occasions the ratio of school-leavers from the provinces to those of the Regional Headquarters and the suburbs is so insignificant that the available chances are usually taken over by the latter.

Members will agree with me that in most cases during a recruitment drive in the Regional Headquarters, the ratio of those from the rural areas to those from the urban areas is usually about one to fifty.

This no doubt deprives a lot of rural chaps of the opportunity of getting into this very important arm of our Government. Most of the young men who are honest, intelligent and who have the necessary physical requirements, are debarred from serving their country.

No matter from what hamlet or city in this country one may come, our national price is that we are Nigerians, citizens of a country that has been made possible due to the struggles of our leaders. The national cake is supposed to be the property of all. It must be carefully looked into. Those who intend to dedicate their lives to protecting the country in time of war should be allowed to do so without any impediment.

In fact, a devoted Nigerian soldier could be regarded as a great nationalist in his own sphere. We should dismiss the idea that nationalism is the exclusive concern of the politician. It is not. There are better nationalists in the rank and file of our forces as well as in our communities.

Hon. Members will realise that during the past two world wars a lot of Nigerians assisted the British people and fought side by side with them in order to defend and protect the British Empire and the Commonwealth. These soldiers who fought with the British were not people from some particular tribes; they were people from all parts of the country. They came from the villages and towns; they came from major tribes and from small ones. They fought, and very bravely too, and they were able to help the British people to keep the Empire and the Commonwealth. They came from all nooks and corners of this country.

After the wars, those who had some education obtained some higher posts and are now enjoying themselves. We all remember that during those days recruitment was not exclusive to the regional governments. It was just a question of the D.O. sitting in his office and the willing men going to him only to signify their intention of joining the army, and there was no ceremony whatsoever except that the D.O. had to examine the physical fitness of the people and a few other things before they were recruited and sent to the provincial headquarters for the necessary training. There was no corruption; there was no discrimination, unlike what we see now in the Regions.

This system of recruitment into our armed forces should be re-introduced so as to reduce the present rate of discrimination. Should the provincial quota system be accepted, I would further suggest that recruitment should be done at the provincial headquarters as is the case with the Police Force. Most young school-leavers have tried to naturalise themselves either by posing to be members of the major tribal groups or by other means in order to gain admission into the armed forces. Quite often when they leave their villages to the Regional headquarters, there is a lot of discrimination against them and so the only thing they have to do is to collect some money, up to say £40 or £50, from their parents and settle among the indigenes of the place possibly to study Hausa, Ibo, Yoruba or Edo and then pretend to be natives of these places so as to be given the opportunity of serving in the army.

This procedure tends to make us forget the important point that joining the army comes from a natural urge to serve one's country, and this natural urge, I would say, should be maintained by asking those concerned to go round the divisional headquarters to see that people with the right aptitude are recruited into the army. If this is done, we shall have a good and efficient force.

This Motion is designed to bring some relief to the many young school-leavers in our rural communities. Since the Federal Government has no industries in these areas to absorb them, they should be recruited into the army to serve the country. It is in the army that they can have the opportunity to

House of Representatives Debates

2629

[*Recruitment into*

19 OCTOBER 1965

the Army]

2630

study different trades. Those who are educated enough can climb up to a high position and those who are fairly educated can earn a living from the lowest cadre, in the event of their leaving the army, they can continue to earn a living from whatever trades they had learnt while in the army.

I beg to second.

The Minister of Defence (Alhaji Muhammadu Inuwa Wada) : This Motion calls for fair and even distribution of army personnel throughout the ethnic groups of the country. It is a laudable proposition which should be supported by all sides of the House. However, it is not necessary to recruit on provincial basis in order to achieve equitable representation of all ethnic groups in the Nigerian Army. Such representation can be achieved by other means.

Recruitment into the Nigerian Army is normally carried out at three recruiting centres, namely, Zaria, Enugu and Ibadan, except in the case of special trades when recruitment is carried to technical schools and colleges. It is probable that this method of recruitment may not afford fair and equitable representation of all ethnic groups, nevertheless recruitment on Provincial basis is not the best solution to the problem because, firstly, the number recruited at each recruiting session is such that it will not be possible to give adequate representation to all Provinces, large and small. In any case, since ethnic groupings do not necessarily correspond with Provincial boundaries, the proposal contained in the Motion is unlikely to achieve its purpose.

Furthermore, if recruitment is made solely on Provincial basis the field of selecting the best available personnel would be rather restricted, with a consequent lowering in the quality of armed forces personnel. On the other hand, recruitment on a larger geographical population unit ensures not only fair representation of all the territories of the Federation in the armed forces of the country, but it also enables the principles of merit and physical fitness to be more effectively and rigorously applied in personnel selection. Members will agree that it is necessary and desirable to ensure that only the best is selected for the Nigerian armed forces. It is not considered advisable to compromise with this principle.

Members are aware that it has been the Government policy to recruit on Regional quota basis, subject to the overriding consideration of merit and physical fitness. What is required is to broaden this policy by the re-introduction of mobile recruiting teams to visit those Provinces or areas that have been grossly under-represented in the Nigerian Army. This method is cheaper, more flexible and more sensible than the setting up of permanent recruiting organisations in all the Provinces, some of which can at the present rate of recruitment be allocated, at best, only few places over a period of time. I am sure this method will meet the requirements sought by the Mover of the Motion.

I therefore urge the House that the Motion be amended by the deletion of all the words after "That" and the substitution of "in the interest of fair and even distribution of personnel in the Army, this House expresses appreciation of Government policy to recruit on Regional basis, subject to overriding consideration of merit and physical fitness, and notes that consideration is being given to broadening the basis of recruitment by the re-introduction of mobile recruiting teams to tour provinces from time to time."

Sir, I beg to move.

The Minister of Housing and Surveys (Chief A. O. Ogunsanya) : I beg to second.

Mr N. N. Anah (Awka Central) : This is really a very momentous Motion and it ought to be viewed with the seriousness it deserves. The substance of this Motion, in fact, the main motive behind it is a reappraisal of recruitment in the Nigerian Army.

There is no smoke without fire and there is no doubt that very many things have actually gone wrong with the method of recruitment of soldiers serving in the Nigerian Army. The hon. Minister of Mines and Power told us sometime ago that politics should not be injected into the oil industry. The hon. Minister of Defence should be saying the same thing; unfortunately, politics has been injected into the recruitment of soldiers in the Nigerian Army. I have records to show that a number of people, including university graduates, who are in every way qualified and are medically fit have applied for recruitment into the

[**MR ANAH**]

Nigerian Army but have been refused just because they come from one ethnic group or the other. It is a well known fact that recruitment in the Nigerian Army is now based not on qualification or merit, as the hon. Minister of Defence would like us to believe, but on what language one speaks and what tribe one belongs to.

I am not trying to introduce tribalism into debates on the Floor of this House because I am myself not a tribalist. But it is a well-known fact that a particular region in this country, by one sort of machination or the other, has constituted itself into a potential danger to all the other regions put together. We may now say that we belong to this alliance or that alliance, but sooner or later the hammer will fall on our heads.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of External Affairs (M. Ibrahim Muko) : For the convenience of the speaker, the hon. Member speaking should climb on the table.

Mr Speaker : I can see him quite clearly.

Mr Anah : I am quite sure that the hon. Member opposite does not understand me. He should sit down and take down notes as I speak.

What I am saying is that a particular region in this country has constituted itself into a potential danger to all the other regions put together. Take, for instance, the Military Academy which is a very important arm of defence. This Academy is concentrated in one particular region only. I can hear a Minister saying that it must be located somewhere. I know it must be located somewhere and he wants me to name the region, let me assure him that I am not afraid to do so. I have always had the courage to express my feelings. I am right now referring to the Northern Region. I am not a regionalist or a tribalist, but what I am saying is that he who seeks equity should also do equity, and he who talks about sharing the national cake must not eat it alone. It is not only the Military Academy but also the Air Force which is concentrated in the Northern Region. In addition to these, however, the Ordnance Factory for the manufacture of ammunitions is also located in the Northern Region, as if a better place could not be found in the country. Surely, this is domination.

Mr J. M. Damla (Pankshin West) : If the hon. Member speaking does not detract from making this sort of tribalistic statement, we are going to rebel. He should bear in mind that the Northern Region is the principal region of the country. Moreover, military equipments cannot be sited in Enugu or Awka because there are irresponsible elements there.

Mr Anah : As I was saying before I was rudely interrupted, all these arms of defence are concentrated in one particular region. The architects of this action cannot tell us that other regions are not good enough to have one of these arms of defence sited in those regions. For instance, the Military Academy can be concentrated in the Northern Region, the Air Force in the Eastern Region and the ammunitions factory in the Western Region. Such distribution would be just and fair. It would be quite equitable.

Mr A. F. Odulana (Ijebu South-West) : On a point of order, I would like the hon. Gentleman who is speaking to make it clear to us where the Navy Base is situated. Is it in Northern Nigeria ? I am asking about the training centre in Calabar.

Those who live in glass houses should not throw stones. They have started again. The Inspector-General of Police is an Easterner ; the Head of the Army is an Easterner ; the Commander of the Navy is from Calabar. What else do they want ? They can never be satisfied.

Mr Anah : I am sure that if the Member for Ijebu South West (*Mr Odulana*) wants certain facts he can put them in the form of a question. But the point I am making is that all these arms of defence are concentrated in one Region and now that a welcome Motion has been tabled in order to balance the inequity, the Minister of Defence has stood up to amend the Motion and in fact rig it.

Minister of State (Alhaji Hashimu Adaji) : The Member for Awka Central (*Mr Anah*) is trying to incite one section of the Army against the other. When the former Minister of Defence was alive he never at any time allowed any debate on the Military Forces in this House. I feel that if this should continue it is going to create a very bad impression in the minds of members of the Armed Forces. It is triggering off a new controversy in the Army.

House of Representatives Debates

2633

[*Recruitment into*

19 OCTOBER 1965

the Army]

2634

I am sincere about this. That was why the former Minister of Defence never allowed debate on the Armed Forces in this House.

Mr Speaker : It is a pity that in this House so many questions are brought concerning tribalism, regionalism, sectionalism and so on, and I have felt very strongly about them, and I am sure many people do not like them. I would like to remind the House that this is the top Legislature in Nigeria and that this country is capable of leading the whole of Africa in world affairs.

Also, I would like to remind the House that we should copy the examples of some of the advanced and successful countries of the world. Think of America where there are so many different sections, geographical or national—everything different—and they live together and they do not talk to each other like this. Take the Soviet Union where there are so many nationalities, different nationalities with different backgrounds, different religions and everything different; they live together and do not talk like this. In this House it is very improper. We should be ashamed of ourselves the way we treat ourselves.

Mr Anah : Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. It is really unfortunate that when somebody is speaking as a Nigerian some people like to misunderstand him and cause incitement in the Army. If anybody is causing incitement in the Army I think it is the Member for Igala East and Minister of State (*Alhaji Hashimu Adaji*) who spoke before the Speaker.

In any case, the point which I was making is that most of the organs of defence have been sited in one place, and now that a Motion has been brought for an equitable recruitment into the Army, the Minister of Defence is trying to kill it. After all, the Mover of the Motion suggested that recruitment could be done on provincial basis, and in fact the provinces were created according to population. If any particular section feels that it has not got a good number of provinces which reflects what, in fact, their population was before the last census, I am not concerned with that. I am in complete accord with the ideal that recruitment of members of the Army—

Alhaji Saidu Zango (Zaria Central) : I beg to move that the Question be now put.

Mr Speaker : We have taken quite a lot of time on this Motion and I feel, perhaps, that I should ask the Member for Awka Central (*Mr Anah*) to wind up.

Mr Anah : In winding up my contribution to this Motion, I would like to pray the Minister of Defence to apply rigorously the principles which he has made this House to understand are used in the recruitment of members of the forces. This is because, as I said before, I have quite a good record of graduate students who passed out from the universities, such as the University of Nigeria, and who applied for recruitment into the Army but were refused. They were qualified, they were medically fit and there was no earthly reason why they were refused except for what people might like to call security risk.

I beg to support the original Motion.

The Minister of Defence (Alhaji Muhamadu Inuwa Wada) : I wish Members would really speak responsibly when anything concerning the Armed Forces is being discussed in this House. I am very pleased to inform Members that the members of the Armed Forces—the Army, the Navy and the Air Force—regard themselves as members of a Nigerian force. They do not regard themselves as coming from any section of Nigeria, and on a number of occasions, both inside and outside Nigeria, they have proved themselves worthy Nigerians. We should please refrain from anything that will detract from this wonderful reputation they have already established.

As I explained earlier, we are doing all we can to see that recruitment is as widely spread over the whole Republic as possible. We are introducing a mobile recruitment system. In areas which have not been adequately represented, we will see to it that during the next recruitment drive they will get their proper quota.

On the question of siting military installations in Nigeria, a number of things are taken into consideration. Number one is strategy. You cannot site a military installation anywhere you like. We have experts who examine all the various ramifications. They tour the country and advise us where to site each organisation.

[ALHAJI MUHAMMADU INUWA WADA]

The Member for Awka Central (*Mr Anan*) spoke of the Air Force. The siting of an Air Force Base is based on a number of things: the pilots must be trained; the condition of the weather; the condition of the ground and a number of other things are taken into consideration. Therefore two areas have been selected for this purpose in Nigeria and these are Kaduna and Oshogbo.

It is not true to say that the Armed Forces are concentrated in one particular area of Nigeria. Take the case of the Navy. We have two naval centres in Nigeria, one here in Lagos and another one in Calabar. The siting of the Ordnance Factory in Kaduna is also based on the recommendations of experts. The hon. Gentleman is laughing, but I should tell him something. The question of land sometimes is very, very important. Sometimes, in some parts of Nigeria land is very difficult to get, while in other parts it is not very difficult.

In any case, I do commend my Amendment to the House, and I do also hope that Members will kindly be cool and refrain from discussing the Army, Navy and Air Force in any way they like.

Question put and agreed to.

Motion as amended agreed to.

Resolved: That in the interest of fair and even distribution of personnel in the Army, this House expresses appreciation of Government policy to recruit on Regional basis, subject to the overriding consideration of merit and physical fitness, and notes that consideration is being given to broadening the basis of recruitment by the re-introduction of mobile recruiting teams to tour provinces from time to time.

BRIDGES OVER LEVEL CROSSINGS

Alhaji Saidu Zango (Zaria Central): I rise to move the Motion standing in my name, on the Order Paper, namely:—

That in view of the increasing number of fatal accidents at level crossing points particularly in commercial areas in all cities and towns in the Federation, this House urges the Government to build fly-overs at all level crossings throughout the country.

This Motion is timely and non-contentious, and I am sure it will have the blessings and approval of all sides of the House. Much as we are happy to see the Nigerian Railway activities extend to our localities, we are happier that we do not sacrifice the lives of our people. Level crossings in this country constitute a great danger to the lives of motorists, cyclists and pedestrians in all the important towns in the Federation. There have been many fatal accidents at level crossings costing this country many lives.

The lives of our people are in danger. In other countries of the world fly-overs are built at all level crossings to save the lives of their people and at the same time to avoid the delays and jams in big towns and cities. Why then should we here in Nigeria not do the same thing to save the lives of our people and to save their time? These level crossings are a constant source of danger in every village, town and city in Nigeria, for example Zaria, Kano, Kaduna, Kafanchan, Ibadan, Funtua, Enugu, Port Harcourt, Maiduguri and so on, I am calling on the Federal Government to build fly-overs throughout the country as soon as possible.

I beg to move.

M. Ali Umaru (Wukari): I rise to second this Motion, which has been ably moved by the Member for Zaria Central (*Alhaji Saidu Zango*). As the original Mover has stated, this Motion is timely and it is a Motion that needs the support of all sides of the House.

Already our roads in this country are not very good. We all know that the Federal Government is doing its best in order to let us have good roads. We all know also that Nigeria, being a developing country, needs good roads. With good roads we are going to be able to transport our products from one corner of the country to another without difficulty.

When we talk of roads, bridges must necessarily come in too. Fly-overs are necessary in the townships, particularly in the commercial areas.

I appeal to the Federal Government to endeavour to build these fly-overs everywhere in the big towns. We have only a few at the moment, and there are many other places that are in dire need of this facility.

House of Representatives Debates

2637

[*Bridges over Level*

19 OCTOBER 1965

Crossings]

2638

I do not intend to say much because the Mover of the Motion has said almost everything there is to be said.

I, therefore, beg to second.

Minister of State (Alhaji Hashim Adaji) : I rise to move the Amendment standing in my name, as follows :—

Line 1, leave out from "That" to end and add—

"this House notes the efforts being made by the Federal Government to ensure safety at railway level crossings on Trunk Roads 'A', by building fly-over bridges where appropriate and undertaking other safety measures, and urges the Government to intensify its efforts particularly in urban areas."

This Amendment is necessary, because by the wording of the original Motion, the Mover wants the Federal Government to accept responsibility for the improvement of the roads of other authorities. Not only that, my hon. Friend also wants fly-over bridges to be built at all level crossings throughout this country, which means that whether or not the volume of traffic at a level crossing justifies the expending of a large sum of money to build a fly-over bridge there, such a bridge must be built. I am sure that this House would not support such a demand.

As hon. Members no doubt knew, the construction of roads and their development are concurrent subjects which are the responsibilities of the Federal Government, the Regional Governments and Local Government Councils. The Federal Government constructs and maintains Trunk Roads 'A', while the Regional Governments are responsible for such functions in respect of Trunk Roads 'B'. Rural feeder roads and roads in cities and towns are the responsibilities of Local Government Councils. Where a railway level crossing is on any of these roads, safety there is the concern of both the appropriate road authority and the Nigerian Railway Corporation.

At level crossings on Federal Trunk Roads, in order to minimise accidents at such crossings which have no gates, special measures are being taken at the intersections of roads and railway lines. These are based on the principle of slowing down traffic approaching crossings

and providing a sufficient clear sight of the railway line so that traffic approaching railway lines can see approaching trains and be able to stop before reaching the crossings.

These special measures are approved by both Federal and Regional Road Safety Committees which have been set up. Overhead bridges have in fact been built over the railway lines which pass through Western Avenue and the road to Ikeja Airport. A bridge across the railway line on Apapa Road has been included in the project which the World Bank is financing, and the necessity for fly-over bridges on other Federal Trunk Roads will depend on the volume of traffic passing through the level crossings on such roads. Where the volume is heavy, consideration will be given to the construction of a fly-over bridge when the road concerned is being reconstructed. At level crossings where traffic is not heavy, hon. Members will agree with me that it will not be wise to find money from our limited financial resources to build fly-over bridges on such level crossings.

From what I have said, Members will appreciate that my Ministry has been alive to its responsibilities concerning the subject of the Motion being debated. Like many of them, I realise that there is a lot to be done to make trunk roads 'A', which are the concern of my Ministry, better and safer than they are, but we can only develop them as our available resources permit. As suggested in my Amendment to the original Motion, I assure this House that as our human and financial resources improve, my Ministry will intensify the already good work it is doing in providing safety devices at level crossings on Federal Trunk Roads in urban areas.

I beg to move.

Minister of State (Alhaji Abdul Razaq) : I beg to second.

Mr J. D. Odebunmi (Egba East) : As the country advances from year to year, new ideas and new problems arise. There was a time when within an hour one could count on one's finger-tips, the number of vehicles and trains passing at a particular point. But this time there is such a very great volume of transportation that adequate provision ought to be made for these overhead bridges in order to be able to speed up transporting in this country.

[MR ODEBUNMI]

These overhead bridges at certain particular places need immediate and urgent attention. At this point, I might mention the Yaba level crossing where, if the gate is closed, within five minutes there is a long queue of vehicles almost as long as one mile.

We know that this is a venture or undertaking that requires money, and that money spent on this project will be money well spent.

There was a time when people were doing their trade and commerce by foot or by canoes or by asses, donkeys and camels; but these days of very fast moving commercial life, certainly, we need nothing to disturb the smooth and quick movement of our traffic.

Furthermore, road accidents will certainly be reduced and business in the country will progress, thereby increasing the economic stability of this nation.

I beg to support.

Question put and agreed to.

Motion as amended, agreed to.

Resolved : That this House notes the efforts being made by the Federal Government to ensure safety at railway level crossings on Trunk Roads 'A', by building fly-over bridges where appropriate and undertaking other safety measures, and urges the Government to intensify its efforts particularly in urban areas.

COMMONWEALTH PRIME MINISTERS'
CONFERENCE

Mr B. N. Ukegbu (Owerri South East) : I have very little time, and with your permission, Mr Speaker, I move the Motion standing in my name on the Order Paper, recording our pride at the Prime Minister's role at the Conference, particularly his part on the Rhodesian question.

What I would like to say which would have taken a long time if there was time, can be compounded into one sentence. This country was very proud of the performance of our Prime Minister in the last Commonwealth Prime Ministers' Conference in London. In spite of the very difficult problems to be settled, our Prime Minister excelled himself. He excelled himself and there is a saying in Ibo, and I will say it in Owerri—*Onye ama avu agba, oko iku ejii ato ndi nwe ya*. That means in English that if one's father or relation

does not know how to dance, one starts to scratch one's eye lids. As our Prime Minister did well, we were all proud of him. Now, that has gone, and tomorrow this same Prime Minister is going to Accra to lead our delegation to the O.A.U. Conference there. We wish him luck, and we wish him safe journey to Accra and back.

But, Sir, in June the issue of Rhodesia was even far away, and right now the issue of Rhodesia is tickling the ears of the world, and we want the Prime Minister to stand firm. We want him to know that the people in the 312 constituencies, which we all represent, want to be assured that the Prime Minister will fulfil what he said on Independence night when he said that the freedom and independence of Nigeria will be incomplete if any part of Africa still remains under colonial domination. The Prime Minister should ensure that two hundred odd thousand people, who are less than the people in my constituency, are not assisted by Britain to enslave millions of Africans.

Mr Speaker : Will the hon. Gentleman, please, wind up.

Mr Ukegbu : I say this again, Sir. Why should Africa agree that a minority should take independence and make guarantees for a majority?

I beg to move.

Mr J. M. Damla (Pankshin West) : I beg to second the Motion. I want to add that our Prime Minister is our Nehru. Mr Nehru of India has died and the Nehru of Nigeria is our Prime Minister, the Right hon. Sir Abubakar Tafawa Balewa. He should not forget this fact while deliberating on the problems of Africa in Accra.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved : That this House notes with pride and satisfaction the creditable role played by the Prime Minister, Alhaji the Right Honourable Sir Abubakar Tafawa Balewa, M.P., in the last Commonwealth Prime Ministers' Conference in London, and especially welcomes the unequivocal stand he and other African Prime Ministers took on the question of majority rule in Rhodesia.

House of Representatives Debates

2641

[Adjournment]

19 OCTOBER 1965

[Adjournment]

2642

And it being 5.45 p.m. Mr Speaker proceeded to interrupt the Business, pursuant to Standing Order 5 (3).

Debate to be resumed—Wednesday.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion made and Question proposed, That this House do now adjourn.—(THE MINISTER OF WORKS).

WESTERN NIGERIA

Alhaji Mohammed Muhtari, Sarkin Bai (Dambatta) : On this Motion for Adjournment, I would like to raise a very important matter. It is in connection with elections to the Western House of Assembly held on Monday, the 11th of this month. Since the results of the elections were announced, there has been a lot of confusion. For instance we have heard from the Western Nigerian Electoral Commission, which is the legal body appointed to conduct the elections, and from Radio Nigeria and some newspapers, that the N.N.D.P. had won the elections. On the other hand we have heard from the Eastern Nigeria Broadcasting Corporation, and we have read from the *West African Pilot*, the *Tribune* and the *Telegraph* that the U.P.G.A. had won the elections.

These claims and counter claims are unprecedented in the political history of this country, and the confusion itself is, to say the least, unfortunate. It is all the more unfortunate when we take into account the incontrovertible fact that Nigeria is respected by many countries abroad for her strict adherence to Parliamentary democracy. In view of this confusion, I think the time has come for this House and the nation at large to hear something from the Rt. hon. the Prime Minister of this country.

Another point which I want the Rt. hon. the Prime Minister to speak upon, is about the present acts of lawlessness, violence, murder, looting and so on that are going on in some parts of Western Nigeria. I do not need to say a lot here. All Members know what is going on, and we still hear rumours of a greater violence to come.

Now, I think I should like to appeal at this stage to the Prime Minister, as the Head of the Government of this country, to see that Northerners here are protected. This is very

essential, and it is necessary that everybody must be protected in this country.

The Prime Minister : As the Member for Dambatta (*Alhaji Mohammed Muhtari*) has said, there has been quite a lot of confusion, and I think that the confusion was deliberately planned.

As far as I am aware, the elections in the West were held, and the authority which is competent to announce the winners of the elections—the Western Nigeria Electoral Commission—had told us that the N.N.D.P. had won the elections. As far as I am aware, too, the Governor of Western Nigeria had called upon the leader of the N.N.D.P. to form the Government. This is as far as I know of the position. However, I must tell this House that people can cause confusion whenever they like, especially by hiding under the name of democracy.

Now, considering the maintenance of law and order, I told the country sometime ago that I was determined to see that there was law and order in the country. When I was asked by journalists about the position of the impending elections in the West at that time I said that I would do everything possible to see that the elections were conducted in a peaceful atmosphere.

However, I am very sorry to say that the last elections in the West have resulted in some people—innocent people—losing their lives. If politics in this country will turn into this way, for innocent people to lose their lives, I think that all of us had better think seriously of the future. Democracy does not mean that a man can do what he likes. Indeed all of us, and all political parties are to blame.

Any political party can refuse to accept a defeat in an election ; but I find it very difficult to understand what is going on now, especially when some people, foreigners residing among us, take it upon themselves to report our activities from incorrect sources.

I take it that if a man is a responsible person, be he a journalist, or a politician, or anybody else, that he will only try to get the truth, and we cannot get any truth about any election from any Region other than from the Electoral Commission of the Region concerned. That is the only thing, and we go by it.

House of Representatives Debates

2643

[Adjournment]

19 OCTOBER 1965

[Adjournment]

2644

[THE PRIME MINISTER]

People complain about irregularities in an election. There might be irregularities, but the body competent and charged with this responsibility told us that that was the result.

I would like to speak very seriously about the future of this country. I listened to a very good and constructive speech from the Member for Owerri South East (*Mr Ukegbu*) the other day, and to-day I have again listened to another very constructive speech of his. I think he made all the points that one could make, and I feel that he has approached the subject with every sense of responsibility.

It is a well known fact that Nigerians themselves are the very people who run down their own country and their own Government. This is a great shame. If we are really true to democratic principles, we shall agree that, if there is an election, some people will win and some people will lose. However, we must accept it. If I like I can say that I will not accept any election that I do not win, and any election which I do not win cannot be free and fair. It is quite obvious for anybody to say that.

However, when I heard on the Floor of this House yesterday, I think, from an hon. Member of this honourable House referring to our law courts with great contempt, I began to fear

that, if we do not abide by our Constitution and if we do not respect our law courts, the future of this country is very gloomy. It is for all of us—Members of this House and Members of the Regional Legislatures—to put our heads together now and think of the future.

When we are hurt we say all sorts of things. When we are excited we get even out of control, and we say damaging things. I said on the Floor of this House that words are like arrows. When one shoots them out one cannot recall them. They cause a lot of unhappiness and a lot of bitterness. I have been in this place for quite a number of years, and I know that there are very well meaning people in this country. I wonder if the well meaning people of this country cannot put their heads together and really try to find a solution to many of our faults which, I think, sometimes are unnecessary.

So, I would appeal to all Members of this House that we should approach these delicate matters objectively and with all sense of responsibility.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved : That this House do now adjourn.

Adjourned accordingly at two minutes to six o'clock.

House of Representatives Debates

2645

[Oral Answers]

20 OCTOBER 1965

[Oral Answers]

2646

**HOUSE OR REPRESENTATIVES
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA**

Wednesday, 20th October, 1965

The House met at 10 a.m.

PRAYERS

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

**ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

Mangrove Timber Report

O.476. Mr W. O. Briggs asked the Minister of Economic Development, what are the findings of the mission by a Swedish firm which came out sometime ago to survey the use and exportation of our mangrove timber.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Economic Development (M. Abdul, Marafan Kontagora): The report of the firm of Swedish Consultants referred to by the hon. Member, has only recently been received by the Government. It indicates that a series of experiments are being carried out to ascertain the technical feasibility of the production of rayon pulp for the manufacture of paper and asbestos from mangrove wood. The results of these experiments are not yet available.

COMMUNICATIONS

Establishment of Post Offices

O.577. Mr V. A. Emenogha asked the Minister of Communications, whether a sub-post office or a post office can be provided where a number of communities agree to merge their various postal agencies into one post office.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Communications (Mr M. U. Ekpo): As laid down in the Sessional Paper No. 4 of 1957, the minimum distance between two Postal Agencies in the Rural Districts should be five miles, and in the urban areas, two miles. Where two or more communities agree to merge their various postal agencies into one for the purpose of upgrading to a sub-post office or a post office, it is the duty of the Ministry to ensure that such a merger will not bring any hardship on the communities concerned and that it will not involve people who had hitherto been enjoying postal facilities

at close quarters in having to travel long distances to transact their business at the new post office. Approval for this type of merger can only be given after the above condition has been satisfied, and the actual conversion of the Postal Agencies so merged into a sub-post office or post office depends eventually on the volume of business and the availability of funds.

Ogbunike Postal Agency

O.578. Mr V. A. Emenogha asked the Minister of Communications, how soon the postal agency at Ogbunike, which has for a long time qualified for conversion, will be converted into a sub-post office.

Mr Ekpo : The Postal agency at Ogbunike has been approved for upgrading to a sub-post office as its units of work have reached 26,852 per annum.

The conversion will take effect as soon as the required furniture and fittings are ready, and Sub Postmaster selected and trained.

Inisha Sub-Post Office

O.579. Chief Adegbisi Jinadu asked the Minister of Communications, if he will state whether the Federal Government will reimburse the Inisha Development Committee the cost of putting up the building for the sub-post office at Inisha.

Mr Ekpo : It is not the normal practice for Government to refund to a sponsoring authority the amount spent by the authority on its own accord in erecting a building for a sub-post office or a postal agency. It is a condition precedent that a sponsoring authority should provide a suitable accommodation when a request is being made for the establishment of a postal agency or a sub-post office. In view of this, the Government is not in a position to reimburse the Inisha Development Committee the cost of putting up the building for a Sub-Post Office at Inisha.

Telephone Service for Odo-Otin

O.580. Chief Adegbisi Jinadu asked the Minister of Communications, when telephone services will be extended to Odo-Otin District Council headquarters.

Mr Ekpo : Telephone service for Odo-Otin District Council headquarters comes under the Rural Telephone Development Plan which is

House of Representatives Debates

2647

[Oral Answers]

20 OCTOBER 1965

[Oral Answers]

2648

[MR EKPO]

an integral part of the current National Telecommunications Development Programme, 1962-68.

The case of Odo-Otin will, however, be considered by my Ministry when final decision is being taken on projects to be included in the programme.

Telephones for Lagos Environs

O.581. Mr E. O. A. Odeyemi asked the Minister of Communications, why no application for telephone installation in Mushin, Shomolu, Itire or Oshodi, has been considered since 1962; and if he will state when such application will be considered.

Mr Ekpo : All applications from Mushin, Itire and Oshodi have always been given careful consideration and, wherever possible, the applicants have been given service through the Ikeja or Surulere Telephone Exchange. There are, however, many applicants on the waiting list who have not yet been served because of technical difficulties arising from the non-availability of cable pairs in some of these areas and from the lack of basic development of most of these areas for telephone service.

However, on the completion of Step II of the National Telecommunications Plan towards the end of 1966, the above difficulties will be surmounted and all the applicants for telephone service in Mushin, Shomolu, Itire and Oshodi will be served.

Post Office Pillar Boxes

O.582. Mr J. U. Odey asked the Minister of Communications, when important streets in Lagos and Members' flats at Victoria Island will be provided with standing boxes.

Mr Ekpo : There are at present 26 Pillar Boxes installed in streets and public buildings in Lagos Island. One of these is in the Federal Palace Hotel and at present serves both the Hotel and the Members' Flats.

However, arrangements are being made to instal a Post Office Box in the premises of Members' flats at Victoria Island.

Obudu

O.583. Mr J. U. Odey asked the Minister of Communications, if he is aware that Obudu is the only division in Eastern Nigeria without

a telephone service; and what immediate arrangements he is making to provide the division with one.

Mr Ekpo : My Ministry is aware of the need for telephone service at Obudu and has made a provision to give the service there as soon as possible. There is at present a provision for a manual exchange at Obudu with trunk connection to the existing telephone exchange at Ogoja.

Abakaliki Post Office

O.671. Mr B. O. Ikeh asked the Minister of Communications, when the Abakaliki post office will be upgraded to grade III post office.

Mr Ekpo : Post offices are upgraded as follows :—

Class I—Post Office with more than 150 staff
Class II—Post Office with indoor staff 76-149
Class III—Post Office with indoor staff 21-75
Class IV—Post Office with indoor staff 10-20
Class V—Post Office with indoor staff 3-9
Class VI—Post Office with indoor staff 1-2.

Abakaliki Post Office with indoor staff of 17 is a class IV Post Office and will be upgraded to Class III as soon as the volume of business transacted there justifies the increase in indoor staff to at least 21.

Mr Ikeh : Is the Minister aware that the Abakaliki post office is understaffed with only 17 staff so as to prevent it from being upgraded?

Postal Clerks

O.672. Mr B. O. Ikeh asked the Minister of Communications, how many first class clerks in his Ministry with 15 to 20 years' service have reached the maximum of Scale D. 3; and what promotion prospects exist for this class of workers.

Mr Ekpo : There are forty-one First Class Clerks (General Duties) and Thirty First Class Clerks (Accounts) in my Ministry with 15 to 20 years service who have reached the maximum of scale D. 3. The prospects for their promotion are dependent on the availability of vacancies in the higher posts as well as the growth and expansion of the services rendered by the Ministry.

With the expansion of the postal and telecommunications services throughout the country as a result of the National Development

House of Representatives Debates

2649

[Oral Answers]

20 OCTOBER 1965

[Oral Answers]

2650

Programme, there will be corresponding increase in the opportunities available to the staff of all classes.

Supervisors

O.673. Mr B. O. Ikeh asked the Minister of Communications, how many supervisors in the postal section of his Ministry have been on the maximum of their scale for more than two years without promotion.

Mr Ekpo : There are 106 Supervisors and 27 Senior Supervisors in the P&T Department who have reached the maximum of their salary scale for more than two years without promotion. When judged against the over-all establishment of over 12,000 staff in the Department, the figure for the Supervisors is not abnormal.

Mr Ikeh : Will the Minister not consider the introduction of an extended scale so that those who have not the opportunity of promotion can still have some increases in their pay in order to increase their efficiency ?

Mr Ekpo : We do not have such a provision yet in our Estimates.

Jalingo Sub-Post Office

O.675. M. Umaru Maltumbi asked the Minister of Communications, when he will provide Jalingo sub-post office with telegraph and telephone services.

Mr Ekpo : There is a proposal in the Rural Telephone Development Plan for the provision of telephone and telegraph services in Jalingo, and this will be implemented during the current Economic Programme, 1962-68.

Jen Postal Agency

O.676. M. Umaru Maltumbi asked the Minister of Communications, when he intends to convert the Jen postal agency to a sub-post office.

Mr Ekpo : The current volume of business transacted at Jen Postal Agency is only 1,556 units per annum, and this is neither up to the limit of 24,000 units stipulated in the Sessional Paper No. 4 of 1957 as the qualifying figure for conversion of a postal agency to a sub-post office, nor near enough to 18,000 units which is the minimum standard now being considered for enforcement.

In view of this, it is regretted that Jen Postal Agency has not yet qualified for upgrading.

Kuta, Paiko, Igara

O.677. M. Umaru Marafan Galadima Kogo asked the Minister of Communications, when he intends to provide Kuta, Paiko and Igara with telephone services.

Mr Ekpo : Consideration is being given to the provision of telephone exchanges at Igara, Kuta and Paiko in the Rural Telephone Development Plan, which is to be implemented within the current Economic Programme, 1962-68.

Minna Post Office

O.678. M. Umaru Marafan Galadima Kogo asked the Minister of Communications, if he will move Minna Post Office to Minna Town.

Mr Ekpo : My Ministry has no plan as yet to move the Minna Post Office from its present site near the Railway Station, which is about half a mile from Minna Town. The major users of the Post Office, including the Provincial Office, Commercial firms and banks, are located near the present site of the Post Office. It is, therefore, not considered necessary to shift the Post Office from the present site.

M. Umaru Marafan Galadima Kogo : Is the Minister aware that the present Post Office at Minna was not built by the Ministry of Communications but was left to the Posts and Telegraphs Department by the Nigerian Railway Corporation !

Mr Ekpo : That has not been brought to our notice. I am not aware.

TRADE

North American Cars

O.584. Mr F. I. Okoronkwo asked the Minister of Trade, whether he does not intend to ban the importation of luxurious American and Canadian cars into the country in view of the fact that spare parts of these cars are not locally available.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Trade (Mr R. B. K. Okafor) : The Federal Government is not aware that there is shortage of spare parts for luxurious

House of Representatives Debates

2651

[Oral Answers]

20 OCTOBER 1965

[Oral Answers]

2652

[MR OKAFOR]

American and Canadian cars. If, however, this is true then people should, on their own, stop buying these cars without waiting for Government action. The heavy increases on the duty payable on big cars recently imposed by Government should also help to reduce the number of these cars imported into Nigeria.

Registration of Designs

O.585. Mr F. I. Okoronkwo asked the Minister of Trade, if he is aware that Nigerian textile and other designers are still registered in England before they go into production; and whether he would take steps to change this undesirable practice.

Mr Okafor : The United Kingdom Designs (Protection) Act, (Cap. 204) provides for the protection in Nigeria of designs registered in the United Kingdom. Designs cannot yet be registered in Nigeria, but the registered proprietor of a design registered in the United Kingdom enjoys the same privileges and rights as if his certificate of registration had been issued with extension to Nigeria.

There is no doubt that the present position is unsatisfactory. Almost all the commercial and industrial laws of Nigeria require revision or the enactment of legislation where there is none. The Ministry of Trade has already enacted legislation with regard to Hire Purchase Insurance and Trade Marks. Work is in hand on Companies and Bankruptcy Laws and it is hoped that legislation with regard to Designs, Copyright, *et cetera*, will follow in due course.

Mr Okoronkwo : Does this method not defeat the concept of Nigeria's independence if we should continue to register our trade marks in the United Kingdom in the first instance before they are returned to Nigeria?

Mr Okafor : That is incorrect.

Trade Agreement

O.586. Mr F. I. Okoronkwo asked the Minister of Trade, if he would state how many trade agreements the Federal Government has signed since independence; how many with Western and Eastern countries respectively.

Mr Okafor : The Federal Government of Nigeria has signed eleven trade agreements since independence. Six of these are with

Eastern European countries and one with a Western European country. The remaining four are with other African countries.

The U. D. C.

O.589. Mr D. Senu-Oke asked the Minister of Trade, if he would state when the United Dominion Company Limited, was established in Nigeria; who were the original directors or partners; who are the present directors or partners; and when did such partners or directors join the company.

Mr Okafor : The United Dominions Corporation (Nigeria) Limited is a Private Company incorporated in Nigeria on the 26th February, 1960.

2. The first directors were :

Ronald Newman Kerr, British,
16 Probyn Road, Ikoyi, and
John Maxwell Fale Morris, British
5 Kuramo Close, Ikoyi.

3. The present directors are :—

(1) John Chukwuma Agudosi Okwesa,
Nigerian,
6 McEwen Road, Yaba.
Appointed 22nd April, 1960.

(2) Alan Macpherson Stuart, British,
6B Eleke Close, Ikoyi.
Appointed 24th April, 1962.

Imports from Japan

O.679. Mr S. O. Kamson asked the Minister of Trade, how many import licences have been issued for imports from Japan since January 1965.

Mr Okafor : The number of licences issued since 1965 is 1,436. I hear a Member saying that the important thing to the country is the value of these licences and he would like to know what the monetary value is. May I say that it is about £15,443,567.

ESTABLISHMENTS

Recruiting Northerners

O.680. Malam Fulani Dambo Ibrahim asked the Minister of Establishments, what steps he is taking to attract Northern girls to join the Federal Public Service.

House of Representatives Debates

2653

[Oral Answers]

20 OCTOBER 1965 [Federal Electoral Commission Bill] 2654

Minister of State (M. Ibrahim Gusau) : The Careers Officer in the Ministry of Establishments visits schools and colleges throughout the Federation, including the Northern Region, regularly to keep the institutions well informed of employment opportunities in the Federal Public Service.

The Federal Training School at Lagos and Kaduna provide girls of Northern origin with opportunity for training in secretarial fields. During his visits, the Careers Officer informs the girls in the institutions of the employment opportunities for qualified Northern girls to take up appointment with the Federal Government.

O.681. M. Ahmadu Badamasuiyu asked the Minister of Establishments, whether, in view of the paucity of Northerners in the Federal Public Service, he would consider it a matter of urgency to encourage the recruitment of more Northerners into the service.

M. Ibrahim Gusau : The Minister is satisfied that every encouragement is being given to Northerners to join the Federal Public Service.

The Senior Civil Service

O.682. M. Badamasuiyu asked the Minister of Establishments, what is the total number of senior civil servants in the Federal Public Service; how many are Nigerians; and if he would state the number from each of the Regions and Lagos Federal Territory.

M. Gusua : There are 6,573 senior civil servants in the Federal Public Service, including A.E.O's and its equivalent grades. 5,772 are Nigerians, and records of civil servants are not kept on a regional basis.

Ex-Servicemen's Pensions

O.683. Mr Kamson asked the Minister of Establishments, when the pensions of ex-servicemen would be revised.

M. Gusau : The hon. Gentleman is referred to answer given to Question O.463 in which the Minister stated that a policy for the review of pensions will be formulated in due course. The pensions of ex-servicemen are included in this review.

AVIATION

The Airways

O.684. Mr Ayo Fasanmi asked the Minister of Aviation, what steps he is taking to probe allegations of tribalism and nepotism in the Nigeria Airways.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Aviation (Mr S. A. Yerokun) : Since the Minister took over the Ministry of Aviation, one of his earliest actions was to find out whether in fact tribalism and nepotism existed in the Nigeria Airways. He confirmed that in fact, they existed, and some of the most highly paid Nigerian and African employees are the most guilty.

The Minister accordingly took positive action to make all Board members, employees of the Airways (senior and junior) understand that these malpractices will not be tolerated and that he will not hesitate to deal most severely with any one who persists in these acts.

Chief V. O. Onabanojo (Ijebu South-West) : Is the Minister aware that there is a difference between a Minister supervising a corporation and a Minister assuming the office of the general manager of a corporation?

Mr Yerokun : I am not aware.

PRIVATE NOTICE QUESTION

FEDERAL ELECTORAL COMMISSION BILL

Mr J. M. Damla (Pankshin West) : Before we go on to the orders of the day may I raise a matter which is of importance to Members on this side of the House. There appears to be an omission of the Bill on the Electoral Commission in to-day's Order Paper. May I know from you, Mr Speaker, why it is that the Bill is not on the Order Paper? If the U.P.G.A. Ministers and Floor Members continue to treat N.N.A. Ministers' Bills with such levity, then the day will come when we shall have to throw the same coins at them. This is a serious issue. If the U.P.G.A. Ministers and Floor Members have no sense of responsibility, then they had better resign their seats.

Mr Speaker : The reason why the Bill mentioned has not been included in to-day's business is because it has become a dropped order. Under the Standing Orders, any business on the Order Paper which is not

House of Representatives Debates

2655

[Adjournment Sine Die]

20 OCTOBER 1965

[Sittings of the House]

2656

[MR SPEAKER]

completed before the moment of interruption, and a day is not appointed for the resumption of its debate, becomes automatically a dropped order.

Chief T. O. S. Benson (Lagos North) : Mr Speaker, we accept your ruling, but we would like the Minister in charge to carry on making all necessary arrangements, in order to pay the Electoral Commission.

Mr F. I. Okoronkwo (Aba Central) : On a point of information, it is most regrettable that the former Minister of Information challenges the ruling of the Speaker. It is very unfortunate. He had only about 500 votes during the last Federal elections and he is not ashamed of sitting in this Parliament.

The Minister of Transport (Alhaji Zanna Bukar Dipcharima) : U.P.G.A. members must realise that—

Several hon. Members : Sit down !

Mr Speaker : Order ! The Minister of Transport should continue his speech.

Alhaji Zanna Bukar Dipcharima : U.P.G.A. leaders—

Several hon. Members : No ! No ! Sit down !

Mr Speaker : Order ! The Minister of Finance.

NOTICES OF MOTIONS

ADJOURNMENT SINE DIE

Chief Okotie-Eboh : I beg to move, That this House, at its rising this day, do adjourn *sine die*.

Minister of State (Alhaji Usman Angulu) : I beg to second.

Alhaji Muhtari Mohamed, Sarkin Bai (Dambatta) : I think a very important point has been raised by the Member for Lagos North (*Chief Benson*). The members of the Electoral Commission should not be punished. Arrangements should be made for them to get some money.

Several hon. Members : Sit down !

Mr O. C. Ememe (Aba South) : I only wish, while supporting this Motion, to bring out one point. When we adjourn *sine die*, it must be

remembered that many hon. Members have filed several Questions and Motions in this House which were not brought out during this sitting. I would like the Government to make arrangements to call Parliament as soon as possible, not just to adjourn *sine die* to-day. These Questions and Motions should be brought to the House.

Alhaji Muhtari Mohamed, Sarkin Bai : There are rumours now going on that this House, when it adjourns to-day, will not sit until March, 1966. We want the Minister to confirm or deny.

Chief O. B. Akin-Olugbade (Egba South) : That Motion moved by the hon. Minister of Finance is in accordance with the programme of business, but I would like to say that in view of the fact that we have the Supplementary Appropriation (1965-66) Bill, that is item No. 5 on the Order Paper, to go through, I should think that one day would not be sufficient to go through the whole of this Bill. So, I would request that in future the hon. Minister of Finance should give us more time because there are many Heads of Estimates to consider.

Mr Speaker : Order ! You should make this remark when we come to item No. 4.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved—That this House, at its rising this day, do adjourn *sine die*.

SITTINGS OF THE HOUSE

Chief Okotie-Eboh : I rise to move—

Several hon. Members : No ! No !

Chief Okotie-Eboh : I hope that hon. Members who call other people thugs would not themselves become thugs and bring an unnecessary psychology into the affairs of this House. What is this ? Do hon. Members think they can force me to make a statement on what the Member for Dambatta (*Alhaji Mohamed Muhtari*) has said ? Let them force me then.

Mr Speaker : Order ! The Minister of Finance to move item 3.

Chief Okotie-Eboh : If I am pressed to the wall to make a reply to the Government Whip, I will tell him that if he wants to meet his girl-friends in Lagos, he is free to take a plane and come here.

House of Representatives Debates

2657

[*Sittings of the House*]

20 OCTOBER 1965

[*Business of the House*]

2658

Alhaji Mohamed Muhtari, Sarkin Bai :
On a point of information, Mr Speaker, I have no girl-friend in Lagos or anywhere else in the Federation.

Mr B. N. Ukegbu (Owerri South-East) : On a point of order, with the greatest respect to the hon. Minister of Finance and able Leader of this House, I want to say there is no doubt that he is one of the ablest of our Federal Ministers and he has impressed this House by the way he has been conducting Government business. But, Sir, there is a point we want him to consider. As the Leader of the House, he bears a great responsibility on his shoulders.

Mr Speaker : Order ! May I remind the House that we have passed Motion 2 and the Minister is just moving Motion 3. (*Interruptions*) Order ! Some of the voices I am hearing are very very big and they get rather magnified in the Chamber, so much as to drown a Member's speech. Will the Minister of Finance continue moving the Motion ?

Mr Ukegbu again rose on a point of order—

Mr Speaker : Will the Member for Owerri South-East (*Mr Ukegbu*) please tell the House which Standing Order he wants to refer to ?

The Minister of Finance (Chief F. S. Okotie-Eboh) : I beg to move—

That, *this day*, notwithstanding the provisions of Standing Order 5 (*Sittings of the House*), the House may sit at the following times :—

- (i) 10 a.m. till 1 p.m. ;
- (ii) 3 p.m. till 6 p.m. ;
- (iii) 9 p.m. till 12 midnight.

The Minister of Establishments (Mr J. C. Obande) : I beg to second.

Mr B. N. Ukegbu (Owerri South-East) : May I say that while the House is prepared to co-operate with the Government and sit till midnight, we would like the Leader of the House also to co-operate with Members of Parliament by speaking to them in a more respectful manner when he addresses them.

He is a very able Minister and one of our most respected leaders, but Members of Parliament, even in a remote way, even in a jocose manner, should not be referred to as thugs. When such a remark comes from the mouth of no less a person than a Minister in

the status of the Minister of Finance, it is bound to be taken very seriously, and I think that Members of Parliament should not allow themselves to be so addressed. If they do, it is not they themselves or the Minister of Finance who is involved, but the dignity of Parliament which is the paramount factor.

If the dignity of Parliament is not fostered by the Government of the day, a time will come when they will want to make use of Parliament to buttress their power, and if they do not give example to the public to respect Parliament, Parliament is not going to be respected. I say this with all seriousness.

It was only yesterday that Mr Speaker spoke to Members of this Parliament and appealed to them to respect themselves. If Parliament does not maintain its dignity, then we have reached the end of the road. What other organ is going to be respected ? If Members of Parliament are not respected, where are we going ?

Mr Speaker : I believe that the Member for Owerri South-East was not listening very carefully to the remark made by the hon. Minister of Finance. What he said was that he hoped that those who call other people thugs would not behave like thugs. He did not call Members thugs.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved : That, *this day*, notwithstanding the provisions of Standing Order 5 (*Sittings of the House*), the House may sit at the following times :—

- (i) 10 a.m. till 1 p.m. ;
- (ii) 3 p.m. till 6 p.m. ;
- (iii) 9 p.m. till 12 midnight.

Chief O. B. Akin-Olugbade (Egba South) : In view of the volume of work to be covered, particularly the Second Reading of the Supplementary Appropriation Bill, I would ask that the time be extended to 1 p.m. (*Interruptions*)

Mr Speaker : The Motion has already been passed.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

Chief Okotie-Eboh : I beg to move—

That, *this day*, notwithstanding the provisions of Standing Order 64, the debate on the Second Reading of the Supplementary

[CHIEF OKOTIE-EBOH]

Appropriation (1965-66) Bill, when resumed, shall be concluded, and the Committee stages of the Bill shall be taken and concluded and the Bill read the Third time.

I think that this is straight-forward because of the limit of the time at our disposal, and I do hope that Members will find that, although the Supplementary Estimates look a bit bulky, most of the issues there are not contentious. At the same time, I agree that other Motions which may be moved will invite some speeches from hon. Members, but I am quite prepared to deal with them when the time comes.

I want to say quite frankly that these frequent interruptions on the Floor of this House, I think, should have some limits. If they do not have limits, the whole place will be turned into a sort of debating society in which people do not look serious about what they are doing. The hecklings are too much, and most of them are uncalled for.

Then the Member for Owerri South-East (*Mr Ukegbu*) was accusing me of making certain remarks. I do not think, as Mr Speaker could bear me out, that I made any remarks that should annoy anybody.

This is an honourable House. This is a House representing fifty-five million people in the country, and when we come here to debate we should know what we are talking about. Hon. Members always want to interrupt Ministers. I do not want to arrogate anything to myself. As the Leader of the House, I do not think I need the type of treatment that some Members are trying to give me.

With all the volume of work that I have to do, people should realise that I am a human being. When the Leader of the House gets up to speak in the House of Commons, he is heard in silence. I think Members here should read their *Erskine May*.

People should not come to harass somebody that is already over-taxed with work. I am not complaining, but I would like to face real facts and not unwarranted interruptions. We expect that when hon. Members get up to speak, they should make constructive contributions. A moment ago, for example, the Member for Egba South (*Chief Akin-Olugbade*) was making a reasonable statement, and some

people were attacking him and shouting at the top of their voices. What are we turning the House to? If anybody thinks that he can beat up any hon. Member here, why not wait on the man outside and fight him there? Why should people come here and shout at the top of their voices for no just cause?

I beg to move.

The Minister of Communications (Mr R. A. Njoku): I beg to second.

Chief Akin-Olugbade: I have not much to say as regards the contents of the Supplementary Appropriation Bill, but I want to observe, with due respect to the Minister of Finance, whom we all know is a very busy man, that the time allotted for the Second Reading and the Committee Stage of the Supplementary Appropriation Bill is hopelessly short.

I should respectfully like to direct the attention of the House to page 6 of the Supplementary Estimates. There we have a summary of the revised recurrent expenditure heads amounting to a total of £608,770, supposed to be a supplementary provision now required; and on the Capital Expenditure Heads we have a total of £5,824,452.

