



FEDERATION OF NIGERIA

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES DEBATES

OFFICIAL REPORT

2nd—13th September, 1957

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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
DEBATES

House of Representatives

COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

- His Excellency the Governor-General—Sir James Robertson, G.C.V.O., K.C.M.G., K.B.E.
- Prime Minister and Minister of Finance—The Honourable Alhaji Abubakar Tafawa Balewa, C.B.E.
- Minister of Lagos Affairs, Mines and Power—The Honourable Alhaji Muhammadu Ribadu, M.B.E.
- Minister of Commerce and Industry—The Honourable K. O. Mbadiwe.
- Minister of Transport—The Honourable R. A. Njoku.
- Minister of Labour and Welfare—The Honourable Chief F. S. Okotie-Eboh.
- Minister of Works and Surveys—The Honourable Alhaji Muhammadu Inuwa Wada.
- Minister of Research and Information—The Honourable Chief Kolawole Balogun.
- Minister of Education—The Honourable Aja Nwachuku.
- Minister of Internal Affairs—The Honourable J. M. Johnson.
- Minister of Communications and Aviation—The Honourable Chief S. L. Akintola.
- Minister of Health—The Honourable Ayo Rosiji.
- Minister of State—The Honourable Victor Mukete.
- Minister of State—The Honourable Zanna Bukar Dipcharima.

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE

Sir Frederic William Metcalfe, K.C.B.

DEPUTY SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE

The Honourable Bello Dandago, Sarkin Dawaki.

PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARIES

- Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Commerce and Industry—U. O. Ndem, Esq.
- Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Internal Affairs—Chief O. Oweh.
- Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Education—D. C. Ugwu, Esq.
- Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Labour and Welfare—Chief H. O. Osagie.
- Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Lagos Affairs, Mines and Power—I. S. Usman, Esq.
- Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Works and Surveys—Mallam Usman Sarki, Sardunan Bida.

Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Research and Information—O. Bademosi, Esq.

Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Transport—F. E. Ofor, Esq.

Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Health—Chief V. Duro Phillips.

Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Communications and Aviation—A. J. U. Ekong, Esq.

OFFICERS OF THE HOUSE

Mr B. A. Manuwa	..	..	..	..	Clerk of the House of Representatives
Mr E. E. Nsefik	..	..	..	..	Clerk Assistant
Mr W. Lee	..	..	..	..	Editor, Official Report (<i>Hansard</i>)
Mr C. I. Offodile	..	..	..	..	Asst. Editor, Official Report (<i>Hansard</i>)
Miss J. Doherty	..	..	..	..	Verbatim Reporter
Mr O. Adedoyin	..	..	..	..	Verbatim Reporter
Mr H. O. Nwokoye	..	..	..	..	Verbatim Reporter
Miss B. J. Town	..	..	..	..	Verbatim Reporter
Miss S. Brown	..	..	..	..	Verbatim Reporter
Mrs I. Brindley	..	..	..	..	Verbatim Reporter
Mr N. B. Okoh	..	..	..	..	Verbatim Reporter
Mr E. O. Elendu	..	..	..	..	Verbatim Reporter (Acting)
Mr F. A. Oruche	..	..	..	..	Verbatim Reporter (Acting)
Mr E. A. Mensah	..	..	..	..	Serjeant-at-Arms

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NIGERIA

Monday, 2nd September, 1957

The House met at 9.50 a.m.

PRAYERS

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

OATHS

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

Mallam Umaru Galadiman	
Kogo	Minna
Mallam Musa Jangebe ..	Yauri and South Gwandu
Mr D. D. U. Okay ..	Port Harcourt

**Speech by His Excellency the
Governor-General**

MR SPEAKER AND HONOURABLE MEMBERS OF
THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES :

I have exercised the right given me by section 81 (1) of the Constitution to come and address the House this morning because I myself and my Ministers consider that to-day's meeting of the House is an important milestone in the history of Nigeria.

As a result of decisions taken at the recent Constitutional Conference in London, the Federation now has a Prime Minister (*Applause*) whom I appointed three days ago as soon as the Amendments to the Constitution enabling me to do so, became law. As you know I am instructed in the New Royal Instructions, given me as a result of the Conference, to send for the person who appears to me to command a majority in this House. I therefore sent for El Haji Abubakar Tafawa Balewa, who leads the largest party in the House and he has formed a Government. Mr Speaker, you and the Honourable Members of this House know El Haji Abubakar as well as and perhaps better than I do, and I am sure you will agree with me that in him the Federation has a Prime Minister who will command the respect and affection of all (*Applause*): he is a man of great integrity, hard working and blessed with abundant commonsense. He has a heavy task ahead of him; much work lies before us all; and the problems of this country are many; but the heaviest burden will fall upon him. In congratulating him on his appointment

therefore I wish to give him my very best wishes for the future and for success in his work, and to assure him that I shall always be available if he wishes my advice and assistance.

The second point I wish to make is that the Council of Ministers, over which I, or in my absence from Lagos the Deputy Governor-General, will continue to preside until Independence now contains no ex-officio members (*Applause*). Similarly in this House you will no longer have the benefit of their advice based on long experience of Government Service, nor will some Members of the House have the pleasure of heckling them and asking them awkward questions. With their departure from the Council and the House, another big step has been taken on the road to full self-government. I am sure that the work which these officers have done and the help which they have given in the past formative years have been of great assistance in the development of Ministerial Government in Nigeria, and for it they deserve great praise and thanks. The very fact that they can now safely be permitted to leave the Government Bench is in itself convincing evidence that they did their work well.

Now that they are no longer Members of the Council, the burden of office with all its responsibilities must be carried by Nigerian Ministers alone and I am confident that, under the wise co-ordinating influence of the Prime Minister, the new Council will prove to the world that they can do so successfully. The great majority of the new Council have already held office and are no strangers to these positions of responsibility. I feel sure that their experience of affairs will be of great value in the days ahead.

It is not my duty to-day to make any statement of policy on behalf of my Council—the general programme of my Government for this financial year was announced last February and the new Council of Ministers has had no time to review it yet. I should like to point out that the changes which have taken place subsequent to the Constitutional Conference in the higher organisations of the Government, in full accord between my Ministers and myself, have meant considerable reorganisation of the administrative machine, and the new machine may take some time to “run itself in.” I am sure that this will be realised and that should

the engine not develop its full power immediately, you will understand the reason, and not blame the Council too severely.

It is not for me to give an opinion about the success or failure of the Constitutional Conference. Perhaps like most things in this world, its results were not absolutely perfect. But the Conference has left us all with a formidable programme of work to be done in the next two years. You will be glad to know that progress has been made in setting-up the Commissions which the Conference decided upon. Chairmen have been chosen for the three Commissions dealing with Minorities, Fiscal matters and the Delimitation of Constituencies; and three distinguished personages have accepted these appointments. I have every hope that the three main Commissions will be formed and at work by November.

I have recently held a meeting in Lagos of the Electoral Committee of the Conference to continue work on electoral Rules and Regulations for Federal elections and I hope to hold a further meeting of this body before very long. I have also invited the Ministers concerned to study and submit for consideration by the Council of Ministers their views on other matters left over by the Conference, such as the recommendations regarding the position of Lagos and the inquiry into the Central Marketing Board. It will be my earnest endeavour to do what I can in co-operation with the Prime Minister and Council of Ministers to ensure that all these enquiries are pressed on with expedition, so that their conclusions are not delayed.

This country is progressing fast towards its national goal of independence within the Commonwealth, which has been accepted and agreed to by Her Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom. The date on which that goal will be reached does not depend solely on Her Majesty's Government, it depends equally upon the peoples and leaders of Nigeria. If they can maintain their unity of purpose, avoid disagreements and work in harmony and co-operation for that goal, its achievement will be early. The ball is at your feet and it is for you to shoot the goal. Mr Speaker, I believe that a great responsibility lies upon the Council of Ministers and upon this House to give a lead to the whole country. I should like to quote the recent remarks of the Under Secretary of State for the Colonies in the House of Commons.

He said: "We ought not to be mesmerised by an actual date for Independence. Twenty years from now neither Nigerians nor we will argue whether Independence Day should have been on 2nd April, 1960 or on some other date close to that. All that will matter is that the country will have been well prepared for independence when the day comes"—Let us press on with our preparations. Mr Speaker and Honourable Members I wish to end on a personal note.

When I came first to Nigeria in June 1955 and took the oaths of Office, I said in my address that I hoped to be able to identify myself with the aspirations of the Nigerian peoples, and promised solemnly to do my best to serve this country.

I wish on this auspicious day to reaffirm these undertakings, and to assure you of my own personal determination to do all that lies in my power to carry out the policy agreed upon by Her Majesty's Government and the Nigerian parties at the Conference—namely that we should press on towards Independence as quickly and as surely as possible. I know that in this determination I can count upon the support of all those members of the Public Service, expatriate and Nigerian alike, who have worked, and will continue to work, so loyally in the interests of Nigeria.

I pray that God's blessing will be with the Council of Ministers, with this House, and with all of us to whom these great responsibilities have been entrusted.

PAPERS

Papers distributed to Members during the Adjournment and deemed to have been laid on the Table pursuant to Standing Order 11 (3):—

(1) Report by Dr the hon. K. O. Mbadiwe, M.H.R., Minister of Communications and Aviation on his visit to the United Kingdom and the United States in June-July 1956.

(2) Annual Report of the Department of Forest Research for the year 1955-56.

(3) Report of the Accountant-General with Financial Statements for the year ended 31st March, 1954.

(4) Report by the Nigeria Constitutional Conference held in London in May and June 1957. (Presented by the Secretary of State for the Colonies to Parliament by Command of Her Majesty, July 1957).

(5) Nigerian Railway Corporation : Report and Accounts for the six months ended 31st March, 1956 [by Ordinance].

(6) Annual Report of the Cameroons Development Corporation for the year 1956 [by Ordinance].

(7) Report of the Standing Committee on Finance of the House of Representatives for the period April 1955 to March 1956.

(8) First Report of the Standing Committee on Finance of the House of Representatives, 1957-58.

(9) Supplementary Estimates of the Government of the Federation of Nigeria, 1957-58.

(10) The Accounts of Quasi-Commercial Undertakings operated by Government by means of Bank Current Accounts which were opened with Grants of Working Capital (Sessional Paper No. 10 of 1957).

(11) First Annual Report of Nigerian Ports Authority for the year ended 31st March, 1956 [by Ordinance].

(12) Annual Report on the Treatment of Offenders for the year 1955-56.

(13) The Sixth Annual Report and Statement of Accounts of the Electricity Corporation of Nigeria for the year ended 31st March, 1957 [by Ordinance].

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

***O.296. Chief J. I. G. Onyia** asked the Prime Minister :—

Whether the Federal Government will now consider abrogating sections 36, 37, 38 and 39 of the Police Ordinance in the Regions which have their own Public Order Laws, as was done when the Public Order (Lagos) 1955 Ordinance became law.

The Prime Minister : Yes, Sir. But the abrogation of these sections to a Region will be only abrogated at the request of a Regional Government where the Regional Legislation provides for the matters dealt with in these sections of the Police Ordinance.

***O.300. Reverend E. S. Bens** asked the Prime Minister :—

If he will state the current approved establishment of each of the various ranks within the detachments of the Nigeria Police Force stationed in Brass, Ahoada, Ogoni and Degema, indicating the actual strength of each of the ranks within a detachment at present.

The Prime Minister : Sir. Any reply to this question involves the repetition of and a table of figures, and with your permission I intend to circulate a copy of my answer to the question.

***O.301. Reverend E. S. Bens** asked the Prime Minister :—

When it is proposed to have a Police detachment at Yenagoa in Brass Division.

The Prime Minister : Sir. I am advised that the Government of the Eastern Region has under consideration the transfer of Divisional Headquarters from Brass to Yenagoa. If and when such a transfer is made, consideration would have to be given to the provision of a detachment of police in Yenagoa.

***O.302. Reverend E. S. Bens** asked the Prime Minister :—

When the Fire Service will be established as a separate Department from the Nigeria Police Force.

The Prime Minister : Sir. It is a policy of the Federal Government to transfer responsibility for Fire Services from Federal Police to the Local Authorities as soon as practicable. The transfer of the Lagos Fire Brigade to the Lagos Town Council will be subject to the agreement in accordance with paragraph 56 (b) of the report of the London Conference. I am advised the transfer of the Port Harcourt Fire Brigade to the Port Harcourt Town Council is at present under consideration.

***O.303. Mr H. O. Akpan-Udo** asked the Prime Minister :—

Whether he is aware of the undue delays in testing motor vehicles for roadworthiness by the Traffic Police at Aba, and, if so, what steps are being taken to effect a remedy.

The Prime Minister : May I request permission to answer this question and the next question No. 304 together. I am informed that the Government of the Eastern Region has agreed in principle to take over from the Nigerian Police the work of Vehicle Licensing in that Region and I have no doubt that when this is so it will take note of the factors complained of.

***O.304. Mr A. E. Ukattah** asked the Prime Minister :—

How soon it is proposed to establish a motor vehicle licensing authority in Umuahia-Ibeku in order to reduce the great congestion and

inconvenience experienced at the motor licensing office at Aba, which is the only such office serving about six administrative Divisions in the Eastern Region. (See Answer to *O.303.)

***O.297. Chief J. I. G. Onyia** asked the Minister of Commerce and Industry :—

Whether he is aware of the existence of lignite in Asaba Division and whether there are plans for utilising this mineral for the production of nylon, paint, tar and gas.

The Minister of Commerce and Industry : This matter, Mr Speaker, is now being dealt with and I will supply the information to the answer in due course.

***O.337. Mr D. N. Chukwu** asked the Minister of Internal Affairs :—

How many Nigerians now hold senior posts in the Prisons Department, and how many did so in 1954.

The Minister of Internal Affairs : On the 31st December, 1954 there were nine Nigerians holding senior posts in the Prisons Department, to-day there are seventeen Nigerians holding such posts. Four more Nigerians in the Department are at present under consideration by His Excellency to Assistant Superintendent.

*Supplementary to Question *O.337.* **Mr Jaja Wachuku** : What are these senior posts that the Nigerians are holding.

The Minister of Internal Affairs : Nigerians are eligible to hold the posts of Assistant Superintendent of Prisons to the Director in the Prisons Department.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

Minister of State : (The hon. Victor Mukete) Mr Speaker, Sir, I have the following business statement to make. To-day 18 Government Bills including the Supplementary Appropriation Bill 1957-1958 will be read for the first time. To-morrow Tuesday which is Private Members day, the following motions will be debated. The motion on an Advisory Board for Police by Mr Chukwu, one on Shipping and Industry by Mr Effiong, one on bridges and Federal Trunk Roads by Mr Chukwu, one on Federal Tender Boards by Mr Eneh, one on Population Census by Mr Ezonbodor, and one on Hogan Bassey by Mr Ezonbodor. On Wednesday the 4th, the House will be invited to approve motions relating to the appointment of a Business Committee and a moratorium on

payments from the Southern Cameroons Government. Following this, certain Government Bills will be read for the second time. On Wednesday the 4th September, the second reading of the Supplementary Appropriation Bill will be taken and the Minister of Finance will make a speech. This will be followed by the second reading of other Government Bills. Friday the 6th September will be the first day of the debate on the second reading of the Supplementary Appropriation Bill. On Saturday, a further business statement will be given.

PRESENTATION OF PUBLIC BILLS

ELECTRICITY CORPORATION OF NIGERIA (AMENDMENT) BILL

The Minister of Lagos Affairs, Mines and Power (Alhaji the hon. Muhammadu Ribadu) : *Second Reading*—Thursday, 5th September.

PETROLEUM FUEL (CONTROL) BILL

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Dr the hon. K. O. Mbadiwe) : *Second Reading*—Thursday, 5th September.

INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (INCOME TAX RELIEF) BILL

The Minister of Commerce and Industry : *Second Reading*—Thursday, 5th September.

HIGH COURT OF LAGOS (AMENDMENT) BILL

The Minister of Communications and Aviation (The hon. Chief S. L. Akintola) : *Second Reading*—Thursday, 5th September.

FEDERAL SUPREME COURT (APPEALS) (AMENDMENT) BILL

The Minister of Communications and Aviation : *Second Reading*—Thursday, 5th September.

HIGH COURT OF LAGOS (AMENDMENT NO. 2) BILL

The Minister of Communications and Aviation : *Second Reading*—Thursday, 5th September.

PORTS (AMENDMENT) (NO. 2) BILL

The Minister of Transport (The hon. R. A. Njoku) : *Second Reading*—Thursday, 5th September.

SHIPPING AND NAVIGATION (AMENDMENT) (NO. 2) BILL

The Minister of Transport : *Second Reading*—Thursday, 5th September.

SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION (1957-58) BILL

The Prime Minister (Hon. Alhaji Abubakar Tafawa Balewa) : *Second Reading*—Wednesday, 4th September.

POLICE (AMENDMENT NO. 2) BILL

The Prime Minister—*Second Reading*—Wednesday, 4th September.

AMAPETU OF MAHIN (TERMINATION OF MONTHLY STIPEND) BILL

The Prime Minister : *Second Reading*—Thursday, 5th September.

LEGISLATIVE HOUSES (POWERS AND PRIVILEGES) (AMENDMENT) BILL

The Prime Minister : *Second Reading*—Thursday, 5th September.

STATISTICS BILL

The Prime Minister : *Second Reading*—Thursday, 5th September.

NON-PENSIONABLE RAILWAY SERVANTS PROVIDENT FUND RESERVE (APPLICATION) (AMENDMENT) BILL

The Prime Minister : *Second Reading*—Thursday, 5th September.

INCOME TAX (AMENDMENT) BILL

The Prime Minister : *Second Reading*—Thursday, 5th September.

BANKING (AMENDMENT) BILL

The Prime Minister : *Second Reading*—Thursday, 5th September.

DISTRIBUTION OF GERMAN ENEMY PROPERTY BILL, 1957

The Prime Minister : *Second Reading*—Thursday, 5th September.

PUBLIC ARCHIVES BILL, 1957

The Minister of Works and Surveys (Alhaji the hon. Muhammadu Inuwa Wada) : *Second Reading*—Thursday, 5th September.

NOTICE OF MOTION

10.25 a.m.

The Prime Minister : Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to move the following motion, That an humble Address be presented to His Excellency, the Governor-General, as follows :—

“Your Excellency,

We the Members of the House of Representatives here assembled beg leave to offer our humble thanks to Your Excellency for the

Address which Your Excellency has delivered to this House on this historic occasion.”

Sir, this Motion seeks to give hon. Members the opportunity to express their thanks to the Governor-General for his Address which marks the beginning of an era for Nigeria... (*Hear, hear*)... Nigeria is indeed fortunate to have as its Governor-General such an experienced and distinguished colonial administrator as Sir James Robertson... (*Hear, hear*)... Our Governor-General was in the Sudan for many years and he played a prominent part in preparing that country for independence. We are lucky to have him in Nigeria, especially in the last stages of our march to independence. Those of us who have become closely associated with this great man know that Sir James comes to Nigeria with one, and only one mission, which is to prepare the country for independence.

Mr Speaker this is not the right moment for a detailed expression of appreciation but I have no doubt that the country is unanimous in wishing to see Sir James continue giving Nigeria his valuable services until independence is achieved.

Mr Speaker, this is a great day for Nigeria. It marks the beginning of the last stage of our march to independence and all of us who are here to-day should be thankful to God Almighty who has given us the opportunity to witness the events of this memorable time. The next three years will see the culmination of a process which has been gathering momentum year by year ever since the part of what is now Nigeria first became a British colony, 96 years ago. Many things have happened between 1861, the year of the annexation of Lagos, and 1957, the year in which two Regions in the Federation have been granted self-government, and in which the independence of the Federation itself looms large upon the horizon... (*hear, hear*)... We have travelled a long way and we should congratulate ourselves that after 34 years of being associated with what I may loosely call a form of parliamentary government, we the people of Nigeria have reached the stage we have to-day.

The old Nigeria Council which was established in 1923 and which survived—although under a new name of Legislative Council—can well be regarded as the foundation of this our House of Representatives. We should therefore, Mr Speaker, express our thanks to

sick and the suffering, and I want to assure them that Nigeria will never forget the work that they have done and are still doing.

Yet another group of people to whom Nigeria owes a great deal are the commercial firms and those employed by them, who have helped to build up our economy to what it is to-day. Many of them have sunk big sums of money in a variety of undertakings and they have thereby provided a large number of people with employment and with the type of training which we so badly need for the future. We thank them for what they are doing and we ask them to continue to do more and to increase the training facilities already provided both in technical and managerial skill.

But, Mr Speaker, having paid tribute to those who have helped us in the past and to those who are still assisting us to-day, I must return to my main theme. The future of this vast country of Nigeria must depend in the main on the efforts of ourselves to help ourselves. This we cannot do if we are not working together in unity; indeed unity to-day is our greatest concern and it is the duty of every one of us to work to strengthen it. Bitterness, due to political differences will carry Nigeria nowhere, and I appeal to all political leaders throughout the country, to try to control their party extremists. Nigeria is large enough to accommodate us all in spite of our political differences. (*Hear, hear*). It is my hope that this House will give a lead to the country. It would, I know, promote unity if Members would refrain, as much as possible, from criticising, on the Floor of this House, the activities of the Regional Governments. Those Governments no doubt get ample criticism in their own Houses of Assembly and I see no need, Sir, that we should add to it here. (*Hear, hear*).

Sir, the eyes of the world are now upon us, we have many friends and well-wishers but let us not forget that we have also enemies and while our friends will delight in our success, our enemies would rejoice at our failure. Some time ago I said in this House, that Nigeria can exert a great influence in the affairs of the world if she is united, and none if she is not. This country has a great future and if we are careful to keep the goodwill of our friends and well-wishers, Nigeria will one day rank among the most powerful states in the world. (*Hear,*

hear). Mr Speaker, God has willed that those of us who are here to-day are those to whom destiny has entrusted the work of seeing the country through the last stages before independence. This is an exciting time for all of us and at a time like this, we must all turn our minds to God Almighty and seek His guidance and assistance. Let us not be selfish but let us try to do only what is right for the thirty-three million inhabitants of Nigeria who now expect us to guide them. I am certain, Mr Speaker, that we can do so and by the grace of God we shall succeed.

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Dr K. O. Mbadiwe): Mr Speaker, I deem it memorable and significant to second this Motion, so ably moved by the hon. the Prime Minister of the Federation of Nigeria, expressing our thanks to His Excellency the Governor-General, Sir James Robertson, for his address.

In paying such a warm and eloquent tribute to our big and stouthearted Sir James, one of the most distinguished and gallant Knights of the British Empire, the Prime Minister was voicing the sentiments of this entire House. Sir James Robertson in all characteristic British solemnity paid tribute to both the Prime Minister and this emergent nation, which tribute the Prime Minister warmly reciprocated. Who cannot but acknowledge this historic day?

Mr Speaker, the importance of this day, 2nd September, 1957, is lost to none of us. I have seen many a day, I have witnessed and participated in many momentous occasions, but to them all this is a day of days. It is the close of an era of human degradation intensified by colonialism and slavery. To-day, this hour, we are laying the foundation stone for 2nd April, 1960, when the new nation now conceived emerges fully. To-day we celebrate the end of spiritual and psychological frustration. To-day we have written a finish to periods of uncertainty as we move forward to accept the most difficult assignment of building a nation. To-day the Honourable Tafawa Balewa emerges to accept this responsibility on our behalf. He accepts it with a ringing voice, which resounded in this very Chamber when he spoke during the Motion demanding Independence for this country in 1959. Hon. Balewa said, "We are the biggest African State in the whole world and we should regard it as a duty to bring prestige and recognition

to the African wherever he may be in the world." To-day, this gallant son of Nigeria is given the opportunity to fulfil this task.

To-day he is fortified and admirably recharged to accept this challenge. When he spoke to the Independence Motion in March of this year, there were two "I am's" in the Federal structure: there was the N.C.N.C. "I am," and the N.P.C. "I am." Under such a climate people thought that the London Conference would not succeed in the one respect of evolving a unified leadership. People thought, Mr Speaker, that tribal considerations, Party advantages and ideological differences would make it impossible to accept one central spokesman. To-day we have baffled them and stultified their anticipations. There is no longer the N.C.N.C. "I am" or the N.P.C.'s. To-day has emerged one unified leadership, one spokesman of the nation, one testing barometer of our national consciousness, the Nigerian "I am." This person is the Hon. Tafawa Balewa, by the Grace of God, Prime Minister of the Federation of Nigeria and the Cameroons.

We are determined to succeed. Who can predict the future with any accuracy? None. However, guided by the lamp-post of the past, we can examine the present and forecast the future. The activities of the last Government laid the foundation on which this present Government now stands. For nearly three years that Government continued without a hitch, without a crisis, but growing from strength to strength. The N.P.C. had three members in that Government, the N.C.N.C. six, but the N.P.C. had a majority in the Floor of the House. There were many in the N.P.C. circle who thought that the N.P.C. should not join the Government under such circumstances. But the leaders of the N.P.C. with mature experience thought otherwise. They had faith in Nigeria and in its people. The work began. Sincerity brought sincerity. Nobleness enkindleth nobleness. Affection and devotion were generated. The two parties melted their ideologies for Nigerian purposefulness. When the N.C.N.C. had six members in the last Government, heaven did not fall because N.P.C. had three. To-day the N.P.C. has supplied Nigeria its first Prime Minister, by the same calculation the heaven will not fall... (Applause)... rather it will be strengthened.

Mr Speaker, permit me to take this opportunity to pay tribute to our Regional Premiers and the Leader of the Southern Cameroons. Our Regional Premiers have displayed the highest of motives in making this day possible. As leaders of the various political parties they could have thwarted our national effort by postponing the creation of leadership in the Centre. They were great and magnanimous enough to put the country in the forefront before anything else. I wish to assure them that by this act they have earned an indelible niche in Nigerian history. No person can be truly great who has not shared in making others great or sharing in the hour of their triumph. Their presence to-day has given added foundation to this structure.

Dr Azikiwe is not here to-day, but the weight of his Government is here. The Eastern Government is fully represented. But more than this, Dr Azikiwe shares in the idealism of the Prime Minister in the formation of this National Government. The Prime Minister in his speech has thanked Dr Azikiwe for his support in this direction. What is uppermost in Dr Azikiwe's mind, and in the minds of all of us is that no sacrifice will be too great for the realisation of our Independence on 2nd April, 1960. The Prime Minister has made this objective the cardinal principle of his Government.

We are with you in the march towards our Independence on 2nd April, 1960. We will not look back; we will not withhold anything. We will all go into the field to prove to the world that Nigeria can accept and follow one leader.

Mr Speaker, I pay tribute to our Colleagues in the last Government. These stalwarts had shown that politics is a noble science in the affairs of mankind. Through their efforts, their tolerance, devotion, understanding and passion for Nigeria, this day has been possible.

To you, Honourable Abubakar Tafawa Balewa, the Prime Minister, this is your day in the political history of this country. I share with you personally this your hour of triumph. When I styled you the Black Rock after one and a half years of working with you, I knew the stuff you were made of. Unpretentious, industrious and always equable, he is a leader whom we are all sure will fully justify the trust and confidence which not only this House but the entire nation has placed in him. As

Minister of Transport he always exhibited a consciousness of his position. By this I do not mean that he was pretentious, but rather that he showed an historical awareness of the traditions associated with the office of Minister in a Parliamentary democracy and, by so doing, has done much to introduce the feeling of democracy into our own written Constitution. That he has acquitted himself well as a Minister of State is evident to all. Mr Speaker, Sir, I do not wish to dwell on the merits of Abubakar Tafawa Balewa, nor do I consider that I have any real need to do so, as his work both in this House and at the Ministry of Transport remains a testimony to his ability. (*Cheers*).

As it has continually been our aim to reproduce in Nigeria an institution similar to that at Westminster which has commanded the respect and affection of people everywhere, so I feel that Alhaji Abubakar Tafawa Balewa as first Prime Minister of the Federation of Nigeria will strive, and with all success, to translate the dignity, traditions and atmosphere of that ancient and revered office of Prime Minister from England to our own country. As leader of the Parliamentary Party of the N.C.N.C., I pledge the wholehearted support and unstinted co-operation of all our members to the new Prime Minister. (*Cheers*). I join with the Prime Minister in thanking Almighty God that I have been spared to see this day, and I think too that it is only fitting on this important occasion that we spare a thought for those who have been in the vanguard of our struggle for freedom and without whose efforts we would not now be sitting in this House to-day.

Our struggle for independence has been without bloodshed. This has saved our people from the untold misery which many other emergent nations have unfortunately experienced. We shall always be grateful to Her Majesty's Government who eschewed coercion and intimidation and instead demonstrated its adaptability to the changing times by employing the human touch in meeting human problems.

This son of Bauchi, rooted in its tradition, this Golden Voice of the North, see how he has grown to a full and towering son of Nigeria. This son descended from that stock that gave Nigeria its foundation in constitutional and monarchical government, this son descended from the line of ancient builders of Empires from which Ghana drew inspiration, and Malle

and Songhay became famous. To-day, this day, upon your shoulders, Alhaji the Honourable Tafawa Balewa, Prime Minister, is entrusted to give expression to the collective will of this country, the thirteenth largest country in the world. May God guide the Abubakarian government headed by the Black Rock himself so that it can base its rule in justice, equity and fairplay; and toward this end surpass those that have been before it.

In this great endeavour you have our fullest support. Mr Speaker, I beg to second.

Question proposed.

The Minister of Lagos Affairs, Mines and Power (Alhaji the hon. Muhammadu Ribadu): Mr Speaker, Sir, I know that it is rare in Parliamentary procedure for a Motion of this kind to develop into a lengthy debate. Sir, the occasion in this case is not only important, but unique, marking as it does an important milestone in our political history. Everyone no doubt appreciates the graciousness of Mr Speaker in identifying himself with our sentiments and granting special permission for this debate. Sir, I say thank you.

I believe no one has a right to rejoice more than the Speaker (*Hear, hear*), and one would have liked to hear him express his feelings on an occasion like this but convention rules otherwise. The Speaker and the Clerks are to be seen and not heard. (*Laughter.*)

Mr Speaker, Sir, political development in a country such as ours can be likened to the growth of a child. Certain changes come by evolution and others by revolution. Whichever way they come these are the changes that must be experienced before full manhood can be attained. Sir, from the Richards Constitution to this stage it seems a long way, and in passing through it, we have passed through manifold changes and experiences on the way, and I can say with some pride and humility that not only have I been privileged to witness all these changes, but I have also taken part in them. (*Hear, hear*).

Mr Speaker, Sir, this stage we reach to-day marks an important epoch and we have every cause to rejoice. We rejoice not only because we are having our first Federal Prime Minister, but also because we have been spared to see the consummation of our political spadework. Sir, if I may borrow the expression of mountain

climbers, we have reached the most advanced base from which to launch the final assault on the mountain peak which is now before us. (*Hear, hear*). From this place, which one might call the stepping stone, our final goal, which is independence, is only a short step forward, and thereafter we shall be ushered into the threshold of full liberty and responsibility.

Sir, Nigerian politicians deserve to be congratulated for the resolution of all the difficulties that have made possible the realisation of this auspicious occasion. They have placed the interest of the country first and foremost. Such was the state of the political parties as returned at the 1954 elections that it was not possible to have a Prime Minister elected.

But it was also realised that before independence can be achieved there must be an all-Nigerian Cabinet with a Prime Minister at its Head. It would have retarded progress if the matter had to be deferred till another election or till the House was dissolved specifically for that purpose. But certain difficulties can be resolved by human will, and it is a matter for gratification that such good sense was brought into play here with the result that it has been possible even in the present circumstances to have a Prime Minister.

Mr Speaker, I say quite sincerely how very grateful I am to the Members of the House of Representatives from all sides and political leaders big and small who attended the recent London Conference for their contribution to this great and desirable achievement.

The new Prime Minister is my trusted and reliable colleague. Our association extends back to many, many years and he is one whom I can describe as a wise and experienced politician, and his decision to form a national government to meet the present circumstances is an act of wisdom and statesmanship such as I would always expect from him. (*Hear, hear*). His decision on this difficult matter is not only acceptable but it would appear to be the best course. There can be no better way to prove to the world our eagerness to rule ourselves than by demonstrating our determination to do so and by meeting the challenging difficulties that may come between us and our ambition, in whatever form those difficulties may come. After the 1954 elections, we have succeeded in confounding the cynics by the fact that two

parties with vastly differing ideologies have run the Government smoothly and successfully. There is therefore every reason to look forward to an era of still more successful administration from the National Government.

Mr Speaker, I would like to associate myself with those who have paid tribute to His Excellency the Governor-General, Sir James Robertson. Mr Speaker, we Nigerians are endowed with the gift of assessing quite quickly the sincerity or otherwise of the people with whom we have dealings. My contact with Sir James has revealed several instances which have led me to believe sincerely and without any reservation whatsoever that he is a great man and a true gentleman. I think one can describe him briefly as the man who has faith in the determination of Nigerians to rule themselves. He also believes in the ability of Nigerians to rule themselves. He believes quite firmly and has demonstrated it that it is now time that Nigerians should be allowed to rule themselves. He believes also in the logical conclusion of the present evolutionary process; that is, when once one has become the master of his own house it is an attribute which has no qualification or reservation or quibbling. Every person in that house, whatever may be his race, colour or creed, has only two courses open to him. He is either to acknowledge the master or take his exit. In short, it is true to say that Sir James's sole purpose is to lead Nigeria to independence and I have no doubt that in his time and by the grace of God that ideal will become a reality soon. (*Hear, hear*).

My thanks also go to the civil servants of this country, and in particular to the expatriates, for the wonderful contribution they have made to the development of Nigeria. It is their labours that have made the country what it is. Without an efficient and loyal civil service there is very little that can be achieved by way of progress. However good or sound the decisions of policy taken, it is still left to the civil servants to see that these are carried out, and so far their efforts and achievement in this respect are deserving of great commendation.

Looking back over the years, everyone will see that times have changed and are still changing. Speaking as a Muslim, I would like to compare changes in circumstances to the changes in weather. These changes are inevitable because they have been ordained by Almighty God that they should so happen, and

all in an encounter between an elephant and an ant it is sure that an elephant will win but it is a victory without a glory. But when you enter a duel with hon. Tafawa Balewa and you happen to succeed and with a measure of victory you can be sure that you have succeeded in an encounter with a hero.

I am not going to pass judgment on what the Opposition on that side has been able to do. We have been able to offer the very best we could when we were in Opposition as members of the Action Group. He has been magnanimous enough not only to see the militant side of that Group; he has been able also to see a little of the rays of virtue of that side and that perhaps accounts for his faith in forming a National Government in which the Action Group is represented. But I have a bone to pick with the new Prime Minister. He always referred to me on that side as Opposition Chief. I wonder that as a chief (I have been described as such for two or three years on that side by him) I am a little bit disturbed that a chief in this House has been deposed without even a normal commission of inquiry (*Laughter*). In any case I think that perhaps quite apart from the reason I have given which might have animated the desire, or strengthened the determination, of the Prime Minister to form a National Government there might have been some other reasons. Looking round here I have seen some of my former colleagues on the Opposition side and I refer particularly to my good friend hon. Jaja Wachuku. The Prime Minister had always thought that we were inseparable and suddenly Jaja Wachuku thought he should change side there and take side with the Government, and in order not to leave him alone we have come together here. I am sure one of the reasons which animated the new Prime Minister is to ensure the continuity of that friendship between hon. Jaja Wachuku and perhaps hon. Ayotunde Rosiji and myself and also to bring us together with the Opposition on the side of the Government.

I think that we of the Action Group always have a feeling that it is the duty of every Nigerian whatever may be his political conviction to support any measure that will hasten the dawn of the independence of this country. We on this side are convinced that by hearkening to the clarion call of the Prime Minister we will be able to work together as one team

in one spirit, one faith, one determination, in order to bring about the dawn of that great day on 2nd April, 1960 when the sovereignty of the Federation of Nigeria shall cease to be a dream but a reality.

In the course of his speech the Governor-General referred to the London Constitutional Conference. This hon. House was kind enough to appoint special delegates to represent it on that great Conference. Whether we have represented this House creditably or not, the evidence is here for everybody to see. The great occasion we are celebrating to-day is the direct outcome of the London Constitutional Conference and whatever may be the opinion of anyone, whether the Conference has succeeded or whether the Conference has failed, here we are. If this is the way that failure is celebrated then I know not what failure is.

I would not like the impression to be created in this House, and I am sure that that is not the impression of the Prime Minister, that because the Action Group Opposition has joined the Government that will be the end of any reasonable criticism of the activities of the Government. That is far from being the truth. The idea of the Prime Minister is that whatever measures are presented to this House will still be examined critically and that the Government will profit and benefit a good deal by your criticisms and by your careful examination of all measures that may be brought before this House. An hon. Member mentioned the limit. Even the sky has a limit. Every reasonable man does a thing to a limit. Even when we were on the Opposition the criticism of Government measures could only be done to a limit. I feel that under the new dispensation the right of examining Government measures is still the prerogative of this House and nothing done will take an iota from that right. I will assure our new Prime Minister that he will enjoy our confidence and that we are prepared to give whatever we have in order that the greatest dream of his life and the greatest dream of our lives may also materialise. It is not only those of us who are on the Government Bench from the Action Group who are at the disposal of the Government of this Federation. Those who are not on the Government Bench, those who are Members of this House are willing and prepared any time to help in order to bring about the realisation of that great ambition.

As I speak here I do not speak only for the Members of the Action Group in this House, I speak for our members and supporters throughout the whole of the Federation of Nigeria. Our services are at the disposal of the Prime Minister and they are at the disposal of the new Government. We have pledged ourselves to see to it that the sovereignty of the Federation of Nigeria is not delayed beyond 2nd April, 1960, and any reasonable request that may be made from us in order to bring that about I am sure will be adhered to.

Finally I will pay tribute to the political leaders from the various Parties without whose co-operation we would not have been celebrating the events of to-day. I will particularly pay special tribute to the Premier of the North, hon. the Sardauna of Sokoto (*Applause*). As a result of the political complications in the country very often many people will think aright but it is always difficult to say who will bell the cat, who will take the first step. Nigeria was fortunate enough to have a great man—great not only in physical stature—who was courageous enough to take the first bold step and he took the clarion call to the other Premiers from the East, the West and the Cameroons. I refer to the Cameroons as a Federation in the making. Without the lead being given by the Sardauna the meeting which was held by all political leaders would have been absolutely impossible. We therefore owe a great debt of gratitude to him for the great lead he has taken without which the celebration of to-day might have been impossible. I would pay tribute to the other leaders, the Premiers of the other Regions including the Cameroons for responding to the call by the Sardauna of Sokoto. It shows that our new Prime Minister has got many friends and admirers. As long as this support from the Regional Premiers continues, as long as all sides of this House will agree to bury the hatchet and devote their whole heart and being and entire energy to the support of the policy of this new Government I am quite sure that we shall establish in this country on 2nd April, 1960 a Government of the Federation of Nigeria by the people of Nigeria and for the people of Nigeria.

Minister of State (Hon. Victor Mukete): Mr Speaker, Sir, I have great pleasure in supporting this motion. During His Excellency's speech and the speech of the Prime Minister, and indeed during the other speeches we have heard this morning, there were

several occasions on which I felt a ripple down my back. No one who has had the privilege of witnessing this historic occasion could fail to be touched by its great and peculiar significance to this Federation and to the world at large.

Reference has already been made to the fact that we to-day are entering a new epoch. This fact cannot be repeated too often. It is obvious that with the appointment of the Prime Minister and the introduction of some of the changes agreed upon at the last Constitutional Conference this Federation has taken a very big step forward towards the attainment of independence. We are particularly lucky in having as our first Prime Minister—as the pilot of this great enterprise—Alhaji the hon. Abubakar Tafawa Balewa, a great man who has won the respect of all who know him, not only in this country but also in the outside world (*hear, hear*). I think the uniqueness of Abubakar Tafawa Balewa's qualities is shown in the general approval with which his appointment as the first Prime Minister of this Federation has been received (*hear, hear*), and also the buoyancy and hope that took the place of doubt and listlessness the moment his appointment became imminent.

During the two and a half years or so during which it has been my privilege to sit on these Benches, I have found it a most enriching experience to work with Abubakar Tafawa Balewa and I look forward very much to working with him in his new Cabinet. I consider it a singular privilege—indeed a great honour—to be called upon to take part in the great task of nation building that lies ahead and I wish to take this opportunity of pledging to the Prime Minister my unstinted loyalty and the loyalty of my Colleagues in this House from the Southern Cameroons. (*Hear, hear*).

Tribute has been paid by previous speakers to His Excellency, the Governor-General, and if I may be allowed to use what is shortly to be his new title, His Excellency the Governor-General and the High Commissioner of the Southern Cameroons, whose services in the comparatively short time he has been with us have been of the most outstanding nature and have contributed to our reaching the present milestone. Anyone who knows Sir James and Sir James's record as an Administrator in emergent African nations and particularly in the Sudan will agree that his posting

Incidentally, talking about educating the masses reminds me of an obligation which we owe to the people of this country. To-day the larger majority of the people in the rural areas who, it must be admitted, have confidence in us, are not educated enough about the duties of the Government to them and *vice versa*. There is then no freedom for such people. This, Sir, is a very serious matter indeed but not so hopeless. We need to educate both the worker and the people, and I am confident that we can do this.

Last but not least, in order to make this country free from poverty we must build a sound economy. I must emphasize, however, that Nigeria has suffered commercially within the last three years; and commerce and industries are the life-blood of a country. Unless, therefore, we are up and doing in trying to build this sound economy—and I am confident we can—we may find ourselves losing our hard-earned freedom and yielding it directly or indirectly to another nation on whom we may have to depend economically. May we never see the day when we shall be subjected to that sort of thing. But, Sir, we can avoid it, we can avoid it by encouraging our commerce and industries.

I must warn here that we cannot do without foreign capital, and if we want to attract foreign capital we must make investors feel and believe that their investments are safe in our country. Added to that, we must encourage and see that our own people take a more preponderant share in the trade of their own country, even if this may be to the disadvantage of aliens. It is a hard fact that if the indigenes of a country are not controlling its commerce then the country's economy is controlled by foreigners. Heaven help us, if after independence, our economy continues to be controlled by people other than natives of Nigeria. The necessity of establishing a good reputation must be realised so that if and when we shall have to go a-borrowing, our country will be regarded as being lend-worthy; if and when we are trading with customers abroad they will believe that they are dealing with a responsible, reliable and honest country.

Now, I think, I must turn to another important factor which will give equally as great a contribution as, if not greater than, any other. In all countries, independent or otherwise, the Civil Service plays a very important part, and

with the attainment of independence by a country the natives of the country find themselves shouldering more and more responsibility; it is on them that the burden once shared by them and the expatriates, will rest. We therefore look up to them to improve upon the standard of the Civil Service and to bear their newly acquired responsibilities patiently. They must try, however, to make our Civil Service incorruptible, efficient and independent. I say, Sir, independent because once there begins some interference by political parties into the Civil Service the whole machinery is bound to break down. Political parties may come and go, but the Civil Service remains as constant as the Northern Star. Nothing is too great to give in order to maintain an excellent Civil Service. But Nigeria, on the other hand, expects every Civil Servant, be he expatriate or indigene, to do his or her best. Still talking about the Civil Service we wish to make it abundantly clear that we are in complete agreement with the Prime Minister and we congratulate him for making his bold statement—that anybody who feels that he cannot adjust himself to the new environment and circumstances in which he now finds himself, should pack his baggage and luggage and go.

Mr Speaker, we support the Prime Minister wholeheartedly in this, and we ask his Government to take immediate action against anybody found guilty of jeopardising our interests.

Mr Speaker, we would be doing ourselves great injustice if we failed to remind Government of its most important obligation, the training of our people for overseas representation. We are glad to see the first batch of six or eight (of whom, I am glad to say, there were two Northerners) sent for this training. But, Sir, we urge that more and still more and yet more should be sent. We must not be caught unawares; now is the time or never.

Sir, in Nigeria to-day everybody has a duty to perform, and with determination, everyone of us can contribute immensely. In giving this contribution, however, we must forget our personal ambitions and selfish interest. To me, I will think not of my father or mother, even myself first, but of Nigeria. And not that I love my parents or myself less but that I love my country more. So, Sir, the interest of Nigeria comes first and foremost in my mind; it comes before anything else. So,

therefore, during this transitional period the slogan must be and must continue to be for ever and ever after "Nigeria first before anything else." What is more: we must not just say it but act it as well.

Finally, we must remember that whatever programmes or plans we might have or might envisage, however efficient and incorruptible our Civil Service might be, however prosperous our farmers and traders were; no matter how rich and happy and peaceful Nigeria might be, we would stand to lose and the country would lose too if we had no moral integrity. Therefore, in the office and in the market, at home and abroad we must cultivate moral integrity. The worker and the trader, the farmer and the teacher, all must have integrity.

Therefore, on behalf of the N.P.C. Members, Sir, I pledge our wholehearted support to the new Federal Prime Minister, hon. Abubakar Tafawa Balewa, and on behalf of the entire Members of the N.P.C., both in this Legislature and outside, we pledge our wholehearted support, and we dedicate ourselves to the task that is before us, that is the task of achieving Independence on 2nd April, 1960, by hook or by crook. (*Laughter*). With your permission, Sir, Mr Speaker, I beg to change it, "by all constitutional measures." I beg to withdraw "by hook or by crook". (*Applause*.)

Now, Sir, in the end, we pray that God may guide us in all our counsel; may our enemies not have the opportunity of rejoicing over our failure; may the souls of the dead who contributed to this our achievement rest in peace; may the British who have trained us all along and will continue to guide us to the last, be rewarded for the tremendous good they have done to humanity, and for the little bad, for they are human beings, may they be forgiven.

Sir, I beg to support.

Mr Jaja Wachuku (Aba): Mr Speaker, Sir, this is an occasion when one speaks with emotion because it is a day when some of the things for which we have been working have come to reality. You know, Sir, since 1952 when the Federal House of Representatives came into being, there were a number of things which were fought for. But during the life of this present House we have begun to see some of these things coming to existence. Sir, in practical politics I consider to-day as one of my happiest moments because, Sir, with

regard to the occasion which we are about to celebrate practically here, we are celebrating it oratorically. But we have invitation to other functions which will make the occasion more realistic, and before we come to that, we have to recount some of our achievements, and this one brings the achievement to a climax as far as this class of achievements is concerned, but not the ultimate achievement. The ultimate achievement is the one for which this is a stepping stone, a preparation—Independence for Nigeria on the 2nd of April, 1960. We hope and pray God will spare us to see that day.

Now, Sir, from 1952 we fought for the training of our men for external representation of our people. At that time, Sir, the then Chief Secretary told us: "Oh, there is no such thing; we have no school for training people." I remember my friend, Anthony Enahoro, and I challenged the authority of the then Chief Secretary and we showed that it was possible. They gave us the impression that it was absolutely impossible. Now, Sir, I remember in this very House, there was another Chief Secretary, Sir Hugo Marshall when we brought that matter again to this House he shadowed us, but we did not allow him to get away with it until we forced him to admit that a statement was overdue. Now, Sir, after his departure, his successor, Sir Ralph Grey, came to this House, and then when he was called upon to implement the commitment of his predecessor, he denied that such a commitment was made. I remember how much, from that side of the House, I challenged the statement, that there was such a commitment from his predecessor. We challenged him and pressed on the point until, Sir, with the support of the House and the Members of the Council of Ministers, we discussed the preparation of a White Paper on the training of our people for representation of their country abroad.

Now, Sir, not only that. This House was very vocal to see that steps were taken to Nigerianise the Civil Service of this country because it is known, no matter what politicians may decide, we debate and go, we decide on policy and retire, but the day-to-day working of the Government of this country rests in the hands of the Civil Servants. And if we are self-governing and your Civil Servants do not think what you think, you are just wasting your time; they will undo all that you tried to do unless you are sure that you have an indigenous Civil

going to be in the Civil Service. Because, to-day, some Nigerians are getting frustrated, and we notice that some of our valuable civil servants are on the verge of applying to go to the Regions instead of staying in the Federation. If they go away from the Federal Service, and go to the Regions, what happens? The failure of the Public Service of the Federation will be the failure of the Prime Minister, it will be the failure of the Council of Ministers, it will be the failure of the nation.

Therefore, Sir, I am asking you most strongly to examine the structure. I have my facts, and if I am called upon to give the facts, I will give them. There are people in the various Departments who have only G.C.E., when others with M.Sc. in Economics are not admitted into the Holy of Holies. So that it is necessary, the question of qualifications in the Civil Service, as has been said by my Friend on this Side, it is necessary, Sir, that it must be made positively certain now that if there is anybody in the Public Service, the Federal Service of this Government, who is not prepared to adjust himself to the prevailing environment, let him come forward. We will pay him adequately, we will remunerate him adequately, we will thank him for services rendered, we will assist him in all the ways we can, and then we will despatch him quietly. But at the same time, Sir, we will do anything to keep those who ally themselves with us, those who are prepared to work with us, those who are prepared to help us in building the nation.

Let nobody go around saying there are people who do not want expatriate staff. We do not want to throw out good men; we do not want to throw out good women. But, certainly, bottlenecks must be broken. It is very necessary.

Now, Sir, there is one point which I want to stress upon. It has some reference to the Constitutional Conference. There is one mistake that was made at the Constitutional Conference. Now, Sir, why did you create the office of Deputy Governor-General? Why? When the Governor-General was away on the Constitutional Conference, the Chief Justice of the Federation acted. Surely, the nation did not collapse when he was acting. There was a precedent. To-day in Ghana the Chief Justice is acting. Why didn't you

write it down in the Constitution that in the absence of the Governor-General the Chief Justice of the Federation should act? Why didn't you do that? Now you have created a new problem for us. It may well be that a person who does not identify himself with us, who does not believe in our Ministers and our Ministries, and probably does not believe in what we believe in, is appointed to fill that post, and make it impossible for the policy of the nation to go forward. Sir, what are you doing about that? Are we going to have the Chief Justice of the Federation to become the Deputy Governor-General? Who is going to be the Deputy Governor-General? This is very, very vital to us, because you provided for Deputy Governor-General. The Secretary of State says, "I will not give you a blank cheque." But you gave a blank cheque. What of the blank cheque of the Deputy Governor-General?

I have read the report, Sir. What are his functions? Is he going to control the Civil Service? What will be his functions? I want to know. This is very vital to the nation; because if you have a person there who does not identify himself with all the things that the country stands for, saying that he should control the Civil Service, of course he can manipulate anything and make it impossible for us to get our objectives.

Sir, you said you paid tribute to our Civil Servants. We are very grateful to the Chief Secretary and here, Sir, I want to pay a special tribute to this person. I feel that the Prime Minister and the Council of Ministers should ask His Excellency the Governor-General to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies to give him a promotion to the post of Governor of another territory. Because I personally feel that Nigeria has got all it can from him, and he deserves a promotion elsewhere. At the moment, Sir, the post of the Chief Secretary has been abolished. That of the Financial Secretary has been abolished, and the Attorney-General. I think our Chief Secretary deserves promotion to a Governorship, and if the Council of Ministers—I am sure this House is in agreement with me that he deserves a promotion to Governor and transfer to another territory. We need a change. We need a rarefied atmosphere. I need not go any further.

Mr Speaker : Your time is very nearly up.

Mr Wachuku : Sir, when I used to be a student in Trinity College I was reading through my class notebook, and I would like to put this before the Prime Minister what I thought should be representative of a great Minister, and I will read it out. "A truly great Minister is a man who with great natural abilities and accomplished education possesses great and noble principles, and endeavours to serve his country by means that are honest and honourable."

Sir, I can see in our Prime Minister, by this standard and with the little observation I have had since 1952, as a Member of this House, I see these qualities in him and I believe that if they are developed with a new national government I have no doubt that he will become not only a truly great Minister but a truly great Prime Minister.

Sir, on behalf of this Side of the House, I support. (*Applause*).

Mr E. C. W. Howard (Special Member) : Not only have I had the very great privilege of being a member of this most honourable House at such a proud and historic moment in the history of this country, but I have also been accorded the honour of speaking on behalf of all the Special Members to welcome the first Prime Minister of the Federation of Nigeria. We warmly congratulate him on his attainment to the highest political office in the land. As His Excellency the Governor-General has said, those tasks facing the Governments in the immediate future are the preliminary arrangements necessary before the ultimate goal of independence for the Federation within the Commonwealth can be achieved. The Prime Minister himself has said responsibility for resolving the problems that still remain and the difficulties to be overcome, falls, not only on the Council of Ministers to the Federation, but on the Regional Governments and the people of Nigeria as a whole. Nevertheless, it is inevitable that the burden must rest most heavily on the shoulders of the Prime Minister. It is comforting to know that those shoulders belong to a man who is not only eminently fit for the high post he now occupies but also commands the confidence, respect and affection of people from all sides of this House. (*Hear, hear*). It is our hope, Sir, that we too may play our part, however small, in the bringing of these preparations to a successful conclusion.

Although we have no political ties of any kind, and owe allegiance to no party, we assure the Prime Minister of our true support and co-operation in all measures designed to promote that which we all desire, a strong, united, prosperous and worthy Federation of Nigeria. (*Hear, hear*).

12.34 p.m.

Chief T. T. Solaru (Ijebu East) : Mr Speaker, Sir, this is a very proud day in the annals of the history of the Federation. For too long, for three years too long, has this Federation been suffering from a malady, a malady which various physicians tried to prescribe different remedies for, and even we have heard the remark, "It is a weak Federal Government." It is a weak Federal Government. There is nothing weak about the people who composed this Legislature. There is nothing weak about the Ministers, as people ; but now it has come to light that the weakness of the Federal Government lies in the fact, as has been ably put up by the hon. Mr Jaja Wachuku, that the Federation has no head. Well the Federation did have a head. It was because it was a white head upon black shoulders (*laughter*). For he himself would be the first to say that the Chief Secretary was running the Council of Ministers. Why does he shout the fact now that we had no head. We did have a head, but not the head of our own choice. Now that we have a head of our own choice, now that the Constitutional Conference has helped us to amend the Constitution in such a way that we can now have a Federal Prime Minister, one can only wish the Federal Government a new lease of life, virile, strong and vigorous, to achieve the herculean task before them.

The Governments of the Regions, who are long practised in this art of having Primiers of their own, and of shouldering their own responsibility and not passing the buck, sometimes to expatriates, sometimes this or that, who have shouldered their burdens squarely, we shall learn from their example, the example of facing difficulties with courage, for difficulties there will be despite the fact that we are jubilating to-day. As someone said when people in Britain were ringing their bells on one occasion because of their victory, he said, "They are ringing their bells now, they might be wringing their hands soon." Well may that day never come to us. We are ringing our bells now, and if

we want to keep them ringing, like the ties we have to bind us together, we shall have to see to the weakest links and see that they are made strong.

Sir, you have had so many advices thrust upon your shoulders or thrust upon you, and on such occasions as this, people will hasten, people who, when the man is drowning will look on, but as soon as he gets hold of a tree root or a branch and begins to pull himself up the bank, they will be the first to encumber you with their assistance and help. Sir, I want to say to you, beware: you do not only need to beware of your enemies, but also you need to beware of your friends. For in this, our Federation, which is just having a beginning, there are many people who would come like wolves in sheep's clothing. But we know that the man whom we have as Prime Minister has discerning eyes and he will know how to tread his step warily. And, ably supported by the grand team that he has picked, mind you, picked for himself, but appointed by the Governor-General, we know that that team will succeed.

Sir, in this period of National emergency, it is one thing to watch the enemies outside our gates, but it is another to battle with the enemy internally. The problems of Nigeria are no longer external, as such. I would be the last to say that there are no external problems. But they are mainly internal now, however we may laud ourselves to the skies for our achievement, we must remember that it is the people whom we put in office, the people who carry out the policies, they are the people who are the keystones of the arch. If the keystone of the arch is not sound it will crumble and there will be no arch and there will be no building.

We know that in the Prime Minister we have a sound cornerstone. We know that in his lieutenants we have people who will do their best; but not only must we have good leadership in the country, we must have good followership, and it is in that difficult task of good followership that we, as Members of this Legislature, and individual members of the Federation, must address ourselves. We cannot all be on horseback; some of us will have to follow on foot. And if you think riding on horseback is a very pleasant thing and nothing else, well it is as one captain said to one of his privates who was bemoaning that

while the captain rode on horseback they were having to slog along in the mud. Well the captain heard him and he said, "Come here, Private." The Private came out. The Captain got down from his horse and yanked the Private up and put him on horseback and said, "Now you march ahead." The next cannon shot got the Private and down he came in the dust.

So people who are up in the heights, they have their privileges, but they have their perils. It is these perils, these things, that many people never see. They only see the glamour. They do not see the persistent nights of toil. If these people are going to succeed, it will be because you and I and everyone of us have done our duty faithfully; and so, Sir, we can pledge full support, we can pledge unstinted service in the achievement of independence for this Federation, independence which is not hollow. Independence which is solid, such as the world will acclaim, and such as will give Nigeria a place among the Comity of Nations. A light among the peoples of the world.

While I congratulate the Prime Minister, I must not forget to pay tribute to all those who were before him; those who, like Moses, have led the children of Israel through the desert; but while they were very near the Promised Land, some of them fell by the wayside and the mantle fell upon Joshua. He was to lead. Joshua knew the debt of gratitude that he owed to those gone before him many of them forgotten, but they are remembered by God. And so, as we go forward we must pay tribute to all those who have contributed to our rate of progress. They were all in the team. They all battled, even though we gained at their expense; it is because they have done their best that we are where we are to-day.

It is not African to be ungrateful. It is not African to refuse to recognise the privileges that others have conferred upon us. But we shall be greater fools if we do not seize all the opportunities offered to us by all the advances of other nations and all the accumulated heritage that has now become ours, to march forward, and by the grace of God we shall get to Canaan at last.

Mr Speaker, my last word of tribute would be to the Governor-General. It is not often the fate of Governors and men of higher estate to

see the fruits of their labours. One could say of him, in a sense, that he has come to reap where he has not sown. But when this man came, he found the field still full of thorns. There was so much strife in the country. But from the first, he set the tone. He said, "I have come as your counsellor, as your guide and as your friend," and throughout the length and breadth of the land he went from village to village and from town to town. In him we see a tower of strength and confidence and we are glad that he is here on this auspicious day to rejoice with us at the juncture at which we have arrived. We may well wish for him a long lease of life to see us again on the day of independence and to come here to congratulate us and himself for the great achievement which is still ahead. Mr Speaker, the best is yet to be.

Mr L. S. Fonka (Bamenda): Mr Speaker, I am very happy to have been given the opportunity to speak on this historic occasion. I feel that with the appointment of a Prime Minister for the Federation of Nigeria, a new era has dawned in the historical annals of the Federation. The correct man has been given this office... (*Hear, hear*)... We could not have chosen a better Prime Minister for the unity of Nigeria, and I think, Mr Speaker, that I shall be right if I liken him, Alhaji Balewa, to Abraham Lincoln. Lincoln brought the separate states of America together to form the United States of America as we know it to-day. We also believe that Alhaji Abubakar Tafawa Balewa will bring the Regions of Nigeria together to form a united Nigeria. (*Hear, hear*).

I must at this juncture remind our new Prime Minister that although Abraham Lincoln had to plunge America into a civil war in order to form the United States of America, we shall expect him not to plunge Nigeria into a civil war: we shall expect him to make the Federation of Nigeria a united Nigeria in a peaceful atmosphere.

Mr Speaker, I wish to place on record the appreciation we of the Cameroons have for the first step taken by the Prime Minister in the formation of a national government. By this step we judge the Prime Minister to be a man who can sacrifice Party differences and sectional differences on the altar of nationalism. By this step, every right thinking Nigerian can see for himself that our Prime Minister is not a Regionalist but a nationalist... (*Hear hear*)... By inviting the Action Group members to join

in the formation of a national government the Prime Minister has shown wisdom which must be admired by all Nigerians. He has shown by his wisdom that he could not succeed in promoting unity in Nigeria without the co-operation of the major political parties of Nigeria. Sir, the Prime Minister has taken the right step in the right direction.

To-day, I think the old order has changed and given place to the new. With the exodus of the expatriate officers from the Council of Ministers and the bringing in of the Action Group members into the Government, we can expect nothing but a good team spirit from this new Council of Ministers... (*Hear, hear*)... We expect a spirit, Sir, which will move these Ministers to all sections of the Federation and to extend all development projects to each section for the good of Nigeria at large.

But I must not end without sounding this warning.....

Several hon. Members: Don't warn our new Prime Minister!

Mr Fonka: I would like to say, Sir, that unless the present Regions of Nigeria are split into States so that no one could dominate the other, we should be pretending to form a strong Federal Government... (*Hear, hear*)

Finally, Sir, I wish the Prime Minister and his new Cabinet God's guidance so that they may succeed in bringing Nigeria into a good nation worthy of the name. I wish them success so that history and posterity will remember them for good.

Mr S. S. Tarka (Jemgbar): Mr Speaker, I rise to support this ably moved motion. I do so because of the unlimited substance contained in His Excellency's speech and the statemanship of Alhaji Balewa by the Grace of God first Prime Minister of Nigeria... (*Hear, hear*)... Last Session, we members of the United Middle Belt Congress were searching for places to sit in this House. It was purposely because of the position of the N.P.C. in the Government. To-day, we actually have no cause to look for places to sit. We can sit *there*, we can sit *here*, we can sit anywhere in the House... (*Laughter*)... Despite our differences with the Prime Minister's party both in the Regional Government and the former differences in this House, we agree that he is the right choice... (*Hear, hear*)....

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[Debate on the Address]

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[Debate on the Address]

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We are aware of the situation that has arisen in this Government and every sane person, like every freedom-loving person, will agree with me that the steps taken by the Prime Minister in forming a national government are reasonable. I am glad that the Action Group, like all the other parties, have agreed to join. This step will weld the country together and we shall all be able to work as a team.

In fact the task of achieving independence for this great nation will from now on be a collective responsibility. As the leader of the U.M.B.C. I would like to assure the Prime Minister that since this is Government of Nigeria by Nigerians for Nigerians it is our Government. It is an honour and a blessing and we are there with him in spirit. We of the U.M.B.C. shall co-operate with him in all matters worthy of Nigeria's good name. As nationalists of the first order we shall even be more than pleased to contribute our quota of the national duty in putting the decisions of the London Conference, the making of which we were party to, into effect, more so in the achievement of independence for this country on 2nd April, 1960. On behalf of members of the U.M.B.C. in this House and outside this House, I am seizing this opportunity, Sir, to congratulate the Prime Minister on the occasion of his appointment.

The very fact that we have at last reached the last step in this evolution, which is transforming this great country into a free nation, makes me happy. I believe that our brand new national Government will be our springboard to independence. I am even happier at the idea of having an all Nigeria cabinet with an able Nigerian at the head who will now lead us to our Canaan. Thank God Nigeria is what it is.

By the grace of God we are all aware of the fact that this good work is the making of our Regional Premiers and I extend my thanks to them on behalf of my party.

Mr Speaker I beg to support. (*Applause*).

Mr S. W. Ubani-Ukoma (Aba): Mr Speaker, in supporting this motion I am to convey the goodwill of my party the U.N.I.P.

Although we who were in Nigeria were somewhat disappointed when our delegates went to London to demand our independence

when we observed that most of them went drinking, racing and dancing, yet to-day we are quite pleased to know that they have achieved something, the appointment of a Prime Minister to head this Federation. We are happy to note that the man that has been chosen is the man after our own heart. The Prime Minister is a man whom we all love, not because of his handsomeness but because of his good character. I do not mean at all that he is not handsome. He is a Nigerian and he is Nigerian made. He is the leader that we all look up to and know that since he is not a chief or a doctor he is the Prime Minister for the common man. We look forward to the time when we shall see him trying to help us in this country and helping poor people who are being ill-treated.

We ask that the respect that is given to the Nigerian Commissioner in London who represents the whole of this country in London and elsewhere and the publicity given to him should also be given to the Prime Minister. This Minister of ours who has been so much esteemed should also give us that rule which we all look forward to.

I think I remember that when our people went to London for the Constitutional Conference Mr Lennox-Boyd, by refusing to name a date for independence gave them a challenge and this challenge has to-day been answered by our Prime Minister in choosing a national Government, by trying to incorporate the Action Group so that we might sing one tune. There is one thing I have to say. Whatever happens in this country we cannot deny that Nigeria is divided into three parts and I think that the cabinet should have reflected this adequately. It should have adequately reflected the tripartite nature of this country by trying to include some people, more from the East. We only have about three Ministers and I think that if nothing is written in the Constitutional Law it should be conventional that whatever happens it should be made possible that our part of Nigeria should be adequately represented in the cabinet and I also ask the Prime Minister to think again and to make it possible for the U.N.I.P. to be represented in the cabinet, so that we achieve our common end of independence in 1960.

Mr Speaker I beg to support the motion.

Question put and agreed to.

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[*Debate on the Address*]

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[*Debate on the Address*]

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Resolved :

“That an humble Address be presented to His Excellency, the Governor-General, as follows :—

“Your Excellency,

We the Members of the House of Representatives here assembled beg leave to offer our humble thanks to Your Excellency for the Address which Your Excellency has delivered to this House on this historic occasion”.

To be presented to the Governor-General by Members of the Council of Ministers.

Adjournment

The Minister of Lagos Affairs, Mines and Power (Hon. Alhaji Muhammadu Ribadu) :

Sir, I beg to move that this house do now adjourn.

The Minister of Research and Information (Hon. Kolawole Balogun) : Sir, I beg to second.

Question Proposed.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved : That this House do now adjourn.

Adjourned accordingly at 2 minutes to 1 p.m. until 10 a.m. on Tuesday the 3rd of September.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

(Answers to Written Questions received after the Adjournment of the House on 27th March, 1957 up to and including 31st August, 1957.)

Question—

W.5. Mr N. A. Ezonbodor asked the Minister of Trade and Industry :—

If he would state the total tonnage of various kinds of timber shipped from Warri port since 1952.

Answer—

The Minister of Trade and Industry : No figures are available of the quantities of timber shipped from Warri in the years 1952 and 1953. The figures for the ensuing three years were as follows :—

NIGERIAN EXPORTS OF TIMBER THROUGH WARRI PORT : 1954-56

Description	1954		1955		1956	
	Quantity Cu. Ft.	Value £	Quantity Cu. Ft.	Value £	Quantity Cu. Ft.	Value £
LOGS						
African, Lagos and Benin mahogany	17,196	4,118	4,293	949	4,371	1,321
Sida, African walnut	—	—	412	127	—	—
Makore, D'jave	1,285	622	—	—	—	—
Abura, Uwem	602,744	101,377	712,365	123,735	258,654	38,836
Idigbo	—	—	1,168	184	—	—
Arere, Obeche	1,369	256	1,179	283	—	—
SAWN						
Agba	—	—	545	320	—	—
African, Lagos and Benin mahogany	61	55	—	—	—	—
Abura, Uwem	12,371	7,377	14,050	7,439	8,700	4,014
Total	635,026	113,805	734,012	133,037	271,725	44,171

Grand Total 1954-56 .. Quantity=1,640,763 cu. ft. Value=£291,013

The figures for 1956 are provisional, but I believe them to be very nearly accurate.

Question

W.6. Mr N. A. Ezonbodor asked the Minister of Trade and Industry :—

What steps had been taken to investigate the possibility of establishing canning industries in the Oporama District of Western Ijaw Division.

Answer—

The Minister of Trade and Industry : The Federal authorities have taken no steps to investigate the possibility of establishing canning industries in the Western Ijaw Division.

Question—

W.8. Mr J. A. O. Akande asked the Minister of Trade and Industry :—

What plans he has to establish an industry at Abeokuta ; and how soon.

Answer—

The Minister of Trade and Industry : The Federal Government has at present no plans to establish an industry at Abeokuta.

Question—

W.16. M. Mohammed Bello, Turakin Argungu asked the Minister of Trade and Industry :—

If he was taking steps to protect the pioneer industries opened in Nigeria from foreign competition ; and if he will make a statement.

Answer—

The Minister of Trade and Industry : In order that nascent Nigerian industries might not be put at a disadvantage by competition from imported goods the House of Representa-

tives at its last meeting passed the Industrial Development (Import Duties Relief) Ordinance, and as stated in the Governor-General's address it is the intention of the Federal Government, later in the current session of the House, to introduce a Bill safeguarding Nigerian industries, and Nigerian merchants, from the unfair trade practice of "dumping".

Question—

W.23. Mr R. T. Alege asked the Minister of Trade and Industry :—

What steps he was taking to encourage ceramic factories to be set up in the areas of this country where clay deposits are important.

Answer—

The Minister of Trade and Industry : To encourage the establishment of ceramic factories in appropriate places in this country the Federal Government has at my instance declared the manufacture of ceramics to be a pioneer industry, and notified the Regional Governments and the Government of the Southern Cameroons accordingly. Technical advice both from the Industrial Advisory Group in my Ministry and the Department of Commerce and Industries will be available to anybody genuinely interested in setting up such a factory anywhere in the Federation.

Question—

W.24. Mr R. T. Alege asked the Minister of Trade and Industry :—

What steps he was taking to keep low the costs of housing materials in this country.

Answer—

The Minister of Trade and Industry : The Federal Government has declared the manufacture of Portland cement, of paint, and of asbestos cement products pioneer industries. It has invested £1,100,100 in the Nigerian Cement Company, and lent the company £174,900. Finally, it has provided in the current Economic Programme for contributions totalling £60,000 towards the expenses of the West African Building Research Institute, which has its headquarters at Accra, but will shortly be setting up an establishment in Nigeria. Furthermore there are no barriers in the importation of building materials from the least expensive sources of supply—which are Europe and Japan—and importers are encouraged to order their requirements where they can most cheaply be obtained.

Question—

W.26. Mr R. T. Alege asked the Minister of Trade and Industry :—

If he was aware of the importance of glass industry to the people of Niger Province; and what effort he was making to develop such an industry.

Answer—

The Minister of Trade and Industry : I am aware that trinkets, and other objects, are made from glass at Bida. Since "industrial development" is a subject on the Concurrent Legislative List the development of local industries is primarily a matter for the Regional Ministries concerned, but my Ministry is always ready to give what help it can if a Regional Ministry invites it to do so.

Question—

W.28. Mr R. T. Alege asked the Minister of Trade and Industry :—

What steps he had taken to secure favourable prices on the world market for Nigerian columbite and tantalite; and if he would name the markets and the prices for these minerals, there.

Answer—

The Minister of Trade and Industry : Prices for columbite and tantalite depend on the demand for these minerals in world markets. When the United States Government urgently required a strategic stock pile of columbite and tantalite it published a range of prices and offered a 100 per cent bonus on those prices as an incentive. When the American stock piling programme ceased, columbite and tantalite had to find their own price level dependent on demand and the cost of producing *columbo tantalum* steels in competition with other special steel made from other alloying metals. The price is, therefore, dependent on research into the uses and advantages of these metals and the demand created for them.

2. Prices for columbite at present range from approximately £550 to £750 a ton and the principal consumers are the United Kingdom and the United States of America.

3. The Mines Department has taken every opportunity to publicise these metals in the technical press and they received a certain

amount of valuable publicity during the visit of His Royal Highness, Prince Philip, during a visit of inspection to a columbite mine at Jos a year ago.

Question—

W.48. M. Abdullahi, Magajin Musawa asked the Minister of Trade and Industry :—

If he would state the total tonnage of groundnuts exported to Britain during the period 1954-56.

Answer—

The Minister of Trade and Industry : In the years 1954 to 1956 inclusive 899,278 tons of Nigerian groundnuts were exported to the United Kingdom.

Question—

W.59. Alhaji Muhammadu, Sarkin Burmi Moriki asked the Chief Secretary of the Federation :—

If he will give the number of Nigerians who joined the Nigeria Police Force in the periods 1947-52 and 1952-57 ; and of these the number who have been promoted to the rank of Senior Superintendent of Police in those periods.

Answer—

The Chief Secretary of the Federation : In the period 1st January, 1947 to 31st March, 1953, 4,479 recruits joined the Nigeria Police Force. The figure for the period 1st April, 1953 to 31st March, 1956 is 3,583.

As regards the second part of the question, the answer is none, but I should add that no member of the Force, joining as a recruit, whether a Nigerian or an expatriate, can expect to reach the rank of Senior Superintendent of Police within the number of years to which the question relates.

Question—

W.63. Mr J. A. O. Akande asked the Minister of Communications and Aviation :—

Why telegraph messengers have not as yet received the new salary awards despite the assurance given in August 1956 that a competent body would be set up to deal with their case.

Answer—

The Minister of Communications and Aviation : At the time the report of the Grading Commissioner for the Department (Sir David Lidbury) was being considered it

was agreed with the Union of Posts and Telecommunications Workers that a further study of the salary grading of the Telegraph Messengers, Postmen, and Mail Porter posts would be made. This review has been a lengthy one and has necessitated a detailed study of the various duties of those grades throughout the Department. The Department's final proposals are being drafted and should be available for consideration before the end of the month.

Question—

W.66. M. Damale Kaita asked the Minister of Land, Mines and Power :—

What steps have been taken to investigate the clay deposits in the Northern Region suitable for a ceramic industry, and in what localities.

Answer—

The Minister of Land, Mines and Power : Clays suitable for making glazed pottery have been found in the following localities :—

Near Rop on the Jos Plateau
Near Karkidda in Adamawa Province.
Dakingari in Sokoto Province.

Analyses were recently made of clays from Dawaki-ta-tofa near Kano, Abuchi near Abuja and Sabon Gida near Bukuru. Clay samples are tested in an experimental kiln constructed at Abuja by the Department of Trade and Industry, Northern Region. The Geological Survey Department assists in this work and has offered to carry out chemical and mechanical analyses of the clays to be tested at Abuja.

Question—

W.70. Prince R. N. Takon asked the Minister of Communications and Aviation :—

What efforts he has made to fulfil his promise to maintain a mail van for carrying mails between Enugu and Ikom, in order to reduce postal difficulties in the area.

Answer—

The Minister of Communications and Aviation : A Departmental motor van service already operates over the Enugu-Bansara section of the route. Two additional vehicles are included in the Department's estimates 1957-58 for the remaining section of the route and it is hoped that mail vans will be working over the route by the end of the financial year.

Question—

W.71. Prince R. N. Takon asked the Minister of Communications and Aviation:—

What are his proposals for the installation of telecommunications facilities in Ikom.

Answer—

The Minister of Communications and Aviation : In the Telecommunications Development Plan under the 1955-60 Economic Programme, Ikom will be provided with the following additional facilities :—

(a) a telephone exchange and network of subscribers' line.

(b) trunk telephone service by overhead line to Obubra.

(c) trunk telephone service by V.H.F. radio to Mamfe and Calabar.

Question—

W.72. Mr F. N. E. Ngale asked the Minister of Communications and Aviation :—

If he is aware that owing to the increasing importance of Buea the Post Office in the town is no longer adequate for the needs of the public; and if he will take steps to commence the building of the proposed Buea Post Office for which funds have long been allocated.

Answer—

The Minister of Communications and Aviation : I am aware of the importance of Buea. Schedules of requirements for the new Post Office have been drawn up and the Public Works Department are now working on the preliminary plans.

Question—

W.78. M. Usumanu Maitambari asked the Minister of Communications and Aviation :—

If he will give a date for the extension of the telephone line from Sokoto to Argungu and Birnin Kebbi.

Answer—

The Minister of Communications and Aviation : It is anticipated that the new telephone trunk line Sokoto to Birnin Kebbi via Argungu will be completed during 1959. But it is necessary to point out that it will not be possible at this stage to put in an exchange and link up subscribers at Argungu.

Question—

W.80. M. Abubakar Gurumpawo asked the Minister of Land, Mines and Power :—

If he is aware of the mineral potentialities of the Mambila area in Adamawa Province; and if he will undertake a detailed geological survey of the area.

Answer—

The Minister of Land, Mines and Power : In 1948 the Cameroons Mining Corporation found that the Mambila Plateau was underlain by basalts similar to those underlying the Biu Plateau and no evidence of mineralisation was discovered there. In view of this evidence, coupled with shortage of staff in the Geological Survey Department and the necessity to give priority to other important work, it is not proposed to undertake any further detailed geological survey of the area at the present time.

Question—

W.86. Mr B. A. Obaje asked the Minister of Communications and Aviation :—

If he will consider increasing the staff of the Departmental Post Office in Igala Division, in view of the dense population of the area.

Answer—

The Minister of Communications and Aviation : The Departmental Post Office in the Igala Division is at Idah. It is agreed that the existing staff of one officer is insufficient and arrangements are in hand to increase it as soon as recruitment permits.

Question—

W.87. Mr B. A. Obaje asked the Minister of Communications and Aviation :—

When the V.H.F. services will begin to operate in Igala Division.

Answer—

The Minister of Communications and Aviation : It is expected that telephone and telegraph trunk services at Idah over the V.H.F. network to Enugu and Lokoja will be available during June 1957.

Question—

W.88. Mr D. O. Enang asked the Minister of Communications and Aviation :—

If he will state when the reconstruction of the Obubra Post Office will commence, and the efforts he is making to increase the staff there.

Answer—

The Minister of Communications and Aviation : Provision for a new Type 1 Post Office at Obubra is made in the Department's Post Offices construction programme for 1958-60. Whether it can be completed in that period is subject to sufficient funds being made available.

2. It is the case that on occasions the number of staff at Obubra is lower than is desirable but the deficiency is not serious. There are other places in the Eastern Region with a much greater need for additional staff which must receive priority.

Question—

W.89. Mr D. O. Enang asked the Minister of Communications and Aviation :—

How soon telephone services will be extended to Obubra Divisional Headquarters in view of the great volume of business transacted there.

Answer—

The Minister of Communications and Aviation : Telephone trunk lines from Obubra to Abakaliki and Ikom with a Call Office at Obubra have been included in the Telecommunications Development Plan under the 1955-60 Economic Programme. The connection will be made before 1960.

Question—

W.93. Mr J. A. Effiong asked the Minister of Land, Mines and Power :—

If he will investigate the possibility of providing Okopodi Urban Area, in Enyong Division, with electricity in the very near future.

Answer—

The Minister of Land, Mines and Power : No, Sir. If the area were to be supplied with electricity such an undertaking would not be economically viable.

Question—

W.94. Mr J. A. Effiong asked the Minister of Land, Mines and Power :—

If he will state what steps have been taken to explore the mineral resources of Enyong Division, indicating what minerals have so far been discovered there.

Answer—

The Minister of Land, Mines and Power : The greater part of Enyong Division falls within the area held under a Prospecting Licence by the Shell-BP Petroleum Development of Nigeria Limited. The Division has been mapped in detail by this company in the course of its search for oil, and a geological map of the area is shortly to be published. Limestones are known to occur on the banks of the Cross River, near Arochuku and these were examined by the Geological Survey in 1950. No other mineral deposits are known in the Division.

Question—

W.96. M. Haruna W. Daji asked the Minister of Communications and Aviation :—

In view of the inadequate transport facilities between Katsina and Daura, if he will consider providing a Departmental mail van to convey mails between Katsina and Daura.

Answer—

The Minister of Communications and Aviation : No, Sir !

Daura is a Postal Agency. The Posts and Telegraphs Department does not provide mail van services to Postal Agencies unless the Agencies happen to be situated on the route covered by an existing Departmental mail service.

2. The principle of the Postal Agency system is one of self-help. To provide mail van services to Postal Agencies would be extremely costly and to do it, the Department would have to restrict very considerably its policy of developing rural areas by agreeing to the provision of Postal Agencies on a generous scale.

Question—

W.97. M. Haruna W. Daji asked the Minister of Communications and Aviation :—

If he is aware of the public demand for a post office with telecommunication facilities at Daura ; and if he will take steps to meet the wishes of the public.

Answer—

The Minister of Communications and Aviation : Daura Postal Agency with only 3,274 units of business is very far below the standard needed for a Departmental Post Office,

and as it has no importance as a mail exchange centre no change in its status is justified. Provision has however been made in the Department's 1955-60 Programme for a Telephone Exchange at Daura and also for a telephone trunk line route from Daura to Katsina.

Question—

W.98. M. Abba Jato asked the Minister of Works :—

What progress has been made since last year on the construction of the Maiduguri-Bama road, and the Bama-Uba road.

Answer—

The Minister of Works : Consulting Engineers have been engaged to survey a route for a new road from Maiduguri to Bama and to prepare contract documents for the work. It is expected that the work will go out to tender in July.

Samples of the local soils have been sent to the Road Research Laboratory, Harmondsworth for advice in the preparation of the most suitable specification for the pavement.

Formation work on the Uba-Bama road has advanced about 18 miles during 1956-57 and has now reached Michika. Work is now in progress on the Delcema and Wandu bridges.

Question—

W.99. M. Abba Jato asked the Minister of Works :—

If he proposes to convert to a Trunk Road A either the route Maiduguri to Fort Lamy *via* Dikwa, or the route Maiduguri thence to Bama and Fort Lamy *via* Jilbe.

Answer—

The Minister of Works : It is the Federal Government's intention to provide an all season road from Maiduguri to the frontier of French Chad. The most suitable route for this road is now being investigated and it is impossible to say at this stage whether the existing dry season road *via* Dikwa or Jilbe will, in fact, be selected.

Question—

W.100. M. Abba Jato asked the Minister of Communications and Aviation :—

When the Bama Postal Agency will be converted to a full post office.

Answer—

The Minister of Communications and Aviation : A post office for Bama is included in the Post Office Construction Programme 1958-60 and provided sufficient funds are available for the completion of the full programme the office should be completed by 1960.

Question—

W.103. Mr L. A. Ning asked the Minister of Communications and Aviation :—

In view of the erecting of a Government Hospital in Wum Division, if he will consider establishing a Post Office in the Division.

Answer—

The Minister of Communications and Aviation : The conditions for the establishment of Departmental Post Offices are set out in the White Paper on Post Offices presented to the House earlier this Session.

2. Wum, with 5,529 units, does not qualify on volume of business, and it is not important as a mail exchange centre.

Question—

W.104. Mr L. A. Ning asked the Minister of Communications and Aviation :—

If he is aware that the system of conveying mails from Wum and Nkambe Divisions by the prison van is inadequate ; and if he will provide a departmental mail van instead.

Answer—

The Minister of Communications and Aviation : The problem of the distribution of mail throughout the Southern Cameroons is at present being actively investigated by the Department of Posts and Telegraphs. The Divisions named are within the scope of the investigation.

Question—

W.109. Mr F. E. Offor asked the Minister of Works :—

If he will name the contractors for tarring to standard width the Trunk Road A.3 from Umu Uvo thence to Okigwi and Oji River ; and why tarring has not commenced on the date originally fixed.

Answer—

The Minister of Works : The name of the contractor for tarring to standard width the Trunk Road A.3 from Umu Uvo to Okigwi is

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Strabag (Nigeria) Limited. No specific date for the commencement of this work is known to have been fixed but it was always proposed to proceed with this work during 1957.

The contract for tarring the section between Okigwi and Oji River has not been let yet.

Question—

W.112. Mr F. E. Offor asked the Minister of Works :—

If he will state how much he has spent out of the Colonial Development and Welfare Fund in Okigwi Division with effect from the commencement of the 1951 Constitution, indicating the projects concerned.

Answer—

The Minister of Works : It is not possible to say how much money from the Colonial Development and Welfare Fund has been spent since the commencement of 1951 Constitution in Okigwi Division, but it is estimated that £176,000 from this source has been spent on projects in Owerri Province since that date.

Question—

W.113. Mr F. E. Offor asked the Minister of Communications and Aviation :—

If he will consider extending telephone trunk service from Okigwi to Mbano and Etiti District Council, in view of the distance of these Councils from the Divisional Headquarters.

Answer—

The Minister of Communications and Aviation : It has not been possible to include the extension of the telephone trunk service from Okigwi to Mbano and Etiti District Council in the Telecommunications Development Plan for 1955-60. However the claims of these areas will be borne in mind and given due consideration when future development plans are being formulated.

Question—

W.116. Mr T. A. Ajayi asked the Minister of Trade and Industry :—

What industry he proposed to establish in Ekiti Division as a result of the Federal Government's Economic Mission.

Answer—

The Minister of Trade and Industry : I assume that when the hon. Member refers to "the Federal Government's Economic Mission"

he has in mind the recent visit to the United Kingdom and the United States of the Deputy Financial Secretary, the Chairman of the Railway Corporation, and the Industrial Adviser to my Ministry : nothing has emerged from that visit to prompt the establishment of an industry in the Ekiti Division.

Question—

W.121. M. Mormoni Bazza asked the Minister of Works :—

If he is aware of the undue delay caused to the public owing to the inefficient and weak engine of the powered ferry at Jimeta, Yola ; and if he will take steps to supply an efficient and strong engine to that ferry.

Answer—

The Minister of Works : Yes Sir.

2. A new power tug for Jimeta arrived in Lagos on February the 19th and has already been despatched to Jos for onward transmission to Jimeta.

Question—

W.122. M. Mormoni Bazza asked the Minister of Communications and Aviation :—

If he will consider providing a post office this year at Mubi in Northern Adamawa Province.

Answer—

The Minister of Communications and Aviation : Mubi is included in the Department's Post Office Construction Programme 1958-60 and provided sufficient funds are made available for the completion of the full programme Mubi will have its new Post Office by 1960.

Question—

W.125. Mr G. A. Ayim asked the Minister of Land, Mines and Power :—

When Government will carry out more survey work on Ogoja Province with a view to discovering more minerals.

Answer—

The Minister of Land, Mines and Power : The Geological Survey started detailed geological sheet mapping in Ogoja Province early this year. Unfortunately, air coverage is incomplete in the area and this will delay the work. The Shell-BP Petroleum Development Company of Nigeria has mapped a large part of

the Province in the course of its search for oil in the Eastern Region, and a geological map of the area is shortly to be published. A great deal of mapping has been carried out by the Geological Survey and a mining company on the Nigerian lead-zinc field in Abakaliki Division. The Department mapped and investigated in detail the limestone deposits at Nkalagu.

Question—

W.126. Mr G. A. Ayim asked the Minister of Communications and Aviation :—

If he will consider erecting a new type Post Office in Ogoja town and Obudu respectively in place of the old type which is now too small.

Answer—

The Minister of Communications and Aviation : A new type Post Office for Ogoja is included in the Post Offices Construction Programme covering the period 1958-60. Its provision depends upon sufficient funds being made available for the completion of the Department's Construction Programme.

2. The Department has included a new type Post Office at Obudu in its programme for 1957-58 and there is no reason to suppose that the building will not be completed by 1959 at the latest.

Question—

W.127. Mr G. A. Ayim asked the Minister of Communications and Aviation :—

If he will consider providing mail vans to transport mails between Ogoja and Obudu to replace the push bicycles now being used for the purpose.

Answer—

The Minister of Communications and Aviation : Departmental motor services for mail distribution are normally provided for the following reasons :

- (1) To accelerate the service.
- (2) To replace unsatisfactory contracts.
- (3) To reduce costs.

To replace the existing mailrunner service between Ogoja and Obudu by a Departmental van service would increase the cost fivefold, an expenditure which would be quite unjustified. The Department is not aware that the existing arrangement is not satisfactory but if there are any complaints about it, they should be referred

to the Territorial Controller, Department of Posts and Telegraphs, Enugu, who will gladly investigate them.

Question—

W.128. Mr G. A. Ayim asked the Minister of Communications and Aviation :—

When telephone lines will be installed in Ogoja Town.

Answer—

The Minister of Communications and Aviation : In the Telecommunications Development Plan under the 1955-60 Economic Programme, provision has been made for a telephone exchange and network of subscribers' line at Ogoja and for telephone trunk services from Ogoja to Obudu, Bansara, Abakaliki and Enugu.

Question—

W.134. Mr L. S. Fonka asked the Minister of Trade and Industry :—

If he would consider establishing an office of the Department of Commerce and Industries in the Southern Cameroons.

Answer—

The Minister of Trade and Industry : The establishment of an office of the Department of Commerce and Industries in the Southern Cameroons has already been approved in principle and provision for the necessary staff is included in the Department's Estimates.

2. It has not yet been possible to recruit an officer to open the office—every effort is being made to do so.

Question—

W.135. Mr L. S. Fonka asked the Minister of Trade and Industry :—

If he would consider setting up an experimental boatyard in the Southern Cameroons for the purpose of evolving small river and ocean-going craft suited to the Southern Cameroons conditions.

Answer—

The Minister of Trade and Industry : No, Sir : the research conducted in the experimental boatyard at Opobo is intended to serve the whole of the Federation, and conditions in the neighbourhood of Opobo are not so different from conditions in the Southern Cameroons as to make the establishment of a separate boatyard desirable.

Question—

W.136. Mr L. S. Fonka asked the Minister of Trade and Industry :—

If he would consider sending craft manufactured in any of the Federal boatyards for trial in the Southern Cameroons and off the Southern Cameroons coast.

Answer—

The Minister of Trade and Industry :

The Federal Government maintains only the experimental boatyard at Obo. I will look into the possibility of sending craft built there to be demonstrated in the Southern Cameroons.

Question—

W.137. Mr L. S. Fonka asked the Minister of Land, Mines and Power :—

What investigations have been conducted before and after World War I into the limestone and salt deposits which exist in the Southern Cameroons ; and if he will make a statement on the exploitation of these deposits.

Answer—

The Minister of Land, Mines and Power : The salt springs near Mamfe in the Southern Cameroons were visited by the Germans before World War I. They also reported that thin beds of limestone occur in the Cross River valley in the neighbourhood of Oji and Kesham. The Geological Survey examined the area around Mamfe in 1927 and some of the brine springs were mentioned in Occasional Paper No. 6. The Department recently found thin beds of limestone at many localities in the cretaceous sediments of the Mungo River between Bombe and Mundane, south-east of Kumbo.

Question—

W.139. Mr J. S. Fonka asked the Minister of Communications and Aviation :—

Whether he will consider the installation of telephone lines to connect Buea with Mamfe and Bamenda as a necessary and urgent project.

Answer—

The Minister of Communications and Aviation : Yes Sir !

Provision has been made in the Telecommunications Development Plan under the 1955-60 Economic Programme for trunk telephone services to connect Mamfe and

Bamenda with Buea by means of V.H.F. radio equipment.

Question—

W.140. Mr L. S. Fonka asked the Minister of Communications and Aviation :—

Why the investigation of a suitable site for an aerodrome in Bamenda which started in 1950 was discontinued ; and if he will consider it a matter of necessity to cause this investigation to resume.

Answer—

The Minister of Communications and Aviation : Investigations into the possibility of constructing an aerodrome in the Bamenda area have revealed that it is unlikely that a suitable site can now be found. Furthermore the cost of an aerodrome with a minimum basic length of 5,000 feet would be extremely high even if a suitable site could be found.

2. Finally the Inter-regional conference on Civil Aviation made no recommendation as to the establishment of an aerodrome at Bamenda.

3. I am not prepared to reopen the investigation before the present Civil Aviation Economic Programme is complete.

Question—

W.144. Mr J. I. Izah asked the Minister of Communications and Aviation :—

If he is aware of the constant breakdown in the telegraph line between Kwale and Sapele ; and what he proposes to do to remedy the situation.

Answer—

The Minister of Communications and Aviation : Yes Sir !

I am aware that the breakdowns in the Telephone and Telegraph trunk line between Kwale and Sapele have been frequent. The breakdowns have been due to the fact that the line passes through areas of heavy bush. Action is again being taken to institute bush clearing of the heavier trees.

Question—

W.145. Mr J. I. Izah asked the Minister of Communications and Aviation :—

When he will replace the present obsolete Morse equipment at Kwale Post Office with new equipment.

Answer—

The Minister of Communications and Aviation : The key and sounder type of telegraph equipment which is used at Kwale Post Office to transmit telegrams by means of the Morse code is not obsolete. This type of equipment is satisfactory for the handling of the amounts of telegraph traffic at Kwale. When the quantity of traffic at Kwale increases sufficiently to justify the use of a teleprinter circuit, teleprinters will be considered. Mains power is necessary to operate teleprinters, and questions of maintenance are also important when considering whether a circuit should be changed from key and sounder to teleprinter.

Question—

W.146. Mr J. I. Izah asked the Minister of Communications and Aviation :—

If he will give reasons for not implementing his promise to extend the telegraph line from Kwale to Ashaka for which provision had been made in the Estimates since 1950.

Answer—

The Minister of Communications and Aviation : I am not aware of any special promise to complete this telegraph line by any particular time. While I make every effort to ensure that all undertakings made by me are honoured, there are often factors involved that are completely outside my control or the control of my departmental officers. Subject to such unforeseen factors, I expect that the telephone and telegraph line from Kwale to Ashaka will be completed by the end of August this year.

Question—

W.147. Mr D. L. G. Olateju asked the Minister of Communications and Aviation :—

If he is aware that at the request of the postal authorities at Oshogbo, the Ikirun District Council have named the streets and numbered the houses in Ikirun Town ; and if he will state when house to house distribution of mails by postmen will commence at Ikirun Town.

Answer—

The Minister of Communications and Aviation : The matter has been under review and it is intended to introduce the system of mail delivery by postmen in Ikirun Town within the next few months.

Question—

W.150. M. Hassan Yola asked the Minister of Communications and Aviation :—

If he will state when a post office will be built at Mubi which town is one of the places given a special consideration for the purpose.

Answer—

The Minister of Communications and Aviation : Mubi is included in the Department's Post Office Construction Programme 1958-60 and provided sufficient funds are made available for the completion of the full programme Mubi will have its new Post Office by 1960.

Question—

W.152. Mr R. T. Alege asked the Minister of Land, Mines and Power :—

If he is aware of a certain kind of ferrous deposit visible and scattered all over the hill of Iyah in Kabba Division ; and if he will take steps to investigate the extent and quality of the deposit.

Answer—

The Minister of Land, Mines and Power : Yes, Sir. This has already been done and no ironstone deposits of economic value have been found there.

Question—

W.153. Mr R. T. Alege asked the Minister of Land, Mines and Power :—

If he will state in what Division in the Northern Region Petroleum has been found or is believed to exist.

Answer—

The Minister of Land, Mines and Power : No petroleum has yet been found in the Northern Region and it is not possible to say in which Division petroleum is believed to exist. Mobil Exploration Nigeria Limited holds an Oil Exploration Licence over the whole of the Northern Region and two of their Geologists are at present engaged in making a preliminary investigation of the sedimentary areas in Sokoto, Niger, Benue, Bauchi, Adamawa and Bornu Provinces.

Question—

W.158. M. Usman A. Ahmed asked the Minister of Communications and Aviation :—

If he will state what arrangement is being made to reconstruct the Lokoja Post Office which is out of date.

Answer—

The Minister of Communications and Aviation : A new type Post Office for Lokoja is included in the Department's Post Offices Construction Programme for 1958-60. It is hoped that sufficient funds will be available for the building to be provided.

Question—

W.159. M. Usman A. Ahmed asked the Minister of Communications and Aviation :—

Whether he will consider providing tele-communications facilities connecting Lokoja to Baro *via* Koton Karifi as suggested in the Bank Mission report, in view of the great demand of the people for these facilities and the rapid growth of local industries in the area.

Answer—

The Minister of Communications and Aviation : When the section of the V.H.F. system between Lokoja and Minna is opened for service, a direct telephone trunk between Lokoja and Baro will be provided.

No provision has been made in the Tele-communications Development Plan under the 1955-60 Economic Programme for tele-communications services at Koton Karifi.

Question—

W.161. M. Usman A. Ahmed asked the Minister of Communications and Aviation :—

If he will consider providing a departmental mail service between Lokoja and Koton Karifi with a powered canoe in place of the present system under community effort.

Answer—

The Minister of Communications and Aviation : No Sir ! Koton Karifi is a Postal Agency. The principle of the Postal Agency system is one of self-help. To provide mail services whether by powered canoe or mail van to Postal Agencies would be extremely costly and to do it the Department would have to restrict very considerably its policy of developing rural areas by agreeing to the provision of Postal Agencies on a generous scale.

It is therefore not the policy of the Department to provide for the conveyance of mails to and from Postal Agencies except where the

Agency is situated on a normal departmental mail route.

The Department considers that the interest of Nigeria as a whole can best be promoted by continuing to operate Postal Agencies on the principle of community self-help which involves the community in making its own arrangements for the conveyance of mails to and from its postal agency.

Question—

W.162. M. Usman A. Ahmed asked the Minister of Communications and Aviation :—

What his plans are regarding the conversion of the Postal Agency Koton Karifi into a full post office in view of the inadequacy of the present Agency to meet the needs of the people, and the increasing commercial activity in the town.

Answer—

The Minister of Communications and Aviation : Koton Karifi, with only 5,114 units of business, is well below the standard required for even a Sub-Post Office as defined in Sessional Paper No. 4 of 1957. As it is not important as a mails exchange centre, no change in its status is warranted.

Question—

W. 164. Mr R. T. Alege asked the Minister of Communications and Aviation :—

If he is aware that mails from Lagos or Kano take over twenty-one days to reach their destinations in Kabba Division; and what he proposes to do to remedy this.

Answer—

The Minister of Communications and Aviation : The Department is not aware of delays to mail between Lagos or Kano and main centres in Kabba Division. Average transit times are as follows :—

From Kano to Idah, Kabba, Lokoja, Okene $2\frac{1}{2}/4$ days depending on the incidence of air services between Kano and Oshogbo.

From Lagos to Idah— $2\frac{1}{2}/4$ days.

From Lagos to Kabba— $2\frac{1}{2}$ days.

From Lagos to Lokoja—3 days.

From Lagos to Okene— $2\frac{1}{2}$ days.

Where correspondence has to be distributed from main centres to Postal Agencies, responsibility for collecting it normally lies with the

Local Authorities or other organisations responsible for the Agencies.

The Department is anxious to investigate complaint of delay and in the case of places in Kabba Division complaints should be forwarded to the Territorial Controller, Department of Posts and Telegraphs, Ibadan, accompanied by the cover or envelope of the item concerned and in the case of registered articles, the certificate of posting. Preferably, the details of the item should be recorded on a form P.103 which may be obtained on request at any Post Office.

Question

W.168. Mr J. G. Adeniran asked the Minister of Land, Mines and Power :—

If he will state how many Nigerians are undergoing courses of training to qualify as geologists, indicating in what institutions they have been admitted and when they will qualify.

Answer—

The Minister of Land, Mines and Power : There are five Nigerians who are at present on courses of training to qualify as geologists. Two scholars have been admitted to the University of Wisconsin, U.S.A., one at each of the Universities of Durham and Hull, U.K., and one has applied for admission to the Imperial College, London. It is possible that one scholar may graduate in 1957, three may qualify in 1958 and one in 1960. A scholarship has recently been awarded to another serving officer to undertake a degree course in geology in the United Kingdom.

Question—

W.169. Mr J. G. Adeniran asked the Minister of Research and Information :—

If he had taken steps to disseminate information to palm wine tappers and sellers to the effect that investigations conducted into palm wine fermentation showed that palm wine could be preserved for about three months.

Answer—

The Minister of Trade and Industry : Experiments conducted at the Federal Department of Commerce and Industries' laboratory (formerly at Aba, now part of the Institute of Applied Technical Research, Oshodi) have

shown that palm wine can be preserved for several months by the addition of small quantities of soluble benzoates and sulphur dioxide (soluble bisulphites). Sample bottles so treated have been kept without deterioration for periods up to 13 months.

Further experiments are being carried out to confirm the findings and to improve the flavour of the palm wine, which is slightly affected by the sulphur dioxide, by treating with wine restorers and bouquet essences.

It is proposed to publish the results of experiments when they have been proved by further tests.

Question—

W.170. Alhaji Musa Hindi asked the Minister of Trade and Industry :—

If he would consider establishing a factory for extracting and processing gum arabic in Bornu Province, particularly at Damaturu where gum arabic is important.

Answer—

The Minister of Trade and Industry : No, Sir.

Extraction of gum arabic is not undertaken in factories, but by tapping the live trees. The International Bank Mission recommended in their report that investigation of the possibilities for expanding the output of gum arabic and measures to improve methods of tapping and preparation should be undertaken by the Northern Regional Department of Agriculture.

2. Gum arabic is used in several different industries in the countries into which it is imported, notably for making confectionery. There is no processing (other than use as an ingredient in a final product) which could usefully be done to it in a factory in Nigeria.

Question—

W.172. M. Muhammadu Bello, Sarkin Paiko asked the Minister of Land, Mines and Power :—

If the Electricity Corporation of Nigeria has completed investigations started about 1948 into the possibility of damming Shiroro Gorge in Minna Division for the Development of hydro-electric power to supply power to

Kaduna; and how soon construction will commence.

Answer—

The Minister of Land, Mines and Power : Yes, Sir. The Civil Engineering Department of the Electricity Corporation of Nigeria has now completed investigations and have presented a favourable report. The Electricity Corporation's Civil Engineer has had discussions in London with Consulting Engineers who are specialists in Hydro-electric development. The General Manager hopes to meet the Ministers of the Northern Regional Government shortly and thereafter to engage the Consultants to produce a final report and design of the project. A date for commencement of the construction cannot be arranged until after the Consultants have studied the problems.

Question—

W.173. M. Muhammadu Bello, Sarkin Paiko asked the Minister of Communications and Aviation :—

If he will consider transferring the telegraph line at present running through the bush to the new road from Minna thence to Paiko and Abuja.

Answer—

The Minister of Communications and Aviation : It is realised that the siting of trunk telephone lines along public roads is desirable as it facilitates maintenance.

It is regretted however that the only way Abuja could be fitted into the Telecommunications Development Plan for 1955-60 was by rewiring the present trunk route through the bush, the route suggested by the Hon. Member being more expensive than funds permit.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
NIGERIA

Tuesday, 3rd September, 1957

The House met at 10 a.m.

PRAYERS

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

SEATING ARRANGEMENTS

Mr Speaker : As a result of the request I have received, I have made the following alterations in Members' places and seat numbers :—

Member	Seat Number
Mr Fani-Kayode	157
Chief T. T. Solaru	158
Dr Awduche	159
Mr Ajasin	160
Mr S. J. Una	102
Mr L. J. Dosumu	104
Chief Sodipo	65

Those changes can take effect from this moment if the people so choose.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Question—

***O.341. Mr D. N. Chukwu** asked the Minister of Transport :—

If he will consider introducing in the Nigerian Railway Higher Training School, Ebute Metta, a course of study for the Institute of Transport Certificate which, if successfully completed, will qualify candidates for direct appointment into the senior grades in the Nigerian Railway Corporation.

Answer—

The Minister of Transport (Hon. R. A. Njoku): No, Sir; the certificate of the Institute of Transport is not, by itself, a qualification for appointment to the Higher grades in the Nigerian Railway Corporation. The Nigerian Railway Management have developed a higher training scheme intended to enable successful trainees to become eligible for appointment to the higher grades. This scheme has been approved by the Corporation and will shortly be submitted to me for approval.

Question—

***O.342. Mr D. N. Chukwu** asked the Minister of Transport :—

How many Nigerians trained at the Nigerian Railway Higher Training School, Ebute Metta,

have been promoted to the senior grades during the period 1953 to 31st March, 1957.

Answer—

The Minister of Transport (Hon. R. A. Njoku): Over the period in question two Nigerians trained at the Higher Traffic Training School have been promoted to superior appointments in the Nigerian Railway Corporation. The Higher Traffic Training School is not a training ground for immediate appointment to the *Officer Grades* (which I assume is what the honourable Member means by *Senior Grades*), but a means of giving suitable staff further advanced training to enable them to assume higher responsibilities in Railway Traffic Operating in due course.

Question—

***O.343. Mr P. A. Aiyuk** asked the Minister of Transport :—

When arrangements will be made to dredge the important inland waterways in the Southern Cameroons.

Answer—

The Minister of Transport (Hon. R. A. Njoku): There is no present prospect of the Government's being able to arrange for the dredging of the more important inland waterways in the Southern Cameroons. A survey of the Mungo River in 1948 showed that to make and keep it navigable all the year round would be exceedingly expensive; the same is true of the Meme River. In both cases extensive training works would be necessary. I have the question of improving the navigability of the Cross River much in mind, but can give no indication of when funds are likely to be available for the purpose.

Question—

***O.344 Mr P. A. Aiyuk** asked the Minister of Transport :—

Why the Federal Government has not made financial grants for the improvement of the ports of Victoria and Tiko.

Answer—

The Minister of Transport (Hon. R. A. Njoku): The port of Victoria is worked from Bota, and the Bota wharf is leased to the Cameroons Development Corporation for a term of 60 years, running from 1947. By virtue of the lease the Corporation is responsible for lighterage and the handling of cargo, and

the transport of passengers to and from ocean-going ships. It is also required to undertake all operations connected with the maintenance, repair, and management of the wharf, and to erect warehouse accommodation for the efficient handling of the port's trade, and it is entitled to charge fees for its services. A similar situation prevails at Tiko. The question of grants by the Federal Government, since the Corporation is in charge, does not, therefore, arise.

Question—

***O.345. Mr Abubakar Garba** asked the Minister of Transport :—

If he will state the amount expended by the Federal Government on the Niger-Benue survey before and during the undertaking by N.E.D.E.C.O.; what results have been achieved by N.E.D.E.C.O., and whether such results justify the expenditure.

Answer—

The Minister of Transport (Hon. R. A. Njoku) : Of the sum of £600,000 provided for the survey in question £474,000 has been spent. The consultants have studied the sand and water discharges and the gradients of the rivers, have carried out detailed soundings, and have conducted aerial surveys. As a result of their findings it has been possible to produce more river maps which are an important aid to navigation, and to institute a system of buoys on the more difficult crossings. There is also a system of navigational patrols, and vessels using the rivers receive information by wireless of the prevailing water levels. In addition the consultants have accumulated and made available to the Government an invaluable body of statistics. Unquestionably the result of the survey so far have justified the expense involved.

Mr Speaker : I understand that Question No. 0.346 is deferred until next week, 10th of September.

Question—

O.347. Mr D. N. Chukwu asked the Minister of Labour and Welfare : How many ex-Servicemen who have registered as applicants for employment at the Federal Labour Department are still unemployed ; and what is being done to find employment for them ?

Answer—

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Labour and Welfare : The number of ex-Servicemen at the moment on the register of unemployed persons at the Lagos Employment Exchange is 54. It is regretted that owing to the short notice of the question it has not been possible to provide figures covering the country. But if the hon. Member so desires I will arrange for the figure to be supplied for his information. Ex-Servicemen having the qualifications and experience prescribed by employers are given preference in submitting unemployed persons for the posts notified as vacant.

Question—

O.306. Mr R. T. Alege asked the Minister of Works and Surveys :—

If he will consider resurfacing and widening Trunk Road A 13, between Egbe and Kabba, as a matter of urgency, in view of the damage done to it by the recent rains.

Answer—

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Works and Surveys (Mallam Usman Sarki) : The damage done to Trunk Road A 13 between Egbe and Kabba due to the recent rains will be attended to by the Provincial Engineer, Lokoja during the course of the normal maintenance of this road. I understand that he also proposes to resurface between mile 81 and mile 104. No funds are available for widening this section of A 13 this year but the matter will be considered by my technical advisers for inclusion in next year's programme.

Question—

O.307. Mr R. T. Alege asked the Minister of Works and Surveys :—

If he will state the number of miles of Federal roads in Kabba Province which have been tarred, and whether he will consider improving the drainage so as to prevent the surface of the roads being washed away.

Answer—

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Works and Surveys : Nine miles of Trunk Road A have been tarred in Kabba Province. These are between Zangondaji and Lokoja. The improvement of drainage is part of the normal maintenance programme which is directed and executed by the Provincial Engineer concerned.

***O.328. Mr G. O. Eneh** asked the Minister of Works and Surveys :—

Whether he will explain how Federal contracts are awarded in the Eastern Region.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Works and Surveys : Contractors operating in the East who are registered with the Federal Registration Board are invited to tender, within their categories, for works in their areas of operation. The tenders are received by the Federal Tenders Board, which, after consideration, decides which one to accept.

***O.329. Mr G. O. D. Eneh** asked the Minister of Works and Surveys :—

What progress has been made in tarring the following roads :—

- (a) Enugu-Nsukka
- (b) Oji-Awgu-Okigwi, and
- (c) Abakaliki-Yahe.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Works and Surveys : The following progress has been made :—

(a) *Enugu-Nsukka*.—This is assumed to mean 9 mile corner to Aliade, as Nsukka is not on a Trunk Road A and the road from Enugu to 9 mile corner has been tarred for some time. Tenders for tarring between 9 mile corner and Aliade will be invited later this month. Work is expected to start early in 1958.

(b) *Oji-Awgu-Okigwi*.—Contract documents for tarring are being prepared. Work is unlikely to start till later next year.

(c) *Abakaliki-Yahe*.—A survey is now being carried out by Consultants. It is hoped that work will start early next year.

***O.348. Oba Aiyeola-Afolu** asked the Minister of Works and Surveys :—

What progress has been made in negotiating for the demolition of the houses in Shagamu which are situated along the Lagos-Ibadan Trunk A road, in view of the Government's proposals to widen the road; and whether plans for widening the road take cognizance of the arrangements being made to supply electricity to the town.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Works and Surveys : An investigation into the relative costs of widening Trunk Road A 1 through Shagamu as compared with

constructing a by-pass reveals that the cost of compensation to house owners along the line of the road together with the widening costs would be very much greater than the construction of a by-pass. I have been forced to reconsider the decision I took some time ago to maintain the present route through Shagamu and widen it after paying compensation to the owners of the houses which would have to be demolished.

Supplementary to Question 0.348—

Oba Aiyeola-Afolu II : How soon will this scheme be implemented?

The Minister of Works and Surveys (Alhaji the hon. M. I. Wada) : I am sure the hon. Member has not heard the answer. The Minister is going to reconsider the matter in view of the fact that the cost of constructing a by-pass is far less than the cost of paying compensation to house owners.

***O.349. Oba Aiyeola-Afolu II** asked the Minister of Works and Surveys :—

Whether he will consider widening Bridge No. 62/3, on the Lagos-Ibadan road, in order to obviate accidents, now that the railings on one side of this bridge have been destroyed by motor vehicles.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Works and Surveys : No Sir. No funds are available for widening during the period of the Economic Programme. The Provincial Engineer concerned has been asked to replace the railings which have been destroyed.

***O.350. Mr P. A. Aiyuk** asked the Minister of Works and Surveys :—

How soon it is expected to tar the Abakaliki-Ikom section of Trunk A 11 Road.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Works and Surveys : It is proposed to tar, during the period of the Economic Programme, only between Abakaliki and Yahe of the Abakaliki-Ikom section of Trunk Road A 11. This work, the survey for which has just commenced, will, it is hoped, start early in 1958.

***O.351. M. Abubakar Garba** asked the Minister of Works and Surveys :—

Whether the Yola-Wukari road and the Gombe-Numan road in Adamawa Province have now been improved to comply with the specification for Trunk A roads.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Works and Surveys : There is no single specification which applies automatically to all Trunk Roads A.

The Gombe-Numan road has been raised where it traverses the flood plain of the Benue River. It should not therefore in future be subject to flooding. It will however still be necessary to close the road after heavy rain as it has a gravel surface.

The Yola-Wukari road is in fact now the Yola-Takum road. The hon. Member is invited to refer to paragraph 93 of Sessional Paper No. 2 of 1956. This road is still under construction but 152 miles from Yola have been completed. As it has a gravel surface it also will be closed after heavy rain.

NOTICES OF MOTIONS Advisory Board for Police

10.17 a.m.

Mr D. N. Chukwu (Awgu): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to move the Motion standing in my name on the Order Paper, "That, in view of the fact that members of the Nigeria Police are not, by law, allowed to cater for their own interests by means of a trade union, this House is of the opinion that an advisory board should be established in the interests of the members of the Nigeria Police Force."

Sir, this is a non-controversial motion and it comes out of the picture in showing its intention. It is known as Police Advisory Board, and that is really what it means, *i.e.*, a collective consultative committee of advisers to the Management of the Nigeria Police Force on all matters concerning the welfare and interest of the Police. I have the hope that it will receive full support from all sides of this House.

Most of the hon. Members here have shown interest in Police affairs and all of us do really want an efficient Nigerian Police administration. Police is the live-wire of peace and order in any nation, and we should seriously avoid playing politics with police affairs. The purpose of this motion is not by any means intended to use it as a weapon or a data of interference with the police and the management of Police Department. The management of Nigeria Police is one of the most efficient within the Federation and has no room whatsoever for much criticism. The Board when established will simply be just like a consultative committee of advisers to the

Heads of Police Department for the smooth running of its machinery. The good work which our police performed in February 1956 when Her Majesty the Queen visited Nigeria will ever be a treasure of honour and respect to them. If they were not able to perform their duty well it would have been a big disgrace in our international concern.

In the United Kingdom, there is an Association simply known as Police Staff Association which caters for the interest of the Policemen. This Association is formed by Policemen themselves. It is unfortunate that such a thing is not obtainable here but if this Motion is accepted and an Advisory Board is established it will surely do more good both to the management and members of Nigeria Police.

It will cater for the interests of Nigerian Policemen on a closed door talk of advice to the management. On the other hand, it will work closely for the welfare of the management in the same way of advice too. All its works will solely be a sort of advice to the Prime Minister and Inspector-General or their deputies; all in a closed door discussion, not to be revealed to the entire public, unless by the Prime Minister and Inspector-General themselves. It is simply known as the Police Advisory Board, and it will surely do only the good work of an efficient adviser. It means, therefore, that when the Board caters for the interests of both the management and rank and file of members of the Nigeria Police, it also caters for the interest of the public.

The management will not in any way be placed in a difficult position by accepting or binding itself to accept all the decisions of the Board; but to a certain extent it will surely digest and make a proper use of any good advice of the Board.

Mr Speaker, Sir, it is always natural that when one is advised by a friend or partner to do a certain thing, it is all left for him to either accept the advice or reject it. He will use his discretion to know exactly what to do. The same thing is applicable to the Board as an adviser in a collective body to the management.

The Advisory Board may consist of:

(1) The Prime Minister or his representative to represent the Ministry.

(2) The Inspector-General or his representative to represent the Administration, perhaps with the Commissioners from the Regions too.

(3) A number of experienced people as may be determined by the Prime Minister and Inspector-General to represent the interest of the three Regions. On the Board members from the Regions, experienced and retired ex-Police Officers, may be useful in supplying expert contribution to the Board.

Mr Speaker, Sir, it is not my intention to give details or draw policy about the appointment of the members of the Board, but I just want the Honourable and the worthy Prime Minister and the Inspector-General to know where I do stand; and what I have in mind in bringing out this Motion before this hon. House. The Inspector-General is our highest and the most expert Police Officer on police matters and management. He will simply know what to do if only this House gives him and the Prime Minister the power to establish the Board.

As an experienced class of men and experts of first class order, I have no doubt that they will formulate a good policy in establishing the Board.

There is one important fact about this Motion. It is definite that either a representative of the Ministry of the Prime Minister or of the Inspector-General's office will be the Chairman of the Advisory Board. Both the management and the Ministry will be fully represented and they have to direct correctly the working order of the Board.

The Board will have no right to interfere with such things like salaries of Policemen. Of course, it may discuss generally on such other things as a way of observation. It will have no power to force any matter on the management, but, through a smooth and normal relationship can advise the management on any matter which may appear to jeopardise the smooth running machinery of the Police Administration. The Advisory Board will have no connection with the Police Service Commission (which was recently agreed at the last Constitutional Conference) which is to be established.

The Police Service Commission has some sort of executive capacity on Police matters on a super degree, but the Advisory Board has none. The Board is meant to acquaint the management of the Police with normal relations between the Policemen, the public and the management—simply for the welfare and smooth running of

the Nigeria Police, either in a way of advice or observation. The Advisory Board will have no executive power on any Police matter or on the Statutory responsibility of the Police, which is the concern of the Governor-General and the Inspector-General.

I would quote the Police Service Commission under section 46, page 18 of the Report of the Nigerian Constitutional Conference, 1957—

“(a) The Police Service Commission should be appointed by the Governor-General acting in his discretion and should consist of:—

(i) A Chairman (who could, if the Governor-General thought it desirable, be the Chairman of the Public Service Commission) and

(ii) either two or four members of whom half should be chosen after consultation with the Council of Ministers and half after consultation with the Chief Justice of the Federation.

(b) A member of the Commission should be either

(i) a person who is not a member of a Legislative House or of the Public Service and if full time holds no other office of profit under the Crown, or

(ii) a person who is a Judge of the Federal Supreme Court, or of the High Courts of Lagos and the Southern Cameroons, or of any Regional High Court, or who has been a Judge of any of these Courts or of any other Court in the Commonwealth of similar or higher status.

It should be open to members also of a Judicial and/or Public Service Commission.”

In conclusion, Sir, I must stress before this hon. House that the Police Force is the live wire in maintenance of peace and order in any nation. Without the Police, no nation can exist. This is therefore an important matter affecting the progress of the country. I humbly request that none of the hon. Members will use this important Motion in playing politics.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move.

Mr G. O. D. Eneh (Udi): Mr Speaker, Sir, this Motion before the House is self-explanatory and needs very careful consideration. The Motion is for the establishment of an Advisory Board for the Police Force. The Members of the Nigeria Police Force are not allowed by law

to cater for their own interest by means of a trade union. Mr Speaker, Sir, it is very necessary for the Police Department to have a Board which would be able to look after the interests of the policemen themselves. This Advisory Board will not interfere with the policy making authority of the Police Department. It will only give advice so far as promotion, discipline and many other matters in connection with this work are concerned.

Very often it is impossible to know the feelings of the public in so far as the police are concerned. This Board could be made up of people elected from various parts of the Federation, who will know what is good for the Federation. They will be people who are in a position to say that this is good, or that this is bad, and it is on these lines that the mover of the Motion is asking the House to give its sanction to the establishment of such a Board. I think that such a Board will help the smooth running of the police organisation as a whole and I think this Motion does commend itself to the House. Mr Speaker, I beg to second the Motion.

Question proposed.

The Prime Minister : Mr Speaker, I find it very difficult to understand what the hon. Mover of the Motion really means by it. Sir, he asks for a consultative body, by which possibly he means an Advisory Board, but at the same time in his speech he said he was not trying to bring politics into this matter. I am sure that he is not trying to bring politics into it.

As hon. Members are aware the Nigeria Police have a special constitutional responsibility for preserving law and order throughout the Federation and it is common practice in all disciplined forces that the members of such forces are not allowed to organise themselves into Trade Unions, or to have any political party affiliations. Now the Nigeria Police is a disciplined force and I am sure that this House would like to see that they discharge their duties without any restrictions whatsoever. The Nigeria Police is in a special setting by itself and cannot be regarded as any one of the usual Government Departments.

The Constitutional Conference to which the hon. member drew attention, recommended that there should be a Police Service Commission. The hon. member also said that the Advisory Board should consider promotions

and conditions of service for the Nigeria Police, but this Service Commission will advise the Governor-General on conditions of service, promotions, and other things. I think, Sir, that the hon. Member's points will be covered by the arrangements already existing in the Nigeria Police. The Senior Officers are all in close touch with the Junior Officers, and the rank and file can take their complaints to the Senior Officers, and so far as I understand the position everybody seems to be happy with the present arrangements.

Now the House would like to know that Government has decided to establish an Advisory Police Council which will consist of the Governor-General as Chairman, the Deputy Governor-General, the Prime Minister, and one other Federal Minister, and also the Inspector-General of Police. I remember the hon. Mover in his speech also suggested that an Advisory Board should be composed of the Prime Minister and the Inspector-General of Police, but unfortunately I don't agree with him when he suggests that there should be two representatives from the North, West, East and the Southern Cameroons. I think that is a wrong principle to take.

Now, Sir, I think the hon. Member's points have been covered by the establishment by Government of this Advisory Police Council, and I would very much like him to withdraw his Motion.

Several hon. Members : (*Hear, hear . . . Withdraw, withdraw*).

Mr D. N. Chukwu : Mr Speaker, I withdraw this Motion without any hesitation.

Motion by leave withdrawn.

10.35 a.m.

Bridges on Federal Trunk Roads

Mr Chukwu : Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to move the Motion standing in my name on the Order Paper

"That, in view of the fact that on many of the existing Federal trunk roads there are numerous narrow and weak bridges which constitute a great danger to the considerable number of vehicles using them, this House calls on the Government to adopt a vigorous policy of building wider and stronger bridges to replace the existing narrow and dangerous ones."

Mr Speaker, Sir, it is not every Motion that needs much explanation and this one speaks for itself. Ninety-nine per cent of the hon. Members of this House come from the provinces, and therefore they have to travel over the Trunk Roads of the Federation. On these roads there are so many narrow and weak bridges that constitute a danger to vehicles travelling over them. It is also evident, Sir, that most of the Trunk roads have more than two or three weak and narrow bridges on them. The hon. Minister of Works and Surveys has himself travelled considerable distances over these roads and must be aware of these facts, narrow and weak bridges which as I have said before, constitute a danger to vehicles using them. But not only that, they become a source of mockery to the present Government programme for road development. Good roads are for the interest of a nation. Any grown-up nation must have good roads and adequate and strong bridges.

I do not know, Sir, whether my information is correct or not, but the hon. Minister can correct me if I am wrong. I am told that in future Trunk Roads will be made 40' wide. If this information is correct then I would like to say that any bridges on these roads must be made strongly and be able to take two lorries at a time.

A vital example is the route between Port Harcourt and Aba. The work on this route is now going on smoothly, that is the improvement of the road—construction and tarring of Aba-Port Harcourt road. This road, when completed by the contractors, will no doubt be the best road not only within the Federation but throughout the whole of West Africa. In case this road is completed but still has narrow and weak bridges on it, it will truly lose its beauty. Whenever we say good roads, we must always remember to say good and strong bridges. Roads and bridges go hand in hand as husband and wife. The simple language is "no complete road without adequate bridges."

Mr Speaker, Sir, if the vigorous policy of building wider and stronger bridges on our Federal trunk roads is to be adopted, I have to beg leave of this hon. House to make this suggestion: I would suggest that once the Government decides to improve any particular road, provision for the improvement and strengthening of weak and narrow bridges should go along with the estimate, and within

the tarring period of the improvement of the road. That will mean that when a road is said to be completed, there will be no more trouble about that road either on the side of its bad bridge or its bad condition; it is completed once and for all. The main disadvantages our people get because of narrow bridges are loss of life and property and open disgrace to the country. I therefore appeal to all sides of this House to welcome this Motion.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move.

Mr N. A. Ezonbodor (Western Ijaw): Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to second the Motion. The mover of the Motion has ably explained everything about his Motion, so that it does not need my dwelling too much on it. What I want to say is that I second the Motion.

Question proposed.

The Minister of Works and Surveys (Alhaji the Hon. Inuwa Wada): Mr Speaker, Sir, this is a Motion which the same hon. Mover has put down for debate in the past, and for which time has unfortunately not been found. It is one which I welcome in that it gives me an opportunity to tell the House what I have been doing to provide adequate bridges on our Federal roads. (*Hear, hear.*)

It has been the policy of this Government, Sir, ever since the beginning of the present Economic Programme to provide adequate bridges on all Federal trunk roads. I will here quote from paragraph 173 of Sessional Paper No. 2 of 1956, with your permission: "Strengthening bridges. If the Federal highway system of Nigeria is to play its part in the economic growth of the country, it must be equipped with bridges of adequate strength to carry all traffic offering. Many bridges on the trunk road A system urgently need replacement to be able to take the weight of heavy vehicles. A team of engineers is engaged on the survey of existing bridges and the preparation of drawings and contract documents for those needing replacement. £2 million has been allocated in the Economic Programme for bridge strengthening as compared with £2,500,000 contained in the projections of the International Bank Mission." Thus, Members must be fully aware of this Government's intention to apply resources to the improvement of the bridges and a vigorous programme is at present in full swing.

Members coming from the North down trunk road A. 1 will, no doubt, have seen obvious signs of the activity on the 110 bridges between Mando and Lagos which are being replaced in one major contract worth at least £1 million. Northern Members will also appreciate that the contract to replace the bridges on the Gusau-Sokoto road has been let at a figure of one-quarter of a million pounds. I am glad to inform the House that the contract to replace Kubani bridge at Zaria has recently been let (£80,000). The contract documents for the bridges on the Kano-Daura and Zaria-Kano roads are under preparation by the Crown Agents Engineers. The replacement of the bridges on the Bamenda-Santa trunk road A. 12 is now complete. At Owerinta on the Imo River, the old bridge has been replaced by a Bailey bridge and the contract documents for a dual carriage way bridge are under preparation. All the bridges on trunk road A. 4 between Victoria and Mamfe and Bamenda have now been replaced except the Mainyu bridge. Two new bridges have been provided on the Enugu-Onitsha road, that is Trunk road A. 10, and two other bridges on the Onitsha-Owerri road, trunk road A. 6. In addition, a great deal of work is being carried out on the corroded members of our old friend, the Carter Bridge, by Messrs Dorman Long & Co., Ltd. In addition to these, a number of other bridges in isolated parts of the country, such as those on the Mamfe-Cross River section on the trunk road A. 11 are being replaced.

As I have told the House on previous occasions, it has been my policy since 1955 that all bridges should be built to what is called heavy loading capacity... (*Cheers*)... so that they would be carrying vehicles weighing between 16 and 22 tons. This carrying capacity is similar to that of bridges being erected in other parts of this continent on international highways, and there is no doubt that it is adequate to meet all foreseeable needs.

As regards the width of bridges on trunk roads A, my policy is to build bridges of a 12 feet width except when the density of traffic requires a double carriage way. Members will question this and will say that I should build double width bridges in every case. I must admit at once that I would like to build double width bridges in all cases; however, I have looked twice on every penny I spend and I have to spread the funds available to me and make them go as far as I possibly can. I think

it is true to say that we can get half as many bridges at double width for our money, or if we like to put it the other way round, we can get twice as many bridges if we build single width bridges.

I feel it is better to have a single width bridge than to have no bridge at all. After all, that does keep the traffic moving, that is the single width bridge. I am, however, replacing old single width bridges with dual carriage way bridges in places where the density of traffic justifies this. This process will obviously be required in more and more places as the number of vehicles using the roads increases.

Mr Speaker, Sir, the Government is already following a vigorous policy of replacement of our old bridges and in view of this the Motion is accepted.

Mr Jaja Wachuku (Aba): Mr Speaker, Sir, I am happy that the Minister has accepted this Motion, but there are one or two points I want to make. One is, not only the bridges but the approaches to the bridges. When coming from Benin we have to wade through a flood of four feet and there are times when we have to push the car to get it through. So that unless the embankment near to the bridge at this particular junction is raised, the possibility of using the bridge during the next year is small. I want to bring this to the notice of the Minister, mile 40 from Benin, that is the river Awon.

The next thing I would like to know—the Minister carefully omitted the river Niger—I know that a sum of £3,000 was voted to explore the possibilities of bridging the Niger. Nothing about that has been done. Will the Minister tell the House when that bridge will be forthcoming, whether any work has been done at all, what has happened to the £3,000? That is most important.

Now, Sir, the Minister mentioned Imo River bridge; the old bridge has not been exactly replaced, it is on the verge of being replaced. I want to ask the Minister if the Public Works can do something about it. The prop on which one end stands is not good enough, one end of the Imo bridge is already cracking. I went there myself and I think if any heavy vehicles go on it, one end goes down while the other end is all right. I want to call the attention of the Minister to see to it at once.

I sincerely hope that this bridge will be seen to as quickly as possible before the Imo bridge gets out of commission.

Between Aba and Njaba you have a very narrow bridge. There are 20-ton vehicles passing along that road and I sincerely hope that the Minister will take more positive action and more vigorous steps to see to it that these narrow bridges are replaced.

M. Shehu Shagari (South West Sokoto): Sir, in supporting the Motion, I wish to take this opportunity to present to the Minister of Works, through the Speaker, a petition from all the Members who represent the 2½ million inhabitants of Sokoto Province. The petition, Sir, is on the question of re-bridging a very important road which is Trunk Road A19 from Sokoto to Ilela in the French Territory.

I call it a petition, Sir, because it is something more serious than a request. Requests have already been made by several Members from Sokoto on several occasions during the last three years when there have been meetings in this honourable House but up till now nothing has been done, while precious lives and property are being lost through motor accidents from over the bridges on that road.

I refer, Sir, to a particular bridge known as Zanzalu just near Sokoto, and I believe this name has been repeated time and again by Members from Sokoto on the Floor of this honourable House. This bridge, Sir, is one of the most dangerous in the country, for every year an average of 50 lives are lost over it. This is no exaggeration, for only last week 41 people lost their lives in an accident over this death trap. The surprising thing about this, Sir, is that both the Minister and his Parliamentary Secretary have been over this bridge and are aware of the numerous accidents which occur on the bridge almost every month. We cannot afford, Sir, to go on losing lives and property just because the Government fails to construct a new bridge on that very important road. If the Government cannot do anything immediately, they had better close the road.

It is my hope, Sir, and prayer that this will be the last occasion on which Members from Sokoto make another request on this very important bridge. (*Hear, hear*).

Mr J. G. Adeniran (Ibadan West): Mr Speaker, Sir, I would like to remind the Minister of Works that there has been a delay in

completing the bridge on Ogun river. Many hon. Members have seen, during the recent rains, that traffic was dislocated because the bridges which were given to contractors were not completed at the proper time, and I hope the Minister of Works will see to it that the bridge which is now under construction on the Ogun river is urgently completed.

Chief T. T. Solaru (Ijebu East): Thank you, Mr Speaker. What I am about to say deeply concerns the hon. the Minister of Works and Surveys. He will remember our first meeting, the very first time I set my eyes upon him in Nigeria was when he was shooting down from Jos to Onitsha, and we met somewhere half-way there. At that time he was not a Member of this House, he was not a Minister. At that time he could get there easily from Jos to Enugu, but now that he is Minister of Works and Surveys the very road he passed upon has become a very boggy track, rugged, corrugated, with slough, mire and not only that; after you have ploughed your way from Enugu to Makurdi and from Makurdi to Lafia, what happens? You cannot get beyond it.

Sir, it was a very sad experience to start upon a road, the only link between the North and the East, to find that you travel hundreds and hundreds of miles and be brought to a stop because the logs on your Trunk Road had been washed away. These logs of wood have rotted and the stream has carried them away. Now, if you are the American Missionary who travelled all the way from Aba in order to attend the graduating ceremony in Jos, to get to Lafia and then to find that he could not get through, well, I wish you were there to hear that American Missionary swearing; and that will make you do something to see that that bridge is replaced.

All along that road I have not seen a single thing being done to replace the weak bridges and wooden logs. Now, as you travel at least frequently on that road, you could not fail to notice it, and I have a bone to pick with you, and it is this. If you went all the way from Ibadan and you want to go to Jos, and you get to Lafia, and you have to come back to travel by Railway, I do not think we should bless the Minister of Works for all the expense and the trouble, having taken the car all that way to have to turn back and then to

Mr D. E. Okereke (Owerri): Mr Speaker, Sir, having listened to the hon. Minister of Works and Surveys, I feel it my duty to thank him for his efforts, but I feel it is more my duty to call his attention again to the very small and weak bridges between Aba and Owerri and from Owerri to Onitsha. We appreciate what is being done on the Owerrinta bridge, but that will not solve the problem. If you pass a very good bridge across the Imo River when you come down to Olakor, you have a very bad narrow bridge. It is cracking now at the moment, and any car or a heavy lorry going on it is in very great danger. So I wish to call his attention to the Olakor bridge.

There are two very bad ones at Owerri and on the road to Onitsha there is one very bad narrow bridge. So in conclusion I wish to call the attention of the hon. Minister to the small weak bridges between Aba and Onitsha.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved: That, in view of the fact that on many of the existing Federal trunk roads there are numerous narrow and weak bridges which constitute a great danger to the considerable number of vehicles using them, this House calls on the Government to adopt a vigorous policy of building wider and stronger bridges to replace the existing narrow and dangerous ones.

11.16 a.m.

Population Census

Mr N. A. Ezonbodor (Western Ijaw): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to move the Motion standing in my name which appears on the Order Paper, That, in view of the fact that the London Constitutional Conference held in June 1957, has proposed an increase in the membership of the House of Representatives, this House is of the opinion that a new population census should be carried out in order to ensure the fair allocation of seats in this House.

This is not a strange Motion: every Member of this House, I am sure, will support it without hesitation. Although from the trend of the proceedings of the London Constitutional Conference, and the decisions thereafter, it is understood that a Commission will deal with the population of this country, that will not solve the problem of the issue. What I mean by this Motion is that a thorough census should

be taken throughout the Federation before any Regional or Federal election.

Mr Speaker, Sir, the composition of any Assembly House in any country depends on the population of that country, so that I can say that a population census of Regions is very very important for us to see about. We are all here by the result of the past population census. You can see that some tribes are very much favoured while others are not favoured. It will disturb the hon. Members' peace of mind to see that in Western Ijaw, where I come from, there is only one representative, and that is myself. Well it has been said in this House that the Ijaw Tribe is the fourth largest tribe in Nigeria. It would appear very obvious then that if the Ijaw Tribe is the fourth largest tribe in Nigeria, and yet from the Western Region there is only one man, myself, that a census is necessary. I have to point out that when the last census was taken it was done at the height of the Capitation Tax, introduced by the Action Group in the West.

When the census was being taken my people thought that the Government was trying to get an accurate number of people in order to raise Capitation Tax again, and as a result, the people gave a very low figure. They gave a wrong figure, and that is why we had a very low population. So if the Government will be good enough to get an expert to go into the census of this country we are going to see that most of the difficulties will be removed. The reason why my people were reluctant to give the correct number was that the more they gave, the higher the tax would rise, and that is why they felt that they should give a less number, and why this was done is that the people did not pay tax per head, they paid it out of a collective fund, so that if a less number is given, less taxation will be paid; so that the ignorance of the people should not be taken for granted and they should not be made to suffer perpetually.

This is a Government that has been called a Nationalist Government. We cannot put the blame on the European expatriates. We have been putting the blame on the expatriates that they came to scatter us. At this time, when we have taken over the Government from these people, we must see that a right census is taken of this country to get a right figure in this House.

Mr Speaker, Sir, this is the Motion that I commend to all the Members of this House to support. It will help most of us here because at the London Constitutional Conference it was stated that 100,000 people will have one representative. Without going into the population census of Nigeria, we cannot get an accurate number of the people involved. Are we going to favour the already favoured Divisions to come back here and oppress the less populous Regions? It is very very bad, Sir, in a division like Western Ijaw, you have only one representative. There is no other Ijaw Representative from the West to support me in all my activities in the House apart from the Rev. Bens from the East. With these few remarks, I beg to move the Motion. (*Hear, hear*).

Rev. E. S. Bens (Brass): Mr Speaker, Sir, I think this Motion is a good one, and I hope that the Government and the whole House will accept it, because there is the spirit in it which does not disagree with the Government's policy in taking a census. I think the only disagreement in it is that a time is fixed. The measure of the Motion is seeking for a time limit.

I may not entirely agree with the Mover of the Motion when he says that there are certain Divisions that have been favoured in the last census. Certainly, Sir, in the true facts of the last census there were certain Divisions that have been very much favoured and others have been badly placed. Then, Sir, I will say that if we are not careful in the next census, the same thing will happen. Some will continue to exaggerate their population.

So I want to take this opportunity in drawing to the attention of the Prime Minister, Sir, that thorough care should be exercised when the next census is taken, and if you can modify your policy in taking census, reducing it from ten years to say eight years, I would like the census to be taken next year. Since I see that the spirit of this Motion does not disagree with the Government's policy of taking census, Mr Speaker, I beg to second.

Question proposed.

The Prime Minister (Hon. Alhaji Abubakar Tafawa Balewa): Mr Speaker, the Government has some sympathy with this Motion, the object of which is to enable the new electoral areas to be drawn with accuracy

so that each contains about 100,000 persons. Now, the only question, Sir, is whether a census should be taken before the elections to the House of Representatives in 1959. Government has considered the point, and we have found, Sir, that if a really proper census were to be taken there would not be time between now and 1959.

Now, I would like to remind the Mover of the Motion that a census is the most complicated of all statistical exercises. The information which is desired to obtain about population, age group, occupation, educational standard and so on, have first to be determined. Then the directing staff has to be found and instructed. Thousands of enumerators have to be recruited and trained. Their areas of work have to be delimited. Forms have to be printed in great quantities. Stationery has to be distributed. All these complex processes have to be carried through before the actual count can begin. This in itself will take several months, and when it is done the Statistics Department has the immense task of computing the result of the census from the thousands of forms which have been filled in by the enumerators. Now, the Government having taken all these into consideration, have seen that it will be very difficult, Sir, to undertake to have a new census taken throughout the Federation.

My hon. Friend, Rev. Bens, asked me to try to see that we take proper census before the next elections. I will tell him that taking a census, of course, is a responsibility of the Federal Government as well as the responsibility of the Regional Governments. It is now more or less on the Concurrent List. But for Federal elections, yes, the Federal Government would really try to do as much as it can to see that the areas are given their fair representation whenever it is required.

Now, the question the House should consider, however, is whether all this effort should be so directed and whether we should go into the great expense and also whether with the time at our disposal we could have a proper census taken before the next elections. I think, Sir, the hon. Member will agree now that it will be very difficult for a census to be taken before the Federal elections in 1959, and I am sorry to say that though Government has sympathy with the Motion, the Motion is not acceptable to Government.

Dr E. O. Awduche (Onitsha) : Mr Speaker, Sir, it appears that the hon. Rev. Bens who seconded this Motion mainly did so to prevent the Motion from lapsing, because judging from what he said, he was himself against the Motion itself. The immensity of the work, as the Prime Minister has just said, which is involved in the process of taking a census is such that if we embarked upon it, it will mean that our Self-government in 1960 could never materialise. As a matter of fact, the object of this Side of the House accepting service upon the National Government was to make quite certain that nothing stood between us and April 1960.

The hon. Mover of the Motion has said that his main reason for pressing for this was that in his own particular Division people had run away from the last census because they had thought it was a means of getting those who were eligible for taxation. Well, if they were tax evaders nobody here would be responsible for that. That was purely their own concern. And furthermore, Sir, if another census was embarked upon, assuming that it could be finished before the next election, it would mean a re-convening of the Conference and a re-allocation of seats because the seats at present allocated were based upon the present population. It would mean then that that section of the Report of the Conference would have to be nullified and it would mean convening another Conference, which will mean an obstruction to our independence in 1960. It is on these bases, Sir, that I oppose this motion.

Mr N. A. Ezonbodor (Western Ijaw) : Mr Speaker, in view of the fact that the Prime Minister has given satisfactory answers to my Motion and the complications behind the re-taking of a census in Nigeria, I beg to withdraw my motion.

Motion by leave withdrawn.

Sitting suspended : 11.30 a.m.

Sitting resumed : 11.40 a.m.

(Mr Deputy Speaker in the Chair)

Hogan Bassey

Mr N. A. Ezonbodor (Western Ijaw) : Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, I wish to move the Motion standing in my name on the Order Paper :

That in view of the fact that the World Feather-weight Championship title now held by Hogan Bassey has added considerably to the prestige of Nigeria, this House, on behalf of Nigeria, extends heartiest congratulations to Hogan Bassey. This motion I am sure would not find its way difficult to go through this honourable House, for everybody has heard of the Nigerian Hogan Bassey's victory over Hamia in Paris in the month of June 1957. That day was a remarkable day and will not be forgotten down the corridors of history in Nigeria. It gave thousands of Nigerians and lovers of Bassey and Nigeria a sleepless night throughout the whole world, waiting to hear the result of the contest between our own Bassey and Hamia. At first we had little or no hope that Bassey would win the fight for us, when we took into consideration the fact that the contest was at the heart of Europe, where all blacks are taken as niggers, where everybody for colour reason (*Interruption*).

Dr E. O. Awduche (Onitsha) : I protest against the use of the word 'nigger' : this is unparliamentary language.

Mr Deputy Speaker : While it may be unparliamentary language, I do not think it has offended our ears too much !

Mr Ezonbodor : . . . where there is some colour bar, and where everybody for colour reasons were all supporters and sympathisers of Hamia, their own man. Although we were thinking and expected discrimination, we did not blame Europeans for even in Nigeria we have it in common—one tribe against another, one department against another, where discrimination is the order of the day. In fact we were all dismayed, but to our greatest surprise he won the battle without undergoing many of all the obstacles anticipated. The news of his victory came to us like a whirlwind, which filled our minds with the greatest joy. We danced, rejoiced and drank much that night. It was like the result of a great election, where people are eager to hear of their relatives, friends or party men who have won. It was like Dr Kwame Nkrumah's election, that of Churchill or Anthony Eden in London, like Dr Nnamdi Azikiwe's victory in the Tribunal and his last election at Onitsha. On the day in question, one could not help to be a tribalist, praying fervently for Bassey to come out with flying colours. The victory gave Nigeria a great pride over all the nations of the world.

That could now go to show without the least contradiction that Nigeria given the chance, will not only rule herself, but will ably rule the waves like Great Britain to-day.

In boxing, I could say Great Britain is not ruling the waves—Nigeria is now ruling.

The victory is worth commemorating in this honourable House, in order to show some signs of appreciation and gratitude to Hogan Bassey in his gallant struggle. Those of us who have done a little bit of boxing do know that it is not an easy thing to go through the whole world in the Featherweight championship title fight. It is done with the greatest risk one could imagine. How many souls have found their way back to their Maker in the boxing ring? How many have lost their sense of hearing, their sense of seeing and so on through boxing. Here you have Hogan Bassey, in spite of these weakening fears that one could entertain, going into the world to bring home the golden fleece.

Where he has gone to do his professional boxing is where the teachers of this great art come from. We in Nigeria knew nothing of the art of boxing ere the advent of the British into Nigeria. They came and taught us. Bassey sailing over to meet them there to bring home the world Featherweight Championship title shows that most of these things Europeans show us originated in Africa and that we should be masters. Apart from the atomic bomb which we have not begun to invent, and which we fear, Nigeria could be found and prepared to face any nation in the Boxing World. Our hero Hogan Bassey should receive our heartiest congratulations imaginable. The battle he has so ably won surprised the world, and even Members of Parliament accorded him a very warm reception in the very canopy of the House of Parliament. The first time the British people condescended to convert their Parliament to a hotel for Bassey's reception. This alone means a lot and has painted Nigeria with glowing colours before the World.

The name Hogan Bassey is suggestive of one from the Efik tribe without even knowing him. Being an Easterner, one goes back to saying of old that all good things come from the East. The Saviour of Nigeria, Dr Nnamdi Azikiwe is from the East. (*Several voices: Hear, hear*). No nationalist in this country could deny the fact that Dr Nnamdi Azikiwe is our Nigeria eye opener. For his political activities our Africans enjoy senior posts, all that we are

enjoying to-day is the fruit of his labour: Prime Minister, Ministers, Nationalist Government, etc. We must be frank, and thankful to the man Dr Nnamdi Azikiwe. He inspired the youth of the country to know their ego, that all men are created equal. Thus we enter a political career. This same inspiration was carried by this great man to Paris, right to the ring. It descended on Bassey who faced the battle with guts and courage and defeated his opponent.

We in Nigeria are very eager to see Hogan Bassey in Nigeria. It seems unfair that we could only read or hear of him in newspapers. His presence is very much needed, and we can assure him that a warm reception awaits him.

I would like to end by paying some tributes to the parents of Hogan Bassey, for producing such a gallant, brave soldier for Nigeria at this time when we are merging to our nationhood. One cannot imagine the state of mind of his family during the contest. Their prayers were heard and he came out victoriously.

Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir. I beg to move.

Mr O. C. Agwuna (Awka): Sir, I beg to second.

Question proposed.

The Minister of Labour and Welfare (Hon. Chief F. S. Okotie-Eboh): Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to associate the Government with this Motion.

Hogan Bassey's achievement has been a source of pleasure and of pride to all of us. He—and there are others too—has done much to put Nigeria on the sporting map of the world at a time when the Government, with the support of this honourable House, is doing its best in other spheres to win for Nigeria its rightful place in the comity of nations.

Let me repeat, Sir, what I have often said inside this House and out of it in different contexts. A nation may be led by its Government and its politicians. But alone they cannot make a nation. Nigeria in her forward march needs the support of every individual in this country. It needs individual enterprise and individual determination—not only in high places but in every office and workshop, in every farm, in every school and university and even on its playing fields.

Similarly Nigeria may be represented abroad by its official 'ambassadors.' But

they will achieve little for the good name of Nigeria, unless every Nigerian abroad regards himself as an ambassador in his own sphere.

Hogan Bassey's contribution to the good repute of Nigeria lies not in the trophies that he has won, but in his manner of winning them. When he set out on his chosen career, he had nothing behind him other than his skill, his determination and his character. There were no scholarships for boxing. I believe that well-wishers have assisted him—but his achievement is essentially his own.

I am sure that skill alone would not have taken Bassey where he is to-day. To his God-given skill he has added a fine personal quality and the iron in his fists has been well matched by the iron in his character. (*Hear, hear*). Bassey has never forgotten that in his own sphere he represents the honour and good name of Nigeria. He has fought as much for Nigeria as for himself. And I am sure that that has given him added strength.

Mr Speaker, I do not know whether there is a precedent in the annals of any other national Parliament of a Motion conveying congratulations to an athlete. If there is not, I am glad that we have made a precedent of Bassey to-day. For I believe that he has done Nigeria great service, not only in the publicity that he has won for us, but in the example that he has set for our youth—an example of determination to succeed through one's own endeavours and an example of sportsmanship and humility both in his progress towards his goal and his triumphal attainment of it.

Mr Deputy Speaker, I beg to support.

Mr R. A. Fani-Kayode (Ife): Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Motion. I can assure the House that it was not after listening to the Mover; it was not after being convinced by his argument that one has to support this Motion. In fact listening to the hon. Member when he was speaking would make one feel as if Hogan Bassey had failed. He reminded me of a friend I had at school who was given an arithmetic problem and got the right answer with all the wrong workings. (*Laughter*). But seriously, Sir, I would like to say that I am very happy that no policemen were around in Western Ijaw when they drank to celebrate this occasion because I can well imagine the gallons of illicit gin that must have been consumed that night. The hon.

Minister in supporting the Motion referred to the iron in the fists of Hogan Bassey. I hope the referee will not hear about that because if any iron is found in his boxing gloves he will be disqualified at once.

The Minister of Labour and Welfare (Hon. Chief F. S. Okotie-Eboh): The word *iron* was used ironically!

Mr Fani-Kayode: Unfortunately in our speeches we must not use irony because the referee might think otherwise! (*Laughter*).

Speaking seriously to the Motion, Sir, I think Hogan Bassey has achieved a lot, not only for Nigeria but for the black man all over the world. He is a sign of the times. The black man is coming into his own. A few years ago, people did not like the idea of being called a black man, but to-day we are proud of it, and it is people like Hogan Bassey who make us feel that way, who make us walk with our heads held high and we will be able to show the world that Africans can do anything given the opportunity. I think Hogan Bassey is an ambassador for Nigeria.

A few days ago I read of a very unfortunate incident that occurred in the United States of America with regard to one of our students called Esin who was caught under the American Jim Crow laws. He was brutally dragged off a bus for the simple reason that he sat on the *white* side of it. Whilst Nigerians do not, and cannot, influence any foreign Government in their treatment of their own nationals and we cannot dictate to America how they should treat their coloured Americans, we can sympathise with negroes in America, and we can certainly protest at the awful treatment of a British national in America. I am surprised that up until now our Secretary of State for the Colonies has not done anything at all to protest at this sort of treatment. Well people like Hogan Bassey are doing their best to let the world acknowledge us. People like Hogan Bassey in future and more people like him will make the whole world rise up in protest if any incidents like that of Esin occur again.

I am sure that the whole House will agree with me that the era of the black man is coming to the forefront. Nigerians are bound not only to lead Africa, but the black man all over the world. (*Applause*). In all sincerity the time of thinking of self-government has passed,

because self-government is here. We must now start to think of the future. What happens after independence? Great Britain will not fool around in 1960—they will not dare, so long as we speak with one voice. I would advise here that if in 1960 and afterwards things do not go as we think they should, then we must ask Hogan Bassey to use that iron in his fists.

Sir, I beg to support.

Mr M. A. Sanni (Oshun Central): Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, this Motion is fairly simple, very factual and of national interest. It does not require flowery or far-fetched words, nor does it need sudorific speech to preach its acceptability to this hon. House. . . . (*Prolonged cheers*). . . . So I disagree with a Member on the Opposition Bench. . . . (*Several hon. Members: No more Opposition*). . . . I disagree with a Member on my left side who criticised sarcastically the Mover. The Mover has presented the Motion in a manner which is as clear as broad daylight. For Hogan Bassey we have to pray; his fight with the Italian boxer is imminent; he still has a lot before him to do. We would pray that he should maintain the honour and dignity of Nigeria. (*Hear, hear*). As we know, Nigeria is now emerging out of darkness into light by the instrumentality of Nigerian heroes. (*Applause*). One of our heroes is Hogan Bassey.

Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, I notice that Members wish to speak about the activities of Hogan Bassey. I want to give way immediately but, I should like to point out the fact that Nigeria is rising above the horizon.

Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, I support the Motion.

M. Maitama Sule (Kano City): Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, if anybody feels that we are inferior because of our colour, we have to tell him that, as Dr Aggrey said, we are proud of our colour, and whoever is not proud of his colour is not fit to live.

Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, talking about Hogan Bassey and his successes in the world, I would like to associate myself with the previous speakers and go further to say that the success of Hogan Kid Bassey is not only a pride to Nigeria and Africa as a whole, but also a pride to the British Commonwealth of Nations, because Hogan Kid Bassey is a protected person of Nigeria and as such, therefore, he

also can count himself as part and parcel of the British Commonwealth of Nations. So, Sir, I say this is something for which all of us in Nigeria, in Ghana, in Sierra Leone, in Canada, in Gambia, in fact in South Africa (where there is still colour bar and prejudice against the African), it is something that everyone of us in this country should be proud of.

I am looking forward to the time, Sir, when Hogan Kid Bassey will come back to Nigeria and settle down and go farther North to develop our age-long local boxing. We too, Sir, in Northern Nigeria have got our local heroes: people like Shago are there in the Northern part of Nigeria. It is not so much for the boxing that matters as for the sportsmanship that accompanies it. So we are hoping that we may have more and more "Hogan Basseys" in many fields so that Nigeria will be the more known. We have started, there is no going back and I am sure I join with those people who say that in a very short time Nigeria is going to take the lead and as we have been ruled, we too are looking forward to the time when we shall "rule others" (*Prolonged applause*)

Rev. E. S. Bens (Brass): Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am very pleased that this Motion has come to this hon. House and that Government have thought fit to accept it. We know, Sir, that man with all his complexities and interests has various ways of showing his talents. Many men in Nigeria, Sir, have gifts; some have gone to America, some have gone to Britain and gained titles in their intellectual fields; some of them are sitting there, and some of them are over there, and perhaps I go to that man on that side of the House, hon. Fani-Kayode. When he said that when people were rejoicing in the successes of Hogan Bassey and they accomplished their joy with drinks, he said we were taking illicit gin. I am sure that Mr Fani-Kayode himself had accomplished his rejoicing with drinks. But leaving Fani-Kayode, I would like to go to a more serious matter.

Hogan Bassey has been a great man; he has built up himself; he has brought nobility to Nigeria. I know when some of these boxing fights which Hogan Bassey was to take—in America, for instance, Sir—the American champion after fixing a day for him to come to Great Britain and fight, refused to come to Great Britain and fight, and Hogan Bassey had to go to America and fought and won. When he was to fight with that great champion of

Now, as concerns the particular Board, therefore, it appears that its policy is too rigid, and its policy is not in any way encouraging the initiative of African contractors. It is on this point that the Mover of the Motion is urging the Government to revise the policy of the Federal Tenders Board. It is not encouraging enough. After all, the firms that take most of the contracts, that is within the category of £50,000 to £100,000 and above, are not indigenous firms, and we must not forget that although the finished work will remain an asset to the country, but then the proceeds, after all, go out of the country. So, we must try in a way to see that when contractors are encouraged the proceeds which they realise, after all, from the contracts, remain within the country. This is the most important thing.

Now, as regards registration, which is generally delayed, I do not see the reason why registration of African contractors should be delayed. If the Federal Tenders Board is not working all day, I feel it is time that we must have a plan that will see to the day to day administration of its working, so that African contractors could be registered when they have satisfied the necessary conditions.

And these conditions, of course, should not be so difficult to satisfy. The cause of all is that the conditions are at times very difficult for African contractors to satisfy. But if the Federal Tenders Board refuses to readjust its policy and review the categories, it appears the Federal Tenders Board is out to keep aside some of our African contractors.

There is no doubt that major works done in the provinces are generally taken up by those within the categories of £50,000 to £100,000 work or above. We may not grudge this, but within the middle certain works, say from £10,000 and above to be done again by these people that fall within the category merely because they have the necessary money probably to buy the equipment and have the engineers they employ to help in doing the job, and which African contractors cannot at the moment afford, but then some jobs, say from £10,000, done in the provinces should not be given to the firms that fall within the category of £50,000 and £100,000 and above. If we do so we are not at all encouraging African initiative and African contractors in any way, and we are building on a false economy because, as I said from the beginning, the finished work

remains an asset to the country, but the proceeds have gone away. If we encourage African contractors both the asset, which is the finished work, will remain, and the proceeds will also remain, and we must realise that it is the individual income of the inhabitants of a country that go to make a national income of any nation. If the individuals are not well-off, the country will be poor. And if we have things which will yield something to the Africans, it should not be done in such a way that the proceeds will all go out every now and then. So, I am really in seconding this Motion looking at it from the economic point of view, and looking at it from the point of view that while we are after our political freedom we must plan effectively for our economic freedom.

Mr Speaker, I beg to second.

Question proposed.

The Minister of Works and Surveys (Hon. Alhaji I. Wada): Mr Speaker, Sir, during the Budget Session last March I informed the House that I was reviewing my policy with regard to the award of contracts for Federal Works projects. This review has recently been completed, and I would like to tell the House the details of the changes I propose to make.

The terms of this Motion call for an overhaul of the policy of the Federal Tenders Board with a view to avoiding preferential treatment to any class of contractor. I should make it plain that the hon. Mover is under some misapprehension as to the functions of the Federal Tenders Board. The policy of the Tenders Board is to award the contract to the lowest tenderer, provided that the Board is satisfied that the tender is a *bona fide* one, and that the tenderer will be able to complete the contract in the prescribed time. Apart from this the Federal Tenders Board has no policy. The question of preferential treatment to any class of contractor is a difficult one.

If we are to carry out our programme of work, clearly we must distinguish between the efficient contractor and the inefficient contractor, and we must make greater use of the firm which shows itself capable of producing satisfactory results. This is what one of my most distinguished predecessors in office had in mind when he formed the Federal Works Registration Board and laid down certain "Rules for Contractors". These Rules for Contractors were designed to prevent the big man competing

unfairly with the small man, and force him out of business. Before turning to the details of the changes in contract policy, perhaps it would be as well if I explained to the House the main points in previous policy, so that Members may be fully informed where the changes lie.

This is the previous policy. Contracts for Federal works projects can normally be awarded to contractors who are registered with the Federal Public Works Registration Board. This Board has consisted of the Director of Commerce and Industries as Chairman, together with three Public Works Department officers and three private persons. The Board registers contractors into one of the seven categories I will now name. Category A, £501 to £3,000; Category B, £3,001 to £6,000; Category C, £6,001 to £10,000; Category D, £10,001 to £20,000; Category E, £20,001 to £50,000; Category F, £50,001 to £100,000; and Category G, over £100,000. Contractors may be invited to tender for contracts the value of which is within their own category, or within two categories below their own. For example a contractor who is classified in the category E, that is £20,001 to £50,000 could be invited to tender for contracts within the range of £6,001 to £50,000. That is, he can tender within his own category or two categories below his own. Contractors may apply for re-classification after a lapse of a period of twelve months from the date of their previous classification.

Here I would like to pay tribute to the efficient, just and fair-minded way in which the Registration Board has carried out their work on a purely voluntary basis. The House will be interested to know that there has been remarkably few appeals from the decisions of the Board. The formation of the Registration Board is, I consider, one of the outstanding successes of the Federal Ministry of Works, and I am glad to say it was done by my predecessor in office, who is our new Prime Minister.

To proceed with the existing contract procedure, contractors submit their tenders to the Secretary of the Federal Tenders Board. This Board after, receiving a report from the Director of Federal Public Works on the capabilities of the lowest tenderer, normally awards the contract to the lowest offer. As a result of a recent review, this policy has been changed by the Council of Ministers, and I will now tell the House what I propose to change.

Firstly, the composition of the Federal Works Registration Board will be re-arranged and it will consist of the Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Works and Surveys as Chairman, five unofficial Members and two official Members. The official Members will be technical people who will give the Registration Board advice on technical matters.

Secondly, the powers of the Board will be increased to allow them to downgrade a contractor who has proved unsatisfactory.

Thirdly, categories A to D will be exclusively reserved for African contractors, but this without detriment to two expatriate contractors who are already registered in category D now.

Fourthly, contractors will normally be invited to tender for contracts within their own category, or only one category below their own. Formerly, it was two categories. But contractors will also be invited to tender within two categories below their own in special circumstances with the specific permission of the Minister, and each case will be judged according to its own merit.

Fifthly, tenders for works costing more than £20,000 will be invited by public notice in the *Federal Gazette*. Sixthly, lumping of contracts will not be allowed except in special cases and with my specific permission. Seventhly, the membership of the Federal Tenders Board will be revised to consist of:—

An officer of the Ministry of Finance.

The Director of Federal Public Works.

Two Senior African Civil Servants.

The Head of the Department concerned with the tender, and

Three members of the Federal Works Registration Board.

And lastly, when "Works" contracts are under adjudication, as I have already said, members of the Registration Board will sit on the Tenders Board.

Here I want to explain. The Mover of the Motion referred to the Federal Tenders Board as an arm of the Federal Public Works Department. It is not. The Federal Tenders Board deals with tenders for all the Departments of the Federal Government. It is not an arm of the Federal Public Works Department. It deals with tenders from the Police, from the Prisons, from Printing, from the

Information Services and from all the Departments of the Government, as I have now said.

I have thought it right, Mr Speaker, to widen the membership of the Registration Board so as to include more unofficial members. It is my intention to invite a member of this House from each of the three Regions. The membership of the Federal Tenders Board is also being enlarged. The Board itself will not take final decisions. The Board will sit as an advisory Board and refer its recommendations to the Minister concerned for his approval. If the Board sits on work which is under, let us say, the Minister of Labour, the Board will refer their findings to the Minister for his final approval. Thus the award of contracts will in future be a matter on which the members of the Council of Ministers will be able to exercise a measure of personal control.

In the light of the changes I have outlined in my contractors policy, I hope the hon. Mover of this Motion will be prepared to withdraw it.

Mr G. O. D. Eneh (Udi) : I am very much satisfied with the explanation of the Minister of Works. I have nothing but praise for the efficient way in which he has handled the matter for which I have tabled the Motion. It is indeed my pleasure to withdraw this motion.

Motion by leave withdrawn.

Adjournment

The Minister of Communications and Aviation (Chief S. L. Akintola) : Sir, I beg to move that this House do now adjourn.

The Minister of Education (Hon. Aja Nwachuku) : Sir, I beg to second.

Mr Speaker : I want to ask the leave of the House for a statement. It has been represented to me that owing to the extreme amount of things which had to be done between the formation of the new Government and the meeting of the House on Monday, and the fact that the Government was formed on a Sunday and yesterday's meeting was a public holiday, it was quite impossible for many things to be done which would otherwise have been done in plenty of time. Will the House therefore allow me to put four more Bills on tomorrow's Order Paper which would undoubtedly have been put there if there had been a little more time to prepare. There are very good reasons for it, although it breaks a precedent. It is a

great waste of the time of all of you of this House and of the Government and of the Prime Minister not to have a full day's programme of business when we meet tomorrow.

If you will accept my suggestion and give me leave to put these four Bills on the Order Paper tomorrow, I will assure you that it shall not be a precedent in my time. I would not allow the Standing Orders of this House to be weakened in any way, but in these very unusual circumstances I think it is to everybody's advantage that I should put on the Order Paper in addition to the Supplementary Appropriation Bill and the Police (Amendment) No. 2 Bill, the next four Bills with one exception on the Order Paper. They are the Amapetu of Mahin (Termination of Monthly Stipend) Bill, Legislative Houses (Powers and Privileges) (Amendment) Bill, Non-pensionable Railway Servants Provident Fund Reserve Bill, and the Income Tax (Amendment) Bill.

Do I have the leave of the House so to alter it?

Hon. Members : Aye.

Mr Speaker : I am most grateful to you, and I give my firm assurance that I will safeguard the Standing Orders in future.

Question put that this House do now adjourn.

Dr E. U. Udoma (Opobo) : I am sorry, Mr Speaker, I did indicate that I was going to raise a point on the Adjournment, but unfortunately I understand that the Minister was not duly informed. I don't know if I could say what I wanted to say now. It was in connection with the list of Motions for discussion to-day.

Mr Speaker : That is really appropriate to to-day's business, and I hope you will not keep the House more than three minutes.

Dr Udoma : I am very grateful, Mr Speaker. Well, Mr Speaker, of course bearing in mind what you have just said that the Government was formed on Sunday and it was difficult for the Council of Ministers to meet and deliberate on the business of this House promptly and in time in order to fit this House properly in the manner we have been used to, I would like to say that it is regrettable that the Motions which have been brought before this House for discussion have left very much to be desired from the point of view of to-day.

We have an imposing list of Motions of general interest to the public of this country and yet not one of those Motions was listed for discussion to-day. Yet we have wasted our time discussing trifles in this House to-day and congratulating Ministers who have been congratulated several times over. I find it is sheer waste of time to come here to-day only to discuss trifles, and I say, Sir, that there are Motions which deal with national events, with the forthcoming self-government, with the preparations which ought to be made to make us ready, but not one of them has seen the light to-day on the Order Paper, and I submit,

Sir, that I hope this sort of thing will not be repeated even though we have a National Government.

Mr Speaker : I cannot really help thinking that we were lucky to have as much business on the Order Paper.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved, That this House do now adjourn.

Adjourned accordingly at one minute to one o'clock until 10 a.m. on Wednesday the 4th of September.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NIGERIA

Wednesday, 4th September, 1957

The House met at 10 a.m.

PRAYERS

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

*O.298. Mr A. Adeyinka asked the Minister of Communications and Aviation :—

Why the Posts and Telegraphs Engineering Workers' Union of Nigeria are denied representation on the Posts and Telegraphs Advisory Board.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Communications and Aviation (Mr A. J. U. Ekong): Sir, the Posts and Telegraphs Advisory Council, which I set up in 1956 has as its terms of reference, "to advise on such questions of general policy as the Minister of Communications and Aviation may refer to the Board from time to time." It is modelled on the United Kingdom Post Office Advisory Council and is a type of Consumers' Council on which representatives from diverse walks of life throughout Nigeria have the opportunity of advising me as to general policy, future lines of development, and the type of services and improvements which the public wish. As the Council is not concerned with matters affecting conditions of service, salaries, etc., of Posts and Telegraphs staff, I consider that any Union representation on it is not warranted.

*O.308. Mr A. E. Ukattah asked the Minister of Communications and Aviation :—

Whether he will state how many postal agencies it is proposed to convert to sub-post offices in Bende Division by the end of 1960, and when a post office will be provided for the four clans of Oloko, Oboro, Ariam and Ibere, in Bende Division.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Communications and Aviation: Sir, a postal agency will normally be considered for conversion to a sub-post office when the units of business transacted each year reach 24,000. At the moment only Ohafia in Bende Division has reached this figure and it is included for conversion in the Departmental programme for 1958-60.

As soon as Oloko, Oboro, Ariam and Ibere transact the necessary units of business they too will be converted to sub-post offices.

*O.310. Mr R. T. Alege asked the Minister of Communications and Aviation :—

How many applications have been received from individuals and companies respectively in the town of Kabba for the installation of telephones, and whether he will consider extending telephone facilities to Aiyetoro and Mopa.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Communications and Aviation: Sir, fourteen applications from individuals and three applications from companies have been received for the installation of telephones in the town of Kabba.

The extension of telephone facilities to Aiyetoro and Mopa is not included in the Telecommunications Development Plan under the 1955-60 Economic Programme as detailed in Sessional Paper No. 8 of 1957. They may be considered when the work set out in the Sessional Paper is completed provided funds are available.

*O.322. Reverend E. S. Bens asked the Minister of Communications and Aviation :—

Whether he will submit a report on his visit to the creek areas, in connection with the development of telecommunications in that area.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Communications and Aviation: Sir, I am not clear as to which visit to the Creek areas the hon. Member refers but, as the hon. Member will see from Sessional Paper No. 8 of 1957, I am fully aware of the difficulties involved in the development of an efficient telecommunication system in all the Creek Areas. These difficulties have been taken into account when the proposals contained in this Sessional Paper were worked out. I consider no useful purpose would be served by my making a special report on any particular area of Nigeria.

*O.323. M. Ahmadu Fatika asked the Minister of Communications and Aviation :—

Whether he is aware of the charges of corruption made against the staff of the Posts and Telegraphs Department in connection with the installation of rediffusion boxes in Zaria, and whether he will make a statement.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Communications and Aviation : Sir, in April of this year, enquiries were made by officers of the Investigation Branch, Posts and Telegraphs Department, into allegations that a member of the staff of the Area Engineer's Office, Zaria, was irregularly dealing with sums of money received in respect of rental for radio distribution service boxes.

These enquiries culminated in the appearance on 28th May, 1957, of John Bendia Ezebuio, Typist, Area Engineer's Office, Zaria, at Zaria Magistrates Court on three counts connected with the irregular acceptance of rental for installation of the aforementioned boxes. He pleaded "Not Guilty" to all charges, was convicted on the 31st May, 1957, on the first two counts and sentenced to two years imprisonment. He lodged an appeal against conviction and this appeal has not yet been heard.

***O.330. Mr G. O. D. Eneh** asked the Minister of Communications and Aviation :—

When it is proposed to provide telephone services and post office boxes at the Agbani Post Office.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Communications and Aviation : Sir, The current Economic Programme does not provide for the establishment of a telephone at all post offices and it is not proposed to extend the telephone system to Agbani at present.

I am however pleased to inform the hon. Member that 25 Post Office boxes will shortly be installed at Agbani Post Office.

***O.331. Mr G. O. D. Eneh** asked the Minister of Communications and Aviation :—

What progress has been made in building the proposed Udi Post Office.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Communications and Aviation : Sir, a site has been acquired for the new Post Office at Udi, but a definite date for commencement of building operations cannot be given at the moment. The building will be constructed by Departmental labour under the supervision of the Federal Public Works Department.

***O.352. Mr Z. B. Olokesusi** asked the Minister of Communications and Aviation :—

If he will state the units of business done in each of the postal agencies in Ekiti Division during the year 1956-57.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Communications and Aviation : Sir, the units of business carried out at Postal Agencies in Ekiti Division are as follows :—

Ijan	3,465 Units
Aiyetoro	6,574 Units
Aisegba	5,417 Units
Igede	5,986 Units
Ode	4,782 Units
Aiyedun	5,224 Units
Ifaki	9,855 Units
Aiyede	5,348 Units
Ilawe	8,045 Units
Iddo	6,990 Units
Ikole	18,804 Units
Aramoko	8,534 Units
Ijero	17,197 Units
Usi	9,228 Units
Iyin	5,061 Units
Osi	4,637 Units
Ipoti	4,316 Units
Oye	11,430 Units
Iye	4,001 Units
Igbemo	6,640 Units
Effon-Alaye	8,634 Units
Ogotun	3,752 Units
Emure-Ekiti	6,038 Units
Ise-Ekiti	5,473 Units
Otun-Ekiti	9,546 Units

***O.353. Mr Z. B. Olokesusi** asked the Minister of Communications and Aviation :—

Whether he is aware of the closing down of the Ise-Ekiti Postal Agency ; and what steps he is taking to re-open this Postal Agency.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Communications and Aviation : Sir, Ise-Ekiti Postal Agency was temporarily closed on 21st June, 1957, because of a cash deficiency of £7. Another Postal Agent has been selected and is at present undergoing training at Ikerre Post Office. Ise-Ekiti Postal Agency will be re-opened within the next two or three weeks.

***O.354. Mr D. N. Chukwu** asked the Minister of Communications and Aviation :—

How many post offices have been built by community effort in the years 1955-56 and 1956-57.

Mr C. O. Komolafe, Chief T. T. Solaru, Mr T. O. S. Benson, M. Nunu Bamalli and Chief V. Duro Phillips ;

That the Committee, notwithstanding anything contained in Standing Order 64 firstly shall decide how many days, not exceeding two, shall be allotted for the second reading of the Supplementary Appropriation Bill, and how many days, not exceeding three, shall be allotted for discussion of the Supplementary Appropriation Bill and the Motions approving expenditure under the Capital Budget in the Committee of Supply. Secondly they shall divide the Bill and the Motions into such parts as they may see fit and allot thereto so many of the days set aside for the Committee of Supply or such portions of any such days as they may consider appropriate ;

That the Committee shall report their recommendations to the House, and on consideration of any such report the question "That this House doth agree with the Committee in the said report" shall be put forthwith and, if agreed to, shall have effect as if it were an order of the House notwithstanding anything contained in Standing Order 64 ; and

That the Committee have power to sit while the House is sitting.

ORDER OF THE DAY

THE SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION (1957-58) BILL.

Order for Second Reading read.

10.27 a.m.

The Prime Minister (Hon. Alhaji Abubakar Tafawa Balewa): Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that—

A Bill entitled "A Bill for an Ordinance to make Supplementary Provision for the Service of the Federation of Nigeria for the year ending on the Thirty-First day of March, one thousand nine hundred and fifty-eight, additionally to that made by the Appropriation (1957-58) Ordinance, 1957", be read a second time.

This, Sir, is not a full Budget Debate ; and the Estimates before the House are Supplementary Estimates rather than Annual Estimates. Nevertheless, this Bill marks a vital step forward in Nigeria's evolution, in that this is the first occasion on which an elected Minister is presenting a financial measure on behalf of a fully representative Federal Government. I naturally take pride in this manifesta-

tion of the advances that have been achieved as a result of the recent Constitutional Conference in London, and I look forward to next March, when the Annual Budget of the Federation will for the first time have been prepared under the personal supervision of the Federal Minister of Finance.

I think I should make clear now that I do not intend to indulge in the usual Budget Speech marathon. As I have said, this is not a Budget in the true sense, but is rather an occasion for presenting to the House additional expenditure proposals which the Government feels are both urgent and capable of being financed in the light of the latest assessment of our revenue position. Many of the proposals are such as would in the past have gone to the Standing Committee on Finance. It has, however, become increasingly apparent that proper control over Government expenditure can not be retained if modifications to the Estimates are made piecemeal at frequent intervals in the course of the year. Nor does such a procedure give the House an opportunity for full and public debate, as is the case with the Annual Estimates. The Government has therefore decided to present Supplementary Estimates part-way through the year and this is the first of what I hope will become an annual occurrence.

This is not to say that the need for a Finance Committee will disappear. Occasions are bound to arise when it will be necessary to call a meeting of the Committee. Generally speaking, however, we shall try to include as much as we can in the Supplementary Estimates, so that the House as a whole can be fully aware of all our proposals and given the opportunity to debate them.

There is one difficulty in presenting Supplementary Estimates at this time, namely that the accounts for the previous financial year will not be finally reconciled and closed until later this month. This delay is unfortunate, but arises from the fact that the Regional Governments make numerous and substantial payments on behalf of the Federal Government during the course of the year and we cannot close our Accounts until we have received statements of these payments, checked them and debited them to the numerous sub-heads concerned.

Now, Sir, I shall not pretend to the House that the Supplementary Estimates which support this Bill are my own handiwork. We

all know that the preparation of these Estimates which are now before the House was commenced in June. Nevertheless, Sir, these Estimates represent the collective policy of the Federal Government and I commend them as such to the House.

Now, before proceeding to comment in general terms upon the Supplementary Estimates of Expenditure, I must say something about our revised revenue prospects. Members will see from page 2 of the printed Supplementary Estimates that our latest estimate of the supplementary revenue which may be expected to be retained by the Federal Government during this financial year is just over a million and a half pounds more than was previously forecast. This increase is made up of several factors. Firstly, it now seems, to us, after taking the best advice we have available, that our fears regarding a drop in Import Duties may prove somewhat exaggerated. Our original assessment of the situation was based on the assumption that a drop in the volume and in the world prices of our principal export crops, particularly cocoa, would adversely affect the purchasing power of the consumer and cause a consequential fallings off of imports. This reduction in purchasing power has not yet proved to be as serious as we thought, partly because development expenditure by both the Federal and Regional Governments has continued at a high level, and partly because the current year's crop prospects, both as regards volume and world prices, are more favourable than could be forecast six months ago.

The second major factor affecting our revenue figures is the revision of postal and telephone charges. As my honourable colleague, the Minister of Communications and Aviation will be explaining in detail later on, the increased revenue which we hope to obtain from this source for the last six months or so of this financial year is approximately £344,000. There is also a self balancing reimbursement of £154,000 by the Military Authorities. In future, army works will be carried by the Public Works Department instead of by the army itself and the unexpended balance of monies previously paid over to the army has therefore been refunded to Revenue and is being paid into the Development Fund.

Turning now to recurrent expenditure, the proposals contained in these Supplementary

Estimates require additional provision of nearly one million, four hundred thousand pounds; of this by far the largest commitment is an increased contribution to Her Majesty's Government on account of military expenditure in Nigeria, which accounts for £555,000. Honourable Members may ask why so large a sum is required in addition to the £1,295,000 already provided in the Approved Estimates: the answer is that, while we knew that sizeable additional provision would be required, even when the Approved Estimates were being prepared, no agreement had been reached on the exact figure and so the estimate was left unchanged. The House is aware that ever since the West African Forces Conference in 1953, Nigeria has been assuming an increasing share of the cost of the Nigerian Military Forces. For instance, for 1955-56 our total contribution was £1,720,000. For 1956-57 we have agreed to contribute £1,750,000; and for 1957-58 the figure is £1,850,000, to which must be added £75,000 as our share of the cost of the Military Training School at Teshi in Ghana.

In accordance with the understanding reached at the recent Constitutional Conference, it is envisaged that control of the Nigerian Military Forces will pass from the United Kingdom Army Council to the Federal Government in the near future. With it will pass also the primary financial responsibility for their upkeep, although this will be impossible without continued assistance by the United Kingdom Government, on the lines of the diminishing annual grant foreshadowed by the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

It is my duty, therefore, to warn the House that the cost of our Military forces, as reflected in the Defence Head of the Estimates, is likely to show a further increase when the Estimates for 1958-59 are presented, although it is to be hoped that by then negotiations with Her Majesty's Government regarding the size of the United Kingdom contribution towards their cost will have been satisfactorily concluded.

Apart from this increase in Defence expenditure, the Supplementary Estimates of Recurrent Expenditure contain no outstandingly large expenditure proposals, although the policy implications of most of the staff proposals are of first importance. When the House last met, it approved the creation of a Nigerianisation Office and many stern words of advice

were offered to the incumbent of the post of Nigerianisation Officer. Well, Sir, I think that honourable Members will agree, if they look at the draft proposals contained in this volume in front of us, that he has not been idle. Virtually all the staff proposals put forward arise from the Government's Nigerianisation Policy, and I feel sure the House will commend this clear manifestation of the Government's determination to accelerate the Nigerianisation of the Public Service. On the other hand, there is a wealth of difference between the creation of posts and the filling of them—particularly in the Research Departments; and Members will no doubt be gratified to see that this problem too is being tackled by the creation of an Emergency Training Scheme in Science Subjects under Head 76, Other Services.

Before leaving the Recurrent Budget I should mention that the Estimates in the hands of Members had to be prepared too long ago for them to reflect the recent Constitutional changes. They do not, for instance, provide for the Prime Minister's office, nor for the changes involved in the substitution of a Ministry of Finance for the Financial Secretary's Office. These needs are being taken care of by means of a Special Warrant and will be reported to the Standing Finance Committee or to this House at a later meeting. Members will see that a block sum of £40,000 is included on page 51 of the Supplementary Estimates for Ministerial and Departmental Re-organisation.

Now, Sir, as I said earlier, the total cost of all the proposals contained in the Supplementary Estimates of Recurrent Expenditure amounts to just under one million, four hundred thousand pounds. In addition to this, proposals amounting to £131,000 odd were approved by the Finance Committee in May: and since then the Financial Secretary, in accordance with the powers delegated to him by the Committee, has approved revotes of unspent provision from past years amounting to £160,000 odd. Total supplementary provision since the Approved Estimates came into force on the 1st of April, amounts, in fact, to £1,681,000, which compares with the supplementary revenue figure of £1,505,000. The effect of these two increases is to reduce the estimated surplus for the year from £911,000 to £735,000. This I consider satisfactory, although it must be borne in mind that the

Recurrent Budget has not yet had to bear the impact of the heavy loan service charges which will be inevitable as our capital resources diminish and we come to depend, to an increasing extent, on loan finance for the implementation of our Economic Programme.

Turning now to the Supplementary Capital Estimates, these provide for further expenditure from the Development Fund this year of up to £3,300,000. Honourable Members will find these proposals fully explained in the Memorandum on blue paper at the very end of the Supplementary Estimates volume. This sum is additional to supplementary provision already approved by Finance Committee or by Resolution of this House of just over £2 million and of re-votes totalling £650,000. If, therefore, the House approves the proposals now included in the Supplementary Capital Estimates, the total of all the sums of capital expenditure approved this year is just under £35 million as compared with a total of just under £29 million included in the Approved Estimates.

While the House has to be asked to approve these fresh items of expenditure so that particular projects may proceed, I am afraid it is wishful thinking to imagine that we shall spend £34 million this year. Works are not proceeding as fast as we would wish. In fact, the latest estimate of expenditure under the Capital Budget last year is that it was only just over £12½ million, as compared with our earlier estimate of nearly £16½ million. Obviously a major programme of development such as the Posts and Telegraphs, harbours or road programmes, cannot be implemented at full speed right from the start. An enormous amount of planning and preparatory work has to be done, for instance, on architectural plans and contract documents; and orders have to be placed for stores and equipment, some of which take a long time to come forward. These delays in getting the full Economic Programme under way offer no real saving of money, nor any satisfaction: they merely delay the time when works are completed and the full impact of the Economic Programme expenditure will be felt. As regards the financing of the Economic Programme, it has always been made clear to the House that it is, in a major measure, dependent on the obtaining of loans. As Members know, a Mission from the International Bank is due to arrive in Nigeria shortly and I hope that the Minister

of Finance will have more to say on our loan prospects when introducing next year's Budget. In the meantime, I am glad to be able to inform the House that it is now clear, from figures which only became available after the Supplementary Estimates in the hands of Members had been printed, that the contributions available for the Development Fund from last year's revenue are considerably greater than previously estimated. (*Applause*).

During the last meeting, the House resolved in effect that the surplus of Revenue for the year should be paid into the Development Fund which finances the Economic Programme in addition to the contributions specifically provided in the Recurrent Budget. At the time this year's Estimates were framed, it was thought that the surplus, plus the specific contributions, would amount to a total of £11 million being paid into the Fund. I am now glad to be able to inform the House that the latest estimates, and I emphasise that they are still estimates and not final figures, indicate that the total paid into the Fund in respect of the last year may be somewhere about £16 million; (*Applause*) that is £5 million more than was estimated earlier. (*Hear, hear*). Approximately half of this additional sum comes from the present estimate of Revenue for last year exceeding the earlier forecast and half from Expenditure being lower than was estimated. The increase in Revenue is a matter for rejoicing, but the shortfall for expenditure is largely due to the difficulties in filling staff vacancies and providing the services we planned and the country needs.

I said earlier, Sir, that I do not intend to make a Budget Speech on the classical pattern. This is not the time to make a review of the financial and economic state of the nation, which will more appropriately be undertaken next March when the first Annual Budget prepared by our all-elected Cabinet is presented to the House for approval. I would, however, wish here and now to refer to one comparatively minor point of procedure and seek the House's approval of a change in our system of financial control which will be of the greatest assistance in expediting our Capital expenditure programme. As I mentioned earlier, the Standing Committee on Finance has in the past authorised the Financial Secretary to re-vote money unspent in previous years but which is still required to complete works in progress or

pay for goods on order. This has saved an enormous amount of time and trouble, and has been of the greatest assistance in expediting development.

I now propose one further innovation. It quite commonly happens that with long-term projects work starts slowly but then proceeds much faster than could have been anticipated when the Annual Estimates were framed; in consequence, the sum approved for the particular financial year proves insufficient. Now, as Honourable Members are well aware from their examination of our Capital Estimates, there is always a final Column headed "Balance to Complete". This represents the actual balance of funds expected to remain unspent at the end of the financial year within the original approved Estimate of total cost of the project. In future, I propose that the Minister of Finance should allow such sums to be brought forward from this column, provided that a balance still remains, in order to allow work-in-progress to continue uninterrupted. Like the powers exercised in respect of re-votes, no applications will be accepted unless they are within the estimated total cost approved by this House; and in all cases the action taken will be reported to the Standing Committee on Finance or the House itself at the first opportunity, and be subject in due course to scrutiny by the Public Accounts Committee. This arrangement will save much valuable time which would otherwise be wasted while waiting for a meeting of Finance Committee to take place, and a saving in public funds will be the result.

So much for the Supplementary Appropriation Bill as such. I have not attempted to enter into the details of the individual Supplementary Estimates, as this can most easily be done in answer to the points that Honourable Members will raise in the Committee of Supply. Before I close, however, there are two general statements which I consider it necessary to make at this important stage in our advance towards full Self-government. I have already spoken to the House about both these two points but they are so important that I shall repeat in different words what I said on Monday.

The first relates to the position of the public service now that the Establishments Branch of the former Chief Secretary's Office is to be placed within the Ministry of Finance. We have inherited valuable traditions unimpaired.