I think that we the Members of Parliament could not, within the time allowed for the debate on the Second Reading and Committee Stage, be in a position to do justice to the people who sent us into this House. There are so many important heads of estimate for which new provisions or supplementary provisions are required. For instance, we have, State House, Police, Ministry of Trade, Ministry of Communications, Nigerian Navy, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Finance, Board of Customs, Ministry of Information, Prisons, National Provident Fund, Ministry of Lagos Affairs, Ministry of Works, Judiciary, Parliament and Ministry of Housing and Surveys. All these are very, very important Ministries, and our duty here, in this House in particular, is to scrutinise the Bill because we are supposed to be the watch-dogs of our people in the spending of Government money.

The impression has been given in the speeches of the Hon. Minister of Finance that our financial position nowadays is not as bad

House of Representatives Debates

2661

[*Business of the House*]

20 OCTOBER 1965

[*Business of the House*]

2662

as is being depicted by many people. It is true that there has been some improvement although our foreign reserves have depleted very much.

Chief Okotie-Eboh : With the greatest respect to my hon. Friend, I want him to bear in mind that we are not debating the Supplementary Appropriation Bill yet. I have only made a Business Motion. I thought that the first part of my hon. Friend's speech was quite in order, but if he is going into these matters, I am bound to say that he is out of order.

Mr Speaker : Indeed I think he is going a bit too far.

Chief Akin-Olugbade : I accept the correction, Sir.

Chief V. O. Onabanjo (Ijebu South-West) : I wish to say something about the way the Leader of the House has handled the programme for to-day, because we have got to work on this Supplementary Appropriation Bill. It is true, as he says, that the draft estimate looks voluminous, but that is not all.

In his own speech in moving the Second Reading, the hon. Minister talked on a number of other subjects relating to the finance and the economy of the country, particularly questions on tariff increases. In his speech, the hon. Minister tried to paint his own picture of the financial position of the Government. Certainly he expects Members on both sides of the House to make their own comments on these things. We have found out also that there is a Motion already put down on the Order Paper by the Minister of Finance on this question of tariff. When does he expect us to discuss these things?

I would have thought that under normal circumstances, he should have given a whole day for us to discuss the question of tariff changes, the blockade of Japanese goods and the question of licenses, because they have a lot to do with the question of our foreign reserves and our balance of trade. As it is, we shall rush everything to-day and, by the time it is 12 mid-night, the Minister will stand up and move that he wants the House to adjourn until March next year.

Even in this connection, he has not yet told us when we shall meet again. We would like a statement from the Minister.

Chief Okotie-Eboh : The trouble is that my hon. Friends would always find some sort of argument to put up in order that the work of the House can be slowed down. Now I hear an hon. Member say that the work of the House should be sped up. I wonder what hon. Members want me to do. Do they want me to speed up or to slow down?

Chief Akin-Olugbade : We want the hon. Minister to make enlightened contributions.

Chief Okotie-Eboh : Well, justice must be seen to be done, and I think that it is clear from that statement that it is being done. My hon. Friend, Chief Akin-Olugbade, should take the Summary which he referred to as £608,770. He will find that Head 26 accounts for £233,330, whereas Head 28—Ministry of Works—accounts for £117,000, making a total of £350,330. If he takes £350,330 from £608,770, he will find that the difference is just £258,440 only.

Chief Akin-Olugbade : Only?

Chief Okotie-Eboh : Yes, in terms of Finance, only.

Chief Akin Olugbade : The hon. Minister is now talking as a lawyer.

Chief Okotie-Eboh : If I want to talk like a lawyer I will talk like the Member for Egbat South. So, Sir, talking about these two Heads—Ministry of Communications and Ministry of Works; the Ministry of Communications Head is just one item and it is a simple and straight-forward one which should be supported by everybody. It does not require much debating.

The Ministry of Works Head is also a simple one. The Ministry of Finance Head which the hon. Member referred to is equally uncomplicated. He will find that the answer is very simple and I am prepared to give it to him. So let us make progress.

Chief Akin-Olugbade : What about the Ministry of Information?

Chief Okotie-Eboh : It is very sound, bells are now ringing. It is not a Ministry of Misinformation as I hear an hon. Member say. I do ask the House to let us make progress and we shall see how we get on. The more we delay the more time we waste.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved, That, this day, notwithstanding the provisions of Standing Order 64, the debate on the second Reading of the Supplementary Appropriation (1965-66) Bill, when resumed, shall be concluded, and the Committee stages of the Bill shall be taken and concluded and the Bill read the Third time.

ORDERS OF THE DAY AND NOTICES OF MOTIONS

SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION (1965-66) BILL :

ADJOURNED DEBATE ON SECOND READING
18TH OCTOBER

Question again proposed, That, the Bill be now read a Second time.

Alhaji Bashiru Muhammadu Ribadu (Adamawa Central): This Bill has my support, more especially since it gives me the opportunity of making my maiden speech.

Since coming to this honourable House, I have been deeply touched by the overwhelming acclaim which Members have given me—an acclaim which I consider is a tribute to the memory of a man whom you all knew so well.

My presence here to-day, Sir, is evidence of the high regard which the Northern Peoples Congress had for my late father. A keen partyman, no doubt, my father was; but that he should be honoured by being replaced by his young son through a bye-election from which I emerged victor by a very wide margin, is proof that the N.P.C. regarded him as a man who had rendered the party sincere services.

It is with a deep sense of humility that I beg leave of this honourable House, to make an observation here. In the tribute paid to my father, many people said that they had found him an untiring worker for Nigerian unity, a servant of his community, and who, individually, endeared himself to all. Indeed, I am now beginning to realise what—in the Nigerian context—made him a man of destiny.

Some people even went further to say that he was a new type of revolutionary who grasped, as few men did, the problems of our nation. They argued that the way he rose to meet all crises in the political structure of this nation was proof that he had an insight into the nation's weaknesses. For from time to time, he managed to find some solution to a problem, no matter how difficult.

Several years ago, when I often occupied a seat in the gallery above this Chamber, little did I realise that I would be called upon, by a twist of fortune, to share this experience as a law maker. We can never influence the masses of our people by merely showing how smoothly our parliamentary democracy functions. If we really want democracy to thrive, then we must stand up for it in our own lives, in the lives of others and in the life of the nation and be led by God, in community with others who feel the same obligation. It will be then, indeed, that the miracle of democracy will be achieved and other people will be impressed. This, to me, is an ideology and a moral strength.

As we look around this nation to-day, we find that our commitments as legislators are enormous. We all want to see a nation free from prejudice. We want a nation where no man goes hungry as long as somebody has something to give him; a nation where everybody has a decent house to live in; a nation where everyone ought to have the chance of being well educated. Good ideas though these are, we all have to put our shoulders and heads together and work harder, first for the unity of this great country, and secondly for the progress of our people, if they are to be achieved.

I would like here to say how grateful I am to my party, the Northern Peoples Congress, for the sacrifice it has made in several ways in the interest of Nigeria's unity. I do not share the view that we must always show strength in the face of glaring problems that first call for a united front. I am only hoping that the spirit of compromise which has kept this nation going for sometime now, will continue for a long time to come, and that we are politically mature enough to accept that concessions made in the interest of national unity must not be taken to mean a sign of weakness.

To me, perhaps more than any other Member of this House, because of my age, the importance of unity in this country looms very high in all that I do and say. I have been born into an era in which there are no distinct institutions of education for the North and the South; a period in which the urge for living together has been greatest amongst our common people. I regard myself as a symbol of the Nigerian youth, burning with the zeal

House of Representatives Debates

2665 [Supplementary Appropriation] 20 OCTOBER 1965 (1965-66) Bill : Second Reading] 2666

to see the wrongs of yesterday, if any there be, righted, anxious to don on the cloak of national unity, if only it will serve the purpose of proving to the world that diversity in outlook need not mean that we do not belong to one nation.

As I see it, the task of nation building is made very burdensome when the basic material for the very nation which we long to build is destroyed. The task of forging out the new Nigeria is made more difficult by those who, for hopes of personal gain, beat the tribal drum. Let us admit that this nation under the guidance of God has been assigned to us to mould. Let us accept that the final image which we will produce will reflect our yearnings, our hopes, and our faith in one Nigeria. It is by so doing that we will have a clear view of what type of nation we intend to build, it is then that we will really stand for the ideals that create rather than destroy, in Nigeria.

We ought to be humble, even in service. We ought to accept that whatever we do we hold our position in trust for the masses of this great country, who, someday, will hold us accountable for all we have done. The youths of this country are tired of the sermon of unity which is forgotten when national issues come to the fore. They are tired of the songs of hate which feature in most of our pre-election campaigns. Is it not possible to hope, Sir, that in regard to the great future which we all want for this country the youths will be spared the songs of discord which feature in most of our election campaigns? It does appear to me that much emphasis is laid on the things that divide us and very little stress on the things that unite us. (*Hear, hear*).

We cannot legislate against the likes and the dislikes of our nationals severally. This is against our Constitution. But we have seen in other countries where the national legislature, in the interest of public order and good government, undertakes to pass laws to abolish sectional practices amongst nationals. A man belongs to a section of this country only through the accident of birth. Why should he then be held responsible for his place of birth? (*Hear, hear*).

We must strengthen and increase our armed forces in these days of subversion, but also we have to raise another kind of army

too. We must raise an army of dedicated people; men and women who will attack injustice and corruption fearlessly.

I give my humble credit to the Northern Peoples Congress for the standard of unity which it has set amongst the masses of our people. I would like to see them do more. I would like to see them move forward and give hope to those amongst us who as it were are frustrated people and teach them that the race is not always for the swift, nor the battle for the strong.

Let us, as legislators, stand committed to doing that which is right, as God gives His grace to see the right. And what is more, let us make what is right the norm of modern Nigeria—a passion which will give our people once more the secret of freedom that endures and to the world the highroad to lasting peace.

I am indeed grateful to the Sardauna of Sokoto, the Prime Minister and the members of the Northern Peoples Congress here assembled, to the entire nation for this opportunity for service to the nation. I am reminded that doing a great deed lies in stooping down and helping the down-trodden to secure a place in the sun. I hope I shall be worthy of the confidence that has thus been reposed in me, and pray for your continued co-operation guidance and fellowship.

May I tell my fellow legislators that I do not invite them to walk a comfortable road. I invite them to assist in raising a corps of dedicated Nigerians, men and women who will work for Nigeria and apply rigorous standards of honesty, purity and selflessness to their daily lives. With sacrifice and fearlessness, I am convinced that we shall build a nation of which posterity shall justifiably be proud. (*Hear, hear*).

I dare say that it is not possible in my first speech in this House for me to say how anxious I am that some of our national problems be raised here and now and solved. Indeed it would be presuming too much if I claimed that there is much that has been done which it might be my humble privilege to initiate. All I can say and this with a deep sense of humility—is that I shall endeavour at all times to live up to the high expectations of this honourable House, and strive at all times to uphold the highest traditions which this House has set.

[ALHAJI MUHAMMADU RIBADU]

After all, it is up to us all to give this nation leadership, and fashion out the image which we wish Nigeria to have in the comity of nations.

I am grateful for this opportunity of addressing this honourable House. (*Applause*).

Professor Kalu Ezera (Bende East) : I would very much like to pay tribute to my hon. Friend and Member for Adamawa Central (*Alhaji Bashiru Ribadu*) who symbolises in this House the link between the various component groups of this Federation, a role which his late father played so creditably. His was a speech which has its theme on unity, and I am very happy that a young man of his calibre has come to harp upon this same theme of unity. How I wish that we the elders and older Members of this House will borrow a leaf from him, and not only preach sermons of unity but practise them.

He has invited us to join him to blaze the trail which will lead to this goal of unity. We have accepted the challenge. We also invite him to join the entire youths of this country, who believe in the indissolubility of this Federal structure ; who believe in the inevitability of the union of this great country of ours. But in doing so we advise also that our elders, the founding fathers of this nation who are still alive, should take stock of events.

We are all lucky people that almost all the founding fathers of our nation are still alive, that with the exception of some who are incarcerated for a while, all of them are still living. It is our wish that these founding fathers should find time to answer the call of the youngman who has come to continue the very noble role which his late father played.

It is on this theme of unity that I would like to make my own contribution, and in any such contribution, we hope that where certain things are pointed out, they should be—

Mr A. F. Odulana (Ijebu North-East) : What is the actual work we are doing in this House now ? Are we debating the Supplementary Estimates, or are we replying to the speech of the Members for Adamawa Central (*Alhaji Ribadu*) ? I want to know.

Mr Speaker : It looks like an introduction to a speech.

Professor Kalu Ezera : I am preparing the groundwork to my own contribution to the debate on the Supplementary Estimates, and I firmly believe, whether the Member for Ijebu North-East (*Mr Odulana*) likes it or not, that that groundwork is essential.

As a Member of Parliament and a Colleague of the Member for Ijebu North-East, I have every right to stand up on the Floor of this House and say my wish and give my opinion. One of the greatest problems facing us in this country is intolerance. Leadership should not be a part of intolerance. One must learn to give and also to take. Therefore, we must always be ready to hear the views of others.

My contribution on the Supplementary Appropriation Bill is going to take the form of making one or two or three propositions, and these I have taken from some vital Heads.

I want to say that the Minister of Finance deserves the tribute of this House for the way and manner he has been able to maintain the validity of the currency of this country abroad. Most of us who have had the opportunity to travel outside, and those of us who have seen how the currency of other countries have been terribly devalued, are happy that the Nigerian currency is considered to be solid. If credit must be paid, therefore, that credit must go to the Minister of Finance particularly, and to his colleagues in the Government generally. That, of course, does not mean that we should relax our efforts.

Quite recently in this country, the workers, peasants and traders have all been shouting about the tight grip which the recent credit squeeze has brought to bear on them. It is in this regard that we appeal to the Federal Minister of Finance to consult with his colleagues to see what can be done with regard to alleviating the burden on the small traders, the low income group and all those who rely on their own personal income to make a living, namely, the small businessmen.

I have no doubt that when a country's balance of payments tends to show one-sidedness as, indeed, has been the case between Nigeria and Japan, the offended country is bound to react. It is, therefore, in order that our Nigerian Government did act in the way it did with regards to abolishing trade with Japan until the balance has been restored.

House of Representatives Debates

2669 *Supplementary Appropriation* 20 OCTOBER 1965 (1965-66) Bill : Second Reading] 2670

I would not be doing my conscience any good if I did not point out an anomaly which recently occurred in the last few months. As hon. Members know, we are supposed to be members of the academic profession who have a great interest in education. Therefore, I refer to the scholarship scheme which the Federal Government had very generously launched, particularly at the Post-Graduate level. This is a commendable act on the part of the Federal Government. But, Sir, with the greatest respect, I beg to point out certain flaws ; flaws which I know, if pointed out, will be rectified in due course.

About two months ago, an announcement went out that the Federal Government had awarded 204 Post-Graduate scholarships with the 10 for Lagos, making 214. It may interest you, Sir, as well as this House that in the interest of the unity we are professing, we should not only preach it but practise it. Therefore, Sir, I will give you a tabulation of the Regions of the recipients of the awards. The Federal Territory had 10 awards. The Mid-West received 27. Eastern Region had 59 and Western Region 118. Northern Region received none. Here, Sir,—

Mr O. C. Ememe (Aba South) : I think the hon. Gentleman is deceiving the House. The procedure or the policy of the Government for awarding scholarships is purely on merit. and not necessarily on Regional basis. I do not see why he should be deceiving this House.

Chief P. O. A. Dada (Ilorin East) : I would like to correct the Member for Bende East (*Professor K. Ezera*) on the statistics which he has given. They are wrong statistics because statistics can tell lies. He said that nobody received any Post-Graduate scholarship award from the Northern Region whereas two people received awards from my own constituency.

Professor Kalu Ezera : I am going to submit these statistics name by name so as to show the authenticity of it all. Under the policy—

Mr Odulana rose—

Professor Kalu Ezera : The Member for Ijebu North-East (*Mr Odulana*) should listen and learn from me. (*Clapping from Gallery*)

Mr Speaker : There should be no clapping in the gallery. The gallery cannot take part in the activities of the House.

Mr J. D. Odebunmi (Egba East) : Before the hon. Gentleman submits the statistics as he has promised, may I request that he include, at least, the two from the constituency of the Member for Ilorin East (*Chief Dada*.)

Chief Okotie-Eboh : Quite honestly, if my hon. Friend would yield, we expect hon. Members here to be responsible. What are we trying to fashion out ? A sectional Parliament or what ? If an N.C.N.C. Member is speaking and a Member of the Action Group belonging to the U.P.G.A. were to make a remark which is sensible then somebody shouted "split in the U.P.G.A.", what would all that mean ? Are we trying to practise parochialism on the Floor of this House ?

Some Members : No ! Ask them.

Professor Ezera : As I said earlier, the policy of the Federal Government in the award of scholarships is commendable, particularly when that policy has been extended to the post graduate level. This is commendable. All I am pointing out in the overall interest of Nigeria is that the way and manner it has been fashioned out has been faulty somewhere, and I think it is in order if this is pointed out. That is all I have done. In any case the existing policy—

Mr Odulana : On a point of order, I would simply request a professor of the standard of Dr Ezera to be very careful in making a statement of statistics in so far as the scholarship award is concerned. In 1964 there were 608 scholarship awards out of which the Eastern Region got 387. Only 221 were left out for the Northern Region, the Mid-Western Region, the Western Region and the Federal Capital of Lagos. It was hon. Aja Nwachukwu who was then the Federal Minister of Education—(*Interruptions*).

Mr Speaker : Order !

Professor Ezera : Quite frankly, as this House and the public at large can very well justify, there are some of us who feel that we are above either partisanship or sectionalism, and who hold the overall interest of Nigeria at heart. We preach and practise it. However,

[PROFESSOR EZERA]

that does not mean that when certain errors are pointed out that we should pander to the low debris of parochialism—

Alhaji Mohammed Bala Dutsinma (Yankasa) : On a point of order, will the Member for Bende East (*Professor Ezera*) be kind enough to give us the figures for 1964 ?

Professor Ezera : I would not have bothered to go into statistics if it were not so glaring that the awards were fashioned out with some faults. The hon. Minister of Education (*Hon. Richard Akinjide*), who is not here himself, made a complaining issue of this, and promised his electorate that he was going to bring them some fair shares, and ere now are the fair shares. 118 scholarship awards have been given out to one Region, and 59 have been given to another Region.

Therefore, I am respectfully demanding that scholarship awards be given to all the Regions in cash so that the various Regions will have their own candidates and share them out in the way they see fit.

Chief A. Jinadu (Oshun North-East I) : On a point of order, if the Member for Bende East (*Professor Ezera*) wishes to submit some statistics, I would like him to submit them right from 1961 up to date.

Chief T. O. S. Benson (Lagos North) : On a point of information, when Western Germany offered Nigeria the other day some 22 scholarship awards, Mr Ejimofor sent 11 of them to his hometown. Is the Member for Bende East (*Professor Ezera*) not aware of that ?

Professor Ezera : I repeat that since there is a policy in existence of disseminating scholarship awards in which the Northern region is being given its portion in cash and the other Regions in awards, I submit that the other Regions should have their own portions in cash as well, so that the various Regions can share them out as they see fit.

This system will make distribution equitable among all the Regions concerned, in order that we can continue to live together peacefully. This is the only path to one Nigeria, and I ask that scholarship awards in the Regions should be given out in cash in order to allow the Regional Governments to divide such awards among their own candidates. I do hope that the Minister of Education will take

note of this fact, otherwise, as an alternative to these cash awards to the Regional Governments we should have an automatic system of scholarship awards to University students in Zaria, Ibadan, Ife, Lagos and Nsukka, with a limited common entrance examination. This will cut out the wastage involved by employing teams and teams of scholarship interviewers, some of which do not even know what a scholarship means. Yet some members of such teams of scholarship boards get money from people—(*Interruptions and applause from the Gallery*).

Mr Speaker : Order, order ! Any further applause from the Gallery will make the people sitting there liable to expulsion. This is a very poor show. If I hear further applause from the Gallery it will be cleared.

Chief Okotie-Eboh : On a point of order, may I ask the Member for Bende East (*Professor Ezera*) to please withdraw what he said. He said that some members of some scholarships boards do not even know what a scholarship means. The members of a scholarship board are appointed by the Council of Ministers and they are mostly graduates like the Member for Bende East (*Professor Ezera*) himself or barristers-at-law. I know that he himself means no harm, but I shall ask him kindly to withdraw that portion of his statement.

Professor Ezera : I thank the Minister of Finance, the great Leader of this House. I do not, in fact, mean any harm or intend to cause any aspersions on all the members of our scholarships boards. I did say that some of them lack this knowledge. Even in this House there are some bad eggs who believe in *jeun-jeun* and *akara* like the Member for Ijebu North-East (*Mr Odulana*). However, that does not mean that when I said so I meant any harm. So, I do not intend any harm on the worthy members of our scholarships boards. That is that.

I might as well have been a professor at Zaria or anywhere else, but I believe in the unity and well-being of this country. I had myself sat on a scholarships board when I went on my own all the way to Zaria to plead with some Northerners to accept the scholarships offered them. This happened only last year, and eventually some of them are to-day in the

House of Representatives Debates

2673 [Supplementary Appropriation 20 OCTOBER 1965 (1965-66) Bill : Second Reading] 2674

United States of America. I plead with Members in this House to work for the unity of this country. (*interruptions*).

Mr F. A. Ogike (Orlu South-East) : On a point of order, with your permission, Mr Speaker, I quote Standing Order No. 28 (5) :—

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

Mr Speaker : Will hon. Members please desist from unseemly interruptions !

Professor Ezera : I would like to close up this aspect of my speech by suggesting again that we should either give cash awards to the Regions, or automatic scholarship awards to all our Universities on a set pattern, to be introduced by the Federal Government itself, so that the number would still be the same, but all those who might pass the entrance examination to the various Universities would get automatic awards.

My second point is on a topic which I read of in a local newspaper on the very worthy and noble project of commercialising the Posts and Telegraphs Department. I want to say here that I do not want to give the impression that I am going to prejudice the Bill when it does come before this House, but so long as we are on the Supplementary Estimates, I think I am covered in mentioning something on this issue.

The note of warning I want to sound is that we have seen a lot of corporations and quasi-government agencies in this country, and we know that most of them have been failures. Therefore, if the Federal Government is really serious and sincere about making the best use of our postal and telegraphic system, I will very strongly recommend to the Minister of Communications the commercialisation of the P. and T. on the pattern of the American A.T. and T., which is a purely commercial concern. In this concern, any clerk who does not work or who spends his time filling pools coupons when he should be selling stamps, is sacked if he is caught, because the concern is all out to make profits.

Most of our youngmen in this country want jobs ; but when they get the jobs they do not want to work but sit down and read newspapers. They do not care at all because it is Government work. So, if we transfer the P. and T. to a corporation, the same attitude of "this is Government work", will prevail.

I would like to stress the fact that one of the inevitable inhibitions and drawbacks of a developing country, is how to be able to tackle the colonial mentality which has stuck in the people for very many years. We believe that everything governmental is *Oyinbo*—it is the white-man's job. Even though the Prime Minister, Sir Abubakar Tafawa Balewa, is indeed and in fact heading the Nigerian Federation and has headed it for the past seven years creditably, our people still feel that Government work is the whiteman's work. If a person steals money from the Government, he feels that he has not stolen anybody's money ; he has only stolen the whiteman's money.

Therefore, I suggest that a commercialisation system, whereby we go all out to commercialise the posts and telegraphs section of our Public Service will achieve the following objectives :—

(1) It would bring about top-notch efficiency and

(2) all the nooks and corners of this country from Kaura Namoda to Calabar, from Bornu to Lagos, and all the villages, will be installed with telephones overnight.

This is the sort of thing we want in this country. The commercial companies are out to make profits and so far as they are out to make profits, it is in their interest that all the villages and every nook and corner of this country be supplied with telephone and telegraphic communication lines. But then, Sir, this is going to be done on a basis of averting monopoly.

I am sure that Members of the Government are fully aware of ways and means of avoiding monopoly. We can allow a company to come in and operate the scheme for a limited number of years after which Nigeians will take over. By Nigerian, I mean Nigerian businessmen and not the Nigerian Government. The concern will be handed over to Nigerian businessmen who are out to make money and who have profit motives behind them. Once we allow this profit motive, the problem of inefficiency and wastefulness in the P. and T. Department will be solved.

I should hate to see another form of corporation set-up. It would only provide jobs for the boys ; it would be nothing but a lowering

[PROFESSOR EZERA]

of efficiency and ensuring that super scale posts are given to brothers, sisters and friends and, of course, there would be corruption galore.

I am very sorry that the Minister of Communications is not here, but I do hope now that the Bill has not yet come before this House, that a serious re-thinking on this issue will take place within the Cabinet, so that when the time comes for us to commercialise the P. and T., we will do it very well.

For goodness sake, let us not wander back into this corrupt system of corporation or quasi-Government set ups which will simply leave this country in a mess. Let us go all out and commercialise the P. and T. if we want to commercialise it provided, of course, that the Government takes care of its own security section. A Government Secretary can take care of the mails department.

My last point in this regard is that most of us have travelled out of this country, especially the Ministers, and sometimes I wonder why it is that after seeing what happens in other countries our Ministers come back and do not try to put these things into practice in this country. Most of us have lived in London for many years and we find beautiful parks everywhere. But here in Lagos, every available space has been sold over to the oil companies and we have nothing but either petrol stations or slums. Are we not building for the future?

Chief T. O. S. Benson (Lagos North) : All the available space of land has been bought up by the people from the Eastern Region.

Professor Ezera : I am sure that my friend the Member for Lagos North (*Chief Benson*), agrees with me *in toto*. He knows that what I am saying is true.

As I was saying, we are building for the future generations. We are giving them the painful task of demolishing these huge architectural monstrosities. They will demolish these architectural monstrosities which we are putting up in order to build highways, parks *et cetera*. What a waste this would be! Why can we not help them now by earmarking certain areas not only in Lagos, but also in other parts of the Federation for the building of parks? This will help the health of our children and our people generally.

I appeal again that there should be a redress in the way and manner the whole land of Lagos is being given out to petrol dealers. Let us provide for parks because this is what happens in other capitals of the world. Members of this House and those on the Ministerial Bench know that this is true. They should do something about the present situation.

The Minister of Finance (Chief F. S. Okotie-Eboh) : What I want to do is to help the House, that is, if hon. Members will cut down the lengths of their speeches so that other Members can speak and, if Members will refrain from repeating what others have said, I think we will be making progress. I would like hon. Members to please co-operate with me because I do not want to rush them, but we cannot stop the clock from moving. This is just my appeal because I know many Members would like to make their contributions.

Mr A. F. Odulana (Ijebu North-East) : I do not want to reply to what the Member for Bende East (*Professor Ezera*) said on Education, but I have this note of warning to sound. A Minister in the Federation has occupied the Office of the Federal Minister of Education for eight years and has done his duty so far as scholarships in the Federation are concerned. There was no hue and cry raised in this House at any one moment. But a new Minister full of life, full of vision, knowing that in the past all have been beclouded with doubts, is trying to repair what has been wrongly done.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Education (Mr C. A. Bamgbose) : The Member for Ijebu North-East (*Mr Odulana*) is trying to impute improper motives to the former Minister of Education, by comparing him with the present Minister. He should stop making any more reference to the former Minister of Education.

Mr Odulana : I would respectfully ask the Prime Minister to cause a high-powered Commission to go into the activities of the Ministry of Education in so far as the award of scholarships for the past eight years is concerned, and, if there is anything found wrong, then the former Minister and all those who are supporting him should be brought to book.

I do not agree with the idea that Federal scholarships should be made through the regions so that they could offer these scholar-

House of Representatives Debates

2677 [Supplementary Appropriation 20 OCTOBER 1965 (1965-66) Bill : Second Reading] 2678

ships to anybody they like. The way in which it has been done in the past, based on what is laid down in our Constitution, is to go on.

I want to speak on one of the foremost and important Departments in the administration of our country to-day. that is, the Police Department. In my speeches in this House in 1960 and 1961, I laid much stress on the importance of Nigerianising the Army, the Police, the Customs and the Inland Revenue. All our dreams on these Departments have come true. But there is the Department of Police to-day, which, to all intents and purposes, has not justified what is expected of it.

I will just mention the most recent act of the Nigeria Police with regards to their unsatisfactory performance during the last West Regional elections, where Policemen have been found to be partisan and partial.

Mr W. O. Briggs (Degema West) : I do not know what my hon. Friend really means when he talks about the unsatisfactory performance of the Police at the last West Regional elections. Is it because not all the Policemen were persuaded to carry ballot papers ? We do know that many of them were carrying ballot papers for the N.N.D.P.

Mr Odulana : Some Members in this House went the wrong way by accusing the Chairman of the Electoral Commission as being partial, forgetting the simple fact of the misdeeds of some Police officers in conducting illegal elections in a lot of places in the Western Region. At the same time, they left undone the good work of maintaining law and order where irresponsible people were committing crimes in broad daylight.

Chief V. O. Onabanojo (Ijebu South-West) : On a point of order, I would have thought that the Member for Ijebu North-East (*Mr Odulana*), who claims to have been a very old Member of this House, should stop reading his speech.

Mr Odulana : The Police Force in Western Nigeria have done a good job under the direction of the able Commissioner of Police in that Region—Chief Odofin Bello. I would like to congratulate him. But the Nigerian Head of Police reinforced the Police in Western Region with policemen from the Federal

capital, where it is known and believed that ninety *per cent* of such reinforcement were from a particular tribe in a particular Region.

Professor Kalu Ezera (Bende East) : On a point of order, I would have thought that in obedience to your plea yesterday, Mr Speaker, and subsequently, in obedience to the plea made by the Minister of Defence, it was agreed that we should not bring in the question of the Army and the Police in terms of particular tribes or no tribes. This is demoralising to those who maintain law and order outside.

I would, therefore, seek to reinforce your statement, Mr Speaker.

Mr Odulana : Facts are very bitter. I said, and I am repeating, that a lot of havoc was done by the Police during the last elections in Western Nigeria. The good intervention of the Nigerian Army saved the situation from worsening, and up till the present moment, the Army are still saving the situation. That was a bad job by the Police.

Some hon. Members, not well informed, are asking the Federal Government to replace the Chairman of the Federal Electoral Commission, but I think the first person that should be asked to quit is the Nigeria Police boss. However, before he quits the stage and a better Nigerian boss takes his place, an enquiry should be instituted into his Department with special reference to the conduct of the Nigeria policemen deployed during the West Regional elections.

There is also the serious allegation that the Nigeria Police boss is favouring an English firm of tailors and a Syrian firm of tailors in the award of contracts for the sewing of police uniforms in Nigeria.

Chief Okotie-Eboh : My hon. Friend will help us if he will desist from reading his speech, and speak sensibly rather than accusing civil servants who cannot come here to defend themselves on the Floor of this House. He should realise that the Prime Minister is in charge of the Police.

If contracts have been awarded, I can assure him that they have been properly awarded to whoever are concerned. We are not here to attack foreigners or businessmen for one reason or the other. I will say, Sir, with the greatest respect, that to raise the award of

[CHIEF OKOTIE-EBOH]

contracts is completely out of order, because it has nothing to do with the Supplementary Estimates. I raise very serious objection to it, and I seriously say that my hon. Friend should not come here to smuggle anything like this into the debate. It is improper.

Mr Speaker : This is a detail which I think we had better leave to the Committee Stage.

Mr Odulana : I will say that under Head 23—Police—a sum of £40,000 is allocated. Further, I will tell the Minister of Finance that if it comes to a matter of standing in this House and talking without notes, I can stand my ground properly. I am not speaking of clinker now, nor am I speaking on shoe factories. He should please allow me to say what I am entitled to say. All I am saying is that there are thousands of qualified Nigerian tailors to undertake the contract of supplying the Police with uniforms.

Mr Speaker : I would like to remind Members that at the Second Reading stage of the Supplementary Appropriation Bill, the general aspect of government's financial measures is discussed, and details are left to the Committee.

Mr Odulana : I agree with the Speaker, and I will abide by his ruling.

I shall now call the attention of the Minister of Mines and Power as well as his skilful and able Chairman of the E.C.N. to what is going on in that Corporation at present. Hon. Members are fully aware that we have five universities in this country, and that there are engineering faculties in some of them. These universities turn out every year many thousands of graduates in engineering and other fields. But what is going on in the E.C.N. with regard to the employment of foreign engineers deserves comment.

The Chinese General Manager has now embarked on importing engineers with almost identical, if not less, qualifications with those of the locally trained Nigerians. The foreign engineers come from America, Holland and the Phillipines, with the title of "experts" attached to them, whereas the local engineers remain unemployed under the reason that they are inexperienced. The E.C.N. forgets that Rome was not built in a day.

Not long ago the General Manager made an attempt to bring in Chinese engineers, but he was prevented from doing so. He has now resorted to discriminating against Nigerian engineers, accountants and secretaries by dislodging them from their Ikoyi flats and sending them to Surulere and Ikorodu flats instead, whereas their expatriate counterparts are lodged in Ikoyi.

I am humbly suggesting to the Minister of Mines and Power and his experienced and Godly Chairman of the E.C.N. to please come to the rescue of the Nigerians in the Corporation so that the "sun" does not shine too hot on the heads of Nigerians, leaving the unentitled expatriate experts in the E.C.N. unhurt.

Recently, a good number of qualified Nigerian engineers have resigned from the E.C.N., and more are quite prepared to take their exit too if Mr Yuan Suan-Sun, the Chinese General Manager, continues in this way.

I would like also to ask the Ministers of Finance and Works to look into the allegation made against some well-established Building and Civil Engineering Contractors operating in this country, like the Taylor Woodrow and Costains. It is alleged that their parent bodies in the United Kingdom have up to this day refused to accept Nigerian building and architectural students in their establishments to do their practical training, whilst students of other West African countries, like Ghana, are being regularly absorbed. The same thing is being carried on by the Bank of West Africa and the Barclays Bank, D.C.O. at their head office in the United Kingdom. Nigerian students doing banking in Britain are not employed in the banks' offices to undertake practical training. This complaint should be looked into forthwith.

Another matter I want to raise before I conclude my speech concerns the offices of the Whips of this House, and in this regard I would direct the matter through you, Mr Speaker, to the Minister of Finance. Every Member knows the importance attached to the office of the Chief Whip and his deputies in this House, and even those of us who have been to Westminster are well aware of the high regard paid to the office of the Chief Whip, the deputy Chief Whips and the Whips in the House of Commons.

House of Representatives Debates

2681 [Supplementary Appropriation 20 OCTOBER 1965 (1965-66) Bill : Second Reading] 2682

During the Budget meeting of Parliament this year, we all unanimously passed the emolument and allowances payable to the Chief Whip, but it has not pleased the Minister of Finance who has responsibility for the finances of this nation to grant the Chief Whip the requisite allowances due to him. He is still receiving allowances similar to those received by the Floor Members, whereas the Parliamentary Secretaries and Ministers receive hundreds of pounds as allowances for cars, houses, entertainment, *et cetera*. I want to know why, since we preach that the standard set by Westminster should be copied by us, the Minister of Finance should fail to carry out his duty.

The Minister of Housing and Surveys (Chief Ogunsanya) : I think it is unfair for the hon. Gentleman (who is not a youngman at all) to come to the Floor of this House to make statements which cannot be substantiated. It is not true that the Minister of Finance, or any Minister for that matter, has stopped the pay of any Member of Parliament. It has become more and more fashionable for business men of the calibre of the Member for Ijebu North-East (*Mr Odulana*) to look round time and again and try to intimidate Ministers on the Floor of this House so as to make it possible for them to get what they want as soon as Parliament rises.

Mr Speaker : The Minister is apparently making a speech and not a point of order.

Mr Odulana : Unfortunately, unlike other Ministers who have a means of helping people of their constituencies, it has not been possible for the Minister of Housing and Surveys to help his constituency in Ikorodu, because there are no government buildings there from which he can collect rents.

I did not say that the Minister of Finance stopped the salary of the Chief Whip. On the contrary, his salary is being paid to him; but his allowances are yet to be settled. Up to this moment he is still drawing mileage allowance at the same rate as a Floor Member does, whereas, by virtue of the position he holds, his allowance should be equivalent to that paid to Ministers.

Equally, the deputy Chief Whips and Whips have not been receiving allowances commensurate to their positions, which is what we are

asking the Minister to set right. But if he fails to act, we will bring up a Motion asking the Prime Minister to compel him to do it.

Mr N. N. Anah (Awka Central) : The hon. Gentleman should declare his interest before proceeding any further.

Mr Odulana : If I am to declare my interest then I should have to "whip" the Member for Awka Central (*Mr Anah*) in the first place before doing so. This matter is a simple one. If we must behave in the same way as those at Westminster, it follows therefore that all the officers of this Parliament should receive their due share.

It may be that the Minister of Finance would like people to come and prostrate before him in order that they can get their rights. As for me, if we cannot get our rights through constitutional means, we will bring the matter to the attention of the House. The office of Chief Whip is not hereditary; anyone can become a Chief Whip tomorrow and anyone can become a Minister too. Neither is hereditary, and nobody should take it for granted that since he is placed in charge of a Ministry he becomes the *alpha* and *omega* in that Ministry.

Any Member can become the Prime Minister tomorrow. Any Member of this House can become the Speaker tomorrow, and anyone of us can become anybody in this Parliament tomorrow. That is the reason why we want a good foundation to be laid. We want good examples to be followed.

I beg to support.

Malam Sule Usman, Sarkin Sullubawani Katsina (Kaita-Jibia) : My interest is to ask the Leader of the House when we are due to come back for the next meeting of the House, and to confirm the increase in our salaries. That is my interest, Sir.

Mr J. O. Nwankwu (Onitsha Urban) : I beg to support the Supplementary Appropriation (1965-66) Bill ably prepared by the Minister of Finance; but in doing so, I have the following observations to make.

The recent ban on Japanese goods, though a belated action, was a very wise and well-taken step to save our foreign reserves from a total drainage. I must say that our trade with some

[MR NWANKWU]

countries, including Japan, had for a long time now been a great mockery of the principles which govern trade between nations.

While on this issue, I wish to appeal to the Minister in charge of trade to re-consider our trade relationship with some nations, apart from Japan. Most of those who claim to be our good friends use this country as a dumping-ground for their goods without having any intention of buying our own products. It is true that no nation can expect to have a favourable balance of payments every year, yet I doubt if this country can ever have a favourable balance of payments at a given year with the present one-sided trade between us and other nations of the world.

I think it is our duty not to wait until our international trade reaches such a staggering deficit before an attempt is made to find a solution. The case of Japan is still too fresh in our minds. A hue and cry has been raised over our trade with Japan during the past years, yet the Government did nothing, and all of a sudden we want to correct a deficit created over many years by a wave of the hand in a single day.

The bitter opposition shown by most traders to the ban of Japanese goods should not have arisen were it not that we were allowed to get ourselves so much involved in Japanese goods. And at present these goods appear utterly indispensable to the teeming populace of this country.

I am not in the least trying to take the Government to task; in fact, I had earlier praised it in as much as this present step serves to save us from economic bankruptcy. But the pity of it is that this step has cost millions of traders in this great country their livelihood.

I refer to those traders whose main commodities of trade were Japanese goods. Now that the ban has been placed on these goods, their deposits in that country to the tune of millions of pounds have had to be confiscated. It was on this very important point that the traders who are the backbone of this country's economy demonstrated. These poor traders want to get their deposits back, or in the alternative, the Government should allow them to collect the goods covered by such deposits.

Some of these deposits have been placed in such a way that they cover the supply of particular goods for a year or so. In my humble opinion, these traders were right in opposing the ban, so long as the Government failed to inform them what would happen to their money in Japan. If the Government would—as I surely know it could—find a possible solution to their plight, then only the insane would oppose the ban. But to allow our hard-earned and badly needed money to lie in waste in Japan, would amount to further economic instability.

I think, therefore, that it is fair enough that the Government should find means of alleviating the plight of the traders whose livelihood was being sacrificed in order to save this country from a total economic breakdown.

I will also comment on the incessant duty increases. I call on the Minister of Finance to tell the nation where in the world duties have so constantly been increased without allowing the traders a breathing space. These increases have robbed a large number of traders in this country of their livelihood. Where an increase of duty should be made, the traders should be given enough time to clear their goods already ordered, before the new rates can take effect. I, therefore, appeal to the Minister of Finance to consider the fate of the traders who form the bulk of our population before doing anything which would surely jeopardise their livelihood.

I humbly appeal to the Minister to waive, for some time, the restrictions on the entry of Japanese goods, so that those goods ordered which the traders now find impossible to claim because of the new law, could be collected.

I now wish to call on the Minister of Communications to consider, as a matter of urgency, the building of branch post offices at Fegge and the inland town, Onitsha. These two places have each attained over 40,000 units of business, and I am surprised that branch post offices have not been opened in those areas. A lot of industries are coming up there, while commercial houses are numerous. I appeal to the Minister to speed up arrangements for the building of branch post offices in these two areas. I must say that my people in these areas are getting restless over the delay.

House of Representatives Debates

2685 [Supplementary Appropriation 20 OCTOBER 1965 (1965-66) Bill : Second Reading] 2686

I would also like to comment briefly on the establishment of industries in this country. In this field, the Government has done more than expected, but a careful study of some of these industries shows that they produce almost identical products. This, I think, will not serve this country well at the moment since we have a limited number of consumers for these products. I, therefore, call for a diversification in the establishment of industries. I also suggest that before any industry is established, a thorough survey should be carried out to find out to what extent it would be patronised by consumers, otherwise the establishment of such industries will be a total waste of capital.

Attempts should also be made to explore the possibility of exporting some of these products to our brother African countries who are not in a position at the moment to manufacture such goods. Towards this end, I appeal to the Government to consider the idea of sending out trade missions to these African countries to study what our infant industries can supply them. Without finding wide markets for our products, it would be useless to establish industries.

I would also like to bring to the notice of the Government the difficulties which face expatriate industrialists who want to establish here. I appeal to the Government to encourage these industrialists by making things very easy for them. Indeed, it is our duty to encourage these people and not for them to beg us to encourage them. Since we want to industrialise this country, it is necessary that we should not make it difficult for foreigners who wish to help us towards this end.

This speech will not be complete without mention being made of the Ministry of Works. The Minister of Works deserves the sincere congratulations of the vast population of this great country for the able way his Ministry handled the work on the £5 million Niger Bridge. The bridge, as it stands to-day, apart from its economic and social advantages to the people of the Federal Republic, is a lasting monument to the Federal Government. Now that the bridge has been completed, it becomes necessary to give its site the attraction it deserves.

If I am not asking for too much, I appeal to the Minister of Works to see that a cloverleaf

is constructed to lead the approach-road to the head of the bridge. This will also lessen the incessant flood we are suffering in that area. This is just a finishing touch. Indeed, the Niger Bridge is a great achievement.

The next point is the official opening, now that the Resident Engineer has assured the Nation that if everything is well the bridge will be ready by December 1965. I do hope that the hon. Minister will fix immediately the date for the opening. Again, I appeal to the Council of Ministers not to charge fees on the crossing of the bridge as it had been rumouring that fees will be paid by lorries and cars using it. If the Government is bent on charging fees, it should not exceed 5s for cars and £1 for lorries. Thus, I hope the Government will get back its money in less than five years.

I now turn to the suffering of our people who are living in the Fegge Layout, Onitsha, as a result of floods. The people are always faced with the problem of floods and the place has been flooded several times. Scores of houses in that area have been deserted following the submerging of these houses by the floods. Property damaged and destroyed by the floods can only be calculated in terms of thousands of pounds. Up till now the flooding is still going on.

One of the main reasons why the floods were worst this year, apart from the record rainfall of this year, was the construction of the access road to the Niger Bridge. This road has been so constructed that it sort of diverts the floods into the residential areas. I therefore, appeal to the Government to see to it that a cloverleaf is built so as to save the lives of the people living in that area, and the front view of the bridge could thus be made more attractive.

I call on the Government to see to it that work at the site of the proposed iron and steel industry at Onitsha be started without further delay. We read in the newspapers that a contract for the project has been signed. What then is holding up the commencement of the work?

The same thing applies to the Minister of Aviation. For the past six years the Ministry had agreed to build an aerodrome at Onitsha. I should like the Minister of Aviation to tell us the truth if he is not prepared to build the

[MR NWANKWU]

airport at Onitsha. We even learned that the Committee set up by the Ministry to see about the work has not been meeting because there is no directive from the Ministry. I should like the Minister to make a categorical statement on this.

My next point is on education. One hon. Member has just spoken on this and, although Mr Speaker has ruled that we should not go into this matter, I do think it is necessary that a Minister who runs one of the Federal Government's services should not have a sense of tribalism in the distribution of amenities. A Minister in the Federal Government is responsible for the whole of Nigeria and not a particular region or an ethnic group. He is for the whole people of Nigeria and he should always try to see that Nigerian unity is intact.

I beg to support.

Mr Speaker : With very many Members wishing to speak, I would like hon. Members to be as brief as possible.

The Minister of Aviation (Dr J. A. Wachuku) : At the last meeting of the House, during the Budget Meeting, just when I took over the Ministry of Aviation, Members wished me to make a statement about my Ministry, and I begged their leave to postpone it because I was very new and I knew very little or nothing about the Ministry. However, I promised to make a statement about the Ministry of Aviation during the time that Parliament would be considering the Supplementary Estimates. Unfortunately, we did not hold the meeting in August and now the meeting is being held this October.

I do not intend to make a full statement on all aspects of my Ministry, but to confine myself to the most controversial part of my responsibilities, that is in respect of the Nigeria Airways or W.A.A.C. (Nigeria) Limited.

As Members know, the Minister of Aviation is charged with responsibility for aviation, certificate of aircraft and personnel, authorisation of scheduled and non-scheduled flights within, to and from Nigeria in accordance with the Air Transport Licensing Regulations, 1958; then policy on aviation in general, provision of air safety services and Nigerian aerodromes; then relations with the following bodies—the Nigeria Airways, Nigeria Civil Aviation, and the Training Centre.

Since the House adjourned, I took the opportunity to attend the International Civil Aviation Organisation conference in Montreal which deals with the technological and scientific aspect of aviation, and then later I took the opportunity to visit the major aircraft manufacturing companies and also the major airlines or carriers in the United States of America, Canada and in Europe. It was a very useful experience indeed.

In fact, when one hon. Member—the Member for Bende East (*Professor Kalu Ezera*)—was speaking, he asked whether when the Ministers go on tours they do learn anything and if they do learn anything at all, whether they make use of the knowledge and information they obtain abroad. My answer is Yes.

Before I go any further, it is necessary for me to give Members some understanding of the historical background of the difficulties that the Nigeria Airways has been confronted with. As Members may know, on May 15th, 1946, His Majesty King George VI of England signed an Order-in-Council setting up a Corporation to, I quote "develop efficient airport" services in West Africa. That was on May 15th, 1946. This resulted in the organisation of the West African Airways Corporation by the Governments of Gambia, Sierra Leone, the Gold Coast and Nigeria. In that year, 1946, the B.O.A.C. was the technical adviser to W.A.A.C. and was commissioned to organise the airline.

Why I am referring to this is that from 1946 to 1965 it is nineteen years and next year will make it twenty years since what is now the Nigeria Airways (and Nigeria in particular) became associated with the B.O.A.C. in this business of airline operation.

On the 6th of March, 1957, the Gold Coast became Ghana and later on about 1958, broke away from the W.A.A.C. Limited. Then on the 30th of September, 1958, W.A.A.C. Limited ceased to exist and, in its place, we changed over to W.A.A.C. (Nigeria) Limited. This became the company that goes by the trading name "Nigerian Airways." This company was then owned by Nigeria, which held 51 per cent of the shares, the Elder Dempster Lines 32½ per cent and B.O.A.C. 16½ per cent. That was W.A.A.C. Nigeria Limited.

House of Representatives Debates

2689 [Supplementary Appropriation] 20 OCTOBER 1965 (1965-66) Bill : Second Reading] 2690

Chief V. O. Onabanjo (Ijebu South-West) : On a point of order, I would like to say that although one appreciates the anxiety of the Minister of Aviation to give us the historical background of the Nigerian Airways, we are asked now to come and discuss this Supplementary Appropriation Bill, and I think that the Minister, maybe unintentionally, is being unfair to the back benchers who really want to discuss the financies of the Government.

If he wants to make a Ministerial Statement he has another opportunity of doing so or he could ask the Leader of the House to give us a whole day to discuss the Nigerian Airways affairs.

Dr Jaja Wachuku : I think there is something itching the Member for Ijebu South-West (*Chief Onabanjo*). He has not recovered from the difficulties of the elections in the West.

Mr S. A. Shitta-Bey (Lagos North-Central) : On a point of order, it is very disgraceful indeed to listen to a member of the U.P.G.A. attacking another member of the U.P.G.A. on a matter in which both of them are interested. Unless the hon. Member and Minister of Aviation (*Dr Jaja Wachuku*) wishes to indicate that he is not and never been interested at all in the last Western Nigeria elections, I cannot understand his comment.

Dr Jaja Wachuku : If inexperienced Members of this House have no sense of humour in this House, they might as well go and take a few lessons on the subject.

On attaining independence, Nigeria bought out the two members and became the sole owner of the company, owing the company with a capital of £6 million. I am trying to relate the story of the Airways so that when I come to the financial aspect of it Members will be in a position to appreciate what I am leading to.

Since then, the actual paid up capital of the company had been £1,527,400. So Members can understand that, with that actual cash capital paid, it will be rather difficult for the Nigerian Airways to develop as rapidly as it should have done in the past nineteen years. Members will notice that in all the three stages I have mentioned, the B.O.A.C. had been the technical partner.

I must say that I had two predecessors within whose regime certain changes were made. There was the fifteen-year agreement which was modified during the regime of the former Minister of Transport and Aviation and now Minister of Communications (*Mr Njoku*). It was within his regime that we got the *Fokker Friendship* for our internal services and succeeded, for the first time, in producing two captains. Throughout this period before we became independent, although the B.O.A.C., with all its experience, knew that it was necessary to retain Nigerians to become captains, it did nothing of the sort. It was when we purchased the *Fokker Friendship* from the Netherlands that we were able to send two Nigerians to qualify as captains, hence we had two captains when I took over. I say this because people like to ask whether we do learn anything when we go abroad.

Members may wish to know that these Airlines have their own schools. Every Airline has a competent school, and the B.O.A.C. had a competent school when I visited them. But they never did anything to produce captains for Nigeria until we became independent and our own man came to the scene and had the power to do that, and the first captains were produced as a result of their being trained in Holland.

When I came to the Nigerian Airways I was informed that there was another Nigerian who was good. I asked them to put him to test and if he failed that would be his own luck. I am happy to say that he went through very well indeed, and so we have produced three captains and we have about 13 first officers.

Again my immediate predecessor who is now the Minister of Trade (*Dr Mbadiwe*) succeeded in recruiting for us a very top man in the person of the General Manager. I am saying this because for sometime now people have been writing in the papers that the only way to solve the problem of the Nigerian Airways is to appoint a Nigerian as General Manager, and I said somewhere in answer to questions that there was no single Nigerian who qualified now to be the General Manager.

I can hear a Member accusing me of having said "for the next twenty years". I did not say twenty years. I said at the moment. I did not quote any date.

[DR WACHUKU]

It takes a lot to be a General Manager of an Airways. For instance the present General Manager is a graduate with the B.Sc. degree, and was a Naval Captain. On retirement from the Navy, he went to an airline and qualified as an Airline Captain. He worked in the airline for a number of years and later on he went to Pakistan on a technical assistance programme to re-organise the Pakistani Airways. After his contract ended the former Minister of Aviation sought him out and recruited him to come here. Some people do not know what this means. He has been with an airline for years, and he is one of the very top men in the business. I heard this, not only from the source from which he came, but also from other sources.

Chief P. O. A. Dada (Ilorin East) : It looks as if the Minister is telling us the qualifications of an expatriate, but we are interested in what he is doing to train a Nigerian who will take up this post later on, not in twenty years to come.

Dr Jaja Wachuku : If my hon. Friend and Member for Ilorin East will be patient he will see what I am leading to. There is no need shouting on the pages of newspapers and telling me to put up somebody, when he has neither the knowledge nor the experience. So that if I had adverse publicity in the press—

Mr A. Fasanmi (Ijero Ekiti) : May we know from the Minister whether Chief Ladigbolu Coker is not qualified to be the General Manager of the Nigerian Airways ?

Dr Jaja Wachuku : No, he is not qualified. In the first place he has never worked in any Airline. Secondly he was an engineer in England for many years and he worked in the Vickers as a Stressman. The qualification of a Stressman does not qualify anybody to be an Airline Manager. One must have some such qualifications all right but this does not qualify such a person to be an Airline Manager. One must work in an airline, have a good administrative ability and then have experience before one can manage an airline. But the mere fact that one is a qualified engineer does not make one qualified to run an airline. So the gentleman is not qualified now.

Mr J. D. Odebunmi (Egba East) : Since this man has been referred to as not qualified now, could he be allowed to understudy the present man holding the office ?

Dr Jaja Wachuku : All senior Nigerians in the Airways will be given full opportunities to study both here and abroad, and who ever proves to be the most competent, based on the accepted standard—not by me but the standard established internationally by the airlines—will be the man as far as I am concerned. I do not care whether he comes from the moon. I am not interested in any particular individual.

Therefore, I ask Members not to force me to put up somebody—or prejudice the possible chances of a Nigerian who may find that those who are trying to help him may be destroying his chances.

Mr Fasanmi : That is a threat.

Dr Wachuku : I have said it, and I am not ashamed to say it. If a man is given the impression that he is entitled to something when he is not yet so qualified, he may become lazy. He may think so much about himself that he will not do anything to help himself. We know this from our own experience in our own homes. Therefore, I will ask hon. Members to help the Airways of this country.

Mr B. Okon (Calabar) : I think the Minister of Aviation should be ashamed to address this House in a pair of pyjamas.

Dr Wachuku : I am well enough disposed to recognise the interjection of a human being.

Now, Sir, since I took over, one of the things I did was to visit the various Airlines—the *Pan American Airline*, *Air Canada*, *B.O.A.C.*, *Alitalia*, *Swiss Air*, *KLM*, *Air Lingus*, *Sabena* and others, and I found out what people were doing to run Airlines. It was a revelation and an experience.

Consequently, when I came back, one thing that dawned on me very clearly was that the Nigerian Airways, did not have a systematic training scheme to produce its own nationals as airmen and, therefore, we decided to launch a five-year training programme so as to produce Nigerians to take over the Nigerian Airways within five years. In other words, within five years we should do what *B.O.A.C.* has not assisted us to do for nearly twenty years.

To do this will cost us a lot of money. Consequently, I made efforts to ask one of the most competent Airlines in the world, an Airline that is making profits every year, an Airline that is run on a commercial basis and

House of Representatives Debates

2693 [Supplementary Appropriation] 20 OCTOBER 1965 (1965-66) Bill : Second Reading] 2694

on a competitive basis—not an Airline that is over-subsidised, that requires £104 million to be written off in order for it to show profit—to help us. I feel that if the Nigeria Airways is over-sheltered it can never stand on its own. So a programme was produced which, on our estimate of it, may cost less, may cost about £1 million. Now, the question is how to find the £1 million.

I therefore, had to do some exercise, and I am happy to say that it has been possible for me to approach the American authorities—the American Government—and they have been graciously pleased to give us a grant for training our airmen for three years, and on the basis of £1 million, that grant will be worth £600,000. But when it is calculated accurately, I am confident that it will not be more than £400,000 to enable us to train our airmen.

So, when Members ask me what we have done, they should bear in mind that that is one of the successes of my Ministry since I took over.

Now, the other thing I did was that we have been operating our international routes on the basis of charter from the B.O.A.C. It costs the Nigeria Airways £760 per hour to charter a B.O.A.C. VC10 plane. Such planes do not fly in our colours and are not under our control. But I have been able to negotiate and to find that it is possible for me to lease a Douglas 8 plane which will have a capacity of 165 economy class passengers like the ones we see coming here. *Alitalia, KLM, UTA, PAN-AM, Swissair* and other Airlines use this plane. That will cost us —flying in our own colours and under our complete control—£645.4 per hour. Also, I could get a Boeing 707 for £652.3 per hour in our own colours and under our control.

The significance of this is this. If these figures are worked out arithmetically, one will find—

Mr J. D. Odebumi (Egba East) : I think it will be very interesting for the Minister to let us know if this rate is calculated when the plane is on flight or when it is on the ground.

Dr Wachuku : It is calculated on flying hours, and the usual calculation in utilisation is ten hours a day. So, if one calculated at £760 per hour at ten hours a day for thirty days

and for twelve months in a year, then one will know what that will be.

Again, if you calculate at £645.4, make it £646 and then at £652.3, make it £653 for easy calculation at ten hours *per day* for thirty days in a month, and for twelve months in a year, the difference will be found.

Apart from hiring these planes that are not in our colours, and not under our control, we cannot use them otherwise. We can only use them from here to London and back. They are not under our control and we cannot use them anywhere else. That explains why whenever we have a Hadj, and we generate a traffic of about 5,000 people a year, Nigeria Airways cannot carry people from here to Jeddah because we have no planes. We cannot use B.O.A.C. planes. We have to generate traffic for *Sabena* or *Air Guinea* and others.

So, one of the things I did was to see why Nigeria Airways has been losing, and to find out in what way we can economise for the purpose of saving for the Nigeria Airways, so that we have the money.

It is most interesting to note that when I got these figures, I did not hesitate to make sure that I was not making any mistake. I gave the Airways people these three figures so that the B.O.A.C. may compare and contrast, and the figures were not challenged. That is why I can make this statement authoritatively. The fact that I can lease a plane in our colours and under our control at a cheaper rate than what we are getting from B.O.A.C. has thus been established.

An hon. Member asked a question about when we were going to alter the agreement which was made between the Nigeria Airways and B.O.A.C.

At this rate we are not making the profit we should make. We are making losses as the balance-sheet shows. The reason is that, for instance, this House has been told that we are sharing on a fifty fifty basis. We do not, in fact, share on a fifty fifty basis. What I found was that in the arrangement between the Nigeria Airways and the B.O.A.C., if they both earn about £5 million they do not actually share it £2.5 million each, taking into consideration that each of them has to deduct any expenses they may each run. However, in the arrangement between the Nigeria Airways and the

[DR WACHUKU]

B.O.A.C. the position is that, for every item, the B.O.A.C. collects 7 per cent profit margin, then they have what they call the *datum line*.

If one has points A to B, B to C and C to D, from points A to B one shares at the rate of fifty fifty, but on all earnings from points B to C the B.O.A.C. takes the whole thing, and then from points C to D it is shared fifty fifty. That is what I am trying to make Members understand. So, if Members hear anything about fifty-fifty they must understand that it is not really fifty-fifty at all.

Mr Odulana : Who made the arrangement ?

Dr Wachuku : The B.O.A.C. made the arrangement with the Nigeria Airways. Naturally, as the Minister responsible, having found this out, I felt bound to look into the matter. I demanded that the B.O.A.C. must work honesty and sincerely with us, as I was anxious that the good relationship that existed between this country and the United Kingdom must continue. So, whilst we are independent we should not have economic imperialism by B.O.A.C. in relation to the Nigeria Airways, and, naturally, I have been exercising that. So, I approached the Pan American Airways as a competitor so as to counter-balance the B.O.A.C. and then study the principles.

Mr Odulana : So, this is another "Operation Fantastic" !

Dr Wachuku : It is not "Operation Fantastic", but if Members like they can call it "Operation Drastic" since it is an economic operation.

I want the Nigeria Airways to be number one on the continent of Africa, and I want Lagos to be the pivot just in the same way as London is to Western Europe and New York is to America. Lagos should be so, at least, to this side of Africa. That is our ambition, but we cannot be all that as long as this unnecessary imposition from the B.O.A.C. continues on the Nigeria Airways. Nigeria Airways cannot earn anything by itself.

I would like to calculate the figures and give the House an idea of the hiring rate which we have now. With the hiring of planes to be put in service in our own colours we shall be saving in one year £450,500. This will be the case if we calculate the cost of hiring a Boeing in our

colours including the pilot, the crew and everything, because it is a weight lease. In fact, we shall be bringing down the cost as we train out our own people. As I said, the difference in one year will be £450,000. The advantage, for instance, is that at the moment there is another aspect in the whole thing particularly to the hon. Members from the North.

Alhaji Mohamed Muhtari, Sarkin Bai (Dambatta) : The Minister has been clinging tenaciously to the proposals to make Lagos Airport like the ones in London and New York, and he has forgotten to say that even in England and America there are alternative airports. In England there is Gatwick, and in America there is Washington or a place somewhere. He has not made any comment on Kano Airport. If Lagos will be number one, Kano Airport should be number two.

Dr Wachuku : Already Kano is number two. In fact, the standard has been created by Kano Airport.

Some hon. Members : What of Port Harcourt ?

Dr Wachuku : A standard has been created by Lagos Airport, Kano Airport and Port Harcourt Airport, judging from internal revenue earnings. However, I am not dealing with that aspect now, but by the next Meeting of this House I shall be in a position to give this House a full report after studying the whole position carefully.

I shall try to show to this House that if one takes a DC8 the margin of profit *per annum* will be £472,500. That would be the difference if we were to use that in a year. In four years it will be £1,802,000 for Boeing and £1,890,000 for the DC8.

If we were to have these planes we would find that instead of paying this money to the B.O.A.C. for the hiring we should be saving it. Naturally we shall reduce our losses to that extent. I do hope that Members will see my point on that.

Now, what I am saying, having regard to this arrangement between the B.O.A.C. and the Nigeria Airways, is that the Nigeria Airways has been paying to the B.O.A.C. in respect of *Britanias* a sum equal to £1,238,228; in respect of *Comets* £171,615; in respect of the *Boeing 707* £474,929, and in respect of the *VC 10*, as at

House of Representatives Debates

2697 [Supplementary Appropriation] 20 OCTOBER 1965 (1965-66) Bill : Second Reading] 2698

present, £450,251 for being used. So, the total amount of money in the hands of the B.O.A.C. in this way is £2,435,023.

In hiring a plane, if one leases it one has the option of purchase within seven years, or five years, or three years as the case may be; but in the present arrangement there is not this option of purchase. The result is that we have lost this money which ought to have bought us a plane, and the money is in the hands of the B.O.A.C. I have pointed this out because when people read in the newspapers about what is going on they do not understand what is involved.

Now, in respect of Kano Airport, I would like to say that this is an internal airport. Because we have not got a plane of our own, the B.O.A.C. has forced Nigeria Airways to put Kano Airport which is an internal airport in the pool on the condition that they will pay us royalty. Now, what do we get as royalty from the B.O.A.C.? We get a royalty of about £27,752 per annum, but the revenue per annum on the traffic between Lagos and Kano or between Kano and Lagos amounts to £254,800.

If we have our own planes and use them from London to Lagos in six hours and fifteen minutes, we shall still have gained three hours and thirty-five minutes. So, with a system of full utilisation in our minds, we can discharge the crew that brought in the plane, and, after forty-five minutes of re-fuelling, we will send the plane to Kano. The flight to Kano takes one hour ten minutes or, at most, one hour fifteen minutes. So, a return flight will take two hours and thirty minutes, allowing forty-five minutes for re-fuelling.

I could utilise this plane for the purpose of running Lagos-Kano as an internal service without putting it in the pool. We would have been earning this £254,800 as our internal revenue in the internal service, but because we have no plane, we cannot do that.

The BOAC only offered us one point, that is Lagos-London, point by point, but because of this deficiency in our own equipment, we are giving them two points within our own country for only one. Naturally, we are losing this revenue and even if the cost of operating Lagos-Kano is £100,000 a year, Members will notice that we would have a difference of £154,800 which would be our profit. We are

now losing this amount and all we get from the BOAC is £27,752.

I am saying this because I want Members to understand what is involved. I can hear an hon. Member asking if anybody questioned me. No, nobody questioned me but people have been writing in the papers that I have tied the Nigeria Airways to *Panam*. I have not tied the Nigeria Airways to any other airline. I find that the BOAC as a Company subsidised by Britain, which is a wealthy country, can afford to run losses of £104 million and this amount would be written off. But Nigeria is not a wealthy country and we cannot afford to lose such an amount. The practice of the BOAC is not as good as I would like it; and so, when I visited London, I visited the BUA—British United Airlines—which runs on a commercial basis.

Mr A. F. Odulana (Ijebu North-East) : When are we going to buy our own VC.10 or DC.8? We do not want to be hiring and chartering planes every time.

Dr Wachuku : I am coming to that. On the question of buying planes, I am now performing the exercise, and as soon as I have completed my exercise, I am taking it to the Prime Minister and the Council of Ministers and they will see the result of the exercise. Naturally, I will be asking the Government to pay me the nominal capital which they owe me, and then I will be in a position to buy the planes. But I am not going to give Members the details before those who are entitled to know the details know about it. I am now going on with that exercise.

Professor Ezera : On a point of order, I think it will be very unwise for anybody to question what the Minister of Aviation is doing. We frankly support him in this issue. Let him do away with what is bad, in the national interest of Nigeria.

Mr D. N. Chukwu (Awgu) : While we do appreciate and understand what the Minister is trying to tell us, I just want to emphasise that the Minister should study more about the economy of the Nigeria Airways. There is something wrong about this question of hiring. The sooner we buy our own planes the better. Let us invest and make profits on it. Nothing will convince us unless we face the practical economy of the Airways.

House of Representatives Debates

2699 [Supplementary Appropriation
(1965-66) Bill : Second Reading]

20 OCTOBER 1965

[Supplementary Appropriation
(1965-66) Bill : Committee]

2700

Dr Wachuku : My hon. Friend does not know how difficult it is to be on good terms with the Minister of Finance. Every Minister knows that. One cannot always get what one wants. I can hear an hon. Member say that the Minister of Finance is the Leader of the House. It is not a question of the leadership of the House. I may want something and he may refuse to give it to me on the ground that he has not got it. In Law, it is said that a man cannot give what he has not got.

Chief Okotie-Eboh : On a point of information, I will not allow my hon. Friend to try to paint me in lurid colours before hon. Members here. The Minister of Finance has no individual powers. We have collective responsibility. If there is money, there is money. He knows that, and if there is no money, then there is simply no money.

Dr Wachuku : We are speaking the same language. I said here that in Law, it is said that one cannot give what one has not got. The Minister of Finance has the authority. He can tell me that the money is not there. There are so many Ministries claiming from the same source that I just have to use what I can get.

As I was saying, we are hiring from an area more expensive, and this error had been committed long before my time or even before the time of my predecessor.

Mr Speaker : Will the hon. Minister please wind up?

Dr Wachuku : What I am trying to point out to Members is that we need their assistance. We want them to understand what is involved. If we succeed in making all the necessary arrangements and if I have the support of this House, then it will be possible for me to bring pressure to bear on the BOAC. But there is no need for some Nigerian nationals who do not know what is involved, the financial involvements, to take up their pens and start to write that somebody is doing away with the BOAC because of some ulterior motive.

So, I think it is only fair that Members should know the background to the position, so that when some people write again in the papers, Members will understand what is involved.

I beg to support.

Mr J. O. Ede (Idoma North) : I rise to support the Bill with the following observations. I want to talk briefly on the conditions of our roads. The roads in this country leave much to be desired. It is high time the Federal Government did all that lies in its power to have all the Federal roads properly widened and tarred, and all the narrow bridges reconstructed and widened.

Some regional roads should also be taken over by the Federal Government. This will not only quicken the economic development of the country but will also enable the Regional Governments to face their other economic commitments. Proper care has to be taken—

Whereupon the Minister of State (Chief J. O. Taiwo) rose in his place and claimed to move, That the Question be now put.

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

Main Question put accordingly and agreed to.

Bill read a Second time and immediately considered in Committee.

SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION (1965-66)
BILL :

CONSIDERED IN COMMITTEE

The Chairman : Clauses 1 and 2 stand postponed until after consideration of the Schedule.

HEAD 21—STATE HOUSE

Question proposed, That £10,000 for Head 21—State House—stand part of the Schedule.

Professor Kalu Ezera : All I want to say is that, just as this House wish the Prime Minister who is going to Accra tomorrow best wishes, we wish that His Excellency the President of this country may also return to us in good health so as to help in the very onerous task of building our great nation—Nigeria. We wish him well.

Mr O. C. Ememe (Aba South) : I humbly wish to point out one thing, that it appears that the President's image is not being embossed on our currency notes and on our coins. I only want the Minister of Finance to take note of this, so that in future the image of the President of the Federation may be embossed on the currency of the country.

House of Representatives Debates

2701 [Supplementary Appropriation] 20 OCTOBER 1965 (1965-66) Bill : Committee] 2702

£10,000 for Head 21—State House—ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

The Chairman : Order ! It is now one o'clock and sitting is suspended till three o'clock.

Sitting suspended : 1 p.m.

Sitting resumed : 3 p.m.

House in Committee.

HEAD 23.—POLICE

£40,000 for Head 23—Police—ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

HEAD 25.—MINISTRY OF TRADE

£7,380 for Head 25—Ministry of Trade—ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

HEAD 26.—MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS

Question proposed, That £233,330 for Head 26—Ministry of Communications—stand part of the Schedule.

Mr J. A. Yacim (Igala North West) : The point I want to bring to the notice of the Minister is the unsatisfactory telecommunication services in this country. People in the urban areas may be satisfied, but we in the rural areas are not satisfied with the way telephone fees are collected from us.

There is a practice already in operation to challenge any person who fails to pay his telephone bill after 50 days of the receipt of the bill. As parliamentarians, we might go on a journey which might last two to three months. It means that before we return from such a journey, our telephones must have been disconnected. I am inclined to believe that some politics is involved in this kind of regulation. It is an unhealthy situation, and I hope the Minister of Communications will remedy it.

£233,330 for Head 26—Ministry of Communications—ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

HEAD 29.—NIGERIAN NAVY

£20,000 for Head 29—Nigerian Navy—ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

HEAD 37.—MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

£6,740 for Head 37—Ministry of Education—ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

HEAD 42.—MINISTRY OF FINANCE

Question proposed, That £17,000 for Head 42—Ministry of Finance—stand part of the Schedule.

Mr B. Oleeke (Awka North East) : I want to make a little contribution to this Head of Estimates. My point pertains to the fate of some traders, who, before the changes in import and excise duties—

Chief Okotie-Eboh : On a point of information, I shall be moving the Motion on Tariff changes very soon. It is irrelevant to talk about that now.

£17,000 for Head 42—Ministry of Finance—ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

HEAD 43.—BOARD OF CUSTOMS AND EXCISE

£21,000 for Head 43—Board of Customs and Excise—ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

HEAD 47.—MINISTRY OF INFORMATION

£27,350 for Head 47—Ministry of Information—ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

HEAD 49.—PRISONS

£61,500 for Head 49—Prisons—ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

HEAD 52.—NATIONAL PROVIDENT FUND

Question proposed, That £16,670 for Head 52—National Provident Fund—stand part of the Schedule.

Mr D. Senu-Oke (Badagry) : In supporting this Head, I must register a very strong feeling in respect of Government policy generally on rents of buildings used for Government purposes in Lagos. The Government can apply to the Minister of Lagos Affairs to give them land to build permanent offices or buildings for Government purposes.

Under this Head, rents of buildings alone cost £2,430, while office equipment and furniture cost another £3,000. How many years does this huge rent cover ? There was no explanation in the Supplementary Estimates to furnish us with any idea about how many years this £2,430 covers ?

The renting of offices or buildings for Government purposes is an old colonial idea ; in the colonial days, lands were known to have been rented or leased for Government purposes.

[MR SENU-OKE]

At the present time, we are following the policy of building offices for our own use. It is high time that Government stopped this idea of rent or lease of buildings for Government business.

£16,670 for Head 52—National Provident Fund—ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

HEAD 53—MINISTRY OF LAGOS AFFAIRS

£1,150 for Head 53—Ministry of Lagos Affairs—ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

HEAD 58—MINISTRY OF WORK

£117,000 for Head 58—Ministry of Works—ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

HEAD 61—JUDICIARY

Question proposed, That £1,500 for Head 61—Judiciary stand part of the Schedule.

Mr Yacim : This is another Head I am very much concerned about. Sometime ago, on the Floor of this House, I gave a bit of advice that first offenders, especially young men, should be sent, not to prison, but terms of probation. We inherited the judicial system from our foreign masters, but even they have been known to pass legislation to the effect that if a person stole £2, he should be ordered to pay £4 to the owner of the money he had stolen. This kind of procedure will serve to keep away some young men from going to steal.

Young men in this country take going to prison as a kind of trade. If they are jobless, they steal, and then we send them to prison. Are we then helping the masses or wasting our fund?

What we should do is to increase our probation officers under the Ministry of Social Welfare. Therefore, to send young men who are first offenders to prison serves no useful purpose. In prison, they are provided with clothing, bedding, meals and the like. I hope the Minister of Justice will consider this point.

£1,500 for Head 61—Judiciary—ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

HEAD 62—PARLIAMENT

Question proposed, That £10,000 for Head 62—Parliament—stand part of the Schedule.

Mr D. Senu-Oke (Badagry): I welcome the provision being made under this Head, although it is not enough. We want more provisions to be made to assist Members to travel abroad more frequently to study parliamentary procedure in the House of Commons. I must add that Members should be given every opportunity to go overseas when the House is in recess to see other Parliaments at work.

I would also like to add that Members should be given the privilege of staying in their LegCo flats, even when the House is not meeting, so as to enable them carry out businesses material to the smooth running of Parliament. At the moment we are not given that privilege of staying in our flats, free of charge, whenever we come to Lagos—

Minister of State (Alhaji Hashimu Adaji): On a point of information, the hon. Gentleman who has the Floor is making the request to allow Members stay in their flats free of charge to enable him carry out his private business while in Lagos.

Mr Senu-Oke : That is incorrect. I want to talk about the condition of the cleaners in charge of the LegCo flats at Ikoyi and Victoria Island, and I would like to appeal to the Leader of the House to reconsider the decision not to allow those low income earners to stay behind the Ikoyi and Victoria Island flats. Many Members do not bring along their personal servants when they come to Lagos to attend meetings of Parliament, therefore the cleaners ought to be made to live at close quarters to us so that they can be of some assistance to us.

I am accordingly appealing to the Minister of Finance, who is a very considerate man, to reconsider the stand of the Government on this issue and ensure that these poor workers are quartered in the wing behind LegCo flats. Some of the cleaners have not even got bicycles, and they live miles away at Mushin, Shomolu and Shogunle.

They are very useful to Members, and so I am again appealing to the Leader of the House to reconsider this matter. Those boys have to enjoy some privileges like the Members do. I hope the Leader of the House will take note of this remark.

House of Representatives Debates

2705 [Supplementary Appropriation] 20 OCTOBER 1965 (1965-66) Bill : Committee] 2706

Mr B. O. Ikeh (Izzi North) : The provision for this Head is very much welcome. It is very good that Members will be enabled to travel overseas to see other Parliaments at work and, no doubt, they will benefit by the experience of the nations they see overseas.

But I would like to seize this opportunity to re-emphasise what the last speaker said about Parliament cleaners at Legco flats. As a matter of fact, the junior staff of the House, particularly those responsible for cleaning the Members' flats have now been displaced from the quarters they formerly occupied. No one is occupying the rooms they vacated, and I appeal to the Leader of the House and the Clerk of the Parliaments to look into this case.

At the moment one finds cockroaches and grass growing around the flats, and the sight is nasty. It is very essential that those boys should stay nearer the Members' flats in order to take proper care of the flats. It is good that they should be as near as possible so as to be of assistance to Members, and at the sametime to take proper charge of the materials entrusted to the care of Members of Parliament. Once again I appeal to the Leader of the House and the Clerk of the Parliaments to help those boys.

I beg to support.

Mr O. C. Ememe (Aba South) : When this House takes a decision it is expected that the Council of Ministers will try as much as possible to put such a decision into effect. During our last meeting we mentioned that certain firms in this country were secretly manufacturing bottles without having to pay excise duty. That means that when people buy beer they also pay for the bottles—

The Chairman : The point the hon. Gentleman is raising is outside the ambit of what we are discussing, namely, Members' travelling expenses overseas.

Mr Ememe : I am talking about the decision which was arrived at during the Sitting of Parliament last April about depositing money for bottles—

The Chairman : Surely, there are more appropriate stages at which to deal with that matter than under Head 62.

Mr Ememe : Let me then confine myself to what the other two Members who spoke

before me said about the cleaners in Legco flats. I can hear the Minister of Finance remark that the House has heard enough of that. Well, since the Minister of Finance has heard what the previous speakers have said I would expect that he would make adequate arrangements for the affected workers to be recalled to the houses which are now left empty.

Alhaji Hashimi Adaji : It appears that Members are making an issue of this matter in order that those boys may be available to run night errands for them.

Mr B. C. N. Okeke (Awka North-East) : I only wish to ask the Minister in charge of Housing and Surveys if there are any arrangements to provide Members with amenities at the Legco flats because there is certainly a shortage of amenities there.

There are anomalies too. Since I began occupying my flat last March, there has been no refrigerator in it, and I know that many other hon. Members are suffering the same thing. If hon. Members are to be provided with amenities, such amenities should be made general.

HEAD 62—PARLIAMENT

£10,000 for Head 62—Parliament—ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

HEAD 67—MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND SURVEYS

Question proposed, That £17,950 for Head 67—Ministry of Housing and Surveys—stand part of the Schedule.

M. Ahmadu Badamasuuya (Igbirra North) : In supporting these items I wish to draw the attention of the Minister of Housing and Surveys to the Federal Republic school in Okene. This school was established in Okene six years ago and up till now it is being housed under a tarpaulin shelter which leaks during the rains. The water which leaks through drives out the students and staff to seek better shelter. The condition in this school is so deplorable that some of the students have been leaving and the staff are resigning one by one.

There was such a shortage of students and staff that it was feared that the school would be closed down. This fear was expressed in

[M. AHMADU BADAMASUIYA]

this House and it was said that the school would not close down; but the hon. Minister in charge has as yet not taken care to see that the school is improved. Surely if this is not done immediately students and staff at the school will leave *en masse*.

I am, therefore, asking the Minister concerned to see to it that this school is improved forthwith. As I have said before on the Floor of this House, the only Federal department in that area is that school.

Mr A. F. Odulana (Ijebu North-East): The hon. Member should count himself lucky.

M. Badamasuiya : What about the stone industry in Ijebu?

£17,950 for Head 67—Ministry of Housing and Surveys—ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

Postponed Clauses 1 and 2 —ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Schedule agreed to.

(Mr Speaker resumed the Chair).

Bill reported without Amendment.

Motion made and Question proposed. That the Bill be now read the Third time—(THE MINISTER OF FINANCE).

Mr A. F. Odulana : I just want to add one or two words more in order that hon. Members may understand the propriety of the aim with which I made the statement about contract awards for the sewing of police uniforms in this country which the head of the Police Department has diverted to expatriate tailors. I think that we have Nigerian tailors all over the Federation—in the Northern Region, the Eastern Region, the Western Region and the Federal capital.

Mr Speaker : I suppose you should have dealt with this matter adequately after the Second Reading stage because I suggested earlier that you should raise the matter, as it is one of details, at Committee stage. But you never did.

Mr Odulana : Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. I just want assurance on this matter.

Chief Okotie-Eboh : All I can tell my hon. Friend is that I will ask the Minister for the Police to examine the matter.

Mr Odulana : I am much obliged to the Minister.

Minister of State for the Police (Alhaji Angulu U. Ahmed) : I do not know whether hon. Odulana is a tailor. If he is a tailor, then whenever a tender is opened for tailors he should apply and his application will be looked into. I do not think that we shall take expatriate tailors when there are indigenous tailors. This is a serious allegation which I will look into.

Chief Okotie-Eboh : I wish to thank the Minister.

Mr A. A. Raji (Ede) : The best tailors can be found in Ede.

The Minister of Housing and Surveys (Chief A. O. Ogunsanya) : I thought that the best people one could get from Ede were thugs. Now that hon. Odulana has offended the Minister for the Police, he should really be arrested!

Mr M. N. Nnorom (Okigwi North-East) : What I wish to say is only for the information of the Minister of Defence. If he wants uniforms to be sewn in future he should always ask for an open tender to be advertised because there are lots of experienced tailors in this country. That is all I want to say, Sir.

Mr Speaker : I think hon. Members are sticking too much to details at the Third Reading.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill read the Third time and passed.

CAPITAL EXPENDITURE ESTIMATES CONSIDERED IN COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

HEAD 621.—PRIMARY PRODUCTION

Chief F. S. Okotie-Eboh : I beg to move, That the expenditure from the Development Fund of Thirty thousand eight hundred and ten pounds for the purposes set out in the Draft First Supplementary Estimates 1965-66 under Head 621—Primary Production—be approved.

House of Representatives Debates

2709 [Supplementary Appropriation] 20 OCTOBER 1965 (1965-66) Bill : Second Reading] 2710

Chief A. O. Ogunsanya : I beg to second.
Question put and agreed to.

Resolved, That the expenditure from the Development Fund of Thirty thousand eight hundred and ten pounds for the purposes set out in the Draft First Supplementary Estimates 1965-66 under Head 621—Primary Production—be approved.

HEAD 622.—TRADE AND INDUSTRIES

Chief Okotie-Eboh : I beg to move, That the expenditure from the Development Fund of One hundred and forty-one thousand eight hundred and ten pounds for the purposes set out in the Draft First Supplementary Estimates 1965-66 under Head 622—Trade and Industries—be approved.

Chief Ogunsanya : I beg to second.

Mr D. Senu-Oke (Badagry) : I support the Capital Expenditure under this Head, but I have a special case to put forward. I would like to know what oil refinery we mean in this context. Is it palm oil, or groundnut oil or coconut oil?

If it is coconut oil then, without doubt, the refinery plant should be set up at Badagry, because I have long ago filed a Motion inviting the Government to establish a coconut oil refinery at Badagry. I hope that the Minister is going to fulfil his promise. Since the type of oil is not specified here, I do not know whether it is palm oil or coconut oil that is going to be refined. I am appealing to the Minister that the first thing he should do is to take up the refining of coconut oil; not only that, he should also see to it that a refinery is constructed in Badagry.

I beg to support.

Mr J. A. Yacim (Igala North-West) : The only advice I intend to give to the Minister concerned is, while we are approving of the expenditure, especially under Industries, the Government must try seriously to promote the unity and peace of this country and advise those who think they are in authority to stop playing politics with everything.

The people in authority, when they get information from a reliable source that a certain industry is to be sited at such and such a place,

begin to use their influence. We have complained here that some areas are left out and are called remote areas but when Government decides to site any industry in such areas, these people begin to go round and try to mislead the surveyors, persuading them to site the industry in their own area.

This sort of thing will not help us. Nevertheless, those who have not been provided with any industry or any Government amenity, are not quarrelling. Some of them have got two or three amenities but once our own area is to be given any amenity, they will use their political influence to deprive us of it, because they have been fortunate to go overseas or to see the surveyors directly. This does not promote unity in Nigeria at all.

If such a person is discovered, I am appealing, to the Government to see that he is sacked, whether he is a Minister or an Ambassador. Let him be sacked and let us all come here as hon. Members to plead for amenities in our constituencies.

The Chairman : May I remind hon. Members that this expenditure is for Trade Fair site in Lagos and Oil Refinery—Investment by the Federal Government. These are the only two items that hon. Members are entitled to talk about.

Mr O. C. Ememe (Aba South) : I want to speak on the oil refinery which concerns my constituency. I have noticed that the first oil refinery that is now being constructed at Eleme will be using the oil from Afam, Imo River and many other oil fields in my area but there is a snag in the whole thing. We, who are supplying this oil, are not represented on the Board of this oil refinery, neither have we the opportunity of even having our people to work in this oil refinery. We are just completely left out, even though we are supplying almost 50 per cent of the crude oil that is going to be refined there. This is one point.

Another point on this matter of oil refinery is that when I visited the place, I questioned the Engineer about what products are going to be produced in the oil refinery. I was told that they were going to produce different kinds of petrol and kerosine but not pure kerosine. I was also informed that they were going to

[MR EMEME]

import pure kerosine from abroad to blend with the raw type of kerosine they are going to produce in that place.

In short, there is no machinery for producing pure kerosine in this oil refinery. That is very absurd and I wish the Minister in charge would review this policy and make sure that we produce the best type of kerosine in this country so that aeroplanes that use kerosine may have to use our own kerosine directly produced from our refinery.

Another point is that this very oil refinery is not going to produce lubricating oil. This is very bad indeed. We are spending thousands of pounds to buy lubricating oil from abroad for our vehicles, and yet, here is a refinery which is built for the need of this country and it is not going to produce lubricating oil. This is not very fair to the people of this country and I hope the Minister of Mines and Power will really investigate this matter and see the necessity of producing lubricating oil and of installing the machinery for the production of lubricating oil.

Mr A. F. Odulana (Ijebu North-East) : On a point of order, I think the hon. Member should go and study my past speeches where I said that a catalytic cracking plant was not attached to the oil refinery in the Eastern Region, which makes it absolutely inferior. I said that we should go about buying our lubricating oil and our first-grade oil which we call "super" in this country.

Mr M. Unurhoro (Urhobo West) : I only wish to speak on the oil refinery and the investment by the Federal Government. I have mentioned once in one of my speeches in this House that I am actually very happy that a refinery is going to be built in Nigeria and in that speech I did mention that the oil company should be persuaded to build a sub-depot for oil refining in the Mid-West, possibly in Urhobo Division where a large quantity of oil has been found.

Whilst we are actually supporting this expenditure—and this is not a question of being jealous of any particular area—my contention is that such industries should be fairly distributed in all parts of this Federation so that people in urban areas will feel the impact of the Federal Government.

It has just been said that the Federal Government has signed an agreement for a gas factory to be built in a place near Port Harcourt, which means that a quantity of the gas and oil found in Urhobo Division and also in the Delta Province will be piped and channelled to that particular area. I am saying that such a process will not afford employment opportunity to the people of my area where the oil is found.

The Government should be very considerate in trying to allocate industries. I remember that a delegation of Urhobo people interviewed the Minister concerned and urged him to see to it that a gas factory and a refinery are built in their own Division. This is a government investment and I think that every part of the Federation should partake of the benefits of this huge investment.

I beg to support.

M. Sule Abba Biu (Biu) : I would like to mention one or two points here: Actually, it is not the oil refinery that I am after but I believe there was a prediction that there is a possibility of getting oil in Bornu Province, near Lake Chad.

I wish that the Minister of Mines and Power could help and send some people there to investigate the position so that we might have the benefit of some industries being sited there by the Federal Government.

I believe that we, from the north-eastern corner of Nigeria, have not enough industries and are not being properly cared for by the Federal Government. I would like the Minister to see that this particular investigation is made immediately.

With these few remarks, I beg to support.

Chief Okotie-Eboh : I think that my hon. Friend the Member for Biu (*M. Sule Abba Biu*) should look back into the *Hansard* of this meeting and he will be able to read the points made by my hon. Colleague the Minister of Mines and Power about the possibility of oil companies prospecting in Northern Nigeria. I think if he can get in touch with the Minister and give him the information he has received about that area, the Minister will be quite willing to listen to him.

I beg to move that the Question be now put.

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

House of Representatives Debates

2713 [Supplementary Appropriation] 20 OCTOBER 1965 (1965-66) Bill : Committee] 2714

Main Question accordingly put and agreed to.

Resolved : That the expenditure from the Development Fund of one hundred and forty-one thousand eight hundred and ten pounds for the purposes set out in the Draft First Supplementary Estimates 1965-66 under Head 622—Trade and Industries, be approved.

HEAD 624—LAND TRANSPORT SYSTEM

Chief Okotie-Eboh : I beg to move—

That the expenditure from the Development Fund of eight hundred and seventy-three thousand pounds for the purposes set out in the Draft First Supplementary Estimates 1965-66 under Head 624—Land Transport System, be approved.

The Minister of Housing and Surveys (Chief A. O. Ogunsanya) : I beg to second.

Mr P. I. Ejukwa (Ikom) : This expenditure is welcome, but I think that it is too modest in the sense that the Federal roads in the East are not properly looked after. There are two major roads which have been completely neglected and they are the Yahe-Ikom Road and Calabar-Mamfe Road.

I was told sometime ago that these particular roads which have been listed for consideration are being converted into double carriage roads and I assure this House that there are other roads in the East which are triple-carriage roads and others, quadruple-carriage roads.

The Minister of Finance has asked whether I am a contractor. I am not a contractor as such, but I have been studying a bit of the job anyway.

These roads, Ikom-Yahe Road and Calabar-Mamfe Road, are only single-carriage roads and I understand that the Federal Government has been sending a lot of money for the maintenance of these roads, but nothing in the meantime is being done about them. It is even difficult to say whether the roads are being maintained at all. This is a complete negligence of the people of the area and we are very seriously concerned.

I am, therefore, appealing to the Minister of Works through the Minister of Finance that adequate arrangements should be made with the Government of Eastern Nigeria to see to it that these roads are maintained.

They should be reconstructed and tarred to provide a good motor way for the transportation of goods. If the Regional Government is recalcitrant over this issue, I would suggest that direct contract should be awarded to contractors, and engineers should be sent from the Federal Ministry of Works here to supervise the work on these roads.

If people are thus neglected, they are bound to feel very uneasy, and to begin to think whether they are not really part of this Federation. I am saying very seriously that the Federal Government should look into these two roads very urgently so that we might have a feeling of being part and parcel of this country.

I beg to support.

Mr D. Dimka (Pankshin East) : We all believe that land transport is one of the important links that we have between the Regions in the Federation. When we are considering Land transport, we would like the Government to see that this important system is up-to-date. In this particular case, I want to bring to the notice of the Government two roads, the first being the road linking Jos with Kaduna. This road I think is overdue for reconstruction and also for tarring. The other road is the one linking Akwanga with Makurdi.

These roads are among the busiest in this country. There is always a very big volume of traffic over them. We have big lorries carrying passengers and goods between Northern and Eastern Nigeria travelling on these roads. I feel that the Government must do something about the roads.

Last year we were told that the Government was ready to do something about the roads because it had provided funds to build them and even to tar them, but up till now nothing has been done about them. I am now pressing the Government, as a matter of urgency, to look into this matter and get the roads tarred.

I beg to support.

Mr J. D. Odebunmi (Egba East) : On this question of land transport system, I have two very short observations to make,

[MR ODEBUNMI]

Since there was a diversion of heavy trucks, through Ikorodu Road, passing through Abeokuta, there has been a lot of very heavy transportation on the Lagos-Abeokuta-Ibadan road. It is absolutely necessary to repair a lot of the damages that has been done to the road. Extra allocation of funds ought to be made to the areas concerned in order to effect proper rescaling of the road and make it solid, firm and easy for transportation of goods and passengers.

The second observation I would like to make is one that I have made on the Floor of this House once or twice before about Lafenwa Bridge which collects very bad and muddy pool of water any time there is rainfall. It is not properly drained and people passing over it are always subjected to a terrible experience as a result of the splashing of dirty water on their dresses.

I have made a request in this connection once or twice before and now, since the idea of Cabinet Government is that of collective responsibility, I would like whichever Ministers are present here to please take note of this and pass this information to the Minister in charge of land transport.

I understand that it is the firm of Costain that did the work and I think also that this information ought to reach them as well so that necessary repairs can be made on the road in order that we can have adequate drainage on the bridge.

I beg to support.

Mr V. T. Shisha (Iharev/Masev) : We have talked about some of the Trunk 'A' Roads several times in the past but the Government does not seem to take any interest in looking properly into the possibility of building these roads up to the standard required. It is because of the condition of these roads that we have a lot of accidents throughout the country, and this also causes destruction of motor vehicles. I think it is high time that the Government should see that some of these roads are tarred and the bridges widened.

I have often reminded the Minister concerned about the road that runs through Aliade, Makurdi, Jos and Akwanga but there has been no heed paid. I think if the Minister is not prepared to maintain this road properly

the best thing to do is to hand it over to the Regional Government to look after it properly and to tar it for the people.

It is necessary to do this because when we compare the accidents that take place on this road with those on other roads, we find that it is useless to talk properly about economy because once lives are lost another aspect of our economy is lost.

This road, as I have said before is an important road which links the Southern Regions with the Northern Region and it is one of the principal commercial roads in the country. I hope that the Government will think about this and have the road tarred as soon as possible.

Mr F. A. Ogike (Orlu South-East) : The importance of land transport cannot be overestimated, and I have a very short contribution to make on this. We know very well that we cannot sell our products from the agricultural farms without good roads. My people live in an area where palm produce is the chief product and where the roads are always in a bad state of repair owing to heavy traffic.

I have suggested on the Floor of this House that the Federal Government should take over more roads from the Regional Governments. The Regional Governments can keep some other roads up to date, and can also take over some roads from the County Councils and Municipal Councils.

One can see, if one goes round the Regions, that even in municipalities like Port Harcourt and Aba the roads are in a very bad state of repair. This is due to heavy traffic which ply the roads. If the Federal Government takes over more roads these Regional Governments and the councils will be able to maintain the other roads.

In this respect I strongly suggest to the Federal Government to take steps to ask the Minister who is in charge of land transport to do what is necessary in order to effect the transfer of more roads to the Federal Government.

With these remarks I beg to support.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved : That the expenditure from the Development Fund of eight hundred and seventy-three thousand pounds for the purposes set out in the Draft First Supplementary Estimates 1965-66 under Head 624—Land Transport System be approved.

House of Representatives Debates

2717 [Supplementary Appropriation] 20 OCTOBER 1965 (1965-66) Bill : Committee] 2718

HEAD 626—AIR TRANSPORT SYSTEM

Chief Okotie-Eboh : I beg to move—

That the expenditure from the Development Fund of one hundred and fifty-one thousand two hundred and thirty-six pounds for the purposes set out in the Draft First Supplementary Estimates under Head 626—Air Transport System be approved.

Chief Ogunsanya : I beg to second.

Mr J. U. Odey (Obudu) : I am very happy to hear the Government promise to examine the possibility of providing an airstrip at the Obudu Cattle Ranch. It is a place which is visited by many tourists, and I believe it is worth the visit of the Minister of Finance. He should go there and see things for himself. People come from all parts of the country. If this promise is fulfilled we will be very grateful indeed. That is the point I want to make.

Mr B. L. Mabinton (Brass North) : I would only like to make a suggestion. Nigeria should start to have air freight, that is a service to carry produce like vegetables and other food stuffs from other parts of Nigeria. People do not understand the importance of these things.

Take for instance in this country we buy plenty of tomatoes from other countries whereas we have got many farmers who grow plenty of tomatoes in Nigeria. These can be brought into Lagos to save our exchange rates. In Jos, for instance, a farmer there whom, I know, plants tomatoes, vegetables and pepper on about three acres of land. If these things are brought into Lagos and sold, the country will profit thereby. I wish the Government would take note of the fact that if we introduce air freight service in this country it will save much money for us.

Mr O. C. Ememe (Aba South) : I am interested in the Civil Aviation Training School. This is a very welcome institution. I will only call upon the Government to enlarge the training centre so that we can have many Nigerians who will be pilots and engineers.

I am saying this because our sister country, Ghana, has even girls who are pilots. Why should not a big country like Nigeria have more than that? In fact if Ghana could have

ten we should have a hundred. But here in Nigeria there are only few people who are trained as pilots and it has been difficult to convince the Government that this should be enlarged.

I am happy that this increase in the Estimates has been made. I would like the Government to consider having not only boys trained as pilots but also girls. They can be as efficient as boys.

Mr A. A. Raji (Ede) : I would like to thank the Chairman for permitting me to say something on this. I must confess that this particular Head comes within my territorial jurisdiction.

What I would like to remind the Minister in charge is that during the Budget Meeting he promised to site an aerodrome as early as possible at Ede. In the interest of that particular area, and that of Nigeria as a whole, I would like the Minister to expedite action on this proposal.

In the second place on behalf of my people I have to thank the Federal Government for preparing to provide us with this particular aerodrome at Ede. One thing I would like the Government to erase is this. I am not trying to be tribalistic. It is eight miles from Oshogbo to the place. I would like the Federal Government to look into it and see that Ede is inserted and Oshogbo removed.

The fact is this. The land belongs to us. The inhabitants of the place are Ede people. That particular name, anyway, is annoying and I want the Federal Government to understand this. I am the landlord and the people pay tribute to me. In addition to that—

Chief A. Jinadu (Oshun North-East I) : May I know from the hon. Gentleman speaking whether Ede is no longer a part of Oshun? If it is, I wonder why he is trying to change Oshun to Ede.

Mr Raji : I do not want the hon. Gentleman from Oshun North-East I to ask me such a question. I am only doing the right thing at the right time. Let me answer him properly. He should know that my father is from Ede, my mother from Oshogbo and my grandmother from Ogbomosho.

Chief Okotie-Eboh : On a point of order, for goodness sake, what is the interest of the tax payers in the genealogy of this *yege yege* man?

Mr Raji : I thank the Minister of Finance for his remark. He knows that I am his son from time to time. But it will be very silly for a man from Sapele to claim Warri as his home or for a man from Warri to claim Ologbo. I was in those places for many years, so I know what is happening and what is right.

Mr J. D. Odebunmi (Egba East) : I thought I was making a mistake. I did not realise that the Member for Ede (*Mr A. Raji*) is Mr Okotie-Eboh junior.

Mr Raji : When this training school starts functioning, I want everybody, male or female, to realise that everybody has an important part to play in this field.

I beg to support.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved : That the expenditure from the Development Fund of one hundred and fifty-one thousand two hundred and thirty-six pounds, for the purposes set out in the Draft First Supplementary Estimates under Head 626—Air Transport System—be approved.

HEAD 627—COMMUNICATIONS

Chief Okotie-Eboh : I beg to move—

That the expenditure from the Development Fund of Two hundred and forty-three thousand One hundred and sixty-six pounds for the purposes set out in the Draft First Supplementary Estimates under Head 627—Communications—be approved.

The Minister of Communications (Mr R. A. Njoku) : I beg to second.

Mr J. M. Damla (Pankshin West) : Thank you, Mr Chairman. In supporting this expenditure under Head 627—Communications—I have some few observations to make and I hope to be brief.

When Members of this Parliament ask for industries to be established in various nooks and corners of this country, the Ministers tell us that there is no electricity in certain areas. Now, we notice that there is nothing said about electricity in these Resolutions.

So, I appeal to the Minister concerned to see that any constituency that wants a post office must have it. This is very important. The same thing must apply to telephones. It takes a very long time before we receive telegrams, letters and so on from this Parliament in our various constituencies.

Telecommunications services in this country are very poor, especially in the Northern Region. It was just recently, in fact this year, that the Minister informed me, in reply to a question, that there were only three sub-post offices in the whole of Northern Nigeria. I was surprised, and people were ashamed to hear that in that mighty Region there were only three sub-post offices. The Minister then told me that he would do something about it. I hope he will do that.

Also, last year, the former Minister of Communications, in answer to my question, said that the work on the telephone line from Jos to Pankshin would start early this year. But now the year is almost ended and nothing has so far been done. So, we are appealing to the new Minister of Communications to tell us what the Government is going to do.

I beg to support.

Mr M. S. C. Abani (Afikpo South) : In supporting this Vote, I would like to make certain observations; firstly, about the method of postal services in this country. I hope the Minister will take note.

For instance, between places like Abakaliki and Afikpo, a distance of forty miles, it takes a letter from three to four days to get there just because the letter has to travel via Enugu, whereas there is a mail lorry going to Abakaliki through Aboine to Itigidi only fourteen miles from Afikpo. This distance of fourteen miles could have been covered either by a messenger or a mail lorry to collect mail from Afikpo, thereby giving us a daily service instead of having three or four days' delay by going through Enugu.

I am trying to ask the Minister to see to the advisability of establishing at once, a direct mail service between Abakaliki and Afikpo, thereby saving his Ministry a lot of money.

Again, the same thing happens to our telegrams. Telegrams coming from any other part of the country to Afikpo have got to

House of Representatives Debates

2721 [Supplementary Appropriation] 20 OCTOBER 1965 (1965-66) Bill : Committee] 2722

travel to Enugu first, then to Abakaliki before coming to Afikpo, instead of having to go straightaway to Afikpo.

Then, of course, even when I wanted to speak to Lagos about certain important matters, I found that I could not connect Afikpo to Lagos. There was a kind of device there called a telephone, but the man operating it kept winding and winding, and could not hear what they were saying at Abakaliki. I do not know whether this thing was a telephone or not.

So, I am happy that under this programme of communications development outside Lagos, Afikpo has been earmarked for telecommunications service because what we have there at present is very poor.

One other point, and I am done. Afikpo post office, which had been qualified to have a Postmaster Grade I, has suddenly been downgraded for no obvious reasons and is being put under Abakaliki Post Office. This sort of arrangement means that Afikpo Post Office is going to be demoted. The post office is doing an increasing volume of business, yet, its position is being regarded as only fit for somebody who is not even qualified to be a Postmaster. So, I am asking the Minister of Communications to take special note of this, because Afikpo and the surrounding areas have been neglected. I am, therefore, appealing to him to look into what might be called neglected areas.

I beg to support.

Chief Frank Oputa-Otutu (Aboh) : I wish merely to make an appeal to the Minister of Communications about the Post Offices in Aboh Division. In Aboh West II Constituency, the District Council there has been asking the Ministry of Communications for many years now to provide them with a telephone. The curious thing about this request is that there is a telegraph line passing almost half a pole from the Council's buildings, and for more than seven years this Council has been making a repeated request to the Ministry of Communications to connect them just to the existing line.

May I take this opportunity to ask the Minister of Communications to consider this request?

Several hon. Members rose—

The Chairman : Order ! The Minister of Communications !

The Minister of Communications (Mr R. A. Njoku) : Mr Chairman—

Chief P. O. A. Dada (Ilorin East) : On a point of order, I do not see the reason why we should be here in Lagos at all. When we come here to debate and to contribute our views we are not given the opportunity to do so.

Chief Okotie-Eboh : Further to that point of order, the students in Ahmadu Bello University are waiting for the Member for Ilorin East (*Chief Dada*).

M. Sule Abba Biu (Biu) : May I contribute to that point of order. On the Ministry of Communications, I believe that the Government has taken into consideration that the views of Members of this House are much the same. That is why the debate on this Head is not allowed to be further prolonged.

Mr Njoku : I want to assure hon. Members—

M. Jibirim Girema (Numan) : On the same point of order, Sir, I feel that this Ministry is the worst of all the Ministries in the Federation, and we must be given the opportunity to express our views. For this reason I appeal now to the Chairman to give us more time to debate this Head.

Mr Njoku : I can understand the enthusiasm and the reaction of the younger Members of this House, but they should remember that this is a very large country, and to give the sort of telecommunication and postal facilities that everyone would like would cost about £100 million. So, we can only supply according to what the amount voted by Parliament will cover.

I believe that hon. Members are aware that there is a very big programme of expansion afoot. Members will see too that in Lagos here the streets are being dug up because we have realised that the system we have in operation is not good enough. The cables are just buried under the earth, and whenever it rains one will hear nothing. Now, Members will see that we are using conduit pipes, and the cables will now pass inside the pipes. Therefore, we are ensuring that there will be no more trouble.

[MR NJOKU]

I want to say also that as far as is humanly possible, and within the funds provided, we shall see that these services are rendered.

There are, at least, six or seven Members of Parliament here who have made special representations to me about their telephones, and I believe that most of them will soon see that they will be attended to. Those that are not attended to soon, will be those that are included in the 1962-68 Programme, and by the time we come to the end of this Programme, most of the telephones in this country will become automatic. We shall then be able to get Lagos from Kano without going to any station at all, and it may be possible to get Sapele or Aba or any of those stations. So, I would like Members to be patient.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved : That the expenditure from the Development Fund of Two hundred and forty-three thousand One hundred and sixty-six pounds for the purposes set out in the Draft First Supplementary Estimates under Head 627—Communications—be approved.

HEAD 629—EDUCATION

One thousand seven hundred and seventy pounds for the purpose set out in the Draft First Supplementary Estimates under Head 629—Education—approved.

HEAD 630—HEALTH

Chief Okotie-Eboh : I beg to move—

That the expenditure from the Development Fund of Ninety-eight thousand pounds for the purposes set out in the Draft First Supplementary Estimates 1965-66 under Head 630—Health—be approved.

The Minister of Communications (Mr R. A. Njoku) : I beg to second.

Mr J. S. Daniyan (Akoko-Edo) : In contributing to the debate on this Head of Expenditure, I have something to say about the hospitals in the Federal Territory of Lagos. The Minister of Health himself knows very well that he is not rendering good services to the people of Lagos. In the Federal Territory of Lagos here everybody is expected to have, at least, a minimum attention in our hospitals.

I would like to take the Royal Orthopaedic Hospital as an example where patients have

been suffering a great deal. These patients are being admitted and kept on the bare floor of the hospital wards.

Chief Okotie-Eboh : The Member for Akoko-Edo (*Mr Daniyan*) is no longer working there, so he does not know that such a situation no longer exists in that hospital.

Mr Daniyan : It still exists.

Chief Okotie-Eboh : But the hon. Gentleman left the service when he was a cleaner there !

Mr Daniyan : I left there as a junior staff nurse.

Chief Okotie-Eboh : Did the hon. Gentleman retire on pension ?

Mr Daniyan : I did not attain the pensionable age when I left. I resigned. However, the Minister of Finance did not get pension himself.

People have been complaining about the inadequate treatment at the Royal Orthopaedic Hospital, but the Minister of Health has always turned deaf ears to these complaints. What are foreigners expected to say about our hospitals when they visit hospitals like the Royal Orthopaedic Hospital here ? The Government has provided improvements in the Island Maternity Hospital which has recently been built, but the Royal Orthopaedic Hospital built many years ago is still so poorly equipped that the standard has fallen below that of such hospitals in other countries of the world.