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[*Police (Amendment No. 2) Bill : Second Reading*] 1738

All political parties represented at the London Constitutional Conference were anxious to see that the civil service remained insulated from political pressures, and to that end a number of safeguards have been written into the Constitution, particularly in regard to the responsibility of the Governor-General and of the Public Service Commission in the matter of appointments, promotions and discipline.

Nevertheless, Constitutions by themselves do not always engender the spirit of confidence and mutual trust which they have been designed to foster; in the last analysis, their success is determined by the manner in which they are operated by those who have to take the day-to-day decisions—civil servants and politicians alike. I want to assure the public service that I and my brother Ministers are determined to operate the safeguards embodied in the Constitution both in the letter and in the spirit: there will be no favouritism and no political pressure aimed at deterring a civil servant from carrying out his duties faithfully and impartially. (*Hear, hear*). For its part, the public service will, I am confident, continue to serve as loyally as it has done in the past, knowing that only in this way will it be possible to create a strong and independent Nigeria which is our goal.

The second general point which I wish to emphasise relates to the financial and economic policy of our country and, in particular, the confidence which investors can feel in our future. It is natural that in times of rapid constitutional advance there should be some who wonder whether the removal of the Financial Secretary from the Council of Ministers and from this House foreshadows a radical change in the manner in which we handle our finances. We here know that this is not so. The financial policy of the Government in recent years has been a collective policy; and in so far as it has commanded the confidence of investors and of the world at large, this is an earnest of our ability to govern ourselves rather than of the historical accident that the portfolio of finance has hitherto been held by an expatriate official.

Nevertheless, it is proper that I should, as the first Prime Minister of the Federation, declare categorically that the Government which I am proud to head is determined to maintain wise financial policies that will

perpetuate the high reputation that this country enjoys in such matters; (*applause*) and that it will not lend itself to any measures that would have the effect of lessening the confidence of overseas investors and of our own people in our financial and economic stability.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move.

The Minister of Labour and Welfare (Chief F. S. Okotie-Eboh): Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to second.

Mr Speaker: Under Standing Order 64, the debate now stands adjourned until tomorrow.

POLICE (AMENDMENT NO. 2) BILL

Order for Second Reading read.

The Prime Minister: Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to move that the Bill for the Police (Amendment No. 2) Ordinance, 1957 be now read a second time.

At its Budget meeting this year, the Western House of Assembly passed a law making a provision for the preservation of public order in the Region—Western Region Public Order Law No. 24 of 1957. Sections 8 and 9 of this Law which deal with the control of assemblies and processions duplicate very largely the provisions of sections 36-39 inclusive of the Police Ordinance, and the Western Regional Government has therefore asked that the application of these sections of the Police Ordinance in the Western Region should be removed.

Sir, the purpose of this Bill is to give effect to the wishes of the Government of the Western Region. In doing so, it accords with the wishes expressed in March 1954 during a debate on the control of assemblies and processions, and the House will agree that the control of assemblies and processions is more suitably dealt with by the Public Order Law than by the Police Ordinance. In so far as Lagos is concerned, sections 36-39 of the Police Ordinance have already been made applicable by the provisions of Public Order (Lagos) Ordinance passed by this House in 1955.

Neither the Northern nor the Eastern Regional Legislatures have yet enacted legislation rendering this section of the Criminal Code superfluous in these Regions, but when they do so, similar Bills will be presented in this House.

Sir, I beg to move.

The Minister of Transport (Hon. R. A. Njoku) : Sir, I beg to second.

Question proposed.

Dr E. O. Awduche (Onitsha) : Mr Speaker, Sir, while I took very careful notice of the appeal made by our first Prime Minister during the maiden speech that as little reference as possible should be made to Regional Governments in this House, I would safely say, Sir, that this Bill specifically refers to a Regional Government and I am happy to say that it gives me ample opportunity of making comment on what goes on in the Regional Governments.

This Bill is an indication of the most benevolent progressive and democratic system of Government which is being built up and which has been going on in the Western Region. (*Interruption*).

Mr Speaker : Order ! The hon. Member must limit his remarks to the Police aspect of that administration.

Dr Awduche : With due respect to Mr Speaker, Sir, clause 2 of the Bill before the House states as follows : "The Police Ordinance is hereby amended by insertion therein of the following new sections. Immediately after sections 39, 39 (a), 36, 37, 38 and 39 shall not apply to the Western Region." That was why I wanted to pay a tribute to the Western Region for ensuring that those sections of the Police Ordinance no longer applied to that Region.

This Bill has arisen as a result of a law passed in the Western House of Assembly giving freedom of assembly in the Western Region. Unfortunately, however, the N.C.N.C. Government of the Eastern Region has not yet seen fit to introduce a similar democratic Bill. It is very unfortunate, Sir, that while that Party opposes the creation of State Police, they still maintain the Police State in the. . . . (*Interruption*). . . .

Mr Jaja Wachuku (Aba) : Point of order, Sir. Under Standing Order 28 (1) "Debate upon any motion, bill or amendment shall be relevant to such motion, bill or amendment, except in the case of a substantive motion for the adjournment of the House."

Mr Speaker : That is what I tried to do in my earlier interruption of the hon. Member ; he must keep strictly to the narrow points

contained in this Bill. Policies of Governments are by no means concerned with this, only the small matter of the Police. If it was indeed the case that Mr Fani-Kayode could not hear my remark, it emphasises that I must direct the House to keep silence while I am on my feet or while any Member is speaking.

Dr Awduche : Thank you, Mr Speaker. I have taken due notice of your comment.

The Bill before the House merely refers to the right of assembly and I am only seizing this opportunity of welcoming the Bill and hoping that it will extend to other parts of the Federation.

Chief J. I. G. Onyia (Asaba) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to support. I do not think it is appropriate for us here to deal with the merits and the demerits of the Public Order Bill passed in the Western House of Assembly. I only wish to say. . . . (*Interruption*). . . . Mr Speaker, Sir, the first question I posed in this House went as follows : "To ask the Prime Minister whether the Federal Government will now consider abrogating sections 36-39 of the Police Ordinance in the Regions which have their own Public Order Law as was done when the Public Order (Lagos) 1955 Ordinance became law."

Why I support this Bill so much is that I have already said that it was due to be abrogated in the Western Region, as indicated in my question, and I know the difficulties I suffered before posing this question. During the period I was doing a tour of my own constituency, I had to be under two different public order laws. I got difficulty when I had to defer my tour to appeal to the Police to amend the order before touring despite the fact that already we had had a Public Order Law passed by the Western Government. Sir I support.

Dr E. U. Udoma (Opobo) : Mr Speaker, I rise to support this Bill, and seize this opportunity to congratulate the Western Regional Government for having appealed to the Federal Government to make this amendment. I think that is the most sensible thing to do.

We know other Regions who are so backward that they will never take this thing and yet they shout on the house-tops about democracy with the result that in the Eastern Region, any time you want to have a meeting, you must go to beg the Police to give you a permit,

and they will see to it that the Police will not give it you. That is why I hope that the Prime Minister would be able to appeal to the Eastern Regional Government to take a similar step which has been taken by the Western Region.

Mr S. A. Effiong (Enyong): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to support this Bill. I do so because I think that the sense of this Bill will bring to an end the clash of two different Public Order Bills in the same country. I hope that the Northern Regional Government will take steps to follow the example of the West Regional Government.

Mr E. C. Ealey: (Special Member): Mr Speaker, Sir, I support this Bill and in so doing should like to take this opportunity of saying a few words about our Police Force in general. For years we have had criticism of the way they handle, or mishandle, our traffic problems. Recently, in our Lagos traffic crisis, they responded magnificently.

Mr Speaker: I am sorry to interrupt but that is beyond the confines of this Bill. It only, after all, applies to the Western Region.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read a second time, and immediately considered in Committee.

(In the Committee)

Clauses 1 and 2 agreed to.

Bill to be reported.

(Mr Speaker resumed the Chair)

Bill reported without amendment read the third time and passed.

11.04 a.m.

MORATORIUM ON PAYMENT OF INTEREST
BY THE GOVERNMENT OF THE SOUTHERN
CAMEROONS

The Prime Minister (Hon. Alhaji Abubakar Tafawa Balewa): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to move the Resolution standing in my name on the Order Paper, as follows: That this House takes note that the Federal Government has agreed, having regard to the present financial difficulties of the Government of the Southern Cameroons, to allow the Government of the Southern Cameroons temporarily to defer payment of interest due for the financial year 1957-58 on the £300,000 advanced to the Southern Cameroons Government at its establishment for working capital and on the sum advanced to the Southern Cameroons Govern-

ment in respect of the financial year 1956-57 in accordance with the guarantee arrangement approved by Resolution of this House on the 5th of April, 1955; and that these deferments of interest are granted without prejudice to the right of the Federal Government to receive the sums so deferred so soon as the Southern Cameroons Government becomes capable of resuming payment.

I do not need to remind hon. Members that the Southern Cameroons Government has been hard put even to make ends meet on a care and maintenance basis during the past two years, as a result of the steep decline in the level of the constitutional grant payable to it by the Federal Government in accordance with the principles laid down by Sir Louis Chick, the last Fiscal Commissioner. The chief reason behind this quite unforeseeable decline has been the reduction in the receipts from Company Tax, due, in the main, to the shrinking profitability of plantation banana production.

Although it was not foreseen that the revenue of the Government of the Southern Cameroons would decline to its present level, it was realised that it was liable to fluctuations owing to great dependence on export crops. This House, therefore, agreed on the 5th April, 1955, that, should the constitutional grant plus any share of the profits of the Cameroons Development Corporations actually paid to the Southern Cameroons Government fall below the sum of £580,000 in any of the three ensuing years, that is to say up to and including the current financial year, then the Federal Government would advance the shortfall as a charge to an advance account. In 1955-56, the Southern Cameroons was unable to avoid calling upon the guarantee at all. In 1956-57, however, although the exact figure is not yet available as a constitutional grant has not been finally calculated, the Southern Cameroons Government will probably require to take up some £445,000 under the guarantee arrangements on which some interest is payable at the normal gilt-edged rates, amounting to approximately £20,000 per annum. Furthermore, when the Southern Cameroons Government was first set up, it was advanced £300,000 by the Federal Government as working capital, on which interest is payable at the current Joint Consolidated Fund rates which works out at £13,500.

One of the conditions on which the guarantee was given in 1955 was that the level of the Southern Cameroons recurrent Budget should be kept during the three years in question within the total of the guaranteed figures plus recurrent revenue raised locally and C.D. & W. assistance. However, when the time came to prepare the 1957-58 Estimates, the Southern Cameroons Government was faced with an insuperable task—owing to certain unavoidable increases, such as the education grants in aid, arising from statutory obligations, and the necessity to maintain the territory's roads and medical institutions, it was found quite impossible to balance the Budget. The Southern Cameroons Government decided, therefore, after the most serious consideration, formally to ask for three concessions: The granting by the Federal Government of the two moratoria mentioned in the Resolution now before the House and the granting by the Secretary of State of 100 per cent reimbursement of recurrent expenditure on Southern Cameroons C.D. & W. schemes instead of only 75 per cent reimbursement as was originally provided. The Secretary of State has been asked to agree to the latter concession, worth £19,500, but his reply has not yet been received. As hon. Members will see, however, the Federal Government has already agreed to the two moratoria, thus postponing payment of £33,500. And yet, even with the aid of all the three concessions, the Southern Cameroons Budget surplus amounts only to £10,260, a margin of 1.04 per cent.

It is now probable that the Fiscal Commission will arrive in Nigeria towards the end of October. The terms of reference agreed by the Nigerian Constitutional Conference included the following:—

“To consider what fiscal arrangements will be most appropriate for the Southern Cameroons, including whether that territory should be treated as a Region for the purpose of revenue allocation; and to advise on the extent to which additional financial assistance might be required to meet the immediate needs of that territory and to provide for a reasonable degree of expansion; and to indicate the form which this assistance should take.”

The Federal Government's intention in granting the moratoria was to aid the Southern Cameroons Government during the interim

period until such time as the recommendations of the Fiscal Commission are forthcoming, but at the same time reserving the right to the payment of the sums deferred when the Southern Cameroons Government could meet these commitments. In consequence, my Government invites the House to take note of the position.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move.

The Minister of Transport (The hon. R. A. Njoku): Sir, I beg to second.

Question proposed:

Dr E. O. Awduche (Onitsha): Mr Speaker, Sir, in view of the facts just illustrated by the hon. Prime Minister, it would appear that we have to exercise our sense of magnanimity towards our good neighbours of the Trust Territory of the Cameroons.

I say this, Sir, in view of the fact that all that is required of us is a temporary deferment of payment, not an absolute writing off of debts. It is really unfortunate that a territory which depends upon a banana economy, which is subject to the vicissitudes of the gales, should have no other sources of revenue to enable the ambitious and illustrious citizens of the Cameroons to carry out their programme. It is in view of this, Sir, that I do support this Motion.

Furthermore, in doing so, Sir, I would like just to make a few remarks about the result of the Constitutional Conference, with particular reference to the Cameroons. It has been made absolutely clear there should.....

Mr Speaker: You cannot speak on the Constitutional Conference.....

Dr Awduche: All right, Sir. In view of what I have just said, Sir, I beg to support this Motion.

Rev. E. S. Bens (Brass): Mr Speaker, Sir, while I am not opposed to any charity Nigeria as a Federation will give to the Cameroons to help to carry out the Government of that territory, I have to make it clear here that in 1955, when I was speaking in this House on the Budget, I said that the Southern Cameroons as a territory was a liability to this Government, and I further suggested that if Nigeria would give any financial aid to the Southern Cameroons, it must be in the form of loan. I do not know whether our

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government carried out that suggestion, but here was a loan that was given to the Southern Cameroons and they are not able to fulfil the promises.

Sir, all that I want to ask the Prime Minister to make clear here is, if the Southern Cameroons is insolvent to-day as a Government, can the United Nations Committee give some aid to that Territory?

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to support.

Mr J. S. Tarka (Jemgbar, Tiv): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to support this Bill because I feel that the Southern Cameroons needs every penny anywhere it can get it, provided that penny is given in good faith, and I think that the Government is doing this in good faith. Sooner or later the golden key of the Bank of England will no longer be given to the Southern Cameroons and I feel that she is our brother nation, and she needs every penny.

It is our duty to help our brothers, and that is why I support.

Chief E. O. Omolodun (Oyo South): Mr Speaker, Sir, before I support this Motion I want a statement to be clearly made, and that is the day the Southern Cameroons will be paying the debt—as soon as it becomes capable of doing so. Supposing for life.... (Laughter).

Let us call a spade a spade. If the Federal Government is giving this money to the Cameroons, let us know, and then we take it off from our minds that Cameroons is coming to pay us. We know the Southern Cameroons is a babe to be nursed with milk, but we should know what kind of milk to be given... (Hon. Members: Money, money)... and if it is money, let us give it and do away with it once and for all.

Mr P. A. Aiyuk (Mamfe): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to support this Motion. Although this is not a grant, it is a loan. I very happily welcome the idea because it will go a long way to help the Southern Cameroons. This is a Motion which clearly shows the people of Nigeria, particularly the people of the Southern Cameroons, that other Regions of the Federation regard it as a component part of the Federation, regard the Southern Cameroons as a youngest brother, and as a hard working brother who requires assistance and encouragement.

The Southern Cameroons has had to meet with difficulties, you all know, at the initial stage of its governmental activities because of its past neglect. There is no doubt, Mr Speaker, that leaders of this country have now begun to think seriously of the composition of Nigeria, and unity, and if this is continued and taken seriously during the experimental stage we shall have no disturbance with our true dream of independence in 1960.

As a young, ambitious government the Southern Cameroons requires a lot of financial relief to help her tackle within this transition period a host of social and economic problems now facing the territory, so that we are not left behind when independence comes. This Motion, Sir, gives one of the encouragements which we require to brighten the hopes of the people of the Cameroons so that they can decide their political fate in the right direction in 1960.

For this reason I am very grateful to the Prime Minister for proposing this Motion, and I strongly support it.

Mr M. A. Sanni (Oshun South): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to support this Motion wholeheartedly. Not only should we look at this well meaning Motion with a mind pregnant with prospects for the Trust Territory of the Southern Cameroons, but we should also bear in mind that part of the memorable declaration of our first Prime Minister which refers to it. This Motion is the first step in exemplifying the Prime Minister's doctrine—a doctrine which is capable of bringing together the various fragments (the Regions) into which Nigeria has been broken.

The Federal Government and the Regional Governments, the Prime Minister said, (I am not using his words), should collaborate in earnest, and if they do so disinterestedly by 1960 we shall surely have moved towards that much-needed unity. (Loud applause.)

By means of this Motion, which deserves the support of the House, the Southern Cameroons should definitely look forward with us to that happy day of merger. We hope that by 1960 it will be quite willing to lose its identity in one united Nigeria. (Applause.)

In the meantime, Sir, the fact should be clear to us that if this Motion is carried one can rightly assert that the nature of the interest payable should change. If the payment of simple interest is deferred as required, the

amount of the interest should be added to the capital. In that case we should have compound interest instead of simple interest.

M. Nuhu Bamalli (Central Zaria): Mr Speaker, I rise to support this Motion, and I think that by doing so, I am only expressing the feeling of this side of the House. It was only yesterday, Sir, at the State Banquet, that the Premier of the Northern Region, the hon. Alhaji, the Sardauna of Sokoto, warned us that when we wake up to-day, this morning, we should wake up with the determination to work; to work for the unity of Nigeria. I think, Sir, there is no more practical way by which that unity can be achieved than by being generous to our less fortunate brothers in the Southern Cameroons. I therefore, Sir, support this Motion wholeheartedly.

Chief T. T. Solaru (Ijebu East): Mr Speaker, Sir, in supporting this Motion, I think it will be necessary to do so with clear heads and with clear minds. People have spoken in general terms about what we intend to do if we pass this Bill, that is to lend, to stretch a helping hand to the Cameroons. That idea must of necessity appeal to all of us. After all, one good turn deserves another. It is true that a mouse can offer very little help to a lion, but in our fable it was the mouse that extricated the powerful lion when he fell into the net, for after all the mouse could nibble through while the lion was helpless when it was caught in the net. I am not talking about the time when we shall be in difficulty and the Southern Cameroons will come to our aid, that is mere expediency, but I think we will feel happier in our minds and be of one mind with the rest of the Federation, if the leaders of the Cameroons would speak with one voice. Sometimes I feel that some of us do not know where the Cameroons stand. I am glad to hear a Member for the Cameroons say that this is a good sign that we are regarding them as part of the Federation—of course we do, we have always done so—but some discordant voices come from across the border there that seem to set the motion of the clock back.

We are accepting this Motion, Mr Speaker, but we would like this brother state, or sister state of the Cameroons, to let us know where we stand. Are they coming with us? Are they for us? I know they are not against us.

Because this is only the first step and we know that in our local parlance, when a child says thank you for the first little gift, a bigger one is coming, but if the child says thank you, I did not ask you though for it, well if it speaks two voices, one so smiling, and the other snarling, it seems to me that one begins to be a little wary when the next occasion comes.

Mr Speaker, Sir, Nigeria can afford to be generous, even at the expense of sacrifices, but we want our sacrifices to be duly—we do not use the word appreciated—I want our sacrifices not only to be duly and sincerely acknowledged, but I want our sacrifices to do what really it is intended to do; that is to act as a cement to bind together the peoples of this Federation.

We cannot afford to have next door to us a state which is poor, because poverty is like an epidemic and we know that a poor state is a breeding ground for all kinds of novelties. Novelties that we do not want to come here, like the Asiatic 'flu'. So, Sir, if only out of expediency, we must do this thing, but I know that it is in their best interests, not because of anything else, but that Nigeria regards them as part and parcel of this great sisterhood of nations. (*Hear, hear*).

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved: That this House takes note that the Federal Government has agreed, having regard to the present financial difficulties of the Government of the Southern Cameroons, to allow the Government of the Southern Cameroons temporarily to defer payment of interest due for the financial year 1957-58 on the £300,000 advanced to the Southern Cameroons Government at its establishment for working capital and on the sum advanced to the Southern Cameroons Government in respect of the financial year 1956-57 in accordance with the guarantee arrangement approved by Resolution of this House on the 5th of April, 1955; and that these deferments of interest are granted without prejudice to the right of the Federal Government to receive the sums so deferred so soon as the Southern Cameroons Government becomes capable of resuming payment.

THE AMAPETU OF MAHIN (TERMINATION OF
MONTHLY STIPEND) BILL

Order for Second Reading read.

Prime Minister (Hon. Alhaji Abubakar Tafawa Balewa): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to move that a Bill for an Ordinance entitled *The Amapetu of Mahin (Termination of Monthly Stipend) 1957* be read a Second Time.

Sir, the circumstances surrounding the payment of this monthly stipend require some explanation so that the House may understand that this case is partly unique and may be assured that the enactment of this Bill will not create a precedent and bring similar claims from other parties from other parts of the Federation. I therefore ask the hon. Members to bear with me while I recount the history of this case. In 1895 you have the Amapetu's final declaration in connection with a Treaty that had been contracted ten years earlier between him and the British Crown. By this Declaration the Amapetu, on behalf of himself and his successors relinquished all rights to levies, customary revenues, and in consideration, he received the monthly stipend of £5. The reason for this Declaration was that the Lagos Government desired to apply the Customs Laws to Mahin, and to do this it was necessary to cancel the Amapetu's rights to levy duties. From extant correspondence it appears that it was the intention that the stipend should be personal to the Amapetu who actually signed the Declaration, but it was inadvertently paid to his successors until 1914, when it was struck out of the Annual Estimates. Representations were made to the Government, however, and in 1916, the Executive Council, under the Presidency of Governor Lugard, recommended that the Stipend should continue to be paid until the death of the existing Amapetu. It was so paid until he died in 1925. No more was then heard until in 1950 the Amapetus thought to take the matter to Court by way of a Petition of Right. Permission to proceed was given and the Government's case was that although the Amapetu entered into the Agreement on behalf of himself and his successors, the fact that his successors were not mentioned as being entitled to receive the stipend meant that it was not intended that they should do so, but Sir, it so happened that the Amapetu did sign the Declaration for himself and his successors and the Court held that there was an obligation to pay the Stipend to his successors.

Now, Sir, the payment of the Stipend involves a ponderous responsibility, quite

disproportionate to its value. The Amapetu was therefore invited to consider a negotiated settlement. It is to the benefit of the Federal Government as well as to the Amapetu that that monthly Stipend should be cancelled by a single lump sum payment.

The figure of £1,365 comprises £165 of arrears of the stipend and £1,200 as compensation. This sum has been freely negotiated, and, as hon. Members will have been quick to calculate, will bring in an income of £60 a year if invested at 5 per cent.

There is, Sir, one final point on which the House will wish for an explanation, namely, the liability of the Federal Government to acknowledge this obligation. This liability exists because the Federal Government has succeeded to the rights and liabilities of the Government of Lagos and in this case has inherited the benefits accruing under the Declaration of 1895, that is the right to prevent the Amapetu from levying customary rights in Mahin. I think, Sir, that I have made it plain that it is to the advantage of this Government to compound all future liability and that no injustice is being done to the Amapetu.

Sir, I beg to move.

The Minister of Transport (Hon. R. A. Njoku): Sir, I beg to second.

Question proposed.

Dr E. O. Awduche (Onitsha): Point of Order, Sir. I would like the guidance of Mr Speaker with regard to Standing Order 51 (1) which says that before allowing such a Bill to be read it should have been published in the Gazette and in one newspaper circulating in Nigeria. I would like to know, Sir, whether this Bill has been published in a newspaper because I didn't see it in a newspaper.

Mr Speaker: That is not a point of order which I can possibly answer. It has nothing to do with Order in this House. One must assume, at least until it has been proved to the contrary, that the Government have complied with the necessary requisites before a Bill is introduced.

Mr A. Adeyinka (Ibadan Central): Mr Speaker, I rise to support this Bill. I would just like to know, Sir, whether a full explanation has been made to this old man so that he will know the implication of this Bill. One of the clauses of this Bill says that this stipend is to his successors. But now you are going to pay a

lump sum of money to an individual. After receiving this lump sum of money, his stipend ceases to operate. Well, it seems that this man will only have this sum of money and his family may not have any share of it. I would like to know whether the Government has been able to explain the implications of the application of this stipend to this old man. That is the only assurance I want from the Government.

Mr L. J. Dosunmu (Lagos East): Mr Speaker, one significant statement the Prime Minister made is that this Bill is in the interest of the Government of the Federation. But he did not stop at that; he said it is also in the interest of the Amapetu. That may be right also, but it is certainly not in the interest of the successors to the present Amapetu. (*Hear, hear*).

Mr Speaker, again the Prime Minister said that this is going to be the first and the last of this kind of Bill. I sincerely hope that this is so, because I cannot bring myself to supporting a Bill of this kind. The Government of the Federation is liable as long as it exists as a Government to be paying this stipend to this family. The initiative to compound has come from the Government. If one reads the opening paragraph of the Bill, one will find that it is the Governor-General who is desirous of compounding for all future liabilities. The initiative has not come from the Amapetu of Mahin. And that point was again reinforced by the Prime Minister when he said that after the Amapetu petition of right in the High Court, then the Government in an attempt to stop this payment invited the Amapetu of Mahin to agree to this compromise.

An hon. Member: Where is he?

Mr Dosunmu: I don't know where he is, but I am sure he is in Nigeria.

Now, here is a man who is entitled to a claim of £5 not only for his life but for the lives of those who will succeed him. I cannot satisfy myself as to how you can convince the man that compounding it for twenty years is fair and reasonable. Why did you not think of 100 years? Surely if the man is a young man there is the possibility of his living for more than twenty years in which case he will have earned £60 multiplied by 20 in twenty years, and that will still leave room for his successors to continue to earn their £5. I want to be

convinced that the Government is satisfied that it has done justice not only to the present Amapetu but also to his successors. It is true he is going to have over £1,000 in his pocket, but he is not going to invest it in such a manner that the interest will be accruing to those who will succeed to the title. I mean, he is going to spend the whole money.

I feel, Sir, that in the interest of the Amapetu's successors the Government ought not to have agreed to this. It is true that it is in the interest of the Government, but we here are watch dogs of the people of the country. It is not fair that this Government should use this House as a means of rubber-stamping what ordinarily should have been settled between parties. By the Government coming to this House and asking for the approval of this House, as it were, the force of law is being put on it and henceforth any claim that the successor can put up can always be resisted in court. Surely if the Government has reached such a private arrangement with the Amapetu, it is not fair that this House should be made a third party to it. We should not only consider the interest of the Government of the Federation—we are part and parcel of it, we admit—but we should consider the interests of private citizens also. We should also consider the interests of those who are going to succeed to this title, and for that reason I think that this is a Bill that is not altogether welcome, but I shall not strongly oppose it on the assurance of the Prime Minister that a Bill of this kind will not find its way again into this House.

Mr R. A. Fani-Kayode (Ife): Mr Speaker, Sir, in the present mood of the House it would be fatal to oppose this Bill, but at the same time I believe that this Bill cannot be the creature of the present Government. Just impossible. Secondly, this Bill could not have been proposed by our present Prime Minister (*Shouts of "the old Government"*). They themselves will agree that we are here to see that the subject is not cheated of his right. Here is a man who agreed to accept £5 a month in 1895. What was the value of £5 in 1895 and what is its value in 1957?

I should call upon the Council of Ministers and the Prime Minister to kindly look into the computation. We are not saying that the whole thing should be thrown overboard, but surely we can assess the purchasing power

of £5 in 1895 and try to give an estimate of the equivalent in to-day's cash. That one is settled.

Secondly, how does anybody arrive at 20 years? Is it a lease? I mean if one is going to acquire Government property now, he can say the value can be computed at 20 years rent from to-day. But this is a grant to the successors of the Amapetu of Mahin for ever and certainly the Prime Minister is not suggesting that the family will become extinct in the very near future, certainly not in 20 years. So I am suggesting, Sir, that the Prime Minister should kindly reconsider the situation and not only compute the amount of the monthly stipend but also the number of years that it should be paid, and also to make provision for the investment of the capital so that only the interest thereon can be enjoyed by the Amapetu. If we are to safeguard the interests of all the successors of the Amapetu surely Government can make provision for capital to be invested and the interest thereon should be paid in perpetuity. (*Hear, hear*).

Dr E. U. Udoma (Opobo): Mr Speaker I would like to add a few words to what hon. Fani-Kayode has said in this House. I think, Sir, also that it is a very serious thing because this Bill seeks to nullify the right of an individual, not that individual alone, but his own successors in office. We are therefore not only depriving the man himself of drawing this stipend during the period of his life in this world but we are also cutting off those who would come after him.

Very well, we are trying to encourage this Amapetu to be a very selfish man. He is going to get £1,000 which, compared with £5 a month, is a large sum of money, and anybody could be tempted to say: give me £1,000 please, I don't want £5 because I don't know if I may live another 10 years. So he is a very happy man to say: I'll take the £1,000 since I may not survive the 20 years stipulated. We have to provide and we have to look ahead and think in terms of his successor because there are many selfish family heads in this country who would like to pocket everything and forget about their successors and Government should not encourage this sort of thing.

Now the next point, Sir, which emerges from the explanation given by the Prime Minister is that Government has shown

throughout a reluctance to honour this obligation up to the stage that the matter had to go to court, so that Government has not been willing to pay this money voluntarily even though Government deprived this man of the money he was making in the old days of imposing his own Customs Duty. The money he was living on, Government at a certain stage was reluctant to pay and to honour that obligation. To bicker on the question as to whether the successors are entitled or not shows the manner of Government all along.

Therefore, my humble and respectful request to the Prime Minister is that he should not allow himself to be led into this pact. It is going to work hardship on the successor of this man, it is going to show that the Government is using the big stick on this poor man who is not being heard in these Chambers because we don't know, he may even be opposing this but the attraction of £1,000 in his pocket might be such that he could not resist. Even then we do not know whether his family members or those nearest him have known anything about this because this is money forthcoming and you know what happens when money is coming round the corner. It attracts, and makes friends become enemies and brothers become enemies. It may well be that this negotiation has been carried on between the Government and the Amapetu himself, to the exclusion of his own family and people likely to be entitled and I say, Sir, that it is too arbitrary to fix the period at 20 years.

What is the estimate of this man's probable life in this country in 20 years is too small indeed. Supposing he lives another 80 years, he has forfeited all that money to Government.

I feel, Sir, that it is in the interests of Government and this man that provision ought to be made for whoever may succeed to the title and as I say it is easy for the man to be attracted by £1,000. I think I should reiterate the point that has been made by Mr Kayode that if Government is unwilling to pay this money a special trust should be created in which this money would be invested and the successor to this office will be all the time entitled to draw something.

I think the amount is too small and the period of 20 years is too small. I would suggest 60 years... (*Several hon. Members: 100 years.*) Well I was trying to be reasonable,

you know. I would suggest—well I am corrected—100 years, Sir, and I think that it is a very paltry sum compared with what this man and his whole successors would be losing all the time.

It is with reluctance that we speak somewhat in support of this Bill because to deny a man of his private right is one of the worst things that any Government could do. It is like denying a man his privilege and his liberty and we don't want anything that is going to make a future Government say: we have come into power and we want to abrogate that undertaking that was entered into by a previous Government.

I think, Sir, that we must do everything to give assurance that this matter has been properly investigated and that no duress has been brought upon this man to induce him, with the attraction of £1,000 in his pocket, to forfeit the right which belongs to him and the generation yet unborn. I support in principle this Bill. (*Applause*).

Sitting suspended at 11.45 a.m.

Sitting resumed : 12.5 p.m.

Mr Jaja Wachuku (Aba): Mr Speaker, Sir, there is a point in the preamble to this Bill that worries me. It is as follows and I will read it.

“AND WHEREAS the Governor-General is desirous of compounding for all future liability under the said Declaration by a single payment and the holder for the time being of the title of Amapetu of Mahin is willing to accept a sum equal to the amount of the monthly stipend for a period of twenty years in satisfaction of all future liabilities on the part of the Government of the Federation under the said Declaration.”

Now we suggest that the negotiation done between the Government and the holder of this title is for the time being, and we suggest that this title is something of interest to his successors and other members of his family. And, Sir, Clause 2 of this Bill. In order to make it clear I will read this in full.

“PAYMENT OF £1,365 TO AMAPETU OF MAHIN

The Accountant-General of the Federation may, on the warrant of the Governor-General, pay to or to the order of the Amapetu of Mahin out of the revenue of the Federation of Nigeria the sum of one thousand three hundred and sixty-five

pounds, of which one hundred and sixty-five pounds shall be paid in respect of arrears of payment of the said monthly stipend from the 1st day of October, 1954 to the 30th day of June, 1957, and twelve hundred pounds shall be in satisfaction of all claims on the Government of the Federation (whether legally enforceable or not) arising under the said Declaration in favour of the Amapetu of Mahin, his *heirs* or successors, subsequent to the 30th day of June, 1957”.

Now, in one case the negotiation is done by the Amapetu of Mahin himself and the Federal Government, and this seems to suggest a right to exclude his heirs and successors. The question then arises, are there any possible successors alive at this moment? Were they parties to this negotiation? This is very very important because it seems that one man goes to the Government and conducts negotiation and it may be that he is already holding a position. Now the Agreement as has been stated is between the Amapetu of Mahin and the Government, and the Court has declared that he is not the only person entitled to this, but his heirs and successors are entitled. Were the heirs a party to this, and should any possible heir, man or woman extinguish their right? The preamble to the Ordinance does not say so.

Sir, we find it a bit difficult, because we do not only represent our respective constituencies but we are here to safeguard the rights of people and individuals of the Federation as a whole. We are wondering what may happen to us if our rights were taken away in this respect.

I would like the Prime Minister to reconsider this particular point because this law is designed to make it impossible for any member of that family to raise this matter again in court. I would say that we are trying now to extinguish an existing right and in doing so we must be extremely careful.

I think, Sir, as other Members have said much has been done in the interests of the Federation by the Government, but at the same time, the Government must take into consideration the rights of the individual, which must not be taken away without undue scrutiny. But I feel as this is a new era, a period of grace, and that this Bill was prepared before our new Prime Minister took office, he should reconsider this Bill, especially in view of our generosity

to our sister territory the Southern Cameroons this morning. Take this, for instance, £5 per month for ever. I am sure—although I have not seen the text of the agreement—that there is always to be something for ever. Take one thousand years, at £5 per month, and calculate it, look at what it will amount to? I think this is a measure, Sir, which the Government should reconsider again.

We know the Government will gain financially but my conscience is not very clear about the acceptance of the present condition. It may well be that some of us in our profession have been used to claims of this nature and we know what Government has done in relation to land and property but this is a situation where the rights of the individual are concerned. I would like the Government to view this in a similar light as if we are acquiring land from a family, and see that sufficient money is given to those people. The Government in order to safeguard itself against any attack by future successors of this individual, should keep the money in trust for these people. So, Sir, I would like the Prime Minister to be favourably disposed and to reconsider this matter and not just put the legislation through and extinguish the rights which have been proved by a competent court to exist.

M. Shehu Shagari (South West Sokoto): Sir, I am not a lawyer. As a layman I think there appears to be certain misapprehensions on the part of those who criticise this Bill. Sir, it must be remembered that treaties are treaties and they should be treated as such. Sir, the holder of this title who signed this agreement in 1885 did it on behalf of himself and his successors, but not in their presence, nor with their consent.

Sir, in my opinion the present holder is equally entitled to reach agreement to abrogate that former agreement by his predecessor and whatever the consequences will be I think they will be the concern of the family. They are always at liberty to protest and the fact that they have not as yet protested may mean that they are in agreement with this pact. Sir, when treaties are made it is always a fact that the predecessors of such an individual signing a treaty are bound by that treaty. So, Sir, I think that the successors of this particular treaty are bound by it. (*Hear, hear*). Therefore, Sir, I see no reason to waste the time of this House any further, and beg to move that the Question be now put.

(*Mr Speaker withheld his assent and declined then to put that Question*).

Mr J. M. Udochi (Afenmai): Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to support the Second Reading of this Bill. Many hon. Members who have spoken on this Bill have given expression to so many fears. I am not surprised because most of them belong to the legal profession and they tend to bring to bear on the business of the House, the meticulous methods in which they examine the claims of their clients in court. I say, Sir, that while they have been examining this case with every preference for the party concerned, they have omitted to give due prominence to a statement made by the Prime Minister in moving this Bill. The Prime Minister said that this Bill is the result of final negotiations between the parties concerned in this matter.

Now, Sir, I know that hon. Members who belong to the legal profession and who have spoken on this Bill cannot deny the rights of any citizen of any country to enter into a contract. So in a place like Nigeria of to-day they will know that the parties concerned in this case have already taken the case to a court of justice for adjudication. The parties are well aware of their legal rights and of how to assert them. So that you can well believe that when it came to negotiating with the Government whether they were to surrender their rights in perpetuity for a lump sum payment they had the best advice possible from those who had litigated the matter for them in a court of justice.

Now, Sir, members have tried to say that the number of years for which the sum has been computed should have been 60, some say it should have been 100,—that Sir, with all due respect is a matter for negotiation. Whether the Amapetu House will exist for ten, one thousand, or five years is a matter for conjecture, and it is a fair business risk for the Amapetu to say "I may not live for a thousand years, why not sell my rights now for twenty?"... and not all the laws in the world, if we are to maintain a democratic Government, shall stop that House from freely negotiating its rights.

I am saying, Sir, that the Government have done no more than they should have done in this matter: they have given the Amapetu all rights, all privileges to state his case and we are told that it was with his full consent that this amount was arrived at. I say, therefore, that

it is stretching the rights of individuals too far to suggest that something different should be done. We will be trespassing with the rights of individuals to enter into a contract if we say that this Bill should be set aside by this House and a new one imposed on the parties concerned. That will be quite undemocratic. I say that will be lack of democracy *in excelsis*.

I fully support this Bill and I hope all Members of the House will support it. (*Hear, hear*).

Mr T. A. Ajayi (Ekiti North): Mr Speaker, Sir, most of the speakers on this Bill are members of the legal profession, but I am speaking as a layman. There is one aspect of this Bill which has not been considered by all the speakers. With your permission, Mr Speaker, I would like to read paragraph 4 of the Preamble to the Bill: "And whereas the Governor-General is desirous of compounding for all future liability under the said Declaration by a single payment and the holder for the time being of the title of Amapetu of Mahin is willing to accept a sum equal to the amount of the monthly stipend for a period of twenty years in satisfaction of all future liabilities on the part of the Government of the Federation under the said Declaration:" From this, Sir, it is obvious that it is the Governor-General that is desirous, not the Amapetu of Mahin. That is very very important.

And again, if there is no element of coercion, will it be correct for the man to sell all his birthright and deny those people who will succeed him the right which they may enjoy knowing full well that once this right is sold it can never be redeemed? So I submit that the element of coercion is in this negotiation and therefore if the Government of the Federation hear that somebody is acting in this way, he should be checked. He is about to sell his birthright at the expense of enjoyment of this right by others knowing full well that any monetary benefit coming from this can be passed from generation to generation. I hope, therefore, that the Government will listen to us and reconsider this matter and amend this Bill in such a way that this man and his successors will enjoy their rights.

Mr D. E. Okereke (Owerri): Mr Speaker, I feel I must say that this is a very wise measure of Government, and I should, more than that, say that this should not be the end of such a

measure. Taking this matter fundamentally, I hear the Amapetu was levying revenues simply to afford protection to his subordinates. That was fundamentally and originally the idea. He levied revenues on them and that duty the Government has taken over. Therefore there is no other reason why he should levy any further revenues on them. That is the situation: the Government has taken over the duty of the Amapetu and therefore he has no more right. The Government offers the protection now that he offered to them previously.

I think also we are making a mistake between our loyalty to the community and our loyalty to the individual. We are here not as representatives of individuals but as representatives of communities, and where there is a conflict between our loyalties, I think we should be loyal to the community and not to the individual.

The hon. and learned Gentlemen who were arguing against this Bill were soliciting that they were counsel for the Amapetu; unfortunately they are not. If you were here for the Amapetu, then you are right. But you are here not as representatives of the Amapetu but as the representatives of the community from which you come, and this is a thing that is in the interest of the community, in the interest of Government and in the interest of Nigeria, and we stand for the right and we stand for the interest of all. Even in England there have been precedents. I say it is only too good and too wise that the Government should put an end to such things like this.

I beg to support.

Chief N. G. Yellowe (Degema): Mr Speaker, there are so many implications. Those who do not know what it means will treat it lightly, but I want this House to take it very seriously, that there is something very sacred in treaty obligations.

Now, there was a saying during one of our Wars, I think it was the 1914-18 War: "If you break faith with us we shall not sleep though poppies grow in Flanders field". When Queen Victoria entered into treaties with Chiefs and peoples, I think she knew what she was doing. It was a perpetual thing and it was not a thing to be treated lightly. One of the troubles in the East (I am from the East) is this inclination to treat treaty obligations lightly or to flout them altogether, so that if

this House gives sanction to this thing, I think it would be creating very big trouble in Nigeria because there are treaty obligations all over the country.

Now, this man here (the Amapetu of Mahin) gives up all his rights. Somebody was saying that he was taxing people or doing something, but he was actually keeping his people with the moneys that he collected from them. You know, those who ruled people in those days had big responsibilities for those people, and the money they gave him was meant to keep these people going, and he gave up all that.

He was paid only £5 a month, but £5 a month in those days meant a lot. If we say now that the Governor-General wants him to give up his rights and, therefore, he sells those rights for £1,000 or so, I do not think we are doing right.

I am asking the Prime Minister, very respectfully, to take this matter into further consideration, because it is all very well to say—"Oh, he is getting £1,000", but what about those who come after him? We who have such treaty rights would rather lose our lives than have such things happen. I want this House to realise—those who are not fortunate enough to have such treaty rights may treat them lightly—that this is a very serious matter that is going to cause trouble if we allow it to pass. I am asking the Prime Minister, very respectfully, to have some further consideration in this matter because it cuts right into the very core of treaty obligations. I am saying, with all the effort at my command, that we are not here to flounce treaty obligations, because a man wants to sell his rights, allowing him to do so and leaving his family to suffer.

Mr Speaker, I do not support this, although it is not easy—in fact it is with very great unhappiness and reluctance that I am saying something against what our Prime Minister has said. In this House we all respect the Prime Minister and we expect from him that sympathy which comes to the ordinary man. If we say that we oppose the Motion, we know what the outcome will be. So I ask the Prime Minister, very respectfully, to take into consideration the ordinary man. If it is possible, when such things come to us, we may even go to the grave of Queen Victoria in

England and see for ourselves what a treaty means. So that I am asking the Prime Minister, very respectfully, to take this matter into another consideration and amend it.

Mr Benson 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.

Question put accordingly and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read a second time, and immediately considered in Committee.

(In the Committee).

Clause 1.

Mr J. G. Adeniran (Ibadan West): Mr Chairman, Sir, we do not know what part of the Federation it is.

Mr Chairman: That could not possibly arise on Clause 1 which only gives the title of the Bill.

Question put and agreed to.

Clause 2.

12.34 p.m.

Chief T. T. Solaru (Ijebu East): Here, Sir, in this Clause we are saying that the Amapetu of Mahin will relinquish, in favour of the Government of Lagos, the rights which appertain to him. Coming to this point of the Accountant-General to pay this sum, Sir, I am taking this opportunity here in respect of this payment to say that this bargain very much seems to me like the bargain made between Nabor and Ahab. Sir, it seems to me that the amount in consideration here is so small compared with what the man has to give up in opportunity. At least the Government could be more generous, and so I would say that consideration should be given to increase the sum. After all, that sum was arrived at, perhaps arbitrarily, and we could well give something more than is allowed here.

I want to say that this is a difficult battle, a battle between the elephant and the mouse. After all, the wit of the people—the Government—against the wit of Amapetu of Mahin. It is simply incomparable and I would say that we ought to protect the Amapetu of Mahin and get for him something more than that. Certainly the Government could give more than that without much argument,

Dr E. U. Udoma (Opobo): Mr Chairman, I think the whole idea of having this Clause at all in this Bill is obnoxious. If it is regarded as a battle between two parties, then I think it is wrong to use this House to support one party. Agreement could have been arrived at and could have been instituted between Amapetu of Mahin and the Government of the Federation. Nobody would have been any the wiser in this House.

The sole purpose of making this law is to use this House to make it impossible for the successors of this man to put up any claim at any time. If indeed it is a free negotiation, why the fear of coming to say that this law should be made in order to tie the hands of the people likely to succeed to this title? Sir, I want to say that it is only right and proper that very serious consideration should be given by the Prime Minister at least to increasing this amount.

We have suggested investments in the interests of the family, in lieu of securities, and yet nothing is being done. This poor man is not even here to say whether he agrees or not; he is not even here to say whether the amount is adequate, and I can say now that this man is not going to accept this. I am quite sure he will think it is too small. If anybody were sent to investigate, they would confirm that this man would not accept this amount as adequate. I appeal to the Prime Minister that he can afford at this time to be very generous and to set an example for other Governments. That is my appeal to the Prime Minister, to consider this question of the amount.

Mr R. A. Fani-Kayode (Ife): Mr Chairman Sir, I am in support of the hon. Gentleman who has just spoken. First of all, Sir, it is very difficult for this House to interfere in private negotiations between individuals and the Government. And with regard to this amount in Clause 2, why does the Government have to come to us? An individual, Sir, has entered into an agreement with Government, and we are asked to abrogate that agreement.

What they should have done by private negotiations is brought before this House. In other words, Sir, if the Government enters into an agreement with Cappa and D'Alberto to build the new House of Representatives for a sum of £100,000, the contract has been signed, could we in this House take up that contract again to reduce the amount without

the consent of Cappa and D'Alberto, or without Cappa and D'Alberto having a voice in the abrogation of the original agreement?

I think, Sir, we shall be putting the public in fear if we rubber stamp this Bill. It only means Government can at any time by law change the clauses or the terms of any agreement it enters into with private individuals and we shall be laying a precedent which shall be dangerous to all elements of contractual relations between Government and private persons or even corporations. So I am asking the Prime Minister to kindly think carefully over this matter and, as the hon. Chief Yellowe has said, to take it back and sleep over it.

Now, Sir, coming again to Clause 2, I wish the hon. Member who has spoken to us on this matter had been the son of the Amapetu and then watch the £1,365 slowly disappear and, if we know this—I understand Mahin is from Okitipupa area, very near the Western Ijaw Area—we shall well imagine on what the £1,365 could be spent... (*Laughter*)... I am not saying anything, I am just leaving it to the House to guess, and there is no doubt at all that the whole House knows what I mean.

Now, Sir, I am seriously suggesting that this amount be increased to £10,000, that the amount stated in paragraph 2 is too small. It should be increased to £10,000, Sir, and be invested in Government securities, gilt-edged securities, and then only the interest should be spent by the current Amapetu. We should not try to destroy the traditions of our people.

In fact, Sir, as I have said before, the voice is the voice of the Prime Minister, but I am certain that the hand is the hand of the ex-Chief Secretary to the Government, who had been on that seat before. He is the only person in the Council of Ministers who could have brought that Bill here, and it is a pity that we cannot decide the case on the faith we have in our Prime Minister. But we are appealing, Sir, to the Prime Minister to take back this Bill—it is not too late yet—and asking him, as has been said before, that he should not perpetuate injustice to the people of Mahin by asking them to sell all their rights for the paltry amount of £1,365, an amount which is not even half the salary of the Minister for one year.

The Prime Minister (Alhaji the hon. Abubakar Tafawa Balewa): Mr Chairman, Sir, I never thought that this very short and straightforward Bill would be a controversial one. I thought it was straightforward, but some learned hon. Members now rather speak on it in a way that laymen would find it very difficult to appreciate. Now, I was very pleased, Sir, with a point made by the hon. Mallam Shehu from this Side of the House. Although he is a layman, he has got the sense to understand it.

The original treaty was agreed to by the Amapetu himself on behalf of his successors, and now this agreement is one which was reached after free negotiations with the Amapetu. As I said in my speech, it was freely negotiated, and the man was very happy about it; it was not a question of the Government imposing it on him. Well, I have heard quite a lot, Sir, but I hope that this will be the last Bill of its kind that will come before this House, otherwise I would tell the House that I have noted with interest a suggestion which they made that when this money is paid it should be paid into a trust or something like that, so that possibly the successors of this gentleman might benefit from it. I am happy this is the last of these Bills which I will bring; but if I have to bring a Bill of this kind later I will really consider the point they have made.

Clause 2 agreed to.

Clause 3 agreed to.

Preamble agreed to.

Bill to be reported.

Mr Speaker resumed the Chair.

Bill reported without amendment.

Question proposed, That the Bill be now read the third time.

Mr S. W. Ubani-Ukoma (Aba): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to oppose this Bill... (*Interruption*)... on the ground that it is not fair to the people of Mahin. In opposing this Bill I invite all the Members of this House to join me... (*Cries of "No"*)... and in asking this I am putting it to the House why this should be the last of its kind. Does it not mean that it is bad? I do not know where this man is, I do not know where the village is, but it is something that was brought

about by treaty, and it is quite true that this treaty was entered into by somebody who has died a long time.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I think that this Bill should be withdrawn. I am of the opinion that all the intricacies are not disclosed to this House. I cannot understand why a private negotiation should come to the House of Representatives to be passed into law. If all contracts entered into by the Crown are being negotiated in the House of Representatives I doubt if we shall have time to get on with other matters.

I quite agree that this is a National Government, but that does not mean that we should support all Bills. We have to speak our mind. National Governments should not inherit any vices of any party or parties. That does not mean that we should all keep quiet when we know what is right. I cannot just see why this should be. We know that Government has wide powers to acquire property and to enter into contracts. Do you know that even if the family of the Amapetu or the village of Mahin contend that treaty, if it was a treaty by negotiation, a contract between the Government and the people, any one single member of that village or community has the right to terminate that agreement. Why do you bring it to this House. After all, it is against the principles of natural justice that you should be a judge in your own affairs. You are bringing this question into this House so that you might tie the hands of the other negotiating contracting parties.

An hon. Member : Stool.

Mr Ubani-Ukoma : There is no stool to enter into a contract; there remains two to enter into contract. The Government is a party and the Mahin is one. Why is he not here? Who represents him here. We all know that this right can be described as an incorporated hereditament for the people of Mahin. He may be taken as only the tenant for life; his right is only for life. He is not the one that should have the treaty, he is only the trustee for his family, and there is no reason why he should tie the hands of the future generations. I feel that the hon. Prime Minister has a feeling, and that he would be bold enough to withdraw.

And the last thing I would say in this matter is that it is not only the monetary advantage that it offers to this family that we have to consider. People who collect rents and tributes do so with

pride and to enhance their prestige, and there is no reason why you should take this small money given to that family and think that they are satisfied. I have a feeling, and I am quite convinced that he is not doing it willingly.

I agree with the last statement made by the hon. Prime Minister that he will take it and see to it that it is invested in some gilt-edged securities to create a trust, but £1,000 or £2,000 is not enough. It is not enough at all.

Mr Speaker : I must draw the attention of the House to the fact that the Debate is very repetitive. I have not heard a new argument about it so far. I hoped that one or two points that the hon. Member was raising would lead to new argument, but they have not yet in my opinion.

Mr Ubani-Ukoma : Mr Speaker, I want to say one thing and that is I oppose this Clause.

The Minister of Communications and Aviation (Chief S. L. Akintola) : Mr Speaker Sir, I would like to make just one point. I think the hon. Member raised an important point which should be disposed of once and for all. His argument is that because this thing was done once and for all time, therefore it is *ipso facto* bad. I think marriage in the Ordinance is supposed to be done once and for all time and marriage is not therefore bad; therefore that argument is not logical.

Now secondly, Sir, he argued on the adequacy of the provision made. I think those who are a little bit versed in elementary mathematics will realise that if the sum payable under the old agreement is £60 per annum and now a provision is made for £1,200; and if this amount of £1,200 is deposited in the Bank and not a penny of it is spent, at a rate of interest of 5 per cent it will yield, how much a year? £60 a year. So that this will ensure that this amount would still remain with him and there is no diminution whatsoever of the rights and privileges of the people of Mahin.

I think the only point which has been made, and which has been adequately made so far, is whether or not this sum of £1,200 will go directly into the pocket of the Amapetu or is going to be invested. I think the Prime Minister has made it abundantly clear that the Government will give consideration to the advisability of getting the money invested, and I would say this, that Government will give thought to the *advisability*. I am not

saying whether it is going to be invested or not, but I would say that irrespective of whatever law is passed in this House, the rights of the descendants of the Amapetu of Mahin are not affected at all, for if they so feel that they cannot trust the Amapetu, and that a lot of this money might go into kegs of illicit gin, they can go to Court tomorrow and take every necessary precaution to prevent him from getting this money to benefit himself personally.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill reported without Amendment, read the third time and passed.

THE LEGISLATIVE HOUSES (POWERS AND PRIVILEGES) (AMENDMENT) BILL

Order for Second Reading read.

The Prime Minister (Alhaji, the Hon. Abubakar Tafawa Balewa) : Mr Speaker, Sir, this is a very very simple Bill. It is designed to rectify an omission in the existing legislation with regard to the powers and privileges of this House. There is, Sir, at present no statutory provision for notifying you in the unhappy event of an hon. Member of this House being arrested or detained in custody or sentenced to a term of imprisonment. Such notification is desirable since the detention of a Member interferes with his Parliamentary privilege and it is therefore important that the House should be informed of the reasons. Furthermore, Sir, on suffering certain public disabilities a Member may be required to forfeit his seat, and in this event it is desirable that you, Sir, should be informed of the situation without delay so that arrangements for the consequential bye-election may be made. I have no doubt that hon. Members will wish to know that the expression "Court" covers all courts in the Federation, including native courts.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move.

The Minister of Communications and Aviation (Chief S. L. Akintola) : Sir, I beg to second.

Question proposed.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read a second time and, immediately considered in Committee.

(In the Committee).

Clause 1 agreed to.

Clause 2.

House of Representatives Debates

1769 [The Non-Pensionable Railway 4 SEPTEMBER 1957 Reserve (Application) Bill : 1770
Servants' Provident Fund Second Reading]

Mr R. A. Fani-Kayode (Ife): Mr Chairman, Sir, I have to suggest that this matter should be deferred. I understand that there is a Member of this House who might like to say a lot about Clause 2, but he is not here now.....(Laughter).....

Mr Chairman: Order, order. It is one o'clock and I must suspend the sitting until three o'clock.

Sitting suspended : 1 p.m.

Sitting resumed : 3.12 p.m.

In the Committee.

Clause 2 agreed to.

Bill to be reported.

Mr Speaker resumed the Chair.

Bill reported without amendment, read the third time and passed.

THE NON-PENSIONABLE RAILWAY SERVANTS'
PROVIDENT FUND RESERVE (APPLICATION)
(AMENDMENT) BILL

Order for Second Reading read.

The Prime Minister (Hon. Alhaji Abubakar Tafawa Balewa): Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move That a Bill for an Ordinance to amend the Non-Pensionable Railway Servants' Provident Fund Reserve (Application) Ordinance be read a Second Time.

Very briefly put, the purpose of the main Ordinance, which was passed by this House in March 1956, is to authorise the use of the accumulated Reserve of the Railway Servants' Provident Fund for giving financial help to certain categories of retired Railway Servants and their families. The Reserve can also be used to assist the education of the children of Railway Servants and to relieve hardship among Servants of the Railway Corporation or their families.

The Ordinance provides by section 3 that the Reserve Fund shall be administered by a Public Trustee, a Custodian Trustee and by not more than twelve or less than six managing trustees who shall be appointed by the Governor-General in Council. Under the terms of the Government and other Securities Local Trustees Investment Ordinance which was passed in this House last March, the Trustees of this Fund are enabled to invest securities issued by the Federal Government. As far as other investments are concerned, however, they are bound by the United Kingdom Trustee Act of 1893. It is felt that it is within

the advantage of the beneficiaries if the Trustees were now given somewhat wider powers of investment.

It is not easy, Sir, to summarise briefly the provisions of the 1893 Act with regard to Trustees Securities but I think Honourable Members will gain a sufficiently accurate idea if I say that so long as they are bound by that Act the Trustees will be limited to investments in British Government and British Local Government Stock, Stock guaranteed by the British Government and Stock of British Statutory Corporations.

There are even limitations within the range of these prescribed stock. I need hardly emphasise that investments prescribed by the Act guarantee two things. First, that a purchaser can at any time recover the amount or at any rate very nearly the original investment. Secondly, he will receive a fixed rate of interest from year to year. What they do not guarantee is protection against rising prices. The purchasing power of the fixed rate of interest received every year may fall steadily as prices rise, and this means that the beneficiaries of the Trust will be getting less and less real benefits from it. We must, Sir, I regret to say, accept the fact of rising prices and frame our legislation accordingly.

In recent years there has been an increasing tendency in the United Kingdom to give Trustees wider powers of investment so that they may invest trust monies in the Ordinary Shares of reputable public companies engaged for example in transport, manufacturing industry, banking and insurance. Such shares carry, instead of a fixed rate of interest, the right to a dividend declared from profits. Provided such investments are chosen with care there is no greater risk of a capital loss than in the case of Government Stock, while the income received from dividends may represent a higher rate of interest on the purchase price than the interest yield on gilt-edged Government securities. Furthermore, the Trustees will be able to achieve a tax-free capital gain by selling shares at a higher price than they paid originally, although of course they will not buy and sell with capital appreciation as their main aim. Such extended powers of investment have been successfully used by the Ecclesiastical Commissioners in the United Kingdom. They have as a result been able to do much for the benefit of church funds.

1771 [The Non-Pensionable Railway Servants' Provident Fund Reserve (Application) Bill : Second Reading] 4 SEPTEMBER 1957 [The Income Tax (Amendment) Bill : Second Reading] 1772

This is only one of many examples. There is one other point which I should mention and that is that the Trustees are anxious to acquire a lease of premises in Lagos in which they will be able to carry out their duties. A considerable number of applications for assistance can be expected, particularly during the early years of the fund, and it is essential that the Trustees should have an office where they can hold meetings and where these applications can be looked into. It is possible that any office accommodation that can be obtained will be larger than the Trustees will require for their own purposes, and they may wish to sublet.

This again is something which they will be prohibited from doing so long as their powers of investment are controlled by the Trustees Act. The amending Ordinance is very simple. It adds to the power to make regulations given to the Governor-General in Council by section 9 of the main Ordinance the further power to make regulations as to the manner in which the trustees may invest the trust funds including interest in land. This will permit regulations to be made which, while safeguarding the security of the trust funds, will enable the trustees to invest in the most advantageous manner.

Sir, I commend this Bill to the House as being in the best interests of the beneficiaries of the Fund. I beg to move.

The Minister of Labour and Welfare (Hon. Chief F. S. Okotie-Eboh): I beg to second.

Question proposed.

Dr E. O. Awduche (Onitsha): I beg to support the motion, but in doing so I would like to point out that during the Budget Session of this year we were assured in the Speech from the Throne that the Trusts were to be created in this country so as to confer trusteeship status to certain investments. Unfortunately the Bill has not been laid before this House. It is very unfortunate that most of our securities have to be invested abroad and I think the country is getting sufficiently mature to request repatriation of most of those securities which are invested, particularly local government investments.

As I said I do support the spirit of the Bill as it stands and hope that early repatriation of most of our funds to this country will be

of great benefit to our economic status. We have been going abroad asking for overseas capital and it is ridiculous that our own capital is tied up overseas. We hope the time will come when we shall have all those funds securely invested in this country.

I beg to support.

Question, That the Bill be now read a second time, put and agreed to.

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

(In the Committee)

Clauses 1 and 2 agreed to.

Bill to be reported.

(Mr Speaker resumed the Chair).

Bill reported, without amendment, read the third time and passed.

3.24 p.m.

THE INCOME TAX (AMENDMENT) BILL

Order for Second Reading read.

The Prime Minister (Hon. Alhaji Abubakar Tafawa Balewa): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to move that a Bill for an Ordinance further to amend the Income Tax Ordinance be now read a second time. The purpose of this Bill is to broaden the scope of capital allowances available under the Income Tax Ordinance so as to allow capital expenditure on plantations which had been incurred in clearing and planting the necessary land. Such allowances are already available in respect of capital expenditure on buildings, machinery and mining and it is considered only equitable that they should be extended to assist plantations in repairing an unaccountable omission in the Ordinance and give encouragement to the plantation method of growing produce for export.

As hon. Members are doubtless aware there has been an increasing interest shown by both Regional Governments and by other bodies in the advantages to be gained by plantations during recent years. I will mention in particular the Santa Coffee Estate in the Southern Cameroons, and there are still more recent projects to start a tea plantation near Ndu. Those hon. Members in this House who are businessmen are doubtless already conversant with the complexities of the capital

allowance available under the Fourth Schedule of the Income Tax Ordinance. I trust they will bear with me, however, if I give a brief explanation for the benefit of those Members who have not been initiated into this.

This object of capital allowances is to enable those who have incurred capital expenses on a project to recoup themselves out of the profits of the enterprise if it becomes immediately and fully liable to tax. We cannot of course afford to be so generous as to permit a sum equal to the total expenditure to be ploughed back into the enterprise before any tax is deducted at all. Instead we have a system of initial and annual allowances. The initial allowance is normally equivalent to 25 per cent of the capital expenditure incurred and may be carried forward from year to year until it has been fully met. Annual allowances of a gradually diminishing nature are also given at a rate dependent on the life of the asset in question.

As the word *plantation* is of a general interpretation and includes those producing anything from tea and coffee to palm oil and rubber, the trees and bushes confining the plantations will naturally vary in their span of life and it is considered therefore that the most equitable course is to leave it to the Commissioner of Income Tax to decide the rate of annual allowances to be given.

Sir I beg to move.

The Minister of Works and Surveys (Hon. Alhaji Muhammadu Inuwa Wada): I beg to second.

Question proposed.

Dr E. O. Awduche (Onitsha): Mr Speaker, I beg to support this Motion. In doing this I think I have to congratulate the Government on taking this step in view of the fact that our economy is based on agricultural product. Quite recently we find that there has been a drop in the price of our exports and we have had a considerable amount of competition from other countries like Malaya where the plantation system has been adopted on a large and planned scientific scale. Here in this country our chief drawback in economic progress, as I said before, has been the absence of capital. It is a great encouragement if those who run plantations are allowed to plough back some bit of their profit into the business so as to enable them to expand in

the absence of aid from outside. In this respect I wish to point out the fact that we now need more co-operation from expatriate banks than we have had in the past.

In the past it used to be difficult for the African to obtain credit from expatriate banks because the African was not considered to be credit worthy. I think that as the climate of the country has been changing and people are getting more responsible that it should be considered by the Local Banks, that is the expatriate Banks, that they should try to find a way out to expand credit to Africans to enable them to expand in business, particularly in the agricultural level.

Sir, I beg to support.

Question that the Bill be now read a second time, put and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read a second time, and immediately considered in Committee.

(In the Committee)

Clauses 1 to 3 agreed to.

Bill to be reported.

(Mr Speaker resumed the Chair)

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

BUSINESS COMMITTEE

The Prime Minister: May I have, Sir, your permission to move the following Resolution. It concerns the Business Committee of the House, set up this morning. Now it arises due to the absence of two members of the Committee, and we are very anxious Sir, that the Committee meet to-day and arrange for the business of the House. Now the Motion, Sir, is that Mr C. O. Komolafe and Mr T. O. S. Benson be discharged from the Committee, and Mr L. A. Lawal and Mr Abii be added.

Sir. It is not for me to make a long speech on this Motion. The House is already aware Sir, of the urgency of the business of this House.

Sir, I beg to move.

Question proposed.

Dr E. O. Awduche (Onitsha): Sir, I think it is a very unfortunate and sad reflection upon the sense of duty of this House that such a thing should ever occur. They have been put on the list to serve in the House to deal with the Supplementary Appropriation Bill to

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1775 [Written Answers] 4 SEPTEMBER 1957 [Written Answers] 1776

start tomorrow morning, and they cannot fix the order in which things should happen. I hope that this will not occur again here, and the Members on that side of the House ought to be warned (*Hear, hear*). What I am saying is that the two Members were elected this morning and ought to have turned up.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved: "That Mr C. O. Komolafe and Mr T. O. S. Benson be discharged from the Business Committee, and Mr L. A. Lawal and Mr D. N. Abii be added."

Adjournement

The Minister of Works and Surveys (Alhaji M. Inuwa Wada): Sir, I beg to move, That this House do now adjourn.

Question proposed.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved, That this House do now adjourn.

Adjourned accordingly at twenty-five minutes to 4 p.m. until 10 a.m. on Thursday, the 5th of September.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

O.309. Mr H. O. Akpan-Udo asked the Minister of Communications and Aviation:—

What is the contract price of the new Ikot Ekpene Post Office, and what type of Post Office is contemplated.

The Minister of Communications and Aviation: The type of post office to be built at Ikot Ekpene is the new type 3. I am not aware of the contract price which is the responsibility of the Federal Tenders Board.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

(Answers to Written Questions received after the Adjournment of the House on 27th March, 1957, up to and including 31st August, 1957).

W.176. Chief S. J. Mariere asked the Chief Secretary of the Federation:—

What are the numbers of expatriates and non-expatriates on Scale A and above in each department of the Federal Civil Service.

The Chief Secretary of the Federation: The numbers of expatriate and Nigerian officers on Scale A and above in each department of the Federal Civil Service are as follows:—

Non-expatriate Officers

Administration	33
Administrator-General	2
Agriculture (Research)	1
Commerce and Industries	1
Education	20
Forestry (Research)	4
Geological Survey	3
Inland Revenue	13
Inland Waterways	1
Judicial	13
Labour	9
Land	4
Legal	6
Marketing and Exports	2
Medical	47
Mines	7
Naval Force	2
Police	1
Posts and Telegraphs	12
Public Works	17
Statistics	3
Extra-Departmental Services	4

Expatriate Officers

Administration	127
Administrator-General	1
Agriculture (Research)	16
Antiquities	4
Aviation	10
Audit	5
Broadcasting	13
Chemistry	4
Coastal Agency	2
Commerce and Industries	10
Co-operative	4
Customs and Excise	14
Education	43
Fisheries (Research)	2
Forestry (Research)	10
Geological Survey	23
Information Service	3
Inland Revenue	13
Inland Waterways	4
Judicial	13
Labour	25
Land	8
Legal	6
Marketing and Exports	19
Medical	40
Meteorology	10
Mines	15
Man of War Bay	2
Naval Force	11
Police	33
Posts and Telegraphs	72

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Expatriate Officers—continued

Printing and Stationery	3
Prisons	6
Public Works	102
Social Welfare	1
Statistics	6
Survey	17
Treasury	6
Valuation Unit	2
Veterinary (Research)	18
Extra-Departmental Services	1

W.177. M. Kalia Monguno asked the Financial Secretary of the Federation :—

If he will consider transferring the existing customs post at Maiduguri, Bornu Province to Gamboru situated on the international boundary on the Maiduguri-Fort Lamy road for easy collection of duties on goods entering and going out of Nigeria.

The Financial Secretary of the Federation : The Comptroller of Customs and Excise, after a personal inspection and consultation with the Civil Secretary, Northern Region and the Resident Bornu Province, has decided that the most suitable situation for the Customs house is adjoining Maiduguri. Negotiations are in progress for the acquisition of land for the construction of a Customs house, lorry inspection park and ancillary buildings on a site some three miles to the east of Maiduguri on the east bank of the Gamboru river.

2. The decision to site the customs post adjoining Maiduguri was taken after full consideration of the alternative possibility of moving it to Gamboru. The former site was favoured on the grounds of its proximity to the local administrative authorities and the Police, as well as to the premises of the banks and major business concerns in the Province. Furthermore, the Customs control of trans-frontier roads other than the Fort Lamy route can more easily be effected from Maiduguri than from Gamboru, although the possibility is not excluded that at some future date control posts may be established at Gamboru and other frontier crossings. The hon. Member will appreciate that smuggling does not necessarily take place along roads and I am satisfied that at the present time the most effective control can be exercised by a Customs post situated at Maiduguri.

W.178. M. Kalia Monguno asked the Minister of Communications and Aviation :—

When he proposes to convert the Gwoza Postal Agency in Dikwa Division to a departmental Post Office.

The Minister of Communications and Aviation : There is no prospect of converting Gwoza Postal Agency for a considerable time unless its business grows rapidly. With only 2,134 units of business it is far below the standard justifying conversion as detailed in Sessional Paper No. 4 of 1957.

W.180. Mr J. L. Nsima asked the Chief Secretary of the Federation :—

If he will state when the Nigerian Army will be established.

The Chief Secretary of the Federation :

Sir, I assume that the hon. Member's intention is to ascertain when Nigeria will take over full executive and financial responsibility for its own Military Forces. As indicated in His Excellency's Speech from the Throne, the Nigerian Military Forces are at present under the control of the Army Council and are maintained by the United Kingdom from War Office funds to which Nigeria, in common with Sierra Leone and the Gambia (and the Gold Coast until it assumed responsibility for its own Forces on 1st July, 1956) makes an annual contribution.

At the West African Forces Conference in 1953, Nigeria agreed to make an annual contribution of £1,370,000 towards recurrent costs, in addition to bearing the cost of certain capital works. The total cost of the Royal West African Frontier Force at that time was estimated to be £5½ million. The four West African Governments undertook to contribute £2,476,500, and Her Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom undertook to find the balance of just over £3 million. It is probable that the cost of Nigeria's elements of the Royal West African Frontier Force at that time was about £3¼ million and Nigeria's contribution towards this was £1,370,000.

Under the agreement concluded at the West African Forces Conference, Nigeria agreed progressively to increase its contribution until it assumed full financial responsibility for and control of its Military Forces. It is known that Her Majesty's Government would welcome such a transfer as soon as Nigeria is prepared to accept it. Such a transfer would not only greatly increase the recurrent charges to be borne by Nigeria but would also involve the taking-over, on terms to be negotiated

with Her Majesty's Government, of certain installations, equipment and bulk supplies with an original cost possibly as high as £4 million.

Negotiations are in progress with Her Majesty's Government concerning the rate at which Nigeria should increase its contribution toward the cost of military defence until the stage is reached where Nigeria re-assumes executive and financial control of its Military Forces. It is hoped that some mutually satisfactory agreement may be reached with Her Majesty's Government which will enable this to have effect from 1st April, 1958.

W.181. Chief J. Y. Dimlong asked the Minister of Lagos Affairs, Mines and Power :—

If provision will be made in 1957-58 for the extension of electricity from Barakin Ladi to Pankshin, particularly to the General Hospital at Pankshin.

The Minister of Lagos Affairs, Mines and Power : No, Sir. I fear not from the information in my possession.

W.182. Mr P. H. Okolo asked the Minister of Lagos Affairs, Mines and Power :—

If he will make a statement as to the extent and quality of the coal deposits discovered at Nnewi in Onitsha Province.

The Minister of Lagos Affairs, Mines and Power : The lignite deposits at Nnewi in Onitsha Province have been known for many years. The seams were investigated by the Mineral Survey of Southern Nigeria during 1908-9 and analyses of the lignite were made by the Imperial Institute. The results were published in 1911 in Colonial Reports Miscellaneous No. 81. The area was mapped by the Geological Survey during 1926-27 and a description of the geology was given in Bulletin 12. The seams were re-examined by the Geological Survey in 1945 and an account on the work appeared in the Annual Report of the Geological Survey for that year.

Two seams of lignite are known at Nnewi, an upper seam of about 4 ft. in thickness and a lower seam of 11 ft. thick. The lignite is of good quality but it may be difficult to work in view of the unconsolidated nature of the beds overlying the seams.

W.184. Mr J. Mpi asked the Minister of Works and Surveys :—

How many miles of roads have been converted to Trunk A Roads and taken over by the Federal Government from the Regional Governments.

The Minister of Works and Surveys : About 6,000 miles of roads in Nigeria have been converted to Trunk Roads A since 1st October, 1954, and are set out in the Exclusive Legislative List (Federal Trunk Roads) Order, 1955.

W.186. Mr J. Mpi asked the Minister of Communications and Aviation :—

How many air accidents have occurred in each of the years 1954-1957 in Nigeria; how many persons lost their lives in these accidents.

The Minister of Communications and Aviation : The number of notifiable air accidents which occurred in Nigeria during the years 1954-1957, and investigated by the Department of Civil Aviation, amounted to four. One occurred in 1954 in which there was no loss of life, two in 1955 and in one of these accidents 13 people lost their lives (four crew and nine passengers). In 1956 there was one accident in which 31 people lost their lives (two crew and 29 passengers).

During the current year no notifiable accident has occurred, and it is hoped that this situation will remain unaltered.

W.193. Mr R. T. Alege asked the Minister of Commerce and Industry :—

Whether he will consider establishing tile and ceramics industries at Agga, in Kabba Division, where there are vast deposits of clay.

The Minister of Commerce and Industry : No, Sir. It is not the function of my Ministry to establish industries, and the Federal Government has no executive agency for the purpose, such as a development corporation. If commercial or other interests contemplated setting up a tile or ceramics industry in Kabba Division, my Ministry would give all possible help. The Federal Government has already declared the manufacture of ceramics a pioneer industry, thereby undertaking to give exemption from company tax to any properly planned project during its early years.

W.195. Mr R. T. Alege asked the Minister of Works :—

Whether there are any proposals to erect a bridge across the stream beside the Local Treasury at Isanlu, in Kabba Division, in order to obviate accidents.

The Minister of Works : There are limited funds available for bridge strengthening under the Economic Programme and these are fully committed on other projects. I regret that I cannot make available additional funds

to provide a bridge across the stream outside the Local Treasury at Isanlu. Provided drivers approach with due caution, the drift across the stream is adequate for immediate needs.

W.201. Mr R. T. Alege asked the Minister of Internal Affairs :—

Whether he is aware of the undue delay in gazetting promotions and acting appointments of officers in the Federal Public Service, and whether he will make a statement.

The Minister of Internal Affairs : No, Sir. All notifications of promotions and acting appointments received by the Federal Government Printer from the Offices concerned,

namely the Federal Public Service Commission and the Ministry of Finance, before 10 a.m. on Saturday are invariably published in the next week's Gazette.

W.204. Mr E. O. Oyedeji asked the Minister of Works :—

If he will consider widening and improving the Trunk A road from Ibadan to Ilesha.

The Minister of Works : Yes, Sir, but no funds are available during the period of the Economic Programme for any major widening and improvement of this road. Very limited funds are however available for rehabilitation purposes, which includes minor widening and improving.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NIGERIA

Thursday, 5th September, 1957

The House met at 10 a.m.

PRAYERS

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

REPORT OF BUSINESS COMMITTEE

Mr Speaker : I have to inform the House that the Business Committee have reported, and the Report will be considered at the commencement of Public Business to-day. It has been printed and circulated to hon. Members.

REPORT

Your Committee have met and agreed, pursuant to the Order of the House on Wednesday, 4th September, 1957, on the number of days that should be allotted for discussion of the Bill entitled "The Supplementary Appropriation (1957-58) Ordinance, 1957" and the Motions approving expenditure under the Supplementary Estimates of Capital Expenditure.

They recommend :—

(i) That two days should be allotted for the Second Reading of the Bill ;

(ii) That three days should be allotted for the Committee of Supply ;

(iii) That the days allotted for the Committee of Supply should be subdivided among the Heads of the Estimates as shown below ;

(iv) That at the hour appointed for the interruption of business at the end of each day's sitting, the Chairman shall put successively all questions necessary to dispose of the business allotted for that day, including the questions on any Amendments, of which notice has been given by a member of the Council of Ministers (but no other Amendments.)

End of 1st day—Heads 23 to 59.

End of 2nd day—Heads 61 to 84 and *Third Reading* of the Bill.

End of 3rd day—Heads 602, 603 and 605.

Provided that nothing should prevent the Committee of Supply from proceeding beyond the Heads allotted for any day, if time was available.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

***O.355. M. Abubakar Garba** asked the Minister of Finance :—

What was the total expenditure by the Federal Government on the London Conference, including the cost of passages, entertainment and accommodation.

The Prime Minister (Hon. Alhaji Abubakar Tafawa Balewa) : Sir, the exact amount of expenditure cannot be assessed since a great deal of the expenditure was incurred on behalf of the Federal Government by the Office of the Commissioner for the Federation in the United Kingdom, and accounts are still coming in. Expenditure and liabilities known to date amount to approximately £7,000, but this excludes the bulk of the expenditure incurred on hotel accommodation and passages, so that the final total is likely to be considerably greater.

***O.356. M. Abubakar Garba** asked the Minister of Finance :—

Whether the Fiscal Commission and the Minorities Commission will be financed by the Federal Government or Her Majesty's Government or both.

The Prime Minister : By the Federal Government only, Sir.

O.325. M. Ahmadu Fatika asked the Minister of Lagos Affairs, Mines and Power :—

If he will state how many applications for electricity were received during the period January to August 1957, in Sabon Garin Zaria, Tudun Wada Zaria and Zaria City respectively, indicating how many were successful in each of the places and why it was not possible to meet the entire demand.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Lagos Affairs, Mines and Power : The following number of applications for electricity have been received :—

Sabon Garin Zaria—378 applications of which 209 have been connected.

Tudun Wada Zaria—45 applications of which 38 have been connected.

Zaria City—36 applications of which 12 have been connected.

The balance of the applications will be dealt with very shortly.

***O.357. Mr D. N. Chukwu** asked the Minister of Lagos Affairs, Mines and Power :—

How many miners serve in the Nigerian Coal Corporation, and of these how many come from Nkanu-Agbani Division and Awgu Division.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Lagos Affairs, Mines and Power (M. I. S. Usman): 6,077 miners are employed by the Nigerian Coal Corporation, of whom 1,158 come from Nkanu-Agbani Division and 455 from Awgu Division.

***O.358. Mr D. N. Chukwu** asked the Minister of Lagos Affairs, Mines and Power :—

How many employees of the Nigerian Coal Corporation hold senior posts, and, of these, how many expatriates and Nigerians respectively are appointed on contract.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Lagos Affairs, Mines and Power : There are 52 senior service posts in the Nigerian Coal Corporation and holders of these posts include 22 expatriates and 4 Nigerians who have been appointed on contract.

***O.359. Mr D. N. Chukwu** asked the Minister of Lagos Affairs, Mines and Power :—

When will the second stage in the construction of the electric power station at the Oji River be commenced, and what is the estimated cost of this project.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Lagos Affairs, Mines and Power : The second stage of the construction of the electric power station at Oji River will commence during the next financial year. The estimated cost of this part of the project is £700,000.

***O.360. Mr L. J. Dosunmu** asked the Minister of Lagos Affairs, Mines and Power :—

Whether he will state the age of the present Registrar of Titles, Federal Lands Department, indicating the date and terms of his re-employment, how often his contract has been renewed, when his present contract will expire, and whether Government will appoint a suitably qualified Nigerian to fill this post at the expiration of his present contract.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Lagos Affairs, Mines and Power : The age of the present Registrar of Titles is 58 years. He was re-engaged after retirement on the 21st October, 1954, for one

tour on the normal terms for re-engagement of pensionable officers. The renewal of this contract is due to expire next November and there is no intention of granting a further renewal.

It will be understood that the post is one to which appointment can only be made by the Secretary of State upon the recommendation of His Excellency, the Governor-General, who in turn receives the recommendation of the Federal Public Service Commission. Selection has not yet reached these stages and therefore all I can say at present is that a Nigerian has for some time been receiving intensive internal and external training to fit him for this post and goes to the Sudan to inspect the Registration of Titles system there at the end of this month as part of this training, and that I will ensure his claims for appointment to the post are placed before the Federal Public Service Commission.

O.361. M. Abubakar Garba asked the Minister of Lagos Affairs, Mines and Power :—

If he will state where radio-active minerals and diamonds have been found in Nigeria, and whether licences have been issued to prospectors of these minerals.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Lagos Affairs, Mines and Power : A large low-grade pyrochlore deposit containing radio-active minerals has been found in Kano Province and diamond drilling has been carried out to determine its extent. Radio-active minerals have also been found amongst the tin and columbite deposits in the Plateau area.

The first diamond to be found in Nigeria was found in Sokoto Province in 1934, and only four others have since been discovered in various parts of Northern Nigeria, despite intensive searching. None of the diamonds were of high quality.

A number of current Prospecting Licences include radio-active minerals but no licences have been issued for diamonds.

***O.299. Mr A. Adeyinka** asked the Minister of Education :—

How many students from Ibadan Division have applied for Federal scholarships, of these how many have been granted scholarships and in what branches of study, and what are the reasons for the rejection of some applications.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Education (Hon. D. C. Ugwu):

(a) No record is kept on a Divisional or Provincial basis of applications for Federal Government scholarships or of subsequent awards.

(b) On the Scholarship Application Form which has to be completed by each applicant there is printed a notice which reads:—

“The Permanent Secretary to the Ministry of Social Services will not be prepared to give reasons for the failure of any applicant to secure an award or to enter into any correspondence on the subject.”

(c) The Minister is not prepared to make public his reasons for the rejection of any application but if the hon. Member requires information on specific applications I am prepared to disclose this to him in confidence.

***O.311. Mr A. E. Ukattah** asked the Minister of Education:—

Whether he is aware of the disparity between the emoluments paid to the indigenous and the expatriate members of the staff of the Nigerian College of Arts, Science and Technology, and whether he will consider approving uniform rates of pay in order to obviate the discontent among the indigenous section of the staff caused by the present disparity.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Education: (a) Yes, Sir. This is because the expatriate staff receive an inducement allowance in addition to the salary attached to the post.

(b) Members will appreciate that under section 19 (1) of the College Ordinance No. 12 of 1952, the rates of remuneration, scales of salary and conditions of service for the Principal and members of staff shall be such as may be determined by the Council of the College subject to the approval of the Governor-General, who shall not be obliged to consult with the Council of Ministers in the exercise of this power.

However, Members of this House will wish to know that the report of a Committee which was set up by the Council of the Nigerian College of Arts, Science and Technology to review the salary structure and scales of the Senior Staff of the College is at present being studied.

***O.312. Reverend E. S. Bens** asked the Minister of Education:—

How many Nigerians took the London Matriculation Examination during the periods 1930-1940, 1941-1950 and during the year 1951, and what was the number of passes within these periods.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Education: The list is a lengthy one and will be circulated in the Official Report:—

<i>Year of Examination</i>	<i>Number of Candidates</i>	<i>Number of Passes</i>
1930	23	2
1931	26	3
1932	27	6
1933	68	11
1934	50	7
1935	78	9
1936	71	12
1937	73	11
1938	78	21
1939	127	26
1940	108	37
1941	104	28
1942	151	41
1943	278	47
1944	560	50
1945	795	107
1946	950	145
1947	1,068	262
1948	987	188
1949	1,876	321
1950	2,367	298
1951	3,638	600

***O.313. Reverend E. S. Bens** asked the Minister of Education:—

If he will state the number of Nigerians who took the General Certificate of Education Examination at the ordinary and advanced levels respectively during the period 1952-1956, indicating the number of passes at each level within this period.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Education: The examination for the General Certificate of Education is a subject examination and to give straightforward information concerning the number of candidates who took or passed this examination may be misleading and may not give a correct picture of the situation. I am, therefore, supplying detailed information which will be published in the Official Report.

SUBJECT ENTRIES AND PASSES AT
ORDINARY LEVEL

	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956
Entries	2,949	8,441	12,740	17,394	24,608
Passes ..	862	2,521	5,207	6,855	8,806

SUBJECT ENTRIES AND PASSES AT
ADVANCED LEVEL

	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956
Entries	923	2,991	5,306	6,239	8,565
Passes ..	146	436	997	1,358	1,640

Number of candidates entering for the full Certificates (6 or more subjects) and gaining the Certificates (4 or more subjects) (Results included in the above Tables).

Year	Entries	Gained full Certificates
1952	565	83
1953	1,235	201
1954	2,022	480
1955	2,701	644
1956	3,782	779

Number of candidates, irrespective of the number of subjects each took, and number of individuals gaining a Certificate for one or more subjects.

Year	Individual Candidates	Number of Candi- dates who gained Certificates
1952	713	150
1953	1,958	583
1954	3,547	1,466
1955	4,896	1,911
1956	7,171	2,381

***O.314. Mr A. E. Ukattah** asked the Minister of Education :—

What recreational facilities are available to the students of the College of Arts, Science and Technology at Enugu.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Education : The Minister has been informed by the Principal that adequate recreational facilities are being provided as rapidly as possible. He is also informed that at the Enugu Branch the provision of tennis courts is in hand and also steps are being taken to provide temporary sports pitches. To this end an additional piece of land, adjacent to the Branch site, was recently acquired with the assistance of the Eastern Regional Government.

***O.315. Mr R. T. Alege** asked the Minister of Education :—

How many candidates from the Northern Region have been awarded Federal Government Scholarships in 1955, 1956 and 1957.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Education : Records of Scholarship awards are not maintained on a Regional, Provincial or Divisional basis. The details which the hon. Member requires have been published in the *Official Gazettes* and the relevant issues are :—

For 1955 .. Government Notice No. 2090 in *Official Gazette* No. 42, Volume 42 dated 22nd September, 1955.

For 1956 .. Government Notice No. 1763 in *Official Gazette* No. 57, Volume 43 dated 27th September, 1956.

For 1957 .. Government Notice No. 1520 in *Official Gazette* No. 46, Volume 44 dated 22nd August, 1957.

***O.326. M. Ahmadu Fatika** asked the Minister of Education :—

How many lecturers resigned their appointments in the Zaria Branch of the Nigerian College of Arts, Science and Technology during the period January to August 1957, and what steps are being taken to obviate further resignations.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Education :

(a) Two, Sir.

(b) I do not consider it necessary to take any action to obviate further resignations.

***O.327. Mallam Ahmadu Fatika** asked the Minister of Health :—

What was the expenditure on the importation of lymph during the last outbreak of smallpox in Nigeria; what quantity of the imported lymph was used and what quantity remains.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Health : No lymph was imported by the Federal Medical Department during the last outbreak of smallpox. Honourable Members will be glad to note that the lymph used was the locally manufactured Yaba vaccine which was sufficient for requirements throughout the Federation.

Members will also be pleased to know that for many years now the Yaba Laboratories have supplied the needs not only of the whole of Nigeria but also the needs of the other West African territories and Liberia. Details of the work of the Federal Laboratory Services are available in chapter 13 of the 1955 Annual Medical Report.

BUSINESS COMMITTEE

Mr Speaker : Report of the Business Committee. The Prime Minister.

The Prime Minister (Hon. Alhaji Abubakar Tafawa Balewa) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to move, that this House accept the Committee's recommendations. This is to ask the House to endorse the recommendations which the Committee has made, the Committee which you referred to, Sir, in the commencement of business this morning.

The Minister of Transport (Hon. R. A. Njoku) : I beg to second, Sir.

Question proposed.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved : That this House doth agree with the Committee in the said Report.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

THE SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION (1957-58) BILL.—Adjourned debate on Question (4th September).

That the Bill be now read a second time.

Question again proposed.

Mr G. O. D. Eneh (Udi) : Mr Speaker, Sir, section 363 of the Report of the Nigerian Constitutional Conference laid down that the post of Financial Secretary should be abolished, and that the Governor-General, on the recommendation of the Prime Minister, should appoint a Minister to take the post of Financial Secretary.

I am glad to see that this post of Financial Minister has been taken over by the Prime Minister himself, and he is to give this House the mature experience which he has gained during his 9 years' stay in the Council of Ministers. On this occasion it is also necessary to pay tribute to the Officer who had occupied that seat for a very long time. He has given us his mature experience. He has been an

expert in his field and this House has always paid tribute to that member of the Civil Service who has been the Financial Secretary.

I will refer briefly to something which I desire that the Minister in charge of Finance should take steps to look into, and that is the West African Currency Board. This Board was established by the Secretary of State for the Colonies and it draws among its members one from the Crown Agents for the Colonies, who is the Chairman, Members of the Bank of England and Members selected from the Colonial Office. Within this Board Nigerians are not represented although the Board have responsibility for the four West African Colonies to prepare currency notes and mint coins.

It is the wish of this Government that, as we are taking up power, a member of the Public Service should be selected to under-study the workings of this Board so that by 1960 when powers have been transferred to us it will be possible to know the workings of this Board which looks after the minting of our money.

I want to refer to the revision of the Postal and Telegraphs charges which brought in about £344,000 within the last six months. It has shown in a wonderful way the steps being taken by this Department of Government in trying to increase our revenue, but it is unfortunate to realise that the expansion needed in postal services is not abreast with the needs of the people. I take an example from my own Division. The Agbaja Ngwo District Council very recently made a request to the Governor of the Eastern Region asking that telephone service be provided at 9 mile corner. The distance to the main line from Enugu to Onitsha is only about 100 yards and this Council is prepared to pay for the services of the Federal Government. In doing so, it is evident that money will be accruing to this Government.

Also, a Post Office has not been built at Udi since 1951/52. . . .

Mr Speaker : Order, order. The hon. Member's speech, which I hoped was beginning on the right lines, is now degenerating into a discussion of details. In the debate on the second reading of the Supplementary Appropriation Bill, we are limited to the main principles of the Bill—outlines of finance—not to details.

Mr Eneh : Thank you, Mr Speaker. I do not intend to go into details but it is my view that expansion in postal services will be done in such a way as to bring in money to this Federal Government.

I will refer to the statement of the Prime Minister regarding the creation of posts and the filling of vacancies and, in particular, with regard to the research sections of the Federal Public Service. There is evidence to show that there are wastages due to the fact that attraction is not very encouraging to some of our young men who are trained overseas. We have evidence to show that some young Nigerians, after training abroad return to Nigeria to be employed in the Public Service, but because of the fact that attraction is not there some of them return to the United Kingdom or America. It will be necessary for Government to see that sufficient incentive is given to our men.

I turn now to lotteries and pools. A huge amount of money is leaving this country through lotteries and pools. In any current year I think the money leaving the country in this way might go over £1 million. One of our governments has seen fit to establish its own lottery in Nigeria, but I still feel that the money going away from this country is too much. It may be necessary for us either to legislate against the importation of foreign lotteries into Nigeria or for the Government to establish its own lottery so that the money may be diverted from foreign countries to Nigeria.

Our economy is based on two aspects : one is import and export duties, the other, our products. I think it is necessary that soil classification should be made to determine the areas best suited for economic crops. For instance, in the Eastern Region there is ample evidence that cocoa has not been growing well in some areas. It may grow for between two and five years and eventually start to die out. If there is a good re-classification of soil throughout Nigeria I think it will be possible to find out the areas best suited for economic crops so that the possibility of growing cash crops could be extended throughout the Federation.

Our contribution to the Military of £1,850,000 is a very large sum indeed and I think that this Government should have a very great say in giving military personnel good encouragement in the work they are doing.

At present it is difficult to recruit the right type of men into the Army because of the money which is paid to those in the Junior grades. If we are to make a great contribution to the military, the Government must take steps to see that a general grading of members of the Army is made.

I will refer briefly to electricity. It is gratifying to note the expansion which the Government is to make to the various power stations but it is our wish that all those towns through which the power lines pass might be granted the benefit of getting electricity supply so that the finances of the Federation may increase.

With these few remarks I beg to support.