I am imploring the Government, through the Chairman, to do something about this Royal Orthopaedic Hospital. The members of staff of this hospital are complaining about inadequacy of staff and equipment, and the situation there is such that any patient going there often gets into a worse condition. There is no reason why we should not improve this hospital for the advantage of the people.

I beg to support.

Chief J. D. Odebutunmi (Egba East) : Everybody knows that in the tropics and particularly in this country, the greatest enemy that we have is malaria fever. We quite appreciate the effort being made by the Federal Government to eradicate malaria fever in Nigeria, but it appears that the more they

try to make the ends of eradication meet, the farther apart they are pulling.

I have noticed that there is a certain cream on the market which if applied on the skin keeps away mosquitoes. I think the Government should encourage the sale of such a product. The Government should subsidise the sale of this cream so that everybody in the country, particularly, the poorer people can afford to buy it. If this is done, it will be a great credit to the Federal Government.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved : That the expenditure from the Development Fund of Ninety-eight thousand pounds for the purposes set out in the Draft First Supplementary Estimates 1965-66 under Head 630—Health, be approved.

HEAD 631—TOWN PLANNING

Chief Okotie-Eboh : I beg to move—

That the expenditure from the Development Fund of Nine hundred thousand pounds for the purposes set out in the Draft First Supplementary Estimates under Head 631—Town Planning—be approved.

Mr R. A. Njoku : I beg to second.

Chief V. O. Onabanjo (Ijebu South-West) : I only want to say something about the Item of £400,000 for the Nigerian Staff Housing Scheme. It might not have been necessary to make this comment considering the Motions passed by the House yesterday, but I still feel that I have to do this in order to off-load my conscience.

I do not think it is the right policy for the Government to give loans to civil servants to build houses which they are supposed to live in, and at the same time the Government gives them subsidised houses at Ikoyi. I do not think it is the right policy, and I will ask the Minister of Housing whether he would reconsider the policy that once a civil servant has been given money to build a house to live in, he should no longer be allowed to live in any subsidised building.

The Minister of Housing and Surveys (Chief A. O. Ogunsanya) : The hon. Gentleman is asking me to do precisely what I started doing some three months ago. As a matter of policy, I have caused to be sorted out for me,

the list of Government officers who have got loans to build their own houses and are still living in Government quarters. I think it is immoral, considering the percentage of the loan given to them.

It is my view that it is a different matter if a civil servant goes to the Nigerian Building Society or a Bank to get money with which to build his house. Once a civil servant gets money to build his house under the Government scheme, there is the implied consent that, as soon as the house is completed, the officer would move out to live there. The house should not be a source of making additional money. At the moment, I have got a list of some of these officers and incidentally, two of them are the friends of the Member for Ijebu North-East (*Mr Odulana*).

I have made one or two exceptions in the case of one or two Permanent Secretaries or Heads of Department who, because of the nature of their jobs and not because of the high offices they hold, have to be as near security as possible. Generally, I have already started doing what Members are asking me to do, and I am going further to look into the case of some non-entitled officers who are living in Government quarters.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved : That the expenditure for the Development Fund of Nine hundred Thousand Pounds for the purposes set out in the Draft First Supplementary Estimates under Head 631—Town Planning—be approved.

HEAD 633—MISCELLANEOUS

Four Thousand Five Hundred Pounds for the purposes set out in the Draft First Supplementary Estimates 1965-66 under Head 633—Miscellaneous—approved.

HEAD 634—INFORMATION

Chief Okotie-Eboh : I beg to move—

That the expenditure from the Development Fund of One hundred Thousand Pounds for the purpose of expansion of Domestic Broadcasting under Head 634—Information—subhead 61—Expansion of Domestic Broadcasting—be approved.

Mr R. A. Njoku : I beg to second.

Mr B. N. Ukegbu (Owerri South-East) : A great deal of money is being requested to be

[MR UKEGBU]

approved by Parliament for expanding domestic broadcasting. It is obvious that one of the opportunities which Members of Parliament have for praising or criticising the activities of Ministries, is when they come to us to ask for money. In this case, I will be very brief and want to say that if Members of Parliament were to respect the wishes of those who elected them, they would find it difficult to approve any money for expanding domestic broadcasting, because the Nigerian Broadcasting Corporation does not deserve any money from the people of Nigeria.

At each turn, the N.B.C. has failed this nation to the extent that the people of this country have to tune in to the B.B.C. and other information media outside Nigeria to know about things happening here.

Mr Odulana : Does the Member for Owerri South-East (*Mr Ukegbu*) not want the Mid-Western Government to have its own enjoyment and fair share of broadcasting? This Region is a new region and it is entitled to it.

Mr Ukegbu : I hope that an hon. Member of the experience of my friend from Ijebu (*Chief Odulana*) would know that it is the cardinal right of Parliament to question the activities of Ministries and Corporations, when they come to ask for money. I do not want Mr Odulana to anticipate me.

Whether there is the Mid-West or no Mid-West, we are dealing with the Ministry of Information. I can hear the Minister of Finance saying something in an under-tone. He should not drag the Mid-West into this Debate at all.

Chief Okotie-Eboh : I must object seriously to my hon. Friend saying, "whether there is the Mid-West or no Mid-West". What does he mean by that? He must withdraw that statement.

Chief Benson : I think that the Minister of Finance, as Leader of the House, deserves some respect from Members on my opposite side of the House. He is from the Mid-West, and the Members there fought for the creation of that region.

Mr Speaker : That is good parliamentary practice.

Mr Ukegbu : It is a curious fact that the Member for Lagos North (*Chief Benson*) has never stood up to make a speech in this House since he came here. He only stands up on a point of order, a point of information, a point of observation, and so on. He has never stood up to make his own speech. This is terrible.

Chief Benson : I have been in Parliament since 1951 and I have been making speeches. The Member for Owerri South-East (*Mr Ukegbu*) has only just come.

Mr Ukegbu : I do not intend a title of slight on the Mid-West Region. We all fought for the creation of that Region. I am talking on the money to be voted for the expansion of domestic broadcasting. I am opposing this. I am saying that no money should be voted for the expansion of domestic broadcasting. Far from that, I would say that Parliament should refuse any further vote for domestic broadcasting.

Instead the Government should hand over the N.B.C. to private enterprise, who will have their own news men so that they will be able to present to the people of Nigeria free news which have not been doctored or news which have not been tainted with political prejudice. We should get the N.B.C. and their facilities out of the Ministry of Information.

We all know that there was a specific provision in the legislation founding the N.B.C.—that news should be sacred; it should be the truth and nothing but the truth; it should not be tampered with by the Government of the day because people deserve true information. The people are not puppets. They are able to think for themselves.

The people have not received this treatment from the hands of the N.B.C., and one would have thought that before the N.B.C. should ask for the extension of domestic broadcasting, good use should have been made of the facilities already at their disposal. This has not been done.

At every crisis, at every event, the N.B.C. here has failed us. They have told deliberate lies. The Nigerian Broadcasting Corporation has broadcast deliberate lies, they have invented news and said things that never existed.

Chief Benson : An organisation of the Federal Government is the best broadcasting

House of Representatives Debates

2729 [Supplementary Appropriation 20 OCTOBER 1965 (1965-66) Bill : Committee] 2730

media in Nigeria. For my hon. Friend to go on attacking the N.B.C. is unfair. He should withdraw his remarks.

Mr Ukegbu : I do not like to be annoyed by what the Member for Lagos North (*Chief Benson*) has just said. He has been acting like *Shakey-Shakey* and that is most unbecoming of him.

Mr A. F. Odulana (Ijebu North-East) : I think it was the Member for Owerri South-East (*Mr Ukegbu*) who has been acting like *Shakey-Shakey*. He has been talking and saying *hu-hu, hu-hu, hu-hu, hu-hu-hu-hu!*

Chief Okotie-Eboh : Mr Chairman, it will be interesting to read the *Hansard* tomorrow and see how the reporters will report *hu-hu, hu-hu, hu-hu-hu.*

Mr Ukegbu : I do not know how the Member for Ijebu North-East (*Mr Odulana*) was born. That is the trouble.

My point about the domestic service of the Nigerian Broadcasting Corporation is being made with all sense of seriousness and responsibility. It does not matter that an element of joke has been injected into it.

There is a desperate fact that evils can be perpetrated, lies can be told, even by Government organs, and yet people are prepared to defend them. I just want to wind up by making this very serious point.

Mr J. M. Damla (Pankshin West) : This is Committee Stage and Members should be brief so that we can all take part in the debate. The Member for Owerri South-East (*Mr Ukegbu*) has been wasting our time by talking and talking and talking all the time.

Mr Ukegbu : At the moment, there is a row in the N.B.C. The staff are complaining that they are being muzzled, they are being forced to publish lies, they are being forced to broadcast invented news, and this is the Broadcasting Corporation for which we are asked to vote money now !

A senior news member of the N.B.C. was forced to resign because some false news was sent to him to broadcast and he said, "No. According to the ordinance establishing the N.B.C. we have to get our own information. I want to go and check, to find out really whether this thing happened." But someone

from upstairs told him, "What is your business about it ? This has been given to you, broadcast it." The officer retorted, "I refuse to broadcast it." Then orders came to a senior executive, who brushed the officer aside and rushed the news out to the people. The Nigerian officer who was directly in charge of finding the news and reproducing it to the people was forced to leave it.

I need not mention names. Everyone knows this. But, Sir, this is like a boomerang. It is like a double-edged sword and it cuts both ways. If the time comes when the people of Nigeria can no longer tune their radios to their stations to hear the news and believe that it is implicitly true, then at that time we have reached the end of the road. But the time will come when the Government of the day will want to use the N.B.C. to furnish information to people.

Mr Damla : Will the hon. Member speaking tell us what happened during the last Western election when the E.N.B.S. announced that certain political parties won the election when, in fact, they did not ?

Mr Speaker : Will the Member for Owerri South-East (*Mr Ukegbu*) be as brief as possible.

Mr Ukegbu : I will finish up by answering the question of the Member for Pankshin West (*Mr Damla*). Orders were given to the N.B.C. to go to the counting stations and publish their news from there. But they were forced by their top executives not to publish from the counting halls where the news was true, but to depend on what was given to them by the Electoral Commission. That was what made the whole announcement barbarous. That happened in the Western Region.

If the N.B.C. had gone to the counting halls, used their own newsmen, and got the news from them, this country would not have been treated to an exhibition where one thing was announced at the counting halls and another thing was announced by the Electoral Commission, and the election was thus rigged by radio.

That is why, in conclusion, we are saying that no money should be voted to the N.B.C. for domestic broadcasting.

Chief Okotie-Eboh : The conclusion of the speech of my hon. Friend, the Member for Owerri South East (*Mr Ukegbu*) is, in my view, very uncomplimentary. He says he is opposed to the voting of this money for the expansion of domestic broadcasting whereas he has been told that the sum is to enable a new broadcasting station to be established in the Mid-West. He is opposed to it. I do not want to quarrel with the remarks he is making, but I take serious exception to the conclusion of his speech.

Mr Ukegbu : I am not opposed to the establishment of a new radio station in the Mid-West, but I am opposed to the N.B.C.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved : That the expenditure from the Development Fund of One hundred thousand pounds for the purpose of expansion of Domestic Broadcasting under Head 634—Information, sub-head 61—Expansion of Domestic Broadcasting, be approved.

HEAD 636.—POLICE

Chief Okotie-Eboh : I beg to move—

That the expenditure from the Development Fund of One million two hundred and forty-five thousand two hundred and sixty pounds for the purpose set out in the Draft First Supplementary Estimates 1965-66 under Head 636—Police, be approved.

The Minister of Communications (*Mr R. A. Njoku*) : I beg to second.

Chief P. O. A. Dada (Ilorin East) : In supporting the estimate on this Head, I think it is necessary to pay due admiration and regard to our Police Force for the honour and good name they have earned for Nigeria abroad and at home, especially during the last Federal elections and the last West Regional election. They are indeed a pride to Nigeria.

Police officers have been known to do their duties without fear or favour and that is why everybody calls on them when in need.

Mr M. Nnorom (Okigwi North-East) : The hon. Gentleman is not talking on the Head which is for additional buildings for the Police in the North and the East. He is deviating from the substance of the Head.

Chief Dada : I think some Members have got to learn to listen. As a teacher, I have got

to make an introductory speech before I go to my main point.

Indeed, the Police have been known to perform their duties without fear or favour and that is why everybody calls on them when in need. For instance, if a person is robbed the only thing he does is to go to the Police; if someone's life is threatened that person runs to the Police. I think then that it is unfortunate that some people give the impression that the Police have not been doing their work well enough.

Professor Kalu Ezera (Bende East) : On a point of order, it is generally believed that the Police have been doing their duty, but the Police reports sent to the Government have not been published in regard to the Western election fiasco.

Chief Dada : I am afraid my colleague, the Member for Bende East (*Professor Ezera*) is dragging me to the Ministry of Information where I do not want to go.

I would like to express quite frankly that the service conditions under which our policemen work are rather appalling. I would like the House to remember that they have got to live under good conditions and, as such, it is necessary to provide accommodation for them.

For that reason I feel that the sum being appropriated should be supported by everybody because it is necessary to increase the number of quarters for our Police.

I support the Head.

Mr M. F. Adeegbe (Ibarapa) : The Nigeria Police really deserve some praise but for what happened in Mushin during the last Regional election. On the occasion of the last Western election some policemen were posted to Mushin to quell the rising disturbances there, but they failed to carry out their duty. I would welcome the setting up of an enquiry into the activities of those men posted to Mushin at the time. They were sent there to look after the welfare of the people regardless of their tribal affiliations, but instead of checking the unrest at the initial stage they intentionally or cunningly failed to discharge their duties. This resulted in the loss of lives, unrest and damage to property at Mushin. Even two Members of the House were victims of the incident.

House of Representatives Debates

2735 [Supplementary Appropriation]

20 OCTOBER 1965

(1965-66) Bill : Committee]

2736

The Minister of Housing and Surveys
(Chief A. O. Ogunsanya) : I do not think it is fair for the hon. Gentleman speaking to come to the House and start telling untruths. If he is in possession of the full facts of the incident that he says took place in Mushin, let him go to the Inspector-General and lodge the reports, and I am sure he will look into the matter adequately. I represent that constituency in this House, and it is unfair for him to start accusing the Police in Mushin.

It is true that some of our people were shot but, notwithstanding that, I know that the Police did their duty very well. If the hon. Gentleman has anything to say about thugs he should direct it to the right quarters. The Member for Lagos North (*Chief Benson*) knows that I do not keep thugs and he knows more about thuggery than any other person here.

Mr Adeegbe : I think that it was on the Floor of this House that the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Labour (*Mr Gbeleye*) made a report. These policemen have not only cheated the taxpayers of this country, but they have also defrauded our nation. The Federal Government should please look into the activities of this group of policemen especially those at Bamgbose area.

Chief Okotie-Eboh : I would not like some hon. Members to visit their own sins on innocent policemen. Policemen are human beings and are Nigerians like ourselves. They cannot satisfy everybody. I would personally say that the Police have discharged their duties creditably.

Mr A. F. Odulana (Ijebu North-East) : The Yoruba policemen are discharging their duties well but not so with the Easterners.

The Chairman : I very much detest the way Members take the Floor of the House on their own. Surely I cannot allow that, otherwise the standard of debate will deteriorate. I am very concerned about it, and I hope Members will not continue to do that.

Mr Adeegbe : We must, I think, thank the Local Government Police.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved : That the expenditure from the Development Fund of One million two hundred and forty-five thousand two hundred

and sixty pounds for the purpose set out in the Draft First Supplementary Estimates 1965-66 under Head 636—Police—be approved.

HEAD 637—GENERAL

Chief Okotie-Eboh : I beg to move, That the expenditure from the Development Fund of One million One hundred and forty-eight thousand four hundred and sixty pounds for the purpose set out in the Draft First Supplementary Estimates 1965-66 under Head 637—General—be approved.

The Minister of Housing and Surveys
(Chief A. O. Ogunsanya) : I beg to second.

Mr F. I. Okoronkwo (Aba Central) : While supporting this Head, I have three observations to make. The first observation is on the Electoral Commission.

Six hundred thousand pounds is being provided under this Head for the Electoral Commission. In the first place, this is the Commission that has nearly ruined this country and I implore hon. Members of this House not to approve this amount put down. Anybody who had followed the trend of events in Nigerian politics and in Nigeria for the past three years would have seen that the Electoral Commission has nearly sent this country to blazes. Surely the activities of the Electoral Commission leave much to be desired.

M. Jibirim Girema (Numan) : The members of the Electoral Commission are not the voters. They only count votes and declare results. They are doing their work well.

Chief T. O. S. Benson (Lagos North) : The Leader of the House said this morning that people who have not got the opportunity or privilege to defend themselves on the Floor of this House should not be criticised. In this vein, the Electoral Commission should be left alone.

The Chairman : Really, we have talked quite a lot on the Electoral Commission and I hope hon. Members will limit themselves now to the financial aspect of it.

Mr Okoronkwo : I know that certain Members go to the bar to take a lot of drinks before coming to this House, and when they are here they disturb the work of the House.

[MR OKORONKWO]

It should be pointed out to those Members to refrain from causing confusion on the Floor of the House.

I was saying that this is a fabulous amount for the Electoral Commission. This amount should not be approved. If one takes into consideration what happened during the various elections in this country, there can be no doubt that even a penny of this amount should not be given to the Electoral Commission. I know that this amount is to offset the expenses made during the last Federal election and the recent Western Regional election. That is just why we are being asked to approve this amount. Let me reiterate what I said earlier on the Floor of this House, that the people in my constituency could not vote during the last Federal election. Many of the people's names were not on the Voters' List. Some names were even written in figures thus rendering them useless.

Mr A. A. Raji (Ede): What the hon. Member is still to realise is that the Federal Electoral Commission is an independent body. Mr Esua, its Chairman, is a Calabarian who has performed his duty well.

Mr Chairman: I am not going to allow any unnecessary interruption, and I am going to appeal to hon. Members to confine their speeches to the items specified in the Bill, otherwise I will do that for them.

Mr Okoronkwo: I do not approve the amount of this Capital Expenditure for the Electoral Commission because I know the amount is for nothing else but the offsetting of the expenses of the last Federal election and the Western election.

I should also like to take this opportunity to point out the irregularity discovered during the last Federal election in my constituency where the people could not find their names on the Voters' List. People in Ward 1, for instance, were registered in Ward 30 with the natural result that they did not vote because they could not leave their homes to travel out to Ward 30 to vote.

I have said in this House that the Electoral Commissioners should bury their heads in shame because this is the first Voters' List compiled after the departure of the British administrators, and these are the people whom we are preparing—(Interruptions.)

Chief Jinadu rose on a point of order—

The Chairman: I do not want to repeat this. Hon. Members have got the right to make their points of order but the points must be in consonance with the Standing Orders.

Chief A. Jinadu (Oshun North-East I): On a point of order, Standing Order No. 26 deals with irrelevancy, the hon. Member speaking is just trying to—(Interruptions.)

The Chairman: Order ! Mr Okoronkwo.

Mr Okoronkwo: Sir, I have said earlier that irregularities were discovered in the Voters' List of my constituency during the last Federal elections. I forwarded a Question to this House to be answered by the Minister of Internal Affairs. It is really very unfortunate that as this House is adjourning to-day, that Question will lapse. Therefore, I am going to re-list it because I am very apprehensive of what happened during the last Federal elections.

The Electoral Commissioners should regard themselves as true Nigerians because when this country is set ablaze, they themselves will also be affected. To-day as things stand, the Federal Electoral Commissioners have failed the nation woefully and should no longer continue in office, particularly the Chairman who allowed the Western Nigeria elections to be completely rigged to the disgrace of this nation. None of us who contested the last Federal elections and defeated our opponents should tolerate somebody who got into this Parliament through the back door.

Chief P. O. A. Dada (Ilorin East): On a point of order, I think it is only fair that we should admire what the Electoral Commission has done. I am saying so because, after all, the Electoral Commission is responsible for returning any Member who comes here. We should be grateful to the Commission.

The Chairman: Order ! I feel there is a tendency to overdo certain things. Two days ago, hon. Members were given the opportunity of discussing the Electoral Commission. We still have several items to consider ; so, I would appeal to hon. Members to co-operate.

Professor Kalu Ezera (Bende East): On a point of order, quite frankly, but for the fact

House of Representatives Debates

2739 [Supplementary Appropriation 20 OCTOBER 1965 (1965-66) Bill Committee] 2740

that this item of Electoral Commission is cleverly tagged with other good items like the 'Cabinet', we would have very much liked—

The Minister of Finance (Chief F. S. Okotie-Eboh): Mr Chairman, I object to the use of the word "cleverly".

Professor Kalu Ezera: Well, I did not intend any harm. All I am saying is that the World Press said that ballot papers and books for which this money was spent were sold with garri. Let hon. Members read the *American Times* magazine or the *British Economist*. They said that these Electoral Commissioners gave out these ballot papers and they were sold in the local market with garri, and these are the people we wanted to give money.

Mr Okoronkwo: Mr Chairman, let me go over to the Cabinet Office. I wish to take this opportunity to congratulate the staff of the Cabinet Office.

There is an item here—Recreation Hall for Senators and Parliamentarians. I seize this opportunity also to make it known that the Members of this House are not fairly treated. For instance, some Members of Parliament in Ikoyi flats have not got even cookers and their flats are very filthy. There are even no sufficient flats. There are some hon. Members who have not got flats.

We have appealed to the Housing Manager, who is doing everything possible to co-operate with us and we must praise his efforts. But after the creation of so many Ministers of State and Parliamentary Secretaries, Members' flats have been occupied by these men and those of us who have flats there are being shifted from one flat to another.

Chief V. O. Onabanjø (Ijebu South-West): On a point of information, the hon. Member would like to know that some of these flats are being occupied by Electoral Officers and Returning Officers who are in hiding from the Western Region.

&he Minister of Housing and Surveys (Chief A. O. O. Ogunsanya): With great respect to my hon. Friend, the Member for Ijebu-South West (*Mr Onabanjø*) I assure him that the Federal Government knows nothing at all about this. If he is sure of his facts and can give me the names of those who are

occupying the flats now, I will see to it that they are ejected.

The Chairman rose to put the Question—

Several hon. Members : No, No !

Mr Chairman : I will be willing to allow one or two more speakers, but in their own interests, Members should be as brief and as concise as possible.

Mr Okoronkwo : I am now appealing to the Minister in charge to see to it that Members are fairly treated and also that the cleaners are returned to the quarters because some of the rooms in the boys quarters are now being used as public latrines. Since the boys were ejected a few months ago robbers have visited our flats and have removed many things.

Up till now, in the flat where I am, I have no mosquito net, no fan and no light because thieves had removed these things after the boys had been ejected. I am appealing now to the Government to return these boys to the quarters.

I beg to support.

Chief O. B. Akin-Olugbade (Egba South) : I have very brief observations to make under this Head 637—General Expenditure.

I take first the Ministry of External Affairs under which there is "Embassies, Office Accommodation, *et cetera*, Overseas : purchase" and a provision of £243,000 is made. May I request the Minister of Finance that in future when similar provisions are made to specify in which country or countries the embassies and office accommodation are to be purchased because we do not know.

At times, we only hear over the radio or read in the newspapers that Ambassadors and High Commissioners have been appointed in such and such a place. That is the big observation I would like to make on that. We would like to have details of places where embassies, office accommodation are being purchased.

I would like to refer also to the vote of £240,000 for building and civil engineering works under the Ministry of Housing and Surveys. I think that the time has come for most of the building undertakings in Nigeria to be passed over, particularly offices and accommodation for Government Departments, schools for children, and so on, to the Ministry of Housing. It is true that the Ministry of

[CHIEF AKIN-OLUGBADE]

Works deals with most buildings, but the scandal going on now about certain Ministries which have nothing to do with building programmes is very disturbing.

One would not have felt so much disappointed if the Ministries concerned are headed by people who have real sense of responsibility. In this connection, I would refer briefly to the contract which has just been awarded by the Ministry of Education to a Lebanese Construction firm in Lagos. I have it on good authority that the money provided for this building of school accommodation was a grant from another country and foreign architects and foreign quantity surveyors worked on the plan of this building.

Tenders were invited and it was found that the amount voted by the foreign country that gave the grant would just be sufficient to erect this school building. Because the Minister of Education, Chief Akinjide, would like to become a millionaire overnight, he turned down all the tenders on a consideration of about £34,000. I think that this is a matter that should be thoroughly investigated.

Chief Okotie-Eboh : On a point of order, we have collective responsibility in these matters and although the award of contracts is not the duty of a Minister, I would ask my hon. Friend to refrain from being so personal in this matter.

Chief Akin-Olugbade : I do not want to be personal, but this is a matter which I would ask the Council of Ministers very seriously to look into. I do not want to be partial, but when a man joins up with people who want to drive decent people out of politics in this country we should expose him here every now and again. He wants to join up with people who want to drive decent people out of politics of this country.

Chief T. O. S. Benson (Lagos North) : On a point of order, the Minister of Education is not in this House now. My hon. Friend should raise this matter with the Minister in his office. If the Minister cannot satisfy him, then he can bring the matter to the Floor of the House.

Chief Akin-Olugbade : I have finished with that matter, but I ask the Council of Ministers to look into it. Perhaps, the Police will look

into it too. Fortunately, the Federal Government is not like the Western Regional Government where people enter *nolle prosequi* in favour of criminals.

Chief A. F. Odulana (Ijebu North-East) : As the Member for Egba South (*Chief Akin-Olugbade*) has proposed to the Council of Ministers to look into the amount spent on the construction of some school buildings equally the West Regional Government is looking into the affairs of the Arab Transport Service which he bought for £1,250,000.

Chief Akin-Olugbade : If I had made such a deal, I would be a very rich man to-day.

M. Aliyu Umaru (Wukari) : The Member for Egba South (*Chief Akin-Olugbade*) in the course of his speech opined that some of the departmental heads have no sense of responsibility. I think that Heads of Departments are people we should respect. They are not Members of this House and I see no reason why he should not be asked to withdraw the statement that Heads of Departments have no sense of responsibility.

Chief Akin-Olugbade : The only other point I would like to refer to again under the Ministry of External Affairs is this. I understand that the friendly relationship existing between this country and some countries in West Africa is deteriorating due to certain restrictions being placed on even Parliamentary Secretaries and high Government Officials from places like Abidjan, Sierra Leone and other places.

I have checked up this matter from friends and I understand that one Parliamentary Secretary from Sierra Leone came here and was allowed to stay for only two weeks. As a result of that, I understand some sister countries in West Africa are not happy and they want to impose reprisal measures on us.

As hon. Members may know, most of our people are in other West African countries. We have many Nigerians trading in Sierra Leone, in the Ivory Coast in particular, in Dahomey and in other places in West Africa. I think this is a matter which the Ministry concerned should look into very carefully because it is of paramount importance to us

House of Representative Debates

2743 [Supplementary Appropriation 20 OCTOBER 1965 1965-66) Bill : Committee] 2744

that we as the most populous nation in black Africa should maintain very good friendly relationship with our neighbours.

The other point I would like to make under Prisons is the fact that most of the Senior and Chief Warders in our prisons are very much depressed now.

Chief Okotie-Eboh : Some of them are too old. Let them go.

Chief Akin-Olugbade : It is true that some of them are old and that they are being kept on but recently the Authorities have raised the standard of education for appointees to these posts in the Prisons. The officers affected feel slighted that their rates of pay are not identical with the rates of pay of the Police Officers and other officers in their ranks inspite of the arduous task they have to undertake. I think that the Minister of Internal Affairs will look carefully into their complaints and grievances and see that they are brought to the same level with their counterparts in other branches, particularly the Police.

The other point I would like to refer briefly to is the point raised yesterday when I was away in Ibadan about the situation which now exists in the Western Region as a result of the performances of the Electoral Commission. It is true that the news we hear about happenings in the Western Region is not good; the Prime Minister made a statement on that yesterday and confirmed that the place is confused. I think, however, that the responsibility for maintenance of law and order makes it imperative for the agencies of the Federal Government, particularly the Electoral Commission and the Police, to enforce the provisions of our Constitution and our law.

I read in the newspapers a few days ago that they were looking into cases of offences against the Electoral Act. I do hope that the Prime Minister will put his foot down and make sure that the law—

Mr A. F. Odulana (Ijebu North-East) : On a point of order, I would like to say that the Member for Egba South (*Chief Akin-Olugbade*) is dragging the Police into his speech. He has been told that the Police has got nothing to do with politics.

The Chairman : Honestly, I think that this is really out of order because at this stage we should confine ourselves to the items

specified in the Estimates, and I would ask the Member for Egba South (*Chief Akin-Olugbade*) to wind up.

Chief Akin-Olugbade : In winding up I would like to appeal very strongly to the hon. Prime Minister to fulfil the promise he made when we got independence that he will not condone the violation of the provisions of our Constitution and that the provisions of our Constitution will be held sacred and inviolable.

Whereupon the Minister of Finance (Chief F. S. Okotie-Eboh) rose in his place and claimed to move, That the Question be now put.

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

Main Question accordingly put and agreed to.

Resolved : That the expenditure from the Development Fund of One million one hundred and forty-eight thousand four hundred and sixty pounds for the purpose set out in the Draft First Supplementary Estimates 1965-66 under Head 637—General be approved.

HEAD 638—DEFENCE

Chief Okotie-Eboh : I beg to move—

That the expenditure from the Development Fund of Nine hundred and eighty-six thousand four hundred and forty pounds for the purpose set out in the Draft First Supplementary Estimates 1965-66 under Head 638—Defence be approved.

The Minister of Establishments (Mr J. C. Obande) : I beg to second.

Mr B. N. Ukegbu (Owerri South-East) : I will not spend more than two minutes in speaking on this Head. One thing I want to say is that in providing so much money for Defence we would like to appeal to the Minister in charge of our Defence to provide leadership to the other free countries in Africa and provide a force of Africans to get ready to be at the service of the O.A.U. to fight against the white minority in Southern Rhodesia if and when they declare a unilateral independence.

It will be a shame that with so many independent African states we should fold our arms and allow another “South Africa” to be

[MR UKEGBU]

created. Someone has said that even the small Rhodesian Army could beat Africa hollow and this was in a British magazine. Nigeria, being the greatest of the countries of Africa, should take the leadership because to Nigeria much has been given and from it much should be expected.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved : That the expenditure from the Development Fund of Nine hundred and eighty-six thousand four hundred and forty pounds for the purpose set out in the Draft First Supplementary Estimates 1965-66 under Head 638—Defence be approved.

Resolutions to be reported.

(Mr Speaker resumed the Chair)

Motion made and Question proposed, That this House doth agree with the Committee in the said Resolutions—(THE MINISTER OF FINANCE).

Professor Kalu Ezera (Bende East) : I would like to appeal to the Minister of External Affairs on the question of expansion scheme for our Embassies and High Commissions abroad. I must say that I have had an opportunity recently to travel out and to visit some of them. The boys who work there, Nigerian citizens, are holding their own very well. But, unfortunately, there is a lowering of morale in the sense that they do not feel that they are receiving a square deal from back home.

Quite apart from the frustration arising from the nature of their work, directives do not come in time. They rather read them scattered in foreign papers. They should be remunerated properly and this is why some of us have been advocating that we need the best brains of this country to enter into the foreign service, and unless we leave our best brains to the foreign service, the eyes and ears of Nigeria will not exist because they constitute our image abroad.

Therefore, I am appealing to the Minister of Finance to grant more money, so that the foreign service staff who man our foreign Embassies and High Commissions can very well be adequately remunerated.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved : That the House doth agree with the Committee in the said Resolutions.

CUSTOMS TARIFF (DUTIES AND EXEMPTIONS)
(No. 2) ORDER 1965

Chief Okotie-Eboh : I rise to move the Motion standing in my name—

That, in accordance with Section 8 (2)—I should like to correct what is printed on the Order Paper from 7 (2) to 8 (2)—of the Customs Tariff Act, the Customs Tariff (Duties and Exemptions) (No. 2) Order, 1965, (Legal Notice No. 82 of 1965), a copy of which was laid before this House on 13th October, 1965, be confirmed.

I signify that in accordance with the Standing Orders of this House, the President of the Republic has given his recommendation to the consideration of this Motion.

This Order revokes Schedules 1, 2, 3 and 4 of the Customs Tariff Act, 1965, published as Government Notice No. 1180 of *Gazette* No. 49 of 8th June, 1965, and replaces them with Schedules 1, 2, 3 and 4 of this Order respectively. These changes were necessitated by the remodelling of the country's tariff structure on the lines of the Brussels Tariff nomenclature which came into force on the 16th of August, 1965.

The very comprehensive nature of the new tariff will co-operate to facilitate the task of revenue collection.

I beg to move.

The Minister of Establishments (Mr J. C. Obande) : I beg to second.

Chief O. B. Akin-Olugbade (Egba South) : My hon. Friend over there wants to speak (*pointing to the Speaker of the House who had just entered the Chamber and was sitting on the Government Bench.*)

Alhaji Ibrahim Jalo (Speaker and Member for Gombe Central) : I would like to remind the hon. Gentleman that I am a Member of Parliament. (*Hear, hear.*)

The Deputy Speaker : There is only one Speaker who is allowed to *speak*, and that is the Deputy Speaker.

Chief P. O. A. Dada (Ilorin East) : I would like to support this Motion which was ably moved by our financial wizard, the Minister

House of Representatives Debates

2747

[Customs Tariff]

20 OCTOBER 1965

(No. 3) Order

2748

of Finance. In supporting it, I would like to make certain observations. I believe that the Minister of Finance has done a good job for this country, but the recent increases in custom duties—

Chief Okotie-Eboh : On a point of order, if my hon. Friend does not mind, I am just going to move the Motion concerning the increases he is referring to. As soon as this Motion is disposed of, I will be moving the Resolution and he will then be in order to speak on his subject.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved : That, in accordance with Section 8 (2) of the Customs Tariff Act, the Customs Tariff (Duties and Exemptions) (No. 2) Order, 1965 (Legal Notice No. 82 of 1965), a copy of which was laid before this House on 13th October, 1965, be confirmed.

CUSTOMS TARIFF (DUTIES AND EXEMPTIONS)
(No. 3) ORDER 1965

Chief Okotie-Eboh : I rise to move the Motion standing in my name—

That, in accordance with Section 8 (2) of the Customs Tariff Act, the Customs Tariff (Duties and Exemptions) (No. 3) Order, 1965 (Legal Notice No. 92 of 1965), a copy of which was laid before this House on 13th October, 1965, be confirmed.

I signify that, in accordance with the Standing Orders of this House, the President of the Republic has given his recommendation to the consideration of this Motion, and I therefore invite the House to confirm the Motion accordingly.

Many hon. Members are, no doubt, already familiar with the circumstances which culminated in the Tariff Changes which came into operation on 19th August, 1965, and the restrictive measures which accompanied them. The exercise was painful, if I may say so, but all true lovers of this country would agree that they were inevitable, reckoning with the circumstances in which we found ourselves and about which I propose to speak at some length.

At the last meeting of our National Economic Council held in Enugu, the Advisory Board of our Central Bank drew attention to the serious depletion in our country's Foreign Exchange

Reserves, resulting mainly from an adverse balance in both the Merchandise and the Services Accounts. One of the results of this adverse position was the fall in our country's External Reserves, from £124.1 million in 1962 to £76.9 million in 1964 as I mentioned in my speech on the Supplementary Estimates on Monday. If there is anything on which pundits in economics agree, it is the serious consequences which could result from a fundamental imbalance of payments in a country's international accounts. The practical effects of such imbalance in a developing country like ours would be, amongst other things, a fall in the prices of our export commodities, leading to a chain of other adverse reactions—decline in our Foreign Exchange Reserves, a fall in the international value of the Nigerian pound, and a fast deterioration in the economic health of our nation.

Reckoning with the gravity of the situation, all the Ministers of Finance in this Federation immediately set up a Committee which is now known as the Balance of Payments Committee. This Committee is comprised of representatives of all the Ministries of Finance and Trade of the Governments of our Federation and it is under the Chairmanship of our able Economic Adviser, Dr P. N. C. Okigbo. Its function is to examine critically, from time to time, our Balance of Payments accounts and make recommendations for the most effective methods to arrest the deteriorating trend.

The Committee quickly went into action, and submitted its first report in which it made a number of recommendations aimed at correcting the imbalance in our Merchandise Accounts.

Many of the important Tariff Changes last August stemmed from this Committee's recommendations, and others were—in order to give adequate protection to our local industries—designed to reduce the volume of imports of some commodities which are, at present, being manufactured in Nigeria.

Our country's import bill for Passenger Cars alone, rose from £6.27 million in 1963 to £8.22 million in 1964. The Tariff Changes did not stop anyone from owning a car, but the clear reflection from our balance of payments position was that it was time we

House of Representatives Debates

2749

[Customs Tariff]

20 OCTOBER 1965

(No. 3) Order

2750

[CHIEF OKOTIE-EBOH]

began to cut our coat according to our size. On this, the Okigbo Committee on Balance of Payments was unanimous.

Chief O. B. Akin-Olugbade (Egba South): That is what we have been saying for years.

Chief Okotie-Eboh : I thank the Member for Egba South (*Chief Akin-Olugbade*) very much, but we were only trying to adopt the usual policy of *festina lente*.

The recent exercise was, therefore, designed to check the insurge of the more luxurious passenger cars. All passenger cars exceeding 2150 c.c. in capacity now attract duty at 150 per cent *ad valorem*.

It would interest hon. Members to hear that the information I have is that some overseas manufacturers have already begun to take steps to reduce the cubic capacity of their motor vehicles so as to enable the vehicles to come in at the lower rates of duty, but with no intention to reduce the current prices which have been based on the current stiff rates of duty—

Chief Akin-Olugbade : On a point of order, the order of the day is rigging even the economy of the country !

Mr Speaker : Is the Member for Egba South (*Chief Akin-Olugbade*) not rigging the Standing Orders ?

Mr Ayo Fasanmi (Ijero) : On a point of order, is the Minister of Finance not going to reduce his own cubic capacity, too ?

Chief Okotie-Eboh : But a chemist does not know anything about the cubic capacity of a car !

Mr Fasanmi : A chemist actually knows about the cubic capacity of human beings !

Chief Okotie-Eboh : I am talking about the cubic capacity of the beard of the Member for Ijero (*Mr Fasanmi*) ! (*Interruptions.*)

Mr Speaker : Order, order !

Chief J. D. Odebunmi (Egba East) : On a point of order, I think there is a standard laid in the dresses of Members of this honourable House. If Members are to wear the English dress, I think they should go by the example of the hon. Minister of Communications.

There is a Member who has just come in like an ordinary thug. I think he should be sent out.

Mr Speaker : It is a good thing to have variety sometimes.

Chief Okotie-Eboh : I am fully determined to save our country's Foreign Exchange Reserves from collapse, and I shall not hesitate to recommend appropriate measures as soon as there is evidence of this proposed racket.

The rate of duty of printed cotton fabrics on which this country spends upwards of £6 million every year, but the demand for which can now be reasonably satisfied by local production, was increased from 2s-0d the square yard or 40 per cent *ad valorem* to 4s-0d the square yard or 50 per cent *ad valorem*, with the aim of encouraging local industries. We are now self-sufficient in the supply of towels, and the duty on this commodity was, therefore, altered from 50 per cent *ad valorem* to include a specific alternative rate of 4s-0d the square yard.

The local roofing sheets industry is fully equipped to satisfy most of this country's requirements, and the rate of duty on certain gauges of corrugated aluminium sheets was, therefore, increased from 1½d the square foot or 20 per cent *ad valorem* to 50 per cent *ad valorem*.

The local bicycle tyre industry is progressing satisfactorily and is reckoned to have a capacity to satisfy our country's needs for bicycle tyres, both in quality and in volume and, in order to protect local factories from systematic dumping by countries like Japan, the rate of duty on bicycle tyres was increased from 20 per cent *ad valorem* to 2s-0d the pound weight or 50 per cent *ad valorem*.

Most hon. Members may not be aware of it, but by far the greater proportion of cameras and photographic equipment in use in this country are imported from Japan and, in any event, these commodities are not regarded as essentials for the ordinary people in this country. The rate of duty on cameras and photographic equipment was, therefore, increased from 60½ per cent to 100 per cent *ad valorem*.

Members are, no doubt, aware of the fate which our primary products have been suffering in world markets. The prices for most of these products have been falling steadily both as a result of previous stock piling by the consumer-

House of Representatives Debates

2751

[Customs Tariff]

20 OCTOBER 1965

(No. 3) Order]

2752

countries and due to the discovery of synthetic substitutes. To export more of these products to our traditional customers will only lead to further depression in the price levels. It is clear that we would not have such a serious adverse trade balance on our hands if the prices of our exports had been more stable and rewarding. One of the effective solutions is, therefore, to find local markets for as many of these primary products as possible, in order to maintain the standards of living of our brothers who produce these goods. Rubber is a commodity we produce in huge quantities in this country and our production of leather—both raw and tanned—is on the upward trend. This was the reason why the rate of import duty on rubber was increased from 33½ per cent to 66½ per cent *ad valorem*, and the special rate at 33½ per cent *ad valorem* on leather for the production of shoes was abolished.

Mr Fasanmi : Omimi Shoe Factory !

Chief Okotie-Eboh : The Member for Ijero (*Mr Fasami*) will never get one, because he does not want the Mid-West to be developed.

The special concession for shoe manufacturers in respect of plastic raw materials was also withdrawn because these commodities were in stiff competition with our local rubber and leather. On the other hand, the local shoe industries which are directly concerned with these increases of duty on importations of rubber, leather and plastic materials have been compensated, partly, by the abolition of Excise duty on their final products—shoes.

The rate of import duty on cement clinker was raised from 10s-0d to 15s-0d the ton as a means of making local cement manufacturers produce more of our requirements of clinker from the deposits of limestone which, as most hon. Members are no doubt aware, are abundant in this country.

I presume no hon. Member is happy about the high price of cement in this country. Our teeming millions must be housed, and the cheaper building materials are, the more quickly we shall attain this objective. I was satisfied that the high price of cement was due to shortage of the commodity in this country, but some undesirable practices by local cement manufacturers also came into play. The rate of import duty on finished cement was, therefore, reduced from £5 the ton or

75 per cent *ad valorem* to £4 the ton or 66½ per cent *ad valorem*, thus reducing the protection for locally produced cement, and opening the door just wide enough to allow of sufficient importation to supplement local output.

These measures will, no doubt, create the much needed competition which local cement manufacturers have proved to be needed, and I would emphasise that I shall have no hesitation whatsoever to recommend a further reduction in the rate of import duty on cement if local manufacturers do not behave.

I would mention at this stage that in order to prevent industrialists from taking undue advantage of our Tariff operations, the Federal Government has decided to take positive measures against any local *entrepreneurs* who abuse the Tariff privileges we offer them by raising their selling prices unnecessarily. Such sharp practices do not only constitute an abuse of Tariff protection but are also detrimental to the interests of our people who are the consumers. I hope to be able to announce soon details of the measures which Government intends to take in dealing with this particular aspect of our public life.

I must here make reference to an unpleasant experience we have had with some of our industrialists in this country. To cite one example, I was perturbed to find that, in spite of every step we had taken to encourage manufacturers of singlets by offering them very substantial import Tariff protection, most of these manufacturers devised all sorts of means to avoid the payment of Excise duty which was intended to replenish our revenue for the loss sustained from lack of importation of singlets. This racket was so rampant that the Board of Customs and Excise had to take stiff measures by closing down some singlet factories which had engaged in widespread evasion of payment of Excise duty. The solution we found at the end was to abolish the special concessions in respect of import duty on materials for the manufacture of singlets as well as the Excise duty on the finished products—singlets and shirts.

We had a similar distressing experience in respect of Nigerian manufacturers of Soap and the solution has been to abolish the special rate of import duty for Caustic Soda

House of Representatives Debates

2753

[Customs Tariff]

20 OCTOBER 1965

(No. 3) Order

2754

[CHIEF OKOTIE-EBOH]

which is the main ingredient for manufacturing soap. The comparatively low Excise duty on locally produced soap was also abolished.

We are aware that the Tariff changes to which I have been referring resulted in hardship for some local businessmen. I have been told, for instance, that exception should have been made for goods for which orders had been placed before these changes came into operation, but the intriguing question is, "Where do we draw the line?" In the recent past, some relief from the effect of new Tariff increases on goods shipped prior to the effective dates of the changes was afforded in some established special cases of hardship, but experience has shown that many unscrupulous proprietors produced faked invoices and other documents to establish their entitlement to the concession.

We cannot discriminate and if we are going to grant concession, Mr Speaker, we have got to grant it to all the people that are within the same category. But once they know it has been granted they bring faked invoices, faked bills of lading and all the rest of it, to the extent that the granting of it will mean ruining the Federal Government and the Regional Governments as well.

Therefore, because of the activities of dishonest people, we have just had to tighten the rope in such a way that even the honest people we know will suffer.

Chief V. O. Onabanjo (Ijebu South-West) : On a point of order, the Minister says that he does not want to discriminate, but the Federal Government has discriminated in the case of the Ikorodu Trading Company over getting back duty paid on singlets. Whilst other singlet manufacturers got their money back, Ikorodu Trading Company never got its own back.

Chief Okotie-Eboh : I know how much concession we have granted to the Ikorodu Trading Company, but I shall get the precise fact so that I can inform the House—may be tonight—and the Member for Ijebu South-West (*Chief Onabanjo*) will know that he has been misinformed.

Besides, any concession given in our present circumstances would easily lead to unnecessary loss of revenue and, no doubt, allegations of discriminatory practices.

Some have complained that advance notice of these important Tariff changes should have been given. I wish to say that if such a notice were given, the surprise element—a very essential part of any important Tariff exercise—would be removed. Hon. Members would find, if they care to enquire, that in other parts of the world, advance notice of important changes to the Tariff is never given.

Mr B. N. Ukegbu (Owerri South-East) : What of *Leventis* who knew?

Chief Okotie-Eboh : Mr Speaker, I take very serious exception to the Member for Owerri South-East (*Mr Ukegbu*) telling obvious lies on the Floor of this House, and impugning my character by saying that *Leventis* knew. It is a very serious charge to make.

Mr Ukegbu : I am sorry, I must say at once that there was no imputation as regards the revelation on the part of the Minister of Finance. But there was some talk or something like that, that *Leventis* might have known. There is no imputation honestly on the Minister of Finance at all.

Chief Okotie-Eboh : I am grateful to my hon. Friend. I would like to say this, that if I cannot produce the fact tonight, I promise hon. Members that when the House shall meet again, by the Grace of God, I will show—

Several Members : When ?

Chief Okotie-Eboh : Mr Speaker, as soon as practicable. Hon. Members are aware that the recent measures on motor cars caught *Leventis* unawares, and I will prove to Members how many of his cars were dutiable on the new rate to show that it is a lie and deliberate falsehood. If anybody in my position were to sell such information, God would destroy him forever. This is nonsense—(*Interruptions.*)

Mr Speaker : Order, order !

Chief Okotie-Eboh : For example, I recall that when the British Government announced its 15 per cent import surcharge last year, no prior notice was given.

Some hon. Members have also expressed concern over what they have regarded as the failure on the part of Government to take this

House of Representatives Debates

2755

[Customs Tariff]

20 OCTOBER 1965

(No. 3) Order]

2756

House into confidence before the recent changes in Tariff and the restrictive measures which accompanied them were announced. I hope that such hon. Members would not insist that we break violently with one of our established traditions. It is a fundamental principle of Representative Government that, as the Agent of the people and holding their mandate, the Government takes any measures it considers to be in the best interest of the country, although it is obliged to report back to the people and their representatives at the earliest opportunity. I think these conditions were satisfied.

I made my nation-wide broadcast on this subject on the 18th of August, 1965, and have left no stone unturned in the preparation of this speech, in order to keep this House fully informed of all that is involved in the action taken by Government. We are most conscious that any Government will be failing in its duty if it does not inform the people's representatives of any major changes.

Some have questioned the propriety of our levying duty at the new rates imposed as a result of the recent Tariff changes on goods which had arrived in this country before the changes came into operation. May I seize this opportunity to stress that this practice is an age-long one and is in accordance with the provisions of the Customs and Excise Management Act which prescribes that the rate at which the import duty on any goods is paid shall be that which is in force at the time the proprietor lodges the entry for the goods with the proper officer of Customs and Excise. That is the law, and I am sure that all my learned Friends here will agree that we cannot break the law.

Chief O. B. Akin-Olugbade (Egba South) : On a point of order, we lawyers here agree with the Minister of Finance that they should not break the law, but it is an actual fact that there are people in this House who break the law deliberately and use other provisions to cover iniquities.

Chief T. O. S. Benson (Lagos North) : On a point of order, many worse things have happened in this world. A man might be mad yesterday, cured to-day and to-morrow he can be the President in this country.

Chief Okotie-Eboh : Perhaps I should add that this is a common practice in most parts of the world with an economic structure like our own.

If I may crave your indulgence, Mr Speaker, I should like to resume my speech at 9 o'clock.

Mr Speaker : It is now six o'clock and pursuant to the Resolution passed this morning, Sitting is suspended till 9 p.m.

Sitting suspended : 6 p.m.

Sitting resumed : 9.00 p.m.

Mr Speaker : The Minister of Finance will now continue.

Chief Okotie-Eboh : Before I finish with the recent tariff changes, I would like to refer to what I regard as a misunderstanding which led to the public demonstrations last August. The need for protecting our budding industries is probably not appreciated by anyone more than myself—it is like shielding from extinction the goose that lays the golden egg.

I would stress, however, that the wealth of a nation cannot be built up by merely distributing the products of other countries. Such improvement can only be achieved by increased productivity and by generating additional capital at home. Any action taken, therefore, to bring about the establishment of new industries or to expand the output of those already in production is clearly a step in the right direction. I am not by any means saying that we should sacrifice local wholesale and retail distributors in the interest of local manufacturers. Both manufacturers and distributors are indispensable for our economic growth, but we shall all, no doubt, be happier to see local distributors stocking and selling increased quantities of locally manufactured goods.

Earlier in this speech I referred to the Balance of Payments Committee. So far, the Committee has submitted its report only on Merchandise Accounts. I understand that its report on the Services Accounts will soon be ready. The Services Accounts of the balance of payments relate to private and public expenditure on travels abroad, Government services overseas, private transfer payments abroad, *et cetera*. I expect that the report will contain recommendations for restrictions on our present expenditure on the items of services

House of Representatives Debates

2757

[Customs Tariff]

20 OCTOBER 1965

(No. 3) Order

2758

[CHIEF OKOTIE-EBOH]

concerned, and I would seize this opportunity to urge hon. Members to do their utmost to support Government in whatever restrictive measures it may consider appropriate to rectify the dangerous trend in our balance of payments structure.

Now, I wish to say something about the import restrictions which were imposed along with the tariff changes to which I have been referring. So much has been said and written about these restrictions that I assume that many of the details are well known to most hon. Members.

Many people have asked me why we singled out Japan for discriminatory action. Most of this stems from the fact that we have no inherent trade problems with our other traditional customers and no other country trading with us has, as in the case of Japan, the appalling ratios of 15 to 1 against us.

I have had the unpleasant experience of making a number of official trips to Tokyo with the object of getting the Japanese to rectify their trade imbalance with us. Every time, they promised to do something about the matter but the promises have never been implemented. My hon. Colleague and Friend, Alhaji Zanna Bukar Dipcharima, while he was the Federal Minister of Commerce and Industry, had the same experience with Japan. Perhaps the most nauseating experience of all, however, was that of the Chairman of the Nigerian Coal Corporation, Mr C. C. E. Onoh when, after a series of negotiations in the course of his visit to Japan, the Japanese promised to buy £100,000 worth of coal from us over a period of five months. Details of the transaction were concluded in Tokyo but, before Mr Onoh got back to Nigeria, the Japanese had cabled to say that the price of our coal was too high and that its quality was below the standard they required !

I understand that the Japanese Trade Mission which visited this country last month virtually came to brow-beat us.

One of the Members sitting behind me is saying that my cap is too small. I know that that Member is not interested in the Business of the House. He is only interested in *wuru-wuru* business. At any rate, my cap is not an Ijebu cap. It is a *juju* cap.

Chief Ogunsanya : *Omimi* is inviting trouble.

Chief Okotie-Eboh : How can I be inviting trouble when I have one Ijebu man sitting on my right and another on my left with counterfeiting instruments under their feet ?

From the reports I have received, it appears that all that the Mission told us was that our cocoa, timber, rubber, edible oils, soya beans, palm kernels, cottonseed, *et cetera* are, to them, inferior in quality, and that the prices are too high. Is it not amazing that a quality which has been good enough for Europe, America and the rest of the world over the years is not good enough for the Japanese ?

Chief Ogunsanya : But why does the Minister of Finance want to fire the Japanese ?

Chief Okotie-Eboh : I know that they were the friends of the Minister of Housing and Surveys (*Chief Ogunsanya*) when he was in practice.

I understand that they offered to buy a once-for-all consignment of groundnuts, but that when they were asked how soon that offer would be translated into action they admitted that it would take some time because the offer would have to be ratified by their Parliament and that they would have to set up an agency to subsidise the Japanese businessmen who would be importing the groundnuts.

Now, I ask the House : Can any action be too drastic against a country which constantly maintains such a recalcitrant attitude in a matter which affects the very life-blood of our economy ?

Several hon. Members : No !

Chief Okotie-Eboh : The recent press announcement that the Japanese have offered to buy 5,000 bales of cotton lint must have been welcome news to many, but we must not be misled by the Japanese with this token purchase. The Japanese Mission categorically stated during their conference with our officials that this transaction in cotton lint is not going to be a continuing business—

Dr B. U. Nzeribe (Orlu West) : Why ?

Chief Okotie-Eboh : Ask me another, from Zik's *Inside Stuff* and Aiyekoto's *Week-end Catechism*.

House of Representatives Debates

2759

[Customs Tariff]

20 OCTOBER 1965

(No. 3) Order

2760

The least we require from Japan is an offer to buy reasonable quantities of Nigerian produce over a number of years. The value of five thousand bales of cotton lint is not a solution for a trade deficit which stood at £28.2 million in 1964.

Perhaps I should, at this juncture, explain why Hong Kong had to be identified with Japan in these restrictive measures. It is correct that we do not have any serious trading problems with Hong Kong as such, but her close proximity to Japan and her entrepot trading system make her a possible clearing house for Japanese goods. The position of Hong Kong is, however, being closely examined.

For a long time, Japan has been pulling a fast one on African countries generally, and on Nigeria in particular. This explains why Nigeria is not the only African country that has taken restrictive measures against Japan. I am aware that the restrictions on Japanese imports could worsen our balance of payments position in certain directions since their prices are almost invariably cheaper than most of our other traditional customers. I am also cognisant of the fact that it would augur well for our balance of payments position to buy from the cheapest markets and sell at the dearest ones, but the matter is not as simple as that.

Trade between countries is essentially by barter. We can only pay for the goods and services which we import from abroad with the proceeds from goods and services which we sell overseas. The Nigerian pound would have no value to the Japanese who sells a transistor radio to someone in Nigeria unless the Nigerian pound can be exchanged for its equivalent in Japanese Currency. The Japanese seller must be paid in his country's Currency and that Currency can only be obtained either by selling goods to Japan or in exchange for another convertible Currency, obtained from a country to which we have either sold our goods or from which we have raised a loan. This would mean robbing Peter to pay Paul. This is very elementary.

Mr A. T. Mbegbu (Owerri North-East) : The Minister is an economist.

Chief Okotie-Eboh : Why should I not be an economist ? Does the Member for Owerri North-East (*Mr Mbegbu*) think that I am not

a trained businessman ? In fact I am due for a degree from Awomama. (*Laughter*).

Speaking quite seriously, however, this explains the dire need to sell to a country as much as if not more than, we buy from her. That would be good business would it not ?

Several hon. Members : Yes, it would be.

Mr Mbegbu : But business is business.

Chief Okotie-Eboh : This is not law, and Lawyers should keep quiet.

Mr A. F. Odulana (Ijebu North-East) : The Member for Owerri North-East (*Mr Mbegbu*) is a lawyer from Wolsey Hall !

Chief Okotie-Eboh : Nevertheless he is a good lawyer. As I was saying, paying a country with the proceeds of our exports sold in another country or loans raised therefrom for any indefinite period can only lead to economic strangulation. For example, if we continue to pay Japanese suppliers with money which we obtain by selling our goods in American markets, we shall soon need American dollars, not only to pay for the goods we import from America but also to repay and service the loans which we have been getting from the United States.

This is one fundamental reason why a developing country like ours, which depends mainly on exportation of primary products—most of the prices of which now fluctuate violently in world markets—cannot afford the luxury of putting up with huge trade deficits with any particular country over an indeterminate period. The situation would have given rise to less concern if our terms of trade with Japan had been something like 3 to 1, but the current ratio of 15 to 1 against us is clearly detrimental to our interest, and I hope that hon. Members will appreciate that it was absolutely essential for us to arrest the situation.

I would quickly add that the original intention was to limit the restrictions on Japanese goods to textiles which account for over 80 per cent of our imports from Japan, but we found that import licences for textiles had already been issued to members of the public for the whole of the year 1965 and Government decided not to impose undue hardship on the holders of these licences.

House of Representatives Debates

2761

[Customs Tariff]

20 OCTOBER 1965

(No. 3) Order]

2762

[CHIEF OKOTIE-EBOH]

Something had to be done however in the interim, if only to remind Japan that our market is not just one at which to sell only but that it is also one to buy from. This was why Government decided to impose wide restrictions on all Japanese goods except textiles for which licences have already been issued.

Mr D. Senu-Oke (Badagry) : That is the problem.

Chief Okotie-Eboh : That is the problem of the Member for Badagry (*Mr Senu-Oke*) but not my own. He should concentrate on the problem of coconut oil.

I would add that the measures which we have taken to correct the imbalance in our international accounts have not been limited to Japan and Hong Kong. For example, importations other than from Japan and Hong Kong involving pre-payment, either in part or in full, will in future not be allowed except after the goods concerned have been shipped for Nigeria. This is the current practice in other parts of the world, including the United Kingdom. Permission for pre-payment will, however, be given in respect of single transactions which do not involve more than five hundred pounds—a clear indication of Government's anxiety to cater for the interest of small Nigerian businessmen.

One discovery which I made during the examination of our balance of payments position was that, through some machinations—although I do not want to discuss that—the proceeds of our country's export of petroleum products were not being credited to our foreign exchange account.

Mr Odulana : Why ?

Chief Okotie-Eboh : The Member for Ijebu North-East (*Mr Odulana*) should ask me another. Does he want to rig my seat ? He is a rigger !

As from 19th August last, therefore, we tightened up our Exchange Control formalities, and N.C.D. 3 forms are now required for all commercial exports, including petroleum products, which are not handled by the Nigerian Produce Marketing Company. Further, where payments for such exports are received abroad and are not repatriated to Nigeria, a procedure is being devised to ensure

that the exporting company's account in Nigeria is credited with the foreign exchange value involved. These measures, when fully implemented, will go a long way in improving our balance of payments position.

We have received representations from Banking Houses—I am sure hon. Members will be raising this—and mercantile interests, on the position of goods ordered before the date of the restrictions on Japanese imports, and the Federal Government has set up a Committee under the Chairmanship of Dr P. N. C. Okigbo, its Economic Adviser, to review the effects of these restrictions and make appropriate recommendations.

As a result of an interim report by the Committee, some relaxations have been approved. The restrictions on raw materials required for industries, machinery and their spare parts, spare parts for the maintenance of durable consumer goods already in Nigeria before the effective date of the restrictions, as well as books and other printed matters, have been lifted. This action was taken mainly to obviate the danger of putting unwarranted brake on the wheels of industrial progress.

I trust that hon. Members will appreciate that it is the earnest desire of this Government to protect the interests of local businessmen, and it is worth mentioning here that I have received a number of congratulatory messages from local businessmen for the pungency of the action taken recently on our Tariff and for the protection of our foreign exchange position. This is not an attempt to play down the protest demonstrations of some local businessmen who were no doubt misled at the time into thinking that Government had ignored their interests. I trust that most of them have now come to realise that all the measures were taken in the wider interests of our economy.

We are also aware that the restrictions on the opening of irrevocable letters of credit have resulted in hardship on some local businessmen. I would emphasise, however, that I gave as long a notice as was practicable in the circumstances before the restrictions were brought into effect.

Mr Senu-Oke : How ?

Chief Okotie-Eboh : Will the Member for Badagry please listen for I will tell him now.

House of Representatives Debates

2763

[Customs Tariff]

20 OCTOBER 1965

(No. 3) Order

2764

On the 13th of August, I held a meeting with representatives of all local Banks and requested them not to open new letters of credit, and that if they did, it would be at their own risk and their responsibility. They were given enough notice. Five days later, the restrictions on imports from Japan and Hong Kong were announced.

The present position, however, is that letters of credit are to continue to be opened for all transactions with countries other than Japan and Hong Kong, as well as in respect of textiles from Japan and Hong Kong for which import licences have been issued.

I appreciate that the measures which we have taken so far, and about which I have been speaking, have hit some people, but may I remind hon. Members that the omelette of life cannot be prepared without breaking some eggs. It seems clear that the overall interest of the entire nation must supersede that of individual *entrepreneurs*.

I have gone to a great length to furnish this honourable House with full information about the Tariff Changes and import restrictions which came into operation last August. All we did arose from our determination to put the economy of our country on the proper footing, and I would seize this opportunity to solicit the co-operation and support of all hon. Members so that we may, at the shortest time possible, attain this most important objective, the objective of painless economic growth.

To that end I appeal to hon. Members to transmit what I have endeavoured to explain to the House here this evening to the generality of our people so that they may appreciate that we cannot give the benefit of the bounties of life to the ordinary man in the street if we do not employ these restrictive measures. They are therefore designed to give life more abundant to our brothers and sisters wherever they may be in Nigeria.

Sir, I beg to move.

The Minister of Establishments (Mr J. C. Obande) : I beg to second.

Dr B. U. Nzeribe (Orlu-West) : I will be very, very brief indeed because I—

Mr A. F. Odulana (Ijebu North-East) : On a point of order, the Member for Ilorin East (*Chief R. O. A. Dada*) was speaking before he was asked to allow the Minister of Finance to move his Resolution, and he gave way to the Minister.

Mr Speaker : Actually, the hon. Gentleman was speaking on the first subject when the Minister asked him to wait to speak on the second. If the hon. Gentleman could wait for the next opportunity then he would be able to speak. He has not yet lost the opportunity to speak.

Dr Nzeribe : As I said, I am going to be brief in view of the fact that time is against us. I know that this topic is one that is very dear to many hon. Members, and that they may like to make some contributions to it.

In the first place, I must, from the bottom of my heart, congratulate the Minister. In doing so I am sure that I am speaking for those Nigerians who have the well-being and the welfare of their nation at heart, and those Nigerians who, through no fault of their own, have been exposed to those rigours of intellectual exercises that enable one to understand more clearly than one's fellow citizens, the implications and intricacies of state craft.

For a long time many of us have been worried by the apparent *laissez faire* that was inherited from colonial Government. Nobody is to blame and we are not trying to pass judgment. But gradually our Government have learned that there is need for a managed economy. We are fortunate to inherit, apart from the weaknesses of colonial structure, a lot of money saved in the London money market from the Marketing Board arrangement. For a long time we were worried that this money might be frittered away because it seemed to be in no man's land.

But now, the Government has come to realise it. I am very, very happy that the Minister of Finance has taken us into confidence and so many criticisms and so many suggestions about certain things are coming to bear fruit. I want to congratulate the Minister on these measures, particularly the present measures taken by him and the Government, first of all, to show foreigners that this country belongs to a people; that Nigeria is no dumping ground for scrapped machinery from other

[DR NZERIBE]

countries, a dumping ground for inept experts in codes; a dumping ground for undesirable ideas and a dumping ground for everything that is unwanted in other countries, like *Okrika wake up.*

I am very happy that the Government has now stood firm. So on behalf of myself and people who think like me, I want to express our gratitude to the Minister of Finance.

The Minister of Transport (Alhaji Zanna Bukar Dipcharima): Does the hon. Gentleman support second-hand clothing?

Dr Nzeribe: I am strongly against second-hand clothing because it is a form of dumping. I raised my one man's voice against it here on the Floor of this House time and time again because I felt that it was dumping.

I do not want to go into the economic dialectics of the exercises and theories that govern the thinking of an economist. But it is certain and elementary that in a developing economy like Nigeria, capital is a scarce factor and any money saved in this country, whether by an individual or by the church or by a council or Regional Government or Federal Government, should not be frittered away.

The choice before the nation as well as the choice before the individual is to either use their earnings for present consumption or plough them back into capital formation, and the emphasis in Nigeria for the past many years has been on consumption. Economists agree on one formula that any capital which is not able to multiply itself by five times in a year is almost wasted, and Nigeria spends £10 million on Japanese cloth and this £10 million is put into Japan providing employment for ten thousand Japanese.

Ten Million pounds put into circulation in Nigeria will have more than 1,000 people in this country gainfully employed, but that money is being put into Japan to provide employment for Japanese citizens. This, I must say, is almost criminal. Even though we cannot tighten our belts and die as such, a certain measure of modification is required; and I am happy that the Minister has realised those measures which are necessary for us to tighten our belts.

These measures multiply in the sense of money and money multiplies itself. One million pounds circulating in Nigeria may be equal to £10 million in a year. But in this country success in life is based on the amount of flashy clothes one wears, the number of flashy cars one rides and the number of flashy mansions one puts up all over the country. These are the criteria for judging success in Nigeria to-day.

The time has come when Nigerians should remember that at the end of the last World War, Germany was reduced to dust, but it took Germans only five to six years to build up a new Germany because the skill and the technical know-how and the human capital in Germany were not destroyed.

Even if all the machines in America are imported into this country to-day, without investing human-beings, these machines will rust. The time has come when the Government should begin to emphasise those things which make a nation great. The wealth of a nation does not depend on the amount of clothes the people wear, or the amount of English they "blow" or the degrees they attach to their names. We should be able to build, instruct, invent and disseminate ideas.

I have nothing but praise for the hon. Minister of Finance. I hope that more severe measures will be introduced against luxury goods. One hundred and twenty *per cent ad valorem* tax on luxury cars is not enough. As a matter of fact, luxury cars should be banned. If we go back to history, we will find that the depression in England and America—

Mr Odulana: The hon. Gentleman speaking, our respected Deputy Speaker of this House, should take the lead. I saw him in a Mercedes Benz with two cushions behind him. A Mercedes Benz costs almost £3,000. Let him take the lead.

Dr Nzeribe: My Friend, the Deputy Chief Whip is pulling his own leg because those who know me, know that I cannot afford such luxury. I own a Volkswagen and I am very proud of it because I know that my glory and success in life cannot depend on a car. A big car is an escape mechanism, it does not make a great man.

House of Representatives Debates

2767

[Customs Tariff]

20 OCTOBER 1965

(No. 3) Order]

2768

So, after the great depression of 1933 to 1939, the wealth of America and England and some of the then civilised countries, completely got sub-merged. All efforts to raise the economy of these countries failed. It was only when the war broke out, and that was perhaps the only one good thing that the war did, did the nationals of these countries become conscious of the state of emergency, and this should be the intellectual and social mood of a country like Nigeria.

The Nigerian Government should assume that Nigeria is economically at war and so tighten its belt and use those measures used at wartime. The Government should ban unnecessary imports, unnecessary luxuries and lay emphasis where the need is greatest. What we need to-day in Nigeria is capital formation because capital is a precious tool. No carpenter or tailor can produce enough without tools and no amount of degrees can provide these tools.

I hope that the Minister of Finance will continue the wonderful work he is doing by imposing an embargo on luxuries like diamonds, jewellery, big cars, expensive clothes and the rest of them. The Minister should also manipulate exchange rates because exchange rate is itself, an industry. If a person wants to buy a big car, let him pay more for it.

Mr F. A. Ogike (Orlu South-East) : About a month ago, the Member for Orlu West (*Dr Nzeribe*) bought a necklace costing £100 for his wife.

Dr Nzeribe : I will not reply to that.

Chief Okotie-Eboh : The Member for Orlu South-East (*Mr Ogike*) has a wife. Let him buy one too for his wife.

Mr M. Nnorom (Okigwi North-East) : I would like to know whether the Member for Orlu West (*Dr Nzeribe*) is lecturing us or whether he is just trying to summarise what the Minister of Finance has actually said.

Mr Speaker : He is collecting facts to support his argument.

Mr S. U. Bassey (Eket South-West) : Is this a design to prevent other Members from contributing to this Debate ?

Mr Speaker : The Member for Eket South-West (*Mr Bassey*) is wasting our time even more.

The Minister of Labour (Prince A. Adedoyin) : I hope the time of the House will be more usefully spent if any Member raising a point of order will tell us what order he is referring to.

Mr Speaker : Order. This is certainly a good idea and I will bear it in mind.

Dr Nzeribe : As I said earlier, I do not want to take up the time of this House. I am in support of whatever stringent measure the Government wishes to introduce in order to curb this nation of the very negative psychology of measuring success not by the amount of production of an individual but by his consumption.

In order to help productivity, the Government should manipulate exchange rates and penalise those who insist on luxuries and subsidise those industries that are less developed. This is where I have always disagreed with the Minister of Finance for imposing extra duties on building materials, cement, farming implements and educational materials.

There is no sense in the Government imposing duties on laboratory and hospital materials because these things are the infrastructure of the society. As a matter of fact, these things should be subsidised.

With these few remarks, I beg to support the measures so ably taken by the hon. Minister of Finance.

Chief P. O. A. Dada (Ilorin East) : I would like to support the Bill ably moved by the Minister of Finance. As I was saying in the afternoon, the Bill was moved by our respected financial wizard of the Federation. I said "wizard" because in his explanatory note, he has already given most of the answers to the questions that we would have raised.

I think that to ban goods from countries which do not buy our goods is a very good policy, and nobody will quarrel with this sort of policy. However, I think if we want to protect the home industries as we do at present we should make it possible for home industries not to sell their products at prices higher than what we can get from abroad.

I think there is nothing to be controlled essentially but any industry established must suffer some loss from the beginning before it begins to make a profit. We must see to it,

[CHIEF DADA]

for example, that shoes made in the country are not sold at higher prices than shoes bought from abroad. I am not referring to Sapele shoes, of course.

I am saying that enough protection should be given to home industries where we do not discriminate essentially with the outside goods. I feel that it is about time that we must encourage our home industries.

I would also like to implore the hon. Minister of Finance to listen to the cries of most of our traders who are suffering great hardship, especially those of them having goods in the Customs. I will implore the authorities, through the Minister of Finance, that those goods lying unclaimed at the Customs should be allowed to be claimed at the old rates.

The Minister was saying this afternoon that there would be nowhere to draw the line, but I am saying that he could draw a line right now from here. This is essential because while the goods are staying in the Customs, they are of no use to this country, they are of no use in the Customs warehouses, the warehouses are filled and there will be no room for more goods to come in.

I would say that these things should be taken into consideration. Also, my colleague has said that import duties should be imposed on luxury goods. I think this is a design to discourage the use of big cars and the use of luxurious materials, while we can spend our money for essential things in the country.

The commoners or the poor people should not be made to contribute more to our revenue than the rich people. The rich people, in fact, should be made to contribute more.

I beg to support.

Chief J. D. Odebunmi (Egba East) : When one imagines the number of words that have been used by the Minister of Finance in presenting this Bill, one realises the fact that he not only knows his business, but he knows also the value of money and what it means to the stability of this country. He knows, too, how to get the support of the Members of this House.

This Bill is all out, not only to meet the additional need of this country but to help build up a very healthy and buoyant financial stability of our dear fatherland. All aspects that are

helpful in bringing about this stabilisation are contained in the Bill.

At the moment, I want to get myself concerned with a few spectacular items. This House appreciates, first and foremost, the wonderful stride the country is taking in connection with the trade with Japan. The step taken recently to effect a balance of trade between Nigeria and Japan is very highly welcome. If such a quick and proper step had not been taken, our imbalance of trade with Japan could have been enough to topple our economic stability.

Furthermore, by that action, Nigeria has refused to allow herself to be regarded as a dumping ground for Japanese goods. I would like to suggest that we should step up the production of our primary raw materials and have them properly processed, and encourage the use of them in our local production, particularly the textile production.

If we can just think of the amount of textiles used or consumed in this country annually, we shall find it very tremendous. Our country abounds in the vital raw materials used for the production of textile goods.

After we have developed in the line of weaving our own type of textiles, I would like to suggest that we should set up another form of industry which would greatly reduce unemployment in this country, and that is, the tailoring industry as it is practised in Ghana.

If one goes to the Kingsway Stores or Leventis Stores or any of the other big stores, one will find lots of children's dresses, men's wears, women's wears, of all grades and categories imported ready-made.

In Ghana tailoring factories have been set up where so many young men and women are engaged in learning how to produce all sorts of wearing apparel for both children and adults. The materials are usually sent to the big firms like the Leventis, U.A.C. and Kingsway stores.

If such a measure is taken out here it will certainly help to increase the economic stability of Nigeria. In addition, it will help to reduce unemployment among our boys and girls. The industry of beggary will be reduced, and the Minister of Labour will have less headache to worry about.

House of Representatives Debates

2771

[Customs Tariff]

20 OCTOBER 1965

(No. 3) Order

2772

I would like to suggest, too, that our primary products as far as the question of food is concerned should receive adequate amount of local processing. Take, for instance, our pepper, onions and tomatoes. There are times of the year when a basket of tomatoes could be got for the mere asking, and at other times a little fraction could fetch a reasonable sum of money. I think canning of these foodstuffs will certainly help to preserve them, and it will also help people to get them when the time of scarcity comes.

With these few words, I beg to support.

Mr A. F. Odulana (Ijebu North-East) : We have all listened attentively to the speech of the Minister of Finance, and in supporting him I think two important things should be taken into consideration insofar as the imbalance of trade between this country and Japan is concerned.

May I ask a question which I am going to answer myself. What is Japan as compared with Nigeria? Japan has a population of 93,100,000 people, while Nigeria has 55,000,000. She has an area of 142,748 sq. miles, while Nigeria has 373,250 sq. miles. The country comprises the four islands of Houshu, Kyu Shyu, Hok Daido and Shikoku, whose people profess Buddhism and Shintoism.

It was not until 1853 that Commodore Perry from a gunboat in Tokyo Bay forced an exchange of goods between Japan and the United States.

Mr Sanu Sobowale (Epe) : I do not think we need be treated to a lecture on Japan's history and geography. I can appreciate that the Member for Ijebu North-East (*Mr Odulana*) is trying to show that he has graduated from the "University of Ogbomosho".

Mr Odulana : As I said, it was not until 1853 that Commodore Perry from a gunboat in Tokyo Bay forced the first exchange of goods on Japan, and the first commercial treaty entered into by Japan did not take place until 1859. From then onwards came a rapid progress of Western influence in Japan.

My idea is that what Japan is to-day, Nigeria can be ten times tomorrow. So that if she throws a challenge that everything we have in Nigeria is inferior, the questions arise whether we can do without Japan, and whether we can call off her bluff.

I say that we can do without Japan because after all the first Japanese ship that come to Nigeria called "Alaska Maru" brought goods of inferior quality. So if Japan says that our present goods are inferior, we can remind her that the first goods shipped to this country by "Alaska Maru" some years ago were all inferior goods.

I can only advise the Ministry of Trade to leave Japan alone, and let us do business with other countries. We did not know Japan when the British first came to us. After all, we have other friends like the British, the Americans, the Germans, the French, *et cetera*. It is only by hard work that Japan attained the height she now finds herself to-day; I am sure that if we worked equally hard in Nigeria we could be thought of like Japan tomorrow. I think that this country has not much to copy from Japan.

We implore the Minister of Trade to stop issuing licences to businessmen to buy Japanese goods. Since without licences no business can be transacted with Japan, we may by this means impel her to come and buy our goods. I think that is the only solution. They have thrown a challenge to us, they have told us that our coal is inferior, that our cocoa is inferior and that all other goods from Nigeria are below standard. Why then must—

Mr N. N. Anah (Awka Central) : The Member for Ijebu North-East (*Mr Odulana*) is most irrelevant in his speech. We are discussing tariff and import duties, not the history of Japan which his son who has gone to Britain to do B.A. honours History wrote down for him and he is now reciting to the House.

Mr Odulana : The hon. Gentleman who has just interjected is a son of a reverend, so that not much can be expected from him. I am speaking as a businessman, unlike other people who go to the United Kingdom to study, attend one or two lectures, and "rig" their final examinations and come back to Nigeria to talk to us businessmen. Quite seriously, my own idea is that we should leave Japan alone and think of other countries that can help Nigeria.

I beg to support.

Mr S. Sobowale (Epe) : I rise to congratulate the Minister of Finance on the very welcome tariff changes that have been made. Not long ago when we came for the last

[MR SOBOWALE]

meeting of this House, my hon. Friend, the Member for Ijebu North-East (*Mr Odulana*), made quite a number of suggestions about cement clinkers and he made the point so repeatedly that he almost earned the name "Mr Clinker". It is a welcome thing that we are now witnessing a change in the relationship in import duty between cement clinker and other kinds of cement. Cement clinker is now going up from 10s per ton to 15s per ton while other kinds of cement are going down from £5 per ton to £4 per ton. I do not know much about cement clinkers; the Member for Ijebu North-East (*Mr Odulana*) is an expert on it, but the point I want to make here is that if hon. Members on the Floor of this House make certain suggestions and the Ministry looks into them and finds them practicable and proceeds to implement them, it justifies the very purpose for which we come here, and I think the Minister of Finance ought to be congratulated on it.

I am disappointed, I must say, to see that there is an increase in the duty of bicycle tyres and on soles and heels imported for repairing shoes. These two increases, in particular, hit the lower working class very badly. If a man cannot afford a Mercedes Benz or any other type of car, he should, at least, be allowed to ride his bicycle without any unnecessary expenditure. To have this tariff duty going up to 20 per cent *ad valorem* or 2s per pound *ad valorem*, whichever is the higher, hits the poor bicycle rider very badly indeed.

The experience of some of us when our shoes wear out and we take them to the local shoe repairer is that it is becoming increasingly cheaper to buy a new shoe than to get an old one repaired. The fact that soles and heels imported for repairing shoes have to cost more is going to put the poor shoe repairer almost entirely out of business for the benefit of well-to-do people who manufacture shoes.

Mr V. O. Onabanjo (Ijebu South-West) : On a point of information, we would like to know from the Minister of Finance whether it is a deliberate act to make it cheaper to buy a new pair of shoes than to get an old one repaired.

The Minister of Finance (Chief F. S. Okotie-Eboh) : Since my hon. Friend can metamorphose into so many occupations—

from journalism to politics, from politics to 'radioism', from 'Radio Benson' to 'Radio Rosiji' and to 'radio rigging', all concentrated in him—I will not be surprised if tomorrow he employs his lawyer-friend to be lawyer-shoe maker.

The question clearly is this. It has been found out that some people, instead of setting up shoe factories here to use our raw materials to produce shoes, import parts of shoes and just assemble them here with two or three labourers and then spoil the market. For the information of hon. Members, there are at least 21 shoe factories in Nigeria. If hon. Members want to check up, they can do so. They know how to check up these things and they know how to get the facts, but I am telling them on the Floor of this House what I know to be true. More of these factories are going to be established. We except them to use our rubber, our tanned leather and our textiles to produce canvas shoes and everything here and not just somebody putting up an assembly plant and then making shoes with imported parts he will just put together. We cannot even get the excise duty from such a person because his business is not registered.

Chief O. B. Akin-Olugbade (Egba South) : On a point of order, the Minister of Finance is a pseudo-capitalist now. He knows that a capitalist knows how to rig our national economy. Some time ago, he told us in this House that people were importing second-hand tyres into the country in order to rig our national economy. It is the same thing that the shoe-makers are doing now.

Chief Okotie-Eboh : I am not a capitalist. I am a pragmatic African socialist.

Mr Speaker : Order ! I wish to draw the attention of the House to the fact that we have some six more Bills to go through, in addition to the two Resolutions.

Mr Sobowale : I have seen that there are quite a number of increases in the recent duty on cars. In this connection, I have to call the attention of the hon. Minister to just one particular car which caused a stir recently, and that was a Mercedes Benz 600. I do not care who bought the car or where he got the money from. I am only interested in knowing from the hon. Minister whether whoever bought it

House of Representatives Debates

2775

[Customs Tariff]

20 OCTOBER 1965

(No. 3) Order

2776

paid the appropriate duty on it and how much he paid. When the controversy about this Mercedes Benz 600 was on, a foreign firm in this country made a rather startling statement of policy that it was a customary thing for Premiers to import a car a year free of duty. We would like to know whether this is a true statement of policy of the Government and also to know which classes of people in this country have enjoyed this privilege of importing cars duty-free.

The Minister of Aviation (Dr Jaja A. Wachuku) : The hon. Gentleman is not well-informed. If he had been well-informed and if he had been reading his newspapers, he would have known that the Minister of Finance made a statement which was published.

Some hon. Members : When ?

Dr Wachuku : When he returned.

Mr Sobowale : Mr Speaker, the point still remains that we would like to know whether the statement which Leventis made represented Government policy or not. I think the nation is entitled to know whether the appropriate duty was paid on this Mercedes Benz 600—or whether it is Mercedes 6,000,000, I do not care. All I want to know is how much exactly was paid on this particular car.

With these remarks, I beg to support.

Mr Speaker rose to put the Question.

Several hon. Members : No ! No !

Mr Speaker : Well, I would like to draw the attention of the House again to the fact that we have some six more Bills to debate on, in addition to two Resolutions.

Mr N. O. Aro (Ilorin South) : In contributing to the debate on the Motion before the House, I would like to point out to the Government that the importers in this country are not at all happy. They are suffering untold hardship through the overnight increase of duty and the collection of all sorts of unnecessary charges on their imported goods. The last and recent strike of the traders' association in Lagos is a naked proof of the unhappiness of these poor importers. Members will agree with me that such a strike has never been recorded in the history of any nation throughout the whole world.

The source of my information has revealed that during the colonial administration in this country, there was nothing like wharfage charges and all the rest of it, and if there was anything like that at all, the charges were negligibly small when compared with the heavy ones being paid at present.

Furthermore, the imposition of rents at the Customs Warehouse starts only three days after the departure of the carrying vessels, whereas a grace of a week was usually allowed during the colonial days. These rents are so high that some of these importers find it difficult, if not impossible, to take delivery of their goods after such goods have unfortunately remained for some weeks in the Customs Warehouse.

I would like to appeal to the Government, on behalf of these importers, to review the situation. In view of the fact that the situation is the concern of every section in the community, I sincerely believe that all hon. Members here present, irrespective of their political leanings, will surely join me in the humble appeal on bended knees and cap in hand to implore the Government to kindly save the indigenous importers from the impending liquidation which the recent increase in customs duty is to bring on them.

As a matter of fact, we all are aware of the existence of the Customs Tariff Law quoted earlier by the able Minister of Finance. Nevertheless, I am appealing to the hon. Minister to temper justice with mercy and not to follow too strictly the letter of the law in this respect, so that the people may believe that this Government is not only sympathetic, but also prepared to listen to the voice of those who are suffering, by doing the following :

Firstly, the importers should be allowed to clear their goods, in particular those which had already been shipped or those which had arrived before the latest increase, at the old rate of customs duty, and for any rents thereof to be waived. This is very necessary in view of the fact that a lot of goods had been lying in the Customs Warehouse awaiting clearance. This, of course, could be attested to in the copy of the petition letter dated the 6th of October, 1965, addressed to the Prime Minister by the traders' association, copies of which were distributed to Members of this House last week.

House of Representatives Debates

2777

[Customs Tariff]

20 OCTOBER 1965

(No. 3) Order]

2778

[MR ARO]

Secondly, the Government should remove the newly invented wharfage fees.

Thirdly, a grace of, at least, a week should be given before the imposition of rents on any uncleared goods.

Lastly, the Government should see to the reduction of these rents to a bearable minimum, as I would herewith humbly suggest. We ask that this should be one shilling per ton for the first six days, one shilling and six pence per ton for the next six days, and two shillings per ton thereafter, instead of the present three shillings per ton for the first six days, six shillings per ton for the next six days, and twelve shillings per ton thereafter.

Finally, it is an open secret that most of our people are now grumbling and feel so much disappointed that if an opportunity could rear its head for a plebiscite to determine the wishes of the people of this country, there is no doubt that more than ninety per cent of the population would vote in favour of the British rule.

With these remarks, I beg to support.

Chief V. O. Onabanjo (Ijebu South-West) : While discussing this question of balance of trade, I should like to deal very briefly with this question of ban on Japanese goods.

I think that we are just looking for a short-cut for our problem by saying that we should ban goods from Japan. Every country is entitled to look for a favourable balance of trade. Just as we want to sell more than we buy, so also does Japan. Our problem is that we are not aggressive enough in selling our own produce and our own finished products. Before independence, we were importing quite a lot of goods from Britain, but now we find that British goods are being gradually displaced by goods from Western Germany and even from America, all because they send out salesmen to Nigeria to convince and persuade the consumers here that their goods are better than the British products.

We are not doing the same thing about our own products. It is only recently that we have opened up an Embassy in Japan, and what have we found under the Estimates ? Only one man to look after the trade section, whereas we want Japan to buy our own goods. We must persuade them that we have something for them to buy. All this diplomatic action,

telling the Japanese Ambassador here that Japan must buy our goods, cannot achieve anything. We cannot force them to buy our goods just as they cannot force us to buy their own goods. What we have done with Japan will not solve our problem unless we try also to promote sales of our own produce ; but we are not doing that.

There is this other point about the quota system. It is all right the Minister telling us that we have imported quite a lot of goods from Japan, but I know that a while ago we decided to put limits on imports from Japan and there was this question of quota. How did we exceed the quota ? Who was responsible for this country importing more than was necessary from Japan ?

Chief A. Jinadu (Oshun North-East I) : The Member for Ijebu South-West (*Chief Onabanjo*) is an U.P.G.A. man who is under bail in the Western Region. He is also one of the N.I.P.C. people being looked for in the Western Region and he should keep quiet and talk less here.

Chief Onabanjo : I still think that it is necessary for Parliament and the country to be told how we came to exceed the quota of imports from Japan. Our problem all along is that these licences for imports from Japan had been sold and in the end when we exceed the import quota, then we come to say that there is trouble about our balance of trade. I have a feeling that the whole of our economic journey lacks decision. The Minister proposed one remedy, then you had the Minister of Trade coming up with a £10 million loan from Japan and then you had all these conflicts and nobody knew who actually should take the decision to correct the problems we were faced with.

The Minister must be charged with the responsibility. We had thought that it was the job of the Minister of Finance because we had this question of imbalance of trade in August last year when the Minister introduced similar measures and promised us in his Budget Speech that the new tariff would help to correct the imbalance. When he was delivering his speech in March—(*Interruptions*). I will appreciate it if the Minister of Finance will listen to me. When he was delivering his speech in March he told us that the new measures which he introduced in August last year would help us to correct the imbalance of trade. But what we find this year is that

House of Representatives Debates

2779

[Customs Tariff]

20 OCTOBER 1965

(No. 3) Order

2780

the imbalance is still there and in August this year again he has introduced new measures.

Talking about our foreign exchange reserves, according to the Minister, by June of this year our reserve stood at £79.7 million. If it was £79.7 million we still have not reached the safety margin which the Minister himself stipulated in his Budget speech because, according to him, the safety margin should be about £84.2 million which represents the cost of imports for a whole quarter. I am just wondering whether the Minister himself—

Mr A. F. Odulana (Ijebu North-East) : I beg to move that the Question be now put.

Mr Speaker : It is true we are very much pressed for time, but I would like to allow the Member for Ijebu South-West (*Chief Onabano*) to wind up his speech before I put the Question.

Chief Onabano : I am just wondering whether the Minister himself is satisfied that all these measures coming in every August are actually helping the economy of the country? We had this same measure in August last year and we have had a similar measure in August this year, and it looks to me that we are getting nowhere. If the Minister will reply it will help.

Chief Okotie-Eboh : I will try to be very brief because Members will like to speak on this item and proceed with other items. But my hon. Friend, the Member for Ijebu South-West (*Chief Onabano*) has raised a number of points that can be discussed till tomorrow.

If I may take up from where he stopped, I would like to say that I do not expect that any measure by Government in a growing economy would be the answer once and for all to their economic ills. Economic growth can never be stagnant. As the economy grows surely the unforeseen vicissitudes of the country arise and they need measures that will stop them. That is why we are proud that we have a progressive economy.

Quite frankly, I never expected that my March Speech which the hon. Member quoted is the last word for measures to be taken when circumstances that could not have been seen at that time have been seen now, and it is never possible for any human being to see the unseeable. Therefore what I said at that time holds good excepting that out

growth is so fast that we have to look for fast measures to put them right.

Chief O. B. Akin-Olugbade (Egba South) : On a point of order, the Minister of Finance has now accepted the serious financial situation which we foresaw and criticised in his Budget speech, that we are being over-burdened with foreign loans that in due course may turn this country into the South American States where there is economic chaos. He denied it on that occasion. We told him that the rate at which we were eating into our foreign reserves was very dangerous. Now he has come to accept that.

I would wish that the Minister of Finance could take heed of our own foresight when we tell him that we are moving fast into the brink of economic bankruptcy. I think that at this stage I would like to say, and because I was not here yesterday, that the Council of Ministers should see to it that the Motion which was passed yesterday for increase in Members' salaries should not be implemented by the Council of Ministers.

Chief Okotie-Eboh : This is not a point of order. My hon. Friend, the Member for Egbal South (*Chief Akin-Olugbade*) thinks that he is in the court of law where he can play his legal *Jankara*. The Member for Ijebu South-West (*Chief Onabano*) was trying to make a speech and I am trying to tell him that as I said in March last year, and as I still say with all the emphasis at my command, this country is not on the brink of economic or financial disaster, nor is our policy geared towards pushing the economy of this country into financial or economic precipice. What I am saying is that the measure which we have taken and the Development Programme which is being pursued and praised all over the world must grow because we are in a hurry to grow, and if we are to grow—and we are growing as a matter of fact—we must have the best things and these will refine the economy so that within a few years we shall be enjoying real economic prosperity.

Chief Akin-Olugbade : But the Minister has admitted it.

Chief Okotie-Eboh : I must tell hon. Members the seriousness of it because that is the stock-in-trade of every sensible Minister of

[CHIEF OKOTIE-EBOH]

Finance. I told hon. Members sometime ago, as the Deputy Speaker (*Dr Nzeribe*) has said before, that this is not the age of *laissez-faire*; this is the age of hard work and of best things, so that we can fashion out something for the benefit of the generality of our people. This is a fact.

My hon. Friend who spoke earlier before this smuggler came in—

Chief Akin-Olugbade : I am from an inland town, not from the boarder town where people smuggle things into the country. I come from Abeokuta.

Chief Okotie-Eboh : The Member for Ijebu South-West has said that we are not aggressive enough in selling our produce abroad. I would like to tell him quite frankly that that may be a good statement to make yesterday when our marketable commodities were marketed abroad by non-Nigerians. But now we have a Marketing Company and I think that they are aggressive enough.

I would like the Member for Egba South (*Chief Akin-Olugbade*) to listen to me because this is something he does not know. This is not law or journalism. I am telling him something he does not know.

Chief Akin-Olugbade : They are drawing allowances there; they are not working for the exchange of our produce.

Chief V. O. Onabanjo (Ijebu South-West) : Honestly, Sir, the Leader of the House ought to consider this question of night sittings because it looks as if Members on the other side, after having attended dinner parties and taken a lot of wine, become rather riotous.

Chief Okotie-Eboh : The Members on this side are very much alert to their responsibilities. May I ask for the co-operation of Members because we have quite a lot more to do tonight. I just want to say this which is a statement of fact and which all Members will admit, that one of the problems of developing countries whose economies are essentially based on cash crops is the fact that the developed countries want to live at their expense. Not only do they control the price—

Mr B. N. Ukegbu (Owerri South-East) : Some of the Members on that side are afraid to come out by night.

Chief Okotie-Eboh : I think we ought to be serious enough when we are discussing the economy of our country because the sum total of our existence is based on our economy. Whether one is a lawyer or a professor, whatever one may do, if the economy of this country is destroyed, we cannot exist.

Mr Ukegbu : That is quite right, but the Minister should tell the Members behind him.

Chief Okotie-Eboh : We shall deport some of them, especially those with the red caps behind me. All I want to tell my hon. Friend is that the simple law of economic principle is that trade is a matter of supply and demand. If one has something to sell to somebody who has no need for it, he is not going to buy it, no matter how much one can "sugar-coat" his salesmanship. But the fact of it is that these people who have been buying from us from the colonial days at the price that they dictated have developed the production of the same materials in a synthetic way.

Once they produce synthetic products equivalent to our own, thereby giving employment to their people and making use of these synthetic materials in the same way that they make use of our cocoa, palm kernel and so on, naturally, our price will continue to go down because there is no demand, and therefore, the supply is unacceptable to them. This is quite elementary, and I think it is a fact.

The remedy is that we ourselves should industrialise to the extent that we can make use of our raw materials. Therefore, in order to industrialise and make use of our raw materials, we must stop these people from dumping their own finished products into our markets. The only way of doing this is either to ban them completely or to impose such taxation measures that will prevent them from dumping their goods into our markets.

Sir, I move that the Question be now put.

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

Main Question put and agreed to.

Resolved : That, in accordance with section 8 (2) of the Customs Tariff Act, the Customs Tariff (Duties and Exemptions) (No. 3) Order, 1965 (Legal Notice No. 92 of 1965), a copy of which was laid before this House on 13th October, 1965, be confirmed.

House of Representatives Debates

2783

[Excise Tariff

20 OCTOBER 1965

Bill : Second Reading]

2784

CUSTOMS TARIFF (DUTIES) (No. 2)
ORDER, 1965

Chief Okotie-Eboh : I rise again this time to move the third Motion standing in my name—

That, in accordance with Section 4 of the Excise Tariff Act, the Excise Tariff (Duties) (No. 2) Order, 1965 (Legal Notice No. 93 of 1965), a copy of which was laid before this House on 13th October, 1965, be confirmed.

I signify that the President of the Republic, has given his recommendation to the consideration of this Motion.

This Order removes the excise duties on shirts, interlock fabrics, singlets, soap, plastic-ware and footwear. This is the result of the difficulties arising from the intractability of local producers which has culminated in the principle of imposing import duties on the raw materials instead of excise duties on the finished products. It also alters the rate of excise duty on travelling trunks, travelling bags, handbags, portmanteaux, purses, suitcases and wallets of all materials from 1s each to 10 per cent of the selling price.

The idea is to ensure a more equitable incidence of duty on these products and to move away from the regressive impact of specific characteristics of the *ad valorem* duty. It is estimated that the alteration will yield more revenue especially on the more expensive materials. It also introduces excise duties on hydrocarbon oils in anticipation of the coming into production of the proposed oil refinery and imposes an excise duty of 20 per cent on steel reinforcing rounds in consideration for the duty-free importation of the raw materials.

I beg to move.

The Minister of Defence (Alhaji Muhammadu Inua Wada) : I beg to second.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved : That, in accordance with Section 4 of the Excise Tariff Act, the Excise Tariff (Duties) (No. 2) Order, 1965 (Legal Notice No. 93 of 1965), a copy of which was laid before this House on 13th October, 1965, be confirmed.

EXCISE TARIFF BILL

Order for Second Reading read.

Chief Okotie-Eboh : I beg to move—

That a Bill for an Act to make better provision for the imposition of duty on excise

and for purposes connected therewith, be read a Second time.

The current Excise Tariff Act (No. 58 of 1958) came into operation on the 1st of April, 1959. As hon. Members are aware, the industrialisation of our country has progressed tremendously since then and the number of goods which are liable to excise duty has increased, at least proportionately.

The Federal Government has always done its utmost to encourage industrialisation and the principal objective in initiating the promulgation of this Bill was to remove one serious handicap in matching locally produced goods against those imported.

As most hon. Members are no doubt aware, various types of goods are admissible without payment of customs duty when imported by certain privileged persons or establishments, or for certain privileged uses. For example, a foreign Embassy in Nigeria can import all its requirements of whisky without paying import duty.

I am not asking the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Trade (*Mr R. B. K. Okafor*) to go and buy from them. He is now making a confession. He says that they used to dash him. But I must tell him that the Itsekiri man says: "When dash too big, *ide* tear pocket!"

It is most important that this privilege should apply to goods which are produced locally, otherwise the chances of any such goods being used by privileged person or being bought for privileged uses are very slim, and this has been a serious handicap to the progress of our local industries.

Schedule 2 to this Bill sets out a list of the goods which shall be exempted from payment of excise duty when used for the purposes set out therein or by the persons or establishments listed. Clauses 1 and 2 of this Bill refer to this Schedule as well as Schedule 1 which is a list of the goods which are liable to excise duty.

Clauses 3 to 8 of the Bill are mere transcriptions of equivalent provisions in the current Excise Tariff Act (No. 58 of 1958).

An innovation in Schedule 1 to this Bill is the reference to *ad valorem* which is a more compact and up-to-date reference. Schedule 3

House of Representatives Debates

2785 [Excise Tariff Bill : Committee] 20 OCTOBER 1965 [Borrowing by Public Bodies Bill : 2786
Second Reading]

[CHIEF OKOTIE-EBOH]

sets out the definition of value for the purposes of these *ad valorem* items and Clause 9 of the Bill contains authority for the said Schedule 3.

Clause 10 affords a solution to the problem which has been posed for the Board regarding excisable goods comprised of two or more separate parts and is a transcription of similar provisions in the Customs Tariff Act.

I would end by assuring hon. Members that no changes in the Excise Tariff rates which have not previously been approved by this House have been included in this Bill.

As I mentioned earlier, the main object of this Bill is to encourage, further, the industrialisation of our country, and I hope I have given sufficient explanation to convince hon. Members of the need for this Bill, and that they will accord it an easy passage through this House.

I beg to move.

The Minister of Communications (Mr R. A. Njoku) : I beg to second.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read a Second time and immediately considered in Committee.

Bill reported, without Amendment.

Motion made and Question proposed, That the Bill be now read the Third time—(THE MINISTER OF FINANCE).

Mr T. A. Mbegbu (Owerri North-East) : I think it is agreed by all sides that the Minister of Finance has covered most of the points that arose out of the recent exchanges. However, I would like to point out that the Minister made a very big omission. During his speech he ably pointed out that the two causes of our imbalance in trade lie in services and merchandise, but most unfortunately the Minister did not make one statement as to what steps he is taking to correct the imbalance arising from the services.

One of the major causes of the most significant services in this country lies in shipping. I hope that the Minister of Finance is going to look into this very seriously. It is a matter for regret that the National Shipping Line only handles about .04 per cent of all our shipping services. This is much more serious if the Minister realises the fact that, as we start to industrialise and still employ foreign

shipping lines to ply our coastal strips, these foreign firms will still control the economy of this country.

I am sure that the Ministers concerned (the Minister of Trade and the Minister of Transport) are going to encourage indigenous businessmen interested in shipping. It is only fair that people should be encouraged—

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Trade (Mr R. B. K. Okafor) : What about the Okafor Line ?

Mr Mbegbu : The Okafor Line and any other shipping line interested in shipping the local products should be encouraged.

I beg to support.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read the Third time and passed.

BORROWING BY PUBLIC BODIES BILL

Order for Second Reading read.

Chief Okotie-Eboh : I beg to move—

That a Bill for an Act to regulate the acceptance by certain bodies of external loans and credit facilities, and to authorise the Minister of Finance to give guarantee in respect of loans and credit facilities to be made or afforded to such bodies, and for connected purposes, be now read a Second time.

The object of this Bill is threefold. In the first place, it regulates the acceptance by certain bodies of external loans and credit facilities. Secondly, it authorises the Minister of Finance to issue, under certain conditions, Federal Government guarantees in respect of loans and credit facilities contracted by Federal Statutory Corporations and limited liability companies in which the Federal Government has a controlling interest.

Thirdly, it authorises the Minister of Finance to issue, under certain conditions, Federal Government guarantees to cover loans and credit facilities contracted by Regional Statutory Corporations and limited liability companies in which a Regional Government holds a controlling interest.

House of Representatives Debates

2787

[Borrowing by Public

20 OCTOBER 1965

Bodies Bill : Second Reading]

2788

At present, the Minister of Finance issues Federal Government guarantees in respect of loans made to certain Statutory Corporations by authority of the powers conferred on him by the provisions of the Statutory Corporations (Guarantee of Loans) Act, 1959. There does not exist a similar legislation authorising the issue of Federal Government guarantees in respect of loans raised by Regional Statutory Corporations or limited liability companies in which either the Federal Government or a Regional Government has a controlling interest.

In view of the wide coverage of this Bill, it is desirable that the issue of Federal Government guarantees should be restricted; otherwise, these guarantees will be extended even further than contemplated at present, with the consequent increase in the contingent liability arising therefrom. Sections 3 and 4 of the Bill, therefore, stipulate certain conditions which must be satisfied by all future applicants for Federal Government guarantees.

Section 3 (6) requires the Minister of Finance to lay before Parliament a statement relating to any sum issued for fulfilling a guarantee given in respect of external loans to bodies covered by this Bill. Section 4 of this Bill relates to loans other than external loans.

Regional Governments would need to enact an appropriate legislation enabling the Federal Government to exercise rights of set-off for the purpose of section 143 of the Constitution of the Federation. In this way, the Federal Government will be in a position to exercise its rights of set-off under section 143 (1) of the Constitution of the Federation against a Regional Government, in respect of loans and credits contracted by the latter Government's agencies.

Since the Bill encompasses Statutory Corporations, there no longer exists any basis for maintaining the Statutory Corporations (Guarantee of Loans) Act, 1959, in our Statute Book. The Bill therefore repeals the Statutory Corporations (Guarantee of Loans) Act, 1959. It also repeals section 24 of the Nigerian Coal Corporation Act in respect of borrowing by the Corporation.

I want to dispel once and for all the nasty rumours about the validity of the Promissory Notes that have been either issued or guaranteed by the Federal Government in respect of some projects. No Promissory Note has been countersigned or guaranteed by the Federal Government without the specific authority of the Federal Cabinet, and in this regard it has been done only after the hon. Attorney-General has satisfied himself that the document is legal. I therefore wish to re-assure the investors who have any Promissory Note with Federal Government guarantee or counter-signature by me as Federal Minister of Finance that they hold in their possession legal documents which the Federal Government will honour at any time.

The Bill reflects the increasing role of the Government of the Federation in the development of our economy and stems from the consequent increase in the number of Regional statutory Corporations and limited liability companies in which either the Federal or the Regional Governments have an interest. It also provides an appropriate answer to the increasing number of embarrassing enquiries which I continue to receive from prospective lenders regarding the authority for the issue of Federal Government Guarantees. I therefore commend the Bill to this House for its approval.

I beg to move.

The Minister of Establishments (Mr J. C. Obande) : I beg to second.

Prince Ademola Olaniran (Oshun South-East) : While supporting the Bill proposed by the Minister of Finance on Borrowing by Public Bodies with emphasis on external loans and credit facilities, the Minister of Finance needs to be congratulated for his sincerity to the cause of financial stability and inflow of sufficient fund to favour not only Corporations or other bodies where any of the Regional Governments have shares, but also some indigenous and fast growing business sponsored by Nigerians.

Our able Minister of Finance needs to be advised to use his good offices, as I am sure he is fond of, to give timely considerations to our people when they need external loan after he might have satisfied himself that they need such loans. If this is done, it will not only help

[PRINCE OLANIRAN]

individuals or Government bodies but, also, it will boost the financial prestige of our great country.

Furthermore, the Minister when considering applications for external loans should please note carefully the terms of agreement entered into with such bodies so as not to commit us to financial bankruptcy by way of interest and conditions laid down in the loan agreement. As much as we should thank the donor country, we would not be happy if any country or foreign financial organisation exploit us through the back door.

The Minister of Finance should also make sure that he discourages the establishment of industries that will not yield good dividends in the future and this should be done with good reasons to satisfy the company or body raising the loan.

May I once again congratulate the Federal Government and the Minister of Finance in particular for his dynamism and enthusiasm in fostering the financial and economic stability of Nigeria thus making the country stable enough to stand on its own.

We all know that external loans have their merits and demerits. Effort should be made to see that the companies or bodies who get these loans do not become a burden to the nation. Some of our Regional Governments raise foreign loans to boost their political ego or use the loan for purposes other than those stipulated in the loan agreement. The Federal Government should take note of this.

As mentioned in Clause 3 (b) of this Bill, the Minister of Finance should be very adamant in following line by line the wordings and provisions of this Clause. This Clause seems to be the essential portion of the Bill, holding brief for other Clauses of the Bill.

I beg to support.

Mr D. O. Ahamefula (Okigwi South-West):

I rise to support this Bill. In supporting the Bill, I wish to say that the passage of this Bill should not be a clever way of stopping some Regional Governments from going out to borrow money for some of their projects. It is a well-known fact in this country that all our Governments go overseas to attract loans in order to finance capital projects and we know very well that it is not everybody or Government that can attract loans.

People who give loans give them to individuals or countries they know can refund the loan. I would not like the passage of this Bill to be a clever way of stopping some Regional Governments who, by their own efforts, have been able to attract loans from abroad.

I support the Bill.