Mallam Muhtari, Sarkin Bai (South West Kano) : I rise to support the second reading of the Supplementary Appropriation Bill. It is usual at this time of the year for the Government to ask for more funds over and above what was already approved by this House during the Budget Session. In the first place it is gratifying to note that the demand for more money comes mainly as a result of the Nigerianization policy now being vigorously pursued by our new National Government. For this reason, Sir, I hereby give my unreserved support to our first Prime Minister in particular and the Council of Ministers in general. Judging from the past performances of these I am confident that the present Prime Minister will lead this country efficiently, peacefully and progressively to its destiny, that is independence by the 2nd day of April, 1960.

Sir, the removal from the Council of Ministers of the three officials, the Chief Secretary, the Financial Secretary and the Attorney-General, was a major obstacle overcome. What remains now is for all of us to show to the Colonial Secretary in particular and Her Majesty's Government in general that we are capable of ruling ourselves on the 2nd day of April, 1960. How do we do that? We do that by working unitedly, selflessly and efficiently for the entire country and by throwing for the meantime our political differences on the high seas. I should like at this point to assure the House and the country at large that we of the N.P.C. are ready to dedicate all our living to furtherance of the general well-being of the people of this country.

Turning to the Bill itself, I think I am not wrong if I say that the entire House is eagerly ready to give the additional amount required, provided the Government will use it according to the Nigerianisation programme, particularly Defence. Let us give our Nigerian Military Forces everything they ask. But on the other hand we must not forget what the deposed Opposition chief and now Minister of Communications and Aviation had said. Let us give them every assistance, they deserve it, but the further they keep away from the public the better.

It is equally customary for the Members of this House at this time of the year to convey to the Government the requests of their respective constituencies. For this reason I am grateful to take this opportunity to draw the attention of the Minister of Communications and Aviation to the vital need of telephone services in all district headquarters in Kano Emirate. Judging from the fact that Kano Emirate is not only the most prosperous but also the most populous area in the whole of Nigeria, it should therefore be treated as such. At least let us for the meantime put telephones in the main towns, that is Bia, D/Tofa, Wudit and Dambarta where there are Trunk A roads and where strangers from overseas are shown the type of life in the Northern Region.

Furthermore the Minister should speed up the proposal for automatic telephone system in Kano. A city like Kano without automatic telephone exchange system is like a day without sunshine. The former Minister of Communications and Aviation has done a lot for Kano. He built a first-class international airport which has done a great deal in bringing Nigeria on the map. For this reason he deserves my hearty congratulations. (*Applause*).

I now leave the Minister of Communications and Aviation in peace and I jump on the Minister of Power. In the good name of this country I am appealing to the Minister to use all the power at his command to see to it that all the main towns in the country and other productive towns like Dambarta get electricity supply before 2nd April, 1960. I must leave the Minister of Trade and Industries because of the implications involved in his Ministry and due to the fact that he has just assumed office. But when we come to the Third

Reading I will say what I want and I hope the Minister will take note.

Now on to the Minister of Transport. He is also new in his Ministry, but I hope the first and foremost work he will do is to see that adequate protection is made on the dangerous level crossings throughout the country with particular priority given to Kofar Nasapana on the Kano level crossing. To the Minister of Works and Surveys I say 'go ahead according to programme.' The outcome will be to the interest of every individual in the country.

Finally, Sir, I should like to pay tribute to the Civil Servants in this country, through whose efforts the country has come to what it is to-day. And if I am not out of order, Sir, I should like to say this: that a special note of gratitude is due also to the outgoing Governor of the Northern Region, Sir Bryan Sharwood-Smith, who worked selflessly, honestly and courageously all along. He travelled to every part of the Region separately, heard the requirements of the people and did his best in seeing that those requirements were complied with. I wish him a happy journey home and a prosperous future.

Sir, I beg to support.

Mr J. M. Udochi (Afenmai): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Second Reading of the Bill. But in doing so I would like to draw the attention of the House to a matter which is of great consequence to the manner in which the finances of this country have been disbursed. Honourable Members will have noticed that on the roster for questions for written answers, I have asked the Minister of Finance the following question. I will quote: "To ask the Minister of Finance if he will state under what authority instructions have been issued for the payment of Disturbance Allowance and Hard-Lying Allowance indicating why payment is made retrospective from 1st August, 1955, contrary to the policy adopted by this House at the last Budget meeting against the making of retrospective monetary awards; and whether he will state how much is required to meet the payment of arrears."

That was the question I quoted from the Order Paper, but unfortunately, owing to pressure of work no answer is yet forthcoming, but that does not stop us here from airing our views about that particular question. Honourable Members will recollect that when Gorsuch

made his report in 1955 he made certain recommendations for certain allowances. Our Government dealt extensively with the report of Mr Gorsuch and drew their own conclusions from that report. I have here a paper laid by the then Government on the recommendations of the Gorsuch Award, and it was laid on the Table of this House. That is "Conclusions of the Government of the Federation on the Report of the Commission on Public Services of the Governments in the Federation of Nigeria, 1954." Those were the conclusions drawn by our own Government on the Gorsuch Report and Members may find that paragraph 52 of the Conclusions makes reference to these particular allowances.

In 1955, our Government found that the question of Disturbance Allowance and Hard-Lying Allowance were things which they did not then give consent to. I would like to quote this particular paragraph.

"Disturbance Allowance on Transfer—
paragraph 282.

Hard-Lying Allowance—paragraph 283.

Outfit Allowance—paragraph 284.

Transport Expenses on Leave—paragraphs
289 and 290, and others.

The Government wishes to give further consideration to all these and in the mean time will maintain its present policy with respect to Outfit and Entertainment Allowances now payable and also in respect of Transport Expenses on leave."

Now, Sir, what happened after the Gorsuch Report. Gorsuch made his report; since then much water has passed under the bridge. Salaries that Gorsuch recommended for certain posts have been re-examined. These posts have been regraded, so that a man who was to have received a certain salary according to Gorsuch is now receiving higher pay after the regrading staff had done their business. That goes on throughout the Service. If Gorsuch were to come back to Nigeria to-day to review the condition of service, Gorsuch would be surprised. He would be surprised to find how much the grading officers have out-Gorsuched Gorsuch.

Now, Sir, it was 1955 when Gorsuch made his recommendations and at that time salaries were lower, and our Government found that it was not a good time to add further responsibility to this country by way of Disturbance and

Hard-Lying Allowance, and I ask, Sir, what justification is there in 1957, after posts have been regraded and salaries made higher, what justification can there be in the year of our Lord, 1957, for a Government of the Federation to think that what was not good enough in 1955 should now be implemented and added to. If I am wrong (*Interruption*).

Members will remember that at the last Budget Session there was noted a policy of Government, that the policy of making retrospective monetary awards was contrary to the best interests of this country, and this was agreed, but before the ink was dry on that document the Government find it necessary to introduce Hard-Lying and Disturbance Allowances into the country and make it retrospective from the 1st August, 1955.

Now, Sir, after all, we are prepared to have our Civil Servants as comfortable as possible. What is wrong? Is there any particular privation to which they are subject and for which we must give a disturbance allowance? What is the bed of thorns which we have prepared for them that necessitates them having a Hard-Lying Allowance? I suggest that one of the beds of thorns is the provision of palatial buildings for which they pay little or nothing by way of rent. I suggest that the perpetual privation to which you subject them is the fact that when they want transport we advance them money to buy the cars, pay them allowance with which to pay back our advance and in many cases, they make profit out of it. Those are the things which we do for our Civil Servants for which we must saddle this country further with payment of disturbance allowance, payment of hard-lying allowance, and this to be done without the authority and sanction of this House which is supposed to be the only medium through which money can be spent.

I say, Sir, Gentlemen, hon. Members, more is to be heard about this matter and I put it to our hon. Prime Minister not to allow himself to carry another man's baby. He should not let himself to be made a cat's paw of policy which in conscience he could not stomach. I say, Sir, that this is a matter for which this House should set up an investigation committee of this House to go closely into it to find out how and why this policy was brought into being in this country, and we are now to be saddled with payment of hard-lying allowance disturbance allowance to people for whom we, have

done everything possible within the resources of this country to make comfortable. A Committee of this House should investigate this matter and if the report of our investigation justifies our worst fears, the Government should ask everybody who has received the allowance to pay back every penny of it. (Prolonged applause).

We cannot, on the eve of independence in this country, allow our financial policy to be so misused.

Mr Speaker, I support the Bill with these observations.

Chief E. O. Omolodun (Oyo South): Mr Speaker, Sir, I see that we can sing together but we cannot talk together. I would have started talking but the people in my front have just put impediments in my way to talk.

Mr Speaker, there is an omission in the appointment of Ministries. I think one was omitted and that is a Ministry for the Elders of this hon. House. (Laughter).

Mr Speaker: Order, order! The speech has begun with too much irrelevance. It must deal with matters of financial economic policy of Nigeria.

Chief Omolodun: Mr Speaker, I thank you so much. I know we are on the matter of this Supplementary Appropriation Bill, but I am just referring to what I said that ought to be, but if Mr Speaker cannot recommend it to the Prime Minister to create such a Ministry, I quite agree.

Now, in this Appropriation Bill, I think it will be good enough if the Prime Minister will take into consideration the question of the pensioners. We talk at length about the payment of the pensioners. We talk about not paying the pensioners what they are due for. To the best of my knowledge and belief, a petition has been forwarded to His Excellency the Governor-General through the Chief Secretary and up to this moment the petition has seen no light of day. . . . (An hon. Member: No more Chief Secretary) . . . There is no more Chief Secretary in this House but he has done it before the Prime Minister took over from him.

The question of pensioners, Mr Speaker, deserves all sympathy, more especially pensioners who are poorly paid. In this I am

referring to old soldiers and Policemen, who receive pension of between 15s and 20s per month. At the last recommendation of increment for pensioners we understand that 120 per cent given to these poor pensioners, but assuming that a man is having an amount of 20s. as his pension, and he has 120 per cent increase, that is £1-4s making a total of £2-4s. a month. So the pensioner cannot understand why he has to be punished by being paid £7-4s instead of £14-8s. We do not know why. We asked the Government here the other time, but the Government promised to look into it and up till this moment nothing is done. I think our able Prime Minister will take this to heart and into consideration to see that the question of these pensioners is settled once and for all.

Now, I want to refer to the Minister of Works. From Ibadan to Oyo to Ogbomosho up to Ilorin, the main road is very very narrow and as a result of it many accidents happen to the people using that road. Will the Minister of Works take this into account and see to the widening of it?

I am now to refer the Minister of Transport to the question of railway line. What we want is the Railway line and not an agency to build motor garages in Oyo District. I am saying with all the emphasis at my command that Oyo is neglected and nothing will satisfy the people of Oyo Division except we can have a railway line, not because I am envying Bornu-Maiduguri line, but that of Bornu which is just about 500 miles whereas that of Oyo-Ogbomosho to Ilorin is just under 100 miles only.

We are supporting the Government and I do not know why we cannot have these things done for us. This is a national problem for a national Government.

Mr Speaker, Sir, we want industry to be established in this country, in order to get more revenue, but I wonder why restrictions are placed in the way of establishing industry? One of these restrictions is goods manufactured locally. The Government of this country has seen to it that the making of local buses must not be under taken. We have been given loans by the Western Government and by other Governments to purchase buses but, to our surprise, within a year or two none of these buses exist. If we are allowed to produce our own buses locally, it will increase our revenue. It will also increase our revenue by asking those

who are building the buses to pay tax on their work. But we are told not to produce buses locally. I appeal to the Prime Minister to take this into account and see that we are given the permission to produce our own buses.

A further example, Mr Speaker, which is another thing which requires the attention of this hon. House—anybody with money can become a transporter overnight and over-run those who are already in the business. The transport business in this country is disorganised. People become honest debtors by running this business. If the Government gives attention to this, by establishing a Transport Tribunal, before anybody can become a transporter or a transport owner, he will have to go and see whether there is room for him in the business or not. (*An hon. Member: We want self-government*). I know you want self-government but we must see that we re-organise our business widely.

Mr M. A. O. Olarewaju (South Ilorin): I rise to support this Bill for Supplementary Estimates for the year 1957-58. On these Supplementary Estimates, my observation is covered under Head 69, sub-head 1 in the Ministry of Works, that is the maintenance of public buildings. I would like to know whether part of the Supplementary provision of £20,000 now required under this Head, will be used to work against the heavy troop of mosquitoes in Ikoyi Members flats? It is true that, in this country, the main troop of mosquitoes are in Ikoyi Government and Members flats and they are the carriers of the present Flu.

Mr Speaker, Sir, it will be more appropriate if more money is voted for the Federal Trunk Roads under the Federal Ministry of Works. Now that we are running a national Government in Nigeria, under the very able leadership of our new Prime Minister, everything must be nationalised. Our roads, ourselves, our politics, our ways, and even our Speaker must be nationalised.

Sir, what I mean by nationalising our roads, is to develop all our Trunk Roads, by tarring them equally. It matters not whatever part it is in Nigeria: there should no more be classification as in old Governments, whether we have Trunk A Road 1, Trunk 2, Trunk 20 or Trunk 100. Mr Speaker, Sir, the Federal Government must make a 100 per cent contri-

bution in aid to transporters and car owners in Nigeria, to avoid throwing our money to overseas to buy new lorries and cars. Nearly every other two years this is done, because our roads are very bad. In other countries like England, a lorry or car of over 25 years is still running good services but here in Nigeria, a lorry or car of five years is thrown into the pits because it is not roadworthy. This is due to the very bad condition of our roads in Nigeria. The more we develop our roads in Nigeria, the more we increase the wealth of our country. Any type of modern development is regarded as lip service. This I am not only saying, Sir, on behalf of myself but I believe I am speaking on behalf of the 32 million population of the people in Nigeria on this particular subject.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I repeat "road first." Dependable and good tarred roads must be available throughout Nigeria before we attain our independence on the 2nd April, 1960. I have made several representations to the Minister of Transport to find if it is possible to have a branch of railway lines from Offa to Ajase-Omu/Aran-Owo and Port Harcourt, but certainly on these particular representations I am afraid have never been successful. But this time, I believe the Minister of Transport will take note and listen to the request of the people in my constituency.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I am not prepared to bore the House with a long talk, I, therefore, support the Bill.

Mr H. O. Abaagu (Kwande, Tiv Division): Mr Speaker, I rise to support the Second Reading of this Bill, and to say a word of congratulation to the new Prime Minister.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I think the Governor-General has made a right choice in choosing the present Prime Minister to be at the head of the Government. This is indicative in the way in which he has put out this Appropriation Bill.

Mr Speaker, my fear about the politicians in Nigeria is that, about seven years ago a politician in a Region moved a Motion that there should be an enquiry into the administration of N.A.'s in that Region. That Motion was received with a great ovation by the people of that Region. To our utmost surprise that politician was silenced with an offer of a senior service post. Now, I am afraid that perhaps

the new Prime Minister in his elevated post may incline to go that way. That is all my fear.

Mr Speaker, I just want to call attention generally to the deplorable condition of Federal roads in Benue Province. We have been receiving promises about the road, between Mile 9 Corner and passing through Eleyedde to Makurdi and Jos. This road is very, very bad. It has ruined our cars; it is not economical at all. Why I say so, is because we who took advances from the Federal Government and bought our cars know that they are ruined and therefore we are in great debt. Mr Speaker, I am trying to make the Federal Government, especially the Minister of Works, to hasten up and then place contracts for that road to be tarred. We are contented with tarring from Mile 9 Corner to Eleyeddi, but we are tired anyway of receiving a promise to do it, and tomorrow it is not fulfilled. So, it is some sort of reminder to him that this tarring should start forthwith.

Another thing, the communication, should I say, telecommunication in Benue is equally bad. When you think of a place like Makurdi, which is the oldest headquarters of Benue and a headquarters of a division like Gboko, these are important government centres. There is no telegraphic link between Makurdi and Gboko. Telegrams have to be posted; letters have to be carried either by lorry or by bicycles. It is very, very bad. Mr Speaker, I do not want to bore this House with making long speeches because if I want to bring all the complaints in my division, or in my province, I think I shall keep this House from now till tomorrow. So much, Mr Speaker, I am begging the Minister to wake up and see that Benue Province, Tiv Division in particular, is heeded as far as road development and telecommunications are concerned. I beg to support.

M. Abubakar Gurumpawo (South Adamawa Trust Territory): Mr Speaker, Sir, in supporting this Supplementary Appropriation Bill, many of you will know that we are now coming towards self-government and finally self-independence within three years to come. Now, Mr Speaker, I think we have studied something that is called self-dignity. We must maintain our self-dignity in this House, and maintain our leaders' dignity.

Therefore, Mr Speaker, I must mention this thing in front of all hon. Members here.

Mr Speaker, I think you and your Government will make a special arrangement to separate where the new Prime Minister of the Federation will sit. It is not right for him to be sitting together with Ministers there.... (Interruption)... It is undemocratic and unconstitutional....

Mr Speaker: Order, order. The speech is not too easy to hear, but it is being completely spoilt from my point of view and from the official reporters, by the volume of interruptions coming mainly, I think from that direction. Please let us listen to the hon. Member in silence.

M. Gurumpawo: This is a very important point which I think I must mention in this House. I am not here to waste the time of the House, but I appeal to you and your Government to take note of this. With these few remarks, I beg to support.

Mr O. C. Agwuna (Awka): Mr Speaker, Sir, I am so sorry that I have to refer to one of the previous speakers, but I just want to refer to one or two points he raised although he has now left the Chamber. When the hon. J. M. Udochi spoke, I tried to re-examine these Supplementary Estimates. I have not been able to find any reference to Hard-lying and Disturbance Allowance.

There is only one point about disturbance allowance, and that is under Head 23, and that deals exclusively with Nigerians serving overseas. I am not saying that a Member of this House is not entitled, or has not the right, to collect information in respect of any matter and to make use of such information in this House; what I am saying is that the way and manner in which the hon. Member, I am sorry to be speaking in his absence, used whatever information he had was so embarrassing to me, and I am sure so to the Government. He asked a question and the question had not been answered, and he stood up here and defended the Minister by saying that the Minister was very busy and therefore he had not answered his question; and he stood up again and attacked the Government for spending our money in a back-door manner. I have not seen it in this paper now. (Interruption). Well the House is entitled to the information.

Now, talking generally about the Financial and Economic Policy of the Federal Government, I have just one point to underline. When our new Prime Minister spoke the other day he drew the attention of the House to the unique position which makes it possible for a Member of the Council of Ministers responsible for Finance to be presiding over the Finance Committee, that is if that Committee will continue. I personally do not like the idea of this House meeting, taking decisions about how the finances of the country will be used, and when we leave this Chamber we somehow find that large sums of money have virtually been spent without reference to this House. I am particularly in opposition to the policy of continuing with the Finance Committee.

I am sorry that the Prime Minister is not present. I recommend that whenever the Prime Minister and his Council want money for any work, whether in respect of what the House had agreed upon or in respect of anything else, every Member of this House, should come back in time to give sanction for such proposals, or even to give formal approval if we are satisfied that the expenditure has been done in good faith and in accordance with the major programme set up by this House. But I would not like the idea of the Finance Committee or any Standing Committee for that matter coming back a few days afterwards to tamper with our finances. I am saying now that if they require more money, other than what is put forward here, let us know now. If you want more money in addition to what is here, let us know now. I think we shall all be prepared to consider it and to accept any such proposition, but I do not like the idea of the House meeting, and then when the House rises two or three people, or a number of people coming back to say they are the Finance Committee. I think during this interim period our ability to govern ourselves will be judged from the way in which we handle our finances.

With these few remarks, Mr Speaker, I beg to support.

M. Aliyu Bissalla, Ma'Ajin Abuja (Abuja): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to support all Heads and Sub-Heads under both Recurrent and Capital Expenditure in these Supplementary Estimates of Expenditure whole-

heartedly, but with a very few and limited comments.

Firstly, Sir, I am to draw the attention of our hon. Minister of Works to the unworthy and untimely deviation being built on Trunk A roads between the junction of Kaduna/Mando new road to Zungeru. These deviation, Sir, are very dangerous, and I wish to call the attention of the Minister of Works and Surveys to see to it.

I, on behalf of all the members of the community using that road, wish to take it to the Minister to see to it, to have any means or any way of committing himself to put contractors on to the work for the improvement of that road. They are causing untimely blockages of traffic coming into these roads.

I am very pleased to see that the ball now is just near the feet of our hon. Minister, and we hope that he will kick this ball before the Members of this House as soon as possible.

Also Sir, we are anxious that we should soon have adequate quarters for the Members of this hon. House. They have been waited for so long, that I would ask that this request be put before any other request made in this House.

With these few remarks, Sir, I beg to support.

Mr D. L. G. Olateju (Oshun North): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to remind the Minister of Transport about the passenger inn which I mentioned here last year, for Ikirun Station. I wish to point out that this Station is used by thirty-two towns, and that not all trains run during the hours of day-time. The Kano train reaches the station at night, also the train from Iddo-Offa. Some of the passengers on these trains may be going to Illa-Orangun, a distance of 18 miles from the Station, and some of them may be going to Igbajo, a distance of 15 miles from the station. I therefore appeal to this House to safeguard the lives of these passengers.

I can remember some passengers, natives of Oyan, after being discharged from the train at Ikirun Station, trying to find somewhere to sleep in the town, as there was no passenger inn. All their loads were stolen by thieves who waylaid them on their way to

look for accommodation. These thieves knew very well that there was no house for these passengers in the station, and for this reason they waited on the road to rob them.

Secondly, Sir, if these passengers are willing to remain in the station till morning, where is there a house for them to stay. They will only be lying down in the open air under rain or dew. I therefore appeal to the Minister of Transport to consider this need as quickly as possible.

With these few remarks, Sir, I beg to support.

Sitting suspended : 11.30 a.m.

Sitting resumed : 11.50 a.m.

The Rev. E. S. Bens (Brass): I am grateful to you, Mr Speaker, for allowing me to speak on this Bill. The first thing I like to talk about in connection with this Bill is labour unrest, and I am sorry the Minister of Labour is not here.

The Minister of Works (Hon. Alhaji Muhammadu Inuwa Wada): The Minister is here.

The Rev. Bens: Oh, he is there! I see he is hiding himself. Sir, here in Lagos I am embarrassed and the Nigerian public is embarrassed by the attitude of our Medical Officers and our graduate teachers. I thought that the Supplementary Estimate is meant to improve the status, salaries, accommodation, scholarships and all the rest of them of our Nigerian workers. We ourselves do much for our Nigerian Civil Servants to give them scholarships to study and return, and I am sorry, Sir, to say that these men who have benefited from our Government return to oppose our Government. I do not like it, and I will say in this connection that the Prime Minister's advice should be accepted by our Nigerian workers that self-government means hard work. And, Sir, when we get self-government, left to me, we should cut down all these heavy salaries of £3,000 and £2,500. If people are not content with £3,000 salaries, then how much will we give them and they will be content?

Mr Speaker, Sir, I turn next to foreign trade. I am sorry to say that Nigeria is becoming a dumping ground for the United

States of America. I thought that man in his seeking for clothing has definitely two things in mind. He wears clothes on his skin in order to protect him from the elements. In modern days we have more dresses for adornment, and we now have goods imported from America which are useless practically. All are things that are thrown out but people there collect them from the dustbins and then dump them into Nigeria, Mr Speaker. I am really sorry, Mr Speaker. Go to the East, they call them *Okrika wake-up*.

The next thing, Sir, is I am really sorry that a Private Member's Motion was tabled on Tuesday asking the Government to see whether we can introduce our own shipping industry. It was a very nice Motion, but unfortunately, the man who tabled the Motion was not present and I am taking this opportunity, Mr Speaker, to speak on it. It will be a very sorry affair for Nigeria that on attaining self-government we still hope that the Elder Dempster Lines and the Palm Lines of the U.A.C. and such other organisations are expected to carry out our external trade. I think, Sir, that in order to make our economy more secure, foreign trade should be encouraged and our shipping industry should be introduced.

Mr Speaker, I next turn to industry, and in this connection I will say that there is something grossly wrong in the boat-building policy of the Federal Government. I thought the only way the people of the Creeks are benefiting from this Government is by creek transport and I am glad that the Government was wise to introduce boat-building in two centres of Nigeria. I refer to that of Opopo particularly and there we of the Creeks are now planning to get beautiful and good boats. These boats are the live wires of the people of the Creeks: those who have no roads, those who have no railways and those who do not hope for any benefit from the Aviation Department, and now the Government steps in with such a rigorous policy stating that unless you pay *cash down* the cost of the boat it shall never be given to you. I am asking, Sir, that the Government should review that policy and rectify it immediately. Sell the boats to us on hire purchase. How can we pay £1,600 and £2,400 before we collect the boat? We do not want them free, we will pay for them.

Now, I am glad, Sir, that the hon. Jaja Wachuku is here. He mentioned a very hard statement while speaking to the Motion that an address of thanks be given to His Excellency for his Address. There he mentioned a very tough bone. I know, Mr Speaker, that even brothers disagree, husband and wife disagree sometimes and father and son too disagree. The hon. Jaja Wachuku referred to Sir Ralph and said that he was rather dissatisfied with him, and he is praying the Secretary of State that he must like to see that Sir Ralph was promoted Governor of another territory.

Mr Jaja Wachuku (Aba) : On a point of order, Mr Speaker. I referred to the Chief Secretary of the Federation and not an individual by name.

Mr Speaker : That is not a point of order, but a point of explanation, and the hon. Member need not give way.

The Rev. Bens : Well, I am referring to the Chief Secretary. He has said that he would like the Chief Secretary whose post has been abolished to be recommended for promotion to Governor of another territory.

Mr Speaker : Order. The officer concerned now holds a Royal appointment and it is not in order to discuss his position on this Bill.

The Rev. Bens : All right, Mr Speaker, I am grateful to you for that explanation.

The last point I would like to make is this. I strongly support one of the speakers on the N.P.C. side who has recommended that our Prime Minister must be given such a place where his dignity will be shown in this House.

I think our Speaker is sufficiently educated in such matters of Parliamentary sitting. In the Eastern House I know that the Prime Minister has a separate seat from the Ministers. (*Several hon. Members : That is incorrect*). I will never be happy to see that our Prime Minister sits among the other Ministers. Even if it is not the practice in the Regions, after all this is the Federation and we are not copying the Regions. Our Prime Minister should be given some amount of respect. Mr Speaker, I beg to support.

Mr Olayemi Tobun (Epe) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to speak on the Supplementary Estimates. I am of the opinion that hon. Agwuna has made a point in that he suggested

that the money that we are asked to approve is £1,000,388 and he considered this money a very big sum and that this House which is called upon to approve an amount which is so big should take heed that the country's fund will be wasted in a way. My own point is that we should try, I mean those on the Finance Committee, should be instructed or be informed or its policy be initiated, so as to limit their activities as far as giving approval to such a large sum of money is concerned. What I am trying to suggest is that they should be given a limit, say about £500,000, instead of over £1,000,000.

Not quite six months ago, during the Budget Session, we were asked to approve an expenditure of £30,942,430. Only six months ago. And this is to come from the revenue—according to the Estimates for the current year—the revenue available was £31,904,760. Taking the expenditure from the revenue we have only £962,000 and now, as I say not quite six months ago. We are now being called upon to approve £1,000,388. If our balance from the last Budget Session was £962,000, where do we get £1,000,000? From where are we going to get it? It means the money that we are asked to approve now is above the amount of balance available. What will happen is that perhaps the money that has been saved will now be taken from so as to make this £1,000,388. If that is done it will have an adverse reflection on what will be our revenue for the current year which will end 31st March, 1958. I think I should make this point clear enough for Members to think about and try to influence either the Finance Committee or the Council of Ministers that the Finance Committee's activities be restricted so that the Committee will only be able to approve a limited sum. As I have suggested £500,000 will be reasonable as compared with £1,000,388.

Another point that I would like to mention is in connection with the P.W.D. and that is for the Minister of Works and Surveys. I could see that those who have spoken before me have mentioned or requested him to provide them with roads and all other things but I am not asking for roads because I find that the Minister himself has been trying to do his little bit as far as the improvement of roads, is concerned.

The point I would like to mention is about the award of contracts. The Minister had spoken at length about this thing a day before

but there are some aspects of it which have not been plain enough. We are told that the representatives of Regional Governments will be among those Members of the Tender Boards and some officials and Members of this House. The point I would like to mention is if we have eight or twelve members, as the case may be, the officials—when I say officials it will include expatriate officials, it may also include Africans—I would like that on such Boards African members should be in the majority. In that case the decision of the Board will be fair enough but if the expatriate representation on the Committee is greater than that of the Africans I am afraid whether we can get what we want as far as the complaint of the African contractors is concerned.

In fact, as I have mentioned, the Minister of Works and Surveys has been trying his best to see that he puts everything right but until things are put right we cannot appreciate much his effort but in a way we have appreciated those that we have seen in the provision of bridges and widening of bridges but in this case too, he mentioned that we are going to have two double-way bridges. Those that we have at present should be improved before we have the double-way bridge.

I want to say that the amount provided in the Supplementary Estimates for Inland Revenue is very very small. £10! I do not know what it is for or whether it will be sufficient for their needs. The Head of that department is very much in the habit of recruiting expatriate officers. Those Africans who have been trained within the department are not given any chance at all. I agree that expatriates should be recruited where we cannot get any suitable African for the department and I agree that some expatriates know their job but what we find is that those recruited are neither accountants nor experts. These people have no special qualification which can give them privilege over Africans trained within the Department.

If the Nigerianisation policy means anything at all I do not know why there should be training within the department for the purpose of giving them senior appointment and yet they are not given any consideration. I understand there are Instructors from England receiving our money and training these people. But what we see is that the people trained are not given any encouragement. Expatriates are

dumped over them and those people take the chance of the Nigerians and deprive them of their prospects.

With these few remarks I support.

Mr J. A. G. Ohiani (Igbirra): Mr Speaker, I support this Supplementary Appropriation Bill. I have no quarrel with any Ministry but the Ministry of Communications and Aviation. Posts and Telegraphs is the only Federal Subject which affects the rural area. There is a *go slow* in this Department of Posts and Telegraphs. I hope the Ministry will take steps to speed this up.

Mr Speaker, to my question during the Budget Session the answer was given that the V.H.F. building in Okenne will be completed by May 1957 and that the installation will be put into operation by the end of July 1957. The building is completed. I will ask the Minister of Communications and Aviation to take steps to see that this scheme is put into operation. July is come and gone and people are expecting to make use of that station.

I would like to sound a note of warning to the Ministry of Works. The only nine mile Trunk A tarred road in Kabba Province is just a mockery. The bridges are very narrow and already the tarring does not last for a year and we can hardly find the bitumen in some areas and within a year we cannot say that that has ever been tarred. We hope that by the next Budget Session the Minister of Works will have a provision to see that the whole Trunk A roads in Kabba Province are tarred.

With these few observations I beg to support.

Mr Jaja A. Wachuku (Aba): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Supplementary Bill in principle. In supporting this I have certain comments to make. My learned and hon. friend has already commented on a subject which is bound to have very great repercussions on the state of the finances of the Federation—that is the question of paying hard-lying and disturbance allowance by the backdoor. I want the House to note that this payment has been made by Special Warrant and no formal approval has been sought by the Government from the Standing Committee on Finance and so far as I can see from this Supplementary Estimates the Government has not sought covering approval from this House either. I am going to draw the attention of this House to Head 23 sub-head 9A. There is a surrepti-

tious way of getting this House to approve in principle the payment of this money. There it is put that the sum is being provided to pay the disturbance allowance to certain Africans who are in the External Affairs office in London. My concern is why the Government has not thought it necessary to seek a covering approval to the money that has been paid by special warrant. This is being put in here and that is the very first Head of this Supplementary Estimate. I have said it is a mighty trick on this House and I am asking this House that it is a wasteful expenditure of the resources of the Federation. When this particular Head comes up the House must reject it unless the Prime Minister and the Government as a whole will give us sufficient explanation for not seeking a covering approval of this House at this particular juncture.

It is very serious. It raises the question of examination of the policy of disbursement of Federal funds by Special Warrant. A Member has commented on the Standing Committee on Finance (unfortunately I was not here at the beginning of his speech) suggesting that the Standing Committee on Finance should be abolished. I know that the present Standing Committee on Finance and its predecessors had been a kind of thorn in the flesh of the Government because there have been some measures introduced and that Committee had turned them down and when it was overruled dragged the matter before the House and invariably the House has been on the side of that Committee. Subsequently the Government feels that this is a bugbear as far as the policy is concerned and they want it scrapped. I am open to correction but I do not know of any legislature that has not got a Standing Committee on Finance. The abolition of a Committee like that may have some reason but so far I have not heard of any cogent reason for its abolition. Not because I am a member of that Committee, Sir, but it is a Committee meant to keep a check during the interim period when the House is not sitting. This Committee is looking at things from the financial angle because we are looking at the financial policy of this House.

The committee is composed of 9 people; to abolish it and to drag this House up to examine the same thing will be wasteful. I assume Sir, that the travelling expenses of Members costs this House £20 a head. You have to

multiply that figure, and add the average salary and you will ask: does the Government save or lose by summoning the whole House to examine the problem? I say this suggestion is wasteful, from any angle it is wasteful and helps to ruin the nation.

Now, Sir, taking into consideration this expenditure the problem must be re-examined very seriously, and I am asking the Prime Minister to go into this very carefully. I do not say abolish this *in toto*. I would suggest that it should be re-examined and the expenditure be by special warrant. I suggest that the Government should not spend anything more than £10,000 by special warrant and anything above that should be subject to the approval of the Finance Committee of this House or by way of supplementary estimate as has been done. I do not know the actual figure that is involved in this Hard Lying Business. One Minister has said it is about £4 million but I do not believe that, and I doubt if the Government would wish to spend such a large sum of money without reference to a particular body.

Since the Prime Minister made it known that his objective was independence of this country in 1960 he will have to think of his sterling balances; how to preserve our sterling balances. We are talking about industrialisation, and of so many developments that the nation will require when independence comes. If we just waste all our sterling balances now during the interim period, when we come to the period of independence what will happen? We will find our coffers empty and we will have to go begging with cap in hand, and when we get there what will be said? "You are independent, go ahead." Independence, without money. Impossible! We must safeguard our sterling balances, that is most important.

There is another point. There is a steady conversion of officers on contract to the permanent establishment. That is a dangerous policy. These contract officers can convert rapidly now, and they are doing it now. They can apply for a lump sum compensation payment. Sir, calculate the number and you will see there are many thousands of pounds going to be paid out of the funds of the Federation. It will involve millions and the sterling balances will be going down, down, down. So that policy, Sir, of converting from contract to

permanent establishment should be stopped now in order to save our money because it is a dangerous policy.

Another policy, Sir, which is inimical to our financial well being, and at the same time inimical to the progress of those who have been labouring for Nigeria whether expatriate or Nigerian, and which should be stopped now during this period, is the policy of calling in other nationals when senior posts are going. It is a tragedy for those who have laboured well not to be able to reap the benefit of their labours and their loyalty. It is a bad policy for Nigeria and it is a waste of money. Every civil servant hopes for promotion, if he waits for it and then sees that promotion going to someone outside Nigeria, what happens, either he seeks to leave the Service or there is frustration.

Now, Sir, with the greatest respect to the hon. Member who raised the point on the question of Nigerianisation of the Police Force, you may have read in the papers the policy of attracting people to the Police Force without necessarily going through the rank and file, but Sir, on the question of filling vacancies we are told there are several vacancies and there are no suitable Nigerians or people in the Service who can fill these posts. Now, Sir, with the greatest respect to the gentleman concerned, I know him and respect him, I say, Sir, that the suggestion is that as it is impossible to find suitable people here to fill these vacancies, then we get expatriates who come here to fill the vacancy for one tour, maybe two, and this I say is bad for us. Bad, very bad. What do these people do, they come here into the Police Force, they know nothing whatever about the Nigerian Police. I say Sir, that our boys here put them through the ropes and it should be found out whether they are good for the post. If these men are not good enough and they come here how can they teach anything to others, how can a person teach anything he does not know?

But if the teacher has been a good one, and if he teaches his student well, then why should not the teacher be given the senior post when it comes free, or why should not the teacher be given the opportunity to fill the post, why go outside for a man. There is something else, some of the expatriate officers who come here have not gone through the rank and file, some of them have served only in the Army.

I do not say all, only some, they have not been in the Police Force, this is not a good thing. We have this kind of problem now, but what of the time when independence has been achieved. There will be a lot of people who will lose their jobs, and they will see Nigeria, and say "There is a new place here". What will happen? They will come here, they will work for a while, then they will ask for a lump sum compensation, if there is conversion to a permanent establishment when they say they want to leave there will be a second lump sum compensation. Don't you see? Again our resources will be given away.

So, Sir, I want you to consider it very very seriously and then re-examine this policy. As you said on Tuesday when a Member put up a Motion here about Advisory Board, there is the Police Commission that is to deal with this matter. I think if that Board has not been set up, it should be set up quickly so that this will be scrutinised before recruiting anybody from outside. It must be beyond reasonable doubt that there are no competent and qualified Nigerians or those in the Civil Service now, whether Mongolian or anybody, who have the capacity to occupy the higher post. It is only in the absence of that that we should go outside to recruit people. Otherwise we will wake up and find that our Police Force, when we are independent, will be dominated by people who may be doing their best but certainly their loyalty cannot be exactly the same as that of the indigene who knows that he has very much at stake in this country. And then the financial implication. They have the hard-lying allowance, the sleeping allowance, the grandmother allowance and things like that.

Another point, Sir. I would like the Prime Minister to go into the position of the West African Airways Corporation... (*Hear, hear*) . . . This Corporation is running at losses and losses and losses and losses. Now, Sir, I want us to know its position. At the moment, there is only one Nigerian on the Board and one from Ghana on the Board, and also Ghana is trying now to establish its own airline. I understand that there used to be a training scheme in that Corporation and now that scheme no longer exists. If my facts are not correct I am speaking subject to correction. I learnt also, Sir, that when you have a charter service

for students, it is not the W.A.A.C. that receives the money, it is the B.O.A.C. that receives the money and W.A.A.C. receives commission. If that is so, I want that to be remedied. Why should Government students be going from the funds of the Government and W.A.A.C. is supposed to be running the service, but why should the money go to B.O.A.C. and not go to W.A.A.C.? I would like to know that, and if it is so, I would like this to be corrected. If you charter a plane and pay for the services the money should go to the fund of W.A.A.C. and W.A.A.C. should not be an agent for B.O.A.C.

Now, Sir, there is another point which I want to raise. There is a terrible competition between the Government and the Corporations that they set up. You know, Sir, salaries in the Public Corporations are much higher than in the Civil Service. The result is that that is having an adverse effect on the Civil Service: you find a lot of people who have gained experience in the Civil Service having a better offer in the Corporations, and they drop this thing and join the Corporation. How can a Corporation that is being financed by the Government compete with the Government that gives it revenue? Is it not necessary to standardise salaries so that we can keep the best brains in the Civil Service? Does the Prime Minister want to have a Civil Service that is bogus when he is in office? This competition between the Corporations and the Government in respect of the scale of salaries should be reviewed and stopped, then we can balance our finances.

At the moment—I am speaking from experience, I happen to have been put into one of these—surely, where there is an attraction to people, they have to go to it. The next thing is that the person writes his resignation and goes. I would like this to be investigated and corrected because it is having an adverse effect on the finances of the Federal Government, a Government which set up other and subordinate bodies that borrow from it and get a grant from it and pay more than the parent body. I want Government to stop it.

There is a point, Sir, which I feel produces redundancy in the Service. You find there are some members—I see it here, when we come to the detailed estimates you find it in these Supplementary Estimates—there is a new

policy. When the Nigerianisation officer started the training scheme, you find that certain Nigerians are being trained for certain posts. Now, in order to replace certain officials, what happens, Sir, is this: as soon as this person is completing his training, a new post is created to accommodate him. Those who have read these Supplementary Estimates carefully will find at least one.

A stenographer is being trained in the Nigerianisation training scheme for the post of a Secretary-Typist. But what happened? Before that person comes, it is put as a footnote: "This post is being created to accommodate this Nigerian", so that instead of one Secretary-Typist post we are going to have two. That is wastage, redundancy! That is one point. If you go through the whole Departments the same thing happens all over. So there is a lot of work here for you, Mr Prime Minister. I know this was prepared before you assumed your new position, Sir, and you are now expected to go into all these details; that is what you are here for. If we allow these things to go on you will find our money is going, and our sterling balances will just go down like *that*, and when independence is declared on the 2nd of April, 1960, what happens? Self-government with empty coffers. What happens? We find that we will be going to borrow and then will not be credit-worthy, to borrow the expression of our hon. Friend Mr Daldry. The various countries are prepared to lend to a country that is credit-worthy.

It is the same thing when India gained independence; India that had accumulated millions of pounds, the whole thing went off like that because they were trying to invest in capital equipment and the rest of it. That is the time we will have our problem. We have not started at all. We are now trying to plan and establish, but when we begin actual industrialisation, then we require capital but we wake up to find that the capital required for the implementation of this policy is not there. The result will be that some will begin to jeer at us and say, "When you were not independent you were well off, now you have independence you are empty." Unless we begin to guard against our little pennies and three pennies, we will wake up to find that in 1960 we have nothing... (*Interruption*).

The Minister of Lagos Affairs, Mines and Power (Alhaji M. Ribadu): Tell us how to do it.

Mr Jaja Wachuku : That is what I am saying—to stop the gap. Mr Speaker, Sir, that is what I am saying, what should be done and what should not be done, and I hope the Council of Ministers will take this into consideration and when we come to discuss the Estimates more in detail I hope we will be given an opportunity to give all the details on how these things should be done.

Sir, having said so much, I hope the Council of Ministers will take this seriously, and having more time in Committee stage, I beg to support the Supplementary Appropriation Bill... (Applause).

M. Abdulkadir Koguna, Wakilin Riyogi (East Kano) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the second reading of the Supplementary Appropriation Bill. Before saying anything, I would like to pay tribute to our capable and dependable Prime Minister; at the same time I would like to congratulate our three new capable and very able Ministers. With due respect, Sir, I would like to raise some points and I hope the Ministers concerned will take action.

One of my points, Sir, comes under the Ministry of Labour. It is concerning leave facilities to the daily paid workers. If a man is employed, he is not granted his full leave facilities until he has served 10 years, and that is too long. He does the same job as the permanent staff who work in the same office; he has the same examinations and the same everything and I think for that reason, Sir, the Minister concerned should take this into consideration.

Secondly, Sir, this comes under the Ministry of Health. It has been said, not only by the Members of this House, it has been raised even by the Prime Minister of this Government, that he paid tribute to the United Nations Organisation. I want to add something to this, Sir, concerning lepers in this country. Most of the treatment of lepers comes from the United Nations Organisation, most of the tablets or injections and other things done for the lepers of this country, come from that Organisation. I do not know whether the Government of this country will do something to help them, or the British Government.

Thirdly, Sir, I speak concerning our Nigerian Army; they have the same trouble with leave

facilities as the daily paid workers. Secondly, they have no schedule of duties at the end of their job, they haven't got that. If it is possible, Sir, I hope the Minister concerned will bring this to the notice of the public. When members of the Nigerian Army are going on leave, if they have a wife, they are obliged to leave her behind until their return. That is the position in the Nigerian Army.

The last one, Sir, is concerning compensation; I believe this was mentioned at the last sitting of this House. The compensation paid to our people who have lost part of their bodies doing a job in helping this country, is still too poor. A man will lose his eye or his hand, but still what he gets in respect of that is too small and it often takes him a year or two years before he receives this compensation. I trust the Minister concerned will take action accordingly.

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

Mr J. G. Adeniran (Ibadan West) : Mr Speaker, Sir, in supporting the second reading of the Supplementary Appropriation Bill, I would like to call the attention of the Prime Minister to the statement made in his speech that the increase in revenue is a matter for attention, because the decrease in expenditure is largely due to the difficulties in filling vacancies and providing the services that the country needs. Mr Speaker, Sir, this is no exaggeration. When money is voted for a project we expect that the project should be implemented, but when we cannot get staff and have to contend with the difficulty of filling vacancies, I do not think that such unexpended money increased the revenue. When the money voted last year was not expended and is carried forward this year the revenue is not increased. When we pay tax and the Government collects money from various sources, we want this money to be used immediately for the services which we require.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I would refer to the statement in respect of re-votes that no applications will be accepted unless they are within the estimated report approved by this House. Well, Sir, as far as my knowledge is concerned about re-votes, this means that the money provided last year for a special service, was not expended until this year and this money has to be brought to the expenditure side of the

Government estimates by means of re-votes. We must remember, Sir, that the money voted last year for a special work may not be sufficient to complete the work this year. I think the Prime Minister should have a little bit of consideration, if necessary, to increase the money needed for all such services.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I come to Agricultural Research. The difficulty in filling posts in the Agricultural Research Department is not at all interesting and it is not pleasing. Nigeria is an agricultural country and any money spent in research in that field is well spent for the country. I would appeal to the Government to please put more efforts and, if necessary, to increase the vote of expenditure on agricultural research, for we depend on these cash crops for the economy of the country. Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to support.

Mr L. L. Lakunle (Oyo North): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Second Reading of the Supplementary Appropriation Bill, ably moved by our new Prime Minister who happens to be the Minister of Finance. For the first time in the history of Nigeria, a Nigerian has presented the Supplementary Appropriation Bill and before long he will make the annual Budget speech. To us this is a step forward and we are very grateful to God for it. In fact, it is not an easy job to present the Appropriation Bill but we thank God that we have got the right man for the right position. (*Hear, hear*). We know how difficult it was for even financial experts to present the Bill, but our new Prime Minister has tackled it as though he were a financial expert.

Before I go on, Sir, I would like to thank particularly the Minister of Communications and Aviation... (*Interruption*)... I am coming to the present one. I am very grateful to the Minister of Communications and Aviation for the provisions he has made for the building of two post offices in my constituency. About two or three months ago P. & T. officials came to our place, surveying Iseyin and Shaki for the erection of two post offices. My people and myself are very grateful for this, and I would like to appeal to the new Minister of Communications and Aviation...

The Minister of Communications and Aviation (Chief S. L. Akintola): You are thanking him for surveying a place?

Mr Lakunle: After surveying it he gave us an assurance that work will start very soon.

Now, I would like to appeal to the new Minister of Communications and Aviation that we are still in need of two post offices, for Oke Iho and Irepo. These are places well known to him, and he has many friends there now, and I am quite sure that he will do his best to give us post offices there. It is always very difficult for people who represent more than a town to have amenities equally distributed. When you represent more than a town, if any amenity is taken to your town there is every tendency that people would feel that you have specially craved for the indulgence of the Minister to give that amenity to your own town. To save us from such a situation and embarrassment, I would appeal to the Minister once again to see that Irepo and Oke Iho have their own post offices, and telephone services.

Then another thing I would like to call the attention of the Government to is this question of railway for Oyo Division. Our people are very much in need of it, and as my hon. Father, the Chief E. O. Omolodun, has said, we want the Government to construct railway lines from Ibadan through Oyo to Ogbomosho and then to Ilorin.

Yet another thing, and the last thing, is this question of electricity. We have a very short time to go from now to 1960, and we cannot imagine a place as big as Oyo to have no light in an independent Nigeria. It will be very shameful. So I am appealing to the Minister of Power to do all that lies in his power to see that all these big places in the country, not just Oyo or any other place, all these big towns in the country, should be supplied with electricity before independence day. With these few remarks, I beg to support.

Mr L. S. Fonka (Bamenda): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Second Reading of this Bill. While doing so I have just a few observations to make. The first point I am raising, Mr Speaker, is about education. We quite appreciate the fact that there has been sufficient provision for scholarships, especially for the children of Lagos and the Southern Cameroons.

Here, Sir, I would like to say that I am very much afraid that the children of the Southern Cameroons do not benefit very

much from these provisions. I am giving the reason why I believe that they do not benefit very much from these provisions. If you examine the scholarships awarded for this year, you will see over a hundred scholarships, but you find about two or three Cameroonians having gained scholarships. This, Sir, I feel is insufficient, and I am suggesting that where the Cameroons children are found wanting in connection with academic qualifications to enter these higher colleges, scholarships for lower education may be awarded, and they be given more scholarships into secondary schools and that will give them the opportunity to benefit in the following year from Federal scholarships into higher colleges.

The next point I am raising, Mr Speaker, is about P. and T. I am very happy I have to raise this question to-day before a new Minister for this Ministry. Last year I made a point, and early this year, too, about irregular postal services between Bamenda and the divisions of Nkambe and Wum. Well, these divisions, Sir, suffer a great deal from irregularity of main service. Bamenda receives mail from the southern part of the Cameroons on every other day, but these two divisions get mail only once a week, and sometimes none at all. I am suggesting, Sir, that the Minister arranges for at least two land rovers to run mail from the main post office at Bamenda to Nkambe and to Wum every other day, too, as mails arrive at Bamenda every other day. Well, I am sure he will do it.

Then I go to the Police Force. We all appreciate the question of Nigerianisation in all Departments. I am appealing here, Sir, that Cameroonians be encouraged in the Police Force. Some of them have had promotion all right, but they do not serve in their own Territory and I think it is a very nice thing that about one or two of them—there are many more than one or two who are now in the senior service of this Force—be posted there to serve the territory, so as to encourage the youth of the Cameroons to join the Force. What I am saying here is not a question of sectionalism. Even in the London Constitutional Conference it was recommended that the Nigerian contingent stationed in the Regions be strengthened so that they will in future form the nucleus of Regional forces.

Then I go to Surveys. Mr Speaker, I wish the Minister were here to give me an account of the survey work that has been done in the Southern Cameroons up to the present moment, because we believe that that rocky, hilly country is full of mineral wealth, and it will need geological surveyors to bring the matter to light, and I am very much afraid, Mr Speaker, that very little work has been done in this respect.

The next point I would touch now is Trade and Industry. Early this year and the past years we have suggested that there should be some industry, however minor, established in the Southern Cameroons. For almost three years now nothing has been done, and I am suggesting that in Bamenda area of the Southern Cameroons where we have a lot of sugar cane growing, a sugar industry could be established there. I am very sorry that the Minister then did not do anything about it. We look forward to the hon. the new Minister who has taken up this Ministry to do something about this question of establishing a sugar industry in the Bamenda division of the Southern Cameroons.

Sitting suspended : 1.00 p.m.

Sitting resumed : 3 p.m.

Mr L. S. Fonka (Bamenda) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I will continue from where we left off this morning. I was talking on Head 46, Geological Survey. I was calling on the Minister to give in his answer to this Debate some sort of account of what has been done already in the Southern Cameroons, with regard to Geological Survey, and I expressed my regret that there have been no results ever since we began asking for extensive geological survey work in the Southern Cameroons. We of the Southern Cameroons believe, Sir, that there are minerals in the Southern Cameroons, and that we just need a bit of survey in order to exploit.

The next point I am raising is about the Public Works Department. I am talking about the Takum-Bisola-Nkamine Road. I feel, Mr Speaker, that this road has been long delayed. At the moment I hear, I do not know whether it is true, that the work on that road is very very slow, and it is rumoured that the vote on that road was somehow reduced to meet need of some urgent work somewhere on roads which were considered to be more important than this Takum-Bisola-Nkamine Road.

Talking about the road of the Southern Cameroons proper, I am not saying that no work is being done on this road, but the deficiency there, Sir, is that the engineers are not enough to carry on the work. There are too few and therefore the work goes on very slowly ; so I am appealing to the Minister of Works and Surveys to consider the question of posting more Nigerians to the Southern Cameroons to push on the work of these roads.

Either there is an increase of engineers or the work is given on contract because I think contractors might be very fast on the work. At the moment, as it is the case every year, these roads are closed and we become very unhappy when the time for the meeting of this House is approaching during this season. It is very difficult to travel on these roads and each time we arrive here we must spend large sums of money for repairing our land-rovers. These land-rovers were bought for the sake of those roads and yet the roads are so bad that these land rovers cannot even stand the strain of the journey. I am therefore appealing to the Minister of Works to do something to expedite the work on the Federal roads in the Southern Cameroons.

I will now talk a little about Head 27, Prisons. I do appreciate this section of the Estimates because I have noticed in Bamenda Prison that very good work is being done there by the prisoners, where a lot of handicraft is done and very valuable articles are produced and sold to people there. I think this is very praiseworthy of the Ministry concerned.

Mr Speaker, I beg to support.

M. Sanni Okin (Ilorin North) : Mr Speaker, I rise to support the first Supplementary Appropriation Bill presented to this hon. House by the first Prime Minister of the Federation of Nigeria. I have to advise the Prime Minister to be more vigilant in warning the Heads of Departments or vote controllers for the money given them, otherwise this House will still be called upon to approve another supplementary expenditure.

Now, to the Minister of Mines and Power. Perhaps the Minister should have been aware that a telegram was despatched to me which I received this morning from the Ilorin Town Council urging me to press this hon. House for supply of electricity. The question of the forthcoming independence is nothing to the majority of the people of this country unless the

promises made to them are fulfilled as quickly as possible. I believe the Ministers at the moment will not only sit down in the headquarters ; it is their duty now to be visiting all the corners, villages and hamlets of Nigeria and to preach the question of the forthcoming independence to the people.

To the Minister of Transport I have to make a few comments on the Ilorin Railway Station. Though a lot of improvement has been made, still we are not yet satisfied. Going to Ilorin Railway Station by night, though Ilorin is a big town, the railway station is nothing but a mere railway halt. No light, nothing whatsoever. A stranger going to Ilorin by night can easily miss his way at the Railway Station because there are no lights to guide him, and many properties have been so lost.

Another thing is to ask the Minister of Transport to assist the people of Ilorin as a majority of them are cattle dealers. The Railway authorities should make necessary arrangements to have a certain day for the cattle train to halt in Ilorin so that the people will be able to off load their cattle railed from far North quite all right. These people have been denied facilities of railing their cattle.

I am sorry the Minister of Communications and Aviation is not here at present. He will agree that Ilorin supplies Ogbomosho with cattle from Ilorin. Ilorin to Ogbomosho is about 33 miles. On the track, many cattle are lost and the cattle dealers frequently sustain heavy losses coupled with heavy taxes to the Native Authorities concerned. I do appeal that the Minister of Transport should make necessary arrangement to see that Ilorin is supplied with cattle trains.

The next thing is about Post Office. As I said in this House some few months ago, land has been acquired, compensation was duly paid, but up to the present moment there is no sign of putting up the new Post Office for Ilorin. A man going up to the Ilorin Post Office to buy an ordinary stamp has to stay there for about one hour before being served. I do appeal that our Ministers concerned should make efforts to travel round the country and to preach to the people before 2nd April, 1960, and to see that all the works on hand are urgently completed. I think the people will then be satisfied and the day of self-government will be wholeheartedly welcomed.

With these few remarks, I beg to support.

Mr E. O. Oyedeji (Oshun South): Mr Speaker, in rising to support this Supplementary Appropriation Bill, I have some observations to make. Mr Speaker, Sir, we have been told very often in this very hon. House that all Trunk A roads will be improved and widened, but to my surprise nothing has been done to them. Take for instance, Mr Speaker, Trunk A road from Ibadan to Ife. It is very, very bad, and I am appealing to the Minister of Works.....

The Minister of Works and Surveys (Hon. Alhaji Inuwa Wada): I cannot hear him properly.

Mr Speaker: The complaint is that the hon. Member is not easily heard at this end of the Chamber. Will he speak out as loud as he can?

Mr Oyedeji: I am talking of the Trunk A road from Ibadan to Ife and Ilesha. If you travel on this road, you will see that the road is very, very bad, and this bad condition of the road is always causing fatal accidents on the road. I am appealing to the Minister of Works to please take immediate action on this. Again, if you travel on the Lagos-Ikorodu road, you will see that at Mile 63 a very dangerous bridge is there. It is very narrow and also I met on several occasions when coming down to Lagos.....

The Minister of Works and Surveys: On a point of explanation, Sir. The hon. Member says Mile 63, but the Lagos-Ikorodu road is not up to that distance.

Mr Oyedeji: I mean between Ikorodu and Ibadan, Mile 63 to Ibadan. This bridge is very narrow and it is already damaged. I am appealing to the Minister to go and see it face to face so that he may be able to take steps.

Mr Speaker, I am now coming to the Minister of Communications and Aviation.

In view of the present need of telecommunications in Aiyedade and Egbedore Districts, I am now appealing to the Minister of Communications and Aviation to consider to erect at least one departmental Post Office in this area. With these few remarks I beg to support.

Mr G. O. Ebea (Ishan): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the second reading of the Supplementary Appropriation Bill. Although the amount involved in this Bill is heavy I know it will receive the usual support and

approval of this House. Hon. Members approve these huge sums of money in our Estimates, not because of the pleasure of doing so, but they do it with the understanding that when the money is approved it will be spent on things that will bring development and progress to Nigeria; but in most cases Members as well as the electorate of this country are disappointed in the way this money is spent. In the Estimates it will be discovered that money voted for various capital works in the previous years was not spent. It generally lapses with the financial year. This is not to the pleasure of the people. What we want to see is what we spend that money for. We want good roads, good bridges, hospitals, Post Offices and so many other good works done in our country. I am speaking from experience.

As far back as 1954, provision was made for the building of a Post Office at Ubiaja. Year in, year out that money is inserted in the Estimates but the building is never done. Ditto in the case of other Post Offices in respect of the same Division. Members find it very difficult to explain these things off to the electorate when they are put to question: 'What are you doing in the Federal House? Every year we hear you discuss the Estimates. You make so much provision. What have you done with this provision yearly made?' And in fact we have always found it difficult to explain the position of things. Now we know the amount of difficulty the Members of the Council of Ministers take in preparing the Estimates and then they try to push them through this House, but they too should also see that this money which is approved by the House is put into use. You ask for more money and the one already approved cannot be spent.

I am appealing to the Council of Ministers that whenever provision is made in the Estimates it must be used for whatever the money is intended for.

Now another point I would like to stress is the question of the Mid-West State (*Hear, hear*). This part of the country has been very much neglected. I remember a Member posed a question this morning asking what has happened to the provision made for the construction of a bridge between Asaba and Onitsha. We have not been able to know how far that work has been carried; whether there is the possibility of bridging the river or not

remains to be known to us. We are anxious. Again there has been another piece of road between Ijebu-Ode and Benin. The Minister this morning stated that that piece of road would not be ready by October, which was the normal time for the road to be built through. The complaint has not been that there is no money in the Estimates. Right enough there is sufficient money for this work to be carried on. We feel that it is lack, I think, of strict supervision that holds up this work. We people from that side of the country are very anxious to see that this piece of road is built and tarred before the end of the Financial Year (*hear, hear*).

Now again, Sir, I will also appeal to the Council of Ministers to take note that the Mid-West area is not sufficiently connected with other Regions of the country. I have on several occasions applied that the piece of road running through Agbor to Ishan through Afemai to Okene should be constructed and maintained by the Federal Government. It is not a very long piece of road and there is not much bridge or culvert to be built but that will help part of the Mid-West area to be connected with the Northern Region. In fact, I am only asking that as much as the Federal Government can do to help the Mid-West area should be done because it is a child just in the womb about to be born.

Mr Speaker, Sir, with these few remarks I support the Second Reading of the Bill.

Mallam Usman Angulu Ahmed (Koton-Karifi, Kwara Division, Lokoja): Mr Speaker, Sir, in supporting the second reading of this Supplementary Appropriation Bill of 1957-58, which was ably presented by the hon. the first Prime Minister of the Federation of Nigeria, I should use this opportunity to congratulate him and the Council of Ministers and anybody who has contributed to the Bill up to the present time. Sir, this is the first of its kind in the political history of Nigeria. I say so because it was the Financial Secretary that used to present the Bill.

Considering the speeches made by the Prime Minister yesterday no one will have any doubt that this personality, whom I shall describe as a National God-chosen hero, will lead this country to the goal of independence in April 1960. May I give my unqualified advice to the Prime Minister: that this money when passed by this House should be expended to benefit all corners of this country. In

this, Sir, I am calling the attention of the Minister of Communications and Aviation to take steps to eradicate the postal difficulties and to inform the Minister that there is a great need of telephone facility at Lokoja to connect the four Divisional Headquarters of Kabba Province. Sir, they are as follows:—Lokoja-Idda, Lokoja-Koton-Karifi, Lokoja-Kabba, Lokoja-Okene, for easy transaction.

Sir, in March I put a question asking the then Minister of Communications and Aviation to provide power canoes to run mail between Koton-Karifi and Lokoja, which are being carried now by bicycle by N.A. messengers. This method of carriage has been presenting great difficulties in the delivery of mail. I am appealing strongly to the Minister of Communications and Aviation to use his good offices to stamp out these difficulties.

Sir, with these few remarks, I beg to support.

Mr J. Mpi (Ahoada): Mr Speaker, I rise to support the second reading of this Supplementary Appropriation Bill. In doing so I will first of all congratulate the Council of Ministers for all that they have been able to achieve during the year. When I say so it does not mean that I have not a few observations to make on the things lacking in my Division.

I remember last Budget Session I made mention that His Excellency the Governor-General came to my Division and not only promised the people that a post office would be built in Ahoada Division but also said that money had been earmarked for it. Up to now that promise has not been fulfilled. The people ask whether the Governor-General can say one thing and fail to do it. Can he make a promise and fail to fulfil it? I don't know what answer to give. I am taking this opportunity to put it to the Prime Minister and Council of Ministers to try and redeem that pledge. After all, those things matter a lot. When such a statement is made and is not fulfilled it goes a long way to spoil our reputation in the area.

The next thing is about roads. There is no better road in my Division. (Dr Udoma knows very well, I am sorry to be personal.) When I say that I mean Trunk B roads because I heard that some of the roads are being taken over by the Minister of Works. I don't know whether this is one of the roads. If it is not I think he should try to take over some of

these roads. I will first of all praise him because I see a lot of good work that he has done in the past year.

Another point I would like to bring to the notice of the House is the road from Owerri to Port Harcourt. Often this road was said to be a Trunk B road but such an important road leading to a port like Port Harcourt is supposed to be Federal responsibility. I don't know whether the Minister of Works has anything to say because I remember last time he promised to reconsider that road. With these few remarks I support the Appropriation Bill.

Mr F. E. Ngale (Victoria): Mr Speaker, Sir, in supporting this Supplementary Appropriation Bill it is my wish to point out one important thing which is of great concern to the life of the people of the Cameroons, and that is roads.

Sir, a Colleague of mine has made quite a number of points about the road system in the Cameroons and I feel I am in a position to lay more emphasis. The road system in the Trust Territory requires special attention by the Minister of Works. We appreciate much of what has already been done by the Federal Government in putting up permanent bridges, road widening, tarring; but drainage of the road between Kumba and Mamfe has not yet begun. I will draw the attention of the Minister of Works to one particular road existing in the Trust Territory that is the by-pass road linking Kumba and Bamenda. The road passes through Bakosi, and as I say, at this particular season of the year it is absolutely difficult for people in the Southern Cameroons sector to move up to the Northern sector of the Trust Territory that is in Bamenda Province. By the assistance of this by-pass road which connects a section of the French Cameroons most of the traffic is done between Bamenda and Kumba.

I know it can be argued that this is a Regional responsibility. Not long ago the Executive Member in charge of Works in the Southern Cameroons conducted an inspection of the bridge which cost almost £50,000. This road is almost becoming an international one because quite a number of people who move to the French Cameroons and the department of Customs and Excise who check smuggling between the French and the British sectors use this road most.

I feel the time has come when the Federal Department should look into it either to take over this road as an international road or render certain assistance to the Regional Government in order that it might be brought up to standard.

The next point I wish to touch is the Posts and Telegraphs Department. I don't have to quarrel much about this but I have to say something about the post office in the headquarters of the Trust Territory of the Cameroons, that is in Buea. It will be a disgrace to the Minister in charge of Communications if he goes to the Trust Territory, to the headquarters, to see what is called a post office. Tiko, Kumba and other places have better post offices than Buea. I remember when I was in the Finance Committee a special vote was made for the construction of the post office in Buea. This money has been there for about two years but no action has been taken. I wish to ask why the Federal Department has not taken any positive action to see that this post office is put up. Maybe the Minister will say that siting has been the cause, but even then I have made close representation to the Regional Executive Member in charge of that. I want to ask the Minister in charge—the siting is there, the money is there, what is delaying the work?

I feel the Minister in charge of this should try to do something about it. As my Colleague has already mentioned the activities required of other departments in the Cameroons, I will similarly stress the same point.

Finally I will touch the Police Department. I remember when we came here during the Budget session, I think on one of the Heads it was stated that they were going to provide a Vehicle Inspecting Officer to assist the existing one in the Trust Territory of the Cameroons. But up till now there is only one and the services of this Vehicle Officer are not enjoyed by all transport owners in the Cameroons. As it happens quite a number of times the Vehicle Inspecting Officer goes up to Bamenda.....

It may be a month or two, but what happens to motor vehicle owners in this section in the Southern Cameroons? Their licences would expire and they would not be allowed to drive their vehicles on the road, but they have paid for the insurance and without having their vehicle on the road it really affects them to a

certain extent, so I am appealing to the Prime Minister if he can enforce what has previously been considered, in providing another vehicle inspection officer in the Cameroons Province and so assist.

To end up, Sir, I would like to say with regard to the Prime Minister that I do feel that his personality and his statesmanship will help this House. (*Applause*).

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to support.

M. Muhammadu Bello Alkamawa (East Central Sokoto): Mr Speaker, Sir, I am very glad that this is the first time that this legislature has presented a financial measure to a fully representative Federal Government. It is equally important that representatives would like to approve expenditure and items very vital to the progress of this country, especially when expenditure is reasonably incurred. The Prime Minister said that some aspects of the economic programme have not been implemented due to the enormous amount of planning and preparatory work on contract documents and ordering of stores and equipment. Although the Economic Programme of this country is being gradually implemented, among other things roads and transport, I feel bound to express my fear about the slowness of the progress of this programme.

Surely Sir, considering the Prime Minister's statement on this issue, I suggest that drastic measures should be adopted by the Federal Government to protect peoples lives and property on the roads of this country. What suggestions we can give to the Government may at times go beyond the content of the approved Programme, but Sir, I find it very difficult to agree with the hon. Minister of Works and Surveys in his statement last Tuesday in the matter of the motor accident on a certain bridge in Sokoto Province. That bridge is the worst bridge that I have ever travelled across, worse than anyone here has ever seen. If the Minister insists that it was the driver's fault, then I would say that ten other drivers could not have made the same mistake as they happened to have had the same accident on the same spot. Mr Speaker, Sir, that was not the first lorry to fall into that bridge. There is, Sir, an embankment stretching for about a quarter of a mile and these are not the first lives that stretch of road has been devouring. Therefore, Sir, delay is dangerous,

and we cannot afford to have work delayed at the expense of ten to forty-one lives a year at one single place while the same work continues at other places less open to danger.

Mr Speaker, Sir, it is one thing to approve an expenditure and another to get it executed. All items in the Estimates on development plans must be sufficiently dealt with and undertakings for them carried out. It is only then that Members of this House will feel that sufficient and justifiable services are being rendered to the peoples of this country for their economic and social services. I find it very difficult, Sir, to cite an instance in my constituency to which I can associate these people with Federal Government activities for which they feel that I am responsible as their representative in this House.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to support.

Chief J. I. G. Onyia (Asaba): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Bill. (*Hear, hear*). I shall begin by asking my Prime Minister and his colleagues in the Ministry the position regarding our financial policy. Now in so doing I am thinking of the independence of this country, of the political emancipation likely to be sabotaged by the enemies who say we should allow economic freedom to precede our political freedom. And now that we are advancing politically I do know that the enemies are hard at work so that when we shall attain our political independence we shall in one way or the other be thrown into economic bondage.

Mr Speaker, it is most depressing for some of us to read of the ways the country's money is being dissipated. We hear of children's allowances, separation allowances, inducement additions, and after all this, we begin to hear again of disturbance and hard lying allowances. What is the difference between this hard lying and this disturbance allowance, and the inducement, wives and childrens' allowances?

I heard some discordant voice here over the question of the Finance Committee. It would appear, Mr Speaker, that some people do not know the indispensability of a Finance Committee in any Government, even in Local Government. No Government can run efficiently without having to delegate some of its functions to some competent committees, particularly the Finance Committee. I feel those who speak about abolishing the Finance Committee do not

seem to realise the importance of that Committee in the working of any Government. I oppose the view to scrap the Finance Committee.

Well, I come to the question of Nigerianisation of the Civil Service. The time has come, I feel, my Prime Minister, that a committee of this House should be set up to go into the question of Nigerianisation of the Civil Service department by department. Our ears are full with various methods by which our own qualified Africans or Nigerians are being discouraged and are being suppressed from getting to the top of the ladder.

Mr Speaker, Sir, during the debate on the Nigerianisation of the Civil Service, I made a suggestion which I thought was pertinent and I still feel it is pertinent if we all think that we can speed up the Nigerianisation of the Civil Service. I said that scholarships should be awarded straightaway to certain students in colleges whose Principals have good record of their bent of mind in certain branches of knowledge, Principals who keep records of various aptitudes of children. Award them scholarships straightaway instead of organising examinations. Examination is never a fair test of knowledge. Sometimes a very good child, due to nervousness, fails very badly in an examination. But if we go back to the school, meet the Principal, ask him about this child, the Principal will be able to tell us: "This child is good, this record of the child is good, this child has this bent of mind, he is fit for this or for that job, award him a scholarship straightaway and let him go to the college." I have seen how scholarships are being awarded but I do not seem to be highly impressed because there is less award of scholarships to something like engineering. I would like to see more awards of scholarships to would-be engineers instead of this and that, as I see, coming to study Arts, B.A., Bachelor of Alcohol, I do not know.

Some years ago, the Police Department realised the need of extending the Police Force in Asaba and acquired a piece of land. This piece of land has been lying fallow ever since. Two years ago I interviewed the Deputy Inspector-General of Police over the question and he told me they were going to look into it the following year. That was 1955, and the following year would be 1956. Ever since, nothing has happened and the site has not been occupied. I do not know the reason

why and there is need for extension of the Police in Asaba. Asaba has become a converging centre of all travellers by land and water from East and West. About the 14th of last month, three Europeans were apprehended at Asaba in the night and hurried back to Lagos—they were absconding to somewhere in South Africa. They were travelling in one jeep car No. LC 4034. What crime they committed to be apprehended and hurried back to Lagos I cannot say; the Government is in a position to say so; but I am saying this to show the importance of Asaba in dealing with crimes.

In about March 1955 or 1956, Mr Speaker, hon. J. M. Udochi pleaded the cause of a certain section of the Police Force—those who retired between the period pension was not awarded. Those who worked before them earn their pension; those who worked after them earned their pension, but this unfortunate section of the people who served the Government faithfully for over 14 years have no pension and are suffering. I am wondering whether the Government would not think of doing something to alleviate their suffering and would not therefore do so by legislation in accordance with Standing Order 10 subsection (6).

Mr Speaker, Sir, I feel that the Governments of the Federation are squarely responsible for the labour unrest in this country. I say so because these Governments encourage the break-neck competition in fixing salaries to attract applicants. One Region fixes a very high salary and people rush there and those that do not rush that way feel absolutely dissatisfied to remain in their own Region and so there is always trouble and this trouble can continue unless the Governments of the Federation will come together to agree on a national wage structure (*Hear, hear*).

The tarring of our roads is really necessary and the Minister of Works and Surveys is doing his very best for the care of our roads but I have a suggestion to offer. In some respects you will find that a certain part of a road is being tarred. The Minister allows his contractor to start on one side of the road, even though there are some bad spots, bad areas, all along the roads where there are big pot holes, which ought to receive priority of treatment first. The Minister has money enough to repair the worst parts of the roads instead of

starting from one end. Contractors started tarring the road from Jos going along to Onitsha, whereas you have pot holes and you have places where, when there is a drizzle of rain, one must halt for hours. Why not take care of those areas, instead of starting from Jos where the road is better?

As you go on the roads you need signposts indicating the place you are going to. In some places along the roads you have no such signposts whereas you should have signposts whereas you should have signposts especially where you have crossroads. The mileage posts on the roads are not visible enough to show you how far you are moving. Attention should be given to that.

Commerce and Industry. I have yet to know what the Minister contemplates doing with the lignite discovered in Asaba Division very many years ago. Is there any industry to be established on this lignite which was discovered before the Enugu coal? There were times when bags of this lignite were carried away, for reasons best known to the Government. This has happened and the reason remains to be disclosed by the Government (*Interruption*)—the Minister of Lands, Mines and Power. I am talking about industry in connection with the lignite. I think that the Minister of Commerce and Industry understands that industries like the production of nylon, tar, gas, etc., can be established by utilising these deposits.

Transport. I am asking the Minister to protect passengers on the ferry, who are unduly molested by the so called Passenger Collectors. The passengers are given no freedom whatsoever to choose their own transport, to the extent that some lose their loads (*Interruption*.) It happens in Lagos here. Who is going to take care of the ferry? The Minister of Transport?

I do not know what the Minister of Lands, Mines and Power proposes to do with the coal discovered at Ebu in Asaba Division. We want to know what plans he has in respect of this coal. The Government went there and took some bags of coal and went away, but nothing has been heard about the result. If it is good coal we do not know, if it is bad coal we do not know, what the government proposes to do about the coal we do not know.

Mr Speaker, Sir, Onitsha is a stone throw from Asaba, across the River Niger which,

whether bridged or not, could be connected with Asaba in any way by electric light, and I think it is possible by cable underground, similar cable used in connecting Asaba and Onitsha by telephone and telegraph could be used in connecting Onitsha and Asaba to get electric light. I am appealing to the Minister of Mines and Power to consider extending electric light from Onitsha to Asaba.

Now, to the Minister of Education. I appeal to the Minister of Education to do something to assist certain of our children abroad who are doing well in colleges but, unfortunately, are in financial difficulties. I am asking our Minister of Education to find out those people and award scholarships to them. Some do apply, and what happens to their applications I do not know, but I do receive letters from certain of them who applied. What happened to their applications heaven knows. That they are doing well can be established from the colleges attended by these students. Please help them to help to Nigerianise the Civil Service.

In conclusion.....

Mr Speaker: The hon. Gentleman has only one minute.

Chief Onyia: Well, I have come to the end of my speech, I only wish to take this opportunity to congratulate my Prime Minister and to say in underlining what he said in this House that we should have it as a slogan in this country, unity on top, hard work, peace and tranquillity under, to be inscribed everywhere. Thank you.

Mr L. J. Dosunmu (Lagos East): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Second Reading of the Supplementary Appropriation Bill. This, to the best of my knowledge is the first time that we are being called upon to debate a Bill of this nature, and it speaks very well of the hon. the Prime Minister to have introduced this new procedure. There is everything that can be said in favour of this new procedure. It gives the opportunity to all Members of this House to debate Government's supplementary provision that becomes necessary during the course of the year, and it also enables us to disagree with some of the proposals of the Government if we feel so inclined. This new procedure rules out the old medium of incurring huge expenditure at the back of this House, either by using the Standing Committee on

Finance or otherwise, and later at the end of the year coming to this House and asking us to cover up what has been done. That is just crying over split milk. Considerable amounts of money would have been spent with the approval of the Standing Committee of six or seven Members and one or two years after this House will be faced with a long list of the amount that has been spent and what can we do in the circumstances? We just have to cover it up. But by the Prime Minister introducing this new procedure he has given us a very fine opportunity of examining the financial provisions that they want to make for the half-year and I thank the Prime Minister for this new procedure, and we hope it is going to continue yearly as he has promised.

Now, it is said, Sir, that it will not be necessary to continue the Standing Committee on Finance. Mr Speaker, there is a great force in the argument that if we continue this half-yearly meeting and if this yearly opportunity of discussing the financial provision is retained, very little use ought to be made of the Standing Committee on Finance. . . (*Applause*). And therefore, Sir, if it is considered by Government that situations could demand the summoning of the Finance Committee, such situations should be as spare as possible.

Mr Speaker, Sir, in the speech of the hon. the Prime Minister he disclosed to us, Sir, that a sizeable amount out of the sum of over £1,300,000 is required in connection with the Nigerianisation of the service, and he did say, Sir, that all the proposals received the support of the Nigerianisation officer.

Mr Speaker, I must confess my own worries over this Nigerianisation. My own understanding of it, Sir, is a gradual and systematic replacement of the expatriate officers by Nigerians. I do not understand Nigerianisation policy to mean, Sir, leaving the existing establishments as they are and only in an attempt to silence the yearnings of the African creating two or three posts and earmarking them for Nigerians. That will not lead us anywhere, Sir; if you look at the establishments you will find the establishments as they are, but because there is hue and cry everywhere for Nigerianisation some people think the way to get round about it is creating additional posts that can be marked out for Nigerians. I do not think, Sir, that is the

purpose of Nigerianisation because, if it is going to be, Sir, it is going to be a heavy burden on this country. What I understand Nigerianisation policy to mean, Sir, as I said, is a gradual, but judicious re-placement of the present expatriate officers by Nigerians.

Now, a lot is being said about Nigerianisation. Having adopted this as a policy, Sir, we must satisfy ourselves whether it is something that is going to redound to the benefit of this country or not. Mr Speaker, what is the use of Nigerianisation if the cost of administration of this country is going to be heavier than when we have expatriate officers there? Certainly, Sir, if it is going to cost so much money to maintain the administration after the whole Civil Service has been Nigerianised. I think it is time we had a proper assessment of the situation.

There is one instance I would like to point out. A lot has been said about it, and that is in connection with the allowances that are being paid. It is true that we have to pay some civil servants what is termed disturbance allowance, but I do not understand, Sir, what we mean by re-settlement allowance. The two are lumped together. It is a shame, Sir, that a Nigerian Officer who has been posted overseas, on his return to his own home town has to be resettled, and that will cost us a lot of money to do so.

Mr Speaker, Sir, if we criticise our Government for paying disturbance allowance to Officers who are posted overseas, is it only right also that we should criticise this sort of resettlement allowance. I just cannot understand it. A Nigerian is posted overseas, and after working for a period of time he returns to his own home town, and for that reason he has got to be given some sort of allowance for resettlement. Under what administration have we heard that this is being done. We cannot say that because it is only meant for Africans we can gloss over it: it is unjustified. It is a sheer waste of money, I think, Sir, and it is our duty to say it in this House. There is no justification whatsoever for disturbance allowance: there is no justification whatsoever for resettlement allowance.

Mr Speaker, Sir, we are all hoping for a completely Nigerianised service, but are we going to continue these special conditions of service, of maintaining houses for Nigerian Civil Servants. It is a historical accident that

The surplus revenue accruing to us actually shows the perfect stability of our financial resources. For this, one must have to congratulate our Government.

Many speakers have raised various views as regards the financial policy of the Government and it is of no use going to repeat the argument raised by other speakers but I would like to draw Government's attention to two most important things which I feel the Government should take a serious view about. One thing that has delayed the advancement of this country is the delay in taking up any matter proposed by Government. For instance, it has been proposed that the road between Abakaliki and Ahe should be tarred. Now this proposal was done in 1955. I was told that the body to survey the road was actually doing the work and it was going to take six weeks to do the survey; after the survey then it would take six months to put up the contract documents before the tarring could begin. A considerable delay indeed, and it is so in other matters in other departments. There is much delay in carrying out the work of Government. Why is this delay? That is a set-back, a deterrent to the advancement of the country's economy. Once we approve a project and there is money for it we must go ahead with it.

One other thing is about the improvement of the economy of Nigeria. There is a mining Company in Abakaliki Division. This Company has discovered that lead-zinc deposits abound at Abakaliki. It has been found that it remains only £1,000,000 to get the work going. Many things have been done. Staff have been acquired; aerial survey, then a scheme for laying the road put up, but then the only set-back is that there is no money to carry on the work. There is only £1,000,000 required to start the work. The Federal Government in the last budget under-wrote a sum of £350,000 as a contribution towards the project but then it remains about £650,000 to carry on. Now, if the Federal Government will be realistic enough in facing the issue, I think it should put in again a sum of £250,000, that is paying part of this amount of money required.

It is true that the Prime Minister in his speech mentioned that overseas investors are assured that their money will not be in any way mis-spent.

But it appears to me that oversea investors are afraid to invest somehow. If the oversea investors are afraid to invest in an enterprise like this which is likely to yield money why cannot we float an internal loan and finance the project. If the Federal Government takes another £250,000 of this money it will remain only £400,000 to start with. This £400,000 can be taken up by local government bodies in the country and if they contribute £10,000 each I think it will be sufficient to raise £400,000 to carry on the work at Abakaliki. If we have the material resources why should we wait for oversea investors to invest before we start. We can raise this money in Nigeria. Some businessmen can invest, it only remains for the Government to float an internal loan so that we can find this money. I feel that we are sitting down to look for other people to carry our financial burden. That is why we are wasting time over this important industry—lead-zinc mining at Abakaliki.

A body was appointed sometime ago to investigate the possibility of running this lead-zinc mining industry profitably. The body reported that it is a profitable enterprise and will be yielding not less than £250,000 profit every year. The report was circulated to members. Why cannot we raise an internal loan and get this company to start working at once? That is a way of advancing the economy of this country. It is no use waiting for oversea investors when they feel afraid to invest. But they should not be afraid because the Prime Minister has given them the assurance that the future is stable and we are not going to interfere with the money of any investor. These are the points I really want to emphasize. There has been delay in implementing the project. Six months to put out contract documents! Waiting for other people to carry our financial burden. This should stop at once.

One other thing I would like to refer to is the way certain corporations make use of the money given to them by the Government for carrying out work. For instance the Electricity Corporation of Nigeria. This Corporation has got enough money. According to this Supplementary Estimate £225,000 has been given already to the Electricity Corporation to subsidise the Corporation for the amenities undertakings. It remains only about £25,000 to be approved in this Estimate to help them to subsidise the

amenities. I understand also that a sum of £6,000 has been made as a grant for the installation of a big engine at Abakaliki and up till this time the Corporation has done nothing. If the Government gives money to the Corporation why does the Corporation waste time to make use of the money? When we give money to the Corporations we must also urge them to do what they are expected to do. Otherwise we are getting money to lie without being put into use. With these few observations I beg to support.

Mr R. T. Alege (Kabba): Mr Speaker, I beg to support this Motion. I would like to point out that the Minister of Works and Surveys is not yet aware of the condition of Trunk road A 13 between Ilorin and Lokoja. In answering some of my questions the Minister assured me that the road is now better than before but I want to report to the Minister that the following bridges are not in good condition. The Arifun Bridge at mile 28 on Trunk road A 13 from Kabba has been entirely swept away by flood. Two bridges in Mopa were wrecked and recently we had a motor accident at a bridge near a local treasury.

The Minister himself, when he toured the area last quarter, could see how dangerous are the five-mile Oshoko-Shoko bends between Kabba and Lokoja, Okessa steep hill between Omuoran and Oke Onigbin. On that road it is very difficult for two vehicles to cross each other and I believe when the Minister was travelling through that road he could only travel at about ten miles an hour. The Minister assured me last year that there was fund for a bridge called Owo at Mopa. Till now nothing has been done about it. There is work going on the Effo Mopa bridge but three quarters of the workers there have been laid off without finishing the work. If the Minister will pay another visit it will be to the pleasure of the people.

With these few remarks I beg to support.

Mallam Maitama Sule (Kano City): Mr Speaker, Sir, the way in which the Federal Prime Minister has ably presented the Supplementary Appropriation Bill is an indication that those who thought otherwise of us are really mistaken. We are really impressed by the way the Federal Prime Minister and Minister of Finance has done his work. Not only that. We think that even though he

confessed it is not his own making the fact that he has to present before this hon. House a collective responsibility of the Council of Ministers—and a very difficult responsibility too—needs the intelligence and tact of a person like himself.

But, Sir, in a debate of this nature we are mainly concerned with the overall economic picture of the country and whatever we may say must therefore reflect on the economic stability or otherwise of the country. Experts have always agreed that in any economic planning or programme no one side can be or should be left out at the expense of another. The neglect of any one thing even though it may seem to be very small may adversely affect the overall planning and may even go further to distort it. Under the circumstances therefore any reorganisation or anything affecting Government Departments or public corporation is certainly worth considering and worth the consideration of this hon. House.

Now, Sir, in the contents of a certain letter, a copy of which I have received which was addressed to your goodself congratulating the Prime Minister, I agree with some parts of the letter, but with other parts of the letter I do not at all agree for very many reasons. As you are aware, Sir, salary-earners are being asked to sacrifice 12½ per cent of their salary so that the wage-earners of the lower income group can be paid more adequately. This, Sir, according to the letter, should discourage demand for wage increases so that in between now and 1960 there would be peace and calm in the country, and thus the energies can be devoted and concentrated on major work necessary for our independence in 1960. Thus, Sir, while the question of 12½ per cent sacrifice may be very ridiculous in that every salary-earner including those in the lower income group pays tax, according to his income, I feel that the other part of the letter is not so obnoxious.

If workers themselves could realise, at least for this period, that the period between now and 1960 has been declared by the Prime Minister as a period of emergency, and if as a result of that they could refrain from unnecessary strikes, it would be a good thing and would do a world of good to the country and to the economy of the country. It would greatly benefit the economy and stability of our country. (*Hear, hear*).

all times. (*Hear, hear*). This man ably carried his onerous duties when he was in this House and without any hurt to himself ran the gauntlet of hard criticism of expatriate Members of the Council of Ministers which was provoked by the tactlessness of one or two top-notch Members of the expatriate members of the Council. We hope that the gentleman will find a more enhanced position in the new order in Nigeria. Nigeria needs more men like him.

It is my duty and the duty of every Member of this House to advise our Prime Minister as much as we can in the discharge of his duties at all times. In the sphere of development, I hope the hon. the Prime Minister will consider extending our Federal roads into as many parts of the country as possible. . . . (*hear, hear*). . . . with the purpose in mind always of opening up the country for trade purposes, evacuation of produce and inter-communication of our peoples. It does not matter in the least if these new roads are not tarred ; the essential thing is opening up the country for more trade. These new roads will adequately repay the country by making available for utilisation some of the yet untapped resources of Nigeria.

Further, it is time we think seriously of revising our policy of making very narrow roads ; our roads are extremely narrow, and we have to repair them again and again because of the heavy traffic in their narrow confines. I think it is about time we take a new leaf from Ghana where all the new roads are 100 ft. wide.

Unfortunately, Mr Speaker, between now and independence, if only for the very heavy traffic that this Federal Capital must accommodate during the self-government festivities, a second bridge joining Lagos with the Mainland must be constructed.

I think we all remember the congestion between Lagos and the Mainland during the Queen's visit and I can assure Members of this House that more traffic, at least twice if not three times more traffic, will be on our roads when we achieve our independence. For whereas only Nigerians honoured the Queen, Nigerians will honour our National Independence Day but, at the same time, we are bound to have visitors from other countries in their hundreds, coming to Nigeria. That is the time we must put Nigeria on the map. (*An hon. Member : Again*). Again, and again and again. It will not do for foreigners to come to Nigeria and have to travel from their

hotels, may be from the Ikeja Arms, and take four hours to arrive in Lagos. I think, Sir, that the Government, at this stage, must seriously consider that any effort they use in making a new bridge and completing, very quickly, the road joining the road to Apapa, will not be lost.

Coming, Sir, to the issue of industrialisation, I must submit that we must accelerate our plans for industrialisation and make them on a concise basis. We must be very clear as to what we want and I think we have the man to lead the Government to achieve this purpose. I submit, Sir, the Federal Government must work hand in hand and must be in continuous consultation, not in competition, with Regional Governments on this issue. Further, Sir, our education and our scholarships must be co-ordinated with the desired progress in community development. Scholarships must be awarded for future manning of proposed industries and for specific posts in all branches of the Civil Service, in order to make Nigerianisation a complete success in the very near future.

There is one question, Mr Speaker, that we must ask ourselves. Has Nigerianisation really succeeded, has it? Let us conceive that the process is perfect. What do we want to achieve by our policy of Nigerianisation? That is the first question we have to ask ourselves. Mr Speaker, I will say, Sir, that it is not enough just to put Nigerians in all the executive posts in the Civil Service, I do not believe that only is the reason why we are pursuing this policy. I will say, Sir, that the two chief factors are : one, that any expatriates in our Civil Service will first and foremost look after their jobs, the first thing they will have to look after will be their bread and butter, Nigeria is only secondary. I am not saying this at all to spite or to disparage the work of the present Civil Servants, it is only natural that any foreigners in any country will have to look after their job principally as a job, first and foremost, before any issue on that particular country comes in. The second point is this—we want our people higher up on the ladder because we believe and we know that it is much too expensive to keep a large expatriate staff. The first question I am not in a position to answer, I can only leave the question of loyalty to the Government. The fact whether our own men in high places have been loyal to

Nigeria, can only be answered by Government. But I am certain of the second answer. Up till now, Nigerianisation has not made our financial economy appreciably cheaper, it has not, we have not looked into that aspect of it, on that field it has not been successful.

I say, Sir, that our Prime Minister needs very great courage in this field. It will be his duty to tighten the money bags of the nation. He has more goodwill to-day as a leader in the whole country, than anybody else. (*Hear, hear*). He has the full support of every Member of this House and we are representatives of our people. The time has come, Mr Speaker, when we must make our people realise that sacrifice is the essence of national independence. To make national independence succeed, our people must be taught the lesson of sacrifice. We must tighten our belts and I can assure you the task ahead of us is prodigious. But, Sir, we in this House must lead. If our schemes and if our proposals are to be accepted by the nation, we Members of the House of Representatives, must lead the issue of state economy. Every Member of this House must have his allowances and salary cut down till it hurts. That is not, repeat, not politics. These are facts that we have to assimilate and we have to consider very seriously if we are going to give a lead to the nation.

Further, Sir, if Members of this House really desire self-government, the best example they can give to the people will be self-denial first. Before you tell the ordinary worker in the street, that this and that is not good, "Don't ask for more wages", we will have to give them an example. I am certain if we do that the enthusiasm for self-Government will spread throughout the whole country like wild fire.

Mr Speaker, Sir, if we are to win the respect of the whole world, if we are to win a place among the nations of the world after self-Government, if we are to reap the fruits and the wealth that nations of great power reap in the present world, we must be prepared to pay our way. We all speak of the destiny of Nigeria, we all say Nigeria is destined—I think my friend, the hon. Maitama Sule said that—"We are fed up of being ruled, it is about time we thought of ruling others." I am not saying whether this is right or wrong but if we are to survive in the present world, if we are to be a national power—as we want to be, as we have

to be to exist—we have to lay the foundations of it now. It is not after we have been left alone that we can create the circumstances of a good foundation, it is now we have to do it. I hope, Sir, that the hon. the Prime Minister and his Cabinet, will think seriously on these matters and when next we come here to the Budget Session, we shall see evidence that this Government is prepared to suffer in order that the country might progress.

Furthermore, Sir, I think we can make further cuts in our national economy if we consider whether or not a proper use has been made of our University College at Ibadan. Scholarships are given for all kinds of faculties for our young men to go overseas. That is quite good. But we ourselves realise the great cost to the country that these scholarships are. Yet, I understand that many faculties are not even filled at Ibadan University. What are we doing about it? I think, Sir, that the hon. the Prime Minister should look into this and see that before our boys proceed overseas every effort has been made to see that all available space in the Ibadan University has been filled.

Furthermore, Sir, in our College of Arts, Science and Technology we have certain ghost faculties. They existed only on paper. These faculties are to deceive you and me and the people in general. They say the faculty of this, the faculty of that, but they do not exist at all. Well, Sir, it is about time that we found men to commence, to start something in these faculties. It will also scale down the cost of sending our people overseas.

And I must at least touch that subject which is always dear to my heart, and that is the question of our national forces. I think our young men are being trained every day now in holding rifles and marching about and going in little tubes, pretending that they are in big battleships of our national Navy. I think, Sir, that the age of thermo-nuclear warfare has come. I do not say that we have reached a stage where we can even make one single atom bomb. I do not say that we have reached a stage where we can take any active part in any research in this field, but it is better and cheaper for us to accept the fact that the old forms of warfare are over, and we must divert our national economy in such a way that we must make a beginning, however small, in the new field and any amount of

money that we now spend in training men in Sandhurst to march about, up and down, is money wasted. The age of the rifle and the machine gun is over. Excepting for policing purposes, if there is riot in some part of the country, or if there is trouble in the Cameroons, and then we need these soldiers to go and quell riots, that is the only use any army is now. I think if we watch the defence plans of every other nation in the whole world, you will see that although they are shouting that there should be disarmament all over the world, less amount of money is spent on their present forces than they do spend on speculation to establish thermo-nuclear weapons. It is better to buy a single microscope in order to further our own research in that field than to spend the amount necessary in the training of a captain in Sandhurst.

Furthermore, Sir, I think, Mr Speaker, we have not got to go far to look for our uranium. Some are in the North, I think in Sokoto, in Bukuru. I understand we have got plenty of uranium, but, gentlemen, let us hide this uranium until our British friends go. When they have gone peacefully, then.

Mr Speaker: Order. Order. I must interrupt the business now. The hon. Gentleman is entitled to carry on tomorrow. Debate to be resumed tomorrow.

THE ELECTRICITY CORPORATION OF
NIGERIA (AMENDMENT) BILL

Order for Second Reading read.

The Minister of Lagos Affairs, Mines and Power (Hon. Alhaji Muhammadu Ribadu): Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members will be aware of the fact that at the Constitutional Conference in London, decisions were taken in consequence of which the power to legislate with regard to electricity is no longer on the Concurrent Legislative List. Instead, the Federal Legislature may now make provision with respect to electricity in relation to any part of Nigeria, but may not (unless expressly empowered by a Regional Legislature) prohibit or restrict the establishment by or on behalf of the Government of a Region or the Southern Cameroons of an agency for the manufacture, distribution or supply of electricity in the Region or the Southern Cameroons, or regulate the production, distribution or supply of electricity by the Government of a

Region or the Southern Cameroons or by an Agency established by or on behalf of one of those Governments.

This Bill, however, is concerned with the E.C.N., which will continue to operate throughout Nigeria as an agency of the Federal Government, and will not pass under the control of Regional Governments.

As the ordinance now stands, the E.C.N. is empowered to generate and supply electricity itself but there is no provision for the E.C.N. to enter into an association with others either as a partner or as a shareholder in an enterprise for producing, distributing or supplying electricity.

This amendment is felt to be desirable because the Electricity Corporation may wish to associate itself with such schemes. With the rapid industrialisation of Nigeria and the ever-increasing demand for electricity, there are bound to be schemes in which the Corporation will wish to participate in co-operation with other interested parties, since the Corporation alone would have insufficient resources to meet the cost of the project. At this stage in our economic development I feel that the Corporation should not always have to bear the burden of the heavy cost of electricity development, and if there are bodies willing to assist in financing such schemes they should be encouraged so to do in partnership with the Corporation, who can provide the necessary technical advice and assistance.

Sir, the purpose of this Bill is to enable the Electricity Corporation to take part in enterprises for generating electricity in parts of Nigeria in which, for any reason, the Corporation's own undertakings are not providing a supply of electricity.

Sir, I beg to move.

The Minister of Works and Surveys (Alhaji the hon. Muhammadu Inuwa Wada): Sir, I beg to Second.

Question proposed.

Mr Fani-Kayode (Ife): Mr Speaker, Sir, I think there is a further Amendment to this Bill.

Mr Speaker: I am aware of a manuscript amendment.

Mr J. I. Izah (Aboh) Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to support this amending Bill. Though it is a short Bill, Sir, it is a very very significant one,

because, Sir, the E.C.N. has often come under severe criticism in this House. Last year, the E.C.N. ran at a loss, but this year, Sir, we are happy to learn in its latest annual report that its loss was only the paltry sum of £63. However, we hope, Sir, that things are moving now in the right direction and by the next year it will be able to balance its books, and balance for a surplus.

This Bill, Sir, has given the opportunity to the E.C.N. to co-operate with various bodies and thereby the opportunity of supplying many more towns of Nigeria with electricity is open to the E.C.N. It is often said that such bodies like the N.A. Councils, might have the money but such money is not usually enough to bring into the country the necessary technical staff, to buy the necessary plant, to work and produce electricity. We hope, Sir, that with the passing of the Amendment to the main Ordinance, the E.C.N., will seize the opportunity and expand its uses to this country.

Before I finish my short observations, Sir, I would like to pay a tribute to the new Chairman of this Corporation. He is the one-time Minister of Mines and Power, Dr N. E. Njoku. Since he started as the Chairman of this Corporation he has given a new life to the Corporation, and the country therefore looks up to him to make use of this Amendment to the Ordinance and supply many more towns and villages of Nigeria with electricity. In various places there are small industrial plants worked by hand, which would very much welcome the supply of electricity for their industry. I am referring to mills, Sir; sawmills, cornmills, and various other mills that come under the jurisdiction of local Government bodies, which would readily take the opportunity of this provision of the amendment. So, Sir, we hope the E.C.N. will take the opportunity, and supply more towns of Nigeria with electricity.

Sir, I beg to support.

Dr E. U. Udoma (Opobo): Mr Speaker, while I would like to support this Bill, it appears that there is some danger in the provision, because it makes it possible for the E.C.N. to combine with private companies to produce electricity and sell to the public, and there is always a danger of allowing a private company to be able to run what is regarded as a public utility, I hope that the Minister will be very very cautious in exercising this power, because it is very very dangerous to allow

electricity to be run by a private company, and to sell to the members of the public. It is quite easy for such a company to hold the public to ransom and it will also even help to increase the costs of electricity supply to rural areas, and to smaller towns which have been supplied with electricity for the purpose of industry.

Therefore, Sir, in my view, I think it is a somewhat serious amendment, and I hope that the Minister will be able to use it very cautiously indeed and not allow any company, whether new or in existence, to join with the E.C.N. and be able to hold the people of this country to ransom.

Mr Fani-Kayode (Ife): Mr Speaker, Sir, I think that the amendment clause to this Bill can bring great danger to the country, since Nigerian public Corporations are run essentially for the benefit of Nigeria. Private companies are out for profit, and if the hon. Mr Njoku will tell us the fundamentals, we shall be better able to judge. What benefit will it be to Nigerians if private companies are allowed to dominate a public corporation by putting in large investments? It only means that these companies which are run for the benefit of the shareholders, will demand their profits, and it means that the price of the light that you will pay, that I will pay, and that our people in all the rural areas will pay must be forced up. That is the danger that faces us if we just accept the amendment presented to this House by the hon. Minister for Lagos Affairs, Mines and Power.

If, however, the Minister can give this House an assurance that whenever a partnership is entered into between the Corporation and a private company, this House will know at once; and secondly Sir, that the Corporation will have a larger interest in such a combination than the private company; that the controlling power will be the Corporation, then I think, Sir, that everyone in this House will support the amendment sought for by the hon. Minister; and I shall be very happy to withdraw the amendment I have filed, if that assurance is given.

The Minister of Lagos Affairs, Mines and Power (Alhaji Muhammadu Ribadu): Sir, what the amendment seeks to do is to make it possible for private companies or outside bodies to generate electricity when the E.C.N. themselves are unable to do so, and at the same time the amendment makes it possible for the

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E.C.N. to take part so as to have a voice in the organisation. I would like to assure this hon. House, Sir, that the status of public utilities will remain as it is now. No matter whoever establishes an electricity undertaking, the power to regulate the distribution and production of electricity will still rest with the Legislature. I believe the same consideration will apply in cases where permission to operate is granted by the Regional Governments.

Sir, the fear which is now entertained by the two speakers should no longer exist.

Question, that the Bill be now read a second time, put and agreed to.

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

Committee Stage—Upon Wednesday next.

ADJOURNMENT

And it being 6 p.m. Mr Speaker adjourned the House without question put, pursuant to Standing Order 4 (3).

Adjourned accordingly at 6 p.m. until 9 a.m. on Friday the 6th of September.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NIGERIA

Friday, 6th September, 1957

The House met at 9 a.m.

PRAYERS

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

ORDERS OF THE DAY

THE SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION (1957-58) BILL.—Adjourned debate on Question (4th September).

That the Bill be now read a second time.

Question again proposed.

Mr R. A. Fani-Kayode (Ife): Yesterday, Sir, I was speaking about the development of our armed forces. I do not want the Government to misunderstand me. I do not say that we should shelve all our plans for training individuals as soldiers. I do not say that. But I do say it will pay us more eventually if we devote a substantial amount of the funds we have saved for the purpose of developing our forces, if we spend the least portion of it in the initial investigation and research into thermonuclear development in Nigeria. So that we shall not have in our hands in about twenty years' time a lot of obsolete armaments that will be of no use to anybody at all.

Coming on, Sir, to the next avenue where we can have some savings, I should like to point out that it is not only in the Civil Service that we find elements of waste, but we do also in the University College at Ibadan up to a large extent. I am certain, Mr Speaker, that Members will be surprised that teachers, or professors in the University of Ibadan, are entitled to go to the United Kingdom yearly on leave, accompanied by their wives, and accompanied by two children, whether black or white. A man who comes from Ife as a professor in the University College, he does not go to Ife for leave: no, he jumps into the plane, you pay, the people pay for it. He goes there every year, takes his wife and two children with him. I think it is about time: once every five years is quite adequate.

Furthermore, Sir, I don't suppose—some people say that once every five years is not enough, but can we visualise the amount of money spent on air passages to and fro. It is fantastic. Furthermore, Sir, I think the issue

of leave for Senior Civil Servants must be looked into. A lot of working hours that are needed for production are thrown away.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I know it might come as a shock to many Members of this House that any Senior Civil Servant who does not really want to work can stay in his house for practically nine months every year. Nine months without any work, and the public will have to pay for it; and I will show you how this can be done.

A Civil Service servant is entitled to two weeks every six months as local leave. Therefore, he gets a month at the end of the year. He is also entitled to five days a month, that is his natural leave; that comes to two months a year, making three months; and then, if he is ill—and we know what doctors can do when it comes to sick leave—a guinea here, two guineas there, and boy are you sick! This is a fact. I know I have a doctor beside me and he is saying "come on" "come on"—I won't go on, I will speak. These things must be looked into; well we have got to six months. Then on top of that he is entitled to casual leave. His father is sick, or he is going to bury his grandfather or his father. He stays away for a week, like somebody we know on that Bench, he stays away for one week burying his father; casual leave. These are savings that we can make if we can look into them.

Yesterday, Sir, there was a lot of—let us say—resentment by certain Members of this House, when I said that in making savings the emoluments of Members of this House should take precedence when it comes to cutting down salaries. Mr Speaker, Sir, I am saying this in all seriousness, that is the best way this saving can be effected, because I must make some constructive criticism, is for our Prime Minister, in consultation with the Premiers of the other Regions and Opposition Members in the other Regions, to form a consultative body, where all salaries should be discussed and personal emoluments of all legislature should be looked into. In that case it would not be a case of politics. In that case it would not be a question of one party cutting down the funds of Members of the House or cutting down the amenities in the Civil Service, it would be a National movement brought forward by every legislator in the land, both Government and Opposition; therefore there can be no squabbles whatever. And furthermore, Sir, we should realise that in 1960 we are going to have

Mr D. D. U. Okay (Port Harcourt): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Supplementary Budget. As you are aware, Sir, this is my maiden speech in this House (*Hear, hear*). I therefore crave some latitude since I am too new to claim any comprehensive acquaintance with the Standing Orders.

Charity, they say, begins at home. Therefore, Sir, I would want to begin my comments on the Estimates by bringing to the notice of this House the needs of Port Harcourt. I would like to state, Sir, that there is need for developing Port Harcourt aerodrome to make it an all-weather aerodrome. We in Port Harcourt sincerely hope that the Government will undertake this development, under the Five-Year Economic Programme, so as to give Port Harcourt aerodrome international status as is the case with Lagos and Kano airports.

The next point I wish to mention is the much-talked-about problem of roads. In this connection, I wish to state that the Federal Government is being unfair to the Port Harcourt Municipal Council. The Council, Sir, maintains portions of those roads leading out from Port Harcourt to Aba and Owerri respectively. They are trunk roads and the legitimate responsibility of the Federal Ministry of Works.

Mr Speaker, Sir, the Port Harcourt Municipal Council maintains these roads, covering in all about a distance of four miles, without financial reimbursement from the Central Government. Not even a word of thanks.

My people in Port Harcourt have asked me specifically to demand that the Government either honours its responsibility in respect of these roads, or pays the Council for doing its work. Sir, I want the Government to take this matter seriously because it is one that gives us in Port Harcourt much concern. If we had the power, we would castigate the Government for shirking its responsibility. Mr Speaker, Sir, I intend later to raise this matter with the appropriate Minister—before this meeting ends—so as to make sure that as usual Government is not merely giving the matter “active consideration.”

Sir, I now turn to more general matters. It is the question of industries and Government assistance to industries. I do feel that the Government is not doing enough to stimulate the growth of industries.

I might at this stage refer specially to the cement factory at Port Harcourt. This pioneer factory is being subjected to paying heavy customs duty to import much-needed raw materials. I believe, Sir, that in order to give necessary incentive to industries, the Government must afford them relief. This could be done by exempting them initially from taxes and lowering Customs tariff on raw materials needed by them.

Sir, I am aware of the Industrial Development Bill, which we shall debate later; but I do not think that the Bill provides for adequate relief to new industries. Now, Sir, I must say that I do not think that the Government is rendering adequate financial aid to new industries—particularly indigenous industries. Most locally sponsored industries lack capital to develop and it is here that the Government must step in to fill the gap. The Federal Government must not leave the burden of assisting promising local industries to the Regional Governments which do not have much funds to spare.

I have in mind, Sir, a local Lime and Paint Industry—the Anosike Lime Works—in Port Harcourt whose growth is retarded for lack of sufficient capital. The Ministry of Commerce and Industries must come to the aid of such industries, for if they collapse, the much-noised-about industrialisation of the country will be meaningless.

Sir, I am mandated to inform the Government that a commercial centre like Port Harcourt needs a Railway station befitting its dignity. We want a terminus that would match the Lagos terminus.

Finally, Mr Speaker, Sir, I want to say that there is acute need for the expansion of Federal staff quarters for junior civil servants at Port Harcourt. The town is growing daily and housing shortage has become a serious problem. The Government must, therefore, expand existing facilities to ensure that its employees are properly housed.

Another Post Office must be erected at Mile 1 Diobu to ease the congestion in the Main Post Office.

Finally, I wish to say, Sir, that the appointment of a Prime Minister in the Federation's first all-African cabinet is an indication that this country is gradually coming into its own. This is a matter of considerable satisfaction. Diversity is an element of liberty.

While pledging co-operation with the new Council of Ministers I wish them a successful tenure of office.

Mr Speaker, I beg to support. (*Applause*).

Mallam Abubakar Garba (North Bauchi) : Mr Speaker, Sir, the Bill before the House seeks the approval of the hon. Members of this House to make supplementary provision for the service of the Federation of Nigeria for the year 1957-58.

Sir, we do not want to go back, nor do we want our development programmes at a stand-still, but we should like to hear during the next Budget Session, when each Minister comes to report to the House about the activities within his portfolio, that the money voted for the current year has been wisely spent in the interest and benefit of the people of Nigeria (*Hear, hear*).

I sympathise with the target of our main attack in this House—the Ministry of Works. We always criticise it without reserve. But we ought to understand that it is not only responsible for first-class roads and good bridges in the country, it also occupies a key position in any Ministry. Every single Government Department requires a helping hand from this Ministry, for its offices, staff quarters and furniture. As a result of this season's exceptionally heavy rains throughout the country, we realise that the Ministry is working against odds. Nevertheless it does not let us down. We are confident that the Ministry will carry out its Development Programme successfully.

Mr Speaker, Sir, now I am appealing to the new Minister of Communications and Aviation to note that of all the Provincial and Divisional Headquarters of the whole Federation of Nigeria, Bauchi Province is the most badly affected in connection with postal facilities. It is said that during the Prime Minister's last visit to his home town Bauchi, he tried to contact Kaduna on an urgent state matter but to his surprise and disappointment he could not as there is no trunk line between Bauchi and Jos, a distance of only 81 miles. I don't know how the Prime Minister solved his problem, if the story is true. Sir, this was not the first occasion. Similar urgent matters happen from time to time. I understand the Executive there has to send an official either on a motorcycle or

in a kitcar to go to Jos and telephone Kaduna. This is not at all fair. So I appeal again to the Minister concerned to see to it.

Sir, before I take my seat I should like to advise the Minister of Finance to kill two birds with one stone. I suggest heavy duties should be levied on wines, spirits, cigarettes and tobacco, partly to increase our revenue and also to safeguard the people's health by discouraging excessive drinking and smoking. I am looking forward to the day when one bottle of wine will cost ten pounds and a packet of ten Pirate cigarettes £1. Sir, I beg to support.

Mr P. Aiyuk (Mamfe) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to contribute to the debate on the Supplementary Appropriation Bill and to support the motion making as brief remarks as possible. I say "as brief remarks as possible" because this is not a full Budget debate and so I do not want to commit myself to tautology since we have already debated the main Estimates a few months ago.

I wish mainly to express in the first place my gratitude to the Government and to pay tribute to our first Federal Prime Minister for the able, simple, clear and impressive Budget speech which he has delivered in this hon. House of our new National Government. The speech, as Members can see, has nothing wrapped in ambiguity. What impresses me, Sir, most in the speech is the contemplated reduction of the functions of the Finance Committee. I would like to see that the powers of this Committee are modified or reduced, or, if it is possible, to get this back-door agency completely wiped out. I have viewed that with the existence of this Committee there is apparently no adequate financial control over certain aspects of Government expenditure, and this gives the House little or no opportunity to make a full public debate on important financial proposals.

In many cases, Mr Speaker, Sir, some unscrupulous Departments have not very infrequently exhausted their powers of virement and the Finance Committee has been called upon to approve augmentations to cover overspent votes without the knowledge of the House. I would suggest that in important cases, supplementary expenditure to cover such excesses should be brought to this House so that we can closely examine them. There is no doubt that the Finance Committee in a way is regarded as a watch-dog of the

finances of the country, but it would have been better for it to make recommendations to this House instead of making final decisions on financial matters. I regard the Floor of this hon. House as the big watch-dog.

I have observed that financial proposals subsequently approved by the Finance Committee after Budget Sessions have very often been vehemently criticised by Members of the House for being allowed to pass through the back door. In this our new National Government we do not want such criticisms if they can be avoided by adopting a system which is commendable in this House. I am really happy and confident in this Government that our new Prime Minister is an able man of progressive measures, especially when he said at the end of his speech that he was proud to head a Government which was determined to maintain wise financial policies that would perpetuate the high reputation which this country should enjoy.

Another thing which interests me is the increase in our Revised Revenue. When I saw that we were being asked to approve a supplementary expenditure of well over £1 million I had my fear that the reserves of this country would be seriously depleted having regard to the fact that we were told in the last Budget Session that a serious drop in our export was anticipated. But we have seen in the speech of our new Prime Minister that this estimation was a mere exaggeration. Our Revised Revenue, we are now told, is £1½ million over the estimated figure by reason of the fact that we now expect a rise in our import duties and an increase in another revenue factor contributed mainly by the activities of the former Minister of Communications and Aviation.

But, Sir, this Government can do more than this to increase our national revenue by stimulating production in all directions. We can do this by opening roads and other communications to the hinterlands where we get our export crops and by establishing industries in all parts of the Federation. This is no doubt one of the drawbacks in the Southern Cameroons which gives rise to its financial difficulties. In the Southern Cameroons the worst roads are Federal roads. Good roads we are aware, Sir, are an incentive to farmers for the production of economic crops. If the Federal Government is ready to help the country Federal roads should be improved quickly.

We also want local industry to be encouraged; not only in big towns but in rural areas, also, industries should be established. In Mamfe, Sir, salt is produced locally from an area containing salt ponds. During the last war this locally-produced salt helped the people of the territory very immensely as there was shortage of imported salt. I would like the Minister of Trade and Industry to establish an industry which would improve the quality of the salt and increase its production.

I would like to mention the existence of minerals in the Southern Cameroons. The physical topographical features of the Cameroons are indicative of the possibilities of mineral existence, but the trouble is that there has never been any energetic survey of these minerals. In this connection I wish to quote, with the permission of the Speaker, a Report by Major C. B. Wolfe, at one time a Magistrate in the Cameroons.

"There is, however, the question of the mineral wealth of the Province which must be considered.

It is not possible to quote any concrete facts but it is understood, if one can go by the word of a man who was recently prospecting in Kumba Division, that the Province is full of gold and other valuable minerals.

If the Mines Department could be persuaded to take up this matter the Cameroons as well as Nigeria might reap considerable benefit."

I would like the Minister of Mines and Power to invite a team of experts to tackle this problem and submit a report before the end of 1958.

Mr Speaker, Sir, the question of the Mamfe Air-port is very important in particular to the people of the Cameroons and in general to the whole of Nigeria, and I feel that my speech in this House cannot be complete without touching it with all seriousness. The closing down of this airport, Mr Speaker, has brought a great handicap to the people of the Southern Cameroons and to other people anxious to visit the territory. There is no doubt, Mr Speaker, that this airport would serve as a very convenient alternative to travellers when roads in the Cameroons are closed during the rainy season. If the airport is only maintained for emergency purposes, what other emergency is there at

this moment when all roads in the territory are closed and business becomes stagnated and dislocated?

In conclusion, Mr Speaker, I wish to make mention about the recent epidemic commonly known as 'Asian' Flu which has so much disturbed the health of many people in Nigeria and caused a great loss of output by workers. Some people have inferred that this epidemic is caused by atmospheric variations while others say that it is the effect of a bomb tested somewhere in the world. Since the health of the people of this country is bound up with national economy I would like the Minister of Health to make a statement on this matter.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to support.

Mr J. Assadugu (Numan): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the second reading of the Supplementary Appropriation Bill. In doing so, Mr Speaker, I should like to contribute very little to the debate as I think it is an important one. I should like to point out directly to the Minister concerned in the person of Alhaji the hon. Muhammadu Inuwa Wada, Minister of Works and Surveys, that during the rainy season, Sir, the Province I am directly interested in, with a population of more than one million, is disconnected from the Northern Region entirely because of road communications. I was wondering, Mr Speaker, about a road laid down, the Bauchi-Gombe-Numan road, that road is a very soft and too bad to be called a 'Trunk 'A' Road'.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I would like the Minister concerned to take a note of this very important complaint of mine. The Trunk 'A' road laid down to Numan is a very disappointing one. It took me five days to reach Jos, a distance of 292 miles only; I had to make a wide deviation eventually covering a distance of 505 miles because the road is absolutely terrible there. Mr Speaker, Sir, I would like the Minister concerned to go there himself and see with his own eyes, otherwise my Friends here will not gain anything at all.

And further, Mr Speaker, Sir, I say that I have spoken to the overseers, engineers they are called, asking about the reason for the bad road, and they give me many unnecessary and vague reasons; they say they have not sufficient financial and human resources to work with. I do not know how far this is true. The Minister will know all about that.

Now, Mr Speaker, Sir, I think the Minister of Communications and Aviation (*hon. Members: which one?*)—the new one, will do something new about it. Also Mr Speaker, in view of the fact that in my Division there is a distance of 32 miles from the nearest post office and that the seven schools in the area have such a greatly increased illiterate population, and that the three dispensaries have been dying all for lack of road communications at all times, I am sure the honourable Minister will do something.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I cannot end my speech without paying tribute to the first Prime Minister. I think he has mentioned something about giving this Government a name. I think some Members may know that we in the Northern Region give our governments names and the name of this present Government has already been used in the North. I think there is no doubt that the Prime Minister is a man of courage, that he is also known as a man who will govern without a sense of discrimination. We in this House know it.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I still want to draw the attention of the Minister of Communication and the Minister of Works again. I notice that in the Lowland Division there is not even a single post office there. A population that produces one member in this house, what a shame that there is not a post office in that particular area.

With these few remarks Mr Speaker, I beg to support.

Mr B. A. Obaje (Igala South): Mr Speaker, Sir, in supporting this Supplementary Appropriation Bill, I will first congratulate the Prime Minister for his able speech. Also, Sir, I would like to praise the Minister of Works for his past achievements. At the same time, Sir, I would like him to think over seriously the widening of Trunk Roads A in Kabba Province, that is Shintaku to Benue Boundary. This road is so important that I have thought of reminding the hon. Minister that my electorate would like this work to be done. Also, Sir, I seize this opportunity to remind the hon. Minister of the construction of permanent bridges along this very road.

Turning to the Minister of Communications and Aviation, I would like him to start with the proposals for my constituency: this, of course, includes the installation of Very High Frequency Transmitter in Igala Division.

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Since this installation, Sir, I have to confess that it has not been released for public use. This really proves that this Division is neglected. To accord with the Motion passed during the Budget Session this year, that postal facilities should be extended to rural areas, I would like the Minister to take the interest of taxpayers of Igala Division in Kabba Province into consideration. These people feel almost disappointed.

With these few remarks, Sir, I support the Bill.

Dr E. U. Udoma (Opobo) : Mr Speaker, I would like to seize this opportunity to join in the tribute which has been paid to the Prime Minister of this Federation. I think that in him Nigeria has been very fortunate to find a steadfast and upright leader, and I have no doubt that if he continues in the way that he started, independence in 1960 is already in the bag.

Now, Sir, these Supplementary Estimates. Something has been said about the old archaic imperialistic method of dealing with financial matters. The old Finance Committee was a medium through which Civil Servants who were afraid of financial matters being brought before this House would always like as a last resort to have their measures passed behind the back of the Members of this House.

Now, Sir, we are saying that that time has passed. Thank God we are moving fast from imperialistic control to the establishment of a National Government, and in that respect it is absolutely necessary that if the Prime Minister is to succeed he must have the confidence of all Members of this House in whatever measure he sets out to do. Therefore, there should be consultation at all times and the House must be taken into confidence. This stop-gap—Finance Committee—must be abolished. (*Several hon. Members : No, no, no ! ! !*)

Now, Sir, at the risk of another "no", I would like to point out that if the measure which allows £300,000 of the hard-earned money of this country to be spent on Ministers' houses had been brought to this House, it might not have succeeded in passing through; but that measure had to be taken to the Finance Committee, it had to be taken to the back-door machine and the back-door rubber-stamp people had to rubber-stamp it. (*Interruption*).

Chief J. I. G. Onyia (Asaba) : Point of order, Sir. I shall bring a Motion in this House to deport hon. Dr Udoma. (*Prolonged laughter*).

Mr Speaker : Order, order ! Dr Udoma.

Dr Udoma : Mr Speaker, now I have said that the Finance Committee should be abolished, and I have also said that if the measure about £300,000 to be spent on Ministers' houses had been brought to this House, perhaps this House might not have found it very convenient to pass that measure, but it had to be done through the Finance Committee, behind the back of every Member.

Sir, an hon. Member in this House has spoken about the paltry sum of £600,000 to be spent on Military Forces of this country. My humble and respectable opinion is that that sum is too small (*hear, hear*), it is a very mean sum if really we want self-government in the way we say we want it. You cannot have independence without an Army to protect your frontier. You cannot have a nation and be able to maintain it unless you have modern weapons; and it is in my view an abuse to the people of this country to realise that only £600,000—double the cost of Ministers' houses—will be spent on our Army. What Army? It is a toy army.

Now, Sir, the other day we passed a measure creating a Nigerian Navy. What is the Nigerian Navy? It is at the back of the Governor-General's house. One naval ship alone can cost £10 million, and sometimes more, and when we spend £600,000 on the Army we say we are spending money on the Army. I am saying, Sir, that the Prime Minister must have to be realistic about this thing: he is living in the modern age. In this modern age no nation is fit to exist unless a nation that can always shake a clenched fist at the face of other nations. Therefore, the Prime Minister must now start to plan what Army would be able to maintain peace and order in the Nigeria that is to come. I am expecting, Sir, that when the next Budget will be presented that the votes on the Army will be much higher and will reflect credit on Nigeria as a nation.

Mr Speaker, Sir, many of our men in the Military Forces are very unhappy because their conditions of service have left much to be desired, and unless we can have a contented army when the British people leave these shores,

we will be very very lucky if there will not be an army *coup d'état*, and it is absolutely necessary that we have military forces well equipped and well conditioned and to see that their conditions of service will not be such as to make them grumble all the time, because a discontented army is certainly an army which will have to seize political power at a certain stage of its career.

Now, Sir, the Prime Minister in his remark said that the bulk of these Supplementary Estimates reflects the question of Nigerianisation, and we were very happy indeed to know that the bulk of the money which is being voted now will go to implement what is dear to the heart of every Member of this House. But, Sir, I was coming to this House this morning and just passing through the usual way, when I halted at Obalende and I saw an office marked "Nigerianisation Office: Entrance at the rear"! Now, Sir, I thought that was ominous to have the entrance facing the rear instead of facing the main street.

Sir, what does that mean? It means that Nigerians have to go quietly into the service of their country by the back door: they must not be seen. Sir, I think that is not good enough. It is true that special posts have been created now in the Civil Service in order to accommodate Nigerians; Nigerians must have first preference in the Civil Service of their country and when we talk about Nigerians I think I should make it very clear that those who started this move for Nigerianisation of the Civil Service had two motives in their minds: one was economy, the other to have loyal service.

In the old days we thought the expatriate Civil Servants were earning all the money in the country and we felt that if Nigerians were absorbed in the Service, there would be a curtailment of expenditure and that there would be no question of soaring wages and salaries paid to Civil Servants and, therefore, the tempo was to press and press to absorb Africans who would earn less and get rid of expatriates who would earn more. But, Sir, to our surprise, the moment an African enters the Civil Service, he wants to go up to the ceiling.

Now, Sir, that was not the motive which made many people advocate Nigerianisation and it is absolutely necessary that the first National Government of this Federation must examine this matter very seriously.

Do we mean that when the expatriates who were earning so much go away and Africans take their places, do we mean that they should earn double what they were earning before? If they deserve it then by all means they should have it, but I should have thought that it would help this country more if Africans were made to earn less than the expatriates have been earning. That is the only thing that will help the economy of this country, because the more we pay to Civil Servants in the Government Service, the more the ordinary employer is made to suffer because he has got to step up the wages he pays to his own staff.

Therefore, Sir, in order to help in the economy of the country, it will be absolutely necessary that, at a certain stage, the pruning knife should be applied, because at the rate wages are piling to-day, heavens knows what may happen in another 10 years' time. We will probably have an officer earning £10,000 a year and that would be a terrible thing to happen in this country. That is why I would like to support the suggestion made by my learned Friend, Mr Kayode, that there should be a meeting of minds in this matter. The Prime Minister should get in touch with the Premiers of the Regions and other important political leaders in the community and devise ways and means of exercising real economy in this country, otherwise when we become independent, we will find to our disappointment that we have inherited an empty coffer and then when that happens we will not be able to pay the staff and the outside world will say we are bankrupt and we will be a laughing stock to the rest of the world. There will be endless turmoil in this country.

So it is necessary to decrease this spiral movement which has been going on and I appeal to the Prime Minister that we have got to be realistic about this matter. We have got to do everything possible to have a proper standard of salaries established throughout the whole Federation.

Now, Sir, while dealing on that I would like also to mention the situation of Lagos as the capital of the Federation. Some time ago there was agitation among different classes of workers, including what is known as The Graduate Association. Teachers who have been teaching the young generation of

this country, have complained that they are suffering, suffering in silence, and that their colleagues in other walks of life are doing much better and being better recognised than they themselves. Sir, I do not know what steps have been taken by the Ministry concerned to see that justice is done in this matter. There should be no distinction between a Government teacher and a teacher in a voluntary agency school, as far as salaries are concerned. They do the same job and, therefore, there should be a uniform standard throughout the country.

Now, Sir, the whole point of this is that we want to increase the salary of Civil Servants and if we do, other people who are doing similar jobs, must agitate for an increase. Whereas if you have stabilisation, if you have a uniform standard, it will be impossible to have other sections agitating for increase from time to time.

Sir, the next point on this would be the question of hospitals in Lagos. The Medical Service in Lagos, where we are supposed to be spending money to maintain and run hospitals—Sir, I do not want to repeat this thing, much has already been said time and time again about most of the hospitals—but particularly I want to mention the Massey Street dispensary, because it is a disgrace to this country that human beings, that mothers, should be allowed to go there and be put in a bed with four or five other mothers. It is a terrible disgrace that this should happen even in the capital of the Federation.

Sir, there was agitation that statutory boards should be set up to be able to manage these hospitals. I think, Sir, that that is the barest minimum that could be done and I hope that the Ministry concerned and the Prime Minister in particular, will give very very serious attention to this matter, because I understand that many medical men employed to work in the hospitals here are unable to remain for more than two months because the conditions in the hospital are appalling. They do not encourage young doctors who go to work there to relieve the suffering of humanity, to do their best.

Sir, I think the time has come now—happily we have a strong man as our Prime Minister who should be able to look into this matter and make all the hospitals in Lagos a model for the whole country—for

there to be a statutory board set up to manage these hospitals. That is the least that could be expected. There should also be considered the question of expansion.

I remember, Sir, that in the Development Scheme there was provision for a Mainland hospital. Now, Sir, it is one of these things that happens from year to year; it has been put down on the scheme that a Mainland hospital was to be built for Lagos but up till now the site has not even been selected. Nobody knows when the work is going to be done; perhaps the plan is not even made yet and by the end of 1960 we will have to have it re-voted.

Sir, I think that we could do a little bit of cleaning up in Lagos. That is why I supported this question of housing schemes for Lagos. After all, Lagos should be the 'show house' of the Federation of Nigeria and any money spent in Lagos is not money wasted. I appeal to the Prime Minister to re-consider, indeed to examine, the whole position about this question of hospitals in Lagos and to see that the medical men who are working in these hospitals, and indeed the patients themselves, get what they deserve.

Now, Sir, there is one other point I would like to mention while I am on the question of Development Schemes. The Prime Minister has remarked that it was not possible to carry on a lot of projects which have been approved, and in any case he assured the House that nothing will stop them from putting into operation the various schemes which have been approved under the Scheme. I would say, Sir, that I think the Prime Minister will be best advised to re-examine the scheme, to re-examine these schemes and decide on the question of priority, the needs of the people. We all want action. It is all very well saying "Independence in 1960". An empty independence would mean nothing. The people in the country want to see action. They want something material that they can see which would be a change from the old imperial system which we have all attacked for many, many years. We want to see that the Government is our own now, and the Ministers would not be timid Ministers, but would be Ministers who would go forward and try to administer this country in the proper way. And I appeal to the Prime Minister that he will do well to re-examine the Development Scheme so as to be able to decide on priorities. It is

very, very essential that something should be done in order to bring what has been approved by this House into fruition.

Now, Sir, this next subject I want to touch is something about which I do not like to say much because these institutions are very young. But even so, I submit that even in their youth this is the best period in which to get well set. Because when they begin to grow tap roots it will be very difficult to get them to change. I refer, Mr Speaker, to the mushroom Corporations we have in this country. We have the Railway Corporation, we have the Electricity Corporation, we have the W.A.A.C., and we have the Ports Authority. Now, Sir, I hope the idea of creating these Corporations was not to put them beyond the pale of the scrutiny of Members of this House. Because about most of them no information is forthcoming to this House to tell us what is being done, and what progress is being made. It is true we have been told that the E.C.N., for a change, has only run short of £63. That is all very well, but it is all paper business. We do not know how they managed to cover up and make up £63. After having lost for so many years, just this year £63. I do not know. It is a miracle. Anyway, this is an age of miracles.

Now, Sir, my submission is this. There is one aspect concerning these Corporations that people seem to lose sight of. You have what are known as contract staff. Now, I do not mean any disrespect to contract staff, who are building up these Corporations, but I think it is necessary to say this thing. You see, you start an organisation, you put in contract staff, to come and run the show, the contract staff believe that they will only be there for about two or three, four or five years. In some measure they have no faith in the business, whether it succeeds or fails. They know that in five years there may be a change of Government, people who do not like them will come into power, and off they go, for reasons of security, and the result is that whether the thing is gaining or losing is of no consequence to the staff. This is a very serious matter.

In these Corporations you must have definite executive officers who must be able to run these corporations and take them as their own business, and give them full time, and give them sense of security, so that they can devote more time to get these things to succeed.

Now, Sir, there is another aspect of this question. Membership of these Corporations needs looking into. Personally, if it were possible to have all the men outside this House, I would suggest that it is wrong for Members of this House to be Members of Corporations. You should have more full time people to devote their attention to seeing that these things function well. But, unfortunately, we have not the men and, in any case, Members of this House would like to be informed as to what is happening in these Corporations. But my warning is this, and this is directly directed to the Prime Minister, because this is his own baby now, he must make certain that these people selected to serve in these Corporations understand what they are serving and understand what is going on in the Corporations, not people only going there to earn money and that is all, not necessarily party supporters who supported you during elections and then you put them there. They must be people who are going to make a success of the Corporations. (*Hear, hear*). And, in my view, it seems to me that a lot of these things should be looked into, so that we should send in good men who understand the machinery and the mechanics of the working of these Corporations, who will be able to make useful contributions, not only to the staff of the Corporation but even on behalf of Members of this House.

Now, Sir, I think when one sees what happens in the country to-day, it is gratifying to hear that instead of the depression, our budget is buoyant. On the other hand, it is also significant to note that the buoyancy of this budget is not really, truly buoyancy in the proper sense of the word. It is, in a sense, revoting. Work is not done; no staff; expediency of the service. Now, how long are we going to have this going on?

Mr Speaker : The hon. Gentleman has exactly two minutes more.

Dr Udoma : However, Mr Speaker, just to wind up. I want to appeal to the Prime Minister in the manner in which he had himself indicated, that he should feel satisfied that he has the support of every section of the whole of the Federation of Nigeria and, therefore, he should not be slack, he should not think that if he takes a step which he thinks is in the best interests of this country he will not be supported. He should be bold and daring enough, as courageous as we know him to be, in order to

make it possible and certain that by the 2nd April, 1960, we shall celebrate independence for Nigeria.

Mr Speaker : It is time to take a short break now. The sitting is suspended till a quarter to eleven when I intend to call upon Mr Abii.

Sitting suspended : 10.30 a.m.

Sitting resumed : 10.56 a.m.

Mr D. N. Abii (Owerri) : Mr Speaker, Sir, congratulatory expressions now may be boring to the Prime Minister but it becomes necessary to express that many of the Members of this honourable House had long before now looked upon the Prime Minister as the Prime Minister of this country. (*Hear, hear*). I think he is aware of that. Very often we have referred to him, supported by Dr K. O. Mbadiwe, to make sure that the Council of Ministers works according to the intentions of the people of this country so that what happened a few days ago, in installing him as the first Prime Minister of the Federation of Nigeria, is only a fulfilment of the desire which the Members of this House have cherished. So we wish him God speed and guidance. (*Hear, hear*).

Mr Speaker, Sir, on the Motion for this Supplementary Appropriation Bill the Prime Minister on Page 1728 expressed a difficulty in presenting the Supplementary Estimates in that the accounts had not been prepared. I think this is a very important difficulty too to the Members who examined the Estimates. It seems to be an ugly tradition of the Government of this Federation that the accounts showing what projects have been completed, which are yet to be completed, what amount has been spent on each item of the project always comes to us very late, and generally after the Appropriation Bill has become law. I wish to express that in future we want the account side by side with the Estimates which we have to examine, especially when it comes to the point of Supplementary Estimates. How do we know which Departments have over-spent their votes? How do we really reconcile the idea of giving out a supplementary vote to each of the Departments? I hope the Prime Minister will look into it and see to it that the Accounts or the Estimates will be prepared in time and not be given to us after we have already passed the Appropriation Bill into law.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I have listened to many hon. Members refer to the question of the motive behind the Nigerianisation policy. Hon. Members from that side said that the economy which the country expected from us is to see that Nigerians who take up the posts are paid less than the expatriates who do the same work. I humbly submit that this is not the economy which the country expects from the Nigerianisation Policy. We do not mean that when Nigerians do the same work they should be paid less. What we mean is that when a Nigerian does the same work as an expatriate he should rightly receive the same pay. Whatever money we pay to a Nigerian is economy because whatever he gets out of that money is retained in this country.

We do not mean that when an expatriate does work he should be paid higher and when a Nigerian does the same work he should be paid less. That is a wrong interpretation of the motive of the Nigerianisation policy. I appreciate that much of the Supplementary Estimate now is a result of the implementation of our policy of Nigerianisation but I am sorry to say that according to my own observation that policy has been wrongly applied. By this I mean that in promoting Nigerians to posts we expect that these Nigerians have got certain qualities that qualify them for the post and these qualifications are first, integrity of the individual, secondly, his experience in the work and thirdly, his ability to fulfil the function put to him.

If you examine the rate of bringing the Nigerians to the higher segment of the civil service you will find that the rate is extremely slow and if the Prime Minister is not careful by April 2nd, 1960 we shall not have a civil service manned by Nigerians. Then it means we shall be having independence with a dependent civil service. By this I mean there is no necessity for degree qualifications in some of these departments. I have in view two important departments. One is Prison Department and the other is Police. I wish to ask hon. Members if it is necessary to have a university degree before you become a Superintendent of Police. (*Hon. Members : No !*) Is it necessary to have a university degree before you become an Inspector-General of Police?

The Minister of Research and Information (Chief K. Balogun) : Yes, it is professional.

Mr Abii : It is not. It is professional out of practice. If you are not given a chance you cannot get experience. I think that every Inspector of Police can do the work of a Superintendent minus perhaps the secret arrangement of the senior officers. I have to say that only two months ago a Chief Inspector of the Police in the C.I.D. Branch was raised to Assistant Superintendent of Police. I can say that he does not claim to have passed Standard VI of the 1930's of this country. I can say he has proved to be the best. I am asking the Prime Minister to examine these and find out that in some places like the Police there is no need wasting time. We want the Police to be Nigerianised. There is no need to wait for university degree before giving people the posts so that by 1960 we shall have the Police properly Nigerianised.

Let me go back to the Prison ! Just last Budget session in the Prison Department we have one Chief Clerk and three Assistant Chief Clerks throughout the whole Federation. I think an Assistant Chief Clerk is to assist a Chief Clerk. Where three have to assist one they will be expecting the death of the Chief Clerk so that they will have a post there. Otherwise as long as he lives these young men will be there marking time. But you have a line of Inspector of Prison, Superintendent of Prison, Director and Deputy Director of Prison. You may be happy to know that to be a Director of Prison would imply giving some idea and guidance on the management of prisoners. Does it require a university degree? How many of our directors of Prisons are university degree holders? I feel that the complaint which has reached this House is true that certain positions are being created to bring Nigerians in whereas some positions in the higher segment of the civil service are still being reserved for expatriates. If that is so what is the motive behind our policy of Nigerianisation?

The Prime Minister will examine it and examine it very seriously. Is it necessary for all these high degree qualifications before our people come to the higher segment of the civil service. Two examples are the Prisons and Police. I feel that the present Nigerians who have the experience, the integrity and

the ability should be put on the higher segment of these departments.

I have another point to raise in the examination of these Supplementary Estimates. Almost every Member has mentioned the question of roads, industrialisation, in short the general development of the country. I am happy because the Prime Minister knows why we are clamouring for the exit of officials from the Council of Ministers. We have not demanded such because we do not like those Europeans.

We have not demanded such because we do appreciate what people are doing for us, but we have demanded so that the elected Members—the elected Ministers of the Federation of this country will have the chance to put up their own ideas and prepare the country for independence in 1960.

It happens, Sir, that when one goes around the whole country you get people complaining of roads,—the Minister says we have not enough money. I humbly submit, Sir, if he put up an energetic plan to see that the roads, at least the Trunk 'A' roads of this country are good examples of what modern roads should be, this House would be willing to vote for whatever amount he may demand. But there is one thing that should be brought to his notice. When a trunk road is built there are about four bridges on these roads, one at one end and one at the other, and they have two in the middle. What does the Minister mean, why must we have these four bridges?

Very often when you are travelling on the roads you come to a certain bridge and you are stuck there. I have in mind an example in the Onitsha-Owerri Trunk 'A' road. This is a very important road. The well established surface is very good and properly done by the Minister and I am grateful to the Minister, but why do you have two narrow bridges here before and after Owerri township. But did not a lot of lorries fall into them this year and last year? I will give you an example. An honourable Member of this House had a lorry and that lorry fell into that place and stuck there, and we are grateful to God that there were no casualties. I humbly suggest to the Minister that he should take steps and once he has taken steps to do something about the bridges, he should complete the whole of the road and bridges so that it can be a well used road.

Mr Speaker, Sir, if time would permit I feel I should satisfy myself that the points I have raised are sufficient, and I ask the Prime Minister to take note of them so that in the budget session of next year we can expect a greater policy of nationalisation and greater method of building bridges and making roads useful throughout the whole Federation.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to support.

M. Hassan Yola (North Central Adamawa) : Mr Speaker, Sir, in supporting the Supplementary Appropriation Bill so ably presented by our new courageous, hardworking, upright, righteous and great Prime Minister, may I express my appreciation and confidence in our national Government which I am quite convinced beyond doubt will achieve all that is required to secure our golden and precious goal of Nigeria's self-government not later than 2nd April, 1960. Since the appointment of the Prime Minister and his formation of the national Government the whole country seems to have been injected with a new tonic of nationalism and unity which some leaders have been trying to preach and drum but on deaf ears for many, many years. But Mr Speaker, our intelligent Prime Minister has played wonders and done the job successfully in a day or two. Alexander the Great said, "Childhood shows a man as the morning shows the day". With our new national Government headed by the honourable Prime Minister the saying is more than true judging from the healthy signs of its good start. With encouragement, support, sacrifice and hard work by every individual, every group, community, irrespective of our differences, there is no doubt that the ship will sail safely and peacefully to harbour. There should be no more strikes in the country to honour the Prime Minister's appeal for hardwork. Every citizen must wake up and think of working for the country first before thinking in terms of money in whatever work he or she is doing whether official or private. Carrying out our economic and development programme should provide a source of employment to many people in the country.

The development of the country must go hand in hand with the development of both the transport and communications systems whose standards are still low in Nigeria. In most parts of the country the Federal trunk 'A' roads—are still an apology, the railway system

is wanting, the inland waterways system leaves much to be desired and the airways corporation is running at a loss. Some places have no communications of any kind at all. All these things must be remedied as soon as possible. We do not want to have thorns, jungles, narrow bridges or any obstacles on our way to independence.

Mr Speaker, Sir, touching on the points raised by some Members who spoke in favour of a separate seat for the Prime Minister I think it is too early to criticise the government on the issue of making special things for the hon. Prime Minister. We are sure that the able national government have in mind all the special things which are worthy of our Prime Minister, such things like the salary, office, House, the seat in the chamber, and so on.

Turning to the Minister of Works, it is human nature always to see the bad side of things more conspicuously and to neglect the good side of it. This is one of the characteristics of Shaitan. While I criticise the condition of Gombe-Numan road which is still very dangerous especially at the corners, and very slippery stretches which are narrow with some deep drifts, I congratulate the Minister for the step taken by which there is every sign that work is in progress nearly on all trunk 'A' roads stretching from Maiduguri-Bauchi-Jos-Kaduna-Ilorin. This is much appreciated as Members know that their complaints about trunk 'A' roads are not falling on deaf ears.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I should like to take this opportunity to thank the former Minister of Transport very much for the appreciation by the Adamawa people of his work of supplying powered ferries to Jimeta, and Numan Benue crossing where the people are now very happy as there is no waiting by lorries whose passengers used to suffer very greatly. But I have another request for the building of waterside both at Numan and Jimeta where the steamers using the international waterways of Benue load and off-load their cargo. The watersides in these places are never built. As the result of that, business firms using these ships experience all sorts of inconveniences and loss of property through lack of properly built watersides. I trust that the new Minister of Transport will see to it that the people of Yola appreciate his taking over the Ministry by a favourable reaction to their request as soon as possible.

Communication and Aviation. It is hoped the Minister has taken note of the needs of the country in connection with Post Offices, telephone services and wireless—telephones for more difficult places like Mambilla Plateau. All over the country the delivery of letters and telegrams need more attention. He is also required to look into the distribution of telephones to private people who complain persistently that there is a lot of injustice and favouritism shown by the Department. I know of a business man who has been on the waiting list for nearly five years at Jos for a telephone installation in his house but still without success. Many applications succeeded after him. If the Minister promises to look into the matter I shall be glad to give him the name of the business man who has the honour of being always on the top of the waiting list.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I am appealing to the Prime Minister to have a special consideration for opening the Mambilla Plateau where any development is held up due to lack of transport and communications. The people are cut off from the rest of the Federation by the obstacles which can be overcome by our able Government if so desired. The people have asked for a landing strip, a wireless telephone just to help them keep in touch with the rest of the people, but without success.

The Yola-Bamenda road question is always on the unsolvable problem list, with series of surveys all disagreeing with one another. If all necessary financial help can be given to the Southern Cameroons as a bait, inducement or attraction for them to remain in the Federation when self-government comes, what about the Mambilla people who are close neighbours of the Southern Cameroons who are watching the events. They are in the Trust Territory of the Northern Cameroons which has not quite decided its fate before the final goal is reached. Will it not be more advisable for the Federation to give it every help that will keep the people much nearer to us before they start thinking of asking for help from elsewhere simply because we have failed to sympathise with their condition.

To use Mallam Maitama Sule's expression, we should not allow cracks on our walls for the lizard to hide. I trust that the Prime Minister has taken note and will do all in his power to see that Yola-Bamenda road is under active construction for the development of the Plateau.

Mr Speaker : Will the hon. Member be able to conclude his speech within two minutes? My desire is to call upon the Prime Minister of the Federation to reply.

M. Hassan Yola : Mr Speaker, in conclusion, I must appeal to the Prime Minister to see that the unity of Nigeria is becoming stronger and stronger every day. This is only possible by making sacrifices by all sections of the community of the country. It is a good thing for the leaders of the minority groups to meet and consider the unity and economy of Nigeria and see if they can make sacrifices and give up all the question of creating states, thus dividing the country into more pieces which I am sure will do more harm than good. Nigeria with the present number of Regions will be more united than when the number is increased. This is a simple arithmetical axiom: three is nearer to the whole than five or ten. Surely those who constitute themselves into minority groups have better ways of achieving their need for their parts of the country through their representatives in the Legislatures of the Federation and the Regions.

Furthermore, Sir, the Federation cannot afford to nurse more and more baby states. The financial strength of the Federation cannot withstand that. Look at the difficulties the Southern Cameroons are now experiencing and the ultimate burden to fall on the Federation. So with due respect to the minority group advocates for states, I ask them to rally round the Prime Minister, appeal for unity of Nigeria and sacrifice all that they have and give up the issue and I am quite confident that their people will not regret the sacrifices.

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

The Prime Minister : Mr Speaker, Sir, I would like to thank hon. Members for the very good things they said about us on the Government Bench and also the warm welcome they gave to the new National Government.

I would, Sir, like to assure the House that we in the Government will continue to give the very best in us to the service of this country.

Sir, Members have raised many points which we have carefully noted, but I would like to say that in this debate on the Supplementary Appropriation Bill we thought it would be better to give the Floor Members of the House the opportunity to express their views instead of the Ministers coming into the debate rather

too early. Our hope is that points will, of course, be raised in the Committee of Supply and the Ministers responsible for the different departments will be able to answer hon. Members. Now, our method is that after the House rises, every Minister will examine the Hansard carefully and see all the points made by hon. Members. Those that are covered in the debates in the House and answered are noted and those that have not been covered, the Minister puts them aside for further reference and for action to be taken on them. Sir, we will continue to do this and all that I would actually assure hon. Members of is that all the points that they have made have been noted and that wherever possible we shall try to meet the wishes of Members.

Sir, a number of points are made. The first one which I consider very important is about our Economic Programme. An hon. Member, I think, Dr Udoma, advised us to re-examine our Economic Programme so as to draw up a proper list of priorities. Now, I want to assure him that this is also my intention. We feel ourselves that it is better that we draw our programme which we know very well that we could carry out. This does not mean that when we drew up our Five-Year Programme we had doubts that we would not be able to carry it out. But now, we shall be in a position to know what monies we can have to be loaned, and what monies we can have from our own revenues, and I hope we will be able to plan our Economic Programme. It is my hope that the money will be forthcoming from all the sources that I have mentioned.

Now, Members have asked us that whenever money is voted in this House, we must see that the money is spent during that period. That is so, but it will be very difficult, because when you plan a project, usually a lot of work is to be done, preliminary work, as I mentioned in my speech in introducing the Bill. Architectural work will have to be done, surveys will have to be undertaken, contract documents will have to be prepared, tenders called and then the work starts. It is not as easy as some hon. Members might think, that as soon as you vote money here, to-morrow we start the project, it cannot be so. They take time to plan and also before you start, you must be sure that you have the equipment and everything.

I am, Sir, very pleased to see that the suggestion I made in my speech has been accepted by the House, that is to make the presentation of a Supplementary Appropriation Bill a half-yearly event. (*Applause*). I think that is a very good thing, Sir, because it would give the whole House the opportunity to scrutinise Government intentions and we shall feel more strengthened ourselves, if we know that the whole House is behind us in our intentions. But I must also add, Sir, that, as I said in that speech, that the idea is not to abolish the Standing Committee on Finance, because there might be occasions on which we will still require the Standing Committee on Finance to examine some of our urgent requirements for money.

Sir, a point is made on the question of the increased costs of our military forces and I think an honourable Friend of mine, Sir, whom I sometimes nickname "the Field Marshal", has now thought that it is wrong for us to go in for the type of military training which we now have and instead of spending all the money we have on training our soldiers in Sandhurst and at Teshi in Ghana, and providing them with rifles, we should try to start thinking of nuclear weapons and possibly of hydrogen bombs or something of that nature. Well, Sir, our military forces are primarily here not to fight a war. I think a war occurs only if it is inevitable and I cannot see how we shall have a war of our own so soon. They are here mainly, Sir, for internal security and you will agree, of course, that it is still most essential that our soldiers should be provided with the proper arms and they should be really mobile and they should have the best training that we can afford to give them. We will continue, Sir, sending them for training in England at Sandhurst, at Eaton Hall and other places for the necessary training which will really equip them for the important services which we demand of them, especially when independence comes.

I think it is most important for us to remember, as Mr Daldry said, that this increase in our military expenditure is one of the prices which we have to pay for being a mature nation. Now, at the last Constitutional Conference in London, the decision was that Nigeria should assume control of its own military forces. The cost of the Nigerian military forces runs to about £4 million and

we are contributing just under £2 million, the United Kingdom bearing the balance. We hope that by 1958, we shall assume complete control of our military forces but the Secretary of State, as Members will see in the Report, told us in the Conference that the United Kingdom Government would consider giving grants to Nigeria on a diminishing basis. But, Mr Speaker, this means instead now of our contributing to the United Kingdom money for the upkeep of our Army, the United Kingdom Government will give us a grant or will contribute towards the upkeep of our Army. This is a very big advance, Sir, and it is really taking into account the Constitutional advance which we are making.

Some Members, Sir, also spoke of the Corporations which Government has set up, I believe it was Dr Udoma, and complained, Sir, that this hon. House is not given the proper opportunity to scrutinise the activities of these Corporations. I think we should all remember the basis on which these Corporations were established. They are statutory bodies established by laws passed by this House and with the eyes of the hon. Member wide open. They are semi-commercial undertakings and we hope they will grow and eventually, though they start as Government babies, we hope they will be financially independent, in which case they will play a very, very major part in the economic development of the country. I hope, Sir, that hon. Members will give every encouragement to these Corporations though, of course, this House has the opportunity to debate matters of the Corporations, because their Reports are laid on the Table of the House, their accounts are put before the Public Accounts Committee for scrutiny and so there is a lot of opportunity, Sir, for the House to know what these Corporations are doing. I think it would be wrong if the Members ask to have the opportunity of criticising establishments in these Corporations, it will be very wrong. I would not advise the House to try to do that.

Sir, my Friend, Mr Dosunmu, has raised a very very important question of policy, that is housing of Government Civil Servants. Now, he said yesterday that the members of the Civil Service who are Nigerians should not be provided with quarters. This is a matter, Sir, which has been giving us some concern. It is true that the Government of the Federation never has a liability to house its Civil

Servants. But, as he pointed out, the expatriate Civil Servants come to this country and they expect to find a place where they can live, where they can stay after work, they couldn't sleep in their offices, therefore, they should have some houses. It has become a practice in the country that whenever a Nigerian is appointed to, what was formerly the Senior Service, that he at once expects to be housed, if he is in Lagos, in Ikoyi, if he is in the Provinces, in the Government Reservation Area. Now this is the practice and although there is not a liability to house him, he is now being housed whenever it is possible to house him. Government has been giving this matter some thought. If you will look into the Supplementary Estimates, you see that a provision is made there for a Housing Authority and I hope that when we come to examine this in the Committee of Supply, I hope to have something to say on that but it is a major policy in which Government is giving active consideration.

Now, Members have raised the point of Nigerianisation. We have noted down what they have said, though I will tell them that it is better if we give the Nigerianisation Officer the opportunity to see what he can do, because the post was established not long ago. We know what the House wants and we know what the country wants, and we are quite aware that if this country is to make the best use of its independence when it comes it should have a proper indigenous Service. (*Cheers*). But I must warn the House, Sir, that most countries of the world find it necessary to employ people from outside their country, but it is most important of course that we should have Nigerians manning the Nigerian Service.

Sir, my hon. Friend, Mr Fani-Kayode raised a very important point which I pursued about a year and a half ago. That was the question of putting our heads together with our colleagues in the Regions to see that there would not be a race or a competition in the question of salaries of Members of Legislative Houses or the Civil Service. Now, we have done something on that and we are still continuing with the work we are doing to get the views of Regional Governments and also to get the views of political leaders if it is a question of Members of the Regional Houses. But he knows of course, himself that a suggestion to reduce is usually very, very difficult to accept by many

people. However, I will pursue the matter further and I will of course, try to get the views of our colleagues in the Regions.

Mr Speaker, may I thank Mr Daldry for his contribution to the debate on this Bill. I have always valued his sound and wise financial advice and I have carefully taken note of all that he has said. Particularly, Sir, the important point he made about the loan-worthiness of this country or of a country generally. We are of course, trying to do our best to see that this country has a stable Government over a peaceful people. (*Hear, hear*). It is our wish of course, that foreign investors will see fit, from how we go on, to invest their money in this country. I have, as I said, Sir, taken note of what he said, and as I said in my speech on the Second Reading our economic policy will continue to be the same and I hope when we come to the Budget Meeting in March next year we will be able to explain in greater detail the economic policy of the new Government.

Sir, I will say once again that the points made by the hon. Members are carefully noted and that the Ministers will be able to deal with some of the matters raised in the Committee of Supply. (*Cheers*).

Mr Speaker : It is now a quarter to twelve, and under the Standing Orders I must put the Question, that the Bill be now read a second time.

Question, that the Bill be read a second time, put and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read a second time and committed to the Committee of Supply, pursuant to Standing Order 63 (4).

Committee Stage—tomorrow.

Adjournment

The Minister of Labour and Welfare (Hon. Chief F. S. Okotie-Eboh) : Sir, I beg to move, That this House do now adjourn.

The Minister of Research and Information (Hon. Chief Kolawole Balogun) : Sir, I beg to second.

Question, that this House do now adjourn, put and agreed to.

Adjourned accordingly at fourteen minutes to twelve o'clock until 9 a.m. on Saturday the 7th of September.

WRITTEN QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

W.189. Mr H. O. Abaagu asked the Minister of Communications and Aviation :—

When the proposed Post Offices for Oturkpo, Wukari, Lafia and Keffi, in Benue Province, will be constructed ?

The Minister of Communications and Aviation : A suitable site has been selected for a new Post Office at Keffi and arrangements have been made for formal acquisition. It is the intention that building construction should commence within the next few months.

New Post Offices for Oturkpo, Wukari and Lafia, have been included in the Departmental Building Programme for 1958-1960 and will be constructed during that period provided funds are made available.

W.191. Mr H. O. Abaagu asked the Minister of Transport :—

If he will consider opening a port at Makurdi after the River Benue has been dredged ?

The Minister of Transport : Makurdi is already one of the chief ports on the Benue, and is visited occasionally by small coasting vessels. I shall consider making any improvements to it which may seem necessary in the light of the hydrological survey of the Rivers Niger and Benue, now in progress. I expect the final report on the survey next year.

W.192. Mr R. T. Alege asked the Minister of Communications and Aviation :—

When work will commence on the proposed V.H.F. calling station at Egbe ?

The Minister of Communications and Aviation : It is not proposed to build any V.H.F. station at Egbe.

W.194. Mr R. T. Alege asked the Minister of Communications and Aviation :—

What volume of work, in units was transacted in Ponyan Postal Agency in 1955 and 1956.

The Minister of Communications and Aviation : In 1955 Ponyan Postal Agency transacted 3,209 units of business and in 1956, 4,375 units.

W.196. Mr R. T. Alege asked the Minister of Communications and Aviation :—

Whether arrangements are being made to reconstruct the Lokoja Post Office which is now old and inadequate.

The Minister of Communications and Aviation : I refer the hon. Member to the answer which I gave in this House to question No. O.242 on the 27th March this year.

W.198. Mr R. T. Alege asked the Minister of Communications and Aviation :—

If he will state why Postal Agents have not yet been paid their new rates of salary and also the arrears of salary arising therefrom.

The Minister of Communications and Aviation : Authority has been given for Postal Agents to be paid their revised rates of salary and arrears, and as far as is known, payment has been effected. If the hon. Member will advise me of any case that is outstanding the matter will be investigated and rectified.

W.199. Mr Yarima Saleh asked the Minister of Communications and Aviation :—

What has caused the delay in building the Gashua Post Office, for which the necessary survey was completed, and the plan approved two years ago.

The Minister of Communications and Aviation : There is already a Postal Agency at Gashua which transacts only 9,970 units of business per annum. The conditions governing the opening of departmental post offices are set out in Sessional Paper No. 4 of 1957.

Gashua does not at present satisfy these conditions and no change in the status of the Postal Agency is warranted.

W.202. Mr F. T. Odum asked the Minister of Communications and Aviation :—

Whether the construction of the proposed Post Office for Ahoada will be given on contract to registered African Contractors.

The Minister of Communications and Aviation : The award of contracts for building post offices is the responsibility of the Federal Tenders Board. However, in this case I understand the contract for the erection of this Post Office was awarded to a registered African contractor (F. O. Mbadiwe & Sons) on 21st May this year and work will begin shortly.

W.205. Mr D. N. Chukwu asked the Minister of Works and Surveys :—

If he will consider recommending the appointment of some experienced Nigerians who are trained junior technical staff to the vacant posts of Inspector of Works in the Federal Public Works Department.

The Minister of Works and Surveys (Hon. Alhaji M. I. Wada) : Yes Sir, if they have the qualifications. These are a recognised apprenticeship of five years, the City and Guilds final Certificate in his trade and over 2 years practical experience.

House of Representatives Debates

1901

[Ministerial Statement]

7 SEPTEMBER 1957

[Ministerial Statement]

1902

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
NIGERIA

Saturday, 7th September, 1957

The House met at 9 a.m.

PRAYERS

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

PAPERS

Mr Speaker : I have to announce that the following papers, already distributed to Members, are deemed to have been laid on the Table :—

Annual Report of the Department of Statistics, Report of the Grading Teams on the Former Nigerian Railway and Nigeria Marine, Annual Report of the Federal Department of Education, Summary Annual Report of the Federal Education Department, Annual Report of the Department of Broadcasting and Annual Report of the Department of Marketing and Exports.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

The Prime Minister (Hon. Alhaji Abubakar Tafawa Balewa) : Sir, I am pleased to be able to inform the House that yesterday a cable was received from the International Bank for re-construction and development, stating that the Bank will send a Mission of Investigation to Nigeria in the middle of next month. (*Hear, hear*). The Mission, which will include specialists and economists, agricultural and railways, expects to remain in Nigeria for about 4 weeks. Its primary purpose will be to investigate the possibility of the Bank's making a loan to the Nigerian Railway Corporation to cover part of the cost of the proposed Bornu railway extension. It will also examine the financial and economical situations of Nigeria generally.

The Minister of Education (Hon. Aja Nwachuku) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to make the following business statement :—This morning will be spent in Committee of Supply and Heads 23 to 59 will be dealt with. On Monday, the 9th September, the House will again go into Committee of Supply and will deal with Heads 61 to 84. The Supplementary Appropriation Bill will then be read the third time. Tuesday, the 10th September, will be a Private Members Day and the following Motions will be debated :—

Uniform of Nigeria Police—by Mr D. N. Chukwu.

Federal Scholarships—by Mr N. A. Ezonbodor.

Delegation to Fernando Po—by Mr J. A. Effiong.

Football Pools—by Mr J. A. O. Akande.

Shipping Industry—by the Rev. E. S. Bens.

National Service—by Mr B. O. Ikeh.

Erosion at Victoria Beach—by Chief T. T. Solaru.

On Wednesday, 11th September, Five Government Bills will be read for the First time. The rest of the day will be spent in Committee of Supply and Heads 602, 603 and 605 of the Supplementary Estimates of Capital Expenditure will be considered. The House will then be asked to approve three Motions in respect of the Supplementary Capital Expenditure Estimates.

On Thursday, the 12th September, the House will be asked to approve Motions relating to the Customs Tariff ; to Factories Regulations ; and to Produce Inspection Regulations. After this the remaining stages of the Government Bills will be taken.

On Friday, 13th September, the remaining stages of incomplete Bills will again be taken, and the House will be asked to approve a Motion relating to Excise Duty on Spirits. If all business is disposed of on that date, the House will then adjourn *sine die*.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

THE SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION
(1957-58) BILL (FIRST ALLOTTED DAY)

(House in Committee)

The Chairman : Under Standing Orders 63 and 64, the Clauses of the Bill stand postponed till after the Schedule.

HEAD 23—EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

Question proposed, That the sum of £10,990 for Head 23—External Affairs—stand part of the Schedule.

Amendment proposed to leave out Sub-head 9A.

Mr J. M. Udochi (Afenmai) : I rise to move the amendment standing in my name. It is to move that Sub-head 9A under Head 23—External Affairs—be left out of these Estimates.

As hon. Members will observe, this Sub-head is a new baby, and what is the justification for giving birth to this new baby? That you will find on Page 4, under Explanatory Notes in the Estimates. I quote:—"Sub-head 19—Disturbance and Resettlement Allowance. Disturbance and Resettlement Allowance is paid to officers on posting from Nigeria to overseas posts; on transfer from an overseas post to another; and on final return to Nigeria from an overseas post. The rates of this allowance are 5% of basic salary up to the limit of £100 for a single officer, and 10% of basic salary up to a limit of £150 for married officers." That, Sir, is the justification given by the Government for giving birth, as I say, to this new baby.

Now, Sir, what really is at the bottom of this justification? We are told that an officer on appointment to an overseas post will receive this allowance. What happens from the date of his appointment to the date of his taking up that appointment? The procedure is that the officer selected for an overseas post has belongings packed and transported at the expense of the Government to his overseas post; his fare, for himself and his family, if any, is paid also by the Government; on transfer from one overseas post to another the same procedure is followed. The officer has his freight paid for, his fare for himself, and his wife paid for. On return to Nigeria, the same process takes place.

Now, Sir, you will agree that the incidence of transfer is common to all in the service, whether overseas service or Nigerian service. An officer is liable by his very appointment to be transferred from one station to another, and all your Government does on that occasion is to see that he should not be out of pocket by way of freight or by way of fare; so that there is nothing new in the matter that an officer has got to leave one post for another. If there is anything different in an officer who has got to work outside Nigeria, who has got to work in climates which may not be the same as in his homeland, it is the effect of climate on him. Clothing will be involved. He may be going to zones which are so cold that he will be put to the expense of buying extra warm clothing, and Government have made ample provision for that.

You have in these Estimates before you, Clothing Allowance for such an officer; so

that, Sir, that simple provision, that simple strange element in the fact that an officer has got to work outside Nigeria is amply provided for. We give him sufficient money to buy his clothing, to buy the extra things necessary for his comfort. Where then comes in the necessity for a disturbance allowance?

Now, Sir, even for officers who have to work outside Nigeria, invariably they will be in our Foreign Service, when we shall have obtained independence, there are certain privileges attached to service in the Diplomatic Corps, and these privileges have, in many cases, financial benefits. These officers will enjoy such benefits, but yet we are told that a disturbance allowance is necessary. Why disturbance? The English language is prolific of many adjectives and many of them used to qualify the word allowance will produce the semblance of a claim. Any of them will give a semblance to a claim. If disturbance, why not sleeping allowance? Why not lovemaking allowance? Why not influenza epidemic allowance? They will all sound suitable, and money can be demanded under one Head or another; but I shall confine myself to the word 'disturbance,' disturbance allowance.

Has our Government taken special care to consider the repercussion the disturbance allowance in our Foreign Service will have? Do they think, do they remember that the worker at the Loco yard, the worker at the Marine Dockyard, has a very great disturbance. He is subject to work in the midst of the din and clatter of machines which keep on vibrating, vibrations, which I am advised, have a certain deleterious effect on his longevity.

Do the Government give consideration to the teachers who work in our various schools? Do they consider his disturbance because he works among naughty boys and girls all the day? What provision has been made for that particular kind of disturbance? (*Interruption.*) Let me ask what of the clerks who day in and day out find themselves poring through musty files the effluvia of which I am told makes it possible like nicotine to produce lung cancer. What provision is made for that kind of disturbance? I know that hon. Members of this House are subject to all kinds of disturbances and it may be that in the future these will have to be provided against. (*Laughter.*) Honourable Members, this is not a joking matter.

Look at the matter closely from another point of view, another perspective. Has the Government taken the Regional Governments into consultation when they thought of giving these particular allowances? The most conspicuous trouble in Nigeria to-day is want of parity among the various Governments in the treatment of their Civil Servants. A few months ago something very extraordinary happened in this country. There was an agitation for better service conditions from quarters one would have least expected it. Doctors were clamouring for better service. Our Magistrates, the guardians of our rights and liberties, were clamouring for better pay. Now if you look at the matter closely, was it because our Doctors and Magistrates were grossly underpaid? Sir, what gave impetus to the agitation was the fact that only a few miles from Idi-Oro Bus Stop, were classes of men with the same type of training, with the same type of qualifications who do identical duties, being paid better salaries. Human nature being what it is, who would say that an agitation based on such considerations was frivolous.

Mr Chairman, a few days from now, this House will be called upon to pass a Bill righting the wrong arising from these errors of judgment. Judges in the Federal Territory are now going to be placed on a par with their counterparts in the Regions. When that Bill comes to be considered, our Government will be hard put to it to explain why the provisions of the Bill should not be made retrospective. Now, Sir, I say, consider the effect of this disturbance allowance being paid day and night and the effect it will have on the industrial costs. If we, through paying these allowances, have to pay higher for producing a pin than in any other country, then nobody will buy our pin. You want to industrialise the country, but because of these allowances, you are making it more expensive eventually to produce in Nigeria than in other countries, and these higher overheads will certainly affect the prospect of industrialisation of this country.

It is our Federal Government who can give the lead now. Payment of these allowances will have their repercussions through the four corners of Nigeria. We object to money being distributed in this manner.

Now, Sir, I have thrown a challenge on the Floor of this House only a few days ago in

respect of disturbance allowance. I said that our Government while straining at the gnat had swallowed the camel. I said that our Government while asking for sanction to spend the paltry sum of £2,000 to be distributed among a handful of Nigerians, have spent upwards of hundreds of thousands of pounds—if I am not mistaken, millions of pounds—on paying this disturbance allowance, without the sanction of any Finance Authority known to our Constitution. I stand to be corrected, Sir, if I am wrong.

Sir, I think the man who prepared this Head of Estimate has a macabre sense of humour. He feels if he can offer £2,000 to be distributed among a handful of Nigerians, this House will then give him the sanction for money already distributed.

Now, Sir, that we have a new Prime Minister, a man in whom we have confidence, I cannot imagine this House allowing someone to carry this dead weight surreptitiously into the Ship of State. This House will be wise enough to know that it is not the time to create new allowances. It is not the time to burden our new Prime Minister and Minister of Finance with a Bill whose main idea is to squander the little we have. I say, Sir, that this House will be wise to support this motion and reject this Head of Estimate.

Members should rise to the occasion on this matter. Our Government should not be allowed to do something against its own interest. We should carefully examine this new Head of Estimate and see whether there is any justification in passing this. If there is no such justification, we should be prepared to reject it. I say, Sir, that the matter which I have raised on a previous occasion is of grave importance and requires explanation, and I think that the Government should remove this item from the Estimate.

Mr Chairman, I beg to move.

Question proposed to leave out Sub-head 9A.

The Chairman : Perhaps I should remind the Committee from the beginning that there is very little time to-day to do a number of Heads. It would only take five-half-hour speeches to finish the whole proceeding on one Head and nobody else would have a chance.

The Prime Minister : Mr Chairman, Sir, I rise to oppose the amendment. Every time, Sir, hon. Members are asking us to speed up

the training of our future foreign service. I don't think, Sir, that any hon. Member would wish to see a Nigerian diplomat in the United States living in filth or when we send these people abroad they should live in slums. Sir, this allowance, though called by different names, is given to Members of the foreign service of different Governments and we have, I am afraid, Sir, to follow suit. It is not a large amount at all, though my hon. Friend said he was speaking on principle, and I hope, Sir, that he is not trying to confuse this type of allowance with the other allowances which he mentioned, some which exist and some of which do not exist at all.

Sir, this allowance is given to these people because of new homes which they have to make in foreign countries, and I have no doubt that every Member will agree that when we send our people abroad, and if we expect them to represent us creditably, we should be prepared of course to make them happy, as happy as we can. Sir, I beg to oppose the amendment.

Mr Jaja Wachuku (Aba): Mr Chairman, Sir, with the greatest respect to the Prime Minister I want to register a very vigorous protest to the Prime Minister for appointing to-day as the first day for the Committee stage of the Supplementary Estimates. The Prime Minister knows that to-day is a half-day and then he has travelled from Heads 23 to 59. I think it is most unfair to this House because it has not given us sufficient time to scrutinise the Heads of Estimates. What time have we to be able to consider it? (*Some hon. Members: You are wasting time.*) I am not wasting time. Financial matters are such, Mr Chairman, Sir, that I say this House should be given the opportunity to scrutinise expenditure. We all know what is involved.

The Chairman: The hon. Member is attaching blame to the work of the Business Committee which was agreed to in the House, because we all know that Fridays and Saturdays do come in the week.

Mr Wachuku: I appreciate that, Mr Chairman, Sir, and with the greatest respect, Mr Chairman, all I am saying is that two half-days should have been made one day. Mr Chairman, Sir, Friday and Saturday should have given us one day. The Prime Minister

should give us an assurance that the usual hours will be given to us in consideration of this particular Head with so many items.

Further, Sir, with regard to this particular sub-head, if I have the Chairman's permission I think I will make all the remarks I want to make in the course of consideration of this Head. The Prime Minister has told us that this is the usual allowance that is given to members of the Diplomatic Corps. I understand what he means. Usually Members of external affairs of any country have so many expenses quite different from what you may get in the normal internal civil service. You have a lot of entertainment to make: you have so many people to call to dinner, whether you like it or not. You have social gatherings; people invite you and you have to invite them; then you have big parties and so on. But, Sir, I do not see where you have this disturbance allowance as it is known in Nigeria.

If the Prime Minister wants us to make a comprehensive allowance to enable our people to be comfortable, let us know. What we do not want is this: the Prime Minister has been careful, and I don't know whether it is inadvertence, he has not given us any assurance that this disturbance allowance has no connection with the other one we are talking about because, Sir, the other one, I know from the facts available to me, is paid principally to people who were recruited from the British civil service and brought here, and most of them have been paid this, including Secretary-Typists.

A Member suggested here, Sir, that he saw no reason why our Civil Servants should be paid while living in a house because in the United Kingdom civil servants live in their own homes. This is true, Sir, but those civil servants who were recruited from England, what type of house did they live in? What type of disturbance? They came on higher pay, they have so many allowances, they have quarters provided which they hadn't over there, and on top we pay disturbance allowance. What kind of disturbance? What disturbance is that? A Secretary-Typist who comes out here with quarters and everything. . . . If it were Engineers who go to the bush to survey or some people who have taken care of us and we know definitely have to suffer quite a lot, one can understand that.

I would like the Prime Minister to examine the number, look at the list to find out the people who have been paid this disturbance allowance, whether they are people who should be paid. That is what we have been saying here, that this is a ruse. Approve this in principle and then give us an explanation for the other. We want an assurance from the Government that this is not going to be used as a precedent to justify the other one.

Well, Sir, under the Secretariat Head, I said before that there are quite a number of things that are not good enough for us. It is not the fault of the Prime Minister. It is not the fault of this Government, the present Government but, Sir, there is this in my speech in the Motion on this particular Head: I asked that a full-fledged Department of External Affairs should be established. I hope the Prime Minister took notice of this because if we are preparing for independence in 1960 we must begin now to lay the foundation for this particular Department.

Now, Sir, another point which I would like to make is that the Commissioner for Nigeria in the United Kingdom, the Federal Commissioner, from the information available to me, forwarded a report here, after careful study and consultation with various industries, university professors and lecturers in international affairs, on training in external affairs, but the Council of Ministers got the full report and then kept it. The result is.....

The Chairman: Before you continue, you should bear in mind that this allowance is £2,000. That covers a very small allowance to a small number of persons.

Mr Wachuku: I think if the Chairman would grant me indulgence to make my remarks under this Head instead of repeating it again because time is so short.

The Chairman: Well, without repetition.

Mr Wachuku: I will certainly avoid repetition. I was coming to a point where a report was made about the training and the courses available, but the Council of Ministers did not proceed with the real thing. Then when it came to the actual selection of these people for training, Sir, we find that some of our people who were very highly recommended were left out.

If the Prime Minister would like to acquaint himself with the details, after the House, I am prepared to give him information which is available to me. These people went through the Civil Service Commission. They were highly recommended and yet why were they left out? I do not know. In fact, I understand that action is being taken now to recall them to this country, to bring them back here. Whatever the reason may be, I do not know. Sir, this Head is very important. I have said it before. It is everybody....(Interruption) If Members keep on interrupting me, with the greatest respect I suggest that they can only take my time, and I will use up my thirty minutes; but if they will let me speak then I will be more considerate. (Interruption) Mr Chairman, the time is so much against us that we cannot do justice to this Head. But I want to warn the House. Members want to speak on many other things but when it comes to a point which is very important to this country they keep on interrupting. This Head is very vital and we should discuss it comprehensively.

Now, Sir, there is one point. I want the Prime Minister to draw a distinction for me between this disturbance allowance and duty allowance. I know that an explanation has been given. Is disturbance allowance not also part of one's allowance in the course of his duty? Why duty allowance and at the same time you have a disturbance allowance, and various other allowances? This is a matter which requires very careful consideration, and I hope perhaps if I may be given the opportunity outside this House to be able to have a very comprehensive discussion on this matter. Members may not appreciate what I am after just because of time now, one cannot give expression to what he has in mind.

Mr Chairman, Sir, in due deference to the Chairman and the time at my disposal, I reserve my speech at this stage.

The Chairman: I think we had better finish this particular Amendment. I quite understand what the hon. Member has said. We will dispose of the Amendment now.

Question, That sub-head 9A be left out, put and negatived.

Dr E. O. Awduche (Onitsha) : Sub-head 11, Item 21, Disturbance Allowance. It appears to me, Sir, that entertainment allowance, which has been abrogated for the Principal Secretary in the office of the Commissioner for the Federation in the United Kingdom, and the Secretary for Economic Affairs, is now being re-introduced through the back-door. That allowance, Sir, of £600 per head per year has been scrapped. It does not stand precisely on the same basis as the last one we have just discussed. This is a question of an extra allowance being given to an officer, and an allowance which has been found to be unnecessary. I feel, Sir, that in view of the economic position of the country we cannot afford such colossal sums paid out to our officers. I am protesting, Sir, that this allowance should have been introduced into the estimates.

Question, That £10,990 for Head 23—External Affairs—stand part of the Schedule, put and agreed to.

HEAD 24—DEFENCE

Question proposed, That the sum of £561,140 for Head 24—Defence—stand part of the Schedule.

Question put and agreed to.

HEAD 25—POLICE

Question proposed, That the sum of £7,600 for Head 25—Police—stand part of the Schedule.

Amendment proposed to reduce the Head by £5.

Mr P. H. Okolo (Onitsha) : Mr Chairman, I rise to move the Amendment standing in my name to reduce Head 25, under Police, by £5. I am aware, Sir, that this particular Head refers to the Traffic Police, and not so much to regular Police, but I feel that year in year out when this hon. House met here Police had always come in for very severe criticism, and we would expect that up till now our Police Force would have a change of heart and that an efficient Police Service would emerge from these criticisms.

I am referring to the events which took place a few months ago in the Benin High Court, about a case that came up there of charges of corruption among police officers

in high places. It gives an indication that people have not been crying "Wolf, Wolf" when there was no wolf, and we have been expecting what action or what steps the Police Authorities have taken in this matter. Now, that our country is clamouring for independence, our road to independence would be strewn with thorns unless we have an efficient Police Force. Here in the House we are crying for tarred roads and improved communications and all sorts of amenities, but I think the first and the primary task before our legislators and our Prime Minister would be how to tackle this corruption in the Police Force. Unless our police force is based on moral standards of honesty, integrity and truth, we are not going to make any headway at all in the new independence we are going to get.

The Chairman : I am sorry to interrupt, but what we are doing is voting money for thirteen Sergeants, Eleven Corporals and Eight Lance-Corporals. By all means, protect them from corruption, but it is a terribly small item on which to base an argument against corruption throughout the Police.

Mr Okolo : Yes, Sir, what I do mean is that this House has been expecting for long to get a report from those concerned and to know actually what action the Police Authorities have taken in connection with that case. Otherwise what is the use of coming here every now and then asking us to vote money for the Police when we cannot get efficient service from the Police? We all know that the revelations there were very startling and scandalous, and that is the reason why I thought that this House should demand from the Police Authorities an explanation and a statement as to what action the Police have taken before we go on approving more money for the Police Force.

Amendment proposed.

Mr E. C. Ealey : Mr Chairman, Sir, I should like to speak against the amendment. The Estimates deal with the manpower of our Police Force, and as we have already read the Force is undermanned. Sometimes, however, Sir, in these expensive days, it is easier to make better use of available manpower than to increase it. Our Police Force is being used for many extraneous duties which form

I will now come to the last part of my argument. Sir, this man is in the habit of swearing, calling Africans all sorts of names like nigger, stupid people, and so on. I think the man is a South African... (Laughter)... He is from South Africa. He swears at Africans. Not only that, this man actually regards Africans in the Senior Service as useless people, but of recent, Sir, the Director of the Printing Press made an instruction that all Senior civil servants in the Department should come to the office and act as Messengers. Senior servants to come to the office at seven o'clock and act as Messengers? They should lock up the office and go home with the keys. This is an insult, a great insult. This man should be removed immediately.

Some hon. Members : Let him go.

Mr Adeyinka : I am appealing to the Minister, Sir, to take this point very seriously. What I would like the Minister to do is to appoint a Committee of Inquiry into that Department and find out all these allegations. They are very serious ones. I would like the Minister to take a very serious view and appoint either a Parliamentary Committee or a Committee of Inquiry to go into these aspects of my allegations.

Sir, I beg to move.

Amendment proposed.

The Minister of Research and Information (Chief Kolawole Balogun) : Mr Chairman, it is a pity that the hon. Member felt so strongly about this matter and used some really strong language. I have just come into this Department and looking through what has been done by my predecessor, I find that some attention is being given to some of the complaints that have been raised. But I will say this much, that it is not everything of this nature; for instance the allegation of asking senior civil servants to act as Messengers or things of that nature, that can really be cured on the Floor of this House. After all, all of us too have our personalities. Some of these senior civil servants have got their personalities and they too can put their feet on the ground and.... (Interruption)...

Mr Chairman, if I can be heard in some silence I think that Members will see some wisdom in what I am saying. After all, all of us have worked in one Department or

the other before. It is not everything of this nature that can be cured on the Floor of this House.

As regards the allegation of negrophobist and all that, what I will say is that we will do our best to see that the labour relations in that Department are as cordial as ever.... (Hear, hear)... and I hope, Sir, that the hon. Member will give us as much support as he can.

Thank you Mr Chairman.

Question, That Sub-head 1 be reduced by £5 put and negatived.

Question, That £11,940 for Head 28—Printing and Stationery—stand part of the Schedule, put and agreed to.

HEAD 30—POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS

Question proposed, that £18,300 for Head 30—Posts and Telegraphs—stand part of the Schedule.

Amendment proposed to reduce the Head by £5.

Mr O. C. Agwuna (Awka) : Mr Chairman, Sir, it is just because of one very important point that I desire to reduce the estimate for this Head by £5. Otherwise, judging from the enormous expansion work that is being carried out by this Department, I could have even joined in an appeal for more funds for this Department.

Every Member of this House must have been in possession of a paper which somebody, maybe a Member of this House, circularised. I have got a copy myself and it concerns the proposal to put up a new Post Office somewhere in my constituency, Awka Division. That proposal which has become the decision of the Ministry of Communications and Aviation has caused a lot of trouble in the Division. I really want to approach this problem from a very objective and judicious point of view.

Aguata and Ajalli are both very important centres in Awka Division. Both centres are in real need of Postal facilities. The Ministry depended on the report of an inquiry to decide in favour of Ajalli which is eleven miles from Aguata and Aguata is sixteen miles from Awka where you have a Departmental Post Office. What I am saying is this. I have tried to reason with people from these two areas, but there seems to be a tendency for certain local leaders in the areas to be unco-operative. The leader of one

faction will try to put forward an argument that the Post Office should be in his own area and not in the other centre, but that looks very narrow and an insular way of looking at it. I feel that there should be two Post Offices in Aguata District Council area. Already there are two Post Offices in the other District Council areas. There are two District Council areas in Awka Division.

In Awka you have one post office, at Nimo you have another post office, but in Aguata District Council area there is no post office there; and even if you approve a post office for Ajalli, it does not satisfy the need of the area because Aguata will still be very far away from Ajalli, and if you remove it from Ajalli to Aguata it will still be very far away from Ajalli. So my whole suggestion to the Ministry is that the Ministry should consider the wisdom and the economic possibility of approving two post offices for this Council area: that is getting a post office at Ajalli which is 11 miles from Aguata and another post office at Aguata which is 16 miles from Awka, the nearest Departmental Post Office.

Now, in reading the publication in the newspapers, the people of Aguta and Ajalli wrote attacking one another; the Ministry wrote in defence trying to clarify the grounds of Government. There seems to be a lot of bitterness in both arguments, and I do not think the Ministry has taken a very wise decision because the mere idea of accepting to build a post office at Ajalli and not at Aguata in itself is a defiance of the conclusions of this hon. House. We had earlier decided on principles and procedure of giving decisions wherever there are two factions fighting for a departmental post office, and I think that a very serious review should be made either in favour of Aguata as the Administrative headquarters or of both areas because, as I say, the need for post offices in these two areas is very important. And mark you, in spite of the fact that the other section of the Division has got two post offices, I know certain towns in that area that have actually started to build post offices in spite of the explanation that you do not have to build unless you inform the Ministry and unless you have the sanction of the Government to proceed to build.

Many towns have been putting up very gigantic buildings and I wonder what will happen to these buildings when they are

completed. It is wise the Ministry should issue a circular, or whatever it is, to as many District Councils as possible in the country, because as I stand here now, many towns are putting up many buildings, and if you go and ask them, they say they are building a post office: "the other town built one and after they have completed the Government took it up; why cannot we build one and let the Government take it up". I think that the Government will be embarrassed in this matter.

Mr Chairman, another point I want to raise under this Head is the question of the action of Government during the month of July this year. Between Awka and Nimo, the same constituency, some 2,000 economic plants were cut down and destroyed by the Department of Posts and Telegraphs in the course of trying to instal a telegraph and telephone line between Awka post office and Nimo. When I asked the officer in charge what was being done about it, he said that unless the House approves the compensation nothing would be paid. But on further investigation, I discovered that when similar economic plants were destroyed between Awka and Ndiuzuogu, where a Departmental Post Office was built, compensation was paid. I want to know from the Ministry how soon and how much compensation will be paid for these plants which included citrus plants, mango trees, *iroko* trees, and kolanut trees. Unless this is done, the people are not prepared to co-operate with any further work of telephone and telegraph expansion.

Mr Chairman, I beg to move.

Amendment proposed.

Mr E. C. W. Howard (Special Member): I rise to say that there is no provision under the Head for extra staff to enable the signal station at Bonny to maintain an adequate service. Such a service is essential, owing to the congestion at Port Harcourt, so that there may be no unnecessary delay in receiving signals from ships.

This is a matter which to my personal knowledge has been under discussion since 1948 or 1949, and I sincerely hope that the problem of keeping the Bonny signal station in full operation has been included in the handing over notes from the outgoing Minister to the new one.

The Chairman : Mr Mbakogu..(Applause—Aguata ! Aguata !).. . .

Mr F. U. Mbakogu (Awka) : Mr Chairman, I really thank the Members for their expression which shows the amount of sympathy they have with me. Just two days ago I caused to be circulated a Report of an Inquiry appointed in this House but was not given to the Members of the House to see. I did that so that Members will see the policy approved by this Government in this hon. House last March as to the step to be taken to decide the site for the proposed post office either at Ajalli or at Aguata District of Awka Division.

Mr Chairman, I feel that the Report of the Inquiry was in favour of Aguata, truly speaking, except that the Minister did not take the decision he was asked to take by the person who conducted the Inquiry. The terms of the Inquiry were not in accord with my speech in this House ; it is my speech that brought about the Inquiry. I was never saying that Aguata had more units of work than Ajalli. I never said that Aguata was not nearer to other post offices either in Onitsha Division or Owerri or in Awka Division. What I was saying was that we have got a policy ; we should not deviate from that policy : if any postal agency has qualified as of right for conversion into a departmental post office, it should by all means be given that privilege to have it converted into a departmental post office. But those at Ajalli and Aguata have not qualified for conversion as of right.

Well, our policy should be implemented there. We should follow our policy of giving preference to administrative headquarters.