Chief O. B. Akin-Olugbade (Egba South): I say with all sincerity that this is a welcome Bill. The main reason why I say so is because experience has shown that some reckless politicians who control District Councils have adopted the attitude of raising loans from foreign countries, getting the District Councils involved in heavy debts without thorough investigation of the projects on which they engage, with the result that the few District Councils which have taken part in this sort of exercise, particularly in the Western Region have been involved in heavy debts.

Mr A. F. Odulana (Ijebu North-East): I would like the Member for Egbal South (*Chief Akin-Olugbade*) to mention the name of the District Council if he is making a true statement.

Chief Akin-Olugbade : The Member for Ijebu North-East (*Mr Odulana*) started speaking without saying whether he was raising a point of order or a point of explanation. The hon. Member does not require an answer from me.

The Council to which I am referring is the Ibadan District Council. They started the Bus Service there without a penny. They got the reckless Regional Government to support and give a spurious promise to repay. They got Mercedes Benz Buses without paying a penny, with merely a letter promising to guarantee and then they started to worry the Central Bank which they did not inform before they raised the loan in the United States of America.

Chief Okotie-Eboh : The Central Bank !

Chief Akin-Olugbade : I know about it. I am the Solicitor for one of the companies that is why I say this is a welcome Bill because—

Mr Odulana : On a point of order, the hon. Gentleman speaking, Mr Akin-Olugbade—

An hon. Member : He is a Chief.

House of Representatives Debates

2791 [Borrowing by Public Bodies] 20 OCTOBER 1965 [Rent Control (Lagos) Amendment Bill] 2792

Mr Odulana : I do not know him as a Chief. There are more Chiefs in Egbaland than the ordinary people in the area. He said he is the Solicitor for one of the companies. He should tell us then what he did with the £1.2 million he got when he bought the Arab Brothers Ltd. for the Western Nigeria Government and the interest he made on it.

Chief Akin-Olugbade : I never knew that the Member for Ijebu North-East (*Mr Odulana*) was very ignorant. If he wants to know what happened to the £1.2 million, he should ask Chief Rosiji and Oba Akran who negotiated with the Arab Brothers.

Mr B. N. Ukegbu (Owerri South-East) : On a point of order, the Member for Ijebu North-East should not be worried about the £34,000 story. The allegation has been made and the N.B.C. did not announce it. They only said there were scandals and the newspapers will not publish it.

Chief Okotie-Eboh : I just want to appeal to hon. Members to realise that we have about four Bills more to pass and we have only one hour more within which to pass them. I am sure hon. Members do not want these Bills to lapse.

Chief Akin-Olugbade : I will not answer this man.

Mr Odulana : *Olegbade.*

Chief Akin-Olugbade : I will not answer a fool in his own language. He was never brought up by his parents. He was brought up by some American Missionaries in Ogbomosho, so there is no wonder about it.

What I am saying is that this Bill is welcome because it will obviate the possibility of reckless politicians putting unnecessary burden on the tax-payers of this country. But I would say that I looked through the definitions of the words used. These do not seem to cover statutory bodies like District Councils or City Councils *et cetera*.

Clause 1 of the Bill says—

The bodies to which this Act applies are the following, that is to say—

(a) any body corporate established directly by a law enacted (whether before or after

the passing of this Act) by Parliament or having effect as if enacted by Parliament;

(b) any company over which the Government of the Federation has control;

(c) any body corporate established directly by a law enacted (whether before or after the passing of this Act) by the legislature of a Region or having effect as if enacted by such a legislature;

(d) any company over which the Government of a Region has control.

Well, in short, if that covers it, I support the Bill.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill read a Second time and immediately considered in Committee.

Bill reported, without Amendment.

Motion made and Question proposed, That the Bill be now read the Third time—(THE MINISTER OF FINANCE).

Mr O. C. Ememe (Aba South) : I only wish to point out one thing to the Minister of Finance about these foreign loans. It is very easy to get loans these days, but what is more important is that the repatriation of these loans should not be such that should cripple the economy of this country. For instance, if a loan of £100 million is given to Nigeria and within, say, five to ten years the country that has given us this loan takes £200 million out of this country, through repatriation, then we are not really gaining.

I wish the Minister could try as much as possible to get long-term loans at very low rates of interest, so that Nigeria may not suffer as a result of these loans.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill read the Third time and passed.

**RENT CONTROL (LAGOS) AMENDMENT BILL
Order for Second Reading read.**

The Minister of Housing and Surveys (*Chief A. O. Ogunsanya*) : I rise to move—

That a Bill entitled “Rent Control (Lagos) Amendment Bill 1965” be read a Second time.

Hon. Members will recall that after the last general strike, a number of agreements were reached on behalf of the Governments of the

[CHIEF OGUNSANYA]

Federation by the Okotie-Eboh Negotiation Committee on the one hand and the leaders of the Joint Action Committee of Trade Unions on the other. One such decision was the control of rents in the country. The representatives of the Federal Government, during the negotiation, promised to appeal to the Government to make provision for the control of rent through the medium of rent control tribunals or similar machinery. Briefly put, this is the history of this Bill. During its drafting, several meetings were held between the representatives of the Joint Action Committee, the Nigerian Employers Consultative Association, The Lagos City Council, the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Lagos Affairs, the Ministry of Labour, the Ministry of Establishments and the Ministry of Housing and Surveys. Several meetings were also held between my Ministry and the Nigerian Tenants' Association. During the last few days, I have had the opportunity of meeting the Landlords' Association.

The Federal Government has also informed the Regional Governments so that they may know what we are doing and decide on what action they may deem necessary on their part. None of them has any objection to the Bill being passed in its present form.

This Bill seeks to amend the Rent Restriction Act (Cap. 183), and to change its title to the Rent Control (Lagos) Act. It provides for the setting up of rent control tribunals, each with its own area of operation in the Federal Territory, and for representation thereon of both landlords and tenants. Tribunals are to be empowered under the Bill to review and fix rents ; and in so far as it is effective this will operate as a check on arbitrary increases. Tenants in the lower income groups should therefore enjoy more fully any review of salaries and wages made so as to raise their standard of living.

Provision is made, among other things, in the Bill for me in proper cases to de-control premises.

Paragraph one of the Bill provides that the rent at which premises were let on 1st October, 1960 shall be the standard rent and where the premises were not let on that date, the rent at which they were last let before that date shall

be the standard rent. On the other hand, where the first letting is on a day after the 1st of October, 1960, the standard rent shall be the rent agreed to be paid at such first letting. The Act also provides that where at the material date a premises is let at a progressive rent payable under a tenancy agreement the maximum rent payable under such tenancy agreement shall be the standard rent.

"Premises" within the meaning of the Act includes a building of any description occupied or used by persons for living or sleeping or other lawful purposes whether or not at any time it is occupied or used under a tenancy as a shop or a store.

I am aware of the rumour that this Bill is designed to oppress landlords. This is not true. The Rent Control Tribunals, when they are constituted, will be available to landlords and tenants alike.

The persons who will be affected immediately are those landlords who, without the order of a court, have increased the rent of "premises" since 1st October, 1960. That, in any case, is against the law.

I appeal to landlords to co-operate. They need not worry about the punishment clause in the Bill once the law is observed.

Sir, I beg to move.

The Minister of Establishments (Mr J. C. Obande) : I beg to second.

Mr M. A. Bashua (Lagos South-Central) : This is a welcome Bill, and in supporting it I would only pass a few remarks which I hope the Minister would take into consideration. Perhaps if he works on them later he will possibly bring another amendment before long. This is a Bill, as the Minister has told us, intended to help the poor working classes in Lagos.

In paragraph 1 (4) of the Bill "premises has been defined in a way to exclude any building of less than 100 square feet of floor space separately let. I wonder if the Minister ever conducted a survey to the whole houses on the Lagos Island and the Mainland before he drafted and brought this Bill here. If he did so, he would have found that most of the houses in these areas were built about fifty or hundred years ago. He would also have found that more than 90 per cent of the rooms are not up to 10 feet by 10 feet.

House of Representatives Debates

2795

[*Rent Control (Lagos)*

20 OCTOBER 1965 *Amendment Bill : Second Reading*] 2796

What the Minister wants to do is to help the thousands of tenants and hundreds of workers who live in many of these places. But what he will find is that he is not helping these people at all. Only a tenant who lives in a house which comes under this law will be obliged to come to a tribunal and report that his landlord is charging him an excessive rent and as such it should be fixed for him. Now, by excluding any premises less than 10 feet by 10 feet the Minister is excluding at least 90 per cent of the tenants on the Island and the Mainland of Lagos. Therefore, he is not helping those he ought to be helping. I hope the Minister will reconsider this point and remove that section which says that the room must be 10 feet by 10 feet.

I would also refer to paragraph 6 which says that premises containing less than 100 square feet of floor space cannot be let as any part of dwelling houses without the consent in writing of the Minister. I do not know why the Minister has to put that very clause into the Bill. I assure him that he is inviting trouble. As I have said earlier, more than 90 per cent of the rooms of the houses in Lagos are less than 10 feet by 10 feet. Therefore, within a week of passing this Bill, the Minister is going to be flooded with thousands of applications for approval to have their premises let. This is going to create a very great hardship on the landlords and also the volume of work will be so much that the Minister will come back here to say that he is removing that section.

If the Minister is really interested in helping the poor workers, I would not expect him to do so by trying to fix rents. That will not help them. A few minutes ago the Minister of Finance pushed through this House various Bills which tend to raise the cost of living of the workers. Everyday the customs duties go up; the cost of building houses goes up by leaps and bounds. These are the things the Government should address themselves to.

If the Government makes the cost of building premises very cheap surely landlords are not Shylocks and they will make rents cheaper for their tenants to pay. I hope that the Minister concerned will look into these things. Instead of coming here to waste our time or creating unnecessary exercise with the tribunal, the Ministers should seriously address themselves

to the problem of the workers by making life more abundant for everybody instead for the Ministers alone.

There is one other important point which this Bill does not provide for. There is a practice very rampant to-day among the landlords. A landlord will say that he has a room to let for seven pounds and he will require twelve months rent in advance. How is the Minister going to safeguard the poor working classes against this sharp practice?

These are the things the Minister should have addressed himself to instead of providing a tribunal which only affects premises perhaps in Ikoyi, Apapa reclaimed and that is all. Premises in Isale-Eko, Oshodi and in the Lagos Mainland are not affected by this law because they will not come under the definition of "premises" and Members will find that 90 per cent of the workers live in these areas.

With these remarks, I beg to support.

Chief T. O. S. Benson (Lagos North) : I would like to make it categorically clear that I support rent control in Lagos, but the Bill in its present form is absolutely useless and is not worth the paper on which it is printed.

We have the Rent Restriction Act, Cap. 183 and, therefore, I would like the Minister to tell this House the difference between the existing law and the one that we are now considering. There is no difference. This Bill adds more difficulties for both the tenants and the landlords, apart from the fact that it is discriminatory. It refers to rents below £500. There are workers who occupy houses above this figure.

Several hon. Members : No ! No !

Chief Benson : Who is a worker ? Some workers earn twelve pounds *per mensem*; at the same time there are some who earn six hundred pounds *per annum* in Lagos. I would have thought that the Minister would have consulted both the tenants and the landlords. I know he is a landlord too.

Chief Ogunsanya : I consulted myself.

Chief Benson : I agree, but I showed him the way to become a landlord.

If Members look at the petition forwarded to this House by the landlords themselves they will find that in it they stated that the

[CHIEF BENSON]

Minister referred in clause 6 (1) and (2) to houses under 100 square feet of floor space in Lagos. What about people who inherited property in Lagos with this sort of houses? There are tenants in these houses also. According to the Minister, he is going to give permission in writing, and I am sure this will occupy the whole of his time unless he has no other work to do in his Ministry.

These houses are in the area of Isale-Eko and Ebute Metta. It thus appears that investigations were not made by the Minister or that he was not sufficiently advised by the officials in his Ministry. I am sure that if Members trace the history of the rooms in which he lived when he was young, it will be found that he must have lived in one of these rooms which he is now trying to exempt from rentage in Lagos. How does he want the landlord of these dwellings to live? How does he thus protect the tenants living there?

This is against the owners of the houses and also against the tenants living in these houses which the Minister of Housing and Surveys is now trying to exempt. Why should members of the public come to a Minister to seek permission before renting houses? Has the Minister from whom such permission is to be taken got no work to do? I do agree that as a Minister of Housing and Surveys there is not much to do because the person who should really be responsible for this sort of Bill should have been the Minister for Lagos Affairs.

The Minister of Housing and Surveys is a lawyer and should know the maxim which runs thus: *Quicquid plantatu solo, solo cedit*, which means that whatever is affixed to the soil belongs to the soil. In this respect the Minister for Lagos Affairs is the owner of the land in Lagos. The Minister of Housing and Surveys is only a tenant Minister on the land of Lagos. How then can he build houses on this land without getting permission from the Minister of Lagos Affairs? I want him to explain that to this House. I think that the answer to this is quite clear as long as Lagos land belongs to the Minister of Lagos Affairs.

When we talk of houses, we should talk of houses built by the government. We should not talk of houses at Ikorodu or Mushin which

is the Minister of Housing and Surveys' constituency. I am sure that if this Bill had included the Minister's constituency he would have been more careful. The Minister is not a man from Lagos. His constituency is in Mushin and he should have consulted the Premier of Western Region to give him permission to allow the provisions of this Rent Control Bill to benefit the people of his constituency. If he had done this, we would have seen how he would have come to this House to introduce this Bill and say that the provisions of the Bill would not cover houses under 100 sq. ft. of floor space.

I think that this Bill should be deferred to give the Minister of Housing and Surveys the opportunity of making necessary investigations. After all, what do we really want to do with rent control? What is needed in Lagos is the building of multi-storey houses to be built by either the Lagos City Council or the Lagos Executive Development Board—something like the HANSA quarters in Western Germany.

I would like this House to give permission to the Minister of Housing and Surveys to go abroad and see some housing estates built in Germany and Brazil. I know that he may find himself in some difficulty to implement whatever he must have seen as he is not the Minister for Lagos Affairs, but I am sure the Minister of Lagos Affairs is a godly man and will, if he is so advised, give the Minister of Housing and Surveys the help that he may require.

If the Government builds these multi-storey houses for the people, rent will automatically drop. If the Government can spend money to build enough houses for workers they will not need to control rent because many private houses will automatically become vacant. This is what we need.

As it is now, however, there is no difference between this new Bill and the existing law. In fact, this new Bill creates more difficulties than the law which is at present in the Statute Book of Nigeria, and unless the Minister of Housing can satisfy this House, I think that the best thing for him to do is to defer this Bill and go back and read again the law we now have. Let him withdraw this counterfeit and *rigirigi* Bill of his which he is now trying to pass through this House.

House of Representatives Debates

2799 [Rent Control (Lagos)]

20 OCTOBER 1965 Amendment Bill : Second Reading] 2800

Professor Kalu Ezera (Bende East) : On a point of order, we have been told that counterfeit coins emanate from Ijebu. Both the Member for Lagos North (*Chief Benson*) and the Minister of Housing and Surveys (*Chief Ogunsanya*) come from Ijebu Ikorodu. They both therefore specialise in counterfeit coins.

Chief Benson : We are not talking of Ijebu money now ; we are talking about Onitsha money. What then is the Member for Bende East (*Professor Ezera*) talking about ?

Usually in all corporations, remunerations to be paid to their chairmen and other members are always stated in the Bill setting up such corporations. But here the Minister of Housing and Surveys says that he is going to consult with the Minister of Finance before fixing the remunerations of the chairman and members of this rent tribunal. Why should this be so ?

Mr B. N. Ukegbu (Owerri South-East) : That is how it should be.

Chief Benson : Why should it be so ? Was the Member for Owerri South-East (*Mr Ukegbu*) a Minister before ? I was a Minister for five years.

The Minister of Housing and Surveys also says that he is going to pass a regulation to state certain conditions. These are things that should have been done before bringing this Bill to the Floor of this House.

I know that the Minister of Housing and Surveys may be anxious to bring his maiden Bill to this House, but he should have brought the Bill in its proper form and he should have made it a Bill which should be in the best interest of workers and the people of Lagos as well as the landlords who own these houses. Unless this is done—

Mr F. I. Okoronkwo (Aba Central) : On a point of order—

Chief Benson : I am not going to yield to Mr Kokoro.

Mr Okoronkwo : I would like to know from the Member for Lagos North (*Chief Benson*) how many workers voted for him during the last Federal Elections ?

Chief Benson : The fact remains, Mr Speaker, that I won the election in my constituency. In the case of the Member for Aba Central (*Mr Okoronkwo*) he was not allowed to stand election in Aba Central, his constituency. In Enugu, the people supported my lawyer the Member for Enugu Urban (*Mr Nnaemeka-Agu*) and opposed my friend, Mr Chiedozie, because he is not from Enugu. I told the N.C.N.C. that I am a Yoruba man and as such they should let me stand election in Lagos in preference to an Ibo man, Mr Moronu, but they refused. I then went on to contest the election and I won and now I am here.

I would like to explain why I said that the Minister of Housing and Surveys should have consulted the Government of Western Region. Many of the workers in Lagos live in Mushin and Shomolu. If this Bill is now passed into law, such people who work in Lagos but live in Mushin and Shomolu will not be benefited.

During the Constitutional Conference of 1957-58, it was agreed that there should be a joint committee consisting of the government of Western Region controlling Mushin and Ikeja area on the one hand and Lagos on the other hand.

The Minister of Finance (Chief F. S. Okotie-Eboh) : But the whole houses at Mushin and Shomolu have been burnt down !

Chief Benson : Yes, by U.P.G.A. thugs ! One of the people who organised the burning of houses in Mushin is the Minister himself and his friend the Minister of Housing and Surveys (*Chief Ogunsanya*) and also the Member for Ikeja Central (*Mr Odeyemi*). If one takes a good look at both the Minister of Housing and Surveys and the Member for Ikeja Central (*Mr Odeyemi*), one will see that they look exactly like thugs.

Mr E. O. A. Odeyemi (Ikeja Central) : I wonder why the Member for Lagos North (*Chief Benson*) should refer to us as thugs when he knows in his heart of hearts that he is the organiser and leader of thugs in this country.

Chief Okotie-Eboh : I must object very strongly to the Member for Lagos North (*Chief Benson*) describing an hon. Minister, a Colleague of ours as looking like a thug.

House of Representatives Debates

2801 [Rent Control (Lagos) Amendment Bill] 20 OCTOBER 1965 [Legal Education (Pensions) Bill : 2802 Second Reading]

[CHIEF OKOTIE-EBOH]

I think that this, to say the least, is very unparliamentary. I would ask him to withdraw it. If he says that the Member for Ikeja Central (*Mr Odeyemi*) with his beard looks like a thug I can agree with him to some extent.

Mr Speaker : I can agree with the Minister that it is unparliamentary to call a Member a thug, particularly if one is referring to a political thug. There may be less objection if one speaks of a parliamentary thug.

Chief Benson : Mr Speaker, it is just a joke. In the morning he was not here when the Minister referred to us like that. I would like to make it quite clear in this House that Mr Amechi, who was one of my stalwarts, is now a Minister.

Several hon. Members rose—

Chief Ogunsanya : I am very sorry because I know that some of my trade union friends are willing to speak, but I feel it is appropriate to reply the two hon. Members who have passed some comments. I would have taken less notice if they had not been lawyers.

I realise that the Member for Lagos North (*Chief Benson*) is here this evening in a motley garb and I realise, therefore, that when one's accoutrement is in a motley form, anyone listening to such a one must take very little notice.

Mr M. Nnorom (Okigwi North-East): On a point of order, this Bill is a Bill that concerns the people in Lagos, and when we mention Lagos we realise that lots of people are living in Lagos and that they are being represented in this House. I think sufficient time should be given to them to speak on this Bill before the Minister of Housing and Surveys stands up to talk about law; we are not talking about law.

Chief Ogunsanya : I know that the Member for Okigwi North-East (*Mr Nnorom*) has been enjoying himself.

Clause 6 of the Bill merely restates the position of the present law. The Member for Lagos North (*Chief Benson*) must know that under the present law, the Lagos Town Planning Act says that any building less than 10 feet by 10 feet cannot be approved for habitation. Now in order to regularise that, it has been restated and a provision has been

put in to enable the Minister to allow for this particular exercise. If Clause 6 of the Bill is read very intelligently one finds that rather than do any harm, it has done some good.

The Member for Lagos North was referring to the maxim, *Quicquid plantatu solo, solo cedit*. If that was what he was referring to, it was badly quoted and it is improper within this context. I am at least happy that this Bill has been the cause of that effort by him.

Chief Benson : May I tell the Minister of Housing and Surveys that I was in this country for eight years before he came back as a lawyer; and I trained him in my Chambers.

Chief Ogunsanya : In terms of the profession, surely some of us must come after others. However, it is well known that some of us attained distinction in the profession. There are some lawyers who have been in practice for 20 years but are no better than lawyers in practice for only one year.

I commend this Bill to the House.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read a Second time ; immediately considered in Committee ; reported without Amendment ; read the Third time and passed.

LEGAL EDUCATION (PENSIONS) BILL 1965

Order for Second Reading read.

The Minister of Establishments (*Mr J. C. Obande*): I beg to move—

That a Bill for an Act to provide for making certain offices constituted by the Council of Legal Education pensionable be read a Second time.

As hon. Members are aware, the Legal Education Act of 1962 established the Council of Legal Education and by the same Act the Council was empowered to establish and maintain a school for conducting courses of study prepared by the Council. To this end, the Nigerian Law School was established which is maintained entirely by a subvention from the Federal Government. As with any Government of *quasi* Government institution, it is necessary to establish some scheme to cover the retiring benefits of members of the staff.

Various alternative proposals were examined in detail in order to ensure that the staff would be offered fair and reasonable pension conditions, and it was finally decided that it would

House of Representatives Debates

2803 [Legal Education (Pensions) Bill] 20 OCTOBER 1965 [Council of Ministers (Evidence) Bill] 2804

be proper to apply the Pensions Act to members of the staff of the School, so that they would enjoy the same benefits as officers serving in the Public Service, provided that salaries paid at the School are very closely related to those of Civil Servants.

This Bill now before the House merely gives effect to this decision, by allowing me to declare any office constituted by the Council of Legal Education to be a pensionable office for the purposes of the Pensions Act. It further provides that the Pensions Act shall apply to any such office as if it were in the Public Service of the Federation. This is not an innovation as similar provisions were applied to the old Nigerian College of Arts, Science and Technology and the Citizenship and Leadership Training Centre.

This is a short non-contentious Bill which I am sure will command the support of all hon. Members.

I beg to move.

Minister of State (Alhaji Hashim Adaji) : I beg to second.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read a Second time and immediately considered in Committee.

LEGAL EDUCATION (PENSIONS) BILL :
CONSIDERED IN COMMITTEE

Clause 1—ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 2—(SHORT TITLE, EXTENT AND COMMENCEMENT)

Professor Kalu Ezera (Bende East) : I would like the Minister to explain briefly whether the intention of this Bill is to make the Nigerian Law School a fully competent Government Department as the Yaba College of Technology and others.

I would have thought that what we wanted was to make it a *quasi* Corporation which will have an autonomous existence. I would like to have an explanation on this from the Minister.

Clause 2—ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Bill reported without Amendment.

Motion made and Question proposed, That the Bill be now read the Third time—(THE MINISTER OF ESTABLISHMENTS)

Professor Ezera : I would like to register my objection. Since the Members from the Government Benches have now become thugs—

Chief Okotie-Eboh : We have refused to answer the Question of the Member for Bende East (*Professor Ezera*) because this is not a Question time.

Professor Ezera : I would like to register my objection. I protest vehemently against reducing members of the staff of a competent and autonomous law school to civil servants, because by so doing the lecturers will not be in fact independent in their teachings.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read the Third time and passed.

LEGAL PRACTITIONERS (AMENDMENT) BILL

Order for Second Reading read.

The Minister of Communications (Mr R. A. Njoku) : I rise to move—

That a Bill for an Act to Amend the Legal Practitioners Act 1962 for the purpose of transferring to the Solicitor-General of the Federation the functions of the Chief Registrar of the Supreme Court relating to the Legal Practitioners Disciplinary Tribunal be now read a Second time.

As the title of this Bill indicates this is a very simple Bill. The main object of it is to transfer certain functions now carried out by the Chief Registrar to the Solicitor-General. It is a very straightforward Bill which deals with a matter of procedure, and I do not think that it requires any further elucidation.

I beg to move.

The Minister of Aviation (Dr Jaja Wachuku) : I beg to second.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read a Second time, immediately considered in Committee ; reported without Amendment ; read the Third time and passed.

COUNCIL OF MINISTERS (EVIDENCE BILL)

Order for Second Reading read.

Mr Njoku : I rise to move—

That a Bill for an Act to provide for the proof by certificate in certain cases of actions and decisions taken by the Council of Ministers, be now read a Second time.

This Bill is also straightforward and very brief. It seeks to lay down the procedure for obtaining evidence with regard to decisions and activities of the Council of Ministers. It provides that where the Secretary of the

[MR NJOKU]

Council or the Deputy Secretary issues a certificate with regard to the decisions or activities of the Council of Ministers, this should be conclusive evidence of the matters stated therein.

It also stipulates that before the Secretary or the Deputy Secretary issues such a certificate, he must obtain the permission of the Council of Ministers.

This again, as I said, is a very straightforward Bill and I commend it to the House.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read a Second time and immediately considered in Committee.

Bill reported without Amendment.

Motion made and Question proposed, That the Bill be now read the Third time—(THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS)

Mr F. I. Okoronkwo (Aba Central) : I oppose the passing of this Bill. I know that the members of the Council of Ministers or the Ministers of the Cabinet may have good intentions for asking us to pass this Bill now, but in future it may be misused.

By passing this Bill other Regional Governments that are constituted in an undemocratic way may use the Bill in future to carry on unnecessary atrocities in their Regions.

With these observations, I beg to oppose the Bill.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read the Third time and passed.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

U.N. CONFERENCE ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Trade (Mr J. Jamabo) : No doubt Members must have read from the newspapers and heard from the radio and television in the past few weeks the topical question of the efforts of the Minister of Trade to persuade the Board of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development to establish its headquarters in Lagos. His efforts at the last session of the Trade and Development Board in Geneva are only the beginning of the battle to secure the headquarters for Lagos.

I am sure that even though many Members do not fully understand what UNCTAD stands for, they may have gleaned enough to appreciate why so many countries vie to have the headquarters. To many, UNCTAD is just another United Nations organ and as such it is something remote, existing in the Palace of the United Nations in New York or Geneva. But in spite of the unfamiliarity of the subject the House should know more about this new United Nations organ and understand why it is being proposed that its headquarters should be located in Lagos.

UNCTAD is a term I would like all Members to be familiar with. It is the organ of the United Nations for the promotion of trade and development in the developing countries of the world, and was created as a result of the resolutions of a conference called in Geneva from April to June 1964 and known as the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development. Nigeria played a very leading part at that conference. Nigerian officials served on the various committees and one of them was Chairman of one of them. Alhaji Zana Bukar Dipcharima, as the leader of the Nigerian delegation to the conference last year, made some of the most powerful reported speeches of the Conference which helped to steer the course of the conference.

Hon. Members are aware that this decade is known as the development decade in the United Nations, and the UNCTAD was a conference called to mark the decade when the United Nations devoted its energies positively towards the promotion and acceleration of the development of the emergent nations, constituting roughly 4/5th of the world's population and who are lagging far behind their brothers in the developed countries of the world in the economic and technological fields. The conference, therefore, was called to consider primarily the problems facing the new and emergent nations of the world, how the commodities which they produce—rubber, sugar, coffee, cocoa, tea, timber, lead, zinc, *et cetera*—were attracting less and less prices in the world markets, whereas the manufactured goods coming from developed countries were gaining higher and higher prices in the same world market. Thus, the trade gap between the poor countries of the world was getting wider and wider; the poor countries getting poorer and the rich getting richer.

House of Representatives Debates

2807

[U.N. Conference on

20 OCTOBER 1965

Trade and Development]

2808

It was this phenomenon which struck many in the United Nations, particularly the Secretary-General of the United Nations to agree to the summoning of this conference on trade and development. UNCTAD was therefore by design and origin meant to serve the developing countries.

At the close of the Conference in 1964, most delegates agreed to the suggestion that the headquarters of UNCTAD should be located in Geneva rather than in New York. Soon it came to be realised that neither New York nor Geneva would be suitable on account of the fact that both these two centres of the United Nations were getting already over crowded. It was in this context, that the hon. Minister as the leader of the Nigerian delegation offered Lagos. United Nations investigators have since arrived to examine the Nigerian offer of Lagos and the Nigerian Government has made the following offer.

The Federal Government can make available rent free, within four months of being advised of the U.N.'s decision to locate the headquarters of UNCTAD in Lagos, a 20 storey building on the main street of Lagos, Broad Street. This building is very well located opposite the General Hospital of Lagos and adjoining the United States and United Kingdom Embassies and currently housing about six Embassies including the Polish and the Netherlands Embassies; it is in very close proximity to the main Secretariat building of the Government—the Independence Building—and overlooks the Lagos Harbour on the one side and has the Lagos Race Course as the background on the other side. Next door on the south side is a hotel, the Olympic. It is less than five minutes drive from the main shops of the city.

In view of the fact that the office space available is much greater than the Secretariat requirement, the space available in the building can be adapted to this need. In addition, there will still be room left in the building to house all the other United Nations Organs now housed rent free in various buildings in Lagos. Thus this building can be converted into a compact United Nations unit. This will serve to facilitate the administration of the U.N. units through a central Secretariat

control and ensure that the immunities and privileges normally accorded U.N. personnel and organs in Nigeria are unimpaired.

Another possibility which can be realised if after the UNCTAD Secretariat has been established in Lagos for some years and the need should arise to integrate the Secretariat with the Conference area on Victoria Island, would be that the Nigerian Government will undertake to build at its own expense and to U.N. specifications a Secretariat block to adjoin the Conference area. This will be to ensure the maximum facility for efficiency for the UNCTAD. Such a Secretariat can be completed within a period of 18 months from the date the designs and drawings are approved. Adequate provisions will be made on this site for parking areas and all amenities. The site envisaged is ideally situated on Victoria island, overlooking the sea and yet within ten minutes distance of all the important centres of the city, and about one or two miles from the Western House as described above.

There is immediately available for some meetings of the Board two adjoining buildings—the National Hall capable of a seating accommodation of about 800, 300 in the main floor and 500 in the galleries, but which can be adjusted to accommodate up to 1200. The Senate Building is capable of seating about 250. The sitting arrangements for Board meetings will, in any case, need to be readjusted. Although the seats are fixed, it will be possible to effect changes in the arrangements to take a Board Meeting. Both halls have simultaneous interpretation facility for six languages and have been used for such international conferences as the African Heads of State and Government meeting, and other O.A.U. meetings, the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation, the International Conference of Jurists etc., etc. Both are centrally air-conditioned.

It is appreciated that these two buildings do not meet in their entirety the standards available at the *Palais des Nations* for a conference hall. The Nigerian Government therefore proposes to build at her own expense, within two years from the time a decision is reached to have the headquarters in Lagos, a conference hall complete with committee rooms to the specifications of the UNCTAD but available for all

House of Representatives Debates

2809

[U.N. Conference on Trade
and Development]

20 OCTOBER 1965

[Adjournment Sine Die]

2810

[MR JAMABO]

types of international conferences, to accommodate 1,500 to 2,000 people. It will be situated on the Victoria Island, the most ideal and suitable site in Lagos which is 5 to 10 minutes ride from the existing premises now being offered as the Secretariat. Progressively, it should be possible eventually to build the whole complex of a secretariat *cum* conference area, as specified by UNCTAD, on the same premises. In that case, the Nigerian Government will provide the building and the site free of charge to the UNCTAD requirements. In any case, the building will be constructed according to the best standard and the best materials available within Lagos.

With regard to the conference buildings and facilities, the Nigerian Government will be prepared to provide free of charge to the UNCTAD, the entire furnishing and furniture and the operational equipment for the conference area. The conference building will be placed at the disposal of UNCTAD free of rent.

The Nigerian Government will give an assurance that the UNCTAD and its organs will be given priority in the provision of facilities and other social amenities. In respect of telex and telecommunications services, Nigeria has one of the most efficient systems in the whole of Africa and has established telecommunications links with Switzerland (Berne), the member-countries of the O.A.U. in Africa, the United Kingdom and the United States of America.

In regard to privileges and immunities, the Government of Nigeria will be prepared to enter into negotiations with a view to reaching satisfactory arrangements in respect of the UNCTAD and its officials and representatives of member-states of UNCTAD in accordance with the existing practice in any other host country to the United Nations.

Nigeria has never been too forward in demanding international recognition even in the affairs of the Organisation of African Unity where we are playing a very important and leading role. We were prepared then to concede to others the prestige of having the headquarters, but this time the Nigerian Government feels that this is an institution which should belong to a developing country especially a developing country in Africa where

the revolution of the 20th century is taking place. And if the headquarters is to be located in a developing country in Africa what better place can there be than Lagos, the sea-port town of Nigeria from whence practically all the commodities of interest to the developed countries of the world are shipped overseas?

ADJOURNMENT SINE DIE

The Minister of Finance (Chief F. S. Okotie-Eboh) : I beg to move, That this House do now adjourn *sine die*.

In doing so, I would like to wish hon. Members safe journeys home and also wish them a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year in advance.

The Minister of Housing and Surveys (Chief A. O. Ogunsanya) : I beg to second.

Mr A. F. Odulana (Ijebu North-East) : As hon. Members go back to their respective homes, it will interest them to know that those of them who come from Onitsha will have no privilege of reading the *Daily Times*, the *Daily Express* and the *Morning Post* and discuss the items that are published in them. These newspapers have been banned in Onitsha. This is undemocratic. That is what I want to say.

We levelled an accusation in this House against the Onitsha Market that money is counterfeited there and that illegal drugs are sold there. Now, there is no sale of the *Daily Times*, the *Daily Express* and the *Morning Post*—

Mr P. O. Aliboh (Asaba East) : On a point of order, the Member for Ijebu North-East (*Mr Odulana*) should know that he is not in the Island Club. We are here in Parliament.

Professor Kalu Ezera (Bende East) : It is most unfortunate to end a most successful sitting in this vein. I think it is an error to allow the Member for Ijebu North-East (*Mr Odulana*) to begin to drag this House lower and lower still, day by day. I think we would like to end this sitting on a pleasant note.

And it being twelve o'clock midnight, Mr Speaker adjourned the House sine die without Question put, pursuant to the Resolution of the House this day.

Adjourned accordingly sine die at twelve o'clock midnight.

WRITTEN ANSWERS—13th OCTOBER, 1965

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Aba

W.11. Mr F. I. Okoronkwo asked the Minister of Economic Development, what plans he has for Aba in the Federal Government's Six-Year Development Plan.

The Minister of Economic Development: The main objective of the Six-Year Development Plan is to accelerate the rate of economic growth and the rate at which the level of living of the people of Nigeria can be raised and also to give the country an increasing measure of control over her own economic destiny.

The Plan was not drawn up with any specific town or towns in mind but for the development of the economy as a whole. It seems obvious that Aba, like most other towns in the country will benefit both directly and indirectly from the implementation of the various projects in the Plan.

COMMUNICATIONS

Enyong Postal Agencies

***O.454. Mr O. W. Inyang** asked the Minister of Communications, how soon the following Postal Agencies will be upgraded to sub-post offices :—

Nung Ukim, Ikpa, Ikot Okpora and Ediene.

The Minister of Communications : The current units of business transacted at the Postal Agencies in question are as follows :—

Agency	Units of work		
	1963-64	1964-65	1965-66
Nung Ukim ..	7,793	7,081	8,856
Ikpa-Ikono ..	8,456	10,385	—
Ikot Okpora ..	closed	closed	7,669
Ediene ..	5,760	5,448	—

1965-66 figures for Ikpa-Ikono and Ediene are not yet available. The minimum figure required for conversion of a Postal Agency to a Sub-Post Office is 18,000, and as none of the above agencies has attained this minimum standard, they have not yet qualified for upgrading.

Oshun North-East

***O.455. Chief Adebisi Jinadu** asked the Minister of Communications, whether he intends to convert the following sub-post offices into full fledged post offices :—

Inisha, Okuku, Oyan, Igbaiye.

The Minister of Communications : Of the four places mentioned, two are postal agencies whose annual units of business are as follows :—

Offices	Postal Agency	1962-63	1963-64	1964-65
Inisha ..	18,743	18,737	21,955	
Igbaiye ..	7,861	6,846	6,953	

The volume of business at Igbaiye Postal Agency is below the minimum requirement of 18,000 units and its conversion to a Sub-Post Office cannot yet be considered. Arrangement will, however, be made to convert Inisha Postal Agency to a Sub-Post Office whenever funds become available.

The figures for the two sub-Post Offices at Okuku and Oyan are as follows :—

Offices	1962-63	1963-64	1964-65
Okuku S.O. ..	25,616	28,108	32,444
Oyan S.O. ..	27,808	20,740	25,643

These figures are below the minimum of 50,000 units required for conversion of a sub-Post Office to a Departmental Post Office and, for this reason, Okuku and Oyan are not yet qualified for upgrading.

ESTABLISHMENTS AND SERVICE MATTERS

Morgan for Pensioners

O.463. Mr Nnaemeka-Agu asked the Minister of Establishments, when the Federal Government will pay Morgan Award to its pensioners.

The Minister of Establishments : The hon. Member is referred to the statement which was issued in July this year by the Governments in the Federation to the effect that there was no intention to use the Morgan Salaries Award as a basis for reviewing pensions

This fact has been explained to representatives of the Pensioners Association and they are fully aware that a policy for the review of pensions will be formulated in due course.

will build a school of radiography to train Nigerians for the M.S.R. diploma.

Quota Recruitment

O.464. Mr S. A. Oyewole asked the Minister of Establishments, whether he will consider the introduction of quota system in making appointments into the Federal Public Service in view of the disparity in the present system.

The Minister of Establishments : Appointments to posts in the Federal Public Service are based on merit and qualifications. It would therefore be incorrect to judge the composition of the service by the regions of origin of the officers. Government does not intend to introduce the quota system in making appointments into the Federal Public Service.

HEALTH

School of Radiography

O.466. Mr O. W. Inyang asked the Minister of Health, how soon the Federal Government

The Minister of Health : The Federal Government has had under consideration the building of a School of Radiography to train Nigerians for the Diploma to which the Hon. Member refers. Arrangements are now almost complete to open the School on a date not later than the end of October this year.

Nurses and Midwives

O.467. Mr O. W. Inyang asked the Minister of Health, if he will consider, in consultation with his regional counterparts, introducing uniform conditions of service for nurses and mid-wives throughout the Federation.

The Minister of Health : Since April 1960, the Governments of the Federation introduced uniform conditions of service for nurses and midwives throughout Nigeria. With the exception of one Federal post which has been referred to the Elwood Grading Team for upgrading, similar salary scales apply to nurses and midwives in all the Governments of the Federation.

14th OCTOBER, 1965

CABINET OFFICE

Police X Squad

W.8 : Mr F. I. Okoronkwo asked the Prime Minister, what steps he intends to take to make the activities of the Police X Squad to be felt in every division in Nigeria, in order to put a stop to the increase in corruption in the country.

The Prime Minister : The 'X' Squad is already operating throughout Nigeria. The maximum effectiveness of its activities will, however, depend on the full co-operation of the public and the realisation of the members of the public that both the giver and receiver of bribes are guilty. Without the one, the other cannot exist.

Aba Police

W.9 : Mr F. I. Okoronkwo asked the Prime Minister, how soon he intends to provide members of the Nigeria Police Force who live in private houses in Aba with official quarters.

The Prime Minister : It is the intention of Government to provide quarters for all members of the Nigeria Police Force but as funds are not immediately available to do this at the same time, a schedule of priorities has been drawn up to be executed as funds become available.

W.10 : Mr F. I. Okoronkwo asked the Prime Minister, what plans he has to strengthen the police force in Aba province in view of crime waves in this particular province arising from the activities of smugglers from Calabar and highway robbers.

House of Representatives Debates

5

[Written Answers]

14 OCTOBER 1965

[Written Answers]

6

The Prime Minister : The Police Establishment for Aba Province was increased by 28 and 11 all ranks in 1964-65 and 1965-66 respectively. Further increases will be considered in due course in accordance with the recommendations of the Survey of Police Establishment.

Parliamentary Committees

O.499. Mr O. C. Ememe asked the Prime Minister, whether he will consider the creation of Parliamentary Committees for the Ministries of External Affairs, Finance and Communications in view of the fact that the present Government is national.

The Prime Minister : No, Sir.

Ethnic Nigerian Groups

O.524. Mr S. A. Shitta-Bey asked the Prime Minister, if he will state how many ethnic groups are there in Nigeria; and what are their respective populations.

The Prime Minister : The information sought by the hon. Member is not yet available as the detailed analysis of the 1963 census figures has not yet been completed. A Report embodying the particulars sought will be published in due course.

***O.498. Mr O. C. Ememe** asked the Minister of External Affairs, why Nigeria has not condemned openly the United States atrocities in Vietnam in view of the fact that the United States intervention in the internal affairs of the people of Vietnam violates the Charter of the United Nations Organisation.

The Minister of External Affairs : The Government is not aware that the United States is involved in the internal affairs of the people of Vietnam. As far as our information goes, the United States provides civil and military assistance to the Government of South Vietnam at the request of and in accordance with formal agreement with the Government of South Vietnam.

As hon. Members are aware, the main objective of the Commonwealth Peace Mission on Vietnam which was set up at our last meeting in London was to secure an immediate cessation of hostilities and the restoration of peace and stability to Vietnam. Although the Peace Mission has not got to a start, I am still convinced that the best hope for peace in Vietnam is a constructive and concerted approach for achieving an early negotiated settlement.

Nigerian Staff at U.N.O. Secretariat

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

Diplomatic and Consular Officers

O.489. Mr P. Nnaemeka-Agu asked the Minister of External Affairs, whether there are press attaches in all Nigerian Embassies and High Commissions abroad.

The Minister of External Affairs : Diplomatic and consular officers in all our missions abroad engage in public relations activities which are a fundamental aspect of their assignment. Where it is found that the value derived from attachment of special press officers would justify the expense, for example in London, New York and Washington, action has been taken accordingly.

***O.501. Mr O. C. Ememe** asked the Minister of External Affairs, how many positions has Nigeria been able to occupy in the U.N.O. and its Agencies since Nigeria became a member State; how many of such positions are occupied by career and non-career diplomats.

The Minister of External Affairs : According to all the information available to us eighteen Nigerians at present hold positions in the United Nations Secretariat and its Agencies. Only one of these is a career-diplomat. There have also been a few Nigerians who have at one time or the other served on temporary missions and assignments for short periods with the United Nations and its Specialised Agencies.

EDUCATION

Soviet Scholarships

*O.667. Mr Ayo Fasanmi asked the Minister of Education, if he will make a statement on the *forty* scholarships given to Nigeria by the Soviet Union recently.

The Minister of Education : The question by my hon. Friend, the Member for Ijero-Ekiti, is not only vague but, in one respect, factually inaccurate. I presume he wants to know how the 50 and not 40 scholarships, offered recently by the Soviet Union, was distributed. If so, the answer is that the scholarships were regionally distributed in accordance with the formula laid down by the Co-ordinating Committee of the Bureau of External Aid on Education, namely, that 22 per cent of all foreign scholarships, offered to the Federal Government, should go to each of our *four* Regions and 12 per cent to the Federal Territory of Lagos.

HOUSING AND SURVEYS

Housing Schemes

O.508. Mr D. Senu-Oke asked the Minister of Housing and Surveys, how many housing schemes he has for people in the various income groups; which of the schemes is now in operation; and if he will make a statement.

The Minister of Housing and Surveys : I have in mind at least three different housing schemes for the various income groups. None of the scheme is yet in operation in the sense I expect the Member for Badagry has in mind. However, my colleague, the Minister of Lagos Affairs whose responsibility it was previously had already launched a pilot scheme which acts as a path-finder and this is now almost entirely completed, and the site he acquired at Surulere for the low-cost housing scheme is actively being developed in readiness for my first impact to make available a number of blocks of flats for the workers in the real low income group.

I will make a statement in Parliament as soon as my plans are finalised and have received the blessings of all concerned.

LAGOS AFFAIRS

The Displaced of Central Lagos

O.509. Mr D. Senu-Oke asked the Minister of Lagos Affairs, when he will fulfil his promise in a circular letter distributed to all tenants who were removed from Central Lagos, to the effect that houses built in Surulere will be sold to them; and if he will make a statement.

The Minister of Lagos Affairs : It is true that in 1959 a circular letter was distributed to all persons who were removed from Central Lagos to Surulere as a result of the Slum Clearance to the effect that houses built in that area in which they were resettled would be sold to them if they were interested. However, there was so little response at the time that the scheme had to be abandoned.

This abandonment was probably a good thing because it has since been discovered that it will be necessary at a later stage to re-develop these estates to accommodate many more people than they do at present.

As a solution to the problem of acute land shortage in the Federal Territory, it is planned to replace most of the bungalows with multi-storeyed buildings, thus providing more living space. Had these properties been sold, such re-development would have been impossible, and Government would have found it difficult to fulfil its future housing programme.

Lagos City Council

O.668. Mr S. O. Kamson asked the Minister of Lagos Affairs, whether he will appoint a commission to inquire into the maladministration of the Lagos City Council; and if he will suspend elections to the Council pending the completion of the inquiry.

The Minister of Lagos Affairs : I am not aware of any maladministration in the Lagos City Council and I do not, therefore, consider it necessary to appoint a commission or any other body to enquire into its affairs.

The hon. Member is, however, aware of the postponement of the forthcoming Lagos City Council elections from October 15 to the 13th of November. This postponement has nothing whatsoever to do with any maladministration by the Council.

18th OCTOBER, 1965

LAGOS AFFAIRS

Ikoyi Residential Area

W.16. Mr F. I. Okoronkwo asked the Minister of Lagos Affairs, what plans he has to replan Ikoyi area in order to make more plots available to indigenous Nigerians as part of his scheme aimed at reducing congestion in the Federal territory.

The Minister of Lagos Affairs : Following a survey of Ikoyi Government Reserved Area, portions of land were excised from large compounds and constituted into plots. The additional plots so carved out which number about 70, have been allocated mostly to Nigerians.

WORKS

Expatriate Government Contractors

O.512. Alhaji K. O. S. Are asked the Minister of Works, how many contracts awarded to expatriate firms since March 1962 have been completed; and where are the contracts being carried out in the Federation.

The Minister of Works : The total number of contracts awarded to expatriate firms since March 1962 is 78 of these, 33 have been in Lagos, 31 in the Northern Region, 9 on the Western Region and 5 in the Eastern Region. A total of 63 Contracts have been completed as follows:—Lagos 28, Northern Region 25, Western Region 7 and Eastern Region 3.

Tarring of Trunk A Roads

O.513. Alhaji K. O. S. Are asked the Minister of Works, how many miles of trunk 'A' roads have since 1961 been tarred; and how many more miles are expected to be tarred during the current financial year.

The Minister of Works : The length of roads tarred since 1961 is approximately 495 miles and it is hoped to tar about 100 miles of road this financial year depending on the availability of funds.

Expatriate Officers

O.514. Alhaji K. O. S. Are asked the Minister of Works, how many expatriate officers are still serving in his Ministry; and what posts do they hold.

The Minister of Works : There are 114 expatriate officers in my Ministry of which 105 are on contract, 9 only being on the permanent establishment.

The details are as follows:—

Expatriate Officers serving in the Ministry

Post	No.	Number in P.E.	Number on Contract
Chief Stores Officer	1	1	—
Stores Inspector ..	1	1	—
Senior Stores Officer ..	1	1	—
Chief Engineer ..	2	—	2
Senior Executive Engineer ..	15	1	14
Senior Executive Engineer, Grade II ..	21	—	21
Chief Architect ..	2	2	—
Project Architect ..	1	—	1
Senior Architect ..	8	—	8
Senior Architect, Grade I ..	4	—	4
Senior Architect, Grade II ..	7	—	7
Senior Quantity Survey ..	1	—	1
Quantity Survey, Grade I ..	1	—	1
Senior Technical Instructor ..	1	—	1
Building Manager ..	1	—	1
Works Manager ..	1	1	—
Assistant Works Manager ..	1	1	—
Senior Works Supt. (Building) ..	12	—	12
Works Supt. Building ..	4	—	4
Mechanical Engineer, Grade II ..	3	—	3
Electrical Engineer, Grade I ..	1	—	1
Electrical Engineer, Grade II ..	3	—	3
Senior Mech. Supt. ..	5	—	5
Senior Elect. Supt. ..	7	—	7
Mechanical Supt. ..	5	—	5
Electrical Supt. ..	1	—	1
Senior Works Supt. (Water) ..	1	1	—
Works Supt. (Water)	3	—	3
	114	9	105

Sapele-Benin Bridge

O.518. Chief F. Oputa-Otutu asked the Minister of Works, when works on the Sapele-Benin Bridge will be completed.

The Minister of Works : The Sapele-Benin Bridge is the responsibility of the Government of the Mid-West Region.

19th OCTOBER, 1965

FINANCE

Aid from Socialist Countries

O.543. Mr S. U. Bassey asked the Minister of Finance, how many socialist countries have offered aid to Nigeria and which offers, if any, were turned down and why?

The Minister of Finance : Nigeria has received tentative offers of aid from the following Socialist Countries :

<i>Country</i>	<i>Amount of offer</i>
Czechoslovakia ..	£5 million
Yugoslavia ..	£3.6 million ; and
Poland ..	£15 million.

None of these offers has been rejected and I would like to add that negotiations on the terms of the offers are progressing satisfactorily.

Bulgaria

O.544. Mr S. U. Bassey asked the Minister of Finance, whether he is aware that Bulgaria has offered Nigeria £3 million in aid which has not been accepted ; and if he will make a statement.

The Minister of Finance : I am not aware that Bulgaria has offered Nigeria £3 million in aid.

New Currency Notes

O.560. Mr V. A. Emenogha asked the Minister of Finance, whether strict security measures were taken before launching the new Nigerian currency notes in view of the fact that equipments for productions of the notes have since been discovered in Onitsha.

The Minister of Finance : I confirm that strict security measures were taken before the new Nigerian currency notes were launched. As far as I am aware, no equipment normally used for the production of the new notes has been discovered in Onitsha. What the Police recently discovered at Onitsha were the photographic reproductions in black and white of some denominations of the new notes together with the photographic plates used in the process.

I assure honourable Members that the production of our notes involves many intricate processes none of which is photographic in

nature, but all of which present maximum security against forgery by this method.

Oil Royalties

O.561. Mr W. O. Briggs asked the Minister of Finance, whether he is aware that there is great dissatisfaction in the "Special Area" over the present system of allocation of oil royalties and whether he will now consider recommending a change to the Government whereby the communities where the oil is actually found might benefit directly and fully from these royalties.

The Minister of Finance : I am not aware that there is great dissatisfaction in the "Special Area" over the machinery for allocating oil royalties. The allocation of royalties is based on the recommendations of the Fiscal Review Commission which was accepted by all the Governments of the Federation. The machinery is also embodied in section 140 of the Republican Constitution and I hope that my hon. Friend is aware of the procedure for amending the Constitution.

The prevailing arrangement is such that the oil producing Regions obtain the lions share of the proceeds of oil royalties. If my hon. Friend has any particular area in mind therefore, I suggest that he should direct his question to the appropriate Regional Government.

New Currency Notes

O.562. Dr R. C. B. Mgbaronye asked the Minister of Finance, whether he is satisfied that there is maximum security in the printing of our currency notes in view of the apparent ease with which they are now being forged.

The Minister of Finance : Sir, firstly, I am satisfied that there is maximum security in the printing of our currency notes and, secondly, I am not aware that the notes are now being forged with ease.

All attempts so far made at forging the Nigerian currency notes, both the old and new, have been glaring failures. The results of such forgeries have been unlike the genuine notes, and would be difficult to pass as such.

House of Representatives Debates

13

[Written Answers]

19 OCTOBER 1965

[Written Answers]

14

There are two methods of forgery : the photographic method and the wood-block or lino-cut method. The few cases involving forgeries of the new notes and most of the forgeries of the old notes arose from photographic reproductions of the notes in black and white, but, the ingenious precautions which have been worked into the design and production of these notes present the forger with the greatest difficulties and provide the maximum security against forgery by photographic means. An examination of the forgeries by experts has resulted in the opinion that the present precautionary measures are effective and adequate.

Notes forged by the wood-block method are so crude that they are easily detected.

**INFORMATION
Radio Nigeria**

O.571. Dr R. C. B. Mgbaronye asked the Minister of Information, whether he is aware of the very poor quality of reception of Radio Nigeria in many parts of the Federation ; and what measures he is taking to improve the situation.

The Minister of Information : I am aware of the difficulty that is sometimes experienced in receiving the signals of Radio Nigeria in some parts of the Federation. The hon. Member is assured that I feel very much concerned myself and I am trying my very best to see that the position is improved as early as possible.