Mr Chairman, I would not delay the Members of the House, but suffice it to say that it was unnecessary to have appointed the inquiry because the two hon. Members here for Awka Division have made speeches to ask for post office at Aguata to serve the forty-two Ajalli villages there, including Ajalli. Ajalli has a population of only 1,353 people in Aguata District. That is one. Well, Aguata post office is supported by Government policy ; I just read out the policy which supports Aguata post office so far as Ajalli has not qualified by units of work

In paragraph 6 here, with your permission, Mr Chairman, there is the old policy for a departmental post office. The White Paper

stated that, "Where at a Postal Agency, the annual amount of business transacted in any year reached 18,000 units in rural areas and 25,000 units in urban areas, it has been the policy to consider the conversion of the Agency into a Departmental Post Office. . . The economic conversion point from Postal Agency to Departmental Post Office needed for a mail exchange centre, is at 40,000 units, which amount of business provides work for a staff of two postal clerks and one messenger." Now, that was old policy before March this year, 18,000 units. Aguata has not reached 18,000 ; Ajalli has not reached 18,000. I want the Minister of Communications and Aviation to note these points.

Now, in paragraph 9, the policy introduces another feature, the system of sub-post offices to act as a go-between between a postal agency and a departmental post office. Now, the amount of business required for conversion of the postal agency into sub-post office is 24,000 units. Neither Aguata nor Ajalli has reached 24,000, so that none is qualified according to business transacted for sub-post office.

We come down to paragraph 16, that is the only case for a Post Office at Ajalli or Aguata. The paragraph states "Where the department needs a Departmental Post Office as a mail exchange centre it may convert an existing Postal Agency or Sub-Post Office to a Departmental Office at any point, irrespective of the units of business transacted. Normally, however, the Department will consider the conversion of a Sub-Post Office into a Departmental Post Office where the units of business transacted amount to 40,000 per annum, which is the lowest point at which a staff of two postal officers and a messenger may be economically employed. Priority will be given to the establishment of Departmental Offices at Administrative Headquarters."

In Aguata District, we have 18 Postal Agencies, so that no Postal Agency qualifies as of right for conversion into a Departmental Post Office. The Minister has seen the need for a Post Office in Aguata District. From this paragraph we can see that there is no question of saying that one has 17,000 and another has 9,000, in order to qualify for conversion. The paragraph states that a Postal Agency at the District Headquarters can be converted into a Departmental Post Office at any point, irrespective of units of business

transacted. So that the question of saying that Ajalli is far away from existing Post Offices, or has more units of work, is useless at the moment. So that I am appealing to the new Minister to give priority to Departmental Post Office according to paragraph 16 to Administrative Headquarters.

Now these are the points from which I approach the justification or otherwise for the Post Office at Aguata or Ajalli. I agree with my partner Mr O. C. Agwuna that there is need for two Post Offices, one at Ajalli and one at Aguata. If one is preferred, at the moment, it should be at the District Headquarters to serve the two sections. At the Aguata District Council Meeting of the 10th April, last year, the Council, of which an Ajalli man is the Chairman, resolved to pray the Federal Government to include in the 1956-57 Estimates, a Post Office for Aguata, to serve the 42 villages including Ajalli. The resolution states that whereas Aguata District Council is composed of 42 villages and has a lack of postal facilities, that this Council prays the Federal Government to include in its 1956-57 Estimates, a Post Office to serve the 42 villages.

The Chairman : I do not like the constant repetition of these two names which after all, are only two names in the whole of Nigeria.

Mr Mbakogu : I am appealing to the new Minister to set aside the conclusions arrived at by the Commissioner and interpret the policy of the Government, as referred to by the Commissioner under the heading "not relevant" in the Report. He said : "The attitudes both of Government and of the local people to the siting of a Post Office in this part of Awka are not relevant to an assessment of the relative merits of Ajalli and Aguata, although both are pertinent when the hon. Minister of Communications and Aviation makes his decision." In other words, the Commissioner was not given, in the terms of reference, the power to make use of Government policy or interpret it. He has left the interpretation to the Minister, by saying that it was the Minister who would take these points into consideration. But the Minister did not come to this, he simply agreed to the conclusions of the Commissioner, without making use of Government policy, *id est*, (1) That Ajalli is further away from existing Post Offices than Aguata ; (2) That Ajalli has more units of work than Aguata. Those were the two points on which he made his decision.

On the Floor of this House last year I opposed appointing any person from the East to act as the Commissioner, because they could not interpret Federal Government policy. I said last year that either the Minister, or his Permanent Secretary, or his Parliamentary Secretary, or his Private Secretary, should go to Aguata and enquire into the merits himself, bearing in mind what the Government policy was. In this I was supported by Mr D. N. Abii, Member for Owerri, who said. . . .

The Chairman : I do not honestly think it will strengthen the hon. Member's argument in any way, which has been fully developed already.

Mr Mbakogu : If I am permitted by the Speaker—"It is not very easy to speak the truth but it seems that the Regional Ministers of Development have too much to do, to do justice to this question of ordering an erection of Post Offices in the capital of the Districts and the Headquarters of the Local Government areas. Post Offices should be put up where they can be reached by the people. To build a Post Office in the corner of a District is an injustice."

So, I appeal to the Minister to help us so that justice can be done.

The Minister of Communications and Aviation (Hon. Chief S. L. Akintola) : I rise to oppose this Amendment and I do so, in the first place because it is illogical. Hon. Mbakogu got up and said that it was his desire that postal facilities in Nigeria should increase and that it was his intention to support any measure directed towards increasing financial provision for this department. But I cannot reconcile that with an Amendment which tends even to cut down what we have already got at the moment. That is why I feel that this Amendment is absolutely illogical.

Now, his second proposal, I am referring to the speech of the hon. Mr Agwuna, is that the Post Offices should be two, one in Ajalli and the other in Agwuna. (*Laughter*). (*Several Members : Aguata*). Well, hon. Mr Agwuna has so identified himself with Aguata, that I do not know the difference between them. This particular request cannot be supported on two grounds. One, the hon. Mr Mbakogu pointed out that the condition laid down for a place to qualify for a Departmental Post Office, has not been satisfied either by Aguata or by Ajalli,

It will, therefore, be unreasonable for either or both of them to have Post Offices at the same time. Secondly, this hon. House has already approved the plan, the White Paper, submitted by my hon. predecessor in office, and in that White Paper, there was a long list of the places where in the contemplation of the Government Post Offices would be erected up to about 1960. The two places were not included. Only one place was mentioned. Therefore, in that area only one Post Office could be erected. I, therefore, see no reason to support the proposal that there should be one Post Office in Ajalli and another in Aguata.

I would only say this, that my hon. predecessor in office, gave considerable thought to the intricate question of the competition between Ajalli and Aguata. He found it difficult to arrive at a decision by himself and he did everything he possibly could to ascertain the facts and he set up a Commission of Inquiry, had a lot of consultation before coming to the decision that he arrived at, and which, I have discovered, has not been pleasant to hon. Mr Mbakogu and to the people of Aguata. I am quite sure that this Government is always in a receptive mood. In the light of the facts known to him, the Minister has come to a decision. If the people of Aguata and all concerned, can present new facts which may lead to a modification or an amendment of the decision, I assure you that I will keep an open mind. (*Applause*). I would like this to be made absolutely clear, I said that if new facts were presented, I am not talking of repetition of old facts. Therefore, if only the facts already made known to my predecessor, and on which he has already come to a conclusion, are presented to me, I assure you that my conclusion will be identical to that of my predecessor.

The other point I would like to refer to is the point made by hon. Mr Mbakogu in connection with certain economic plants cut down. I promise to look into this matter and to do all I can to see that justice be done to all concerned.

Similarly, the hon. Mr Howard made reference to certain requirements in Bonny. I shall look into this and every measure that can be adopted in order to bring Bonny into full operation, as early as possible, will be adopted by me.

Question, That the Head be reduced by £5, put and negatived.

Question again proposed That, £18,300 for Head 30—Posts and Telegraphs—stand part of the Schedule.

Mr S. W. Ubani-Ukoma (Aba): Mr Chairman, the idea of providing field officers for the implementation of the Nigerianisation policy is logical. But, I would ask the hon. Minister to be very careful when filling these posts, that he is not deceived or misled. I am referring particularly to the foot note on page 9 of the Supplementary Estimates, under Item 153 which reads "As part of the Nigerianisation programme of the Department it has been decided to set up self-contained training units in those branches which require them. These contract officers will carry out training of staff on the job and will also arrange such formal training courses as may be necessary for officers newly appointed to the 'in-training' grades".

I wish to mention the problem of Senior Assistant Postal Controller, Scale B 1. You know, Sir, that Scale B 1 ranges from £1,188 to £1,380. The point I want to make here, Sir, is that when any officer comes here on contract basis, he should be allowed to complete his tenure of office and not to be looking for another contract. This post of Senior Assistant Postal Controller has been put in as a training officer, and that is why it is offset under the foot note details. He is put on a salary not exceeding £2,000. By changing his designation, he earns a higher salary. The substantive holder of this post is on a lower scale and if only a mere change of name of this officer will bring him up to £2,000, I submit that that is impossible. I would not call it a sluggish way of doing things. I think the Minister should look into it and see to it that no contract officer comes here and when he feels not satisfied in the place in which he is, goes round and tries to convince the head of his department to fix a new name to his post. He must first of all see to it that he has completed his task, so that when he finishes his contract term he can go. If he wants to go let him go. Let him not remain here and renew his contract when he has not even completed it.

With these few remarks, I beg to support.

Mr L. A. Lawal (Ibadan East): Mr Chairman, Sir, in supporting the Supplementary Estimates under this Department, I would

like to call the attention of the Minister of Communications and Aviation to the fact that the main post office building in Ibadan does not in any way befit a city such as Ibadan. Besides being old-fashioned and congested, it is not well-staffed. I cherish the hope that the Minister will just list this down as a complaint from a wearer of the shoe who feels the pinch.

Sir, I beg to support.

The Minister of Communications and Aviation (Hon. Chief S. L. Akintola): The point already made by the hon. Member will be given full consideration. Much was said about contract officers. Well I appreciate the point made but I would like hon. Members too, to bear one important fact in mind. The Department of Posts and Telegraphs is in need of great expansion and you will remember the effort made by my predecessor in Office in order to recruit staff for the Posts and Telegraphs. Schemes are all right on paper, but if there are no people to put them into execution they are as good as no scheme at all. Therefore, in our dealing with contract officers, we must always bear in mind that it is not easy to recruit suitable people, and in order to get suitable people to come, all reasonable inducements must be given; and our policy regarding contract officers has been determined by the difficulties which we have in getting people for recruitment, but all the same, the point made will be borne in mind, and we will do everything we possibly can to see that Nigerianisation is not only adopted in theory, but that it is also adopted in practice.

Honourable Members will remember too that my predecessor in Office had more or less singled out this important Department of Posts and Telegraphs, as far as the question of Nigerianisation is concerned. He has paid special attention to looking into the matter and advising those who are responsible, with a view to speeding up the pace of Nigerianisation in the Posts and Telegraphs Department.

As far as the need of Ibadan for a new post office is concerned, I am quite sure that that will also be put in the melting pot for consideration after the expiry of the period covered by the present scheme which you have approved on a White Paper here.

The point made by the hon. Member will be taken into consideration while we are considering the next period.

Mr P. Aiyuk (Mamfe): Mr Speaker, I just wish to make a small remark, and this is to call the attention of the Minister of Communications and Aviation to the fact that the people in Kumba town are suffering a great deal of inconvenience by reason of the fact that the new post office, Type D, which has been completed since April, has not been opened, and the staff are still working in the old small post office, which is built of corrugated iron sheets and is two miles away from the town. Even the staff themselves have no good quarters. Some of them have moved to the town and they have to trek four miles every day, so that they are suffering a great deal of inconvenience.

They have told me that they had wanted to move down to the new post office which is situated in the town, but their departmental head has not agreed to that. I do not know what the reason is. I am therefore begging the Minister to find out the reason; and to ask that the post office be opened, and to provide good quarters for the staff.

M. Hassin Rafin Dadi (Katsina South East): Mr Chairman, Sir, the Nigerianisation of this Department is something that should commend itself to all sides of the House, in view of what has already been achieved by the Department in the implementation of the policy that the Members of this House have been agitating for, for some time now.

In supporting the Supplementary Expenditure under this Head, I would like to congratulate our new National Government for their collective responsibility in all policy matters. That is a healthy start which augurs well for our country's national march to nationhood; for the provision of postal facilities is a wing that will accelerate our advance to this final goal.

The Ministry of Communications and Aviation has already made a promising start in the whole plan of organisation and development of postal facilities in this country. This was evidenced by the congratulatory speeches showered on the Minister from all sides of the House during the last Session. Tributes were also paid to the expert technical advisers, without whose support and co-operation, he would not have succeeded.

Now the Minister of Communications and Aviation is a man of recognised talent. His political experience, coupled with his intimate knowledge of the problems of this country will no doubt place him in an advantageous position to accelerate the plan that the Government has already put into effect regarding the provision, development and expansion of postal facilities in this country.

As a White Paper on the statement of policy regarding the Posts and Telegraphs has already been approved by this House, it is not my intention to make a selfish request, but only to ask the Minister to give fair and sympathetic consideration to the request of the people of my Constituency. The present set up of the area, which is known as the South Eastern part of Katsina, is such that the present postal agency services cannot adequately cope with it.

It is an area comprising three thickly populated districts from Malumfashi, Musawa and Kankara, with over 250,000 inhabitants—a quarter of a million. It is a great, rich agricultural centre, producing well over 13,000 tons of cotton and groundnuts annually. It is a great commercial centre, with well established expatriate and commercial firms; with B.B.W.A., and Barclays' Bank, B.P.C.A. Ginneri, earth control posts, produce inspection services S.I.M. Centre, as well as various native institutions. It is our sincere hope, Sir, that this request will be given sympathetic consideration, so that when inspected, the required condition of 20,000 units of postal business transacted, will be fulfilled, and that Malumfashi Agency be converted into a post office accordingly.

With these few remarks, I beg to support.

The Minister of Communications and Aviation (Hon. Chief S. L. Akintola): I would like to make this statement at this stage. I am new in this Office, but at the same time I want to give one assurance. My Ministry will always be willing to receive hon. Members of this House during the time of the Sitting of the House.

I might make arrangements, so that your requests, those that are of any particular interest to any Member, can be discussed with me personally. It would therefore be easier for me, on the spot, to get whatever facts I require, and to arrange, either to visit your particular area or to advise the experts to

visit your area so that I will be able to give satisfactory answers to your requests. (*Hear, hear*).

Question That £18,300 for Head 30, Posts and Telegraphs, stand part of the Schedule, put and agreed to.

HEAD 31—AVIATION

£12,580 for Head 31, Aviation, agreed to.

Sitting suspended: 10.45 a.m.

Sitting resumed: 11.4 a.m.

HEAD 32.—METEOROLOGY

£1,650, for Head 32—Meteorology—agreed to.

HEAD 33.—FINANCIAL SECRETARY'S OFFICE

£10, for Head 33—Financial Secretary's Office—agreed to.

HEAD 34.—CUSTOMS AND EXCISE

£10, for Head 34—Customs and Excise—agreed to.

HEAD 35.—INLAND REVENUE

£10, for Head 35—Inland Revenue—agreed to.

HEAD 36.—STATISTICS

£10, for Head 36—Statistics—agreed to.

HEAD 37.—TREASURY

£10, for Head 37—Treasury—agreed to.

HEAD 38.—VALUATION UNIT

£10, for Head 38—Valuation Unit—agreed to.

HEAD 41.—CO-OPERATIVES

£150, for Head 41—Co-operatives—agreed to.

HEAD 43.—MINISTRY OF LAND, MINES AND POWER

Question proposed, That £2,320 for Head 43—Ministry of Land, Mines and Power, stand part of the Schedule.

Mr J. Mpi (Ahoada): Mr Chairman, Sir it is only a matter of making some points clear, because this Department is doing a lot of work but work not yet extended to my Division. I have been asking the Minister to

try to know Ahoada Division during his tenure of office. People of Ahoada want to see him and put their needs before him. Up till now he does not know the place called Ahoada Division and he is Minister for the country so that I want that without making it long or putting it long that he should try to visit my Division. That will be a credit on his side.

Sir, I support.

Mr E. O. Imafidon (Benin East): Mr Chairman, in supporting this Head I rise to pay tribute to the Ministry of Land, Mines and Power (*Hear, hear*) for putting into fulfilment the promises and assurance given to me last year when I demanded that better engines were required in my constituency in order to give sufficient light to the people. (*A Member: So you are happy?*) I am happy that he has fulfilled these promises, and I am still looking up to him to see that the street lights are on. The streets are not yet lighted. The people are looking forward that in view of the fact that new engines have been supplied the streets will be lighted in the near future.

With these few remarks I support this Head.

Mr T. A. Ajayi (Ekiti North): Mr Chairman, Sir, we have much land in Ekiti but not much power. I am therefore taking this opportunity to invite the Minister of Land, Mines and Power to visit Ekiti and give us power. Certain towns in Ekiti wish to enjoy electricity supply with others. Take a place like Iddo where you have a new hospital but there is no light there. We are therefore wishing that the Minister should come to Ekiti to tour the whole of the Division and give us electricity in all the large towns.

Thank you very much, Mr Chairman.

M. Bukar Kadi (South Bornu): I only want to appeal to the Minister of Land, Mines and Power to please exploit the coal deposits in Kabba area for the use of Nigeria. It has been lying there for years and, if it is exploited, the better.

Sir, I beg to support.

Mr O. C. Agwuna (Awka): I only want to draw the attention of the Minister of Land, Mines and Power to the verbal promise which he made last year. I draw his attention to the proposal to provide light for some part of my constituency. He gave a promise that he

will be sending an expert to examine whether some eleven towns which are on the line will have to be considered when connections are made. I understand that one is going on now, I do not know to what extent, which areas will be covered, and I would like to know from the Minister how many towns in Awka Division will be supplied with electric light between now and 1960.

Mr M. A. O. Olarewaju (South Ilorin): Mr Chairman, Sir, although I support this Motion, I would like to renew my case to the Minister of Land, Mines and Power about a certain waterfall which I have spoken of before on the Floor of this House and to the Minister in particular. This waterfall, Sir, is sufficient to supply hydro-electric light to the whole people in Igbomina, Ekiti and Offa in South Ilorin. I believe no attempt has been made by the Minister concerned to investigate this waterfall.

Sir, I beg to support.

An hon. Member: Which waterfall?

Mr Olarewaju: The waterfall is at Owa Kajola in Igbomina land, in Ilorin South. I beg the Minister to make a note.

Oba Adetunji Aiyeola-Afolu II (Ijebu Remo): Mr Chairman, while thanking the Minister of Land, Mines and Power for the preliminary arrangement which is being made for the installation of light in Shagamu and Ijebu Ode, I should like to point out that the erection of poles is not adequate enough. I should like to ask, Sir, that all places, all corners, all areas in the town should be supplied with light, so that the people may be able to enjoy the facilities which are being provided at the present time. Extension work should not be left until a few places have been supplied, and I wish that the Minister will look into it that important areas in the town all over should be supplied with light at the same time.

M. Abdulkadir Koguna, Wakilin Riyogi (East Kano): Mr Chairman, Sir, no doubt we thank the Minister of Land, Mines and Power for the great job he is doing in this country, but I would like to raise one point. In Kano since about two years ago we have been hearing that there is one big and proper engine being installed at the power station which we have, and from what we have heard the engine would supply power to places

one hundred miles away. In Kano Emirate we have a very large district, those that are near to Kano City, a place like Kiyawa, which consists of more than ten thousand inhabitants, Dambarta, the same thing, Bichi and Gwarzo, and I should be grateful if the Minister of Power would use his power to see that something is done for these districts.

Mr Chairman, I beg to support.

The Minister of Lagos Affairs, Mines and Power (Hon. Alhaji Muhammadu Ribadu): Mr Chairman, Sir, I know the demand for electricity has been made on the Floor of this House repeatedly. I can only say, Sir, that my handicap and also that of the E.C.N., which is the organisation that supplies electricity in this country, is the question of money.

Firstly, capital has to be found and hon. Members are aware that the money earmarked for the five year Economic Programme is just enough to extend or to expand the existing undertaking, and up till the moment the E.C.N., or the Government in other words, are unable to find another source of additional capital in order to extend electricity supplies to the towns which the hon. Members have made requests for.

As hon. Members are aware, at the London Constitutional Conference electricity has now become more or less a regionalised subject, and the Regions are also interested in supplying electricity in some of the towns in their own areas. The only way we can extend, or the only way we can supply, electricity throughout the country in order to satisfy the needs of hon. Members is for hon. Members to approach their counterparts in the Regional Houses and request them to make similar demands on the Floor of Regional Houses. Even if the Regional Governments have not yet established their own organisations like the E.C.N., still they can negotiate with the E.C.N. to start undertakings on behalf of the Regional Governments, provided that the capital would be forthcoming.

Another snag, Mr Chairman, in connection with this matter is that some of the towns which are being mentioned by the hon. Members here for the supply of electricity will not be economical propositions. They will be run at a loss, and hon. Members are aware how reluctantly they always approve the subsidy being paid to the E.C.N. and if the capital

can be found and this House, or the Regional Houses, will be willing to subsidise the deficit to be incurred by the E.C.N. in connection with uneconomical undertakings, then the E.C.N. will be only too glad to establish undertakings wherever it is possible.

One hon. Member mentioned about street lighting. I would like to remind him that that is the absolute responsibility of a Native Authority Council or any Council. It is a local matter. If they can provide the money and if they can buy lamps, the E.C.N. will only fix them on the poles and then the streets will be lighted.

Mr Agwuna has also mentioned about what the E.C.N. are doing about connecting Awka and other towns with electricity. Again, it is the same thing, Sir. Awka, according to technical advice available could be fed from Oji Power Station, but there must be somebody to be responsible for making the capital available in order to instal the transmission lines.

If the Eastern Regional Government or the Awka Local Council are willing to provide the capital then Awka and one or two other villages along the way to Onitsha will be fed from Oji quite easily. The Oji Power Station is very powerful and could feed all the towns in the vicinity but again it is the question of money.

Head 43 agreed to.

HEAD 44—LAND

£28,120 for Head 44—Land—agreed to.

HEAD 45—SURVEY

£10 for Head 45—Survey—agreed to

HEAD 46—GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

£10 for Head 46—Geological Survey agreed to.

HEAD 49—ADMINISTRATOR-GENERAL

Question proposed, That the sum of £2,000 for Head 49—Administrator-General—stand part of the Schedule.

Mr R. A. Fani-Kayode (Ife): Mr Chairman, I remember that during the last session of the House many Members urged Government to remove the present Administrator-General, or to see that his contract is not renewed. I also remember that Government was upbraided for even putting this gentleman in

the department. Despite all our efforts, despite all our criticisms this expatriate was brought from the United Kingdom to do the kind of job he was never trained at all for. We said at the time that there were many capable barristers in Lagos, indigenous citizens of this country who could manage this Department. Our advice was turned down. Now Government is coming to ask for £1,400 to do a job of work that an African has been doing competently all these years. Now an incompetent gentleman is brought into the department we must get somebody else on a salary of £2,000. I think that our National Government must look into these things.

Further if you look at the explanatory details at the bottom of page 23, the last two lines say that "It is hoped to recruit locally, a candidate for this temporary work." Let there be no hope about it. Let us make it clear that a local gentleman will be appointed for this temporary work. Let us not hope at all. If we keep on hoping we will come back to this House and we will be told that a suitable Nigerian cannot be found to do the work.

I am urging that since it is essential that the arrears of work should be cleared in that Department Government should assure this House that an African will be appointed. There are many Members of the Bar with long experience in the Bar who are altruistic enough to accept this salary in order to clear the arrears of work in that department and I hope the Government will be willing to give us that assurance.

The Minister of Communications and Aviation (Chief S. L. Akintola): The hon. Fani-Kayode referred to the heated debate in this hon. House on the appointment to the post of the Administrator-General. He reminded the House of the trend of the argument at that time. The opinion expressed was that either the gentleman employed should not be employed or if he has been employed his contract on expiration should not be renewed.

The gentleman in question has already been employed on contract but that contract has not expired. Therefore I assure the hon. Member that the contract has not been renewed. But when it expires whether it will be renewed or not due weight will be given to the opinion

already expressed on the Floor of this hon. House. In this particular case hon. Members will remember that certain legal work was being performed in the Administrator-General's Office by people who had no legal training. I do not say this to disparage those who have been doing the work. They were experienced members of the Department, but the volume of purely legal work has increased considerably and it is now proposed to employ a lawyer, that is a legally trained man, who will discharge the duty hitherto discharged by people who have no legal training and that is why the House is requested to make this provision.

The hon. Fani-Kayode referred this hon. House to the penultimate sentence in the note attached to this Head where it is stated that it is hoped to recruit locally a candidate for this temporary work. The hon. Member wanted an assurance that an African will be employed. I assure the hon. Member that the Nigerianisation Officer is a man of great determination. He has been appointed after all the huge trouble over the vacancy of the Administrator-General was made and he has taken up his duty in real earnest. I believe that this House will depend on him and trust him that nothing will be done which is not in consonance with the expressed wish of this hon. House.

Mr L. J. Dosunmu (Lagos East): Mr Chairman, although it is said that the man to be appointed is going to deal with temporary work, that is to clear the arrears that have accumulated in the department, I am wondering whether the Government could ensure that these arrears of work will not recur. If that assurance is forthcoming it seems to me also that it would have been much preferred if you increased the establishment in that department rather than just employing somebody on a temporary nature. At the moment you have the head of the department who is himself a solicitor. And there are two other lawyers there. If the work is such that these gentlemen cannot cope with it and it becomes necessary to recruit temporarily somebody from outside to clear arrears of work I should have thought that there is a case for additional provision.

Now, in the opening of the explanatory note it is said that it is necessary to form a self-contained legal section within the Department. What happened after the section was formed?

Somebody must be at its head. I think after forming this legal section it will be necessary for it to be headed by, if not the man who saw it through, at least by a lawyer, and that strengthens the case for actually appointing somebody on the permanent establishment rather than this temporary expediency.

Mr E. C. Akwivu (Orlu): Mr Chairman, Sir, I associate myself with the statements made by the last speaker. The only other thing is that one would like to know whether in this instance you are engaging a lawyer temporarily for full-time duties for a period of about six months, or temporarily in the sense that he will be attending to his work and at the same time doing his private work. Because I cannot see how it will be profitable for a practising barrister to abandon his practice for say six months or one year and go and do a job for £2,000 and come back to re-establish his practice.

Question put and agreed to.

HEAD 50—MINISTRY OF SOCIAL SERVICES

Question proposed, That £1,600 for Head 50—Ministry of Social Services—stand part of the Schedule.

M. Maitama Sule (Kano City): I do not know, Sir, whether during my absence a reply was given by the Minister of Education to the very serious matter that was raised on the Floor of this House by an hon. Member from this Side of the House. I refer, Sir, to the question of the mass resignation of the lecturers in the Nigerian College of Arts, Science and Technology, Zaria Branch.

Sir, at this time when we are all clamouring for education there is no reason why the Government should keep quiet on a matter of such importance when a whole lot of ten lecturers in only one school go and resign without finding out why they have resigned. . . .

The Chairman: Will the hon. gentleman agree with me that this argument ought to be raised under Head 51, Education?

M. Sule: In that respect, Sir, I beg to withdraw until we come to Head 51.

Dr E. O. Awduche (Onitsha): Mr Chairman, Sir, I am very happy to observe that

the Ministry of Social Services is now being split into the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Health. It is not my intention now to try to inflict strictures on that Ministry as it existed, but we look forward to improvements occurring now that it is being split into two hands. I shall make my comments when we come to the appropriate Head.

Question put and agreed to.

HEAD 51—EDUCATION

Question proposed, That £6,820 for Head 51—Education—stand part of the Schedule.

M. Maitama Sule (Kano City): Mr Chairman, further to the comments that I started to make on Head 50 some moments ago, Sir, I wish to drive this point home that there was mass resignation in the Nigeria College of Arts, Zaria Branch, and the reason, it is alleged, behind that mass resignation was the fact that the wife of the Principal of the College had been giving a lot of trouble to the lecturers.

Now, that is a very serious matter indeed. I feel that in this time in which we are, very important as it is, we must not allow the wife of a Principal of a College to be interfering with the work of the lecturers, who are very difficult to recruit, so much as to make them so embarrassed and annoyed as to leave a Department like that. How could we get about ten lecturers at a time? We have been told time and again in this House that it is very difficult to recruit expatriates, especially those people that can do something in the field of education. Yet here we are now, allowing a lady who has nothing to do with the work of that Department to drive out not even a clerk in that Department, but lecturers.

Mr Chairman, I would urge the Government to see to this and either to explain why this has been so or to probe into the matter and please stop this lady from interfering with the work of others, and if possible try please to sack the person responsible for that sort of thing.

The Minister of Education (Hon. Aja Nwachuku): Mr Chairman, the matter which has been raised by the hon. Maitama Sule has been dealt with by the College authorities. It is a matter in which academic freedom should be given to the College authorities to deal with, and this matter has been resolved under the

chairmanship of my Permanent Secretary, Mr Mabey, and there is every amount of peace and tranquillity in the College premises, and Mrs Hart has been duly warned not to interfere with the functions of the College authorities. . . . (Hear, hear). . . .

Mr Hashime M. Adaji (Igala North): Mr Chairman, Sir, in that particular College of Arts at Zaria, I am referring to the engineering side of the Institution. Mr Chairman, the lecturers in the engineering side of the Institution are so old, some of them are only good for telling tales; and if Nigerianisation (as we are pursuing in this country) must come in the real sense of the word, then for good honour's sake, the Minister concerned must see to it that good lecturers, especially at this time that we require engineers in abundance, be imported in order to coach our boys to the satisfaction of the future needs of Nigeria as far as engineering is concerned.

Our people are suffering a great deal. If we cannot find suitable people, let them be given scholarships to the United Kingdom or any part of the world where we can get them qualified to cope with other engineers qualified from other universities in the world.

Mr M. A. Ajasin (Owo South): Mr Chairman, I just want to refer to sub-head 6. Under boarders, students and trainees, the sum of £2,550 under supplementary provision is put down, and also the explanatory details given below—the increased number of boarders and increased cost of foodstuffs.

Now, it appears that this House is called upon to subsidise the boarders' food at King's College and in some of these other places. I think the House should not be burdened with this question of money to help boarders.

Now, the boarding Department of any College should be self-balancing. The boarders should pay the fees to cover all the boarding requirements. If the Government want to help at all, what the Government should do is to have more free places at King's College so that students of poor parentage might be helped. But at King's College you have children of well-to-do people, professionals, lawyers, doctors and others and now we are being called upon to subsidise the food given to them. I think it is not proper that this Government should be called upon to do that.

In every Institution in the land at present what we have is that in the boarding section the amount paid by the boarders is expected to cover all the expenses of the boarding, and the Government of the Federation, as far as this question is concerned, should not be burdened with this kind of expenditure which it has been called upon to bear. So I am asking the Minister of Education to see to it that at a future time this thing is not done.

Mr Chairman, then there is another point about the College of Technology at Zaria. Now, the department of Fine Arts there is at present without a sufficient number of lecturers. Only very few lecturers are there and the students are complaining very bitterly because it appears they have no future at all. They are expected to do a lot of things as far as their courses are concerned, but there are no lecturers who will train them, so that it is a thing that the Minister of Education should see to, that lecturers are provided. There is no need putting them there and allowing them to spend two or three years and come out without being properly qualified.

Question, That £6,820 for Head 51—Education—stand part of the Schedule, put and agreed to.

HEAD 52—MEDICAL

The Chairman: Amendment by Mr Adeyinka.

Mr A. Adeyinka (Ibadan Central): I would not like to speak very much, Sir. I only call the attention of the Minister of Health to the growing discontent in the catering side of the Medical Department, Lagos. The Clerical Assistants there are actually on long-shift duty, much longer than other members of the staff, and actually I would like the Minister to go into the conditions of service of the Clerical Assistants. That is my point, so I do not move.

Question proposed: That £5,400 for Head 52—Medical—stand part of the Schedule.

M. Ahmadu Fatika (North Zaria): Mr Chairman, Sir, I rise to support the expenditure for this Head, and in doing so it is our duty to see that every penny of the Federation should be spent rightly or according to the wishes of the masses. That is why on Thursday I asked the Minister of Health the total expenditure on the importation of lymph during the

last outbreak of smallpox in Nigeria and the quantity of the imported lymph used, and the quantity not used. But unfortunately the Minister was misled by his officials and he gave me a wrong answer: that the Medical Department never imported lymph from the United Kingdom.

Sir, hon. Members will bear with me that during the last outbreak of smallpox the N.B.C. broadcast that some quantities of lymph were imported from the United Kingdom, even the hon Member on my left-hand side and I asked the same question during the March Session and we were told by the officials of that Department that the lymph was ordered from the United Kingdom and was just lying down in the store without being made use of. . . . (Interruption). . . .

The Chairman : Order order ! Under the Standing Orders I am bound to interrupt the proceedings and put the remaining questions.

Question, That £5,400 for Head 52—Medical—stand part of the Schedule, put and agreed to.

HEAD 53—CHEMISTRY

Question, That £1,340 for Head 53—Chemistry—stand part of the Schedule, put and agreed to.

HEAD 54—MINISTRY OF RESEARCH AND INFORMATION

Question, That £600 for Head 54—Ministry of Research and Information—stand part of the Schedule, put and agreed to.

HEAD 55—AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH

Question, That £11,900 for Head 55—Agricultural Research—stand part of the Schedule, put and agreed.

HEAD 56—FISHERIES RESEARCH

Question, That £8,180 for Head 56—Fisheries Research—stand part of the Schedule, put and agreed.

HEAD 57—FORESTRY RESEARCH

Question, That £2,860 for Head 57—Forestry Research—stand part of the Schedule, put and agreed.

HEAD 58—VETERINARY RESEARCH

Question, That £4,550 for Head 58—Veterinary Research—stand part of the Schedule, put and agreed to.

HEAD 59—INFORMATION

Question, That £3,440 for Head 59—Information—stand part of the Schedule, put and agreed to.

The Chairman : Order, order. I have now to report progress and ask leave to sit again.

(Mr Speaker resumed the Chair)

The Prime Minister : Mr Speaker, I beg to report progress and ask that the House sit again.

Mr Speaker : Committee to sit again when ?

The Prime Minister : On Monday.

ADJOURNMENT

The Minister of Lagos Affairs, Mines and Power : (Alhaji M. Ribadu) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move, That this House do now adjourn.

The Minister of Research and Information (Chief Kolawole Balogun) : Mr Speaker, I beg to second.

Question, That this House do now adjourn, put and agreed to.

Resolved, That this House do now adjourn.

Adjourned accordingly at twelve minutes to twelve o'clock noon until Monday the 9th September, 1957.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NIGERIA

Monday, 9th September, 1957

The House met at 10 a.m.

PRAYERS

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

PAPERS

Mr Speaker : Order. I have to announce that the following papers already distributed to Members of the House are deemed to have been laid on the Table :—

Rubber (Inspection for Exports) (Amendment) Regulations, 1956.

Groundnuts (Inspection for Exports) (Amendment No. 2) Regulations, 1956.

QUESTIONS AND ORAL ANSWERS

O.316. Mr R. T. Alege asked the Prime Minister :—

If he will state how many Nigerians of Northern Region origin are at present in the senior grades of the Federal Public Service, indicating the Departments in which they serve.

The Prime Minister (Alhaji the hon. Abubakar Tafawa Balewa): There are 28 Nigerians of Northern Region origin at present employed in the senior grades of the Federal Public Service. Their dispositions are as follows :—

House of Representatives	1
External Affairs	3
Labour Department	3
Meteorological Department	1
Mines Department	1
Police	6
Posts and Telegraphs	2
Prisons	1
Records Office	1
Department of Statistics	1
Treasury	1
Seconded to the Nigerian Broadcasting Corporation	7
	28

O.317. Mr R. T. Alege asked the Prime Minister :—

Whether he has any plans for the recruitment of women into the Queen's Own Nigeria Regiment.

The Prime Minister : Consideration is being given to the establishment of, and the recruitment of, women into a Military Nursing Service.

O.332. Mr G. O. D. Eneh asked the Prime Minister :—

If he is aware that Government's unwillingness to repeal section 19 of the Arms Ordinance (Cap. 14), causes hardship to many people and, if so, whether he will consider introducing a bill to amend the Ordinance during the present session of the House.

The Prime Minister : It is the intention of Government to introduce at the next meeting of the House a new Fire Arms Bill which will, I trust, relax the prohibitions contained in section 19 of the present Ordinance in a manner satisfactory to the hon. Member.

O.333. Mr G. O. D. Eneh asked the Prime Minister :—

If he will state how many cases of unauthorised manufacture or possession of cap guns resulted in conviction during the period 29th March, 1955 to 29th August, 1957.

The Prime Minister : During the period stated 53 cases of unauthorised manufacture of cap guns and 457 cases of unauthorised possession of cap guns resulted in convictions.

O.338. Mr S. F. Nwika asked the Prime Minister :—

If he is aware that the house erected two years ago for an Inspector of Police at Bori in Ogoni Division is yet to be occupied, and whether he will take steps to ensure that an Inspector of Police is posted to the area.

O.339. Mr S. F. Nwika asked the Prime Minister :—

Whether he will now consider increasing the strength of the Police detachment at Bori in Ogoni Division.

The Prime Minister : I shall, with permission, take questions O.338 and O.339 together.

I am advised that the house was built at Bori for an Inspector of Police two years ago in anticipation of an increase in the size of the detachment, which it has not yet been possible to effect. The claims of Bori for additional Police are receiving consideration, with those of many other places, in connection with any expansion of the Nigeria Police Force for which it may be possible to provide in the 1958-59 Estimates. An Inspector will be

stationed at Bori when the detachment has been increased to a size which would justify the full time of an officer of this rank to command it. But I can give no undertaking that this will be possible next year.

O.340. M. Abubakar Garba asked the Prime Minister :—

Whether he will invest the Assistant Superintendent of Police at Bauchi with the authority to issue vehicle licenses in view of the losses sustained and the difficulties experienced by vehicle owners throughout Bauchi Province who have to license their vehicles in Jos, where the only licensing authority in the Province exists.

The Prime Minister : It is the policy of the Federal Government to transfer responsibility for the licensing of motor vehicles in the Regions to Regional Governments. The Government of the Northern Region has been asked to assume this responsibility and when it does so I will invite attention to the difficulties referred to by the hon. Member. It is not considered that the function can be carried out by the Nigeria Police in the interim period since there is no Nigeria Police detachment at Bauchi and funds are not available for the erection of the quarters and office accommodation which would be necessary.

O.362. Mr P. A. Aiyuk asked the Prime Minister :—

When the establishment of police in the Divisional Headquarters in the Southern Cameroons is to be increased.

The Prime Minister : The hon. Member has not specified the Divisional Headquarters he is referring to in the Southern Cameroons, but I am informed that proposals for certain increases in the establishment of the Police in that Territory are receiving consideration in connection with the 1958-59 Estimates. I can give no undertaking that these will be approved.

O.363. Mr P. A. Aiyuk asked the Prime Minister :—

Whether he will consider setting up sub-Police stations in the Tombel, Mbonge and Ndian areas in Kumba Division.

The Prime Minister : I am advised that consideration is being given for the inclusion of provision for a police post at Tombel in the 1958-59 Police Estimates. Mbonge and Ndian will have to wait until places where the need is more urgent have been satisfied.

***O.318. Mr R. T. Alege** asked the Minister of Commerce and Industry :—

Whether, in view of the great demand for cheap motor cars in this country, he will consider allowing unrestricted importation of cars into Nigeria.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Commerce and Industry : There are no restrictions on the importation of motor cars as such.

Motor cars are not included in the Second Schedule to Open General Import Licence No. 2 of 1956 and they may therefore be freely imported from any of the countries named in the First Schedule to that licence.

Any importer wishing to import motor cars from a country not named in the First Schedule should apply to the Import Licensing Authority for a specific licence. Such applications would be considered on their merits.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

THE SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION
(1957-58) BILL (SECOND ALLOTTED DAY)
(House in Committee)

HEAD 61—COMMERCE AND INDUSTRIES

*Question proposed, That £10 for Head 61—
Commerce and Industries—stand part of the
Schedule.*

Mr E. C. Akwivu (Orlu) : Mr Chairman, Sir. In moving this amendment to reduce this Head by £5, I wish to register, Sir, what I may describe as a protest on behalf of a very significant class of workers in this country. One had expected, Sir, that the Government, or at least the appropriate Ministry, would have appreciated the great deterioration in trading conditions since after the last Budget Session and therefore cause the same to be reflected in this Supplementary Budget. Sir, the class of men I am here discussing is the Merchandise Traders in this country. One sees of course, Sir, that the present Head, that is Head 61, deals with Personal Emoluments and relates in part to trade officers, a class of men we have been led to regard as caretakers of the country's traders.

Sir, this class of men make their living through buying and selling merchandise. It needs no great emphasis to bring it home to anyone who really knows the position of these people in this country. These people, Sir, are

very much tied up with the economic well-being of this country, and I regret to say, Sir, that there is no sign anywhere that their status and their plight have received any substantial recognition on the part of the Government. Sir, these people are the helpless victims of the operation of the laws of Supply and Demand and how well they fare at any given time depends on which of these two laws gains the upper hand. Now, Sir, it is not an unknown fact that Government have always and very often intervened in the play of these trade phenomena in order to make it possible for such classes of people to make a living. It is not unknown in this country that our Government has sometimes intervened in the competitive operation of these two laws. We have for example, the Marketing Boards of all sorts now in operation in this country and the essence of these boards is to make it possible for producers of cash crops to live by their handiwork and thus indicating the recognition of the classes of people concerned and their activities.

Sir, the merchandise traders of this country are in a very bad plight and there must be no doubt in our minds that the economy of this country will suffer very seriously if the present situation continues. For example, Sir, at a time like this, when this country is crying out for capital, a lot of capital is being sent out of this country to buy goods that will never be sold, or be worth considerably less than what has been paid for them by the time they arrive in this country. Also, Sir, these people, the merchandise traders, are suffering from the present bad trade situation.

The bad trade situation not only causes loss of capital but can be said to be in some ways responsible for immoral, illegal and various unwholesome trade practices. Members may be shocked to know that Portland Cement is being sold in various shops and markets after very skilful form of adulteration and rebagging. This is only one instance of malpractice but may go to show the depth to which people have been compelled by adverse trade situations to fall. It is necessary for conditions to be created which will enable merchandise traders to make profits by buying and selling their wares in order to be able to maintain their families and be able to contribute as generously as they have done in the past to the country's revenue. If such conditions were created, Sir, I am quite sure there will be no need for honest

and hardworking citizens of this country to devote their time and energies to seeking how to reduce the weight and quantity of Portland Cement before sale.

Sir, I recommend that the Government do take up immediately the question of control of supply of goods in this country. Already, Sir, we have instances of specific import licences now in operation as a necessary prerequisite for the importation of certain commodities. One has first got to obtain licence or permit from the Department of Commerce and Industries and can only import within one quarter only the quantity authorised in your licence or permit. The same obtains with American and Japanese goods. I think, Sir, that the traders of this country will be very grateful to be released in their present distress if this licence policy is extended. In particular, the stockfish is a commodity that should be licensed as quickly as possible.

Japanese goods, although they are only imported on licence, are in no way doing justice to the licensing policy. Violent fluctuations in Japanese markets make it difficult for people who deal in Japanese goods to compete fairly with those who import from the United Kingdom. I know for example, that within the last week fluctuations in Japanese prices have ranged between £20 and £50. I think, Sir, that particularly with a country like Japan that does not buy anything from Nigeria, we shall be doing ourselves great injustice if we allow them to play about with the hard-earned capital of this country.

Now, Sir, whenever one makes a suggestion about restriction on imported goods one is always confronted with the question as to what would happen to the consumer. Well, I would say summarily, Sir, that the essence of control, as I have endeavoured to point out, is to try to reach some sort of equality between supply and demand. If your licensing policy is efficient there will be no need to be afraid because every man will get just as much as he can sell without punishing the consumer. I do not think, Sir, that there has been any outcry in this country about exploitation by importers in respect of flour which has been on licence for quite a considerable time. So I say, Sir, that the question of introduction of a licence should cause no serious concern to anyone because if it is effectively and efficiently applied nobody would feel it.

Further, Sir, some people say that if you introduce licensing you will in effect be raising a monopoly exclusive to the trading classes. As I have already said, Sir, that if the Trading and Commercial Officer in the Regions or in the outside districts could do their work efficiently there will be no difficulty whatsoever in deciding who ought to have a licence and who ought not to have one. Further, as has been pointed out before on the Floor of this House, Sir, by licensing it would be possible to bring the Nigerian indigenous traders more fully into the picture. So, Sir, without wasting a lot of time I seriously recommend that that method be adopted.

Finally I would draw attention to the Trade Officers we have in the Regions. I think, Sir, that it will be very essential that in posting one in such a decisive position the Government or the Minister concerned must make quite sure that the person sent is a person that has the goodwill of the community he is going to serve at heart. We do not want in places people who decide what others have to buy and sell with certain definite bias. It has been the experience of traders in some places that some Trade Officers are known to have greater likeness for or greater leanings to some class of traders than others. I do not wish to waste time on this but I crave your indulgence to say that the indigenous traders would like more friendly Trade Officers in the Regions.

Sir, I beg to move.

Amendment proposed to reduce the Head by £5.

Mr Akpan Udo (Ikot Ekpene): Mr Chairman, Sir, in supporting this amendment I wish to bring before this House some observations which have been made in connection with the Federal Loans Board. The legislation establishing this Board was passed by this House during the Budget Session of 1956. The Board itself was established on 1st July, 1956. Since then quite a number of applications have been received, many have been considered, and all the applications so far approved have been those of applicants from the Federal territory of Lagos.

I think that this House was very enthusiastic in passing this legislation last year because people have been very anxious to see the industrial developments of this country, and it has been believed that by devising machinery for granting loans to businessmen in this country it will be possible to speed up the pace of

industry all over the Federation. At that time it was not known what anomalies existed in the legislation that was passed.

The first anomaly I would like to bring to the knowledge of this House is section 9, subsection 1 (b) of the Ordinance, the Industrial Loans Ordinance. It is this that while applicants in the Federal territory of Lagos may apply for any sum ranging from one pound to a thousand pounds, people resident outside the territory of Lagos may not apply for anything less than £30,000. It then appears that the very flourishing and the bigger businessmen are outside Lagos whereas in Lagos territory we have facilities for the establishment of big business.

The consequence is this, Mr Chairman, that even if a man's business is just about £5,000 outside Lagos and he wants to apply for a loan, since the law provides for a loan of £30,000 for applicants from the Regions he must put up his application for £30,000 and then put up fabulous figures to make up the £30,000. This constitutes ...

The Chairman: Order, order. I think the hon. Member is largely discussing the details of a certain Ordinance of legislation. Legislation and the details are not allowed to be discussed in the Committee of Supply. You can only discuss administration in Committee of Supply, and this is a very small vote too (*laughter*).

Mr Akpan Udo: Mr Chairman, I am trying to bring to the knowledge of the Minister that amendment to this legislation is overdue.

The Chairman: But I don't want the hon. Member to go on with that.

Mr Akpan Udo: Mr Chairman, with these remarks I beg to support.

Mr E. C. W. Howard (Special Member): Sir, with your permission I will seize this first opportunity of welcoming the new Minister of Commerce and Industries. I know that he will bring to his Ministry the ability and drive which he displayed in dealing with the problems of communication. At the same time I would like to say how pleased I am that commerce will retain contact with the previous Minister who has taken up the post of Minister of Transport.

I am rather disturbed that the Supplementary Estimates appear to allow no provision for increased activity in regard to the industrial side of commerce and industry to cover the

rest of the financial year. I think there is very little doubt that after Nigerianisation one of the topics of most interest to Members of this House is that of industrialisation, and we are all anxious to know if the Ministry is doing all it can to encourage the growth of industrialisation. In my humble opinion they are not as yet doing so and I would like to say as briefly as possible why I hold that opinion.

First of all, I should like to make clear if certain measures which I understand Government are to take in the near future, it is fair to say that all endeavours to give reasonable relief so far as financial and taxation matters are concerned, are being carried out and there is little one can complain of in this direction. However, assistance in the form of financial relief is not enough. One of the most important factors which might well deter prospective industrialists from establishing an industry in this country, is the impression which they may obtain that there is some rivalry or jealousy between the Regions in regard to the setting up of an industry. Most of the worth-while industries which are likely to be established in this country will depend upon having the whole of the Federation as a potential market, if the industry is to be financially sound and successful. Therefore, if the people investigating the prospects gain the impression that because the industry has not been established in that particular Region, that the Region may in any way restrict those activities, the people concerned will be very uncertain as to whether it will be economically sound to establish at all.

I would suggest that it is most desirable that close co-operation should exist between the Federal Government and the Governments of the Regions in this matter. I would strongly urge that some machinery for that purpose should be set up.

I am well aware that the Minister will have many urgent tasks on his hands during the next three years but I think it is fair to say that for a considerable time now, the main energies of Government have been directed towards political and constitutional matters and I do hope it will be possible to give some commercial matters more attention than they have perhaps been able to give in the past.

Apart from the financial assistance to which I have referred, there are three other things which it is absolutely essential for industry to have, if it is to be established permanently.

Firstly, land must be available on which a factory can be built and on which houses for the expatriate staff, necessary at the beginning, can be housed. If an industrialist wishes to establish in the Federal Territory, he will be told that there is no longer any land available; it has all been let. It may have been let, Sir, but it certainly is not being used. People willing to set up an industry might well be turned away simply because land which should have been retained for the use of people seriously intending to set up business, has been allowed to fall into the hands of people who are not at present using it. I sincerely hope that this matter will be put right.

Secondly, industry will require electricity supplies, either to drive machinery or to be used for domestic purposes. I would recommend that information should be readily available to all prospective industrialists and that that information should cover the whole Federation.

Thirdly, water supply will also be required and I do suggest that it is most unsatisfactory for potential users to be told that it might be available this year, next year or some time in the future. I do hope that the Ministry will be able to collect such information and have it available for potential industrialists and that it will cover all the Federal Territory.

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Dr the hon. K. O. Mbadiwe): Mr Chairman, I beg to oppose the Amendment. I am sure that the Mover of this Amendment has no intention whatsoever of pressing it but wants an opportunity to air his views on a matter which is uppermost in his mind. I want to say that the hon. Mover of the Amendment emphasised one thing, that there should be a continued control of certain important articles by way of introducing licences. May I take this opportunity to say that Governments pursue the system of licences only in very rare cases and no democratic Government wants to impose restrictions if that can be avoided. It has always been the policy of Government, after emergencies to try to come to normal by trying to de-control things which have been placed under control. Nevertheless, any country can pursue the method of licensing if it feels that by so doing it can improve its economy.

Specific items have been mentioned which I will give further study and see if there is any conflict with the economy of this country. Two things have been mentioned, one is that we should not destroy the middle class, the traders who form the middle core of this country. I am in agreement with this proposal but, at the same time, we shall not try improving the lot of the middle class by injuring the consumer. So you see that there must be a balance in these whole aspects, because they are very essential to the country as a whole, and the duty of any Government is the welfare of all classes of people within its own jurisdiction, and this must be very well taken into account. I do not think the question of loan board is an appropriate matter before this particular Head.

May I refer to the observation made by Mr Howard on the question of industrialisation? He said he hoped that these Supplementary Estimates would bring some more tangible demonstration of the Government's intention for industrialisation. I will say that the Prime Minister, if you heard him speak when he was introducing the financial budget, said that it is the view of this Government to review the economic programme. It may be that when this review is undertaken what Mr Howard is expressing will be very well taken into consideration. The question of industrialisation is very uppermost in the programme of the Government and I am sure that the mercantile world realises this.

I quite agree that if industrialisation is to be effective, Mr Chairman, there should be absence of Regional competition, and I want to assure Mr Howard that in a few days or months from now there will be a definite move for the Regional Ministers responsible for Commerce and also the Minister responsible for Commerce in the Federation should get together to work out an overall programme so that the activities can be in such a way that competition will be avoided and we can bring the maximum good of industrialisation to the country as a whole. (*Hear, hear*).

I want also to assure Mr Howard that I am not the only Minister thinking in this direction; I have already had indications from other Ministers from the other Regions that it is their intention and that they are waiting for this move to be taken without delay.

I agree that financial assistance is not only what Government can do to aid industrialisa-

tion, nor are the three things which you mentioned. I think there are many many other things, and I think when these Ministers have met and when we call for more thinking in the whole matter, we will be able to present a comprehensive programme before the country, apart from what had been done before; and you will agree that the previous activity to aid industrialisation had been undertaken in many forms and which has expressed itself in many legislations. There was the aid to pioneer industries and there was this new Bill to relieve industries of some import duty, whether of raw materials or of capital equipment. This will be forthcoming to this House and there are many other things that have been contemplated, and I think your desire is that all these should be worked in harmony with the activities of other Regional Governments. This, to my mind, will give us a uniform policy which will aid industries in the right direction and that can assure the mercantile houses that they will be undertaken without delay.

Mr Chairman, I beg to oppose the Amendment.

Amendment put and negatived.

Question, That £10 for Head 61—Commerce and Industry—stand part of the Schedule, put and agreed to.

HEAD 62—MARKETING AND EXPORTS

Question proposed, That £10 for Head 62—Marketing and Exports—stand part of the Schedule.

Mr J. C. Obande (South East Idoma): Mr Chairman, I have no intention to reduce this Head, but I wish to register the ill-feeling of my people over their main products. My people of the Benue Province are very large farmers and their products are soya beans and benniseed. Year in year out the agents come and buy these products at very low prices. You will remember that I have spoken about these products for many years in this House and I feel that no attention had been paid to it. I would suggest to the Minister of Commerce and Industry to place these products in the world market so that they should receive adequate pay for their labour.

Mr Chairman, I beg to withdraw.

Question put and agreed to.

HEAD 63—MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT

Question proposed, That £10 for Head 63—Ministry of Transport—stand part of the Schedule.

Mr G. O. D. Eneh (Udi): Mr Chairman, Sir, in moving this Amendment to reduce the Head by £5 I want to refer briefly to three aspects of the Railway administration which are causing inconvenience to the people, and I am referring to the administration of railway lands, the condition of railway coaches, and the new time-tables.

In referring to this item, the railway lands, I want to emphasise that the policy adopted recently by the Railway with regard to its lands in the Eastern Region is causing untold hardship to the people. This policy aims at demolishing houses on the railway lands without compensation. Quite recently, there was about to be a riot at Agbani because of this decision. It was the Regional Ministry of Internal Affairs, Eastern Region, that intervened and brought about peace within the area.

Well, Sir, before 1954 the railway lands were vested in the Federal Government, but with the coming into force of the new Constitution, the railway lands in the East became vested in the Regional Government and in the Railway Corporation. The produce traders had already since about 1922 built on the railway lands, but the new policy now is that the houses built on these lands would be demolished without compensation to their owners....(Interruption)...

The Chairman: I find it very difficult to permit the hon. Member to go much more extensively into the Railway administration because what I can see is that this Head contains £10 for a Typist. It is not an opportunity for a general debate on the Railways.

Mr Eneh: Well, Mr Chairman, I only want to ask the Federal Minister of Transport to let this House know the policy of the Railway administration in so far as demolition of houses on the railway lands is concerned. I also want to know the action being taken in regard to the condition of railway coaches throughout Nigeria because we find that the condition of the coaches is very bad, especially in the Eastern Region.

Furthermore, the present time-table for trains is causing inconvenience to traders

because the trains are not running to time, and we are asking that the Minister should see that trains run according to schedule without causing inconvenience to the people.

With these few remarks, I beg to move.

The Minister of Transport (Hon. R. A. Njoku): Mr Chairman, I think I would like to answer very briefly the points made by the Member for Udi Division. As he well knows, the railway policy for lands which belong to the Railway is the same throughout the Federation—there is no question of a different policy in the East, one for the West and another in the North.

He is right in saying that since the Railway became a Corporation the land has been vested in the Railway Corporation. There are so many ways in which a person can take possession of land: one can take possession of somebody else's land by permission, by lease, by sale or by such a person becoming a squatter. If a person is a squatter on the railway land, I do not think he can expect the Railway to treat him as if he had got the land by lawful means or by lease.

I already know quite a bit about this because this matter has been discussed in this House many times before by the former Minister of Transport, and the matter was discussed at length during the passage of the Railway Corporation Ordinance; so we are not completely at sea with regard to the administration of Railway land. I will look further into that, but I would not like to raise his hopes too high, because, as I have already said, if people go on other people's land without proper title, well they cannot expect to be treated as people who possess proper title.

The question of coaches is rather important also. I propose, as soon as I settle down in the New Ministry, to make a trip from here to Kaduna and to Port Harcourt, and see for myself what the coaches look like, and how they compare in various parts of the country; see whether the coaches in the west are what they are in the north, and what they are in the east. I think that Members who have taken the opportunity of seeing the last exhibition by the Railway, the exhibition at Iddo, must be very gratified indeed that the Corporation is doing its utmost to improve the standard of the coaches, and the standard of running the railways. Some of the apartments which we were told were first-class compartments were just as good as first-class compartments

Also there is one, as you will see on the same page, for Onitsha/Asaba. This particular ferry will be in operation as soon as possible, and when the bridge is built it will be quite easy to move it, since it is not a chain ferry; it can also serve at other points in some of the inland waterways of the country.

Mr Nwika refers to the importance of water traffic between his constituency, Ogoni and Opobo. I know this particular area on the map fairly well, but I am quite sure that he will agree that the distance is not very short. At the moment, I think it is true to say that river traffic is improving. In the olden days, it was mainly by canoes, now we have got outboard engines, and we have got motor launches. Launches are being built at two boat-yards at Opobo, one which is run by the Federal Government, which is doing very well indeed, and one by the Eastern Regional Development Corporation. I am glad to say that these two boat-yards are turning out such good boats, and launches, that some of the Members of this House have even bought some of the launches. And the prices are very, very reasonable indeed. That, of course, is a matter which belongs more appropriately to the Ministry of Commerce and Industries, so I will not go into that.

There is no doubt that this new Department of Inland Waterways is keenly interested in improving traffic by inland water throughout the Federation, and I am quite sure that if Mr Nwika would care to call at my office, I can arrange for him to meet the Director of Inland Waterways Department in order to have a chat with him. It seems to me that a discussion of this type would be very useful, because, to start a ferry service there are so many things that one must have. You cannot just start it for the sake of starting it, you must have enough traffic, and the course itself must have to be surveyed by experts, the people who know about these matters, to make sure that any craft plying on the route will be quite safe. All these matters would have to be gone into.

I come now to what Chief Yellowe has said in relation to the historic rock. I think somebody has said sometime ago about this historic rock that it appears to have some special powers of attracting the lives of human beings.

Well, I am quite glad that Chief Yellowe being a very modern man does not believe in superstition. He regards it as one of the

monstrosities in the waterway and thinks that blasting might be a good way to get rid of it so that the waterway may be clear. There again I think the Department of Inland Waterways will come in handy. I would also suggest that Mr Yellowe should try and arrange a discussion with the Director so that he may explain to him exactly what the rock is like and I am quite sure that as time goes on it will be the Director's wish to either go to the place or make sure that some of his staff go there to see what can be done in order to remove this rock and give necessary protection to the lives of people that ply on those waterways. (*Hear, hear*).

Question put and agreed to.

£70,930, for Head 64—*Marine Services—agreed to.*

HEAD 65—INLAND WATERWAYS

Question proposed, That £24,720 for Head 65, Inland Waterways, stand part of the Schedule.

M. Sanni Okin (Ilorin North): Mr Chairman, I rise to support this Head, but I would like hon. Members to pay more attention to some discrepancies detected in this particular Head. It is quite impossible to add £205,590 to £20,740 to make £213,590. Something is wrong somewhere. The total expenditure for 1957-58 should be, according to the printed draft, £226,330 and not £213,590. If it is maintained that the total expenditure required for the year, according to the draft, is £213,590, the supplementary provision required therefore should be £8,000 and not £20,740. You will now see the difference between £8,000 and £20,740. So this House will be very pleased if the position is adjusted or a detailed explanation is given by the Prime Minister whether £8,000 or £20,740 is required.

I beg to support.

Mr J. M. Udochi (Afenmai): Mr Chairman Sir, in supporting this Head of the Estimates, I want to draw the attention of the Minister of Transport to Sub-head 1, Item 8—one Director, Group 5. I say, Sir, that this is another example of that clever budgeting which seems to give an impression of what is not. If Members examine this Item closely, they will see that only five months ago they had budgeted for one Director on Group 4A which has a salary of £2,520. Now, you are being asked to regrade him and give him a salary of £2,400. This gives you the impression that you are

thus making a saving in the service of this man of £120 per annum, but I shall soon show to you that this is grossly misleading. Rather, what this estimate seeks to do is to make the services of this man doubly costly to you. You are being asked to make the services of this man cost you a sum of not less than £5,000. I shall show to you how that works out.

Now, Sir, I refer you to the explanatory note given for this particular regrading. I quote. "Post regraded. It has proved impossible to recruit a person qualified to direct the hydrological activities of the Department although it is possible to find an officer able to direct all activities of the Department providing he has professional advice on hydrological matters. This will be provided by a consultant on a contract basis and the post of Director is therefore to be graded at a more appropriate level in view of the fact that the original grading assumed that the officer appointed would be responsible for hydrological matters without professional advice." Now, Sir, five months ago in March when you were asked to create this post, it was assumed that a man with hydrological knowledge would be appointed, and a salary of £2,520 was earmarked for the post. Barely five months after, the Government comes with this and says "Oh, no, we want you now to get a Director who will be minus hydrological knowledge but will be supported by a consultant who will be an hydrological expert." I tell you that consultants are always very costly. This estimate, if it wanted to be fair to you, would have shown you what will be the contract salary of the man who will support this Director, and I dare say that that sum will not be anything less than £2,500. I ask the Government to challenge that statement, and I do tell you that next March you will find under this very heading an hydrological consultant now to join the Director. The Director whose salary is only reduced now by £10 will then get a consultant who will be drawing a contract salary of pretty £3,000.

Now, Sir, this Department of Inland Waterways is a new creation. In March when we were asked to create this Department we provided for, apart from the Director whom we thought to be an hydrological expert, an Assistant Director, Group 7 on a salary of £2,220. We now know that this Assistant Director has no hydrological knowledge. We then provided two Principal Marine Officers,

Group 8. Both of them will draw a salary of £3,240 per annum. We now know that these men have no hydrological knowledge. We then provided four Senior Marine Officers, Scale A Upper Segment. All of them will draw £5,130. We now know that these Marine Officers have no hydrological knowledge. We then provided one Principal Engineer, Group 8, on a salary of £1,630. We now know that this Engineer has no hydrological knowledge. We went further and we provided one Senior Engineer, Scale A Upper Segment, salary £1,290. We now know too that this man has no hydrological knowledge. (*Prolonged laughter*).

Hon. Members, do not laugh! This is a serious matter. You look through this galaxy of amphibian and semi-amphibian experts, but none of them has hydrological knowledge. You are asked now to reduce the salary of the Director by £10 and then provide him with a consultant with hydrological knowledge whose salary is not stated yet, but I can assure you it will be something in the neighbourhood of £3,000. Consultants are not very easy to come by.

Now, Sir, what is hydrology? Hydrology is simply knowledge of the study of water. (*Laughter*).

The Chairman : I think it must be assumed that Members of the Committee and the Minister understand what hydrology is, and indeed it would be much more suitable in a Committee speech to say—the following persons, A, B, C and D, have no hydrological knowledge. It is not necessary to mention each one, describe him, and then say what he possesses or does not possess. That is really going too long.

Mr Udochi : I am very grateful to the Chairman for the correction and I shall profit by it. Now, Sir, hydrological knowledge is of such great importance to this country that the International Bank Mission commented on the deficiency in the country and made specific recommendations. I shall refer the House to page 212 of that Report :

"Department of Hydrology: Present arrangements for collecting data on the rivers are most unsatisfactory. Survey and measurement are not conducted systematically, and there is no centre for collecting what information exists. The navigation companies are interested in the depth of water on the Benue

and on the navigable portion of the Niger, and keep regular records of the stages at fixed points. The Nigerian Railway maintains reading staffs at river crossings. The Public Works Department also maintain some reading staffs. None of these measurements is linked to river profiles or gaugings of flow. The Electricity Corporation of Nigeria has in the last few years established flow measurement stations on the Niger near Jebba. . . ."

The Chairman : It is quite outside the ambit of the speech on this particular Head of the Supplementary Estimates. To quote what the Railways and the Electricity Corporation have done is outside this particular Head. It is only a committee debate on a particular point in the Supplementary Estimates.

Mr Udochi : I shall abide by the ruling of the Chairman, but I was trying to point out how important this question of hydrological knowledge is to us. If the Government in order to get a director with hydrological knowledge cannot get one for our waterways how can we expect them to be able to provide us with a Department of Hydrology ?

I shall turn to the business aspect of this matter. Only five months ago you created this post. What effort has been made to find out this man who can be a Director with hydrological knowledge ? What advertisements were made in Holland, people who have been very kind to give us the NEDECO, who have been maintaining our rivers ? What effort was made to procure a man from Holland ? What approach was made to NEDECO who already have been studying our waters to give us somebody with hydrological knowledge ? In what newspapers in Holland was this post advertised ? In what papers in Switzerland and Western Germany was this post advertised ? In what paper in Nigeria was this post advertised ? We have no evidence that effort was made at all to get a man with hydrological knowledge as Director of the Inland Waterways. We know that we have been told that a man with hydrological knowledge cannot be found as a Director. But do not be deceived if in March somebody will be produced who will be his Consultant then fully qualified but who cost you no less than £3,000.

The Chairman : An element of repetition is now coming into the speech.

Mr Udochi : I shall not repeat but I am trying to show that this estimate is not designed to reduce the cost of the Inland Waterways. It is designed to raise the cost, enormously. And I say that we are now very grateful that we now have a Prime Minister who is trying to get some sort of unity and good work for this country. I know that this is a period of emergency ; I only pray that Allah might give him the light to see where really emergency lies and that he will not go about chasing the shadow and allowing the real wolf to prowl unmolested. Mr Chairman, I support.

The Prime Minister (Hon. Alhaji Abubakar Tafawa Balewa) : Mr Chairman, Sir, I do not like the House to have the impression which the last speaker appears to have created about the directorship of the hydrological side of the Inland Waterways Department. It is true that when the Department was established the House was asked to approve the post of a Director who should be a Hydrological Engineer. He said the post was not advertised ; it was widely advertised, Sir, and we found that hydrological engineers are very rare in the world. We tried if we could recruit from the United Kingdom or from somewhere else but unfortunately, Sir, we could not find any hydrological engineer of the standing required for this post to apply. We had a few people who were interviewed but unfortunately we could not get the people of the experience required to apply for this job.

The Inland Waterways Department, as I told the House, is composed of different sections : the Traffic Section, the Engineering Section, the Stores Section. There are five altogether as I explained when I was asking the House to approve the establishment of the Department. Because we could not find the man to be appointed, we have a new Director of Inland Waterways who is a very able man and who has done extremely well in establishing the Department and all the Shipping companies now have told me that there has already been marked improvement in shipping in our inland waterways.

The hon. Member told the House that we did not approach NEDECO. We did. I went to Holland myself and I had a long discussion with representatives of NEDECO in Holland and as a result of my discussion I am glad to say that we are now getting this Consultant. Possibly he is coming from NEDECO and as he said,

they are experts in this kind of work, they are experts and they are working for us and I hope we shall get the services of a man from NEDECO to be the adviser to the Director of Inland Waterways. But I do not like the House to get the impression that the Director of Inland Waterways is a man who has got no knowledge of our inland waterways. He is a man who has been in the country for many years. It is a department which will continue to grow.

I have also thought of getting Nigerians interested in this hydrological engineering work. When I was in Holland I discussed with the laboratory there and also a very interesting United Nations training institution in Holland whether they would take some Nigerians. They could of course, they told me, take some Nigerians and I am pleased that two Nigerians have already applied and I think have been accepted for training. It is our intention also to try to encourage young Nigerians who qualify as Engineers to go straight after they have qualified to have a year or two as hydrological engineers. So we are not idle. I want to assure the hon. Member that we have done all we can to recruit an experienced hydrological engineer but they are very very rare to find in the world to-day.

Dr E. O. Awduche (Onitsha): Mr Chairman, I am very happy to note that the hon. Minister of Transport appreciates the inadequacy of ferry crossing between Onitsha and Asaba. As a matter of fact additional provision has been made for another and I hope a new pontoon ferry. I just want to call the attention of the Minister to the inadequacy of the approach to the ferry particularly on the ferry now existing. The slipway winch, that is the approach by which vehicles get on to the ferry, is very inadequate. The chain holding up this bit of the ferry got broken in the existing ferry some time ago as a vehicle was getting on to it and this vehicle nearly fell into the river.

Another thing is that I would like the Department to keep an eye on the gross weight of vehicles getting on to the ferry. This break in the chain arose as a result of a fully loaded ten-ton lorry attempting to get on to this ferry. I hope there will be some means of limiting the weight of vehicles getting on to the ferry.

Furthermore although there is a semblance of the fact that an additional ferry would be provided I think that is only apparent because the present ferry is often out of commission.

Quite a number of times it does not keep to the scheduled time table because of some defect in the engine. I remember when we were crossing from Onitsha to Asaba we were delayed considerably as a result of engine trouble, and some time had to be spent in making repairs. I hope that will be taken into consideration and that in the near future another new ferry will be provided so that the traffic on that side of the Niger will be reasonable and adequate.

I beg to support.

Mr R. A. Fani-Kayode (Ife): Mr Chairman, Sir, on the very important subject mooted in this House by hon. Udochi and as the Prime Minister himself has indicated during this emergency period we must pave our way to success. I think the reduction of £10 in the salary of the ancient Director responsible for Inland Waterways is not sufficient. It is quite clear from the statement made by the Prime Minister himself that the gentleman in question has been overtaken by fresh and new developments taking place in Nigeria to-day. I would like to say that it is now clear that his post or he himself is now redundant in the Civil Service. If we are going to save money it is about time our Minister of Transport should persuade this gentleman to retire. It is about time that this gentleman should be told that he should depart in peace and that he has done all he could for the Nigeria of the past but he has no place in the Nigeria of the present and this new Consultant can be made the Director of Inland Waterways for even £3,000 per annum. By so doing we shall be saving this country a further sum of £2,500.

The Minister of Transport (Mr R. A. Njoku): Mr Chairman, first of all may I thank the hon. Member who pointed out that the addition as regards Head 65 is not quite correct. I have been told by the Finance Branch that that addition which was printed as total was done at a certain stage and did not take into account the other changes that were made. That will have to be corrected.

Secondly about the Onitsha Ferry. I would like to assure Dr Awduche that not only is money being provided for a new ferry but money has also been voted for the improvement of the terminal and roughly a sum in the neighbourhood of £25,000 is being provided for the improvement of the terminal on both sides—Asaba side and the Onitsha side. I

am as much aware as he is himself of the difficulties that people have to encounter who pass through this crossing.

As regards the last speaker may I say that I am very sorry that the hon. Fani-Kayode chose to speak on a subject which had been closed already, which had been alluded to by Mr Udochi and answered by the Prime Minister. I would like to say that the Director of Inland Waterways is not new to Nigeria; he is a man who has rendered invaluable service in the old Marine Department and that he is doing wonderful work in this new department and I think we ought to be patient and see how the work progresses. There is no doubt that when we do not know exactly what a person is doing we are apt to misunderstand him. This is a new department. I am quite sure that those people who live in the creek areas will appreciate more and more the importance of this department. I know also that those who live on the mainland in the cities will do their best to say one or two words in favour of the Department. I would like to erase any impression whatever that the gentleman in question is not worth his salt. He is doing wonderful work here and I think we are very lucky to have him.

Question put and agreed to.

HEAD 66—COASTAL AGENCY

£10 for Head 66—Coastal Agency—agreed to.

Sitting suspended : 11.38 a.m.

Sitting resumed : 11.55. a.m.

HEAD 67—MINISTRY OF WORKS

Question proposed, That £3,150, for Head 67—Ministry of Works—stand part of the Schedule.

Mr S. S. Tarka (Jemgbar Tiv Division): Mr Chairman, Sir, I want to seize the opportunity to make a few remarks on this Ministry. It appears to me that this is the most unpopular Ministry in the Federal Government—the Ministry of Works. I think this Ministry has a lot of redundant armchair experts. Contracts are awarded to firms and the work is badly done. We have the experts in the office, they do not go out to inspect the work. I found out an example of this kind of thing yesterday on the Lagos-Ijebu-Ode-Ibadan Road. We found that the road was washed away by rain and to our disgust only half an inch of the

layer was tarmac. I think it would do a lot of good if instead of keeping these experts in the office they were pushed out of the office into the field to do inspection work and make good use of their knowledge. I would like to remind the Minister of his... (*Interruption*)

The Chairman: I feel this sort of argument ought to be made on Head 602 which deals with the results of the extremely heavy rains.

Mr Tarka: I would like to remind the Minister, Sir, of his constant promises of repairs on the road.

The Chairman: Surely, this is just what I have asked the hon. Member to defer until the debate on Head 602, which I think is the more appropriate occasion.

Mr F. T. Odum (Ahoada): Mr Chairman, in supporting this Head I wish to request the Minister concerned to make a special arrangement with a view to fixing engines to ferries at Argungu and Katsina Allah Rivers. One of these roads in Katsina Allah is, as it is said, a Trunk 'A' road, and I mention this road specifically because the trouble taken by motor owners at Katsina Allah outweighs the gain.

Time and again the public have been informed that these ferries will be engine-powered, and it is a sorry sight to see lorry owners sitting on the bank of the river from four days to a week to have their lorries crossed over. We all know what it means to the motor transport owner—loss of revenue and income.

The Chairman: I am in doubt as to whether this is the right occasion for making these remarks. Will the hon. Member resume his seat. If the Minister is able to guide me I should be most grateful.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Transport: Mr Chairman, Sir, It is a little difficult for the Ministry itself. I think, however, that Head 602 should be the appropriate head to deal with roads.

The Chairman: I want to avoid a double debate on roads in particular because this is a very small sum, supplementary for personal emoluments. That £350 covers administration, I know. I think we had better defer the roads subject until Head 602.

Mr J. C. Obande (South East Idoma): Mr Chairman, Sir, I seize this chance to say a few words about the Minister of Works. Although

I have my observations on some head of his Ministry, I quite appreciate the way he handles this Ministry. The most impressive one is the extensive tour of the Regions he did at the early part of this year (*Hear, hear*). The Minister has been very good. He toured nearly all the places not only in the North but also in the East and in the West. My other impression is that when he visited my own Constituency he invited me to the Director of Public Works in the Eastern Region who is in charge of his Federal works and during the course of our interview a lot of our differences affecting Federal works within my Constituency were fully discussed and amicably settled. So I seize this chance to wish him luck and to request him to care more for us and his Ministry. (*Applause*).

Mr R. A. Fani-Kayode (Ife): I have to congratulate the Ministry of Works because of that statement I heard from that speaker, but I have some other alarming information to give to the House. I understand that the Minister of Works, in keeping with a new policy of further savings, intends to spend a sum amounting roughly to £1,000,000 in providing air-conditioning to all houses at Ikoyi for civil servants. If that is so, the Minister should look into it.

I want our Minister to give careful consideration and see that such expenditure is not made because we understand that it will be done by special warrant and it will never come before this House and each and every civil servant at Ikoyi will be enjoying air-conditioning system instead of having electric fans that have been serving us for such a long time.

I hope the Minister in holding his new portfolio will do this country justice in cutting out any such wastage.

Mr E. C. Akwivu (Orlu): Mr Chairman, Sir, I would have congratulated the Minister of Works but as it has been said twice over now I will not repeat it. Suffice it to say that I congratulate him on the very able and bold endeavours now apparent on the road from Port Harcourt to Aba.

Sir, I would say that the Minister has taken a very wise step indeed. The road between Port Harcourt and Aba, if it is to be tarred as widely as we see the clearings now, will rank among the best roads in the world (*applause*). I wish him luck and would say, Sir, that having seen that one done he will see fit to extend the same policy to as many of our Trunk 'A' roads

as possible, Sir, especially on the branch going down from Port Harcourt, Aba, Owerri and Onitsha. We would like to see it tarred as quickly as possible.

Now, Sir, in congratulating the Minister I would like to mention something that might have escaped his notice. Sir, I am begging him that whenever he takes a decision on a very vital aspect of policy he may see fit to consult local opinions, at least Members of this House. My reason is that I do feel, Sir, that in the creation of Trunk Road 'A.3' some vital mistake has been made by the Minister. That road, Sir, is a road starting from Port Harcourt, branching off at Aba and serving Umuahia and going up to Okigwe, Oji, and joining the Enugu Road. Sir, the trouble there is this. That road as approved now goes up to Umuduru and then branches off, passing through a bush track for a distance of 6 to 7 miles to join one of the most recognised and best used roads in this country. I feel, Sir, that the Minister, if he had consulted local opinion would have been advised to carry on from Umuduru, and not merely branching off through the bush, but carry on to Anara and then pursue the road on to Okigwe through Okwelle and Umuna where this bush path comes out. If he had consulted local opinion, Sir, he would have been advised that it would have enhanced the prestige of the Federal Government if that road had continued over a very short distance from Umuduru to Ihiala to join the (*Interruption*) Owerri-Onitsha road, thereby passing through Orlu.

Mr Chairman, I beg to support.

Mr R. N. Takon (Ikom): In associating myself with the other speakers who appreciated and congratulated the Minister of Works, I have to say that the portion of road from Abakaliki to Ikom, which ought to have been tarred (and the Minister gave us a promise last year that he would do it), has not been tarred up till to-day. I will be grateful if the Minister will take time now and tar the road in order to give me the satisfaction of congratulating him for his work. I am only doing so now in advance.

Sir, with this I beg to support.

Mr A. E. Ukattah (Bende): It is just a word to the hon. Minister. My people would like the Minister to come over to Bende Division to improve the road from Port Harcourt through Umuahia to Okigwe. It is

a very important road and it appears that the Minister himself has never been that way and, therefore, has not been able to realise the importance of the road. It is in very poor condition, the people suffer tremendously because of the condition of the road and, therefore, I am extending an invitation to the Minister himself to tour that area and not confine himself to any particular part of the Region.

£3,150, for Head 67, Ministry of Works, agreed to.

HEAD 68—PUBLIC WORKS

Question proposed, That £85,310, for Head 68—Public Works—stand part of the Schedule.

Mr R. T. Alege (Kabba) : I beg to move to reduce the Head by £5. I would like the Minister to take notice of certain attitudes of the Executive Engineers in the Provinces. We have learned that the Federal Public Works Department engaged the Regional Governments as their Agents so whenever we feel that some of these Trunk A roads are not in good condition, we report to the Executive Engineer. It is the attitude to that report that I want to speak about. One reports normally to the District Officer, or to the Local Council. When you see the Chairman of the Local Council, he will tell you "These are Federal roads." Well this kind of plain talk I cannot understand. It is necessary for us to know those Officers belonging to the Federal Government and working on the Federal roads. If they are working on the Federal roads they should be able to help us whenever we have complaints. We were sent to this House just to present their views on Federal subjects, we cannot just come here to be speaking on Regional subjects. One day I asked one Executive Engineer "Which Government employs you, the Regional or the Federal Government?" He said "Are you a Member of the Federal House." I said "I belong to the Federal Government." I wanted to ask him whether he would be able to direct me better to whom I can discuss problem of Road A 13 with; he told me that Officers belonging to the Federal Government were dealing with the road, but he did not disclose to me to which Government he belongs. Sometimes, if you are in the Regions, especially the Northern Region, you know the treatment given to the Members of this House, by telling them "Well you have nothing to do with the

Region, you belong to Lagos." It is because of this that some of these Engineers do not have the chance to do their proper work, they have to go about doing other things, because they are the Head of the Department there—you can see an executive engineer going away to spend a holiday at Ilorin—because of that now there are so many bridges on the roads which are not in good condition since there is no strict supervision. Because of this, it is necessary that the Minister should take immediate steps to see that these Executive Engineers are responsible.

Amendment proposed.

Chief N. G. Yellowe (Degema) : Mr Chairman, those of us who know what contribution Europeans have made to the progress of Nigeria, are not hasty in condemning them, but I am constrained to speak to-day about the Public Works Department and I am asking the Minister of Works to take particular note of what I say now. Here, under this Head, we have provision for Works Superintendent, Senior Works Superintendent and so on. Sir, it will be alarming for this House to note that when this man is making this provision for additional hands, he is trying to rob the Department of the services of a man who has worked there for many years and a young man at that, Sir.

Now, Sir, to-day we all have in our minds the Nigerianisation of the Civil Service of Nigeria and any European, whatever his status, who does not take that into serious account, is just making himself an enemy of Nigeria. That is why I want the Minister to probe into the retirement of an Officer, a Works Superintendent in the Public Works Department, this Department which is asking us now to provide for about 9 or 10 more Works Superintendents in the Electrical Department, to find out why that should be now. It may be anything, I do not know, but the thing is that there are so many departments in Nigeria which want skilled knowledge especially in electricity and this young man had his training here, passed through his apprenticeship and was transferred from one department to the Public Works Electrical Department only in 1955. By some subtle means, Sir, his case, I understand, has been presented to the Public Service Commission, I do not know how that came about, but we have now to know that this man is to retire,

whereas Nigeria, even that Public Works Department, needs quite a number of men who can do this work. I am therefore asking this House that if we begin to get people out of jobs just because one European does not want them, then we are not serving the country well. My submission is that the Minister of Works will investigate this matter and see that justice is done. We cannot afford to lose technical men in Nigeria's Civil Service to-day, that is the point. So that I am asking the Minister of Works to investigate this matter and do what is necessary. If that is not done this provision here is not justified. If they are driving away people who know their job and who have served the Department already, why must we be asked to provide for other men? My submission, Mr Chairman, is that I am asking the Minister of Works, through you, to investigate this matter and see what is to be done.

The Minister of Works (Hon. Alhaji Inuwa Wada): Mr Chairman, I am very sorry I have to go into this matter. I have the greatest of respect for Chief Yellowe, but I must say here that he has a little overdone the whole affair. This case, Sir, is really quite known to me. Chief Yellowe approached me on the subject of this youngman who, the House may be interested to know, is related to Chief Yellowe. This officer, Sir, is an Electrician by training; he was working in the Nigerian Railway, and when it became a Corporation he was transferred to the Public Works Department. It was made plain to him that he was accepted on trial. For the past two years he has not been able to satisfy the conditions which were specified to him. The matter was not only treated in the Public Works Department; it was referred to the Public Service Commission. As a political head of this Ministry, I should not interfere with the workings of the Public Service Commission. The Public Service Commission made due and thorough investigation. They got all the information they wanted about this youngman and they referred, Sir, their findings to His Excellency the Governor-General. The Governor-General confirmed the findings of the Public Service Commission and this officer, on the advice of the Federal Public Service Commission, and with the approval of the Governor-General, was asked to retire. It is not a question of a white official in the Public Works Department disliking the young officer.

I want the House to understand that it is the policy of the Federal Government and the policy of us in the Council of Ministers to Nigerianise the service as quickly as we can. (*Hear, hear*). There is no question of suppressing anybody, Sir.

M. Maitama Sule (Kano City): Mr Chairman, Sir, earlier in this session, the Federal Minister of Works made us to understand that there will be established a body responsible for the registration of contracts and another body also for giving out contracts as regards Federal works. We have also been made to understand, Sir, that work is sometimes being handed over to Regional Governments and that work is done on behalf of the Federal Government. Now, we fail to understand, Sir, why the Federal Minister of Works who is doing this excellent work in the Federal Government, how these two bodies will effect the work that is handed to the Regional Government in the Region where we have no say. The Regional Government will be doing this work and often and again most of the complaints that we bring to the House, as has been noted by the hon. Member that spoke from the other side of the House, are against the work being undertaken by the Regional Government and not sometimes against the work being undertaken by the Federal Government. In that respect, therefore, if we are now establishing a body that will be responsible for looking after the contracts given out as regards Federal works, we should also try to do something so that the Minister can probe into the work that is given out to the Regional Government to do on his behalf, otherwise you find that we are doing something for Federal works and nothing for the works being given out to the Regional Governments. I hope the Minister will take this into consideration and see that something is done.

Mr R. A. Fani-Kayode (Ife): Mr Chairman, Sir, a few minutes ago I expected the hon. the Minister of Works to make a statement in respect of a certain allegation I made in the House, but I was greeted by his complete silence. Mr Chairman, Sir, I call upon him again to let us know whether it is true that the sum of £1 million is being spent on providing air condition system for all quarters of expatriate Civil Servants in Ikoyi. We want to know, Mr Minister.

Mr A. Adeyinka (Ibadan Central): Mr Chairman, Sir, at the last Budget session I raised a very important question here on the

appointment of somebody who was trained in England as a Saw Doctor. Sir, I said that this man has been trained, but on appointment in the Sawmill at Ijora this man was appointed as Assistant Foreman. But to my greatest surprise, I do not know whether it was because of the question I raised in this House that the Director of that Department went and terminated the appointment of this youngman. The appointment of this man has been terminated. Well, I do not know whether members of that Department do not want Members of this House to criticise some aspects of their non-Nigerianisation policy. It is a surprise to me that after I have raised the question here, instead of the Ministry going to investigate my allegation, the next thing was to kick the man out of a job.

This is a very serious allegation and I want the Minister to investigate it because I believe it is a serious contempt of this House. It means that the Department is trying to muzzle the conscience of Members of this hon. House. I would like the Minister—I believe he is an able Minister—please take your big stick, go to that Department and find out what has happened. Is his appointment terminated because he has not got the qualification? Is he terminated because I raised the question on the Floor of this House? Why we come here to defend the cause of our people is because when people have been trained and have got the necessary qualification, their Heads of Department should appoint them. That is my contention. It will be ridiculous if people who have been trained and have the qualification are not appointed to their requisite posts. It is the duty of this House to see that justice is done. It must be done, Sir. The Minister should work hard and get this thing properly cleared.

M. Shehu Shagari (South West Sokoto): Mr Chairman, Sir, I rise to support the Mover of this Amendment. Last year, Sir, I made the same complaint in this House and tried to point out that the delegation of authority by the Federal Government to the Regional Government can do nothing but delay public works. Sir, delegation of power may be a very good thing but when it comes to shirking responsibility, it may mean a danger and a detriment. Sir, it is a common saying that if you want a thing done well, you should do it yourself. The Federal Government, if it wants its work to be done well, should try to do it itself. The

Federal Public Works gives its work to be done by the Regional Government and the Regional Government in some cases also asks the N.A. to do that work. Now this chain of delegation of power can do nothing but delay the work. Even last year, I said I made the same complaint for the Minister to look into this matter and see if they can try to do the work themselves.

If we have a Federal Engineer with his own Department quite apart from the Regional Department then we know that the work which is Federal work can go on without any inconvenience caused. Meanwhile the Regional Governments as well as the Native Authorities have got enough on their hands; they have got their own work, and therefore I suggest that the Federal Government should do something itself and leave the Regional Governments and Native Authorities to meddle with their own affairs.

The Minister of Works and Surveys (Alhaji the hon. Muhammadu Inuwa Wada): Mr Chairman, Sir, I will start with hon. Fani-Kayode. He spoke of air-conditioning plant, and mentioned the figure of £1,000,000. Now, Sir, a sum of £25,000 has been earmarked for buying air-conditioning plant for offices, and also Sir, the hon. Member may remember, I think it was during the last Budget Session, a suggestion came from this very Bench, Sir, that the Federal Government should provide air-conditioning plants to all expatriate officers so that they could stay longer in Nigeria without having to go on leave.

So, Sir, if the Government is contemplating buying air-conditioning plants and installing them in the houses of our expatriate officers, we are only putting into practice the suggestion coming from (*Interruption*)... Anyhow, Sir, it will be money well spent because it will result in greater output from our officers.

Then Mr Chairman, Sir, the hon. Mr Alege, hon. M. Maitama Sule, and hon. M. Shehu Shagari all spoke on the work the Regions are doing for us on agency basis; and they want me to do something either to change it or bring an entirely new system of working. Members will be aware that an expert was appointed some time ago to go into the workings of the Federal Public Works Department and make recommendation on how to reorganise the Department; and also how to get our work done quickly and properly as we like it. We were fortunate to get the Chief Civil Engineer

of the Admiralty in London, in the person of Mr T. Adams. He came out here, conducted his investigations and toured the country widely, including the Cameroons. He has now submitted his report which is being studied by my Ministry and other Ministries concerned, and, depending on the outcome of the investigations, and the implementation of his recommendations, we shall try to find a way of getting our work done in the Regions; but meanwhile, I do not like to anticipate what this report will say.

Hon. Mr Adeyinka did indeed raise the question of this saw doctor. I must admit I am surprised to hear the man was kicked out. I had no idea, but if the Member will care to call at my office any time it is convenient, I shall certainly go into the matter.

Mr J. M. Udochi (Afenmai): Mr Chairman, while making my contribution to this Debate, I wish respectfully to draw the attention of the House to Sub-head 13 under Head 68—Public Works. That Sub-head is Military Personnel on loan: fees, £24,630.

Now, Sir, you will also see on that very page Explanatory Note No. 13, I quote—“Pending recruitment of the staff required under Items 5, 21, 49, 50, and 55 above, the Military Authorities have loaned military staffs to the Federal Government. Provision required to meet the cost of this staff.”

Now, Sir, the Federal Public Works Department has been creating certain posts for which some specialised knowledge is required. The Government is unable to get that Staff at present, although money has been voted for them. On the Estimates, we find that this staff consists of Assistant Labour Relations Officer, Senior Works Superintendent, Works Superintendent, Foreman, Assistant Foreman. Now because the Public Works Department cannot get these men it has resorted to borrowing people with these qualifications from the Army. We know that the Army has the greatest amount of scientific knowledge among its staff, and that most of the time, when there is no war, this army of experts are more or less idle. Now you will see that under this very estimate this country has voted a little under £2,000,000 for the Army.

Now, Sir, my concern is why is it necessary if, after we have voted £2,000,000 for a particular service, and we find that the exigencies

of the other part of the service needs extra men from that part to come and give assistance, why is it necessary, why do we have to pay fees for loaning men whom we pay to keep in the country? Why should the Department of Public Works have to pay fees in order to get army personnel to come and do a specialised job in the Department, when we have voted money to maintain that army? I say that this is a waste, a sheer waste. We are being made to pay twice over for officers for whom we have made adequate provision.

I remember some years ago, when I was in England, there was a dock strike which the Government did not take kindly to and they thought that it was necessary to get the army personnel to assist, to do some of the necessary jobs. They called the army men and made them do the job. I am yet to be told that the British Government had to make special provision to pay fees because they got men from the Army to come and assist in the other department where there was an exigency. Why have we got to pay fees to army men for whom we have made provision—under £2,000,000—to maintain themselves in this country?

Now there is no war, we know the Army men are not engaged in anything, and therefore we want them to assist. Why do we have to pay fees? I want the Minister to tell us why we have got to pay fees. That is all I have to say on this Head.

M. Usuman Angulu Ahmed (Kwara): Mr Chairman, Sir, whilst we are still at this Head, I seize this opportunity to comment on the policy of the Public Works Department. In the past years, this Department has been known as Public Waste Department, and I think the time has now come when we should see that the Department does not waste public funds. From experience and observation I have noticed that there is a great wastage of labour in the Public Works Department. In some sections of the Department, the work of one day takes about one week. It seems some workers feel that the more time they spend over a piece of work, the more the Government appreciate their ability.

I am, therefore, appealing to the Minister to review the method of supervision in the P.W.D. If this is done there will be a labour surplus which could be used in other under-

takings. Now that we are walking towards independence, maintenance services will be required in other Departments.

Secondly, Sir, I would like to see that the Government initiates a policy to encourage our young men to study engineering. I am sure that Nigerian engineers will be more fitted to our new political stage.

Before I take my seat I would like to suggest to the Minister of Works that contractors should be encouraged to do large works. They usually work faster than the men of the Department. I would like to see that by 1960 when we shall be politically free the P.W.D. will no more be called Public Waste Department.

The Minister of Works and Surveys (Alhaji the Hon. Inuwa Wada): Mr Chairman, Sir, I must say I am in sympathy with the hon. Mr Udochi, who does not seem quite to understand what this item is for. Sir, the responsibility for all military works in Nigeria is now under the P.W.D. In the Army they have their own engineering section. Before this responsibility was transferred to the P.W.D., the Army engineers were in charge and responsible. Secondly, Sir, I want the hon. Member also to remember the sum of £2 million shown in the Estimates is only a contribution to Her Majesty's Government. It is not the full payment for our Military Services. We do not pay the Military: we only contribute to Her Majesty's Government. And so, Sir, when the military works are transferred to the P.W.D., we found we were not in a position to supply all the engineers to supervise and look after the work and therefore we had to ask the Army to loan us some of their engineers, some of their inspectors of works and foremen of works to carry on as they were doing before, and, as we do not pay the Army directly, so we cannot pay them salaries, and that is the reason why it is called fees.

This payment is made to the Military Authorities, and not to these men direct. The men will continue to be paid, as they were paid before, by Her Majesty's Government.

Amendment put and negatived.

Question, That £85,310 for Head 68—Public Works—stand part of the Schedule, put and agreed to.

HEAD 69—PUBLIC WORKS RECURRENT

Question proposed, That £104,730 for Head 69—Public Works Recurrent—stand part of the Schedule.

Mr M. A. O. Olarewaju (Ilorin South): Mr Chairman, Sir, I assure you that I have nothing very serious in mind in moving this Motion for an amendment to reduce this Head 69, Public Works Recurrent, by £10. Mr Chairman, Sir, the moving of this amendment is only to remind the Minister concerned to bear in mind the proper maintenance of Ilorin Aerodrome, out of the sum of £22,000 Supplementary to Sub-Head 8 under this Head 69. On this explanation I do not wish the reduction of the Head by any amount, but it should stand as it is.

Mr Chairman, Sir, I beg to withdraw the amendment.

The Chairman: As it is not desired to press the amendment, may I put the question that the Head be reduced by £5. We shall presently vote the main Head.

Amendment put and negatived.

Question again proposed, That the sum of £104,730 for Head 69—Public Works Recurrent—stand part of the Schedule.

Mr F. O. Mbadiwe (Udi): Mr Chairman, Sir, I feel indeed shocked to observe that after spending £429,290 already voted under this Head 69, Item, Maintenance of Public Buildings, that another £28,000 is required, and this House would like to know what type of maintenance is required in public buildings.

I have seen the explanatory details, but I feel sure, Sir, that the Minister responsible has not shown the actual necessity for this amount required in the Estimates. Because the main reason for maintenance, of spending lots of money for maintenance of buildings, is because lots of our contract jobs were given to inexperienced expatriate firms of contractors. I say expatriate firms of contractors, not Nigerian. The slogan that Nigerian contractors cannot build has passed, is a dead language, and if stock is taken, to examine the buildings put up by Nigerian firms of contractors and those put up by their contemporaries, like Costains, etc., Oni and Sons, Waddell, etc., you will find that those built by Nigerian firms of contractors stand the test of time, and I would like the Minister responsible to take some of his men, set up a committee, let

them go out, check the buildings put up by Nigerian firms of contractors, then check up those put up by expatriate firms of contractors and come and report to this House. You will see that those by Nigerian contractors will stand up to twenty years without having any crack in the wall, whereas those by firms of expatriates begin to deteriorate in the next few years. And that is where our money goes, by maintenance of public buildings.

It is better to test things, and I can assure you, Sir, that if the Minister wants me to give instances of some buildings, I can give him buildings to be checked by the Federal Ministers, buildings put up by expatriate firms of contractors, like—I do not want to mention the name, but when you are ready I will give you the details.

Mr Chairman, there is no kind of contracts that Nigerians cannot handle if given the chance as their expatriate contemporaries. There are two kinds of contracts. One is known as lump sum contract, and the other is cost plus contract. If, for instance, we are going to build a new Parliament which will cost us £1 or £2 million the thing is that if an expatriate firm of contractors cannot estimate what that building is going to cost, they go into what they call cost plus agreement. Cost plus agreement is that the Government of the Federation pays the total cost of that building from A to Z, including all the machinery, and on top of it this firm gets 15 per cent of £2 million. That is what they call cost plus agreement, and there is no Nigerian contractor given that opportunity that will not carry out any type of contract in this country.

The question of contract is recruiting of technicians. If, for instance, Oni is given a contract of £10 million, what he will do is to apply to Holland, Norway or anywhere else and recruit experts in that field. The same thing with Costain or any other firm. Richard Costain has never been to Nigeria, but yet his people are carrying on the work because they have people employed from all over the world, and I say that if we are going to reduce the cost of maintenance of buildings all our business should go to Nigerian firms of contractors.

Sir, I beg to support.

The Minister of Works and Surveys :

Mr Chairman, I must get up to refute what the hon. Member has said. I am very sorry, but

his information is all wrong. Buildings, Sir, however well they are built, must be maintained. That does not mean that after the building has been finished or after one year you have to maintain it, but you know very well that there are buildings put up by the Public Works Department which, let us say, have been standing for a period of ten, fifteen or twenty years. Are we going to leave those buildings without painting them, without redecorating them? The wooden structures in the buildings, the windows, the doors, etc., those must be replaced or maintained. This money is not for maintenance or renewing of only buildings put up by contractors: it is for maintenance of buildings old and new, and the reason of the increase, if the hon. Member cares to read the footnote, is for maintenance of military buildings.

Then, Sir, I am not aware that we are giving work on lump sum contract and paying 15 per cent. The fee is actually less than 5 per cent where it is paid, and it is not the policy of this Government to give contract work under lump sum basis. This was done before, and the only case I can remember where such a contract was awarded in the case of building is in connection with the University College Teaching Hospital in Ibadan, and that was because it was found necessary to start the building at once, and so while the architects were still drawing the plans of the building the contractor was required to start. The building was going on while the drawing was also being drawn. Apart from that, I know of no other case where a building contract was awarded on a lump sum basis.

The cases where contracts are awarded on lump sum basis are usually with road contracts, and I mentioned that in this House—the road from Ijebu-Ode to Benin—and this happens because in the Department we may find we have not got a detailed survey of the road. Without a detailed survey no contract document can be prepared. This system, as I said to the House, we are discontinuing. I hate it as much as the hon. Member hates it, and it is my policy not to award lump sum contracts unless I find it absolutely necessary.

Question put and agreed to.

HEAD 70—ANTIQUITIES

Question proposed, that £750 for Head 70—Antiquities—stand part of the Schedule.

Mr M. A. Ajasin (Owo South) : Mr Chairman, I just want to call the attention of the Minister responsible to the subtle manner in which the Nigerianisation policy in this Department is being frustrated. One can see that from the explanatory details given below : "one additional post of an officer to act as Curator of the Jos Museum is being created. It was hoped that these latter duties could have been performed by a Technical Officer (Antiquities) but it is now clear that an Honours Graduate in Archaeology or kindred subjects will be required."

Now, Mr Chairman, this Government has gone into the expenses of training somebody overseas for a period of five years to do this work, that is the work of a Curator of a Museum. Now, instead of appointing the man to do the work it is being planned that an Honours Graduate in Archaeology should be recruited to come and do it. It should be known that at the University College, Ibadan, there is no student pursuing a degree course in Archaeology and I do not know of any Nigerian anywhere at present doing an Honours course in Archaeology. So that what it is that is being planned is to bring an expatriate person to come and be in charge of this museum for which the Nigerian Government has gone into the great expense of training somebody for five years.

Sir, that person has got all the necessary diplomas. He has studied at the British Museum and other Museums in Europe, and he has been trained to do this kind of job. I don't see the reason why he could not be appointed to this post rather than planning to bring in a European with an Honours degree in Archaeology. I think that is a way to frustrate Nigerianisation. I therefore ask the Minister responsible for this Department to see to it, and the Nigerianisation Officer should please take up this matter energetically to see that the person trained for this job retains it and that there should be no underhand trick by bringing in somebody from overseas to replace him.

There is also the question of the Director of Antiquities Service. Here is somebody who has retired from the Service of this country and now he is to be called to do some documentation of the selections he has made in the Nigerian Museum. It seems that there is nobody else in that Department who could be engaged in that business. That man is not the only person with qualifications for that kind of

work ; there are other people in that Department who could carry out the work. Why bring him back again when he has retired. He should be allowed to rest in peace.

Mr Chairman, on this point also I would like to remind the Minister responsible for this Department of the recommendation that there should be a Museum at Owo, and I feel that the Minister should please take up this matter and see that the amount which has been recommended by the Director of Antiquities should be voted. If it had been put in this Supplementary Estimate the building should have been started before long ; but now that that is not done I hope the Minister will look into it and see that while preparing the next Estimates it is done. . . .

The Chairman : Order, order. It is one o'clock, and the sitting is suspended until three o'clock.

Sitting suspended.

Sitting resumed : 3.10 p.m.

Mr M. A. Ajasin : Mr Chairman, as I was saying this morning, Nigerianisation in the Department of Antiquities should not be frustrated, but the person trained by the Federal Government for five years overseas should be allowed to do his work, and there should be no purpose whatsoever in looking for a graduate in Archaeology to do the work for which this man was trained ; and also, Mr Chairman, I say that the Director of Antiquities, who has retired should be allowed to enjoy his rest, and that he should not be brought back to this country because there is a Deputy there to do the work, if the Deputy is efficient to do the work which this man has left behind.

Also, Mr Chairman, I would remind the Minister that he should not forget the suggestions which have been made to him by the Director of Antiquities that there should be a Museum at Owo, and I hope he would try to implement the suggestion.

Mr Chairman, I beg to support.

The Minister of Education (Hon. Aja Nwachuku) : Mr Chairman, Sir, I am very pleased that Mr Murray has been asked to return to Nigeria to complete the documentation upon which he was engaged for the Nigerian Museum. Mr Murray, the former Director of Antiquities, should be brought back

to complete writing the notes and not to be the Director. He is to be brought back on the suggestion of the Antiquities Commission. On the other matters raised by the hon. Member, I have to assure him that I shall go into the matters accordingly.

Question, That £750 for Head 70—Antiquities—stand part of the Schedule, put and agreed to.

HEAD 71.—RECORDS OFFICE

£10 for Head 71—Records Office—agreed to.

HEAD 72.—COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

Question proposed, That the sum of £6,300 for Head 72—Council of Ministers—stand part of the Schedule.

M. O. B. Okin Sanni (North Ilorin): Mr Chairman, a mistake is indicated on this Head. The total expenditure should be about £48,660 and not £45,160 according to the printed draft. There is a difference of about £1,500. Before the commitments for the year were carefully worked out and the figure arrived at was £45,160. The supplementary required should therefore be about £1,500 and not £5,000. I shall be grateful if the condition can be adjusted or an explanation given. (*Several hon. Members: Hear, hear.*)

The Prime Minister: Sir, I regret this is a printing error and will be adjusted. (*Applause.*)

Chief J. I. G. Onyia (Asaba): Mr Chairman, I beg to support. I have only one remark to make, and it pertains to the Council of Ministers. According to the explanation here it is recorded as a new post, against notification of one post of Assistant Secretary. There is a considerable amount of executive work carried out in the office of the Council of Ministers by officers of Assistant Secretary rank, and it is therefore proposed to recognise this by creating a post of Executive Officer, Grade I, against one post of Assistant Secretary, and that is the post I am pleading for, that it be filled by an African.

Mr R. A. Fani-Kayode (Ife): Sir, this year we come to that item of the Estimates which we always look into, and that is furnishing and fitments. Mr Chairman, Sir, I think Members of this House will now realise it is about time we did things on a smaller scale if we want to save this money. We say we want savings from the Senior Civil Service, we want savings here, we want savings there, yet we are still prepared to

vote a "very small sum" a very small sum of £30,000. £30,000 for the purpose of furnishing Ministers quarters.

I know it is a National Government, but yet we are the watchdogs of the people—we are to see that the amount of money spent on furnishings must be reasonable. We spent quite a lot of money last Budget session on these furnishings. We are here called upon again after spending £300,000 on buildings to spend £30,000 on furnishings. I am calling upon the Prime Minister, Mr Chairman, to ask whether he cannot be kind enough to reduce these furnishings and fittings.

Mr A. A. Adeyinka (Ibadan Central): Mr Chairman, Sir, I wish to speak for a small time on this item of expenditure. I do not care what you have to spend to maintain the quarters of the Prime Minister, because these buildings are state buildings, and unless you want to destroy the dignity of this country (*interruption*). My point is that we should watch how much we spend in trying to maintain the dignity of our Ministers, because I believe that Ministers come and go and the State buildings shall remain the property of the State.

This House still remains unless we want to destroy Cabinet dignity in this country. That is my point. For any Member to stand up in this House and criticise this Head of Expenditure I think is most irresponsible.

Mr N. A. Ezonbodor (Western Ijaw): Mr Chairman, Sir, I would like to say that Mr Kayode, ought to know what is meant by Ministry and particularly as he has a Government in the West, the Action Group Government. They are the people responsible for lavishing our money in this country.

Mr Chairman, Sir, we should warn Mr Kayode that he has to go to the West and warn his people, not the Federal House. (*Cheers*)

With these few remarks I beg to support, Sir.

The Chairman: In view of a printing error the sum required for the Council of Ministers on Head 72 is indeed £6,300. I am sorry I have not mentioned this previously.

£6,300 for Head 72—Council of Ministers—agreed to.

HEAD 73—HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Question proposed, That £10,500, Head 73—House of Representatives—stand part of the Schedule.

Mr R. A. Fani-Kayode (Ife): Mr Chairman, Sir, we come to it again. Every time we talk about reducing the salaries of senior civil servants Members shout 'hear, hear'. We have been getting a shilling a mile mileage allowance and now that mileage allowance is going to be increased to 1s-3d. What for? (*Interruption*). Mr Chairman, Sir, we want a further sum of Ten-Thousand-Five-Hundred Pounds to pay mileage allowance to Members . . the cost of paying mileage allowance at the revised rate of 1s-3d per mile with effect from 1st January, 1957.

Surely Members will be nationalistic enough and altruistic enough to remove this item from the Estimates. Surely, Sir, we are not buying and selling nationalism in this country and this increase should not be allowed to be passed through the Estimates, and I call on Members on all sides of the House to support me (*Cries of 'No'*). Well, if you are not prepared in this House to cut your own allowances let us keep quiet for ever when it comes to cutting other people's allowances. We cannot be shouting every time and we keep on increasing our own allowances; and we have the guts and the nerve to talk of cutting other people's money in this country. If we cannot show the example then let us leave it for other people to come behind us to take it up. Members cannot keep on paying increases of 3d and 4d by the back-door and keep on shouting "No".

I think Members should give deeper thought to this matter, Sir, and agree that this allowance should be removed from the Estimates.

Mallam Maitama Sule (Kano City): Sir, we are not going to stop talking, nor are we going to stop shouting that there must be a cut in certain salaries which we think are redundant. While I agree with the motive behind the speech of hon. Mr Kayode I must say that an assurance has already been given by the Prime Minister that he will look into the salaries of all civil servants and all other persons being paid by the Federal Government and by the Regional Governments through the Regional Premiers. There is no cause to fear.

I would, however, go further to say what hon. Kayode has already said, that if there is anything worth doing, we the Members of the Federal Legislature are in the position to set an example. By that I do not mean that some-

thing that has been done by the Federal Government should be revoked at such a late time. I agree that the Government has already put this proposal and hon. Members have already received the increases. There is no reason why we should delete it from the Estimates (*Applause*), but when the Federal Prime Minister convenes this meeting of the Regional Premiers in order to see that they do something about cutting down wasteful expenditure, I beg the Prime Minister to take into consideration the observations that have been made by hon. Kayode so that salaries of Members and of those people whom he thinks should be cut down should be cut down straight away.

I believe the Federal Prime Minister is in a better position to do that than anybody else. I am just asking him to look into it. (*Applause*).

The Prime Minister (Alhaji the Hon. Abubakar Tafawa Balewa): I am very sorry, Sir, in reply to hon. Kayode I gave the impression that I was thinking of consulting the Regional Premiers so as to examine the question of salaries for Legislators and civil servants as a whole. That was not my intention at all.

Now, Sir, what I replied to the hon. Fani-Kayode was that that was a matter which I took up about a year ago—a year and half ago—and I would still like to take it up with the Regional Premiers to see what would happen, but I never mentioned of course the question of examining the salaries and allowances for civil servants and things like that.

I think, Sir, we have reached a time now when we had better stop grumbling over these things. I will not, of course, say that we are talking to the gallery or the Press but I am afraid, Sir, that it is time for Members of the House to see that certain things are of necessity (*Hear, hear*).

Now this increased mileage allowance which Members received, is merely due to more Members owning cars due to advances given by the Government. That was the main reason, Sir, and I don't know what type of car my honourable Friend Kayode has, but if it uses oil as other cars do and if he uses it running around his constituency I have no doubt that he will realise that 1s-3d per mile is just enough to cover it, and I would, Sir, appeal to the House to try to be more realistic in these complaints. (*Applause*).

Chief J. I. G. Onyia (Asaba): Mr Chairman, Sir, I beg to support what our Prime Minister has just been saying. It would appear that somebody would rather prefer to speak to the gallery instead of actually talking sense and realistically (*Hear, hear*). We who wear the shoes know where they pinch.

Those who have cars and actually use cars travelling long distances as I do know what we do spend and what it costs us to maintain our cars. What hon. Kayode is talking of is absolutely insignificant. It is not such kind of allowance that we are advocating here to be cut down. When we speak to the gallery many people who do not understand the expenses that are run by the Legislators in maintaining their cars—everything, their drivers have to be paid, tear and wear of the car—go under the impression that hon. Members here always like to encourage squandermania (*Hear, hear*) while they go on criticising squandermania on the part of the Government.

It is time that this impression stopped in this House and we act responsibly.

Sir, I beg to support.

M. Maitama Sule (Kano City): A point of explanation, Sir; there was some misunderstanding perhaps. I said that as the item in this Estimate had already been included and proposed, it should be left as such, but as the Prime Minister says he is trying to explore the possibility of convening another meeting to discuss the possibility of this question of cutting salaries, he is in a better position.

M. Sanni O. B. Okin (North Ilorin): Mr Chairman, it is observed that a post of Chief Clerk is being proposed in the Estimates. The House will be very pleased to know whether a Clerk in the Pay Office is being promoted to the rank of Chief Clerk, or another person is being transferred out of another Department to occupy this post.

Mr A. Adeyinka (Ibadan Central): I beg to crave your indulgence, Sir; I would remind Members of this House of the situation at the Legco flats. Hon. Members will not be surprised that tomorrow they may have to cease to occupy their seats because of an attack of malaria; it is a mosquito breeding area. I hope that the Manager of the Housing Committee will do something to check the mosquitoes in that place. It is a disgrace

that the place where hon. Members are supposed to live is mosquito-infested. We cannot live there at night. It is hopeless and I want this House to see that the Housing Committee does something about this at once. It is the duty of the Housing Committee to see to the welfare of Members at our quarters, where we live.

The Prime Minister (Alhaji the Hon. Abubakar Tafawa Balewa): I am very sorry, Sir, about the abundance of mosquitoes in Legco flats but I do not know what is responsible for it, but mosquitoes are all over the place. I hope, Sir, the Members of the House will co-operate with the Manager of the Legco flats to see that this is improved.

£10,500, for Head 73—House of Representatives—agreed to.

HEAD 75—AUDIT

£3,990, for Head 75—Audit—agreed to.

HEAD 76—OTHER SERVICES

Question proposed, That £9,090 for Head 76—Other Services—stand part of the Schedule.

3.36 p.m.

Mr M. A. Ajasin (Owo South): Mr Chairman, Sir, I simply want here to express the appreciation of this House to the Government in making provision for emergency training schemes in science subjects. In the past, in this House, we have advocated that the Higher School Certificate Section of King's College should be expanded so as to have many more classes for science subjects, but now that the Nigerianisation Officer and the Minister concerned have made this arrangement for the emergency training of students in science subjects, which is very good indeed, the efforts of the Government should be commended.

I would say further that it is not only science subjects that should be considered; there should be about four classes of science subjects and two of arts. It is not good to leave the science students alone to themselves, because they will become narrow in their views. There should be a cross-fertilisation of ideas. There should be other subjects apart from science subjects, such as history, geography and classics, so that with the two sets of students there, there will be a broadening of outlook.

I would say also that when the time comes for the selection of these students, there should be no discrimination, all the secondary schools

in the country, working up to the School Certificate, should be invited to send in students. Also, students who have just left school who would like to take part in this training, should also be invited. Proper arrangements should be made about entry into these classes.

Mr Chairman, I beg to support.

£9,090, for Head 76—Other Services—
agreed to.

HEAD 78—JUDICIARY

Question proposed, That, £1,120, for Head 78—Judiciary—stand part of the Schedule.

Dr E. O. Awduche (Onitsha): Mr Chairman, it is gratifying to note that a Bill will soon be coming before this House to bring the salaries of Judges to a level which will be commensurate to their status. It is unfortunate, however, that consideration has not been given to that of Magistrates. It will be remembered that some time ago, Magistrates were almost on the point of going on strike. I hope that steps will be taken to give consideration to bringing up their salaries to the same level as those in the Western Region.

The system of grading Magistrates on scales so that they are awarded promotion and increments, does not appear to me to be a very healthy one. I am suggesting, Sir, that all salaries of Judges and Magistrates should be passed by this House and paid out from the consolidated accounts, so that we will not have to be making provision for them in the Estimates. After all, we are not supposed to interfere with the Judiciary; it is supposed to be absolutely independent, and Members of the Bench have no reason whatsoever to have the fear that their work will come under the portfolio of the House, other than by substantive Motion. So, Sir, I ask that these points I have raised, be taken into consideration, and with this I beg to support this Head of Expenditure.

Question, That £1,120 for Head 78—Judicial—stand part of the Schedule, put and agreed to.

HEAD 80—MISCELLANEOUS

Question, That £155,180 for Head 80—Miscellaneous—stand part of the Schedule, put and agreed to.

HEAD 81—PENSIONS AND GRATUITIES

Question, That £6,530 for Head 81—Pensions and Gratuities—stand part of the Schedule, put and agreed to.

HEAD 83—SUBVENTIONS

Question proposed, That £46,080 for Head 83—Subventions—stand part of the Schedule.

Chief J. I. G. Onyia (Asaba): Mr Chairman, I notice here that provision has been made for W.A.I.F.O.R. Research Scheme, Rice Research Station, but I have not seen that interest has been taken to make provision for a research scheme in connection with yam beetles. Somebody asked whether I am a farmer, but I do feel it is my place to speak on behalf of my own constituency. I raised some alarm in this House in respect of the attack of beetles along the River Niger, and I was prepared to take this opportunity to pay tribute to the Research Department for what it has been able to do this year so far. In fact, the experiment along the Niger, particularly in my town, is partially successful, and I would have expected that provision should be made here so that the research continues until these beetles have been completely eliminated.

Mr A. Adeyinka (Ibadan Central): Another point, Sir. This is a problem for the Ministry of Research and Information. I want just to put before the Minister whether he is aware of the discontent among the workers of Agricultural Research, Ibadan, especially the junior service staff, on the question of promotion, and most especially, Sir, on the question of Nigerianisation of that Department?

Well, if you go through the whole thing, normally we know that the increase in production of our agricultural materials in this country depends upon the experience of our Research Officers. What policy is the Ministry pursuing to get more Africans trained as research officers especially those who have been trained now in the University College on Agriculture? I think those students should be given a two-year post-graduate course in agricultural research so that they can be appointed as research officers in that Department. There is somebody in that Department, a widow, appointed as a Records Officer. Is the Minister aware that that widow is employed as a Records Officer, but the present duty is that of Assistant Chief Clerk?

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Not only that, Sir. If you go to the Agricultural Department, you will see that the Nigerianisation policy in that Department is at a slow speed, and I would like the Minister to go into it because the people working there now are not very happy with their conditions of service. In the Higher Executive grade, somebody has been acting for the past year but the present Director is not prepared to appoint the present holder but he prefers advertising the post. So I would like the Minister to go into these anomalies. I beg to support.

The Minister of Research and Information (Chief Kolawole Balogun) : Mr Chairman, Chief Onyia spoke about yam beetles. I regret that the hon. Gentleman changed his mind and did not give us full compliment of the praise for the work which had been done in the current year. . . .

Chief J. I. G. Onyia : I give that.

The Minister of Research and Information : Thank you. All I can say is that the fact that there is no provision in this Head—Subventions—for yam beetles does not mean that we are changing our mind. Actually provision is under the general Head for Agricultural Research Department, and the work that is being done on yam beetles will continue as usual. In fact, we shall do our best.

The other point raised by the hon. Mr Adeyinka will, of course, engage our attention and we will do what we can to find out all the facts and if there is any injustice that is being done, we shall do our best to try to remove it.

Dr E. O. Awduche (Onitsha) : Mr Chairman, I would just like to call the attention of the House to sub-head 5 of this Head. An hon. Member, I think it was Mr Adeyinka, complained about mosquitoes. As a matter of fact, that is a responsibility of the Town Council. It is very unfortunate, however, Sir, that in view of the very heavy rains there has been a lot of flooding, and it is just something I would say is an act of God and it is a thing we could not have prevented, and mosquitoes breed where we have a collection of water. I just want to clear that point as to whether the Medical Department had not been doing their work well.

The House is being called upon to vote an additional sum of £5,340 as an aid to the Town Council to carry on its anti-malaria work, and I commend it to this House.

Question, That £46,080 for Head 83—Subventions—stand part of the Schedule, put and agreed to.

HEAD 84—CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE
DEVELOPMENT FUND

Question, That £154,690 for Head 84—Contributions to the Development Fund—stand part of the Schedule, put and agreed to.

Question, That the Schedule stand part of the Bill put and agreed to.

The Chairman : We have now finished the Schedule and it is my duty to put two clauses.

Postponed. Clauses 1 and 2 put and agreed to. Preamble agreed to.

Bill to be reported.

(Mr Speaker resumed the Chair).

Bill reported without Amendments.

The Prime Minister : Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move, That the Bill be now read the third time and passed.

The Minister of Education (Hon. Aja Nwachuku) : Sir, I beg to second.

And Mr Speaker put the Question thereupon to the House without amendment or debate.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read the third time and passed.

THE PETROLEUM FUEL (CONTROL)
BILL

Order for Second reading read.

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Dr the Hon. K. O. Mbadiwe) : Mr Speaker, I beg to move that the Bill for an Ordinance to provide for the making of Regulations for the purpose of providing, maintaining and securing supplies of petroleum fuel, be read a second time.

This, Sir, is a short and simple Bill. I can explain the need for it in a few words. Its purpose is to enable the Governor-General in Council to ration petrol, diesel oil and other petroleum fuel if, and I repeat the word *if*, the need to do so should ever arise. The Government has no intention of introducing petrol rationing save in quite exceptional

circumstances such as might have arisen last year had the Suez Crisis become worse. The reason for providing that the matter be dealt with by means of Regulations is that an urgent need to ration petrol may arise at a time when the House of Representatives is not in session.

The Regional Governments have agreed that the Regulations should be made by the Governor-General in Council in order to ensure uniformity throughout Nigeria, but if petrol rationing ever has to be introduced it will, of course, be enforced by Regional staff save in the Federal Territory.

Sir, I beg to move.

The Minister of Education (Hon. Aja Nwachuku): Sir, I beg to second.

Question proposed.

Mr R. A. Fani-Kayode (Ife): Mr Speaker, Sir, I must congratulate Government on their foresight in bringing such a Bill before this House. We realise that the powers sought by the Government are to be used only in cases of emergency. And we further realise that the Minister would want this power to be exercised at a time when the House of Representatives is not in session, or in other words, the Minister would have preferred to consult this House before using such wide powers, but in cases of emergency it should not be very easy for the Minister to consult us before exercising them, that is why he is asking us to give these powers to the Governor-General in Council.

My Amendment reads:—

To insert the following Clause:—

“4. Any such regulations shall be laid upon the Table of the House of Representatives for consideration at the next meeting following the exercise of the powers contained in section 3 of this Ordinance, and the House of Representatives may approve, amend or revoke such regulations but any such amendment or revocation shall be without prejudice to anything lawfully done thereunder or to the making of further regulations.”

The only assurance I am asking for is that the Ministers should kindly consider whether Regulations made by them will not be laid on the Table of this House at a later stage for this House to ratify or modify or to revoke them. Such powers are not new in a government. I would refer the Minister, I think, to similar powers vested in the Governor-General under

the Produce (Inspection) Ordinance where Regulations can be made by the Board with very wide powers, and after these Regulations are made they are to be laid on the Table of this House, to be considered by this House thereafter. The particular clause, in Ordinance No. 24 of 1950 says, “Any such Regulations are to be laid upon the Table of each House of Assembly and of the House of Chiefs for consideration and shall be laid upon the Table of the Legislative Council at the next meeting thereafter and the Legislative Council may approve, amend or revoke such a Regulation, but any such amendment or revocation shall be without prejudice to anything lawfully done thereunder or to the making of further Regulations.”

In this way, Mr Speaker, we shall not in any way hinder the Minister or the Governor-General in Council from exercising the powers, but surely what we are to realise, as the Minister himself has said, is that these are special powers that he is asking for to be used only in cases of emergency. Surely, this House should be allowed to debate the use of these Regulations by laying them on the Table of the House immediately succeeding the exercise of the powers so that we, the Members of the House, might have the opportunity of congratulating Government on the move, or saying that Government has gone too far and then we modify the Regulation and say that the Government has not done what it should do, and we revoke it.

I think the Minister himself should kindly take this into consideration. If we get the assurance that that should be the case, I shall be too happy to withdraw the Amendment: “to be placed before the House at a later stage.”

Chief S. J. Mariere (Urhobo East): Mr Speaker, Sir, in supporting the second reading of this Bill, I want to make just one observation. It seems to me that this Bill is bound to raise fears in the minds of the public that there is likely to be a shortage of petroleum fuel in this country. These fears are enhanced by publications in the papers sometime ago that there was shortage of oil in the United Kingdom. There is no doubt, Sir, that in recent years the consumption of petroleum fuel has increased considerably, and will continue to increase with the proportionate increase in vehicular traffic and other types of transport. But the discovery in Nigeria of oil in commercial quantities and

the preparations that are on for laying pipes for the purpose of exploiting the oil have raised our hopes so very high that I have a feeling that Nigeria will have an inexhaustible supply of petroleum fuel for local consumption for many years to come.

Control of petroleum fuel, Sir, in this country, as we knew it in the past, used to involve considerable hardship on the people and the mere news that there are regulations to control petroleum fuel might lead people to hoard fuel and create artificial hardship. It does happen sometime too, where the people hoard the petroleum fuel and they sell it at night secretly with naked light, it has been known that they set themselves afire and got burnt. I admit that this is an exhibition of foresight on the part of Government to guard against all eventualities, but it will be a great relief to the public if the Minister of Commerce and Industry will give an assurance that shortage of petroleum fuel is not envisaged within the foreseeable future.

Mr Speaker, I beg to support.

Mr F. O. Mbadiwe (Udi) : Mr Speaker, Sir, the point has already been made. I would only ask the Minister responsible to view carefully what is underneath the proposal to ration petrol. In normal times when there was nothing like pipeline in Nigeria, nobody thought of petrol rationing, and now when pipelines are almost ready and we try to produce fuel in this country in the next two or three months, there is a tendency of petrol rationing. Is this an attempt to ration petrol so that petrol from Nigeria will not have any value in world markets or what? We were thinking that in the next one or two months the price of petrol will go so low and it will be within the reach of everybody.

Why should rationing be contemplated, now that Oloibiri Petrol pipelines are ready? I saw the pipes well laid, and they are ready to produce. I want the Minister not to gloss over this, on the paper work of this Bill, but to review the secrecy in this rationing before the matter is brought to this House.

M. Maitama Sule (Kano City) : Mr Speaker, I rise to support this Bill. It is an excellent idea, Sir, for the Government during a period which it may regard as an emergency period, during a period when the House is not in Session to seek legislation through this House in order that they may do something. I am not quarrelling with that at all. But there is one thing. Often and again when any

legislation is passed by a Legislature in this country, some people take advantage of the ignorance of the masses and try to do something contrary to what the actual law seeks to do.

Here is a law which we may regard as being quite all right. But some people may go about the country, saying that Government has passed a law that they may ration petrol, and in that case they may do anything, black-marketing may arise, other things might occur. And this is what we are foreseeing. In view of that, therefore, we are asking the Government to explain fully to the people that there is nothing that we are expecting. And, after all, we have told the people all over the country, Sir, that we are expecting more and more petrol in this country. Shell Company are doing very well, we have been told that the future is very grand, and everything is going to be very successful indeed. We are all very happy, and if we are faced with this Bill the position may be quite different from what we thought it would be a few months ago and, under the circumstances, therefore, we are asking the Government to give this assurance that there will be nothing of that sort, and that the people will rest assured that they are not going to be faced with black-marketing in petrol by some unscrupulous people.

Sir, I beg to support.

Mr T. A. Ajayi (Ekiti North) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I am very sorry that this Bill should be supported by anybody in this House. My feeling is this. What is the reason behind it? Why introduce such a war measure when we are living in peace? Now, those people who were hit very hard during the last war would not tolerate such a thing like this.

In my own area only one lorry was plying our route once every fortnight during the War time, because of rationing of petrol. Now, if you are going to pass this, by all means please remember the rural areas, whose means of transport is only by lorries and cars. I do not see the reason for introducing this Bill at present. Now, we are not in a war emergency. We have introduced a national emergency in order to prove to the world our solidarity and our ability to rule ourselves. Therefore, I am suggesting to the Government that the Bill should be withdrawn.

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Hon. K. O. Mbadiwe) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I thought I should take this first opportunity to

get up and allay the fears of Members. The responsibility of the Government, to see that the country is secure, to see that the welfare of its citizens is under control, must never be lost sight of. We must not wait until we are in an emergency before we begin to make plans. If that were so we would have no ordinances of the kind Mr Fani-Kayode was referring to. We make laws in order to guide society, and we do no such things because we want to invite everybody to be criminals. There may be some people who become criminals, and we must have laws to provide for the necessary precautions.

Any far sighted government must not wait until something knocks on its door before it can plan. We are not anticipating that tomorrow there will be scarcity of petroleum fuel, or diesel fuel, and I want to assure Members that we have an adequate supply of this oil, but we are saying that in the case of an emergency we do not have to submit to delays. (*Interruptions*). Even if we were to produce oil to-day, in Nigeria (we all hope and pray that we will have oil in commercial quantities) we would be producing crude oil. We would still have to refine that oil before it could become petrol, and we would need shipping from here to transport it to England or wherever it could be refined. Now, what we are anticipating is that anything can develop in Europe, it may not be here, that will cause shipping to be difficult as it was during the Suez crisis. Mr Speaker, we are aware that the ships that had to come over through the Mediterranean had to go all the way through South Africa, and it took many months because of that simple accident in international situation.

What we are trying to do is that, in the event of any such unforeseen events we will be in a position not to dislocate the economy of this country, but to assure you that you will have a well planned and ordered society in Nigeria. That is why this Bill is being provided. There is nothing more, and I want to make it clear to Members that they should go with their minds free that there is nothing hidden in this Bill other than to provide for an emergency. We do not pray for it, but in case it comes Members are assured that government will still have this as a well planned and ordered society, and so, Mr Speaker, I hope with this assurance that Members will know that there is nothing which is hidden in the Bill.

Then, coming to the other point made by hon. Fani-Kayode, I want to say that there is no need writing any special clause that after the regulations are made that they should be introduced in this House for debate. The purpose of this Bill is to seek the authority of the House, because it may not be meeting when this crisis comes. But it is without prejudice to the prerogatives of any Members of this House to call for an explanation and, in fact, every Minister is still the servant of this legislature and when any such measures are taken by Government, in fact, without waiting for the House to ask, it is for the Minister to report fully to the House what has transpired and I think in that way the hon. Member will rest assured that whether this is written into the Bill or not the simple duty of a Minister to the legislature will also be complied with in this regard.

Mr Speaker, I beg to support.

Mr H. O. Chukwu (Bende): We thank the Minister so much for the explanation, but the fear of all Members here is what the opinion of the public will be. Anybody who hears about this Bill being passed will take for granted that there is something wrong and that time will come when petrol will be rationed. But we who are here and have the explanation will understand it. But what about the man in the street?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Dr the hon. K. O. Mbadiwe): It is your duty to explain it to them.

Mr Chukwu: Members here will find it difficult to buy petrol in the night. If this Bill is passed to-day and somebody hears of it to-day he will say that petrol is going to be rationed. So I would suggest, Sir, that this is not the time for this Bill and it should therefore be withdrawn until when that emergency envisaged arises and then we will be able to meet again and discuss on this Bill; but I would humbly ask for the withdrawal of this Bill.

Mr J. C. Obande (South East Idoma): I rise to support what has been said in the past on this Bill. It is clearly stated in Clause 3 that the Governor-General in Council may make regulations for the purpose of providing, securing and maintaining supplies of petroleum fuel. Now, a few months ago we passed a Bill here about pipelines where farmers were

deprived of their lands, farm and their crops. What is the sense now to read to the outside world that such a Bill has been passed where our anticipated product of petrol fuel will be rationed? Just as others have said, there is no cause at all to support this Bill at the present moment. We wish that this Bill be now withdrawn until such time that it will be explained to us in full when we shall have the opportunity to go into the details of the Bill and debate it.

Mr D. E. Okereke (Owerri): Mr Speaker, perhaps I may throw in a word or two in respect of this Bill. Mr Speaker, reading through the whole Bill it seems to me to come under the type of what we might call restrictive legislation and I suppose that Members are aware, as many men in all parts of the world are aware, that restrictive legislation is always very unhelpful. This should be the last resort of Government. But for the fact that it is always impossible to get the Government to withdraw a Bill, I should have suggested that the Government should withdraw it.

In every country there are two classes of people, the governing and the governed, or the ruler and the ruled, and I suppose that legislation is meant for the good of the ruled. But in restrictive legislation, although eventually it might be to the benefit of the man who is ruled, looking inside this Bill it seems that the Government is doing something which it should not do. The Government should please consider very, very carefully when it is introducing a restrictive Bill. A restrictive Bill tends to curtail the liberty of the subject, which is a very precious thing for anybody. When there is something that curtails the liberty of the subject like restrictive legislation, it should be discouraged. It sometimes looks as if it tends to oppress and to suppress.

As a matter of fact, in the Government there some are lawyers. But for the fact that this Government is made up altogether of Africans I should have suspected something, but with the Council of Ministers composed mainly of Africans I have not very much fear. Otherwise I should have very much fear because whenever restrictive legislation is passed it is not meant for anybody's good at all.

Now, look at Clause 3. I think that is sufficient: the rest of the Bill is useless. The Governor-General has all the powers. Clause

2 and all the rest are simply useless. However, I might just cut it short: my only advice is that the Government must be very careful in future about restrictive legislation.

M. Bello Dandago (South West Central Kano): Mr Speaker, this is the only objection, and it is a very unfortunate one, that I do not agree with my learned Friend hon. Okereke. Sir, all that the Bill before the House is asking this hon. House to do is to make provision for the rainy day. That is all, Sir. It may rain at any time.

An hon. Member: What kind of rain?

M. Bello Dandago: Tornado... (Laughter)... So I do not see any reason why this Bill should be opposed. I think we should praise the Government for their foresight and good sense and timely action taken for what may happen in this troubled political world situation. Anything can happen before anybody knows. Something happens in the Middle East, you know it happens. Sir, with the best supply of oil in Nigeria, there is sense in bringing this law.

I am not a lawyer, but about the word "may"; I think, with due respect to my good and learned Friend, hon. Fani-Kayode, there is a difference between "may" and "will" and "shall"... (Laughter)... Whoever is given the power *may*... So, hon. Members, in case something happens, to call the Legislature to come to discuss and to consider an emergency may cost the Federation much money. So we are only asked now to give permission that in case something does happen our good Government knows what to do. That is all that this Bill asks this House to do.

Oba Adetunji Aiyeola-Afolu II (Ijebu Remo): Mr Speaker, I have great fear in supporting this Bill. It is not a Bill which can be easily explained to people in the up-country. With the growth of transport facilities these days, it is very difficult for the ordinary man to anticipate the intention of Government in introducing this Bill into the House. I think that the British Government has settled with Nasser, and everybody should think very seriously before supporting this Bill.

At the present time, Mr Speaker, we have so many petrol companies coming into the country. The ordinary man around the country who has some land somewhere is leasing his land to these petroleum companies

and by doing this he is getting some reward from the land which he has required for a very long time now. With this restriction it is very easy for the ordinary man to be discouraged in offering his land for lease to these petroleum companies. It is said that even gas oil, diesel oil and kerosene that people use where there is no electricity, will have to be controlled at a later date. I see no reason why such a Bill should be introduced into this House.

A member has just said that in his own constituency during the war they had only one lorry going through the area in a fortnight. Nobody knows what will happen in the future. I know that Government has to take the interest of the people at heart, but I think at the moment this Bill is premature. Nobody in this House I think would like to support such a Bill. This is a National Government, as you say, and we all agree but Government has to take members into confidence. We do not anticipate any outside trouble in future that will warrant a Bill like this. I am appealing to the Minister concerned to see what he can do to withdraw this Bill, at least for the present time. This is not the time for us to pass a Bill because such a Bill is introduced by such and such a Minister. An N.C.N.C. or NPC or Action Group Minister is a Minister for all of us in this House and we have to be loyal to him.

We do not see how we can go to our constituency to explain to our people that fuel is being restricted. The majority of the population of this country, Mr Speaker, is illiterate and people who are dishonest, with the passing of this Bill into law, can go tomorrow before we rise and tell the people petrol has been restricted and they have to buy a gallon of petrol which formerly cost 2s-11½d for 5s or 7s. He can tell them he is in possession of the *Gazette*, and this is the law that has been passed. And he will make money out of it. I think this Bill has to be withdrawn.

I would like to refer to a certain portion of the speech of the Minister of Commerce and Industry. He said that with the prospecting for oil in this country we shall have crude oil and probably this crude oil will be exported for refining. That is very bad. I know the Minister of Commerce and Industry is not a director of any of the petroleum companies

and he is not responsible for the prospecting, but for oil to be exported from this country for the finishing touches to be put is very, very bad. This has to be looked into. Once we get going with our oil we want oil to be refined here in this country; and I really appeal to the Minister and the Government as a whole to think of withdrawing this Bill because it is premature and I think it is uncalled for.

The Minister of Lagos Affairs, Mines and Power (Hon. Alhaji Muhammadu Ribadu,): Mr Speaker, Sir, I have listened attentively to the fears expressed by hon. Members in connection with this Bill but I have failed to hear any suggestion from any hon. Member as to what the Government should do in case of an emergency. As the Minister of Commerce and Industry has said we do not pray for an emergency but it is sometimes inevitable and on many occasions it comes without any notice whatsoever. Everything was quiet in England and in other countries of the world which suffered from the Suez crisis before the last crisis which arose overnight. Eventually they had to ration petrol. Here in Nigeria because the firms which sell petrol had adequate supplies we did not suffer any shortage of petrol. But there is no need for us to take it for granted that everything would be just as we wanted it to be all the time. We have to guard against eventualities. Unless Members will come forward and say: when an emergency comes overnight the House will be convened and another Bill drafted. (*Hon. Members: Yes!*)

Members cannot say yes because when the Prime Minister was appointed everybody said "We pledge our loyalty to you". As Dr Mbadiwe said, it is an Abubakarian government now and in which Members pledged their loyalty. Therefore there is nothing to be afraid of. All that the Bill seeks is to empower the Governor-General in Council in the case of an emergency to make regulations. This Bill does not say that we are going to ration petrol fuel now but even as things stand now one cannot ration petrol in accordance with this Bill. Regulations have to be made. All that this Bill does is to empower the Governor-General to make regulations in the case of an emergency. (*An hon. Member: Give us an assurance.*)

The assurance has already been given and I do not know what else the hon. Member wants.

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[Petroleum Fuel
(Control) Bill]

9 SEPTEMBER 1957

[Committee]

2008

One hon. Member said that crude oil should not be transported abroad for refining purposes. It is our hope that we may in the near future find oil in Nigeria in commercial quantities and from reports available there is every hope that oil will be found in commercial quantities in Nigeria. But it is too early to say that it is a quantity which warrants a refinery to be established in Nigeria. There is a certain amount of quantity you have to obtain before refinery is installed. It is a very expensive project and we must have oil in such quantity that will warrant it. One refinery will cost not less than £10 million. So for the time being whether my hon. Friend wants it or not the oil will have to be transported to the refineries where refining facilities are already existing in order to be refined and then to be brought back to Nigeria for use.

Mr Speaker, we do not pray for emergency. God forbid! But we will have to guard against eventualities; they are controlled by God alone and nobody knows when the eventuality will come. Therefore hon. Members should rest assured that we all have the same feeling with them and there is nothing to be afraid of in this Bill and nobody will go to say that the Government is rationing petrol. There is no such emergency yet. Even in England, France and everywhere where petrol was rationed it has been de-rationed.

Sir I beg to support.

Sitting suspended : 4.30 p.m.

Sitting resumed : 4.55 p.m.

Mr D. N. Abii (Owerri): Mr Speaker, Sir. I rise not only to support this Bill (*Hear, hear*), but to ask hon. Members to support it. Arguments have been raised, but it is unfortunate that no hon. Member has really emphasised that the Bill is bad. It is a very good Bill, but it should never have come now. If one takes up the Bill one will find that it is to be used *if the need arises*: so the Government is kind and wise in asking this House to support such a Bill and pass it into law, that is if the need arises, and Government will introduce it. If there is no need, there is no application of this Bill. I therefore feel that to ask the Minister to withdraw it has no meaning in it.

I therefore appeal to Members to support the Bill, and Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to support.

Mr N. A. Ezonbodor (Western Ijaw): Mr Speaker, Sir, most of us had great fear in this Bill. Why we have some confidence now is that our able Minister "K.O." has cleared our fears and I therefore support the Bill unhesitatingly.

Mr Speaker, Sir, there is one thing I would like to mention in this connection. In some of the rural areas petroleum is being found but to my understanding royalties are not being paid to the natives. That is 12½ per cent is being paid to the Federal Government and the Federal Government in turn pays this money to the Regional Government which makes use of it.

Mr Speaker: That does not relate to the Bill being debated.

Mr D. N. Abii (Owerri): *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.

Question put accordingly and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read a second time.

Bill immediately considered in Committee.

(In the Committee)

Clauses 1 to 3 agreed to.

The Chairman: New Clause, Mr Kayode?

Mr R. A. Fani-Kayode (Ife): Mr Chairman, I rise to move an addition to this Bill, that is Clause 4 and that clause reads: "Any such regulations shall be laid upon the Table of the House of Representatives for consideration at the next meeting following the exercise of the powers contained in section 3 of this Ordinance, and the House of Representatives may approve, amend or revoke such regulations but any such amendment or revocation shall be without prejudice to anything lawfully done thereunder or to the making of further regulations."

Mr Chairman, Sir, many Members of this House have expressed their fears earlier in the day as to the powers contained in this Bill and also as to the necessity for passing the Bill at all. The Minister ably answered and allayed our fears as to the necessity for the creation of the Bill at all, and at least I said he had foresight in bringing the Bill.

Speaking for myself, I saw no need for the Bill to be withdrawn but since we have expressed our fears that such wide powers are to be vested in the Government, surely the Minister will have nothing against bringing this Regulation he has passed before the next sitting of the House, before us here to debate it. The Minister said he was a servant of the people and he was prepared to make explanation whenever we called upon him to do so. I am not talking of making explanations now. I am talking of a law being added to this Ordinance we are passing. After he has made all these regulations which I shall refer to just now, that we by law shall have a right to debate the regulations at the next sitting of the House and see whether we intend to modify it, ratify it, revoke it, surely there is nothing harmful in that unless the Minister is hiding something up his sleeve.

Now I wish to refer to a few of the powers which can be made by regulations: (a) To provide for the rationing of petroleum fuel and (b) to restrict any person who may operate any vehicle and the area in which any vehicle is used. I think we should listen to this carefully: to restrict the person who may operate any vehicle. Those are wide powers. It may be the Minister can say you, you, you and you must lock up your lorries and in Aguata area for instance no lorries must run.

Now, Sir, I do not say the Minister is going to make identical laws of this nature but he has the powers to make them. I do not grudge him these powers. It may be the regulations may be advertised but surely such regulations, after having been made, should not be in the pigeon hole in the Minister's office but should be laid before the next session after the exercise of the powers of the Minister or Governor in Council, so that the Member for Aguata can come here and say: I don't want this restriction in my area. Then we can hear the pros and cons of the debate and decide whether to ratify the regulation or modify the regulation or to ask that it should be revoked. What is wrong with that?

Secondly, not content with that power, the next one is even worse. Listen: "authorise the entering and searching of any premises and the stopping and searching of vehicles, vessels and craft of all kinds". Mr Ojukwu travelling down. Policeman: "Halt, let us

see your boot—have you got kerosene hidden in it?" The policeman may come to my bedroom and search. These are very wide powers that can be made under the regulation. I think, Sir, that the point is quite clear. It means any person authorised by the Minister can come to my bedroom at any hour of the day or night looking for petrol or kerosene. These powers are very wide.

Again, I see nothing wrong with the Minister having these powers so long as Members of this House will have the opportunity of debating whether or not the Minister was justified in inflicting such strenuous regulations on the community. That can be done by the Minister tabling the regulations before this House at the meeting following the exercise of the powers and the making of regulations. What is the Minister afraid of? Why can't he table these things? He gave me an equivocal answer and that was a very "Ozumbaic" answer (*laughter*).

I said: Can the Minister give me an assurance that every regulation made will be tabled before this House for a debate at the meeting immediately following the creation of the regulation? He did not give me that assurance. He kept on turning and twisting and twisting and turning and telling me about explanation. We don't want explanation. If even now, Sir, the Minister can get up and give this House an assurance that after the Governor in Council has made any such regulations they will be tabled before us at the next session of the House, I am prepared to withdraw the amendment and I am sure every Member of the House will agree. Let him say it: he has not told us yet.

I am a lawyer and I understand what this man is telling me. I don't want an explanation. I want an assurance that he will table it here and every Member will be able to look into it and ask for modification or ratification or revocation of it. That is all we are asking for. It is justified.

Mr Chairman, Sir, let the Minister kindly speak up and give us this assurance.

Amendment proposed.

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Hon. K. O. Mbadiwe): I rise to oppose this Amendment because what the hon. Member is requiring us to do is absolutely unnecessary. Members are free to debate in this hon.

House any measure of the Government. These Regulations, when made, will be circulated to hon. Members. They will be published in the *Gazette* and it is for Members as Legislators, it is their duty for which they are paid, to raise these matters of community or national importance. The Minister, after making the Regulations, must lay it before the House. I must say, Mr Chairman, that the assurance which we have given and the way in which the Members have responded to that assurance, is very gratifying indeed. There is the necessity to make provision for orderly Government. That is why this Bill is coming before you and in any case, whatever is done by the Government must be circulated to the Members and also in the *Gazette*. Any legislator is then free to raise the matter in the House and I feel, therefore, that adding a further Clause is not necessary, is uncalled for and that what the hon. Member intends to do can be satisfied in his mere capacity as a Member of the Legislature. He is free to raise the matter.

Oba Adetunji Aiyeola-Afolu II (Ijebu Remo): Mr Chairman, Sir, I am surprised at the speech of the Minister for Commerce and Industry that the Members of this House are free to debate Orders in Council. It is an innovation which I have never witnessed in my political career in this country, that when a legislature has given power, either to the Governor-General or to the Minister to make Regulations, these Regulations come to the Floor of the House for debate. That is very ambiguous, Mr Chairman, and I would like the Minister himself to call a spade a spade. This is a time when, to some extent, positions have been compromised and I think that the Minister himself should have some pang in his heart and know that the assurance given is not a strong one and such an act is not one of the privileges which are allowed to any Member of the House to do, that is to come to the House and debate Orders in Council, after legislation has been made or power has been given to the Governor-General or the Minister, to make such Regulations. I think that the explanation he has given is rather unfavourable to this House and Members will make up their minds that they are being deceived into accepting this.

Mr L. L. Lakunle (Oyo North): Mr Chairman, Sir, I rise to oppose this Amendment. Whenever a Bill is brought before

this House, it is the duty of all of us, as representatives of our people, to see that the Bill is in their best interests and to oppose such a Bill if we feel that it is not in their best interests. But it appears that the devil is not as black as it is being painted in this matter. After all, this Government is ours and when we think about the composition of the Council of Ministers, there is no doubt that the people are working for the interests of the people of Nigeria. Assurance has been given that we need not entertain any fear about this Bill.

I want to call the attention of the House to a certain thing. If there is anything too much in supply in this country to-day, I think it is petrol. Everywhere you go you see petrol stations, so that there is no cause for us to agitate so long as the Minister has given the assurance. . . . (*Interruption*).

The Chairman: The number of petrol stations really has nothing to do with it at all.

Question, That the Clause be read a second time, put and negatived.

Bill to be reported.

Mr Speaker resumed the Chair.

Bill reported without amendment, read the Third Time and passed.

THE INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (INCOME TAX RELIEF) BILL

Order for second reading read.

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Hon. K. O. Mbadiwe): Mr Speaker, I want to say that we do not propose to proceed with this Bill at this meeting of the House. I beg to move that it be withdrawn.

Bill by leave withdrawn.

THE HIGH COURT OF LAGOS (AMENDMENT) BILL

Order for second reading read.

The Minister of Communications and Aviation (Hon. Chief S. L. Akintola): Mr Speaker, Sir, this is a very short Bill, and in introducing it and moving the Second Reading, I assure hon. Members that it is absolutely non-controversial.

The purpose of this Bill is to prescribe the qualification for appointment as an Acting Judge of the High Court of Lagos. The High Court of Lagos Ordinance was enacted in 1955, and it contained no express proviso whatsoever

for the appointment of an acting Judge and no reference to the qualifications required for an acting Judge. This was because under the Constitution Orders in Council, as it was in 1954, the Legislature had no power to lay down the qualifications for the appointment of an acting Judge and therefore a person could not be appointed to act as a Judge unless he was qualified for substantive appointment as a Judge of the High Court of Lagos. The qualifications for substantive appointment are laid down in the Constitution Orders in Council and require, either that a person should have held high Judicial Office elsewhere, or that he should have held a Legal qualification for a minimum period of ten years.

I am informed that there is a shortage of suitable people with this minimum period of holding of Legal qualification, which has made it difficult to fill vacancies by making acting appointments to the High Court Bench in Lagos, during the absence of the substantive holders of the Office. The Constitutional Order was amended by an Order in Council, published in Legal Notice No. 62 of 1956. This Amendment provides that if the office of a Judge of the High Court of Lagos is vacant, or if any substantive judge is, for any reason unable to perform the functions of this office, the Governor-General, in the case of Lagos, may appoint a fit and proper person to act as a judge of the High Court. The Order in Council provides that the person so appointed to act shall be a person with such qualifications as may be prescribed by the Legislature. This Bill lays down that a person may be appointed an acting Judge of the High Court of Lagos if he has held a high judicial office elsewhere, which is the same requirement that is laid down for substantive appointment, or if he has been legally qualified for a period of not less than five years. Hon. Members will notice that the only amendment which is sought in introducing this Bill is to reduce the period laid down for substantive appointment which is ten years, to five years in the case of acting appointment, and I feel that if this Bill is accepted by this House, it will make it easy for the authorities to find suitable people who would act as judges in the absence of those who are substantively holding the office of Judge of the High Court of Lagos.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move.

The Minister of Research and Information (Hon. Chief Kolawole Balogun): Sir, I beg to second.

Question proposed.

Dr E. O. Awduche (Onitsha): Mr Speaker, Sir, I am not at all opposed to the principle of this Bill, but what has struck me during the speech of the hon. Minister who presented it, was the fact that he said that lawyers could not be found in this country who had done ten years or upwards. It is very surprising because the Legal profession is the oldest in this country and certainly, unless there are limited areas from which it is proposed to appoint judges, certainly there are several lawyers throughout the Federation who have done even more than fifteen years legal practice.

There is also an anomaly in this Bill in that in the first part of it, Clause 2 says that a qualification would be the holding of an office as a Judge in some part of Her Majesty's Dominion, and after indicating that, it proceeds to say that the period should be five years. It proceeds to say that the period could be—to give an alternative—five years. The anomaly that I observe in it is the fact that Magistrates are appointed after about that period. Chief Magistrates are appointed after they have been in practice for seven years. Well it appears then, judging from this that it could also have applied to Magistrates and Chief Magistrates. I wonder why it was not indicated in that section of the Bill. It looks to me a very untidy Bill as it is, although I support it in principle. (*Interruption*). I know it is a National Government and the Ministers are holding a collective responsibility. In any case he was not on seat when this was drafted, it is probably not his baby. (*Several hon. Members: You are attacking him.*) Some say I am attacking him, others say I am defending him, which is it?

Mr Speaker, Sir, while I support it in principle, I would wish that the provision is either the normal ten years or that Magistrates and Chief Magistrates are included in that section of it.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to support.

Mr R. A. Fani-Kayode (Ife): Mr Speaker, Sir, I support the Bill in principle, but I must say that the period of five years is ridiculous to say the least of it. Any Barrister coming out to this country must devil for two years, that is he

runs after another lawyer from court to court. He goes to Magistrates' Courts and he knows little or nothing of High Court procedure. In his third year he enters the Supreme Court. He knows about important land cases, he has dealt with these things. In five years he has just become what one could call a lawyer, and I am certain this is an Unsworth baby. It is not an Akintola baby at all. I mean I cannot look at this Bill and imagine that it came from a Nigerian lawyer. Normally seven years minimum practice at the Bar is required to appoint anybody a Senior Magistrate, not Chief Magistrate. To be a Senior Magistrate at all one must have seven years solid practice behind one, and then if one is good one might be made a Chief Magistrate—might be; it is possible that one might never, never become a Chief Magistrate.

Now it is quite certain, Sir, that standing here I can count, I do not want to mention their names, but I can count over twenty lawyers with over ten years experience at the Bar. Why cannot these people be made acting Judges. It is a temporary thing. I think it will lower the standard of the Bench if at this stage of our history we were to put a person with only five years experience over, say a murder trial, or over an important land case. The litigants would have the right to appeal, but why put them to the expense of appealing against a rotten judgment; as it is now lawyers know how much litigants have to spend on appeals.

I think, Sir, that this Bill will create more jobs for lawyers, because I am certain that there will be appeals almost every day from the judgments of any person who has done only five years at the Bar but who is appointed to act as a Judge, and I hope, Sir, that the Minister will kindly reconsider the question of five years.

He was very careful in his statement; he said that "I am informed that there are not many lawyers who have not more than ten years experience". He did not say "from my own knowledge", he said "I am informed", but I am certain that if he is going to speak from his own knowledge he will know that that is not so. He is speaking from notes.

I hope, Sir, that the Minister will kindly, not withdraw, but accept a substitute, because there are enough lawyers in this country of more than ten years standing who could take the temporary jobs of acting Judges.

The Minister of Communications and Aviation (Hon. Chief S. L. Akintola): I want to give this assurance that the decision to introduce this legislation was not taken lightly, and from the information at my disposal, the late Chief Justice played a very prominent part in leading to this important decision. He was consulted, and he related the problems with which he had to grapple from time to time before this particular Bill was drafted, and it was drafted in order to meet an urgent need.

It is true that there are many lawyers of more than ten years experience who might take up substantive appointment, but not very many lawyers with more than ten years experience at the Bar are willing to take up temporary appointment, and the provision here is for those who will take up temporary appointment, not those who are going to become substantive Judges.

It is not, as hon. Mr Fani-Kayode will bear me out, it is not very easy to get a man with considerable experience at the Bar, who will leave his practice for a period of six months to take up a temporary appointment at the Bench, and go back to his practice.

I do not want to reveal some rather disturbing secrets, otherwise I would have named some eminent lawyers who are Members of this House, who have refused to accept such appointment.

This provision is therefore made in order to meet an emergency and it does not shut the door against people with higher qualifications. This is the minimum laid down; either a man must have been a Member of the Bench elsewhere, or if he has not, he must have had at least five years of experience at the Bar. That is the minimum qualification laid down. Even in the making of acting appointments if there are two people, one with more than ten years experience at the Bar, and the other with only five years experience, I am quite sure that, all things being equal, preference will be given to the man with a longer number of years at the Bar. But why this point is made about five years being too short, I know that there is quite a lot in age, but, after all, the fact that a man is a Methusellah may not even make him wiser than a younger man. Experience at the Bar for twenty years will be very, very useful, but I am afraid we should not make it sweeping. There may be other people with shorter number of years at the Bar who may be

good to fill an appointment of this nature, and I would like to appeal to the hon. Members who are prominent members of the Bar (one of them is facing me here) and I am quite sure that if you recommend to the authorities suitable people who have acquired more than the minimum qualifications, I am quite sure that the authorities will only be too delighted to offer acting appointments to such people.

Mr D. N. Abii (Owerri): Mr Speaker, Sir, I am very happy to have heard the Minister give reasons why this unwholesome Bill is before us. He says that the Bill is being put to this House because of an emergency. In other words, somebody has been had in mind, to be given this temporary appointment, and for this single man we have got to pass a Bill. I feel, Sir, that as the Minister himself has agreed, the question of the Bench is a necessary position in a nation, and in this country of diversities, for anybody to be a Judge he must have experience of the diversities of the people of this country. I do not, therefore, believe that anybody with five years practice as a lawyer can be qualified to be an acting Judge of this Federation. I humbly ask the Members to look into it.

There are many lawyers in Lagos to-day. They have never been to the East, or to the North. They know nothing about the laws of this country, they have got to use time, practice and have experience before they become Judges. I think that a Judge is a man who interprets the laws of the nation, and I feel, therefore, that the least time that should be given to anybody as a Judge in the Federation of Nigeria should be ten years. Give him time to practise, and let him have experience, so that when he sits there to interpret the law he will interpret it to the benefit of the people of this nation.

I seriously advise that five years is not enough to qualify anybody to become a Judge in the Federation of Nigeria.

Mr E. C. Akwivu (Orlu): Mr Speaker, Sir, I dare say, Sir, this is a very delicate matter. Anyone who has had experience of practice in this country knows, and will probably agree with the Minister when he says that the age of a Methuselah has nothing to do with the wisdom of a Solomon. Mr Speaker, Sir, I would say, Sir, that seeing a young man who is learned in law but with little experience in administering justice can

be very irritable at times. He loses his patience too often, and, perhaps, has not had the long stay in practice or long connection with the administration of the law to acquire the very delicate expressions of the experienced members of the Bench. At the same time, Sir, I feel that age or no age, learning or no learning, a little point is the best solution to the matter. I would crave your permission, Sir, to say it again that what really matters in all these things is sound commonsense, reasonable length of time in practice, it may be five, six or ten years, but above all, strong character.

Mr Speaker, Sir, law and the Bench, I am quite sure, differ a great deal from chalk and blackboard, and as I am speaking on this matter, Sir, I am speaking personally as a man who has some connection with the administration of the law. I am saying, Sir, that the success of this law, as has been explained by the Minister, depends really on a wise exercise of the discretion herein contained, and I would say, that normally, on the face of it, one would not say that after five years a person would have acquired such great experience as would help him administer the law as a Judge efficiently as if one had been longer. One would also refer to these things that bringing up a young man with five years practice, making him a Judge, whether acting or otherwise, might upset those who have been on the Magisterial Bench for a long time. Some of them would have been Magistrates for a long time: some of them would have been Magistrates for about ten or fifteen years. They may be good or bad, but I think they ought to be given the chance to feel that one of these days their services might be rewarded by, perhaps the occasional acting appointment on the higher Bench, giving them the chance to enjoy the higher prestige it involves, and so on.

Sir, I feel that there is not a thing that one can start straightaway and say it must be this one or the other one. Some good meeting point must be found.

Mr T. O. S. Benson (Lagos West): Mr Speaker, Sir, this Bill is a very good Bill. But I must say, Sir, that it is not expedient to make provision for a Member of the Bar who has done only five years to be appointed an acting Judge. I sympathise with the Minister who moved the Bill, because he is under ten years....(Interruption)....

The Minister of Communications and Aviation (Chief S. L. Akintola): How old are you at the Bar?

Mr Benson: Well, I am above ten years. I am appealing to the Minister concerned at least to make it seven years. Otherwise, this Bill will lead to many consequential amendments, because Chief Magistrates or Senior Magistrates must be at least seven years before they are appointed, and when you make a provision for a Member of the Bar who has done only five years to be acting Judge, it looks like something of an *infra dignitatem* for senior members to go before him to practise. So, I am appealing to the Minister concerned to make the necessary provision.

I support the Bill in principle. It is very good to make provisions for our senior Magistrates to act as Judges, but I think the number of years should be increased to seven at least. I support the Bill in principle.

Mr Speaker: It is my duty to point out that we have on the Second Reading based on the general principles of the Bill practically only discussed one point, five or ten years. It seems to me, however, that if the rest of the debate is going to be on that point we ought to commit the Bill and do that point in Committee.

Mr S. W. Ubani-Ukoma (Aba): Mr Speaker, I oppose the Bill and in opposing it I rise to call on all Members to join me in opposing it, because it tends to lower the standard of experience required of the Bench. After all, we know that there are many people, especially in Lagos, who have got very long experience and can be appointed as Judges, and I do not agree with the hon. the Minister for saying that it is very difficult to find some people who will be willing to take up the appointment. I well remember when the High Court of Lagos was opened, there was a long procession of lawyers who have old wigs, which shows that they have had them for more than fifteen years, and I am sure if one of these, or two of them, are called to act, they will be willing to act.

Another point that has been raised by another Member is that there are Magistrates who have been Magistrates for about seven years, or even ten years. Some of them could be appointed to take an acting appointment. I think if anybody who is only five years old in legal

practice sees somebody of twenty years or fifteen years' experience appearing before him, he would be rather embarrassed, and I think that it is not a matter that one should take sides, it has nothing to do with our National Government.

I seriously oppose the Bill. I see no reason why somebody who has had only five years' experience should become a Judge in Nigeria. It has no parallel anywhere in the world. I have not seen it, I have not heard of it. There is no reason why we should lower the standard in Nigeria. Mr Speaker, Sir, I oppose.

Question put and agreed to.

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

(In the Committee)

Clause 1 agreed to.

Clause 2.

Mr R. A. Fani-Kayode (Ife): Mr Chairman, I beg to move the amendment standing in my name, and that is that Clause 2, page 2, line 7, to leave out 'five' and insert 'ten'. That is, Sir, that the Bill should read, "is qualified to practise as an advocate in such a court and has been qualified for not less than ten years to practise as an advocate or solicitor in such a court."

Now, Mr Chairman, Sir, I think we should look into this Bill with very great seriousness. A few minutes ago I said that a murder case might come before even an old man with five years' experience at the Bar, not a young man, an old man, and then he tries such a case on a point of fact only, not a point of law, owing to some inexperience, electing evidence that should normally not come in, or he does something intrinsically wrong, but not wrong enough for an appeal to be allowed against such a decision. He sends the man to jail on a point of fact. The case goes before the Appeal Court. The Judge of Appeal will tell you, "We are very sorry, very, very sorry: there is nothing we can do about this. That is the opinion of the Judge in the court below, he saw the witnesses, he is the right person who can from the demeanour decide whether the witnesses were speaking the truth or not. The appeal must be dismissed." And off goes the accused to the gallows. That is the end of the man.

To vest such a power in a man not qualified to be a senior Magistrate is, to say the least,—he is not even qualified to be a senior Magistrate, the qualification for a senior Magistrate is seven years, he is not qualified to act in such a position and then to make him an acting Judge should be a criminal offence by itself. It should be entered in our criminal code that to allow a person not qualified to be senior Magistrate to act as a Judge should be an offence. I do not know who will be charged for such an offence, but in all seriousness it should be.

I am appealing to the Minister to see to this. He is a lawyer himself. We go to the courts every day. We see what is going on in the courts, and we know that the administration of justice is not very easy. An able lawyer appears before a Judge of twenty years' experience at the bar, he gets hold of the Judge, he twists him round and by the time he is finished with the Judge of twenty years' experience the Judge does not know whether he is standing on his head or standing on his feet. A sound Judge who knows his law thoroughly and has twenty years behind him will be confused and will be turned round and twisted all over the place until he does not even know where he stands. And then put a young man there. By the time he is finished a case he will not know whether his head is on his neck or his neck is on his head. I think the hon. Minister himself is a lawyer and he is quite aware of this.

Secondly, Sir, we even leave the realm of Senior Magistrate to Chief Magistrate. There are still Chief Magistrates. These are people who have much experience at the Bar. After their practice as Senior Magistrate for some time, the Chief Justice looks upon them with favour and says—"Ah, you are an able man, I shall select you to be a Judge." These are people with about eight, nine, ten or sometimes even twelve years experience. And can you imagine a decision of a Chief Magistrate coming before a lawyer of five years' experience? Such a thing happened once in the Northern territory. I believe that it must have gone unnoticed because there was no challenge to it. A young Crown Counsel who was at Cambridge with some of my juniors was appointed to the Legal Department, came to Nigeria, worked under Madarikan here, suddenly whisked to the North as Acting

Judge. What happened? How come? We do not know. I will not mention his name. I only sincerely hope that he is dispensing justice there. But I can assure you, Sir, that if that gentleman had been practising in Lagos as Judge he will not know whether he is standing on his head or his feet by the time the lawyers finish arguing before him. That is all we are trying to prevent. We have nothing against junior men being promoted. I will be the last person to stand in the way of any young man with five years' experience if he is really extremely brilliant, but I believe, Sir, that such a power given to the Chief Justice to appoint anybody he likes and give him that minimum will be a criminal offence as I said before.

I do not believe, Sir, that the information given to the hon. Minister can be quite correct that people have been offered to act as Acting Judges and they have refused. In Lagos, for only three months, any lawyer worth his salt will be prepared to assist the administration of justice by sacrificing three months out of his practice to act as a Judge and then relinquish it and go back. It will be leave to him. It will almost be leave for the simple reason that a practising barrister has about ten cases or twenty cases to dispense at a time. A Judge has only about three or four going on his head at any particular moment unless he is a fool and has about twenty cases before him; and most of our Judges are not fools.

So I hope, Sir, that when we come to think of it, if the hon. the Minister can give us precedents from any other country besides Russia—it is only in Russia I suppose that a lawyer of one day's standing can be made....
(Interruption)

And it being 5.45 p.m., the Chairman left the Chair to report Progress and ask leave to sit again.

Mr Speaker resumed the Chair.

Committee report Progress ; to sit again upon Wednesday next.

Adjournment

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Hon. Dr K. O. Mbadawe): Sir, I beg to move, That this House do now adjourn.

Question proposed.

House of Representatives Debates

2023

[Adjournment]

9 SEPTEMBER 1957

[Adjournment]

2024

Mr F. O. Mbadiwe (Udi): Mr Speaker, Sir, I am sorry that I have to bother the Minister of Mines and Power for what I should call a very minor detail. It is in connection with the constant failure of power at the Legco flats in Ikoyi. For one week now since we arrived for the meeting of this House, we have had over four light failures and it happens that this light fails when our cooks and our stewards are just having our *chops* on fire. On Saturday at about a quarter to nine the power simply went off and my cook came and said—"Master, what are we going to do?" I said the best thing we had to do was to get to bed because there was no hotel in Ikoyi at all. We went to bed on empty stomachs, and there was no light until ten o'clock in the morning. No breakfast, no dinner, and we cannot study our Bills. On Sunday again the same thing happened. At nine o'clock there was no light until Monday morning.

I will assure you, Sir, that perhaps it may be a small fuse, but because there is no maintenance or emergency gang detailed there to look after these small complaints, nobody cares to come to our help. So, I am appealing to the Minister in charge that when this House is sitting, it will be necessary to employ

some additional hands to look after our lights so that if the light fails at any hour of the night or when you want to study your Bills or your food is on fire they can just change the fuse and you continue. That is all I want to bring before this House. I think the politics of the stomach is much more important than paper politics.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Lagos Affairs, Mines and Power (Mr I. S. Usman): Mr Speaker, Sir, I regret that hon. Members should have been put to any inconvenience in this way. It is true that there have been three breakdowns in the last month, one of which was due to an accident, and the others were due to overloading in that area which has been put right by the installation of a new sub-station expected to be completed in about two weeks' time. In the mean time, arrangements are being made to have an electrician at the flats in question to deal with any breakdown which may occur. That is the undertaking.

Question, That this House do now adjourn, put and agreed to.

Resolved: That this House do now adjourn.

Adjourned accordingly at ten minutes to six o'clock until Tuesday the 10th of September, 1957.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NIGERIA

Tuesday, 10th September, 1957

The House met at 10 a.m.

PRAYERS

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

PAPERS

Mr Speaker : I have to announce that the following Paper already distributed to Members is deemed to have been laid on the Table :—

Factories (Sanitary Accommodation) Regulations, 1957.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

O.319. Mr R. T. Alege asked the Minister of Works and Surveys :—

What plans are being made for eliminating the dangerous bends at Oshokoshoko, between Kabba and Lokoja ; at Oke-esa, between Oke Onighin and Omuaran ; and at Opeka, between Odo-Eri and Ejiba, all of which are on Trunk Road A 13.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Works and Surveys (Mallam Usuman Sarki, Sardaunan Bida) : No definite plans for eliminating these bends have up to now been made. The only answer at Oshokoshoko is to find a new line for the road through this pass, a distance of several miles. The cost of this kind of work is normally a charge against the rehabilitation vote which is of necessity of limited size. The hon. Member will appreciate I must allocate the 'lion's share' of our expenditure on roads to those sections where the traffic is heaviest.

O.364. M. Abubakar Garba asked the Minister of Works and Surveys :—

If he is aware of the inadequacy of efficient supervisory staff on the Federal roads in the North-Eastern provinces and whether he will adopt some more effective means of road maintenance in place of the present arrangement which employs the Bauchi Native Authority as agents for the Federal Government.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Works and Surveys : No, Sir. The maintenance of Trunk Roads A in the North-Eastern provinces is carried out on behalf of the Federal Government by the

Northern Regional Public Works Organisation on an agency basis. I am not aware that the supervisory staff engaged on this work are in any way inefficient and I deprecate the suggestion made by the hon. Member. It is however understood that the Regional Public Works Organisation has been short of road engineers but recently I am informed one has been posted to each provincial organisation. This should improve the amount of maintenance work carried out at present.

The answer to the second part of the question is also no, Sir. The method of carrying out this work on behalf of the Federal Department is entirely a matter for the discretion of the Regional Director of Public Works.

O.365. M. Abubakar Garba asked the Minister of Works and Surveys :—

Whether he will abolish the control posts on the Jos-Maiduguri road in order to ease traffic, especially during the rains and whether he will consider tarring the diversions between Bauchi and Jos.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Works and Surveys : No, Sir. If vehicles are permitted unrestricted use of this road after the rain its surface will be badly cut up leading to complete closure eventually.

The new diversions between Jos and Bauchi will be provided with a bituminous surface when the base course has attained full settlement under traffic.

Supplementary Question to O.365—

Chief J. I. G. Onyia (Asaba) : Will the Minister of Works and Surveys consider the desirability of tarring this area under control with a view to removing the danger attendant upon this area during the rainfall. Where you have control post between Makurdi and Jos.

O.366. Mr P. A. Aiyuk asked the Minister of Works and Surveys :—

Whether the contracts for the reconstruction of the Mamfe-Kumba section of Trunk A 4 Road have been drawn up, and when this work is likely to be started.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Works and Surveys : No, Sir. It is hoped work on this road will start next dry season. The contract refers to the section from Mile 35 to 85. The service has been completed and it was intended to complete all

contract documents in the Ministry of Works. However on account of acute staff position it has been decided to employ the Consultant to complete the document as well. The contract should be finalised to enable a start to be made in the coming dry season.

O.367. Mr D. N. Chukwu asked the Minister of Works and Surveys :—

How many Nigerians trained as junior technical staff in the service of the Federal Public Works Department have been promoted to the senior grades during the period 1952 to 31st March, 1957.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Works and Surveys : Seventeen, Sir.

Nine Executive Engineers.

One Architect.

Seven technical officers.

O.368. Mr D. N. Chukwu asked the Minister of Works and Surveys :—

How many vacant posts in the technical grades exist in the Federal Public Works Department.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Works and Surveys : One hundred and twenty-two, Sir, on August the thirtieth this year.

Executive Engineers and above	24
Mechanical Engineers	4
Electrical Engineers	4
Architects	10
Building Surveyor	1
Quantity Surveyor	1
Works Superintendents	24
Technical Officers	12
Assistant Technical Officers	42

O.369. Mr D. N. Chukwu asked the Minister of Works and Surveys :—

If he will state how many Nigerians are training in the Federal Public Works Department Technical Training Schools during this year, indicating the number of trainees from each Region and Lagos.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Works and Surveys : Fifty Sir.

In addition, forty-six Nigerians are in training at the Technical Institute, Yaba and twenty-two on professional courses in the United Kingdom. In the Departmental Training School are 20 apprentices at the Dura Saw Mills, and at the Mechanical Training School

at Abeokuta, which although owned by the Western Regional Government accepts Federal Students, there are a number of apprentices.

***O.346. Mr Abubakar Garba** asked the Minister of Transport :—

Why it has been decided to close down the Jos-Zaria railway line in September this year, and whether the Railway Corporation will be advised to revoke the decision in view of the weight of further opinion against this decision.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Transport : The Bauchi light Railway has operated for some time at a substantial loss, the volume of goods traffic on it is negligible, the volume of passenger traffic is by no means such as to compensate for this and the remaining two engines available for the time are kept in running order with the utmost difficulty. I sympathise with the many people who will naturally regret the disappearance of an old established railway, and I regret the local inconvenience which it may at first cause, but I am not prepared to alter the decision that the railway should cease to operate as from the 30th September. This step was deferred for a considerable period until the road from Zaria to Pambeguwa could take traffic all the year round.

Supplementary to Question O.346—

M. Abdul Kadiri Makama (Central Zaria) : Will the Minister if at all possible ask the Railway Corporation to revoke its decision, and if this is not possible will the Minister give some advice to the Railway Corporation to provide these people with buses or any other means, Sir.

The Parliamentary Secretary : I will look into this, Sir.

M. Ahmadu Fatika (North Zaria) : Is the Minister aware that the present road conditions between Jos-Zaria are so bad that closure of Bauchi line is premature and may have an adverse effect on Government revenue ?

NOTICES OF MOTIONS

UNIFORM OF NIGERIA POLICE

Mr D. N. Chukwu (Awgu) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to move the Motion standing in my name on the Order Paper, namely : That, in the opinion of this House, a committee should be appointed to make recommendations for a change in the uniform of the Nigeria Police to replace the present uniform.

Mr Speaker, Sir, some of the hon. Members here, and some members of the public may think there is something wrong in asking for a change in the present police uniform, that it may be expected to be a sort of waste of money. Mr Speaker, Sir, there is one important point which must not be overlooked. Our national independence is knocking at the door, and we must have an efficient and smart Police Force to help in maintaining our independence. It is most unfortunate that in this country, the members of the military force, members of Prison Staff and the Nigerian Police all wear khaki uniform. One finds it difficult to assess who is the soldier or who is the prison warder or who is the policeman. Our police look more military in their uniform instead of being smart and attractive as befits the guardians of the public.

In the countryside, Sir, the natives mistake members of the Prison Warders as policemen because of their new uniform; this gives great confusion to the community. If and when the policemen and prison warders do meet together, they find it difficult themselves to differentiate between themselves (*laughter*). I think that it is a military fad that khaki uniform is so used. Believe me or not, it is very difficult to know who is a senior police officer and who is an army officer when both are together. I have to suggest, Sir, that it will be of psychological advantage to give the police a uniform less military in style so that members of the public, as in England, would regard them as friends, and not as enemies or military men. The present uniform reflects psychologically on the public.

To make a change of the police uniform is also done in other parts of the World. Not so very long ago, English policemen were wearing tunics with high buttoned necks which were uncomfortable, but now the uniform is an open neck tunic with a shirt and collar and tie. Nigeria is not the first nor the last in changing her police uniform. There is one other important fact about this matter. The public have a say about the smartness of the police uniform while the policemen have the right to talk about its comfort. It is he who wears the boot who knows exactly where the thing pinches him. Mr Speaker, Sir, we are not policemen: do we know whether it is comfortable or not? On the other hand, the policeman

cannot judge how smart a uniform can be when he wears it, it is only the observer who can judge its smartness.

For this simple reason, Sir, I would suggest that a Committee to consist of one or two members of the police to represent the police force, one or two members of the public to represent public opinion, and a representative of the Ministry of the Prime Minister to represent the Minister. Of course, the Prime Minister has the right to use his discretion to appoint such members of the Committee. The Committee will recommend any good make of cloth of a better nature than at present because of the hot climate, Nigeria being a tropical country.

I do not wish to make a recommendation about any particular type of dress since it is for the committee to do it. But I think the present uniform can be improved. There is one other point: the police wear a boot which is too heavy and which it is difficult to run in. The police are usually given guard duty on foot at night, and it is very much their bounden duty to get hold of any rogue who is trying to disturb the peace of the public, but the boots are very heavy. No policeman however fast in running can carry a heavy boot which has been used by ex-Servicemen. I would suggest that a shoe, a well-fitting shoe, with a rubber sole be supplied to our policemen. The heavy leather army boot makes a great noise and night wanderers and house-breakers know when a policeman is on night guard duty.

The puttee which the police tie around their feet is medically not suitable; it serves to make a pad around their feet. Green woollen socks may be preferably good on the part of the Police, or any other type of socks as may be recommended by the committee. The tunic with short knickers which forms a major part of the uniform should be completely changed from khaki to any lighter, dignified material that is good in a tropical country. The uniform should be accompanied with collar and tie, possibly with trousers. In the United Kingdom, Sir, the Police wear a thick blue serge tunic and long trousers, with a blue shirt and black tie, because of the climate, of course. I would not recommend that we should copy any of the tropical countries of the world, but we are able to design a good uniform fit and suitable for our policemen. But on the other hand I would rather suggest that

some Nigerians, and some Police Officers here who have travelled to some of the tropical countries may make recommendations, or submit a report which will help the committee to design or know exactly what form of uniform should be supplied to our policemen. It would also help the younger policemen to see either in a picture or representation what choice to make.

Mr Speaker, in making reference to such a place like the United Kingdom—every county there has its own police—the police wear a blue helmet in winter months because of bad weather. In summer they wear soft peak caps, similar to that of the Nigerian Police. In London the Police wear a blue helmet throughout, for protection from blows on their head, but yet still the traffic police wear peak caps. It is evident that in every country police uniform does a great deal in forming national dignity.

Mr Speaker, I have to say I do not do myself any justice if I fail to mention something about the uniform of our women police. I heartily congratulate the Government and the Police authorities on providing such a nice and dignified uniform for our women police. We must all thank and congratulate the Government. Those of us who happened to see our women police in Lagos, especially when they are in uniform, should be highly impressed. In my opinion, nobody should quarrel with the present uniform of our women police.

In conclusion, Mr Speaker, I have to point out again that we, the public, have right over the uniform of our policemen, about its fitting and smartness, whereas the policemen themselves have the right to speak about its comfort. Therefore, on the date of our independence our policemen are expected to be in a nice and well dignified uniform which will be a subject of national concern on that very great day.

Mr Speaker, I beg to move.

Mr H. O. Akpan-Udo (Ikot Ekpene): In seconding this Motion, Sir, I wish to take this opportunity to congratulate our first Prime Minister in his success in being appointed the first Prime Minister of this Federation and, more especially, to congratulate him for being the first Nigerian Minister to be charged with the responsibility of the Nigeria Police Force. This will enable him to see the affairs of the Nigerian Policemen with the eyes of a Nigerian, and not with the eyes of an Englishman.

The question of the uniforms of our Nigerian Police Force is one that has been overdue for consideration, and I consider this Motion is timely, especially at a time when the uniform of Prison staff in this country has been so changed that it becomes identical with that of the Nigeria Police. I feel this has escaped the Government of the Federation in that the change in the present Prison staff uniform and that of the Nigerian Police should have been simultaneous, to avoid impersonation, and we have to thank our Prison staff all over the country for their sincerity and honesty in that they have not committed this offence so far, and we hope they will not commit it.

Mr Speaker, in seconding this Motion on Police Uniform I wish to refer, first of all, to the cap and berets being worn at present by our Nigeria Police. For many years now Nigeria Police have been dressing in their caps, and they have always looked quite dignified, but of recent times their cap has been changed to the beret. I have always felt that berets are meant for girls and, in changing the cap of the Nigeria Police to beret I think their dignity has been so much reduced that they look like girls, they do not look smart at all, and even before this committee is set up to consider the change I feel it is the opinion of this House that berets should be taken away, now, now. Our Police look effeminate, and we do not like it at all.

Secondly, I would like to refer to uniforms for our special constables. Special constables, of course, are police constables because they perform identical duties. During the last Budget Session I raised the question of the activities of special constables on the Floor of this House, and expressed appreciation of their activities during the last election to the Eastern House of Assembly. I further pointed out that, other than in Lagos, special constables have not been supplied with uniforms. I remember the case of special constables in my constituency, Ikot Ekpene. So, they have only been supplied with shorts and tunics and berets. That thing we do not want. No boots have been supplied so far, no belts, yet during any crisis or emergency special constables line out with constables to perform police duties, and I think it is the most risky thing to perform police duties in plain dress. Only members of the C.I.D. can perform such duties, because they signed to perform police duties in plain dress. But our special constables who are doing

honorary duties should not be so exposed to the public. I do not want to be told that they are usually supplied with bands with S.P. written on them. S.P. could mean anything other than special constables.

With these few remarks, Mr Speaker—I do not intend to waste the time of the House—I beg to second the Motion.

Question proposed.

The Prime Minister (Alhaji the hon. Abubakar Tafawa Balewa) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to move the Amendment standing in my name to this Motion, to leave out from "House" in line 1 to end and add "the Police Advisory Council, which is to be set up by His Excellency, the Governor-General, should be invited to consider what, if any, changes are necessary in the uniform of the Nigeria Police Force."

Sir, Government has some sympathy with the Motion of the hon. Mover, and hence my moving this amendment, but I would like, Sir, to take the opportunity right from the start to correct a statement which has been made by the Seconder of the Motion, that is, that the Prime Minister is charged with the responsibility for the Nigeria Police.

Now I have no doubt, Sir, that all the Members have had time to read the report of the Constitutional Conference where the responsibility for the Nigeria Police and for the Nigeria Military Forces are entirely in the hands of the Governor-General and my duty here, Sir, in connection with the armed forces and the Nigeria Police, is to answer for and on behalf of the Governor-General in this House.

Sir, for some time this question of the Police uniform has been under consideration and the House will be interested to know that certain improvements have already been made mainly, Sir, in connection with the commissioned ranks and the Inspectorate.

Now, Government is quite aware, Sir, that there ought to be some improvement in the uniform of the Nigeria Police, both for real smartness and also for their comfort, but the House would appreciate, Sir, that it would be rather a difficult task to try to provide uniform for the entire Nigeria Police with a strength of about 11,000 people.

Apart from the question of money, which is very important, there are other things which ought to be taken into consideration. Money is the most important factor in this because

Government has more urgent things to do with the money at its disposal than to provide uniform for the Police, but certain changes have been suggested and the changes which are already approved are designed mainly to differentiate the Inspectorate from the non-commissioned officers and to emphasise their status as junior officers of the Police Force. A tunic with a shirt and black tie will replace the present tunic with a button up collar which is worn at present on ceremonial occasions. The present sam-browne belt, shoes and socks will be replaced with black. A grey open neck shirt in place of the present khaki shirt will be worn as part of the police order for operational purposes.

Similar changes have been approved for the commissioned ranks, including a new full-dress uniform for ceremonial occasions consisting of a white tunic, blue overalls with dark blue silk sash and sword. These will, for reasons of expense, be obligatory in the first instance only for Assistant Commissioners of Police and above.

Now, Sir, the amendment seeks to ask the House to agree that the Police Advisory Council, which I told the House will be established by the Governor-General, should be the appropriate body, Sir, to examine this question of the Nigeria Police and to make recommendations to the Governor-General as to their changes and I hope, Sir, that the House will accept the amendments.

Sir, I beg to move.

Amendment proposed.

Chief T. T. Solaru (Ijebu East) : Mr Speaker, the mover of this Motion has enabled the House to hear from the Government what has been done, and I think that is the value of the Motion. But for the Motion we would not have heard to what extent Government has considered the question of police uniform for our country.

Sir, for a long, long time I think Members of this House will be aware that the uniform of the Police has been one of the deterrent factors keeping away young and eligible Nigerians from joining the Police Force. Now, Sir, you will remember those days of the pill box caps, it was thought good enough then. Well things have changed from those days, and I think that the uniform of our police should reflect our new status.

I think there is something queer in the way uniforms were made to fit officials in colonial territories in those days. If you look at the constabulary in East Africa you see some funny things there in the days gone by and it is the same here. I think our local administrations must have copied the example of the superior police. You will remember some of our so-called akodas and messengers, some of the things they wore in those days. Things have changed and we must change with them.

I therefore heartily agree with the spirit of the Motion and, of course, with the Amendment made by the Prime Minister because we have now focussed our attention on the fact that these uniforms are getting out-moded and out of date.

Sir, it is not necessary to copy wholesale what is being done in other countries as the mover of the Motion has said, but it is heartening to know that those whose concern it is to look into the comfort and smartness of our police are getting down to the work.

Therefore, Mr Speaker, I am supporting the Amendment.

Mr M. A. O. Olarewaju (South Ilorin): Mr Speaker, Sir, I support the Amendment to this Motion. The present police uniform in Nigeria is a national shame as the uniform sometimes makes the police half naked. A complete change to long sleeve and long trousers should be made. Not only this, Sir: a suitable and fitting national dress should be designed for our Prime Minister with a cap designated "Prime Minister of Nigeria" (*Applause*).