Expansion of Television Service

O.572. Dr R. C. B. Mgbaronye asked the Minister of Information, how soon the Nigerian Television Service will be extended to the whole country ; and what steps he is taking to obtain the full co-operation of the Regions.

The Minister of Information : Plans for extending the Nigerian Television Service have been under examination for sometime. No approximate date has however been set, to implement these plans. As the hon. Member would appreciate such a gigantic project requires a heavy capital outlay and this necessarily means that the plan would have to be carried out in stages. For a start, a satellite station is now ready in Ibadan and it is expected that the relay microwave link will be installed within the coming months.

There are already in existence excellent channels of co-operation amongst the various Ministries of Information in the entire Federation. These include the Joint Consultative Committee on Information Services (which is a meeting of officials) and the occasional Conference of the Ministers of Information. The extension of the Federal Television Service to the whole of the Federation and other matters of common interest are discussed at these meetings.

**MINES AND POWER
Gold Deposits**

O.574. Mr W. O. Briggs asked the Minister of Mines and Power, if he is aware that gold has been found in Eastern Nigeria and whether he will make a statement.

The Minister of Mines and Power : If the hon. Member means a deposit of gold of economic significance, then I am not aware of it, and would like him to give me detailed information to help my Ministry's investigations. I am aware, however, that insignificant amounts of gold are occasionally found in stream concentrates in Eastern Nigeria. This type of gold can be found almost anywhere and should not cause undue excitement.

Electricity for Orlu

O.575. Mr F. A. Ogike asked the Minister of Mines and Power, how soon Orlu Township will be supplied with electricity in view of the recent survey of the town by his officials.

The Minister of Mines and Power : Tenders have recently been invited for the construction of the transmission and distribution facilities for the supply of electricity to Orlu town. These tenders are now being vetted, but the date of commencement of the scheme depends on the time the financial arrangements are satisfactorily concluded between the Eastern Nigeria Government and the E.C.N.

Tin

O.576. Mr M. N. Nnorom asked the Minister of Mines and Power, how much tin was produced in 1965 as compared with the production of the same mineral in the year 1963-64.

The Minister of Mines and Power : Tin production for the first seven months of 1965 was 7,488 tons, compared with 6,706 tons for the same period last year. Total tin production for 1963-64 was 11,845 tons ; the hon. Member will appreciate that it is not possible to compute the total production for 1965 yet.

LABOUR AND WELFARE Unemployment

O.555. Alhaji Isa Haruna asked the Minister of Labour and Social Welfare, what plans he has to arrest immediately the unemployment problem in the Federal Territory.

The Minister of Labour : The issue of unemployment in the Federal Territory of Lagos is inseparable from the problem of unemployment in the whole country which I am dealing with to-day in a subsequent Question No. O.557.

Morgan Awards

O.556. Mr E. O. A. Odeyemi asked the Minister of Labour, what proposals are being made to make the agreement on Morgan awards enforceable by law, so that private employers can be made to pay the agreed rates.

The Minister of Labour : "The Morgan Agreement" is a voluntary collective agreement which is not legally enforceable. In pursuance, however, of a clause in the Agreement which requires that "Government should provide an adequate machinery through the Wages Board Act to deal with the application of the minimum wage rate for each area on the private employers", my Ministry made efforts to get Area Wages Boards set up in Lagos and in the Regions. These efforts were resisted both by the trade unions and the employers' association.

My Ministry has, therefore, referred the matter to the recently inaugurated National Labour Advisory Council for examination and recommendation. I await the report of the Council, on which the Governments, employers and trade unions are fully represented.

Unemployment

O.557. Mr B. C. N. Okeke asked the Minister of Labour and Social Welfare, if he will state what efforts he is making in conjunction with his other colleagues to reduce unemployment in the country.

The Minister of Labour : Measures to reduce unemployment are the concern of all the Governments in the Federation. The Governments are continuing their efforts to create more employment opportunities through the current National Development Plan and by giving top priority to labour intensive projects. They are also undertaking projects such as farm settlements and working out detailed programme designed for providing employment for young school leavers.

DEFENCE

Modernising the Army

O.558. Alhaji Isa Haruna asked the Minister of Defence, what efforts he is making towards the expansion and modernisation of the Nigerian Army, and if he will make a statement.

The Minister of Defence : Every effort is being made to modernise and expand the Army within the national financial resources available. Modern barrack, residential and office accommodation have been provided for both officers and men stationed in various parts of the country. New weapons as well as up-to-date fighting techniques have been introduced into the Army.

In accordance with the Six-Year Development Plan expansion and modernisation of the Forces have been planned for implementation in phases. I am glad to announce that satisfactory progress has been made in this regard as re-equipment and reorganisation are nearing completion.

It will not be in the interest of military security to disclose details of weapons, equipment or other data of military significance. Hon. members can rest assured that there is no cause for alarm or anxiety.

The Ordnance Factory

O.559. Alhaji Isa Haruna asked the Minister of Defence, how much it costs to run the Ordnance Factory of the Defence Industries Corporation.

The Minister of Defence : The Ordnance Factory is still under construction and until it becomes operational, it will be impossible to answer the question put by the Member for Jos South.

20th OCTOBER, 1965

WORKS

Asaba-Benin Road

W.15. Mr F. I. Okoronkwo asked the Minister of Works whether he is aware that the Asaba-Benin road is becoming very dangerous to the road users ; and what are his plans to improve the condition of this road.

The Minister of Works : Survey work is in hand on all the dangerous curves on the Benin-Asaba Road with a view to improving the alignment of the road. Depending on the availability of funds, it is hoped to start work on improving the alignments of the road as soon as the survey is completed.

LABOUR AND WELFARE

The Family

W.75. Mr James Yacim asked the Minister of Labour and Social Welfare, whether he is aware that juvenile delinquency, broken homes and divorce cases are increasing in this country ; and if he will initiate consultations with the Regional Governments with a view to finding some solution to these social problems.

The Minister of Labour : I am not aware of this situation.

COMMUNICATIONS

Ijero-Ekiti Postal Service

***O.674. Mr Ayo Fasanmi** asked the Minister of Communications, if he will open postal Agencies in Iye-Ekiti, Ikoro-Ekiti, Ipoti, Aiyetoro, Iloro-Ekiti in the Ijero-Ekiti Constituency.

The Minister of Communications : Postal Agencies have already been established and are operating at all the places named by the hon. Member for Ijero Ekiti. The opening dates of the Agencies are as follows :—

Name of Postal Agency	Date of opening
Eye-Ekiti	3-4-56
Ikoro-Ekiti	4-7-64
Ipoti	16-11-55
Aiyetoro	20-11-53
Iloro-Ekiti	30-5-64

AVIATION

Aircraft

O.590. Dr R. C. B. Mgbaronye asked the Minister of Aviation, how many aircrafts are completely owned by the Nigerian Airways Corporation.

The Minister of Aviation : The Nigeria Airways owns 13 Aircraft made up of the following models :—

- 5 F.27 Fokker Friendship Aircraft
- 6 DC.3 Dakota Aircraft
- 2 Piper Aztec Aircraft

Agreement with B.O.A.C.

O.591. Dr R. C. B. Mgbaronye asked the Minister of Aviation whether he is aware that the partnership agreement between the Nigeria Airways and B.O.A.C. operates adversely against the Nigeria Airways ; and when he intends to discontinue this agreement.

The Minister of Aviation : Yes Sir. However, I have studied the position carefully and very soon I shall be initiating measures that will improve the position in favour of Nigeria Airways.

Commercial Pilots

O.592. Dr R. C. B. Mgbaronye asked the Minister of Aviation, how many fully qualified Nigerian commercial pilots are employed by the Nigerian Airways ; how long did it take to train each pilots ; how many are still undergoing training ; and what is the comparative period of training for pilots of the BOAC.

The Minister of Aviation : There are 16 Nigerians employed with Nigeria Airways as Pilots. Three of these have attained the rank of Captain and hold the Airline Transport Pilot Licences. The remainder hold Commercial Pilot Licences which is the basic licence a pilot engaging in Commercial Aviation is required to hold.

The possession of this licence however does not necessarily imply the end of training which a pilot is expected to undergo. The normal period of time taken to complete training for a Commercial Pilot's licence is about 2 years. This same period of time also applies in the case of B.O.A.C. for the basic Commercial Pilot's licence.

There are at present no Government sponsored Nigerians undergoing training but it is expected that another batch of 15 will commence training towards the end of the year at the Nigerian Civil Aviation Training Centre, Zaria.

There is as yet no trained or qualified Nigerian Commercial jet pilot in the Nigeria Airways.

HEALTH Medicine Vendors

O.587. Chief F. Oputa-Otutu asked the Minister of Health, how many patent and proprietary medicine vendors have been licensed in the Federal Territory between April 1962 and March 1965.

The Minister of Health : The number of patent and proprietary medicine vendors licensed in the Federal Territory between April 1962 and March 1965 is 872. No new licences have been issued since 1963.

O.588 Chief F. Oputa-Otutu asked the Minister of Health, whether he will give the names and addresses of patent and proprietary medicine vendors whose licences have been renewed for the current year.

The Minister of Health : 843 Vendors Licences have been renewed for the current year. The list requested by my hon. Friend is as follows :—

THE LIST OF VENDORS LICENCE HOLDERS 1965

Name of Shop	Address of Premises	Licence No.	Serial No.
S. E. Shokoya	3 Osanyin Street, Yaba	052526	1
Victoria Abeo	33B Bale Street, Apapa	052527	2
Messrs K. Chellarams	54 Marina Street, Lagos	052528	3
U.T.C. Ltd.	139 Broad Street, Lagos	052529	4
Nicholas (Nig.) Ltd.	17 Hassan Building, Ijora	052530	5
A. I. Onibiyi & Bros.	28 Docemo Street, Lagos	052531	6
Mercy Nwanoka	3 Desalu Street, Ebute Metta	052532	7
Adejumo Fam (Nig.) Ltd.	7A Offin Road, Lagos	052533	8
Miss Victoria West	76 Agege Road, Idi-Oro	052534	9
Obalende Pat. Med. Stores	48 Obalende Road, Lagos	052535	10
Freedom Pat. Med. Stores	97 Igbosere Road, Lagos	052536	11
Madam Moriamo Aweni	3 Offin Road, Lagos	052537	12
A. O. Awolola	45 Ojo-Giwa Street, Lagos	052538	13
Madam Amope Kanike	14 Eleshin Street, Lagos	052539	14
Muib Ishola	77A Kano Street, Ebute Metta	052540	15
Christopher Onuoha	26 Tunkarimo Street, Apapa	052541	16
M. Esttowahgan	3 Odo Street, Obalende	052542	17
Jacob Akejulu	65 Akodu Street, Idi-Oro	052543	18
S. A. Aloba	6 Church Street, Lagos	052544	19
S. A. Aloba	11 Shomade Lane, Lagos	052545	20
Veronika Merole	2 Karimu Street, Surulere	052546	21
S. A. Alisigwe	44 Lawanson Street, Surulere	052547	22
Olude Stores	41 Apapa Road, Ebute Metta	052548	23
Olufemi Trading Stores	31 Coates Street, Ebute Metta	052549	24
Godson Iwu	61 Tejuoso Street, Surulere	052550	25
S. U. Ahumibe Stores	1 Michael-Ogun Road, Surulere	052551	26
Mrs C. Okakpu	27B Ayilara Street, Surulere	052552	27
T. Showemimo	114 Tokunboh Street, Lagos	052553	28
Miss J. E. Ejowo	84 Obalende Road, Lagos	052554	29
Dimo D. Ajala	39 Palm Church Street, Lagos	052555	30
Augustine Adeyemi	6 Church Street, Lagos	052556	31
Bola Ogunleye	17 Lagos Street, Ebute Metta	052557	32

House of Representatives Debates

21

[Written Answers]

20 OCTOBER 1965

[Written Answers]

22

THE LIST OF VENDORS LICENCE HOLDERS 1965—continued

Name of Shop	Address of Premises	Licence No.	Serial No.
William Aybee & Co. . .	6 Agard Street, Yaba . .	052558	33
Johnson Okwara . . .	8 B6, Sabo Market, Yaba . .	052559	34
Messrs S. Nassas & Bros. . .	122/124 Broad Street, Lagos . .	052560	35
V. O. Onuorah . . .	42 Mbah Street, Apapa . .	052561	36
J. F. Ayannowo . . .	78 Jebba Street, Ebute Metta . .	052562	37
Mrs A. Eke . . .	25 Tejuoso Street, Surulere . .	052563	38
Madam Adebawale Adebajo . .	27 Princess Street, Lagos . .	052564	39
C. Nwokeji . . .	39 Ishaga Street, Surulere . .	052565	40
A. G. Leventis & Co. . .	42/43 Martin Street, Lagos . .	052566	41
Adeolu Pat. Med. Stores . .	162 Clifford Street, Yaba . .	052568	43
Mrs M. Mmeh . . .	64 Ishaga Road, Surulere . .	052569	44
Mrs Emily Bandele . . .	46 Inabere Street, Lagos . .	052570	45
A. G. Leventis & Co. . .	2 Market Street, Ebute Metta . .	052567	42
Samuel Oyerinde . . .	5 Offin Road, Lagos . .	052571	46
Mrs F. A. George . . .	153 Igbosere Road, Lagos . .	052572	47
Mrs A. O. Pelu . . .	22A Lewis Street, Lagos . .	052573	48
C. O. Adiele . . .	55 Herbert Macaulay Street, Ebute Metta . .	052574	49
Koya Abogunloko . . .	32 Apapa Road, Ebute Metta . .	052575	50
V. T. Osunuyi . . .	54 Porter Street, Lagos . .	052576	51
Mrs V. S. Bailey . . .	76 Kadara Street, Ebute Metta . .	052577	52
Mrs A. Okeke . . .	20 Eletu-Odibo Street, Abule Ijesha . .	052578	53
M. E. Ibekwe . . .	240 Herbert Macaulay Street, Yaba . .	052570	54
Mrs N. T. Nwaiwu . . .	3A Ayilara Street, Surulere . .	052580	55
A. Anifowoshe Pat. Med. Stores . .	400 Breadfruit Street, L.E.D.B., Lagos . .	052581	56
Mrs M. O. Sanya . . .	3 Ashogbon Street, Lagos . .	052582	57
Alufa Suberu . . .	26 Docemo Street, Lagos . .	052583	58
J. A. George . . .	31 Patey Street, Ebute Metta . .	052584	59
Aladdin Stores . . .	40 Bamgbose Street, Lagos . .	052585	60
M. A. Ajibola . . .	9A Church Street, Lagos . .	052586	61
Feyi Trading Co. . . .	9A Church Street, Lagos . .	052587	62
S. Aborinde & Sons . . .	80 Docemo Street, Lagos . .	052588	63
M. O. Oyemade . . .	47 Okesuna Street, Lagos . .	052589	64
G. O. Falemi . . .	7 Bankole Street, Lagos . .	052590	65
G. O. Falemi . . .	13 Church Street, Lagos . .	052591	66
I. S. Tapere . . .	16 Church Street, Lagos . .	052592	67
Mrs S. O. Daramola . . .	91 Bamgbose Street, Lagos . .	052593	68
Mrs Amope Oni . . .	21 Oshodi Street, Lagos . .	052594	69
A. A. Idika . . .	94 Denton Street, Ebute Metta . .	052595	70
Luck, Njoku . . .	19 Bailey Street, Abule Ijesha . .	052596	71
Mad. Patience Assim . . .	17 Akinhanmi Street, Surulere . .	052597	72
Mrs E. Nisi Amuna . . .	121 Apapa Road, Ebute Metta . .	052598	73
Mrs L. A. Anochiam . . .	11 B6 Sabo Market . .	052599	74
T. A. Koyi . . .	13 Church Street, Lagos . .	052600	75
Mrs J. O. Oresanya . . .	80 Wakeman Street, Yaba . .	052601	76
J. Agboola . . .	27 Balogun Street (West) Lagos . .	052602	77
C. O. Oshibogun . . .	23 Princess Street, Lagos . .	052603	78
J. F. Abifarin . . .	59 Palm Church Street, Lagos . .	052604	79
O. Adejonwo . . .	3 Lewis Street, Lagos . .	052605	80
Mrs Egeonu . . .	17 Alade Street, Bashua . .	052606	81
Benjamin Okwara . . .	43 Adebiyi Street, Bashua . .	052606	82
Kibiti Pat. Med. Stores . . .	118 Denton Street, Ebute Metta . .	052607	83
Kibiti Pat. Med. Stores . . .	4 Lagos Street, Ebute Metta . .	052608	84

THE LIST OF VENDORS LICENCE HOLDERS 1965—continued

Name of Shop	Address of Premises	Licence No.	Serial No.
C. O. Ogunjemite .. .	5 Simpson Street, Ebute Metta .. .	052609	85
biyemi George .. .	13 Reclamation Road, Lagos .. .	052611	86
Lasisi Alabi .. .	72 Moloney Bridge Street, Lagos .. .	052612	87
Ezekiel Pat. Med. Stores .. .	39 Andrew Street, Lagos .. .	052613	88
Samuel Ade Oso .. .	71 Jebba Street (East) Ebute Metta .. .	052614	89
Samuel Ade Oso .. .	114 Freeman Street, Ebute Metta .. .	052615	90
S. K. Padonu .. .	28 Thomas Street, Ebute Metta .. .	052616	91
Madam S. Aduke .. .	31 Smith Street, Lagos .. .	052617	92
Iyin Oluwa Pat. Med. Stores .. .	129 Apapa Road, Ebute Metta .. .	052618	93
Iyin Oluwa Pat. Med. Stores .. .	49 Broad Street, Lagos .. .	052619	94
Iyin Oluwa Patent Medicine Stores .. .	5 Denton Bridge Street, Ebute Metta .. .	052620	95
Paul Eddoh .. .	6 Jaoye Street, Ikorodu Road .. .	052621	96
Mrs Agnes O. Olasinmi .. .	18 Reclamation Road, Lagos .. .	052622	97
S. O. Fasenu .. .	30 Docemo Street, Lagos .. .	052623	98
Abeje Ogundairo .. .	12 Apapa Road, Ebute Metta .. .	052624	99
Ezekiel Patent Medicine Stores .. .	45 Ojo-Giwa Street, Lagos .. .	052625	100
Akinbayo Oshodi .. .	64 Denton Bridge Street, Ebute Metta .. .	052262	101
Miss A. A. Fowler .. .	186 Bamgbose Street, Lagos .. .	052627	102
Mrs M. E. Ibekwe .. .	31 Ishaga Road, Surulere .. .	052628	103
Omakuyede & Sons .. .	15 Okoya Street, Lagos .. .	052629	105
Jacob Ologunde .. .	45 Ojo-Giwa Street, Lagos .. .	052630	106
S. O. Adeoti .. .	26 Obun-Eko Street, Lagos .. .	052631	107
Abudu Gafari Andu .. .	20 Docemo Street, Lagos .. .	052632	108
Banjo Patent Medicine Stores .. .	72 Herb. Mac. Street, Ebute Metta .. .	052633	109
Messrs Oyedele Aro & Bros. .. .	73 Docemo Street, Lagos .. .	052636	111
Akanni Brothers .. .	7A Egerton Road, Lagos .. .	052634	110
Michael O. Aka .. .	4 Church Street, Lagos .. .	052638	113
Peter Agu .. .	5 Freeman Street, Lagos .. .	052637	112
Omoekun Trading Co. .. .	18 Reclamation Road, Lagos .. .	052639	114
Iyadunni Trading Stores .. .	39 McNeil Road, Yaba .. .	052640	115
Inocent Okwara .. .	19 Bale Street, Apapa .. .	052641	116
E. O. Laleye .. .	9 Abeokuta Street, Ebute Metta .. .	052642	117
D. Emechate .. .	36 Ibadan Street, West, Ebute Metta .. .	052643	118
E. O. Ogunfowokan .. .	26 Abeokuta Street, Ebute Metta .. .	052644	119
S. F. Oshisanmi .. .	31 Oil Mill Street, Lagos .. .	052645	120
Mrs Felicia Egwunwoke .. .	37 Ishaga Road, Surulere .. .	052646	121
Jacob Olaiya .. .	4 Aibu Street, Lagos .. .	052647	122
Anu Oluwa P. O. Patent Medicine Stores .. .	20-22 Aromire Street, Lagos .. .	052648	123
Flora Fabanwo .. .	54 Campbell Street, Lagos .. .	052649	124
Mrs O. Nwebiem .. .	37 Aiyyetiri Street, Yaba .. .	052650	125
Alhaji A. Kadiri .. .	36A Great Bridge Street, Lagos .. .	052650	126
J. A. Odukoya .. .	7 Akintola Street, Iwaya .. .	052652	127
K. O. S. Bisiriyu .. .	3 Akintola Street, Iwaya .. .	052653	128
Jacob Ebelogu .. .	14 Shiro Street, Ikorodu Road, Yaba .. .	052654	129
E. O. Fabeyo .. .	25 Ajoke Street, Iwaya .. .	052655	130
Kinsquare Patent Medicine Stores .. .	21 Amore Street, Apapa .. .	052656	131
D. B. Olatayo .. .	50 Docemo Street, Lagos .. .	052657	132

House of Representatives Debates

25

[Written Answers]

20 OCTOBER 1965

[Written Answers]

26

THE LIST OF VENDORS LICENCE HOLDERS 1965—*continued*

<i>Name of Shop</i>	<i>Address of Premises</i>	<i>Licence No.</i>	<i>Serial No.</i>
Atidadekiniwun Patent Medicine Stores	54 Docemo Street, Lagos	052658	133
P. T. Okade	33 Onifade Street, Idioro	052659	134
J. O. Ajasa	4 Pedro Street, Lagos	052660	135
Israel A. Ajasa 1	17 Upper King Street, Lagos	052661	136
Festus Adekunle	55 Odaliki Street, Ebute Metta	052662	137
Cosmopolitan Patent Medicine Stores	12 Gbaja Street, Surulere	052663	138
Theresa Onyike	1 Odofin Street, Apapa	052664	139
M. Oladunjoye & Bros.	11 Pedro Street, Lagos	052665	140
C. Ibeatushe	47 Ojuelegba Road, Surulere	052666	141
Alfred Taiwo	25 Lagos Street, Ebute Metta	052667	142
Odus Commercial Patent Medicine Stores	2 Idumagbo Avenue, Lagos	052668	143
C. A. Aina	8 Jebba Street (East), Ebute Metta	052669	144
T. R. Onueumbiko	46 Simpson Street, Ebute Metta	052670	145
M. K. Agwu	15 Tokunboh Street, Lagos	052671	146
C. A. Anakeme	64 Patey Street, Ebute Metta	052672	147
Raphael Oyebanyi	28 Docemo Street, Lagos	052673	148
Athanatus Igbo	69 Ojuelegba Road, Surulere	052674	149
Mrs Paulina Okoro	20 Onasanya Street, Surulere	052675	150
Mrs A. C. Nwose	38 Bakari Street, Idi-Araba	052676	151
Mrs Mercy Egwuasi	52 Ishaga Road, Surulere	052677	152
Mrs Florence O. Ofohan	28 Ishaga Road, Surulere	052678	153
Messrs I. A. Ajani Bros.	29 Cole Street, Surulere	052679	154
Mrs C. N. Amobi	25 Adeniyi Street, Surulere	052680	155
Salawu Sule	94 Freeman Street, Ebute Metta	052681	156
Madam P. A. Adekoya	54 Porter Street, Lagos	052682	157
Adenike Patent Medicine Stores	77 Ayilara Street, Surulere	052683	158
S. Afolabi	81 Great Bridge Street, Lagos	052684	159
Dorcias Ogunisi	9 Odunfa Street, Ebute Metta	052685	160
B. Uzoruo	279 Herbert Macaulay Street, Yaba	052686	161
Peter Obichefu	81 Ojuelegba Street, Surulere	052687	162
Messrs Nnalue & Co.	24 Mabo Street, Surulere	052688	163
Salawu Towolawi	87A Okepopo Street, Lagos	052689	164
Okebulu Agwu Abosi	1 Agege Motor Road, Idi-Oro	052690	165
Bello Oba	46 Daddy Alaja Street, Lagos	052691	166
Alhaji I. O. Balogun	45 Inabere Street, Lagos	052692	167
M. Alabi & Sons	7 Bridge Street, Lagos	052693	168
Yekini Adeoti	74 Palm Church Street, Lagos	052694	169
E. S. Green	74 Griffith Street, Ebute Metta	052695	170
Madam A. Andderu	34 Lagos Street, Ebute Metta	052696	171
J. T. Adegbegi	131 Griffith Street, Ebute Metta	052697	172
Sule Adio Aluko	8 Ajegunle Street, Idi-Araba	052698	173
S. O. Ogunleye	33 Massey Street, Lagos	052699	174
S. A. Adeneye	8 Ibadan Street, Ebute Metta	052700	175
Mrs H. A. Nwaigwe	87 Ibadun Street, Surulere	044401	176
A. M. Olubowale	36 Abule-Nla Road, Ebute Metta	044402	177
Abigael Modupe	40 Apapa Road, Ebute Metta	044403	178
Karimu Akanbi	31 Ojo-Giwa Street, Lagos	044404	179

House of Representatives Debates

27

[Written Answers]

20 OCTOBER 1965

[Written Answers]

28

THE LIST OF VENDORS LICENCE HOLDERS 1965—continued

<i>Name of Shop</i>	<i>Address of Premises</i>	<i>Licence No.</i>	<i>Serial No.</i>
Abu Alabi & Bros.	25 John Street, Lagos	044405	180
G. O. Osindeinde	48 Odunfa Street, Lagos	044406	181
Inukan Patent Medicine Stores	22 Docemo Street, Lagos	044407	182
Madam Bandele Lawson	20 Pedro Street, Lagos	044408	183
M. Oyinloye	18 Docemo Street, Lagos	044409	184
Emmanuel Akanni	9A Willoughby Street, Ebute Metta	044410	185
B. A. Abikoye	22 Docemo Street, Lagos	044411	186
L. A. Arogundade	77 Apongbon Street, Lagos	044412	187
S. A. Rufai	81 Apongbon Street, Lagos	044413	188
M. N. Osuala	218 Bamgbose Street, Lagos	044414	189
Emmanuel Asekhamhe	169 Agege Motor Road, Idi-Oro	044415	190
Ishiah Irabor	40B Agege Motor Road, Idi-Oro	044416	191
Alhaji I. O. I. Balogun	29 Tokunboh Street, Lagos	044417	192
Ezekiel O. Adeyemi	3 Buron Lane, Lagos	044418	193
J. Sanni Pat. Med. Stores	30 Docemo Street, Lagos	044419	194
Alhaji S. Oleoyeri	16 Bridge Street, Lagos, E.B.	044420	195
Mrs C. M. Onitimirin	56 Simpson Street, E.B.	044421	196
A. O. Owolabi	53 Abule-Nla Road, E.B.	044422	197
Yesufu Alabi	6 Balogun Street (West), Lagos	044423	198
G. O. Duru	11 Oyebajo Street, Ikorodu Road, Yaba	044424	199
E. U. Mbang	35 Karimu Street, Surulere	044425	200
E. B. Opayemi	30B Apapa Road, E.B.	044426	201
E. O. Maruso	2 Thomas Street, E.B.	044427	202
Domino Stores	282 Herbert Macaulay Street, Yaba	044428	203
G. I. Nwere	18 Cole Street, Surulere	044429	204
V. N. Udeaja	35 Iya-Agan Street, E.B.	044430	205
Awobajo Pat. Med. Stores	65 Agege Motor Road, Idi-Oro	044431	206
E. A. Obadina	68 Abeokuta Street, E.B.	044432	207
Mrs A. Shanusi	89 Griffith Street, E.B.	044433	208
D. O. Segun	21 Little Road, Yaba	044434	209
C. Obinwa & Bros.	36 Alli Street, Lagos	044435	210
Mrs C. Ikheola	15 Tejuoso Street, Surulere	044436	211
Mrs I. O. Ogunsan	14 Abudu Street, Abule-Oja	044437	212
Sunday Ogwuanuna	3 Abudu Street, Auble-Oja	044438	213
Ade. Com. Co.	141 Griffith Street, E.B.	044439	214
Ade. Com. Co.	62 Denton Street, E.B.	044440	215
D. L. Anayomi	21/23 Bamgbose Street, Lagos	044441	216
Donatus Anele	30 Morocco Road, Bashua	044442	217
A. J. Ojomu	60 Queen Street, Yaba	044443	218
Folu Pat. Med. Stores	141 Griffith Street, E.B.	044444	219
Shonubi Stores Ltd.	41 Commercial Avenue, Yaba	044445	220
Salami Oloja	7 Idumagbo Avenue, Lagos	044446	221
R. K. Akinsola	70 Herbert Macaulay Street, E.B.	044447	222
Isaac Ola Coker	39 Jebba Street (East), E.B.	044448	223
Adebajo Ige	32 Alli Street, Lagos	044449	224
Madam Ayodele Ige	23 Alli Street, Lagos	044450	225
A. O. Olomo	33 Palm Church Street, Lagos	044451	226
Adekola Oshoba	12 Owodunni Street, Iwaya	044452	227

House of Representatives Debates

29

[Written Answers]

20 OCTOBER 1965

[Written Answers]

30

THE LIST OF VENDORS LICENCE HOLDERS 1965—continued

<i>Name of Shop</i>	<i>Address of Premises</i>	<i>Licence No.</i>	<i>Serial No.</i>
A. O. Ogunsanya .. .	1 Agoro Street, Lagos .. .	044453	228
Mrs C. G. Mariju .. .	5 Bailey Street, Abule-Ijesha .. .	044454	229
J. O. Adepiton .. .	124 Moloney Bridge Street, Lagos .. .	044455	230
B. A. Owolabi .. .	50 Akanni Street, Lagos .. .	044456	231
Mrs C. A. Aesan .. .	3 Lewis Street, Lagos .. .	044457	232
Lucy Pat. Med. Stores .. .	8 Ebun Street, Oja Village .. .	044458	233
Josiah Odebunmi .. .	76 Odunfa Street, Lagos .. .	044459	234
Josiah Odebunmi .. .	3 Olushi Court, Lagos .. .	044460	235
Assicuated Mer. Agency .. .	56 Breadfruit Street, Lagos .. .	044461	236
J. O. Orisabiyi .. .	32 Okesuna Street, Lagos .. .	044462	237
Sinotu Banwo .. .	56 Bamgbose Street, Apapa .. .	044463	238
Clement Ufonduson .. .	7A Ughewankwo Street, Apapa .. .	044464	239
Boniface Anosike .. .	4 Western Avenue, E.B. .. .	044465	240
C. M. Adepoju .. .	6 Balogun Street (West), Lagos .. .	044466	241
Charity Pat. Med. Stores .. .	5 Balogun Street (West), Lagos .. .	044467	242
S. A. John .. .	5 Odunlami Street, Lagos .. .	044468	243
James Igbarboa .. .	3 Campbell Street, Lagos .. .	044469	244
J. A. Abisuga .. .	15 Simpson Street, Lagos .. .	044470	245
Mrs J. B. Akinnubi .. .	3 Onasanya Street, Surulere .. .	044471	246
M. G. Anomueze .. .	65 Ojuelegba Street, Surulere .. .	044472	247
T. A. Buraimoh .. .	87 Okepopo Street, Lagos .. .	044473	248
U.T.C. Ltd. (Cancelled) .. .	139 Broad Street, Lagos .. .	044474	249
Mrs H. M. Kadiri .. .	16 John Street, Lagos .. .	044475	250
V. F. Aina .. .	4 Abule-Nla Road, E.B. .. .	044476	251
Andrew I. Egembia .. .	22 Thomas Street, E.B. .. .	044477	252
V. Awokoya .. .	80 Ogunlana Drive, Surulere .. .	044478	253
B. Odukoya .. .	2 Upper Campos Street, Lagos .. .	044479	254
Awolowo Stores .. .	4 Prince Street, Lagos .. .	044480	255
J. C. Inichi .. .	12 Akinola Street, Ikorodu Road, .. .	044481	256
Kingsway Stores Ltd .. .	84 Itapeju Avenue, Apapa .. .	044482	257
Mrs Felicia Tinuwoye .. .	61 Kadara Street, E.B. .. .	044483	258
Peter Awotoye .. .	12 Okoya Street, Lagos .. .	044484	259
M. O. Yemi .. .	26 Docemo Street, Lagos .. .	044485	260
B. O. Iwo .. .	52B Ishaga Road, Surulere .. .	044486	261
P. O. Bamgbé .. .	9 Church Street, Lagos .. .	044487	262
N. Kasali .. .	13 Onilegbale Street, Lagos .. .	044488	263
Mrs C. O. Otakoya .. .	47 Freeman Street, Lagos .. .	044489	264
S. Otakoya .. .	9 Gambari Street, Lagos .. .	044490	265
A. Olaide .. .	19 Freeman Street, Lagos .. .	044491	266
J. Obanoke .. .	35 Onifade Street, Idi Oro .. .	044492	267
W. Ojifo .. .	10 Ogungbayi Street, Idi Oro .. .	044493	268
West African Tolum Syndicate .. .	123 Griffith Street, E.B. .. .	044494	269
Dorcal Taiwo .. .	20 Freeman Street, E.B. .. .	044495	270
A. Abimbola .. .	70 Griffith Street, E.B. .. .	044496	271
S. A. Oduyemi .. .	43 Ojo-Giwa Street, Lagos .. .	044497	272
M. A. Odeyemi Pat. Med. Stores .. .	6 Balogun Street (West) Lagos .. .	044498	273
Mrs C. R. Sanyaolu .. .	94 Griffith Street, E.B. .. .	044499	274
Boniface Onywuche .. .	18 Prison Street, Lagos .. .	044500	275
A. O. Oyebanji .. .	26 Obun-Eko Street, Lagos .. .	044501	276
M. U. Nnakwe .. .	248 Herbert Macaulay Street, Yaba .. .	044502	277
J. Nnakwe .. .	244 Herbert Macaulay Street, Yaba .. .	044503	278
Safuratu Alogba .. .	21 Bajulaiye Street, Lagos .. .	044504	279

THE LIST OF VENDORS LICENCE HOLDERS 1965—continued

Name of Shop	Address of Premises	Licence No.	Serial No.
A. Ajenifuja Stores .. .	57 Massey Street, Lagos .. .	044505	280
S. Mauiyagbe .. .	2A Kano Street, Ebute Metta .. .	044506	281
A. A. Balogun .. .	18 Docemo Street, Lagos .. .	044507	282
Abudu Majiyagbe .. .	10 Docemo Street, Lagos .. .	044508	283
Miniya & Sons .. .	39 Alli Street, Lagos .. .	044509	284
Tade-Odu Stores .. .	1 Agarawu Street, Lagos .. .	044510	285
K. Chellarams & Sons .. .	21/23 Docemo Street, Lagos .. .	044511	286
Ike-Ige Stores .. .	58 Palm Church Street, Lagos .. .	044512	287
A. D. Chukwumenye .. .	137 Apapa Road, Ebute Metta .. .	044513	288
B. S. Adeniji .. .	2 Abeokuta Street, Ebute Metta .. .	044514	289
Oke-Owo Pat. M/Stores .. .	52 Great Bridge Street, Lagos .. .	044515	290
Messrs A. Sigis & Co. .. .	29 Ashogbon Street, Lagos .. .	044516	291
I. S. Tinubu .. .	3 Griffin Street, Lagos .. .	044517	292
Udusegbe Pat. Med. Stores .. .	1 Ojora Street, Apapa .. .	044518	293
B. Utulu .. .	1 Western Avenue, Ebute Metta .. .	044519	294
Madam Adewunmi Oke .. .	49 Kadara Street, Ebute Metta .. .	044520	295
D. O. Vaughan .. .	62B Ibadan Street (West), Ebute Metta .. .	044521	296
R. A. Onikoyi .. .	110 Great Bridge Street, Lagos .. .	044522	297
Mrs M. C. Isiogu .. .	2 Agbebi Street, Apapa .. .	044523	298
I. Oshin .. .	35 Old Yaba Road, Ebute Metta .. .	044524	299
P.Z. & Co. Ltd. .. .	34 Marina Street, Lagos .. .	044525	300
J. J. A. Egwaogie .. .	30 Oseni Street, Obele-Kolade .. .	044526	301
Mrs A. Akinsanya .. .	20 Abule-Nla Road, Ebute Metta .. .	044527	302
Mrs Joan O. Chieagoro .. .	80 Obalende Road, Ikoyi .. .	044528	303
A. Okpara .. .	30 Malu Road, Apapa .. .	044529	304
Lakesi Pat. Med. Stores .. .	106 Herbert Macaulay Street, Ebute Metta .. .	044530	305
Lakesi Pat. Med. Stores .. .	12A Patey Street, Ebute Metta .. .	044531	306
Akola Pat. Med. Stores .. .	20A Evans Street, Lagos .. .	044532	307
S. N. Uzonkwu .. .	53 Tejuosho Street, Surulere .. .	044533	308
W. I. Tariah .. .	24 Catholic Mission Street, Lagos .. .	044534	309
Alfred O. Daini .. .	23 Campbell Street, Lagos .. .	044535	310
Mrs S. K. Amadi .. .	15 Atunrase Street, Surulere .. .	044536	311
A. E. Alaneme .. .	35 Ayilara Street, Surulere .. .	044537	312
Mosobalaje Stores .. .	2 Reclamation Road, Lagos .. .	044538	313
Elephant Bros. Pat. Med. Stores .. .	25B Offin Road, Lagos .. .	044539	314
C. Opabiyi Pat. Med. Stores .. .	8 Egerton Street, Lagos .. .	044540	315
Madam D. O. Onanuga .. .	47A Kano Street, Ebute Metta .. .	044541	316
A. A. Ariolofin Pat. Med. Stores .. .	33 Breadfruit Street, Lagos .. .	044542	317
Reciahd Isomo .. .	28 Cardoso Street, Idi-Oro .. .	044543	318
F. A. Omolewu .. .	12A Catholic Mission Street, Lagos .. .	044544	319
Oluseyi Trading Stores .. .	64 Ibadan Street (East), Ebute Metta .. .	044545	320
Oluseyi Trading Stores .. .	81 Lewis Street, Lagos .. .	044546	321
Falilatu Asuni .. .	2 Oroyinyin Street, Lagos .. .	044547	322
Alhaji T. Balogun .. .	33 Ojo-Giwa Street, Lagos .. .	044548	323
Abasi Balogun Pat. Med. Stores .. .	43 Ojo-Giwa Street, Lagos .. .	044549	324
Ganiyu Akinola .. .	43 Ojo-Giwa Street, Lagos .. .	044550	325
Felix Nwokeji .. .	6 Shagbemi Street, Lagos .. .	044551	326
P. Onubogu .. .	23 Ijero Road, Ebute Metta .. .	044552	327

House of Representatives Debates

33

[Written Answers]

20 OCTOBER 1965

[Written Answers]

34

THE LIST OF VENDORS LICENCE HOLDERS 1965—continued

<i>Name of Shop</i>	<i>Address of Premises</i>	<i>Licence No.</i>	<i>Serial No.</i>
A. Uwakwe	1 Bailey Street, Abule-Ijesha	044553	328
S. Oshin	27 Olotu Street, Ebute Metta	044554	329
E. N. O. Johnson	129 Ibadan Street (East), Ebute Metta	044555	330
M. Ezeakume	73 Ibidun Street, Surulere	044556	331
D. S. Yaro	4 Pedro Street, Lagos	044557	332
E. S. Banjo	35 King George V. Road, Lagos	044558	333
E. A. Odubanjo	9 Beckley Street, Ebute Metta	044559	334
Raphael Osunwa	70 Hastrup Street, Surulere	044560	335
British & German Pat. Med. Stores	12 Clifford Street, Ebute Metta	044561	336
British & German Pat. Med. Stores	9 Brown Lane, Ikorodu Road	044562	337
Braimoh Jimoh	19 Moloney Bridge Street, Lagos	044563	338
Mrs A. N. Ibekwe	2 Shodipo Street, Surulere	044564	339
A. O. Aina	74 Griffith Street, Ebute Metta	044565	340
Onuwhe Bros. Pat. Med. Stores	39 Ramos Street, Surulere	044566	341
E. O. Odusanya	11 Ijero Road, Ebute Metta	044567	342
M. A. Olusoga & Bros.	20 Jebba Street (East), Ebute Metta	044568	343
Mrs E. A. Alers	3 Badaru Street, Surulere	044569	344
Madam A. Balogun	12A Bishop Street, Lagos	044570	345
S. Obiala	9 Kadari Street, Ikorodu Road	044571	346
M. Odukemere	20 Falomo Village, Ikoyi	044572	347
Mrs A. Ohilibo	83 Okesuna Street, Lagos	044573	348
S. A. Adeoyo	51 Palm Church Street, Lagos	044574	349
C. Iwuchukwu	91A Lewis Street, Lagos	044575	350
F. A. Omotayo	23 Dumaresque Street, Lagos	044576	351
Mallam S. Olorunkemi	1 Aganga Lane, Lagos	044577	352
E. A. Abolaji & Bros.	26 Docemo Street, Lagos	044578	353
A. A. Ori-Ade	35 Ojo-Giwa Street, Lagos	044579	354
M. Olayiwola	42 Docemo Street, Lagos	044580	355
D. Balogun	11 Abudu Street, Yaba	044581	356
E. E. Bassey	2 Kayode Street, Abule-Ijesha	044582	357
E. E. Isualor	11 Boundary Road, Apapa	044583	358
J. A. Molokwu	1 Aromolu Street, Apapa	044584	359
M. A. Onos Pat. Med. Stores	57 Massey Street, Lagos	044585	360
R. Ajoke	11 Obun-Eko Street, Lagos	044586	361
Adamu Bilili & Sons	58 Palm Church Street, Lagos	044587	362
E. O. Lesi	133 Herbert Macaulay Street, Ebute Metta	044588	363
Oluwa-Toyin Pat. Med. Stores	26 Princess Street, Lagos	044589	364
Liadi Agbole	9 Ishaga Road, Surulere	044590	365
P. I. Chibueze	9 Brickfield Road, Ebute Metta	044591	366
M. O. Yemi	26 Docemo Street, Lagos	044592	367
Mrs Alakwe	4 Omololu Street, Surulere	044593	368
P. W. Orduah	69 Ojuelegba Road, Surulere	044594	369
P. N. Dicolulu	1 Aborishade Road, Surulere	044595	370
L. Bandele Ladipo	29 Alli Street, Lagos	044596	371
S. B. Sanni	15 Ita-Omo Lane, Lagos	044597	372
Mrs A. Ade Ajao	7 Egerton Road, Lagos	044598	373
S. S. Ajala	72c Idumagbo Street, Lagos	044599	374
S. A. Nkwocha	41 Kano Street, E.B.	044600	375
Mrs A. Aboyede	60 Kosoko Street, Lagos	052701	376

THE LIST OF VENDORS LICENCE HOLDERS 1965—continued

Name of Shop	Address of Premises	Licence No.	Serial No.
Modupe Daniya .. .	145 Apapa Road, E.B. .. .	053702	377
Ajayi Ajao .. .	15 Balogun Street (West), Lagos .. .	052703	378
S. A. Ajumobi .. .	12 Egerton Lane, Lagos .. .	052704	379
Broadway Pad M/Stores .. .	95 Lewis Street, Lagos .. .	052705	380
C. I. O. Ojuluwayo .. .	31 Willoughby Street, Lagos .. .	052706	381
Umunnah & Son Trading St .. .	2 Western Avenue E.B. .. .	052707	382
F. N. F. Kwunnife .. .	2 Bale Street, Apapa .. .	052708	383
L. O. Esomojumi .. .	162 Adeniji Adele, Lagos .. .	052709	384
Johnson Asiun .. .	20 Agbekolade Street, Idioro .. .	052710	385
E. M. Wilhelm .. .	2 Beecroft Street, Lagos .. .	052711	386
D. A. Pratt .. .	113 Abayomi Street, Ikate-Itire .. .	052712	387
P. Gbele & Bros .. .	11 Balogun Street (West), Lagos .. .	052713	388
Mrs A. J. Akogu .. .	78 Ojuelegba Road, Surulere .. .	052714	389
F. E. Efunknowo .. .	29 Massey Street, Lagos .. .	052715	390
Y. A. Fashola .. .	29 Ojo-Giwa Street, Lagos .. .	052716	391
L. Aderibigbe .. .	110 Alakoro Marina, Lagos .. .	052717	392
C. N. Ejiogu .. .	45 Odunlami Street, Lagos .. .	052718	393
F. G. Gbotifa .. .	85 Oshodi Street, Lagos .. .	052719	394
J. Adisa .. .	14 Malu Road, Apapa .. .	052720	395
M. A. Oni .. .	14 Dumaresque Street, Lagos .. .	052721	396
Adebola Pat Med. Stores .. .	21/23 Ibadan Street, E.B. .. .	052727	397
S. A. Ojuri .. .	38 Abeokuta Street, E. B. .. .	052723	398
J. Adeyemi & Sons .. .	45 Ojo-Giwa Street, Lagos .. .	052724	399
Mrs A. Odusanya .. .	11 Shomade Lane, Lagos .. .	052725	400
Samson Akolade .. .	12 Okoya Street, Lagos .. .	052726	401
Oreneta Stores .. .	29 Moloney Bridge, Lagos .. .	052727	402
Christanah Igbedaldo .. .	41 King George V Road, Lagos .. .	052728	403
Mrs E. A. Ajayi .. .	25 Jebba Street (West), E.B. .. .	052729	404
G. B. Ollivant Ltd. .. .	182/184 Broad Street, Lagos .. .	052730	405
G. B. Ollivant (Nig) Ltd. .. .	78 Denton Street, E.B. .. .	052731	406
Mrs E. C. Okeoma .. .	23 Akobi Crescent, Surulere .. .	052732	407
T. T. Aiyeteru Stores .. .	10A Esinogodo Lane, Lagos .. .	052733	408
Mogidi Fawehinmi .. .	7 Shalon Street, E.B. .. .	052734	409
Clement Nnandi .. .	45 Awoseyin Street, Bashua .. .	052735	410
Madam S. Abeo .. .	57 Okepopo Street, Lagos .. .	052736	411
Madam Ayinke Subuir .. .	67 Apapa Road, E.B. .. .	052737	412
Madam E. Ewakwe .. .	73 Patey Street, E.B. .. .	052738	413
G. Falemi Stores .. .	1 Pedro Street, Lagos .. .	052739	414
J. A. Ogunmefun .. .	15 Simpson Street, Lagos .. .	052740	415
C. Ogubike .. .	31 Fashoro Street, Surulere .. .	052741	416
J. O. Laiyemo .. .	15A Coates Street, E.B. .. .	052742	417
Edward Odunleye .. .	32 Alli Street, Lagos .. .	052743	418
O. Tade .. .	25 Ibomo Street, Lagos .. .	052744	419
B. O. Tayo .. .	43 Ojo-Giwa Street, Lagos .. .	052745	420
S. O. Bello Orepitan .. .	54 Adeniji Adele Road, Lagos .. .	052746	421
L. R. Adeboye .. .	20 Docemo Street, Lagos .. .	052747	422
Rabin Jimoh .. .	27 Onilegbale Street, Lagos .. .	052748	423
L. A. Oki .. .	24 Bamgbose Street, Lagos .. .	052749	424
Mrs I. Ozoemena .. .	45 Ishaga Road, Surulere .. .	052750	425
L. Babatunde .. .	9 Bankole Street, Lagos .. .	052751	426
S. Ozoemena .. .	19A Atan Road, Surulere .. .	052752	427

House of Representatives Debates

37

[Written Answers]

20 OCTOBER 1965

[Written Answers]

38

THE LIST OF VENDORS LICENCE HOLDERS 1965—*continued*

<i>Name of Shop</i>	<i>Address of Premises</i>	<i>Licence No.</i>	<i>Serial No.</i>
Ise Olodumare Pat. Med. Stores ..	116 Great Bridge Street, Lagos ..	052753	428
V. Onwubiariri	8 Alayabiagba Street, Apapa ..	052754	429
J. Akinade	9 Offin Road, Lagos ..	052755	430
Aminu Ishola	30 Patey Street, Lagos ..	052756	431
Teledalase Pat. Med. Stores ..	17 Denton Bridge Steeet, Lagos ..	052757	432
J. Adenugba	3 Beecroft Street, Lagos ..	052758	433
B. E. Ewuzie	36 Cow Lane, Lagos ..	052759	434
B. E. Enyioma	205 Igbosere Road, Lagos ..	052760	435
Mrs R. Aladi	109 Itire Road, Surulere ..	052761	436
Mrs B. Okunowo	61 Ibadan Street (East), E.B. ..	052762	437
J. K. A. Ogunade	3B Offin Road, Lagos ..	052763	438
J. A. Alalade	27 Oroyinyin Street, Lagos ..	052764	439
G. A. Dosunmu	8 Bishop Street, Lagos ..	052765	440
A. Adegbesan	54 Porter Street, Lagos ..	052766	441
A. O. Adedoyin	12 Church Street, Lagos ..	052767	442
C. O. Anomneze	353 Herbert Macaulay Street, Yaba ..	052768	443
Modinatu Pat. Med. Stores ..	2 Kano Street, E.B. ..	052769	444
Omis Pat. Med. Stores ..	53 Kano Street, E.B. ..	052770	445
Broadway Pat. Med. Stores ..	92 Denton Street, E.B. ..	052771	446
S. O. Adebesin	56 Breadfruit Street, Lagos ..	052772	447
Mrs A. Akogu	3 Cole Street, Surulere ..	052773	448
Waterloo Pat. Med. Stores ..	8 Palm Church Street, Lagos ..	052774	449
Amos Gbenle & Bros. ..	34 Docemo Street, Lagos ..	052775	450
O. Ayanda	25 John Street, Lagos ..	052776	451
A. Awakan	16 Apatira Street, Lagos ..	052777	452
L. A. Ajayi	29 Gillo Street, Ikoyi ..	052777	453
Odusanwo Pat. Med. Stores ..	25 Simpson Street, E.B. ..	052778	454
C. Chukwunenye	72B Simpson Street, E.B. ..	052779	455
I. Mongers Pat. Med. Stores ..	54 Nnamdi Azikiwe Street, Lagos ..	052780	456
Josiah Alo	6 Church Street, Lagos ..	052781	457
Eniola Isaac	129 Bambose Street, Lagos ..	052782	458
J. I. Adesanya	23 Tapa Street, Lagos ..	052783	459
A. Ihegboro	202 Bambose Street, Lagos ..	052784	460
Madam S. Ayinke	94 Tokunboh Street, Lagos ..	052785	461
E. Lawal	2 Sunmonu Bale Court, Lagos ..	052786	462
T. O. Duru	109 Alayabiagba Street, Apapa ..	052787	463
A. Oduneye	12 Nuku Lane, Lagos ..	052788	464
.. ..	54 Aroloya Street, Lagos ..	052789	465
R. Akpalabio	15 Ishaga Road, Surulere ..	052791	466
Mrs V. O. Antonio ..	194 Igbosere Road, Lagos ..	052792	467
Steves Pat. Medicine Stores ..	37 Ojuelegba Road, Surulere ..	052793	468
J. A. Ojeleye	29 Ojo-Giwa Street, Lagos ..	052794	469
J. A. Oderinde	71 Jebba Street (East), Ebute Metta ..	052795	470
Y. Are	47A Ibadan Street, Ebute Metta ..	052796	471
Oredola Trading Stores ..	14 Church Street, Yaba ..	052797	472
Jimoh Awokunle	40 Docemo Street, Lagos ..	052798	473
Alhaji F. A. Olabisi	1 Bada Street, Idi-Oro ..	052799	474
L. S. Solomon	19 Rosamond Street, Surulere ..	052800	475
Oke-Iya Patent Medicine Stores ..	22 Docemo Street, Lagos ..	052801	476

House of Representatives Debates

39

[Written Answers]

20 OCTOBER 1965

[Written Answers]

40

THE LIST OF VENDORS LICENCE HOLDERS 1965—continued

<i>Name of Shop</i>	<i>Address of Premises</i>	<i>Licence No.</i>	<i>Serial No.</i>
Mrs M. A. Oguzie .. .	5 Western Avenue, Ebute Metta..	052802	477
E. M. Odusanya .. .	196 Nnamdi Azikiwe, Lagos ..	052803	478
Iranlowo Oluwa Pat. Med. Stores .. .	12 Nathan Street, Surulere ..	052804	479
R. O. G. Egwatu .. .	5 Ayodele Street, Abule-Oja ..	052805	480
Mrs B. A. Atunrase .. .	88A Great Bridge Street, Lagos ..	052806	481
J. Ovemedu .. .	17 Princess Street, Lagos ..	052807	482
Obajimi Patent Medicine Stores .. .	242 Nnamdi Azikiwe Street, Lagos ..	052808	483
Obajimi Patent Medicine Stores .. .	28 Denton Bridge Street, Ebute Metta ..	052809	484
Salami Omoniyi .. .	25A John Street, Lagos ..	052810	485
D. Olawunmi .. .	2 Balogun Street (West) Lagos ..	052811	486
J. A. Akande .. .	12 Church Street, Lagos ..	052812	487
Adio Trading Stores .. .	46 Itire Road, Surulere ..	052813	488
Alhaji D. A. Abijoh .. .	68 Broad Street, Lagos ..	052814	489
T. U. Nwaehi .. .	24 Ijora Road, Ebute Metta ..	052815	490
Max. Martins .. .	95A Agege Motor Road, Idi-Oro ..	052816	491
A. Oladipo .. .	78 Docemo Street, Lagos ..	052817	492
Mrs. F. O. Ogunnoiki .. .	47 Orok Road, Ebute Metta ..	052818	493
A. O. Akadi & Sons .. .	109A Alakoro Street, Lagos ..	052819	494
Mrs C. Owoaje .. .	4 Pearce Street, Surulere ..	052820	495
Mrs B. Erinle .. .	51 Modele Street, Surulere ..	052821	496
U. Ugbokwe .. .	7 Ajayi Street, Apapa ..	052822	497
Miss S. O. Williams .. .	25 Shop Service and Industry ..	052823	498
Amos Chidi .. .	25 Ipori Village, Ebute Metta ..	052824	499
Alhaji A. R. A. Makanjuola .. .	1 Aganga Lana, Lagos ..	052825	500
M. Umunna .. .	2 Karimu Giwa Street, Ikoyi ..	052826	501
Madam Abeje Souza .. .	15 Apapa Road, Ebute Metta ..	052827	502
Mrs A. Kajuru .. .	94 Ibidun Street, Surulere ..	052828	503
J. O. Adedeji .. .	Ile-Oja Road, Abule-Oja ..	052829	504
M. A. Adeyemi .. .	7 Moloney Bridge Street, Lagos ..	052830	505
N. Kukoyi .. .	13 Freeman Street, Lagos ..	052831	506
Gem. Patent Medicine Stores .. .	18 Tokunboh Street, Lagos ..	052832	507
J. O. Dawodu .. .	299 Nnamdi Azikiwe Street, Lagos ..	052833	508
S. N. Anwuneze .. .	4 Martin Street, Abule-Ijesha ..	052834	509
Mrs A. M. Iwunze .. .	73 Lewis Street, Lagos ..	052835	510
E. O. Anomeze .. .	90 Simpson Street, Ebute Metta ..	052836	511
C. N. Anomneze .. .	6 Lewis Street, Lagos ..	052837	512
F. O. Nwosu .. .	30A Ibidun Street, Surulere ..	052838	513
Mrs B. A. Onye .. .	17 Alakija Street, Yaba ..	052839	514
Alli Uorahim .. .	23 Old Yaba Road, Ebute Metta ..	052840	515
Joshua Nbah .. .	240 Herbert Macaulay Street, Yaba ..	052841	516
Oluwaranti Stores .. .	26 Princess Street, Lagos ..	052842	517
P. A. Ogunsanwo .. .	1 Adebisi Street, Yaba ..	052843	518
Mrs C. Ajaelu .. .	27 Mabo Street, Surulere ..	052844	519
S. O. Ajaelu .. .	10 Ibidun Street, Surulere ..	052845	520
M. Ongeahasi .. .	68 Modele Street, Surulere ..	052846	521
Mr C. Elekwe .. .	10 Aina Street, Obele Oniwala ..	052847	522
A. Atayebi .. .	13 Reclamation Road, Lagos ..	052848	523
M. Balogun .. .	13 Reclamation Road, Lagos ..	052849	524
A. Echefu .. .	26 Ibidun Street, Surulere ..	052850	525
I. A. Onwuka .. .	36 Salawu Street, Surulere ..	052851	526
T. U. Nwaechi .. .	34 Thomas Street, Ebute Metta ..	052852	527

House of Representatives Debates

41

[Written Answers]

20 OCTOBER 1965

[Written Answers]

42

THE LIST OF VENDORS LICENCE HOLDERS 1965—continued

Name of Shop	Address of Premises	Licence No.	Serial No.
Ajibola Patient Medicine Store	23 Isalegangan Street, Lagos	052853	528
Mr Robiechefu	84 Ojuelegba Road, Surulere	052854	529
O. Awosanya	24 Princess Street, Lagos	052855	530
Mrs J. O. Osiqwe	35 Makinde Street, Surulere	052856	531
H. Fehitola	79 Adeniji Street, Lagos	052857	532
K. Sanyaolu	70 Olushi Street, Lagos	052858	533
N. Adeoye	44 Breadfruit Street, Lagos	052859	534
N. A. Aigoro	32 Abolade Street, Lagos	052860	535
T. Odeku	52 Breadfruit Street, Lagos	052861	536
Madam V. O. Ojutoye	3 Andrew Street, Lagos	052862	537
Madam S. Ajao	8 Ipaye Street, Lagos	052863	538
Madam Ibidun Coker	17 Lawani Street, Idi-Oro	052864	539
M. Balogun	12 Docemo Street, Lagos	052965	540
F. Ajoke	59 Patience Street, Lagos	052866	541
S. Anike	35 Isalegangan Street, Lagos	052867	542
A. A. Suberu	3 Lemomu-Dawodu Street, Lagos	052868	543
A. Agbeke	43 Oluwole Street, Lagos	052869	544
Olufunmilayo Abeke	186 Bamgbosé Street, Lagos	052870	545
R. Ajunwun	5 Idunshagbe Street, Lagos	052871	546
R. A. Aigoro	18 Mosalasi Street, Lagos	052872	547
H. Ashabi	3 Idowu Street, Lagos	052873	548
M. Agunbiade	14 Ologun Street, Lagos	052874	549
H. Bambose	55 Obun-Eko Street, Lagos	052875	550
R. Agbeke	33 Shitta Street, Lagos	052876	551
S. Jimoh	8 Offin Road, Lagos	052877	552
M. Mosobalaje	33 Princess Street, Lagos	052878	553
M. Akinola	25A Princess Street, Lagos	052879	554
S. Olajide	8 Ipaye Street, Lagos	052880	555
A. Iginla	28 Omididun Street, Lagos	052881	556
S. Sanni	44 Massey Street, Lagos	052882	557
S. Aduke	78 Odunfa Street, Lagos	052883	558
A. Balogun	42 Docemo Street, Lagos	052884	559
S. O. Oshieye	3 Agege Motor Road, Idi-Oro	052885	560
P. Nbah	10 Agege Motor Road, Idi-Oro	052886	561
C. A. Nbagwu	13 Lawani Street, Surulere	052887	562
T. O. Adebano	25 Anikantamo Street, Lagos	052888	563
V. Y. Grigi	6 Olukole Street, Surulere	052889	564
Mrs A. Ogebule	13 Denton Bridge Street, Ebute Metta	052890	565
Invincible Pat. Med. Stores	59 Oroyinyin Street, Lagos	052891	566
Temitayo & Bros.	43 Ojo-Giwa Street, Lagos	052892	567
Mdm. Felicia	55 Jebba Street, Ebute Metta	052893	568
M/S Brian Munro	20 Ware House Road, Apapa	052894	569
Mrs S. A. Taiwo	4 Turton Street, Lagos	052895	570
C. Okeke	2 Mathew Street, Surulere	052896	571
O. A. Odubanjo	46A Odunfa Street, Lagos	052897	572
J. A. Oyeleye	9 Carter Street, Ebute Metta	052898	573
M/S Bhojsons & Co.	4/6 Denton Street, Ebute Metta	052899	574
Y. A. Sunmola	25 Willoughby Street, Ebute Metta	052900	575
Madam S. T. Olukoya	16 Atiko Street, Lagos	044601	576

House of Representatives Debates

43

[Written Answers]

20 OCTOBER 1965

[Written Answers]

44

THE LIST OF VENDORS LICENCE HOLDERS 1965—continued

<i>Name of Shop</i>	<i>Address of Premises</i>	<i>Licence No.</i>	<i>Serial No.</i>
T. Agbosi .. .	14 Atiko Street, Lagos .. .	044602	577
Miss F. A. Byron .. .	12 Okoya Street, Lagos .. .	044603	578
Salawu Ajide.. .	79 Asongbo Street, Lagos .. .	044604	579
Y. A. Sanni .. .	83A Freeman Street, Lagos .. .	044605	580
Ayo Taiwo .. .	26A Denton Bridge Street, Ebute Metta .. .	044606	581
O. Taiwo .. .	2 Ademuyiwa Road, Ebute Metta .. .	044607	582
G. Unegbu .. .	80 Ojuelegba Road, Surulere .. .	044608	583
W. A. Effing .. .	51 Kugbayi Street, Idi-Oro .. .	044609	584
S. O. Shetan .. .	7 Bridge Street, Lagos .. .	044610	585
A. R. Buari & Sons .. .	31 Griffith Street, Lagos .. .	044611	586
V. A. Oke .. .	5 Denton Bridge Street, Lagos .. .	044612	587
A. O. Williams .. .	28 Griffith Street, Ebute Metta .. .	044613	588
W. & Patner .. .	25B Offin Road, Lagos .. .	044614	589
Madam Regina Ihenacho .. .	14 Onasanya Street, Surulere .. .	044615	590
P. O. Soretire .. .	35 Maye Street, Yaba .. .	044616	591
J. O. Osuyemen .. .	197 Ojuelegba Road, Surulere .. .	044617	592
S. A. Osuji .. .	31 Oil Mill Street, Lagos .. .	044618	593
S. Oyinloye .. .	3 Cole Street, Surulere .. .	044619	594
Mosebalaje Pat. Med. Stores .. .	37 Palm Church Street, Lagos .. .	044620	595
M. A. Arohinpara .. .	17 Oshodi Street, Lagos .. .	044621	596
K. Ajola & Bros. .. .	6 Balogun Street (West), Lagos .. .	044622	597
J. M. Obasanya .. .	42/44 Daddy Alaja Street, Lagos .. .	044623	598
S. Odejayi .. .	19 Old Yaba Road, Ebute Metta .. .	044624	599
Oluwani Stores .. .	2 Martins Road, Surulere .. .	044625	600
S. Bieni .. .	12A Okesuna Street, Idi-Oro .. .	044626	601
Ola Olu Company Ltd. .. .	49/51 Fashoro Street, Surulere .. .	044627	602
Mrs R. Nnah .. .	36 Itire Road, Surulere .. .	044628	603
Ola Olu Company Ltd. .. .	49 Fashoro Street, Surulere .. .	044629	604
B. N. Unachukwu .. .	6 Petit Daho Street, Bashua .. .	044630	605
N. N. Adeyemi .. .	60 Bola Street, Ebute Metta .. .	044631	606
H. Edun .. .	84 Tokunboh Street, Lagos .. .	044632	607
Mrs. L. Ejirigu .. .	77 Tokunboh Street, Lagos .. .	044633	608
H. A. Ofoka .. .	60 Modele Street, Surulere .. .	044634	609
H. A. Ofoka .. .	67 Herb. Mac. Street, Ebute Metta .. .	044635	610
Mrs A. Akposha .. .	38 Princes Street, Lagos .. .	044636	611
A. Akposha .. .	38 Freeman Street, Lagos .. .	044637	612
O. George .. .	24 Eletu Odibo Street, Abule Ijesha .. .	044638	613
S. T. Sosan .. .	28 Simpson Street, Ebute Metta .. .	044639	614
Co-op Supply Ass. Ltd. .. .	349 Herb. Mac. Street, Yaba .. .	044640	615
A. O. Ainer .. .	74 Griffith Street, Ebute Metta .. .	044641	616
Madam C. Dosunmu .. .	8 Marina Street, Ikoyi .. .	044642	617
CANCELLED .. .	.. .	044643	618
N. K. Balogun .. .	184c Idumagbo Marina, Lagos .. .	044644	619
E. I. Popoola .. .	6 Glover Street, Ebute Metta .. .	044645	620
Tesilimi Dawodu .. .	2 Beecroft Street, Lagos .. .	044646	621
Miss F. Akosile .. .	49/51 Docemo Street, Lagos .. .	044647	622
P. A. Balogun .. .	42 Docemo Street, Lagos .. .	044648	623
Ola-Oluwa Comm. Agency .. .	21/23 Bamgbose Street, Lagos .. .	044649	624
Bamishebi Comm. Agency .. .	28 Fagbenro Street, Surulere .. .	044650	625
Madam A. Akadiri .. .	65 Odunlami Street, Lagos .. .	044651	626

House of Representatives Debates

45

[Written Answers]

20 OCTOBER 1965

[Written Answers]

46

THE LIST OF VENDORS LICENCE HOLDERS 1965—*continued*

Name of Shop	Address of Premises	Licence No.	Serial No.
Mrs B. N. Ademekwe ..	115 Bamgbose Street, Lagos ..	044652	627
A. C. Ibekwe ..	7 Oshodi Street, Lagos ..	044653	628
S. A. Buraimoh ..	33 Ojo-Giwa Street, Lagos ..	044654	629
A. S. Ukaigwe ..	27 Jacob Street, Surulere ..	044655	630
M. D. Onyemache ..	161 Bamgbose Street, Lagos ..	044656	631
I. Ogboye ..	5 Odaliki Street, Ebute Metta ..	044657	632
A. O. Odubiyi ..	11 Ishaga Road, Surulere ..	044658	633
J. A. Ojo ..	62 Odo Street, Lagos ..	044659	634
A. Awoyemi ..	23 Bridge Street, Lagos ..	044660	635
Mrs B. A. Fagbahun ..	69 Agege Motor Road, Idi-Oro ..	044661	636
F. Ojoikuye ..	3 Herb. Mac. Street, Ebute Metta ..	044662	637
K. O. Sule ..	18 Oko Baba Street, Ebute Metta ..	044663	638
Miss A. A. Adeoye ..	5 Moloney Bridge Street, Lagos ..	044664	639
A. Sanni ..	44 Massey Street, Lagos ..	044665	640
E. O. Bolariva & Bros. ..	11 L.E.D.B. Shop, Balogun Sq., Lagos ..	044666	641
C. Onuegbu ..	20 Simpson Street, Lagos ..	044667	642
E. Komoniya ..	2 Moshalashi Street, Lagos ..	044668	643
M. Surakatu ..	4 Moshalashi Street, Lagos ..	044669	644
O. Orinion ..	2 Ajayi Street, Apapa ..	044670	645
A. O. Ifadi ..	164 Bamgbose Street, Lagos ..	044671	646
K. A. Akindele & Sons ..	12 Okoya Street, Lagos ..	044672	647
S. A. Lawal ..	7 Idoluwo Street, Lagos ..	044673	648
C. E. Agbobi ..	16 Berkley Street, Lagos ..	044674	649
Madam O. A. Akappo ..	19 Akappo Street, Lagos ..	044675	650
Alice Ozeaauma ..	21 Ajayi Street, Apapa ..	044676	651
S. Kufosole ..	24 Jacob Street, Surulere ..	044677	652
Itakim Pat. Med. Stores ..	23 Daddy Alaja Street, Lagos ..	044678	653
T. Olashoju ..	44 Akanni Street, Lagos ..	044679	654
Mrs S. Ojuntona ..	11 Ibidun Street, Surulere ..	044680	655
O. Ogunleye ..	10 Docemo Street, Lagos ..	044681	656
A. Johnson ..	164 Bamgbose Street, Lagos ..	044682	657
A. Y. Suka ..	22 Freeman Street, Lagos ..	044683	658
J. Stores 22 ..	22 Docemo Street, Lagos ..	044684	698
Olu-Right Time Stores ..	12 Ashogbon Street, Lagos ..	044685	660
R. U. Enwereji ..	29 Olajuwon Street, Surulere ..	044686	661
A. A. Ogunnaike ..	66 Herbert Macaulay Street, Ebute Metta ..	044687	662
P. N. Ejim ..	23 Oja Road, Yaba ..	044688	663
Oluwatoyin Stores ..	18 Simpson Street, Ebute Metta ..	044689	664
N. O. Ongemanche ..	18 Simpson Street, Ebute Metta ..	044690	665
Mrs V. Ugboaja ..	6 Abiona Close, Surulere ..	044691	666
N. O. Ongemauche ..	18 Simpson Street, Ebute Metta ..	044692	667
Guardian Pat. Med. Stores ..	25A Princess Street, Lagos ..	044693	668
Mrs B. Ogebule ..	22 Ijero Road, Ebute Metta ..	044694	669
S. Arikewuyo ..	45 Docemo Street, Lagos ..	044695	670
C. Bamgbеле ..	92 Lewis Street, Lagos ..	044696	671
R. Alimi ..	5 Beecroft Street, Lagos ..	044697	672
S. O. Bankole ..	2 Ojo Street, Lagos ..	044698	673
L. Jimoh ..	118 Apapa Road, Ebute Metta ..	044699	674
J. O. Olunuga ..	62 Ajeniya Street, Lagos ..	044700	675

House of Representatives Debates

47

[Written Answers]

20 OCTOBER 1965

[Written Answers]

48

THE LIST OF VENDORS LICENCE HOLDERS 1965—continued

<i>Name of Shop</i>	<i>Address of Premises</i>	<i>Licence No.</i>	<i>Serial No.</i>
M. O. Okpara ..	107A Ojuelegba Street, Surulere ..	044701	676
P. Ejim & Sons ..	65 L.E.D.B. Shop, Idumagbo Avenue ..	044702	677
S. A. Sule ..	10c Okoya Street, Lagos ..	044703	678
R. Olufisan ..	40 Ajeniya Street, Lagos ..	044704	679
Y. Oyelola ..	62 Ajeniya Street, Lagos ..	044705	680
A. Olorunsola ..	3 Moshalasi Street, Lagos ..	044706	681
C. O. Ezirin ..	105 Igbosere Road, Lagos ..	044707	682
J. O. Daodu ..	6 Ojo Street, Lagos ..	044708	683
N. Oshipelu ..	59 Odo Street, Lagos ..	044709	684
R. Adekipe ..	41 Docemo Street, Lagos ..	044710	685
A. Akposha ..	38 Freeman Street, Lagos ..	044711	686
A. A. Ayorinde ..	20 Reclamation Road, Lagos ..	044712	687
S. Odunuga ..	10 Bankole Street, Lagos ..	044713	688
Mrs L. O. Nwaji ..	7 Ugbewuko Street, Apapa ..	044714	689
A. Odunde ..	1 Toyen Street, Lagos ..	044715	690
A. O. Aiyinke ..	59 Cemetery Street, Lagos ..	044716	691
S. Emeama ..	17 Okesuna Road, Idi-Oro ..	044717	692
M. A. Adu ..	30 Luther Street, Lagos ..	044718	693
L. A. Azoba ..	30 Bale Street, Ikoyi ..	044719	694
V. A. Onajobi ..	2 Idumagbo Street, Lagos ..	044720	695
C. I. Adegbite ..	55 Brickfield Road, Ebute Metta ..	044721	696
J. A. Olugbadi ..	77 L.E.D.B. Shop, Idumagbo Avenue ..	044722	697
M. K. Mayungbe ..	40 Inabere Street, Lagos ..	044723	698
E. A. Onanga ..	5 Carrena Street, Lagos ..	044724	699
T. B. Fagbayimu ..	1 Fagbayimu Crescent, Ebute Metta ..	044725	700
Ajayi Pat. Med. Stores ..	50 Docemo Street, Lagos ..	044726	701
CANCELLED ..	.. .. ..	044727	702
Olumoyer & Bros. Pat. Med. Stores ..	124 Freeman Street, Lagos ..	044728	703
K. Oduntan ..	8 Tapa Street, Lagos ..	044729	704
D. Adesile ..	5 Balogun Street, Lagos ..	044730	705
N. S. Isola ..	111 Patey Street, Ebute Metta ..	044731	706
CANCELLED ..	.. .. ..	—	707
I. O. Ike ..	240 Herbert Macaulay Street, Yaba ..	044732	708
J. I. Oduyingbo ..	32 Odo Street, Obalende ..	044732	709
A. J. Steward (Nig.) Ltd. ..	Elegbata Marina, Lagos ..	044734	710
Chief L. E. Otabirise ..	70 Abule Nla Road, Ebute Metta ..	044735	711
K. Adesanya ..	9 Campbell Street, Lagos ..	044736	712
S. Isima ..	5 Adenekan Street, Yaba ..	044737	713
Faith Pat. Med. Stores ..	1B Harbour Road, Apapa ..	044738	714
B. A. Oderinde ..	L.E.D.B. Shop 22, Surulere ..	044739	715
M. I. Onigbanjo ..	72 Apongbon Street, Lagos ..	044740	716
T. A. Koyi ..	42 Apena Street, Surulere ..	044741	717
Alhaji Sule ..	5 Ofin Road, Lagos ..	044742	718
V. I. Lasende ..	62 Ibadan Street (West) Ebute Metta ..	044743	719
M. A. Amadike ..	60 Fale Street, Apapa ..	044744	720
Felicia ..	55 Jebba Street, Ebute Metta ..	044745	721
R. F. Morakinyi ..	56 Herbert Macaulay Street, Ebute Metta ..	044746	722
F. Ihedioha ..	35 Igbosere Road, Lagos ..	044747	723
J. Oshin ..	77 Odo Street, Lagos ..	044748	724
M. E. Ilori ..	66 Queens Street, Yaba ..	044749	725
S. O. Sowola ..	17 Church Street, Lagos ..	044750	726

House of Representatives Debates

49

[Written Answers]

20 OCTOBER 1965

[Written Answers]

50

THE LIST OF VENDORS LICENCE HOLDERS 1965—continued

<i>Name of Shop</i>	<i>Address of Premises</i>	<i>Licence No.</i>	<i>Serial No.</i>
M. B. Awosemo	80 Wakeman Street, Yaba	044751	727
A. Sangotade	171 Herbert Macaulay Street Ebute Metta	044752	728
Alafia Pat. Med. Stores	8 Freeman Street, Lagos	044753	729
Y. Oloko	52 Odo Street, Obalende, Lagos	044754	730
A. Owoeye	39 Odo Street, Lagos	044755	731
W. Abagu	78 Odunfa Street, Lagos	044756	732
E. A. Chikezie	17 Karimu Street, Surulere	044757	733
A. S. Odofin & Sons	14 Igunu Street, Lagos	044758	734
T. Odire	18 Docemo Street, Lagos	044758	735
E. S. Oshin	33 Cemetery Street, Ebute Metta	044760	736
S.C.O.A.	Marina Street, Lagos	044761	737
M. Alao	2 Oroyinyin Street, Lagos	044762	738
CANCELLED .. ..	.. ..	—	739
A. Alagbala	4 Agarawu Street, Lagos	044763	740
M. Anochiana	8 Banire Street, Surulere	044764	741
CANCELLED .. ..	.. ..	—	742
M. Anochiam	62 Ibidun Street, Surulere	044765	743
A. Okoh	5 Ayodele Street, Ikorodu Road	044766	744
O. Oyebigba	31 Okobaba Street, Ebute Metta	044767	745
G. Ade Pat. Med. Stores	25A Alli Street, Lagos	044768	746
Igbehin Adun Pat. Med. Stores	4 Palm Church Street, Lagos	044769	747
F. O. Okafor	24 Marina Street, Onike Village	044770	748
J. Sule	4 Pedro Street, Lagos	044771	749
N. C. Nzeqi	1 Abimbola Shodipo Street, Surulere	044772	750
S. A. Odunsanya	129 Patey Street, Ebute Metta	044773	751
S. A. Odunsanya	34 Glover Street, Ebute Metta	044774	752
R. O. Aransiola	11 Pedro Street, Lagos	044775	753
C. Sunday Meme	1 Taiwo Street, Apapa	044776	754
L. Suman	23 Inabere Street, Lagos	044777	755
E. A. Shoetan	117 L.E.D.B. Shop Breadfruit, Lagos	044778	756
R. Oyabanjo	40 Freeman Street, Lagos	044779	757
S. Emeama	240 Herbert Macaulay Street, Yaba	044780	758
Independence Pat. Med. Stores	1 Goriola Street, Apapa	044781	759
M. Anifowoshe	10 Odo Street, Lagos	044782	760
Ayodele Olusanya	32 Agarawu Street, Lagos	044783	761
O. Onabando & Bros.	12A Bishop Street, Lagos	044784	762
A. Ekabua	67 Aiyilara Street, Surulere	044785	763
Ipese Oil Company	8 Oyingbo Road, Ebute Metta	044786	764
C. Udozor	86 Obalende Road, Lagos	044787	765
CANCELLED .. ..	.. ..	—	766
Tanfeani Pat. Med. Stores	60 Smith Street, Lagos	044788	767
R. Arungwa	1 Jacob Street, Ikorodu Road	044789	768
B. Adeoti Stores	26 Docemo Street, Lagos	044790	779
R. Abeke	57 Odunfa Street, Lagos	044791	770
M. O. Aiyegebusi	72 Odunfa Street, Lagos	044792	771
S. Kajinde	226 Herbert Macaulay Street, Yaba	044793	772
C. Nze	25 Nathan Street, Surulere	044794	773
S. A. Tariah!	90 Olukole Close, Surulere	044795	774
O. Adesina	58 Smith Street, Lagos	044796	775
M. Alabi	111 Alakoro Marina, Lagos	044797	776
M. Ajiboye	19 Docemo Street, Lagos	044798	777

House of Representatives Debates

51

[Written Answers]

20 OCTOBER 1965

[Written Answers]

52

THE LIST OF VENDORS LICENCE HOLDERS 1965—*continued*

<i>Name of Shop</i>	<i>Address of Premises</i>	<i>Licence No.</i>	<i>Serial No.</i>
S. G. B. Odunowo .. .	218 Nnamdi Azikiwe Street, Lagos .. .	044799	778
O. Adeniran .. .	7 Oroyinyin Street, Lagos .. .	044800	779
P. U. Mbanugo .. .	1 Folarin Street, Idi-Oro .. .	002001	780
N. Bada .. .	133 Tokunboh Street, Lagos .. .	002002	781
Mrs S. Idowu .. .	65 Agege Motor Road, Idi-Oro .. .	002003	782
Mrs N. Lemechi .. .	53 Foresythe Street, Lagos .. .	002004	783
T. O. John .. .	18 Eleshin Street, Obalende, Lagos .. .	002005	784
S. I. Banjo .. .	11 Sunmonu Bale Court, Lagos .. .	002006	785
C. I. Cole .. .	20 Kadara Street, Ebute Metta .. .	002007	786
E. Onatimehin .. .	60 Smith Street, Lagos .. .	002008	787
Lawal Bada Trading Stores .. .	19 Ashogbon Street, Lagos .. .	002009	788
E. A. Iyamolere .. .	63 Princess Street, Lagos .. .	002010	789
R. E. Maduakor .. .	83 Ojuelegba Road, Surulere .. .	002011	890
Timohy Agboola .. .	6 Balogun Street (West) Lagos .. .	002012	791
D. O. Fapohunda .. .	54 Howley Street, Lagos .. .	002013	792
Z. A. Ajayi .. .	73 Okesuna Street, Lagos .. .	00214	793
Mrs T. Eke .. .	4 Martin Street, Abule Ijesha .. .	002015	794
J. H. Doherty Ltd. .. .	88/92 Broad Street, Lagos .. .	002016	795
Mrs F. O. Carrena .. .	69 Bangbose Street, Lagos .. .	002017	796
R. A. Akinboboh & Sons .. .	9 Egerton Lane, Lagos .. .	002018	797
Service West Africa .. .	8 Elegbata Street, Lagos .. .	002019	798
M. Lemechi .. .	17 Odo Street, Lagos .. .	002020	799
G. Okwara .. .	29B Berkley Street, Lagos .. .	002021	800
A. Ayeni .. .	74 Lewis Street, Lagos .. .	002022	801
G. Dosumu .. .	7 Moshalasi Street, Lagos .. .	002023	802
I. Iwuagwu .. .	154 Herbert Macaulay Street, E.B. .. .	002024	803
Mrs G. O. Rosanwo .. .	12 Akinhanmi Street, Surulere .. .	002025	804
Bolaji Adenuga .. .	1A Foresythe Street, Lagos .. .	002026	805
W. A. Chemist .. .	63 Idumagbo Avenue, Lagos .. .	002027	806
A. Abiru .. .	74 Docemo Street, Lagos .. .	002028	807
Madam S. Ejide .. .	55 Ademuyiwa Road, Ebute Metta .. .	002029	808
P. Oluihbo .. .	18 Oluwa Street, Apapa .. .	002030	809
A. A. Badejoh .. .	Plot J.63 Maroko Village .. .	002031	810
Ife Oluwa Pat. Med. Stores .. .	Maroko Village, Lagos .. .	002032	811
F. O. Asonya .. .	7 Docemo Street, Lagos .. .	002033	812
S. A. Okoosi .. .	39 Smith Street, Lagos .. .	002034	813
L. Abudu .. .	2 Moshalasi Street, Lagos .. .	002035	814
Olaide Brothers .. .	18A Omididun Street, Lagos .. .	002036	815
M. Baruwa .. .	29 Ojo-Giwa Street, Lagos .. .	002037	816
Egba Trading Aradan .. .	18 Denton Bridge Street, Ebute Metta .. .	002038	817
G. E. Igbo .. .	315 Herbert Macaulay Street, Yaba .. .	002039	818
Mrs O. Tekerebo .. .	6 Mba Street, Apapa .. .	002040	819
Madam J. Ishola .. .	236 Herbert Macaulay Street, Yaba .. .	002041	820
Mrs E. Ogundein .. .	44 Willoughby Street, Ebute Metta .. .	002042	821
M. A. Vidal .. .	25 Ondo Street (East), Ebute Metta .. .	002043	822
M. Ashake .. .	27 Alakoro Marina, Lagos .. .	002044	823
T. Adebayo .. .	72 Nnamdi Azikiwe Street, Lagos .. .	002045	824
Akin Ero Phillip .. .	67 Igbosere Road, Lagos .. .	002046	825
J. Modupe .. .	16 Reclamation Road, Lagos .. .	002047	826
Manufacturers Agency Ltd. .. .	19 Martin Street, Lagos .. .	002048	827
V. Adu .. .	1 Olowu Street, Lagos .. .	002049	828

ration) Bill ..	2538-2539	Angulu Ahmed, Alhaji (Minister of State) :
Lagos Senators Bill 1965 ..	2446-2447	Police (Amendment) Bill 2292
Ahamefula, Mr D. O. :		Announcements 2265, 2545
Borrowing by Public Bodies Bill ..	2789-2790	Are, Alhaji K. O. S. :

House of Representatives Debates

53 [Written Answers] 20 OCTOBER 1965 [Written Answers] 54

THE LIST OF VENDORS LICENCE HOLDERS 1965--continued

Name of Shop	Address of Premises	Licence No.	Serial No.
Oriola-Ore Pat. Med. Stores ..	28 Docemo Street, Lagos ..	002050	829
Jonathan Ajuku ..	6 Atan Road, Idi-Oro ..	002051	830
Karimu Olayinka ..	30 Agege Motor Road, Idi-Oro ..	002052	831
J. Ade Koya ..	26 Ondo Street (East), Ebute Metta ..	002053	832
S. A. Fasan ..	6 Mosuro Street, Abule Oja ..	002054	833
R. Adebawale ..	L.E.D.B. Plot J.89 Maroko Village ..	002055	834
Mrs C. Fofah ..	43 Odejaiyi Crescent Surulere ..	002056	835
E. Nassar & Co. ..	109 Alakoro Marina, Lagos ..	002057	836
M. Adekeye Pat. Med. Stores ..	19 Akumagbo Avenue, Lagos ..	002058	837
S & F Laluota & Bros. ..	25A Princess Street, Lagos ..	002059	838
M. B. Fadipe ..	1 Palm Church Street, Lagos ..	002060	839
M. J. Alagbe & Bros. ..	2 Alawode Lane, Lagos ..	002061	840
F. Patougha ..	Alayagbiagba Ajegunle ..	002062	841
L. Francy ..	85A Orodu Street, Apapa ..	002063	842
John Eyaforwho ..	20 Berkley Street, Lagos ..	002064	843

	<i>Column</i>		<i>Column</i>
Bassey, Mr S. U. :		Food and Drugs (Lagos) Bill :	
Aid from Socialist Countries .. .	11 Q	Presented and 1R .. .	2411
Bulgaria .. .	11 Q	2R .. .	2509
Car Advances for Senators and M.P.s. 2585-2587		Com. .. .	2516
Ikeja Meteorological Office Tower .. .	2461 Q	3R .. .	2516
Representation in China .. .	2360 Q	Lagos Local Government (Amendment) Bill :	
Travel to Eastern Europe .. .	2359 Q	Presented and 1R .. .	2290
Visiting Forces Bill .. .	2384-2385, 2386-2387	2R .. .	2368
Benson, Chief T. O. S. : .. .		Com. .. .	2369
Rent Control (Lagos) Amendment Bill 2796-2801		3R .. .	2369
Bills :		Lagos Senators Bill :	
Allocation of Revenue (Constitutional Amendment) Bill :		Presented and 1R .. .	2291
Presented and 1R.. .	2368	2R .. .	2432
2R .. .	2465	Com. .. .	2519
Com. .. .	2486	3R .. .	2520
3R .. .	2486	Legal Education (Pensions) Bill :	
Borrowing by Public Bodies Bill :		Presented and 1R .. .	2412
Presented and 1R .. .	2411	2R .. .	2802
2R .. .	2786	Com. .. .	2803
Com. .. .	2792	3R .. .	2803
3R .. .	2792	Legal Practitioners (Amendment) Bill :	
Casino Taxation Bill :		Presented and 1R .. .	2411
Presented and 1R .. .	2292	2R .. .	2804
2R .. .	2517	Com. .. .	2804
Com. .. .	2517	3R .. .	2804
3R .. .	2517	Liquor Licensing (Amendment) Bill :	
Control of Advertisements (Lagos) Bill :		Presented and 1R .. .	2291
Presented and 1R .. .	2290	2R .. .	2431
2R .. .	2348	Com. .. .	2432
Com. .. .	2353	3R .. .	2432
3R .. .	2353	National Day Bill :	
Council of Ministers (Evidence) Bill :		Presented and 1R .. .	2366
Presented and 1R .. .	2411	2R .. .	2412
2R .. .	2804	Com. .. .	2428
Com. .. .	2805	3R .. .	2428
3R .. .	2805	Oil Pipelines (Amendment) Bill :	
Currency Bill :		Presented and 1R .. .	2291
Presented and 1R .. .	2290	2R .. .	2394
2R .. .	2322	Com. .. .	2406
Com. .. .	2337	3R .. .	2407
3R .. .	2337	Parliament (Disqualification) Bill :	
Customs and Excise Management (Amend- ment) (No. 2) Bill :		Presented and 1R .. .	2291
Presented and 1R .. .	2367	2R .. .	2518
2R .. .	2490	Com. .. .	2518
Com. .. .	2492	3R .. .	2519
3R .. .	2492	Pensions (Transferred Service) Bill :	
Excise (Control of Distillation) (Amend- ment) Bill :		Presented and 1R .. .	2367
Presented and 1R .. .	2367	2R .. .	2504
2R .. .	2502	Com. .. .	2505
Com. .. .	2504	3R .. .	2505
3R .. .	2504	Police (Amendment) Bill :	
Excise Tariff Bill :		Presented and 1R .. .	2290
Presented and 1R .. .	2411	2R .. .	2292
2R .. .	2783	Com. .. .	2322
Com. .. .	2785	3R .. .	2322
3R .. .	278	Registered Land Bill :	
Federal Electoral Commission (Remunera- tion) Bill :		Presented and 1R .. .	2290
Presented and 1R .. .	2367	2R .. .	2337
2R .. .	2521	Com. .. .	2339
Com. .. .	—	3R .. .	2339
3R .. .	—	Remuneration of the President Bill :	
		Presented and 1R .. .	2290
		2R .. .	2341
		Com. .. .	2344
		3R .. .	2348

	Column		Column
Rent Control (Lagos) Amendment Bill :			
Presented and 1R ..	2411		
2R ..	2792		
Com. ..	2802		
3R ..	2802		
Supplementary Appropriation (1965-66) Bill :			
Presented and 1R..	2410		
2R ..	2493		
Com. Head 21 ..	2700		
Com. Head 23 ..	2701		
Com. Head 25 ..	2701		
Com. Head 26 ..	2701		
Com. Head 29 ..	2701		
Com. Head 37 ..	2701		
Com. Head 42 ..	2702		
Com. Head 43 ..	2702		
Com. Head 47 ..	2702		
Com. Head 49 ..	2702		
Com. Head 52 ..	2702		
Com. Head 53 ..	2703		
Com. Head 58 ..	2703		
Com. Head 61 ..	2703		
Com. Head 62 ..	2703		
Com. Head 67 ..	2706		
3R ..	2707		
Com. Head 621 ..	2708		
Com. Head 622 ..	2709		
Com. Head 624 ..	2713		
Com. Head 627 ..	2719		
Com. Head 630 ..	2723		
Com. Head 631 ..	2725		
Com. Head 633 ..	2726		
Com. Head 634 ..	2726		
Com. Head 636 ..	2733		
Com. Head 637 ..	2736		
Com. Head 638 ..	2744		
Trade Marks Bill :			
Presented and 1R ..	2368		
2R ..	2505		
Com. ..	2507		
3R ..	2507		
Visiting Forces Bill :			
Presented and 1R ..	2291		
2R ..	2379		
Com. ..	2390		
3R ..	2391		
Workmen's Compensation (Amendment) Bill :			
Presented and 1R..	2291		
2R ..	2369		
Com. ..	2379		
3R ..	2379		
Borha, Mr L. L. :			
Emoluments of Senators and M.Ps. ..	2564		
Workmen's Compensation (Amendment) Bill ..	2371-2372, 2378		
Borrowing by Public Bodies Bill (see Bills)			
Briggs, Mr W. O. :			
Adam Egbuson ..	2363 Q		
Compensation for Destroyed Mangrove ..	2555 Q		
Federal Electoral Commission (Remuneration) Bill ..	2521-2528		
Fisheries Development ..	2462 Q		
Gold Deposits ..	14 Q		
Mangrove Timber Report ..	2645 Q		
Niger Delta Development Board ..	2270 Q		
		Oil Royalties ..	12 Q
		Pier Pontoons ..	2459 Q
		Representation in Israel ..	2360 Q
		Sombriero Company ..	2458 Q
		Business Statement :	2275-2277
			2462-2464
			C
		Casino Taxation Bill (see Bills)	
		Committees :	
		Report from Business Committee ..	2409
		Communications, Minister of (Hon. R. A. Njoku) :	
		Council of Ministers (Evidence) Bill ..	2804-2805
		National Day Bill ..	2416
		Supplementary Appropriation Bill : Committee Head 627 ..	2722-2723
		Control of Advertisements (Lagos) Bill (see Bills)	
		Council of Ministers (Evidence) Bill (see Bills)	
		Currency Bill (see Bills)	
		Customs and Excise Management (Amendment) (No. 2) Bill (see Bills)	
		Customs Tariff (Duties and Exemptions)	
		(No. 2) Order 1965 ..	2746
		(No. 3) Order 1965 ..	2747
			D
		Dada, Chief P. O. A. :	
		Car Advances to Senators and M.Ps. ..	2583-2584
		Customs Tariff (Duties and Exemptions) :	
		(No. 2) Order 1965 ..	2746-2747
		(No. 3) Order 1965 ..	2768-2769
		National Day Bill ..	2423-2424
		Supplementary Appropriation Bill : Com. Head 636 ..	2733-2734
		Damla, Mr J. M. :	
		Commonwealth Prime Ministers' Conference ..	2640
		Federal Electoral Commission Bill ..	2654 Q
		(Private Notice)	
		Illegal Export of Hemp ..	2357 Q
		Industrial Bank Loans ..	2547 Q
		North Geological Surveys ..	2554 Q
		Supplementary Appropriation Bill : Com. Head 627 ..	2719-2720
		U.D.C. Interest Rates ..	2545 Q
		Daniyan, Mr J. S. :	
		Supplementary Appropriation Bill : Com. Head 630 ..	2723-2724
		Defence, Minister of (Alhaji the hon. Muhammadu Inuwa Wada) :	
		Car Advances for Senators and M.Ps. ..	2587
		Emoluments of Senators and M.Ps. ..	2566-2567

	<i>Column</i>		<i>Column</i>
Recruitment into the Army ..	2629-2630, 2634-2635	Excise (Control of Distillation) (Amendment) Bill (<i>see Bills</i>)	
Visiting Forces Bill ..	2379-2381, 2385- 2386, 2391	Excise Tariff Bill (<i>see Bills</i>)	
Dimka, Mr D. :		Ezera, Professor Kalu : ..	
Supplementary Appropriation Bill : Com. Head 624	2714	Adjournment (<i>Sine Die</i>)	2810
		Legal Education (Pensions) Bill ..	2803-2804
		Supplementary Appropriation Bill, 2R ..	2667-2676
		Com. Head 21	2700
		Com. Head 638	2745
E		F	
Eboigbodi, Mr J. B. :		Fasanmi, Mr Ayo :	
Car Advances for Senators and M.Ps. ..	2568-2569	Emoluments of Senators and M.Ps. ..	2559-2561
Emoluments of Senators and M.Ps. ..	2557-2558	Ijero-Ekiti Postal Service	17Q
Ede, Mr J. O. :		Soviet Scholarships	7Q
National Day Bill	2416-2417	The Airways	2654 Q
Supplementary Appropriation Bill, 2R ..	2700		
Edomwonyi, Mr J. O. :		Federal Electoral Commission (Remuneration) Bill (<i>see Bills</i>)	
Currency Bill 1965	2330-2332	Finance, Minister of (Chief the hon. F. S. Okotie-Eboh) :	
National Day Bill	2424-2428	Adjournment (<i>Sine Die</i>)	2655, 2810
Ejukwa, Mr I. I. :		Allocation of Revenue Constitutional (Amendment) Bill	2466-2467
Recruitment into the Army ..	2626-2629	Borrowing by Public Bodies Bill ..	2786-2788
Supplementary Appropriation Bill : Com. Head 624	2713-2714	Business of the House ..	2658-2660, 2662
Ememe, Mr O. C. :		Business Statement ..	2275-2277, 2285-2290
Adjournment (<i>Sine Die</i>)	2655-2656	Casino Taxation Bill ..	2517
Benin-Shagamu Road	2455 Q	Control of Advertisements (Lagos) Bill ..	2351-2352
Borrowing by Public Bodies Bill ..	2792	Currency Bill 1965 ..	2322-2323, 2333-2337
Car Advances for Senators and M.Ps ..	2569-2573	Customs and Excise Management (Amendment) (No. 2) Bill	2490-2492
Decimal Currency System	2551 Q	Customs Tariff (Duties) (No. 2) Order 1965 ..	2783
Nigerian Staff at U.N.O. Secretariat ..	6 Q	Customs Tariff (Duties and Exemptions) (No. 2) Order 1965 ..	2746
Oil Pipelines (Amendment) Bill ..	2406-2407	(No. 3) Order 1965 ..	2747-2763, 2779-2782
Parliamentary Committees	5 Q	Excise (Control of Distillation) (Amendment) Bill	2502-2504
Police (Amendment) Bill	2299-2304	Excise Tariff Bill	2783-2785
Proposed Imo Paper Mill	2452 Q	Food and Drugs (Lagos) Bill ..	2509
Repatriation of Funds	2551 Q	National Day Bill ..	2412-2413, 2413-2414
Supplementary Appropriation Bill : Com. Head 21	2700	Orders of the Day ..	2516, 2519
Com. Head 62	2705-2706	Police (Amendment) Bill	2314-2317
Com. Head 622	2710-2711	Sittings of the House ..	2464, 2656, 2657
Com. Head 626	2717-2718	Supplementary Appropriation Bill, 2R ..	2493-2502
U.S. "Project Loans"	2550 Q	Com. Head 621	2708
Vietnam	6 Q	Com. Head 622	2709, 2712
Visiting Forces Bill	2381-2383	Com. Head 624	2713
Emenogha, Mr V. A. :		Com. Head 626	2717
Establishment of Post Offices	2645 Q	Com. Head 627	2719
Lagos Senators Bill 1965	2438-2439	Com. Head 630	2723
New Currency Notes	11 Q	Com. Head 631	2725
Ogbunki Postal Agency	2646 Q	Com. Head 634	2726, 2733
Onitsha North Postal Agency	2266 Q	Com. Head 636	2733
Enang, Chief D. :		Com. Head 637	2736
Recruitment into the Army ..	2624-2626	Com. Head 638	2744
Enefola, Mr D. O. :		Trade Mark Bill	2505-2506
Currency Bill 1965	2329-2330	Food and Drugs (Lagos) Bill (<i>see Bills</i>)	
Oil Pipelines (Amendment) Bill ..	2407-2408	Frank-Opigo, Chief N. A. :	
Establishments, Minister of (Hon. J. C. Obande) :		Allocation of Revenue Constitutional (Amendment) Bill	2467-2470
Legal Education (Pensions) Bill ..	2802-2803	Emoluments of Senators and M.Ps. ..	2562-2564
Pensions (Transferred Service) Bill ..	2504-2505	Food and Drugs (Lagos) Bill ..	2511-2512
Remuneration of the President Bill ..	2341-2342	Fulani Dambo Ibrahim, M. :	
		Recruiting Northerners	2652Q

G	Column	Column
Gbeleye, Mr E. A. O. (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Labour) :		
Police (Amendment) Bill	2312	
Hashim Adaji, Alhaji (Minister of State) :		
Bridges over Level Crossings	2637-2638	
Health, Minister of (Dr the Hon. M. A. Majekodunmi) :		
Food and Drugs (Lagos) Bill	2515-2516	
H		
Housing and Surveys, Minister of (Chief the hon. A. O. Ogunsanya) :		
Business Statement	2281-2284	
His Excellency's Departure for Europe .. .	2410	
Rent Control (Lagos) Amendment Bill	2792-2794, 2801-2802	
Supplementary Appropriation Bill : Com. Head 631	2725-2726	
Com. Head 636	2735	
I		
Ikeh, B. O. :		
Abakaliki Post Office	2648Q	
Postal Clerks	2648Q	
Supervisors	2629Q	
Supplementary Appropriation Bill : Com. Head 62	2705	
Internal Affairs, Minister of (Alhaji the hon. Shettima Ali Monguno) :		
Federal Electoral Commission (Remuneration) Bill	2521	
Parliamentary Elections in Nigeria	2614-2615	
Inusa, Wakilin Masaka, Alhaji :		
Business Statement	2284-2285	
National Day Bill	2429	
Parliamentary Elections in Nigeria	2619-2621	
Police (Amendment) Bill	2304-2305	
Inyang, Mr O. W. :		
Enyong Division	2451Q	
Enyong Postal Agencies	1Q	
Nurses and Midwives	4Q	
School of Radiography	3Q	
Issa Haruna, Alhaji :		
African Students	2361Q	
Inland Waterways	2457Q	
Modernising the Army	16Q	
Nursing	2271Q	
The Ordnance Factory	16Q	
Training of Aviation Staff	2271Q	
Unemployment	15Q	
J		
Jamabo, Mr J. (Minister of State) :		
U.K. Conference on Trade and Development	2805-2810	
Jibar Girema, M. :		
Federal Electoral Commission (Remuneration) Bill	2539-2541	
Jinadu, Chief Adebisi :		
Electricity Consumption	2554Q	
Inisha Sub-Post Office	2646Q	
Oshun Division	2451Q	
Oshun North-East	2Q	
Survey of Odo-Otin	2555Q	
Telephone Service for Odo-Otin	2646Q	
Justice, Minister of (Dr the hon. T. O. Elias) :		
Parliament (Disqualification) Bill	2518	
K		
Kamson, Mr S. O. :		
Achievements in Research	2462Q	
Ex-servicemen's Pensions	2653 Q	
Imports from Japan	2652 Q	
Lagos City Council	8Q	
National Day Bill	2421-2423	
Shipping	2460 Q	
L		
Labour, Minister of (Prince the hon. A. Adedoyin) :		
Law for the Relief of the Poor and control of Beggary	2598-2599	
Workmen Compensation (Amendment) Bill	2369-2370, 2377-2378, 2378-2379	
Lafisan, Mr J. B. P. :		
Parliamentary Elections in Nigeria	2621-2623	
Lagos Affairs, Minister of (Alhaji the hon. Musa Yar'Adua) :		
Control of Advertisements (Lagos) Bill	2348-2349	
Lagos Local Government (Amendment) Bill	2368-2369	
Lagos Senators Bill 1965	2432-2433	
Liquor Licensing (Amendment) Bill 1965	2431-2432	
Registered Land Bill	2337-2338	
Lagos Local Government (Amendment) Bill (<i>see Bills</i>)		
Lagos Senators Bill (<i>see Bills</i>)		
Legal Education (Pensions) Bill (<i>see Bills</i>)		
Legal Practitioners (Amendment) Bill (<i>see Bills</i>)		
Liquor Licensing (Amendment) Bill (<i>see Bills</i>)		
M		
Mabinton, Chief B. L. W. :		
Oil Pipelines (Amendment) Bill	2402-2403	
Supplementary Appropriation Bill : Com. Head 626	2717	
Mbegbu, Mr A. T. :		
Allocation of Quarters	2460 Q	
Control of Advertisements (Lagos) Bill	2354	
Control of Retail Trade	2272 Q	
Emoluments of Senators and M.P.s	2567-2568	
Excise Tariff Bill	2785-2786	

<i>Column</i>	<i>Column</i>
Ownership of the Federal Palace Hotel .. 2273 Q Parliamentary Elections in Nigeria 2599-2603, 2623 Sale of goods by Customs Board .. 2549 Q Salt Industry for Badagry .. 2453 Q Shares in Industry .. 2452 Q Supplementary Appropriation Bill : Com. Head 52 .. 2702-2703 Com. Head 62 .. 2704 Com. Head 622 .. 2709 The Displaced of Central Lagos .. 8 Q The U.D.C. .. 2652 Q U.D.C. Company Tax .. 2550 Q U.D.C. Shares .. 2549 Q Victoria Island Flats.. 2359 Q, 2455 Q	Udochi, Chief J. M. : Police (Amendment) Bill .. 2310-2313, 2314 2317-2318 Telegram No. 1/77 .. 2268Q Treaties with Foreign Countries .. 2456 Visiting Forces Bill .. 2390-2391 West African School Certificate .. 2362Q
Shisha, Mr V. T.	Ukegbu, Mr B. N. :
Supplementary Appropriation Bill : Com. Head 624 .. 2715-2716	Allocation of Revenue Constitutional (Amendment) Bill .. 2470-2479 Business Statement .. 2277-2281 Commonwealth Prime Ministers' Conference .. 2639-2640 National Day Bill .. 2413 Oil Pipelines (Amendment) Bill .. 2398-2401 Parliamentary Elections in Nigeria .. 2603-2614 Sittings of the House .. 2657-2658 Supplementary Appropriation Bill : Com. Head 634 .. 2726-2733 Com. Head 638 .. 2744-2745
Shitta-Bey, Mr S. A.	Umaru Maltumbi, M. :
Coconut and Coconut Products .. 2273 Q Ethnic Nigerian Groups .. 5 Q Lagos Senators Bill .. 2519-2520	Jalingo Sub-Post Office .. 2649Q Jen Postal Agency .. 2649Q
Sobowale, Mr S. :	Umaru Marafan, Galadima Kogo, M. :
Customs Tariff (Duties and Exemptions) (No. 3) Order 1965 .. 2772-2775 Remuneration of the President Bill .. 2343-2344 Visiting Forces Bill .. 2383-2384	Kuta, Paiko, Igara .. 2650Q Minna Post Office .. 2650Q
Speaker and Deputy Speaker, Rulings :	Umeukeje, Mr T. A. :
Emoluments of Senators and M.Ps. .. 2567 Federal Electoral Commission Bill .. 2654 His Excellency's Departure for Europe .. 2410 Law for the Relief of the Poor and Control of Beggary .. 2599 Orders of the Day .. 2517, 2519 Personal Explanation .. 2464, 2557 Supplementary Appropriation (1965-66) Bill .. 2502	Law for Relief of the Poor and Control of Beggary .. 2588-2595
Sule Abba Biu, M. :	Unurhoro, Mr M. :
Lagos Senators Bill 1965 .. 2439-2440 Supplementary Appropriation Bill : Com. Head 622 .. 2712	Supplementary Appropriation Bill : Com. Head 622 .. 2711-2712
Supplementary Appropriation (1965-66) <i>Bill (see Bills)</i>	
T	V
Tokula, Mr P. O. :	
Lagos Senators Bill 1965 .. 2445-2446 Liquor Licensing (Amendment) Bill 1965 .. 2432	
Trade Marks Bill (see Bills)	
U	W
Udo, Mr A. E. :	
National Day Bill .. 2414-2416	Workmen's Compensation (Amendment) <i>Bill (see Bills)</i>
	Y
	Yacim, Mr J. A. :
	Supplementary Appropriation Bill : Com. Head 26 .. 2701 Com. Head 61 .. 2703 Com. Head 622 .. 2709-2710 The Family .. 17 Q Visiting Forces Bill .. 2393