Mr Speaker, Sir, the big cudgel carried by our police should be changed to modern equipment like a revolver and hand-whip.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to support the Amendment. (*Applause*).

Mr M. A. Sanni (Oshun Central): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Motion as amended. This House cannot be content with accepting a Motion on the mere grounds of a Member's personal intellectual ability, perspicuity and super-sagacity... (*laughter*).

Mr R. A. Fani-Kayode (Ife): I rise on a point of order, Sir. I cannot hear a word of what Mr Sanni is saying.

Mr Speaker: Order, order. I am sure he speaks with distinctness.

Mr Sanni: Sir, every Motion should be considered from the point of view of its quintessence and from the point of view of its benefit to the community. (*Applause*). This Motion is quintessential and vital to our national interests. It is humble and straightforward. The present uniform does not confer dignity on the Police. The constables in their poor uniform are, to the public, imaginary messengers of evil. They are taken as terrors instead of friends. Soldiers are not so dreadful to the public for their uniform is very lovely. A better designed uniform would doubtless help policemen look attractive rather than repulsive. In fine dress they would feel so dignified that they would deem it a great dishonour to themselves to descend to a low standard of morality, in these days when bribery and corruption are so universal as to be almost pardonable. (*Loud applause*).

Sir, fine dress is next to godliness, and is capable of engendering noble qualities in Policemen. Sir, with these words I support the Motion as amended.

Rev. E. S. Bens (Brass): Mr Speaker, in speaking to support the amendment I would just like to draw the attention of the Prime Minister to the fact that Policemen at present are using tunics. I would like to know whether in his opinion, Mr Speaker, tunic is acceptable by the Police rank and file. You know tunic as a dress is being used by students, and even students who are using tunics resent it.

Mr Speaker, I must confess, I thought the only class of people who use tunics, Sir, are stewards and cooks. It appears to me that the Nigeria Police, Mr Speaker, are like cooks and stewards. I would like to know whether it would be possible for the Prime Minister to modify this aspect of the Nigeria Police dress. I beg to support.

Chief N. G. Yellowe (Degema): Mr Speaker, before we pass this amendment I just want to advise the Council that as the Prime Minister said he was going to set up a committee to consider changes in the Police uniform to just have a look at a paper called "Today". I think all hon. Members have that paper. You will see the Police force of Jamaica I think at the opening of the Supreme Court there. I think they should draw a lesson from there. Mr Speaker, I beg to support.

Question, that the words proposed to be left out be left out, put and agreed to.

Proposed words there added.

Main Question, as amended put and agreed to.

Resolved, that, in the opinion of this House, the Police Advisory Council, which is to be set up by His Excellency the Governor-General, should be invited to consider what, if any, changes are necessary in the uniform of the Nigeria Police.

FEDERAL SCHOLARSHIPS

Mr N. A. Ezonbodor (Western Ijaw) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to move the motion standing in my name which appears in the Order Paper. That, in view of the fact that there are some tribes and divisions in Nigeria which do not benefit from the award of Federal scholarships, this House calls on the Government to award scholarships on a divisional basis, and recommends that where there are no qualified candidates for post-Secondary awards the Government should make grants to enable the divisions affected to train students in preparation for future scholarships.

There are unbearable circumstances that have urged me to put forward this Motion for the deep consideration of hon. Members at this time that Nigeria is riding quickly along the rails of civilisation. A thorough investigation of the feelings of hon. Members has made me believe that the feeling in me is not a peculiar one. It is for the common cause of all, for the benefit of divisions that are being utterly neglected or deprived of the award of scholarships in this country. If hon. Members will agree with me that their divisions too are not enjoying these scholarship benefits which the Government is awarding yearly, it goes to show that there is something wrong somehow, somewhere with the policy of awarding scholarships in this country.

I have to thank the Government for their bold venture in allowing this Motion to come up in this House, knowing very well that whether they like it or not the House will unanimously pass this Motion. . . . (*Hear, hear*). I therefore call upon hon. Members to seize this golden opportunity at our disposal to drive home successfully this our greatest culmination. No Member of the Govern-

ment Bench has any civil right to oppose this Motion, knowing that it is the right of every citizen in this country. No Minister with a good sense of humour and responsibility, realising the present need of Nigerians for higher educational standards, will dare oppose this Motion. This is no threat, but a warning that the democratic right of all should not be hampered by an individual. I therefore pray that this Motion be allowed to go through the House unless a satisfactory policy of awarding scholarships is hereby assured without reservation.

What the Motion seeks to do is that a fair allocation of scholarship should be made to touch every division in this country directly by award or in form of grants where there are no qualified candidates, to enable them to train students for future scholarships. The body responsible for awarding scholarships should be mentioned. This body used to adduce the excuse that there are no qualified candidates or that no candidates applied for scholarship in one particular division or tribe. The argument is illogical and cannot be entertained. Who are those qualified candidates and how do they become qualified for the award of scholarships? They go to schools and from schools to secondary schools. Scholarships are meant that parents who could not afford to continue the education of their children in secondary schools should be helped by the Government to train their children. It happens to mean that scholarship awards in this country are not going that way. It appears that we start from the top level. It is a wrong procedure. How can you get qualified candidates when you do not educate them from the bottom level? Let us now start from the schools.

Now, Sir, how do the candidates know that the Government is awarding so many scholarships and at such a time? Do we expect all the candidates to be resident in Lagos in order to know all about scholarships? The notices given in the *Gazettes* and the Press are not sufficient. The rural areas must be sufficiently informed that Government is awarding so many scholarships on such various courses at such a time. Some villages do not know what is called *Gazette* or newspaper in this country because people do not know or hear about them, and so to fail to apply is no criterion for that particular division to be neglected for ever. Let the Government write to Local Government bodies

like the Divisional or District Councils so that they could make their own local arrangements to get qualified candidates.

The present policy of the award of scholarships has deviated from its purpose and it is now meant for rich people's children. For example, you have two children, say one that of a farmer and another that of Mr Ojukwu. However brilliant the farmer's son may be, he will not get it but Ojukwu's son will get it. Is that what we call scholarship? (*Several hon. Members: No!*) Such an award carries more suspicion even though the Selection Body is fair and above board. Mr Speaker, Sir, for God's sake, children who are brilliant and could not go further in education because of financial difficulties are the people meant for scholarship in this country. If there are no qualified candidates that does not mean that there are no brilliant or intelligent scholars in that particular Division or that particular tribe: it is because there are no secondary schools in that place. For example, the Western Regional Government refused giving people of the Western Ijaw, where I come from, any secondary schools with the result that it is impossible to get any student to be awarded scholarship in this area. It is by communal effort that we are trying to get funds to build a Grammar School so that it is highly impossible to get scholarships there.

Take it for granted that distribution of scholarships on divisional basis was to be two to each Division in an area, and the training of these two may cost £800 a year. Now, where you cannot get qualified candidates in a Division, give this £800 to that particular Division; that particular Division will use this £800 to train as many boys as possible in secondary schools and this will yield at least twenty-five students a year. In due course that Division will get so many qualified candidates to be awarded scholarships. No single member has the democratic right to be solely responsible for awarding scholarships in this country.

The selection should be either by a Board appointed like those composed in the Civil Service in this country comprising a Minister, the Director of Education, the Registrar of Students and Overseas Trainees, three unofficial members of ability and character, one from each Region, a member of staff of the University College, Ibadan, a member of the staff of the Nigerian College of Technology, and a member of a College, a Trade Unionist,

and any other person of this House, that will be deemed to serve on that Board, and particularly a member from each of the various Parties comprising this House. If this body is composed, the selection of this Board will be fair and above board.

Most of us do not know the types of scholarships this country is awarding to-day. There are open Government scholarships and bursaries which are tenable in the United Kingdom or North America and awarded by the Governor-General on the recommendation of the Federal Public Service Commission; there are State scholarships tenable only at the University College, Ibadan, and awards are made annually on the advice of the Academic Board of the University College, Ibadan, with the covering recommendation of the Federal Public Service Commission to the ten Nigerian candidates who obtain the highest marks in the University College entrance examination; there are also part-scholarships or bursaries awarded on occasions to candidates who have embarked on courses of studies as fee-paying students but whose resources prove insufficient. There are also Colonial Development and Welfare scholarships which nominations are made to the Secretary of State each year in December for scholarship awards under the £1 million Colonial Development and Welfare Scheme No. 694. I understand that an award of fourteen scholarships have been made since 1947. There are also awards which do not interest us but must be mentioned in this House: the nominees are Government employees. The Government contributes towards the cost of the award an annual sum of the employee's salary, and the balance to be borne from the Colonial Development and Welfare Fund. I understand such nominations are made to the Secretary of State for awards under the £150,000 Colonial Development and Welfare Scheme No. D1053 for post-graduates probationer training.

Regional Scholarships. I would like to seize this opportunity to pay tribute to the Eastern Regional Government Scholarship award policy which is not confined to higher education, a feature of the schemes granting secondary school scholarships to Divisions and Provinces which, by reason of educational backwardness, cannot benefit from higher education. The schemes have the advantage of being flexible and being administered by

those who know the requirements of that area ; unlike the Action Group Government of the West which promises 200 scholarships a year for the Region and gives none to my Division.

Mr Speaker : I am quite sure it is out of order to criticise the Government of a Region.

Mr Ezonbodor : Mr Speaker, Sir, our sons and daughters in the United Kingdom who can no longer continue their courses for financial reasons, have often applied for scholarships and financial aid, let us help them. I know one of them—Ernest Dorgu—who was sent to study medicine but could not continue due to misfortune which befell his father, who was an Inspector in the Nigerian Police Force. The Government has done nothing to help this young man. I have to pay tribute to the Government of Ghana for the help they have given our children. I am made to understand that the Ghana Government or Education Department has given some scholarships to Nigerian students and one of them is Mr Tipper Tuburu, who is doing very well. I must give this warning that great care must be taken by our Federal scholarship holders in London, to make use of the scholarships so far given in this country.

Mr Speaker, Sir, with this I beg to move.

Mr G. O. D. Eneh (Udi) : I rise to second this Motion. The principle which the Mover of the Motion is advocating is that there should be a policy laid down by this House to be pursued by the Federal Ministry of Education, which will give even distribution of scholarship awards to all sections of the community in the Federation. I must further add, before I continue, that I think it would be wrong to say that the Federal Scholarship Board have not been trying to do their work fairly efficiently. It would be wrong also to say that rich people only get Federal scholarships. These statements I must say are not to the benefit of the nation.

I want to say that the Federal Ministry of Education is also pursuing the policy which is being advocated by the Mover of this Motion, as far as King's College is concerned. If I may quote from the report of the Federal Education Department, page 4, regarding King's College : "Of fifty-four boys admitted to Class I, thirty-eight were accepted strictly on merit and interview, and the remaining sixteen places were allocated on the divisional quota

basis, four from each Region, four from Lagos and the Southern Cameroons, from those who survived the short list examination and interview." It is necessary to realise that the Federal Ministry is already pursuing this policy which has been advocated by the Mover of this Motion but this is only in respect of King's College, Lagos. The point at issue is that the Members of this House represent various Divisions and as we represent various Divisions it is only fair and reasonable that we should expect that in the award of Federal scholarships, each Division should be taken into consideration.

I am aware of the present award in the 1957-58 Estimates in which the Federal Government has given about 180 scholarships and there is also the intention of the Government to award more scholarships, but one sees that very many Divisions are left out of the picture. If we may refer to one of the Regional Governments, the Eastern Regional Government, the legislature there laid down their policy that 70% of the awards must be awarded on a divisional basis and the remaining 30% to be awarded on the principle of merit and the needs of the Region. If the Government accepts this Motion in principle and then devises means of awarding scholarships, a certain percentage purely on divisional basis, another on merits, no Member of this House will grumble. The present tendency is that all the people who are said to be well qualified are selected.

Let me refer to this qualification. What is this qualification? We refer to "somebody well qualified". I will quote an instance which really caused trouble in the Eastern Region. A Member of the Regional Scholarship Board had two sons who were fully qualified, those two boys were given scholarships at the same time. Human nature being what it is—it is only reasonable that the Region should start to agitate. The Press took it up, the various Committees took it up and eventually the Scholarship Board put its foot down and said, "We are awarding on merit". It was the principle laid down by the legislature and this principle which the legislature laid down in those days was modified by the present Government of the Eastern Region. The policy which had been laid down by the Scholarship Board of awarding scholarships only on merit, should be modified. For instance it will be asking too much for us to say

that every Division must have an equal number of awards. That may not be possible on the grounds... (*An hon. Member : Of population*) not of population, on the grounds that certain Divisions, unfortunately, may not be able to provide the necessary material needed for the award of scholarships.

The Mover of the Motion coming on that section says that it will be necessary for Government to give grants to such Divisions in order to enable them to get qualified candidates. This policy has been pursued by some other Governments that make up this Federation; when it is realised that some divisions have not the qualified candidates, they decide to give them scholarships obtainable in various secondary schools. I hope that Members of this House will rise to the occasion and see that this Motion, which is timely, is supported from all sides of this House.

Mr Speaker, I beg to second.

Question proposed.

The Minister of Education (The hon. Aja Nwachuku): Mr Speaker, Sir, the last speaker who seconded this Motion has, to a great extent, taken the wind out of my sails, but I regret that later on the boat was on the other foot.

Mr Speaker, I sympathise with the motives behind this Motion but for reasons which I will explain I am unable to support it. It would, I suggest, be of interest to the House to be reminded that there is a Board established to make recommendations for the award of Federal Scholarships. The present membership of the Board is 19, two-thirds of them Nigerians. The main principle underlying scholarship selection, which, at my direction, the Board follows, is, and I suggest must be, to obtain the best possible human material for the award of scholarships. It must be borne in mind that the bulk of Federal Scholars are potential recruits to the senior ranks of the Federal Public Service, and that Service, I repeat, must recruit the best possible material.

We in this House are all aware that certain Divisions are more backward educationally than others. That this fact is unfortunate does not detract from its truth, but it means, it seems to me clear, that in selecting the best possible material for the award of scholarships, this Government must regard applicants as

Nigerians. In other words this Government, the Federal Government, cannot in this connection pay regard to Regional, tribal or divisional interests. More particularly since it is, I regret, inevitable that at the present time, any attempt to award scholarships on a divisional basis would lead to unevenness in the quality of our scholars and eventually in the quality of a portion of the senior staff of Government.

It is clear, if this Government is to obtain the best possible material for its scholarships, it must make its selection without regard to divisional interests of any kind. However, we must not lose sight of the fact that in time the spread of education, particularly secondary education, will go a long way towards solving the problem inherent in the first part of the Motion, since, as secondary education advances to more backward areas, more students from these areas will obtain the best educational references for consideration for the award of the Federal scholarships.

The debate on this Motion gives me the opportunity to refer to the decision recorded at Paragraph 56 of the Report of the recent Constitutional Conference, that arrangements would be made for a quota of scholarships to be awarded annually to the children of the residents in Lagos. This decision, of course, reflects the fact that Lagos has no Regional Government, and its children are therefore only eligible for Federal Scholarships, unlike their brothers in the Regions, who can also apply for Regional awards. I have made an initial approach to Lagos Town Council to work out the best method of implementing the London Conference decision, and I hope to have more information to give the House when it re-assembles later in the year.

I come now to the second part of the Motion. This appears to envisage the Federal Government making outright financial grants to Local Government Councils in respect of a matter, namely Secondary Education, which is constitutionally entirely the concern of the Regional Government, except in regard to the Federal Territory of Lagos. I feel sure that the mover of the Motion will, on reflection, agree that, apart from this proposal being in effect an encroachment by the Federal Government on the precincts of the Regional Governments, it also implies the abrogation of the

Federal Government of its right to select its own scholars, since it would be impossible for the Federal Government to exercise effective control over the financial grants envisaged, or to play an effective part in the selection of the students who will benefit from such grants.

As I said, the problem of secondary education is, so far as the Regions are concerned, that is to say *in* the Regions, is one being supervised by Regional Governments.

Listeners will appreciate from what I have already said that in viewing the problem of scholarship selection, the need of the Federal Government to obtain the best human material is paramount. As Members have already heard during this Meeting of the House, this Government is alive to the paramountcy of certain needs, with regard to certain problems, and therefore with regard to scholarships, and I shall lay before the House, in this Supplementary Appropriation Bill, proposals for an Emergency Training Scheme designed to produce over a three to four years period, several hundred students who will have obtained the necessary passes at Advanced Level in the G.C.E. in Science Subjects to qualify them for University entrance, and it is hoped eventually for appointment to the many posts in the Federal Public Service requiring the basic qualifications of a Science Degree. This, I suggest, is an imaginative proposal, and is at the same time constructive, in that it seeks to remedy a problem which is of great importance from this particular Government's point of view.

This is as far as the Government can go at present to meet any inadequacies which may exist in the human material offering itself for the award of Federal scholarships.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I hope that I have convinced the House of the reasons why the Government, sympathetic as it is to the hon. Member's desire to see the results of the scholarship scheme spread as broadly as possible throughout the country, cannot accept this Motion, and I hope that the hon. Member will not press the matter.

Sir, I beg to oppose.

M. Ibrahim Gusau (Sokoto West): Mr Speaker, Sir, despite what the Minister has just explained to the House, I support the Motion in principle, and I think it will give this side of the House an opportunity to express

our dissatisfaction, as far as Federal scholarship awards are concerned, with those of the Northern Region.

There is a serious allegation, Sir, that applicants from the Northern Region are not awarded scholarships as much as they should be. This serious allegation, Sir, can be proved by the percentage of the scholarship awards from those who applied to the Board. I think, Sir, the mover of the Motion, and the fact that the Member, as well as the Minister have benefited a great deal, as far as their constituencies or their Regions are concerned, and I think we are only those who should bring this Motion to the Floor of this House. We should express our dissatisfaction as far as this Order is concerned.

If, for example, Sir, a statement or a notice can be given, stating the number of scholarship awards since the start of this Board; the total of those given to the Regions, for example, can prove this dissatisfaction. A great deal is desired, Sir, to improve the scholarship awards to the applicants, particularly from those of the Northern Region, and there are a number of ways in which we can benefit. Of course, we understand there are other causes why they are not given, yet the Government could improve this by establishing, I think, Federal Colleges in the Regions, whereby they could absorb applicants or students who would eventually take further scholarship awards or else could be employed in the Government Public Service.

Furthermore, Sir, I think the Government could improve awards in order to reflect the whole of the Federation, by establishing Federal Scholarship Boards in the Regions, whereby those in the Regions could have the opportunity, not only of applying up to Lagos, for example, but they could be awarded in their own Region, on behalf of the Federal Government.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to support this Motion.

Chief T. T. Solaru (Ijebu East): Mr Speaker, Sir, there is much to draw the sympathy of the unwary to support this Motion; but only the unwary because the implication of this will make nonsense of Federal Scholarships. The only reason why secondary and primary education is made a regional subject is that the Regions may cater

for all the component parts of their territory and I do think that the Regional Governments are doing that. If they are not then this kind of Motion should be tabled in the Regional Houses.

An hon. Member : You will seek a commission of inquiry.

Chief Solaru : Commissions of inquiry into this kind of thing will not be called merely because you ask for it, that is wasting the country's revenue. The fact is that Federal scholarships are intended to select the best material that this country as a Federation can afford and send them for further training to fill much needed posts in the Federation. Do Members want to reverse the policy that education (primary and secondary) should come under Federal control? If there are areas where there are no secondary schools is that a fit subject for the Floor of this hon. House? The fact that the mover of this Motion has not even taken the trouble to check up his information: he made quite unfounded allegations against the Scholarship Board of other Regions.

Mr N. A. Ezonbodor (Western Ijaw) : You don't understand me.

Chief Solaru : Nobody can understand you, Mr Ezonbodor. It is impossible to convince a person who will not check up his facts. I understand he is an ex-policeman, that is why he got out of the Force. . . (*Laughter*).

Mr Ezonbodor : Point of Order, Sir. The last speaker is making some personal remarks on me that I was a policeman.

Mr Speaker : I did not notice that Chief Solaru was being offensive in any way. He is quite entitled to talk about the hon. Mover of the Motion, but I am quite sure he is not being offensive—that would be out of order.

Chief Solaru : I think he was afraid I was going to draw your attention to the text of his Motion. Here is a person who shouts from the house-top for national unity and he wants Federal scholarships to be granted on tribal basis. Arch tribalism I call that. In this particular instance it makes nonsense of the intention of Federal scholarships to be awarded intertribally. How many tribes in this country, do you know? If we have to trace all down and award them all scholarships I suppose we might as well wind up the Federal scholarship

Board. It seems to me that we should not allow sentiment to becloud the issue before this House.

It is good to know that somebody has advocated the cause of backward areas. Backward areas should be taken care of by Regional Governments and if they are not well treated by all means let them take it up very strongly and they will find strong support in the Regional Houses. If there is any Regional House that is not doing its duty then it is the duty of the representatives in that Regional House to fight their battle for them. Here in this House we look into the best interests of the Federation.

Scholarship as envisaged by the mover of this Motion—he mentioned different kinds of people who would form his scholarship board. He has set out his premises and therefore he must lead to his inevitable conclusion. What he was saying in effect is that his division, I think Ijaw Division, has fared very badly at the Federal scholarship level. Therefore if you want to constitute a real Federal Scholarship Board fill them with Ijaws and everything will be all right.

The Minister of Communications and Aviation (Chief S. L. Akintola) : And scholarship for illicit gin. (*Laughter*).

Mr Ezonbodor : Point of Order. Chief Akintola is no more a member of the Opposition.

Mr Speaker : Hon. Members must not waste the time of the debate by a point which they probably know as well as I do is no point of order.

Chief Solaru : I will take my cue from what you have just said Sir. This Motion is a waste of the time of the House and I oppose it.

Mr O. C. Agwuna (Awka) : Mr Speaker, Sir, the way this Motion was tabled before the House made it impossible for any man of reason to lend his support to it irrespective of the motive of the Mover. The Mover started with a threat and said that no Member of the Government has any civil right to oppose this Motion. His threat is a damp squib. He also went further and assumed that in the event of any opposition from the Government he will apply the full weight of the legislature to overcome that opposition. That also is a loose connection because he can be sure of any Member here to support him but he cannot be sure of my support.

Federal Scholarships are awarded in order to create human material for Federal Civil Service. If you lower the standards of the Federal scholarship then you lower the standard of the Federal Civil Service. We award scholarships to train men and women to fill positions in the Civil Service. If you lower the standard of the scholarships you lower the standard of the civil service. If we have very low standards in the Federation then the Federation is doomed. As a matter of fact, apart from this the question of implications of tribalism, and other 'isms' of sectional character might also come in. I don't really see why I should continue to speak on this Motion. I oppose it.

Mallam Hashime Adaji (North Igala) : Mr Speaker, I rise to support the Motion in that as a matter of fact the Federal Scholarship Board has cheated the Northern Region. I know it is tribalism now when those given scholarships return from their various universities and become somebody in the Federal Departments where tribalism speaks, then employment will be given to the members of the family of that particular Head of Department or his own tribe. By that time the North will have no place in the Federal service. Leave that aside.

From the previous Federal Scholarship already awarded we find that the North has almost nothing. To solve this I suggest to the Federal Government to set up or follow the example already laid down by the Ministry of Works. I suggest that the Federal Government set up, or rather follow the example already laid down by the Regional Governments. If the Federal Scholarship Board could be asked to set up Regional Agency Boards, that is one to be set up in the North, one in the Western Region and one in the Eastern Region, and one in the Southern Cameroons—those Boards will recommend capable scholars from their Region to the Federal Scholarships Board for recommendation to the Government for final selection. If this is done, I am sure, the Northern as well as other Regions, which had been cheated already will be rewarded.

If we examine the scholarships already given in this country, we will find out that some Regions have been cheated, and to iron out this type of anomaly, which I am sure will bring nothing but good at this particular stage, I think the Federal Scholarships Board should set up Regional Agency Boards. This will help

the Government when 1960 comes, because we would inform a Government who did not help in this respect, that we would not co-operate with such a Government.

I think an Agency Board is a necessity, a necessity to our students who could be recommended to the Federal Scholarship Board. If this is not done, I am afraid we will not co-operate. If you remember what happened during the Government of 1940, you will have discovered that the North did not have any members in the senior or upper segment of the Government services, so that in all Government Services you only find one or two Northerners. As a result of Regionalisation we have begun to get our people in the upper segment and if the Federal Government Service is also to take the same attitude by way of scholarships which have been granted already giving one Region, as I have said, 70 per cent of the whole scholarships, I think that such an Agency Board should be created. This would give facilities to Northerners, and these people could then study in the Colleges abroad. I know we will have qualified people who can do that. The Federal Government may say, 'You have not the education to qualify for a scholarship to study in the universities abroad,' but let them get an appropriate education in some of our colleges, then we can say we have the appropriate education to qualify for a scholarship.

With these few remarks, I beg to support.

Sitting suspended : 11.35 a.m.

Sitting resumed : 11.52 a.m.

Mr J. I. Izah (Aboh) : Mr Speaker, Sir, one of the most outstanding things in the country is uneven education. From Lagos here you travel inland, up to the far North, and one thing is clear, that various parts of the country are uneven in this matter of education. I know that the Government has given a serious thought to education in the country, and that is why a decision has been taken to hand over elementary education to Regional Governments. I do not propose to talk about that. But scholarship awards are one of the ways in which the Government of a country can try to bridge the gulf between the various sections of its people.

I cannot support some of the sections of this Motion before the House. But, Sir, I call upon the Government to try to do its best in order to cover up the differences between the various parts of this country in education. Mr

Speaker, some Members have glibly talked about standards in awarding scholarships, and have even raised the question of what standards are. *Standards* is a relative term, Sir, but I will call upon the Minister to uphold the standards, and not for any reason whatsoever to bring them down. We know the standard that is required for university education. They are at least G.C.E. Advanced Level, and only recently, Sir, it has been brought to the notice of this country that Science graduates are scarce and that students who even have the requisite qualifications in the necessary science subjects are not enough in the country to take up the scholarships on offer.

Are we then to ask our Government to lower our standards in order to satisfy some divisional needs? That is a dangerous thing, Sir. I realise, Sir, that my own Division is one of those that have not benefited from either the Federal Scholarship Scheme, or even the Regional. But it is unfortunate, indeed, Sir, and I find it hard to ask the Government to lower the standard in order to satisfy that need. If standards are lowered, Sir, we might be able to bring in many more scholarships, but undeserving students, when they are given these scholarships, where will they study? Not in internationally recognised universities. Will they be able to cope with students from foreign countries. And what impression would Nigeria give to the outside world? Mr Speaker, Sir, I maintain that lowering of standards would be detrimental to our Civil Service.

There is another point which the Government should sympathetically give thought to. I am aware of the present Constitutional set up, that Regional Governments provide something for their Regions, but occasions have arisen when Regional Governments have not quite satisfied some parts of their Regions, Sir. I am not referring to any Region, Sir, but I wonder whether it would be possible for this Government of the Federation, Sir, to make some block grant to some of these well known backward areas. I think, Sir, that will be a better solution than a wholesale lowering of our standards.

With these few remarks, Sir, I beg to support, and I hope that my few remarks are taken into account.

Mr P. Aiyuk (Mamfe): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Motion but with a modifica-

tion that Federal scholarship award, or payment of grants in lieu should be made on territorial or Regional basis, rather than on divisional basis.....

Several Hon. Members: That is not the Motion.

Mr Aiyuk: Mr Speaker, the inequality of educational facilities in some parts of this country is a difficult task which I think the Government of the Federation has set about to reduce. It is quite clear that boys and girls in the Northern Region and the Southern Cameroons have not been benefiting adequately from Federal scholarships because of insufficient educational facilities. Many factors are responsible for this. I am referring particularly to the Southern Cameroons, Mr Speaker.

Most of us know very well that during the German Government there were so many schools, German schools, functioning in the Cameroons, and education was going on quite well. But when the British Government took over all these schools were closed down and the British Government started some schools and subsequently opened a normal college which was closed down after a short time. There remained only very few schools in the territory so that education did not advance to a commendable degree. But for the Catholic Mission which about 1933 opened a secondary school, the Cameroons would have gone no where by now and I think I must pay tribute to the Mission authorities, the Catholic Mission and the Basel Mission who tried to open secondary schools which have assisted boys and girls in the Southern Cameroons to a standard which has made it possible for them to derive certain educational benefits in this country.

Mr Speaker, I think it is a good thing or will be a good thing if as our boys and girls are not able to derive sufficient benefit from these Federal scholarships the Government considers that some grant must be paid to these Regions which are still backward—the Northern Region and the Southern Cameroons—in order that they may be able to foster education.

With these, Mr Speaker, and with the modification I suggest, I support the motion. (*Applause*).

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Education (Hon. D. C. Ugwu): Mr Speaker, every Member here representing a constituency must have some sympathy for

the motives of this Motion but, after studying the implications of the Motion, no Member here can support it. (*Shouts of 'No'*).

As a Member of the Federal Scholarships Advisory Board, I have personal experience of the matter and can assure the House that, if the Federal Public Service is to obtain recruits for its senior ranks, it must select the best, irrespective of where the people come from. This I regard, Sir, as a basic principle which we cannot afford to abandon if the standard of the Civil Service in this country is going to be higher than it is now.

What is required, Sir, to solve the problem inherent in this Motion is for local communities to take an active and increasing interest in education. Thus, the spread of education, particularly secondary education, will be more even and more and more students will obtain the basic educational qualifications necessary for consideration for the award of scholarships.

Some Regional Governments and Local Government bodies have schemes for awarding secondary school scholarships to boys and girls within their jurisdiction. This is a very welcome and important step towards getting boys and girls qualified for University scholarship.

In this connection, Sir, I would repeat the points already made that there are various standards to be reached before students are allowed into Universities and, as these standards are set by the Universities themselves and not by the Government, no Government here has any power to dictate to any University the standards which students must reach before they are admitted into Universities. Applicants for scholarships must, therefore, satisfy entrance requirements of the Universities before they award scholarships.

The House may wish to be reminded that this Government has a scholarship scheme for secondary schools in the Federal territory of Lagos. This scheme is administered on behalf of the Ministry by the Federal Education Department. Ten scholarships annually are awarded to pupils of secondary schools in Lagos and, in addition, further scholarships can still be, and are awarded to cases of special merit coupled with financial hardship. I highly recommend this sort of scheme to all Regional Governments and all Local Government bodies. If they pursue this scheme, as

I know very well that some Regional Governments and local communities now do, in course of time they will be able to produce students who will have to compete with others for Federal scholarships.

Some points have been made by some of the speakers here and I want to reply to just a few of them. Mr Ezonbodor, when he was moving this Motion, made reference to the son of a farmer and the son of an Ojukwu. I think that although we are protected by certain privileges here it would not be fair to members of any Board for Members here to make some wild allegations. (*Hear, hear*). If the honourable Member has any instance to quote about the award of scholarships, all that he can do is to come out here and quote it, instead of making wild allegations. I can assure the House that the members of the Scholarship Board do their business with the highest degree of honesty. (*Hear, hear*).

He also spoke of the composition. I am very happy that hon. Solaru has replied to that. Perhaps what hon. Ezonbodor feels is that unless Mr Ezonbodor is on the Scholarships Board things will not go well, but I shall repeat what the Minister has said. The present Scholarships Advisory Board has in its membership representatives of the Ministry—I have said that I am a member,—official members, representatives of the Nigerian College of Arts, representatives of the University College Ibadan. In addition it has also representatives of all the Regions of this country, including the Southern Cameroons. I do not understand how the Board should have been composed to satisfy the hon. Member.

Some Members also raised the question of our students who are already in some Universities in the United Kingdom. I wish to assure them that we also have an Advisory Board in the United Kingdom and that students in the United Kingdom in various Universities there who have difficulties or who want to apply for scholarships also apply from year to year and provided they satisfy the requirements of the Universities and provided also they satisfy the requirements in London, they are awarded scholarships.

Some Members frequently referred to the question of grants. I wish to say, Sir, that we are talking about scholarships and not about grants. This is scholarship, just like

Native Administration scholarships. You award scholarships in your Native Administration area to boys and girls who have satisfied the requirements of the Native Administration and who have also satisfied requirements of the colleges where you want to send them. You do not go about giving scholarships. When you mean scholarship, you mean scholarship but when we are talking about grants then it is a separate item.

I therefore want to say this, Sir, to remind hon. Members that education—primary education and secondary education—are the responsibility of the Regional Governments. (*Hear, hear*). If they are the responsibility of the Regional Government and the Regional Government uses the Local Government and Local Authority bodies to operate these scholarships to secondary schools and primary education, there is no reason why any hon. Member should stand up here to ask the Federal Government, which is charged with responsibility for higher education, to go and make grants to Native Authorities and Local Governments.

Mr Speaker, with this explanation, as I said before, any person representing a constituency here knows very well that the spirit of this Motion is good but it is impracticable, otherwise we are going to foil the whole Civil Service recruitment of this country.

Mr Speaker, I beg to oppose.

Mr R. A. Fani-Kayode (Ife): Mr Speaker, I rise to oppose this Motion. As the last speaker has said, it is quite clear that Federal scholarships are paramouly different from Regional scholarships. It is quite clear that these scholarships are for higher education and I am happy that the Ministry has made it quite clear that secondary scholarships are basically the responsibility of each Region. I like to add, Sir, that if you examine the list of scholarships awarded in science subjects, you will find that most of the scholars are from the Eastern Region. No one will be annoyed with that, for the simple reason that Eastern boys take more to science subjects. It is the fault of Western students and Northern students for not taking these subjects. So that you find that most of our Engineers in future and most of our Doctors in future who are trained on scholarships might come from the Eastern Region. But there is nobody to be blamed for that.

Now, Sir, if Members had said that the Federal Government should consider giving grants in aid to Regional Governments for the purpose of fostering secondary education primarily to fit people for these scholarships, that is an entirely different matter and nobody will quarrel with that. In fact, I believe that in 1951 a sum of almost £1½ million was given as grant to the Northern Regional Government and as far as I know up till now half of that money has not been spent.

An hon. Member: How do you know?

Mr Fani-Kayode: I stand to be corrected by the Minister of Education. Half of that amount has not been spent. Whose fault is that? We are here to speak the truth to each other. If at this time of our National Government we cannot stand here and speak the truth to each other, then we had better go back home and waste time on our farms. Now, Sir, if it is a question of money then a different Motion can be brought asking that that money should be given to the different Governments, the Northern Government included, to foster education on specific lines to fit in boys for scholarships from the Federal Government.

Now, Sir, I would add that Mr Ezonbodor, by the very nature of the Motion he has filed, has done a great disservice to this country at this stage of our development. Fancy an hon. Member basing his own Motion on tribalistic lines; the very thing we are trying to destroy in this country at this stage! He knows full well how sensitive all of us must be when it comes to Federal scholarships. My Division has not got one single scholarship from the Federal Government and I know it is the fault of our Division. That is why we are building more secondary schools and with our own money, in order to get our boys to such a standard that will fit them to get Federal scholarships. He knows how sensitive our brothers from the North must be, and he has couched this Motion in such terms that do not befit any Nigerian at this stage of our history. I think, Sir, that the only thing that a man like Ezonbodor can do at this time is to withdraw this Motion, and if he is not satisfied himself I think the hon. Minister of Education should award scholarships for frogmen to be trained from the Western Region. Amphibians, you know, they swim and walk; and also we should train more men in gin refining from that part of the country.

Sir, I am pleading with Mr Ezonbodor to withdraw this Motion, and I am asking, Sir, that Members who think that grants-in-aid should be given to the Regions to foster specific branches of education to fit men for Federal scholarships should see the Minister, and I am certain the Minister shall see them at any time and discuss it with them.

Mr Speaker : It is my duty to remind the House that we must consider the other Motions on the Order Paper. We cannot spend a totally disproportionate amount of time on one Motion only.

Mr D. N. Abii (Owerri) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to oppose this Motion as it stands, but in opposing it I wish to remind hon. Members of two important facts that arise from the Motion. I think the Motion as it was moved was not properly studied. What I think the Mover had in mind was that in awarding Federal scholarships consideration had not been sufficiently given to the places from where the candidates come. I think he is not quite right in bringing that out. What he would have said is this. We have certain standards for the applicants. Were these standards made public enough to the applicants? I repeat that if there are spheres for which the Federal Scholarship Board will award scholarships for the year, these sections must be made clear to the people so that when they are applying they specify their choice. I have in mind four teachers from my own school who applied. These teachers have all got their Higher School Certificates, exemption from Intermediate either for Science or for Arts. Four of them applied for these scholarships and not one of them was invited. Now, I agree that the Scholarship Board might have got certain standards. Supposing the standards were made clear when these students were sending their applications they would know which field they would specify. In that respect, Mr Speaker, I wish to support one alternative idea from the North. An hon. Member suggests that there should be Agency Boards to help to screen the applications from each Region. I think that would not be against the policy of the Federal Scholarship Board.

Some hon. Members : It will.

Mr Abii : But if it will, why have we one in London? We have one there in London

to screen the applications there. I would certainly support that we have in the Regions some Agency Boards which will make clear to the candidates of each Region what the Federal Government is going to award, and after the applications the Agency Board will screen them and make some recommendations to the Federal Scholarship Board. This will not necessarily mean going into Regional troubles. I do not support going to Regional matters because we want higher students to qualify for the Federal Civil Service. I do not, therefore, believe that if we have agency boards in each Region that it will reduce the standard of what we want in the Service. A Regional agency board, I support, will help to make the matter better and will bring the standards you want home to the people in the Regions so that when they apply, they will not be neglected.

With this, Mr Speaker, I oppose the Motion and support the assurance given.

Rev. E. S. Bens 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.

Question put accordingly and negatived.

FOOTBALL POOLS

Mr J. A. O. Akande (Egba North) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to move the Motion standing in my name on the Order Paper, "That foreign football pools should be banned in Nigeria and a locally controlled football system set up."

I know that this Motion may annoy a few people who have benefited from it, but later on in the debate they will see the necessity for setting up a local one. I know men and women who have made it a weekly endeavour, and I therefore say right away from the beginning that the idea is to substitute a local football pool for foreign ones. A visit to our post office every week will reveal that several thousands of pounds leave Nigeria weekly, and according to information, 20 per cent of this goes to the British fund. It means that 20 per cent of every shilling that is sent by Nigerians goes to subsidise the British taxpayer. As has been pointed out, it is clearly intolerable. From this, hon. Members can see for themselves that the Federal Government can derive considerable revenue if it is undertaken locally

for, apart from the 20 per cent, the promoters ought to make considerable profit. It will also help us in our search for money to maintain this Government. It is a weak argument to say that the revenue accruing to Government by way of sales of stamps and postal orders is sufficient. It is not. There is nothing to be afraid of as we have a sufficient team to cope with the work and capable men to do the work. We want independence on the 2nd April, 1960, and so we must also be free from foreign pools. The local lottery in the Western Region is a big success.

The foreign pools, according to information, now indulge in certain irregularities to suit their own ends. A case has been referred to me from an Abeokuta man. This is in connection with the Sherman Pools. It is alleged that the Sherman Pools do not pay according to the words of their guarantee. This gentleman contacted the Western Regional Commissioner in London, who said he could not help him. The Federal Commissioner took up the matter with the Sherman Pools and after the man had waited for two months and there was no reply to his claim of having won £24,030-9s. The man complained that the Sherman Pools interpreted the scores to suit their own purpose. The matter is still on now. This man is literate, and what do you think must have happened to thousands of illiterates who pay in money every week for football pools?

Hon. Members will probably see with me that the setting up of local football pools is long overdue. The money to be realised will help to swell the funds of the Federation. Nigeria too, will praise this Government for taking the initiative to set up local football pools.

Mr Speaker, I beg to move.

Mr A. Adeyinka (Ibadan Central): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to second this Motion. Members will agree with me that this is one of the Motions that we expect to come before this House: a Motion that calls for no debate at all, but for complete support. It is to stop the menace of our people wasting the money of this country, the money that should be utilised for the development of our country being utilised by another country. If the Government goes now to ban foreign pools in this country, it will help to check our people

who want to get money in a cheap way. In their quest for getting money in a cheap way, they are losing a lot. I suggest that the Government should adopt a lottery—the Western Government has adopted a lottery and it is going on well now, and I praise them for that. We should organise our own local pool here so that by that, it will yield a great deal to our revenue earning capacity.

Mr Speaker, I beg to second.

Question proposed.

The Minister of Internal Affairs (Hon. J. M. Johnson): Mr Speaker, Sir, I agree with the Secunder of the Motion that this matter is so important that there should be no debate on it, and as such I am asking that the Motion should be opposed and further debate stopped.

This Motion, Sir, relates only to football pools. But if I am to make a full statement of the Federal Government's view, I must also refer to allied types of gambling such as lotteries, which have been mentioned, and prize competitions. Let me first point out the constitutional position about this type of competition. They are all residual subjects; the Federal Legislature can therefore only pass laws controlling their operation in the Federal Territory of Lagos. But if such laws are to be passed, it is very desirable that they should be uniform throughout the Federation. Lotteries are defined in the Criminal Code Ordinance as including any game, method or device where money or money's worth is distributed or allotted in any manner depending on or to be determined by chance or lot. In Lagos, with three exceptions, all lotteries are illegal. These exceptions are lotteries held by race clubs, charitable institutions and ordinary clubs in Nigeria which have been authorised by the Governor-General. All other lotteries are illegal. I mention this because it has been suggested in this House and elsewhere that foreign lotteries should be banned.

Turning to prize competitions, Members will not have failed to notice that the advertisement for this type of competition in Lagos has recently increased. These competitions usually take the form of asking competitors to guess missing words, numbers and letters. There are frequently so many possible solutions that it must be either lotteries or very akin to lotteries. But it might be difficult to prosecute

them successfully as it might be argued that finding the correct solution needed a sufficient degree of skill to bring the competition outside the legal definition of lottery.

This Motion relates to the type of competition in which an entrant is asked to guess the outcome of future event. I will refer to this as forecast pools.

The most popular form of forecast pools is that in which an entrant is asked to guess the result of a match in the English football leagues. There is no doubt that a considerable amount of money goes out of the country on these accounts. On the other hand, a lesser amount of money, nevertheless, adding up to a considerable sum, comes back by way of prizes. The country's revenue also benefits through the poundage on postal orders sent with coupons and through the stamps on the letters in which they are sent.

Nigeria does not obtain its proper revenue from the activities of foreign pools promoters, I agree. If foreign pools are to continue to be permitted, then it is proper that we should take steps to get a greater revenue from their activities. After giving the matter much thought, the Federal Government has decided, subject to any views which this House and Regional Governments may express, that these foreign pools should be allowed to continue. To ban them entirely would hardly be possible. You could not stop people investing money in pools, nor do I think you should try to in a free society. Such a ban would prevent advertising in local papers and the operation of local agents. People could still send their forms direct to the United Kingdom, unless Government were prepared to authorise the opening of all letters sent from Nigeria to foreign pools companies.

Moreover, these United Kingdom pools are exceedingly well and honestly run, under the close supervision of the United Kingdom Government. They have gained considerable popularity in Nigeria. Many people like an occasional gamble and one of the attractions of foreign pools is that the stakes are small. Locally run football pools are not likely to be as popular as foreign pools for some time yet, because their prizes are very low in comparison. The two Nigerian promoters, who were recently running football pools, had to close down because they were running at a loss. The Federal Government is, therefore, of the

opinion that they should not be banned but proposed that legislation should be introduced with the object of securing a greater revenue from their activities. (*Hear, hear*).

The Government proposes to consult the Regional Governments with a view to the introduction by them of similar legislation. We believe that this legislation should also provide for the banning of foreign prize competitions, which are not so popular in Nigeria and are generally not so well run as foreign football pools. These competitions depend for their substance largely on advertising in the local newspapers and a legal ban on them would, therefore, be fairly effective. Provision should also be made for some control of the activities of pools promoters and agents, prize competitions promoted in Nigeria and to ensure that these promoters and agents are men of some substance.

The legislation which we, subject to any views this House and the Regional Governments may express, propose should be introduced will, therefore, provide for the imposition of a forecast pool, betting and prize competition duty of 10 per cent on bets and entry fees received in Nigeria. Provision will be made for the partial exemption of certain classes of persons from this duty, that is Nigerians. Nigerian forecast pool promoters should be partially exempted in the first instance in respect of forecast pools on an event which will take place outside Nigeria, to enable them to compete more effectively with foreign pools. Government also proposes the licensing of all forecast pools and prize competition promoters and agents in Nigeria, at an annual licence fee of £50; the banning of foreign prize competitions, including competitions by way of pool betting, which do not involve the forecast of an event; the completion of returns by these licensed persons, showing the amount collected and the amount paid out by way of prizes and the names and addresses of the winners; the submission of audited accounts by licensed persons.

In the United Kingdom, 30 per cent of the total amount of stake money, not 20 per cent as just given out, paid in pool betting, is collected by the Government as pool betting duty. We propose, after consulting the Regional Governments, to suggest to the Secretary of State that 30 per cent of the stake money coming from Nigeria, or at least a

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considerable portion of that 30 per cent, should more properly be credited to Nigerian revenue. (*Applause*).

The Mover suggested that a locally controlled football pool system should be set up. Government has not sufficient staff or resources at present to operate a Government pools organisation. But I hope the House will agree that the steps I have proposed will go some way towards controlling the operation of pools in Nigeria. I, therefore, oppose the Motion and ask the House by not accepting it, to approve the steps which Government is taking in this matter.

Chief T. T. Solaru (Ijebu East): Mr Speaker, Sir, in principle I am against all lotteries, all pools, all gambling, all drinking, and I think every sensible person should be. But, of course, in this life we are all made up of all sorts and none of us is 100 per cent sane. That is why, of course, you find that there are people (we have to put up with them), who would like to make money on lotteries and gambling and what not. If people will indulge in vices, while we try from another angle to eradicate vice, there is no reason for Government to put on a restraint or rather cash in on what I call their vices.

We are in a difficult position. Why should the Government cash in on other people's vices? Well, because it is a Government of sinners, for sinners and by sinners. That is why most of our revenue comes from drinking. The Western Government has to resort to lotteries in order to improve people's health, their proceeds go into improving medical facilities. The fact is that if these people will gamble, the Government must do something to restrain them and to see that they are honest in gambling. The Government has to devise a way to make honest gambling or honest lottery possible. The time will come when there will be no necessity to gamble, or for people to indulge in lotteries, but that time has not yet come and a wise Government would at least take some measures to mitigate this nuisance.

Sir, talking about controlling pools and lotteries, the only reason why one could not wholeheartedly support the banning of them is the impossibility of it. How could you do the impossible? It would be impossible to find the staff, it would be impossible to find the organisation to do this thing as efficiently as it is done overseas.

There is no doubt that money is going out, despite the assurances that the Minister gave us that some money is coming back in prizes. It is out of all proportion to the money that goes out. This is a very poor country. If anyone tries to float a Government Loan in this country, see how poorly people respond to it, and yet that loan will come back in benefits and in interest to the people; but oh no! everybody wants to win £75,000. They are all hoping. Somebody has to contribute that. (*Heckling*). I don't expect to be heckled by my own Back Bench. Mr Speaker, Sir, despite the fact that there are people in this House who by their heckling in this House, show that they are gamblers and so on, I would very wholeheartedly support the Government in any measure they propose to put some control or some measure on these foreign football pools and lotteries. The fact is that you said in the United Kingdom, 30 per cent goes to the Government—correct me if I am wrong; and I suppose the Minister is proposing to take only 20 per cent instead of 30 per cent. Well now, if you really want to do us any good, I think, since Government money is going to be used for our benefit, and the person who wins the lottery is only going to benefit himself and himself alone, I think, after having got most of our people to lose their money over him, the Government should take 50 per cent.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to support.

Mr H. M. Adaji (North Igalla): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to oppose this Motion. The fact is that pools or lotteries as the Mover referred to, have nothing to do with the Government Revenue. I have never heard, or even seen, a person who failed to pay his Tax because perhaps he pooled with all he had and has to be punished by the Government for having failed to pay his Tax.

Moreover, the hon. Member wanted a substitute in Nigeria. On the one hand it should be banned because it is bad, it takes away money from people's pockets, and on the other you see, it is for the good of all. Well what affects the eyes affects the nose. Put your hand out here, it begins to run water. If it is bad to pool in England, why make any substitute in Nigeria?

You say it is bad to send money out of the country, even to pools. When you create football pools in Nigeria what are you going

In the first place the ship-building itself will give employment to a very large number of people and as we know the more we advocate for industrialisation the more people turn towards industry, and in time to come one of the greatest problems this country will have to face will be one of finding jobs for industrially-minded members of the population.

Mr Speaker: Order. I am sorry to interrupt the hon. Member, it is one o'clock. Sitting is suspended till 3 p.m.

Sitting suspended.

Sitting resumed.

Mr E. C. Akwivu: Mr Speaker, Sir, when the sitting was suspended this morning, I was talking about the establishment of the shipping industry in this country. I would like to say, Sir, that we in this country must in no way be understood as being ungrateful for services that have been rendered in the past by private undertakings. They have done their best according to their own light and understanding to bring Nigeria into closer contact with the rest of the outside world. They have done their best, the best that was possible in accordance with their own interests and outlook to keep Nigeria and the outside world as close as possible. We thank them for that, but at the same time, Sir, I think the time has come for us to tell our Government and the outside world that we are becoming very well alive to the necessities of the shipping industry in this country.

As we all very well know, a country's shipping industry, the army, the air force, the air lines all form the backbone of the Government of the country, along with the extent and size of the country's territory and frontier. We, the citizens of Nigeria, would be very glad to hear in the immediate future that measures are being taken to establish the country's own interests in this vital means of connection between this country and the outside world. It is one of the most visible signs, one of the strongest evidences of national maturity, and we feel, Sir, that as Nigeria is very fast approaching its maturity and will soon be gaining international recognition as a fully matured state, nothing would be more fitting than that Nigeria should be able to boast of its own shipping interests.

Sir, one of the unfortunate aspects at present is that in some quarters, commercial interests that are being served by shipping, do not feel particularly happy that the exporting or

importing of goods is exclusively in the hands of their competitors; they feel their interests may not be safeguarded. We do not know if anything has been going wrong in this respect, and one does not know of any tendencies on the part of any one who has knowledge of this to say that those non-shipping commercial interests will not be safeguarded; but suffice it to say, Sir, that it is but natural that interests in the field of commerce, and particularly in the field of international trade which is so vital to trade in this country will be greatly tempted to pay more special and close attention to their own interests.

Mr Speaker, Sir, these fears, whether they are true or not, will be very much allayed, by the establishment of the country's shipping interests or industry. One of course expects such interests once established will continue to grow.

Sir, I have endeavoured to point out this morning that it is of great advantage to begin our own shipping lines. Now in suggesting that the time has come for the Government to establish a shipping industry, I do not think that one should be understood as saying that the Government should embark right away upon investments that would cost millions and millions of pounds. It is very easy to appreciate the fact that a good ship, or a good ocean liner may run into two or three million pounds. We feel of course, that at least humble beginnings could be made. There is no one, and I do not think any private shipping interests would be adversely affected, if our Government would start off by establishing some coastal shipping lines. There is no harm in having ships operated from this country, plying between Sierra Leone and the Cameroons. I do not think, Sir, there is any other shipping interest that would be adversely affected, and I think it would give us our first experience in this field and may help us towards further adventures.

So, Sir, I would respectfully ask that the Government consider this suggestion, study this question, the question of finance which would have to be taken into consideration may not be found too great or prohibitive. May I also respectfully suggest, Sir, that the Government should find no difficulty in encouraging private enterprise by all the legislative means at its disposal in this respect. Here

again, Sir, one must warn the Government to look out for, and I think our Government is keen enough and clever enough to take what one might describe as effective steps to safeguard its own interests as well as others. It is not uncommon, Sir, that in the name of private enterprise a lot of these goods or enterprises are run badly. I would say, Sir, that with this safeguard, our Government should encourage the shipping industry of the country. We have the backing of the whole country, and the Government has the backing of the whole country behind them knowing fully well that the whole country at the time of attaining maturity, looks towards this aspect of growth.

Sir, I would say that it is being suggested that it is a question of whether the Government should accommodate it in its five-year programme or otherwise. All I would say, Sir, is that our Government should do its best to accommodate it within its five-year plan, whether it is by way of starting investigations, whether it is by way of starting coastal shipping interests and so on. I think, Sir, that this is a matter of great urgency, and I do not think that the taxpayers of this country, or the hon. Members of this House, or any responsible body of opinion in this country will attack the Government for giving this aspect of our national development top priority.

Sir, with these remarks, I beg to support.

The Minister of Transport (Hon. R. A. Njoku): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to move the Amendment standing in my name, namely in line 2 to leave out from "and" to end and add: "desires the Government, if possible within the framework of the country's other urgent requirements, to make any financial provision necessary for the development of such an industry in the next five-year economic planning period."

In moving this Amendment, Sir, I would like to assure the Mover of the original Motion and the two hon. Members who have contributed to this debate that the Government is in great sympathy with the substance of the Motion. There is no doubt that we are all very anxious to see Nigeria own a large mercantile marine or navy, a large air force, a large

army and those other great things that really make a nation big. We do hope that these things would come in their turn. But, Sir, I think it would be very unwise of Government to accede to every request without examining all the financial and other implications involved.

The Federal Government has not been unmindful of the advantages to Nigeria which might ensue from the establishment of a Nigerian shipping line, and this Government has naturally had to study the problem in the context of the country's other requirements and of its financial resources. The House is only too well aware of the multiplicity of Nigeria's needs in various fields and of the impossibility of meeting them all simultaneously. Because our income, our revenue, is limited. The amount that the Government can borrow overseas is also limited by the number of countries similarly placed like Nigeria, that is to say countries that are developing fast, and that are obliged, as we are, to seek capital from other sources. In these circumstances the Government of a developing country is compelled to postpone the execution of projects which it acknowledges to be desirable in favour of others which, by general consent, if not more desirable, are at any rate quite urgent.

I make this preamble, Sir, to show that, although we are very willing to see a Nigerian shipping line, either of the coastal service type, one that plies between the coasts of West Africa, or one that is more ambitious, one that would have to comprise ocean-going vessels, whichever we choose, we must examine very carefully the implications.

May I, therefore, proceed to examine some of the problems involved. The economics of coastal shipping are not the same as the economics of ocean trade, but it is arguable that a coastal shipping enterprise might expand into a wider venture with interests further afield, and this is indeed, how the merchant navies of the world's great sea powers grew up, many of them, as we know, those of Britain, of the Netherlands and others. About a year ago, my Ministry was responsible for arranging an investigation by an expert into the possibility of a coastal service running between the Nigerian and Cameroons ports from Lagos eastwards. The expert in question was in no

The Minister of Labour and Welfare (Chief F. S. Okotie-Eboh): Sir, I beg to second.

Amendment proposed.

Chief T. T. Solaru (Ijebu East): Mr Speaker, Sir, the Minister of Transport in moving his Amendment, which I think is very reasonable and which I think the mover of this Motion will find difficult to disagree with, said that the Government is taking bold steps. I expected him to say "in doing", but he said "the Government is taking bold steps to say." I do not think it takes much effort to say things, but it takes a lot of effort to do things, and it is in the doing that we look up to the Minister to see that the intention of this Motion is implemented.

In moving his Amendment he raised great hopes that some day in the near future the prospect of having a Nigerian Shipping Industry might materialise. But I was a little taken aback when he went on recounting difficulties upon difficulties. We know they are there: difficulties will always be there. The thing is we must find a way either round them or over them or through them. It is no use talking to frustrate Nigerians about these difficulties without telling them to gird their loins and showing them a way to break through them. We are tired of these monopolistic shipping line rings. Only at the last sitting of the House we brought to the notice of the Government the difficulties that we are having with the Customs Lines, and I am glad it is the same Minister who is speaking in a different capacity. He dodged it then, he cannot dodge it now.

As the Minister for Commerce and Industry he had a lot to say concerning the reason why we must have these rings around our neck to throttle us. The monopolistic tendency of these shipping lines is too evident. Any Member of this House who has tried to travel by sea in the passenger line would be amazed to find the long waiting list. People fight as it were for air in order to get a space on the few shipping lines that exist. And yet we would be told that if we had shipping there would not be enough passengers to carry. What are these people carrying now? I suppose they are only carrying ballast from Nigeria to Copenhagen and bringing back stockfish. No, Sir. You will find long waiting

lists there. And do you know it is more difficult to get a third-class passage than it is to get a first-class? It is because people travel quite extensively. Students, people who go on holiday, people on business trips, they are all constantly going up and down but there is no ship to take them. We find that it is more costly to travel by air, and yet more and more people do go by air because there is no room for them in the ships.

Why cannot our Government think? If you cannot have two or three ships at the same time, start with one and see what happens. We cannot afford to go on waiting on the convenience of private shipping lines. We know what business houses do where their interests are concerned.

The first and only shipping line that we knew for many years was the Elder Dempster Line. But now we have John Holt and their own shipping line and I suppose the U.A.C. have their own shipping line, and so have others continually coming in. Very soon they will squeeze us out, there will be no room left for us. We are constantly enlarging our quays and harbours. For whose ships?

An hon. Member : Foreign ships.

Chief Solaru : Well, I suppose it is a Government by nationals for foreigners! If this is a national government, surely they should be nationally minded enough to know that we must create a gap for ourselves. Somebody once said that they must have a place in the sun. Even Nigerians can have a place in their own sun. I am telling you, Mr Minister, that unless we break the ring somewhere we shall be like a duck in a freezing pond. You know, the gap grows narrower and narrower and it keeps paddling in narrower and narrower circles until it is held in the grip of the ice. That is not the time to cry for help. The time is right now. Get in the thin edge of the wedge. Get one single shipping line with a single ship in it, and you will see that it will be the opening for greater things to come.

The Minister said that he approached other West African Governments. I am a little tired of these approaches to other Governments. We have always been carrying the heavier end of the beam. Talk about the West African Frontier Force, who is paying for most of it? Talk about the Airways Corporation, who is bearing the brunt of it? Talk about

W.A.I.F.O.R. which we were carrying on jointly with the other territories, who is carrying the butt end of it? Nigeria. Well, it is about time we carry our own burden and carry it squarely on our own shoulders.

Sir, the Nigerian Government which is now entirely by nationals should not stand like a timid, whimpering weakling on the bank of a stream waiting to be pushed in by necessity. We really must take the plunge ourselves with our eyes open.

Sir, the Minister mentioned the matter of money. It will take a million pounds to buy a ship of 100,000 tons and another half a million pounds to run it. Well, one and a half million pounds, can we not afford that for a single ship? Can we not afford that in the face of all the luxuries we are permitting ourselves? This is the time to tighten our belts. If you say you cannot find the money, I can give you a few hints where to look for that money. I think Members in this House, speaking seriously, will be willing to sacrifice part of their own salaries and their allowances if we know that we are going to have a ship in six months.

I think I can speak for all sides of this House. (*Hear, hear*). I think, Sir, that if you make the call, if we want this shipping line to start at once, I am quite sure that we are willing to make that sacrifice. Who benefits, quite apart from ourselves, quite apart from the people concerned, who benefits from all the cars that we are buying? Is it not the overseas exporter? Where does all the profit go to? Who sells all the petrol, all the tyres, and all the spare parts? It is true that we need all these commercial lorries; we do not need all the private cars that we are now having. What I am trying to get at is this: we are merely throttling our economy by importing these luxuries when we cannot deny ourselves to get this vital necessity—shipping lines—to take our goods to other parts of the world. In the time of war if Great Britain had not got its own shipping lines, I wonder what would have happened to her. The Merchant Navy is the backbone of Great Britain. If you cannot carry your own goods in your own bottom (as they said in those days) you rely on other countries and anything can happen: they withhold their own ships and then you will be starved.

Mr Speaker, Sir, we can afford to live a little less luxuriously. It is always typical of people

who have long been in slavery to think in terms of the comforts of slavery. When you are living in a master's house, he looks after your feeding; he looks after your clothing; the day comes when you have to be your own master, you look back like the Israelites on the fleshpots of Egypt. "Who is going to feed me now? Who is going to clothe me now?" If we really want independence, it is time we tighten our belt and go on courageously. We cannot afford to depend eternally on fairy god-fathers. For if we have them stretching a helping hand, there is also the other hand to help themselves, and who could blame them. We must help ourselves, and this is one way in which we can do it.

If we cannot afford to start in a big way, surely we are starting other industries in collaboration with some private concerns. We say the Government must have some shares in it that will entitle us to some of the control of the business interest. Why cannot we do the same here? There are instances of some such joint collaboration with some private enterprises. This is one of them. We do not want any more to see our logs piling up just because some ships are too busy to take them. We do not want to see goods piling up at the quay sides because other shipping lines are too busy to take them. We do not want shipping lines to go on dictating to us how much we have to pay in order to carry our goods, how much we have to pay for bringing our goods in, as has been happening. And because somebody is threatening over the Suez Canal, price must go up because they are not our own shipping.

If we have our own shipping, shall we travel to England *via* the Suez Canal? Oh, no! If we have our own ships, shall we travel through the Suez Canal in order to get to America? But every little breath of wind in far away China or in Australia and we are affected here simply because we are always depending upon other people's milk. Mr Speaker, I am quite sure that this National Government will really gird up its loins and lead us in this courageous path of putting ourselves on our own feet.

Mr Speaker, while supporting the Amendment, I am calling for that bold vigorous step that the Minister himself proposed, and I do hope that there will be something definite in the next Development Programme that will show quite concretely how we can start a shipping industry. If he calls to the country, I am sure

of the country for other things, I thought that it would not be good at all to start such a service.

Government, as the Minister of Transport has pointed out, is still very anxious to continue examining the possibilities of establishing a proper Nigerian shipping industry. The last speaker, Sir, who got me more or less to my feet, asked Government to provide, in the next Estimates, some amount of money and staff for a Nigerian shipping industry. Well, I am very sorry to say, Sir, that Government would find it impossible to provide any money in the next year's Estimates for a Nigerian shipping industry. All the resources at our disposal have already been fully committed; and that is why, Sir, the hon. the Minister of Transport told the House that it is our hope that when we come to draw up the next Five-Year Economic Programme, we will, after examining all the other needs of the Government, see whether it will be possible for us to provide for a shipping industry or not. We are not idle in this, Sir, and I am sure the Minister of Transport will be very delighted to show all the papers and turn out all the information he has on this shipping industry, to any hon. Member who might care to look into his Office; and, Sir, I think it is only reasonable for the House to accept the Minister's amendment. (*Hear, hear*).

Mr R. A. Fani-Kayode (Ife) : Mr Speaker, Sir, there is one aspect of this matter that the hon. the Minister of Transport has—maybe inadvertently—but most carefully avoided. It is the fact that for all practical purposes, we of this country indirectly, even directly, subsidise most of the shipping lines coming into Nigeria.

Several Hon. Members : What? In what way?

Mr Fani-Kayode : We do it in this way. They are sure of cargo from Nigeria, and they are sure of all passengers from Nigeria. No shipping line is in doubt that any of its ships will leave these shores without cargo. Our Marketing Boards fill their hulls with cocoa, palm kernels, groundnuts, cotton. We fill them. In fact we run helter skelter to them begging them to find place for these goods. At the same time we give them passengers; and yet the hon. Minister of Transport stood there, and swayed to the right—

An Hon. Member : And swayed to the left.

Mr Fani-Kayode : He swayed to the front and he swayed to the back. . . .

An Hon. Member : He rock-'n-rolled.

Mr Fani-Kayode : He rock-'n rolled all over the place, and then he could tell us that he could not run a shipping line without profit. Of course we can. Of course we can; and I think, Sir, that if the hon. the Minister comes here with the next Development Scheme and there is nothing in it about putting our own ships here, we shall be quite certain to keep him for ever in his constituency. (*Laughter*). We have now passed the age, Sir, when we shall live on ground plants and paper. We want to see these things actually work.

I am again a bit worried, Sir, about the statement made, that our coastal shipping company must work at a loss. U.A.C., John Holt, and all these people are hardheaded business men. They do not come here to joke: they come here for one sole reason, to make money. I don't blame them. Maybe we would do the same if we were in their shoes; we certainly would. They are here to make money. Are you suggesting that they are so kind that they are running all these services at a loss?

I wish I knew the name of this expert who came. If I knew him, maybe I should ask for a Commission of Inquiry; but the Council of Ministers had confidence in him, and I suppose before accepting him, his credentials must have been thoroughly investigated. I think, Sir, that if you are going to get a fair estimate of how to run services you must get experts from non-competitive countries. You have to go to Germany. Bring down experts who have nothing at all to do with the present lines running here. These lines are very powerful. I am not casting any aspersions on them. I don't think they might have influenced any expert. In fact they are all honourable people. They would never interfere with an expert, but there is still that one per cent chance that they might. Nigeria must not take that one per cent chance.

An Hon. Member : What about Mr Osoba?

Mr Fani-Kayode : I will answer you. I think Mr Osoba was squeezed out of business, by the shipping monopoly. I think our Prime Minister said we must thank the shipping companies, for the services they have rendered to this country. I agree entirely with him. We must thank them. At the same time, they

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must also thank us for their enhanced dividends. If the hon. the Prime Minister will take care to look at the pages of the English papers and see how their dividends go up, he will see that these people themselves must thank us for enhancing the money that goes into their pockets.

Last of all, Sir, I think, as the hon. Member on my right has said, we must take the plunge. I do not advocate that we do it right now. We have a Five-Year Plan which is running to its end. The end is 1960. We must start planning in order to present to this House a tangible scheme which will give us our own shipping lines in our Five-Year Plan. It should not be a Ten-Year Plan; it should be a Five-Year Plan, because when we do gain independence, I am certain that, if we look in the right direction in the world market of to-day, we shall get loans. We shall get loans. I have no fear of that. Nigeria is so big that we have to get loans. We have to look to the right or to the left for loans. We shall get these loans.

The Rev. E. S. Bens (Brass): Mr Speaker, I think, Sir, that I have to give some respect to my Prime Minister and the Minister of Transport; and to congratulate them on all the wealth of material and information they have given to us; and Sir, if you study the material of my original Motion meantime, I do not think there is any contradiction excepting that a date is being fixed. That after this 2½ years period, when the next Economic Programme will be drawn, this Government will consider. Well with these lines, Sir, I beg to withdraw my original Motion in favour of the Amendment. (*Hear, hear*).

Question That the words proposed to be left out, be left out, put and agreed to.

Proposed words there added.

Main question as amended, put and agreed to.

Resolved—That this House is of the opinion that the time has come for the establishment of a Nigerian shipping industry, and desires the Government, if possible within the framework of the country's other urgent requirements, to make any financial provision necessary for the development of such an industry in the next five-year economic planning period.

NATIONAL SERVICE

Mr B. O. Ikeh (Abakaliki): Mr Speaker, Sir, the political advancement of Nigeria has

brought about the need for moving a Motion of this nature now standing in my name on the Order Paper. I have therefore great pleasure in moving—That this House is of the opinion that compulsory National Service should be introduced in order to provide military training for an appreciable number of Nigerians who may be called upon to serve in the Army whenever necessary.

There is no shadow of doubt, Mr Speaker, that no country or nation can progress politically and economically without the loyal service of her able men and women. What matters so much nowadays for Nigeria is not going about singing and shouting patriotically, but living patriotically. This is the time when we must all be prepared to serve Nigeria. By moving this Motion I am by no means advocating the turning of Nigeria into a military nation. I do not intend that Nigeria should be the Prussia of West Africa.

There is one vital advantage to be gained from this measure if this honourable House would approve this Motion. It is the turning out of a very physically strong mass of men, who will be capable in future to pull their weight in their respective fields of work. Apart from this, military training instils in youths sound sense of discipline, loyalty and obedience. With such a training men and women are prepared to sacrifice even their dear lives for the safety and progress of their country.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I have doubt in my mind whether most Nigerians have genuine patriotism for our country. Many have the notion that Government property could be treated any how as it is not their personal property. Many still have the notion that in the civil service they are working for the Government and not for themselves. This is the time to wipe out this impression. This is the time to give our men and women real training.

It is true that cadet training has been introduced in some of our secondary schools. But this training is limited to very, very few secondary schools. Even in such secondary schools where there is a cadet training course it is not made compulsory to all students.

Sir, I give an example from the question asked by my hon. Friend Mr J. M. Udochi. With your permission I read the question: "Question W.11. Mr J. M. Udochi to ask the Chief

Secretary of the Federation, if he will state how many persons were selected to take the entrance examination for selection as officer cadets in the Army during 1956; how many were successful; and of the number admitted to cadetship how many of the cadets were persons serving already in the Army or outside." Then the answer. It is not long, Sir. The Chief Secretary to the Federation: "The number of applicants who were selected during 1956 to take the entrance examination for selection as officer cadets in the Nigeria Military Force was 133. Of the 106 civilians who applied, only 40 presented themselves for the examination. That is 37.7 per cent. All the twenty-seven serving soldiers who applied were examined. The number of the civilians and serving soldiers who were successful at the entrance examination was thirty-five. Of the twelve who passed before a Selection Board and the medical examination and were admitted to cadetship, four were civilians and eight were serving soldiers."

Now from this we can see that it appears that our men are not even coming forward in great numbers to take advantage of this provision for cadetship training. Then, if this is not being done and we are preparing for independence, Sir, we must have to introduce some legislation. We must have to require some men and women to serve our country. That is the need for this Motion.

Not only that, Mr Udochi made a speech during the Appropriation Bill. I will only quote a little part of it with your permission: "Now, Sir, hon. Members will remember that last year we voted a sum a little above £24,000 for the training of Army Cadets. If you look carefully through the Estimates you will find that a little over half of this sum was utilised during the financial year, and if you want to know the reason why that was so you will find that reason in paragraph 39 of the memorandum attached to these Estimates." Now the reason is this. The actual disbursement under that sub-head depends on the number of suitable candidates for cadetship presenting themselves for training.

The provision made in 1956-57 was for forty-six candidates but the number of candidates coming forward has been below this figure. The provision for 1957-58 has, therefore, been reduced to cover the cost of training sixteen candidates, which is a more realistic estimate

of the actual number of candidates which are likely to come forward.

Now, Sir, this is convincing that our men are not actually prepared to come forward. Therefore after estimating £24,000 for training the number of people coming forward to make use of this opportunity was below expectation. Therefore it is necessary that we must get people trained to serve Nigeria when we become independent. Now, going on, I would speak of the advantage that we would get by introducing this measure.

One great advantage that an emerging nation like Nigeria has is benefit from other nations' experience. For instance, compulsory military service was introduced in Britain in 1916 and that was during the First World War. After the end of the war Britain thought it wise to continue compulsory military service. She therefore passed a Military Training Act which made it compulsory for young men from 18 to 26 years of age to serve for at least two years in one of the three important forces—the Army, the Air Force and the Royal Navy. Of course, such an important Act was not passed without making certain exemptions in the interest of the nation. Not all people were compelled to serve.

Rev. E. S. Bens (Brass): Like pastors.

Mr Ikeh: Yes, pastors were exempted. (*Laughter*). And also students of medicine were allowed to continue their career. Their studies did not stop: they continued. We can benefit from the experience of Britain. I understand India has also modelled their military and defence system on British lines.

Mr Speaker, Sir, a party of Ghana delegates to Palestine was told by the Prime Minister of that country that it was easier to win independence but harder to maintain it. (*Hon. Members: That is true*). . . and this is true. We hope to win independence and be able to maintain it through the loyal services of our well-trained men and women.

I do not say that compulsory National Service should be introduced this year, but it could be introduced next year or a year after. It is important that it must be done. This Motion goes to support the statement of the policy proposed by the Government for the establishment of the Nigerian Naval Force—Sessional Paper No. 6 of 1956. The first

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sentence of paragraph 2 of this White Paper reads thus:—

“The Government considers that the Federation of Nigeria has reached a stage in its progress and development at which it is appropriate to establish a force for the naval defence of Nigeria within its territorial waters.”

That is the statement regarding the aspect of the naval force so that the Motion which I am moving is not contrary to this statement, and I maintain that we are coming to the stage when Nigerians themselves must compel themselves to serve in the naval force, in the military force—and later in the air force when that might be established. If we cannot get people to work there and if they are not willing because it is hard or difficult, we must make some legislation and get our men to work there.

As the Sardauna of Sokoto said last year when he was addressing Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II, the Sardauna said he thought there came a time when perhaps a legislation can be made in the interests of the public, no matter how disturbing or how bad people may feel about it. I am not quoting the actual words, but that is what he said. People may feel that if we introduce a compulsory National service there would be a row somehow about it, but then it is a legislation that is really very very necessary for a growing nation like Nigeria. The Prime Minister and his Cabinet realise this and I earnestly commend this Motion to you. I still look forward to the time when we shall create a Ministry of Defence and a Minister of Defence who will then make necessary arrangements to deal with this very important motion.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move.

Sitting suspended 4.35 p.m.

Sitting resumed : 4.52 p.m.

Mr J. Mpi (Ahoada) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to second the Motion and in doing so I will first of all pay tribute to our Ministers and the Government Bench for all that they have been able to do in the past. I remember that so many Motions were passed on the Floor of this hon. House. Looking through them, most of them have been implemented, and we are now working upon them, and the reason why I second this Motion is because I see

good in it. It is a good Motion, well explained, and the Mover has taken time to explain every aspect of it to make us feel no doubt at all, and to know that the motive behind it is to cater for the future of our young men's training, to make them to be fit for the future service which they are going to render as soldiers to defend this country.

Mr Speaker, Sir, if we look back on the past two World Wars to see the good service performed by our then soldiers, I think it is wise for one to say that there is reason for us to make provision now to train our soldiers for future services. Mr Speaker, I want to say that this Motion is well considered, and timely, too. I remember about two days ago when a Motion was introduced in this hon. House, about rationing of petrol, we were told that it is always good to prepare against the future. And so I do not think that there is any mistake in introducing this Motion now. I do not have to say much, because the Mover of the Motion has done all he could to explain this Motion so much so that I believe that our Council of Ministers will try to accept the Motion. I know it is always the case that whenever our Government has made up its mind to accept something or refuse it, whatever you do you cannot move them. But I do not want that to happen in this case as it is a Motion which is going to do much good to us in the future.

Question proposed.

Alhaji Abdulkadiri Makama (Central Zaria) : Mr Speaker, Sir, when the hon. the Prime Minister formed his national government and spoke of an emergency, it certainly did not, and does not mean that that emergency is military. There is no military emergency threatening Nigeria from any direction. Therefore for anybody to call upon this House and ask it to approve compulsory military service in the Federation is, to say the least, unnecessary. If there is any immediate threat of a third World War we might think twice before we reject this Motion. But at the present time when we are not threatened by any country, and Nigeria is not threatening any country, I do not see any reason why such a Motion should be brought before this House. We refuse really to precipitate Nigeria into a military state, or a military dictatorship.

Sir, I beg to oppose this Motion.

Mr H. O. Abaagu (Kwande, Tiv): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to oppose the Motion. I am opposing the word *compulsory*. The spirit behind the Motion is not too bad, but the Mover has introduced an objectionable word, *compulsory*, and that is what I am opposing now.

Mr Speaker, compulsory military services are only needed in a country where there is no voluntary enlistment. In Nigeria it is a different case. The people of Nigeria are militarily alert, and if you say there is a war to-day everybody comes out and volunteers to go into war, and for this reason I see no reason why there should be compulsion in enlisting our youths into the military forces.

Take, for example, during the 1939-45 War we Nigerians willingly came into the national service. Nobody conscripted anybody into the Army. Especially in Northern Nigeria, where about a half or, should I say, three quarters, of the service men were enlisted, nobody went behind anybody and pushed him out and asked him to join the military service. And the same thing happened when a military contingent toured the Northern Region and it happened to come to Makurdi, where they wanted about five boys to be recruited into the Boys Company. They had to drive away two hundred other boys. In fact, about three hundred boys came for enlistment.

Sir, in a place like Nigeria I do not see any necessity for compulsion into military service. I would, therefore, ask the hon. the Mover to amend his Motion by deleting this word *compulsory*. I think there is a necessity for military service, because we are growing into a self-governing nation and therefore we must be on the alert to face any eventuality that may come, but there is no need for Nigerians to be forced to join military service, since they willingly volunteer to join the military service.

Mr Speaker, I beg to oppose this word *compulsory*.

Mr R. A. Fani-Kayode (Ife): Mr Speaker, I support this Motion, but with very great reservations. It is often said by our people, especially in recent times, that freedom is the inalienable right of man, and I have always said that no man in this world has a right to freedom. He must win his freedom and keep it, and he must learn to keep it the hard way. It is with this at the back of my mind

that I support the Motion in principle, because we must learn in future to stand on our feet.

We must learn in future to stand on our own feet in all aspects of safeguarding our nation. It is true we shall remain within the British Commonwealth but at the same time if there is going to be any global warfare in the future Nigeria must be prepared to contribute her own quota in the Commonwealth forces. Sometimes you find that there might be conflict in fact in Africa. There is bound to be conflict sooner or later between members of the Commonwealth. In that case I do not know what England will do, possibly fold arms and ask for committee of one, or of two or three until we finish our local wars in Africa. Until Nigeria has strong forces at her command she will not command the respect of any nation in the world. On the other hand we must realise that at this stage of our development we need all the manpower and the output that this country can give towards the development of our country. Further we must realise that even in England now the cry is against the continuation of national service in its present form. People are asking for the abolition of national service or the reduction of the number of years required for training.

Secondly we have to realise that the new type of warfare does not take into account a mass army of riflemen the kind that we are going to train. We have to think of a specialised army—a very small but highly specialised army. I think the lesson of the last war has taught us that no nation can depend upon a mass army to win a battle and I think Germany has taught us that a highly mobilised armoured column penetrating far into the enemy line and supported by strong airforce is the secret of success in warfare to-day barring the development of atomic weapons.

Furthermore what we need in this country to-day is that physical education must be looked into seriously in all the schools. There must be compulsory physical training in each and every school starting from primary schools and further physical training must take a large place in the curriculum of our schools, not just an added item for the purpose of developing our feet to play soccer. I think if we get hold of our young men and put them in good physical condition the time will come when they shall fit easily into any national service scheme that this country might project.

Before we can embark upon any scheme of training we must have the men to train. We must have the officers who will train these people you want to put into compulsory national service. If you want to put the nation in arms we must be provided at this stage or next year with the people who will train them. We have not got them now. I suggest that the Government should take into consideration the training of a small but highly specialised corps which will be the nucleus of the future officers that will train our men for the national service and within three years we might be able to fill such corps in this country and then we might be able to think of national service. As for not making it compulsory we will be joking if we believe that each and every one of us will gladly go into the Force.

An hon. Member just before he left this House said he would be the last man to march. Somebody challenged me and asked me if I would run or stand if a war came. I want to go through the experience to know whether to run or wait. But I remember that Nigerians stood the bombing boldly in London during the war. I can guarantee that we were in England during the war and we were bombed night and day and many of us applied to join the Force so as to be able even to kill one or two people before we were killed. I am saying seriously that when the time comes the training should be compulsory. But we should wait until such time when we can release the manpower we are at present using for the development of our country in other spheres before we can be in a position to deploy them into military training.

I beg to support the Motion.

M. Hassan Yola, Turakin Adamawa (North Central Adamawa): Mr Speaker, I rise to oppose this Motion. A national service scheme for Nigeria at this stage is unnecessary and impracticable, so much so that the country does not need it and the country cannot afford such an expensive programme. After all Nigeria is not an aggressor nation and it has no intention of being so in the future. So why go into such an expensive business when we have more important programmes to accomplish. The hon. Dr Udoma the other day referred to our army as a toy army, but Rome was not built in a day and nobody can expect Nigeria to do things by magic. We have to go normally.

A national service scheme for Nigeria is too early and we have much more important programmes to carry out which are much more important for the economic development of the country. Before embarking on large measures of defence we have to think of modern warfare involving the use of nuclear weapons. In my opinion it is a waste of manpower, funds and energy for the Government to spend any large amount of money on defence. It is no use spending such a sum. We must take more steps to carry out our economic programme. When the country has developed its resources and become richer then this sort of Motion can be welcome. During that time we have done all the necessary things in the development of the country and during that time we might also take into consideration Maitama Sule's suggestion that we will like to rule others. If we want to rule others we will then be prepared to fight any resistance. Otherwise it is not necessary to embark on such a large expensive programme as national military service.

With these few remarks, Mr Speaker, I beg to oppose.

The Prime Minister (Hon. Alhaji Abubakar Tafawa Balewa): Mr Speaker, Sir, I have no doubt that the House is rather interested in this very interesting Motion. We have been informed, Sir, by the Seconder of the Motion that this Government accepts Motions and tries to implement them. Now, this is a Motion which can well be in our archives in the future.

I have every quarrel with this Motion, with the word *compulsion*. I do not think democracy will agree to this word being used in principle, because National Service, as I understand it, even in countries where it is tried does not mean conscription, and I quite agree, Sir, with some of the points made by my hon. friend Mr Abaagu and also the points made by the hon. Mr Kayode. They all expressed the need for using the man power we have at present for development of our resources and such other things. Now, before you can organise a National Service in a country, extensive arrangements will have to be made as to registration not only of names of young men who are eligible for such training but also for birth registration throughout the country which is not carried out in every part of the Federation.

Now, always, Sir, hon. Members ask us to think of efficiency in our Armed Services. I do not know, Sir, whether the hon. Member by asking us to start National Service is saying that we should just recruit people regardless of whether they are from school or just taken from the farms. Of course, Sir, it is our wish that in the future our soldiers, the fighting soldiers, should have a secondary education. When we have everybody educated in the country then it might be possible—it only might, Sir—be possible to start off with such a scheme if the country wish at the time to organise such a thing. But now it is just impossible.

Some Members have explained that there does not seem to be an emergency now and I am glad, Sir, that the hon. Mr Kayode has pointed out—I was listening to him carefully to see whether he would contradict himself—that this country should be ready to contribute to Commonwealth defence and that in any future wars, armies in the form we know them to-day will not be as important as they used to be because of the inventions of new modern weapons. Now, that is true. When hon. Members speak of a Nigerian army or a Nigerian Air Force or a Nigerian Navy as capable of defending Nigeria from outside attack, we who have some little knowledge of these things find it very difficult to understand what they mean because I do not think that there is a country in the world now which can stand on its own alone to fight any major war. That is why, Sir, we read in the papers and hear over the radio countries joining pacts and going into alliances. It is very difficult for a single country to defend itself against an outside attack, and so we should not be mistaken that a Nigerian Army would be able to go into battle single-handed and all that we hope is that if there will be war this country may be able to contribute to the defence of the Commonwealth of which we hope to be a part.

Unfortunately, Sir, in moving this Motion the mover did not clearly explain what were his intentions. I of course admired the way in which he argued the Motion because he really tried to look into Government papers concerning the Military and Naval Forces to find out points here and there, but apart from that, Sir, he did not try to tell us why he is asking for such a thing to start now.

I do not like to go at length arguing against this Motion because I have seen that the

House has given some indication of the outcome of this Motion. Therefore I just want to explain that the Government, though it has sympathy with some points which the hon. Mover has made about giving the country a type of discipline and a type of training which will equip the people to shoulder certain responsibilities, cannot see its way to accepting this Motion. We cannot afford, as hon. Mr Kayode stated, to waste our manpower in what the hon. Member is asking, and I would ask the House to reject this Motion but on the understanding, Sir, that it will be in our records that such a Motion was moved in this House.

Mr B. O. Ikeh (Abakaliki): Mr Speaker, Sir, with the explanation which the Prime Minister has given—although I did not say the scheme should be introduced now, I beg to withdraw the Motion.

Motion by leave withdrawn.

EROSION AT VICTORIA BEACH

Chief T. T. Solaru (Ijebu East): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to move the Motion standing in my name on the Order Paper, That this House views with grave concern the encroachment of the sea on Lagos Island and calls on the Government to put into immediate effect measures to arrest the encroachment. This, I am sure, is to give the Government a chance to inform us what they are doing for I know that some investigation is going on. We want them to put into immediate effect the measures already in hand, I hope, to arrest this encroachment.

Now, those who are more familiar with Lagos than myself and those whose memories travel farther than mine would recall to mind what the Victoria Beach was thirty-three years ago—that is as far as my memory can go—all along the Beach were peaceful hamlets of hardy fishermen who have lived there in spite of the Atlantic and ploughing their daily soil and enriching the country's harvest for generations. Within the short space of thirty-three years whole villages have been swept away. I remember when I first accustomed myself to the deafening roar of the sea upon Victoria beach that I realised how awful it would be if the sea were ever to gain upon Lagos Island which as we were told by geographers—I have never measured it myself—was between six and ten feet above sea level. Maybe it has

risen higher since then, but the Victoria Beach has not risen higher; as a matter of fact, it has gone lower. And we know that a country's beaches are its main defences against the encroachment of the sea. The trees that the children of these fishermen sheltered under are no longer to be seen: they have gone down into the deep.

Sir, perhaps it is no exaggeration to say that between 50 to 100 yards of the good land had gone under the sea. Well, I do not like exaggerating, but people say half a mile of useful land had gone under the sea since these 33 years. Well, this would be a grim foretaste of what is to come. We read in history, however ancient, of similar happenings. There were once two flourishing cities full of men, full of life. First of all, it was burnt up with fire, and then it was drowned in deluge, and to-day on the site of these once flourishing cities now lie one of the deepest depths of the earth, a sea called the Dead Sea, full of salt and nothing could live in it. Well, we do not want to repeat the story of a Lost Atlantis. It will be calamitous to think what fearful prospect faces Lagos and its environs if the sea was allowed to go on in its predatory march upon the land. I would shudder to think what would happen to my hon. Friend the Lagos Member if this calamity should happen; my hon. Friend Mr Dosunmu will turn into a merman, and I am sure my hon. Friend Mr Benson will scamper as fast as his feet could carry him to Ikorodu. But seriously we must not wait for Lagos to share the fate of this country that has disappeared under water.

It would not be the first time that anybody has taken notice of this encroachment. The question is why did not the former Government do anything about it? Well, the fact is that there is the traditional faith that people hold in Biblical lands that God had firmly laid the boundary of the sea and the sea cannot go beyond it. Well, of course, if you were in Palestine on the shore of the Mediterranean—and the Mediterranean, we are told, is tideless—you could build houses right up to the edge—and I have seen banana plantations right down to the water's edge. But then the Atlantic cannot be reckoned to the Mediterranean: it is ever on the move claiming its victims.

When we realise that Britain was once a part of Europe, when we realise that the fishing grounds of the North Sea once used to be part of the pleasant meadows of Europe, we will

realise what an awful calamity it will be if the sea were allowed steadily and remorselessly to gain upon Lagos Island. The Dutch have only saved themselves by their sheer indomitable courage and their will to survive. Well, the story of the Dutch boy stopping a breach in the dyke with his hands until day-break is a classic example of their courage and their will to live; and the skill and the experience of these people accumulated over centuries of battling with the fury of the elements are now at our disposal.

Not so long ago, the ex-Minister of Transport (now our Prime Minister) informed us of teams of experts from that very country helping us to develop our waterways. I know that they are busy somewhere in the country. Can they not be switched on to this problem of the Victoria Beach? We want to see them at work on the Victoria Beach in order to rescue Lagos from the impending calamity.

As I said once before, all our development schemes on the Island of Lagos, all our slum clearances, all our new planning, would be in vain if we make at one gate defence and at Victoria Beach let the remorseless Atlantic in. There are often floods in various parts of the world; and no doubt there will continue to be. In China there is a river—I think it is the Yangtse River—which has a doleful name, the Sorrow of China, because every year it over-flows its banks and carries away victims. But why have not the people of China done something about it? Well, perhaps their national passiveness and their fatality of outlook—what will be will be—and so year after year, they are waiting as to who should be the next victim.

But this fateful resignation is not part of our make up; we intend to fight back as the English are fighting back on their own soil, especially in the Eastern Counties where the lowlands are often flooded, but instead of suffering this periodic flooding and taking it as an act of God, they have managed to transform the Eastern Counties into one of the richest farm lands of the country. In the past, the voice of our Government was the voice of Jacob but the hands controlling the helm of fate were the hairy strong hands of Esau. We can no longer claim that. The voices speaking are the voices of the nationals, and the hands keeping the helm are the hands of the nationals. Surely, you cannot be less

concerned about the fate of Victoria Beach and the fate of Lagos? And so I am sounding this clarion call to our National Government to save Lagos for Nigeria by saving the Victoria Beach, to save the homes of Lagos and save its people from ghastly peril and to save from destruction this gem in the Federal crown, lest it be said of you that you were fiddling when Rome was burning.

Well, what will happen to these luxurious homes you built if the flood was to gain on Lagos? I am sure that no greater monument can be raised to this National Government than to earn the undying gratitude of posterity for enabling this Capital City to raise its head, literally, above the turbulent waters and keep the hungry sea at bay.

Dr E. O. Awduche (Onitsha): Sir, I beg to second. My first sight of the Bar Beach was 25 years ago and at that time the coast line was about one-quarter of a mile away from where it is now. The sea has gradually encroached upon the shore, and as the last speaker had said, a good number of the structures on the site have been swept into the sea. It is very unfortunate that now that we are so short of land for development, right under our nose the little available land that we have is being washed away. For instance, some parts of the development programme relating to health have not been put into effect because land could not be available. So it becomes urgent that the little that we have must be preserved.

If I may offer a suggestion—I am not a geologist, I know very little about waves—I see at the Victoria Beach that stones have been laid to check the inroads of the waves into the Lagos harbour. I do not see why, as a temporary measure, a similar thing could not be done to prevent the influx of the waves. We hope that something could be done very immediately to ensure that the land that we have at our disposal is not being washed away into the sea. Sir, I beg to second.

Question proposed.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Transport (Mr F. E. Offor): Mr Speaker, Sir, I should, I think, begin by drawing the attention of the House to a mistake in the wording of the Motion: Victoria beach is not on Lagos island, but, having said this, I can assure the House that it views the

encroachment of the sea on Victoria beach with no greater concern than the Government. This is a matter which has constantly engaged the attention of the Minister of Transport, and one in which the Council of Ministers has taken a sustained interest. It is one to which the Minister of Transport will always attach the utmost importance. The Government accepts the Motion, and indeed, over a considerable period, it has been taking measures of the type required. I welcome the opportunity to give the House an account of what is being done.

In effect this will be a progress report on a continuing battle, in which no quick and easy victory was to be expected, but in which, by acting on the best advice procurable in such matters, the Government has held its own. I should be failing in my duty, and misleading the House, if I underrated the threat which the action of the sea presents, or suggested that it was on the point of being overcome, but the danger has been withstood, and the Government will not relax its efforts: rather, as occasion arises, it will intensify them, and occasion will arise, not because past efforts have been other than wholehearted, but because of research into strategy and tactics, which proceeds without intermission. I must point out, however, to the House that struggles of this nature are being waged endlessly in ports all over the world; at Liverpool, for instance, there is a perpetual risk of the 'approaches' being closed by silt, and of untoward effects from the precautions adopted against this tendency. Ports, like liberty, are maintained only at the price of constant vigilance, and, as the book of Ecclesiastes has it, "there is no discharge in that war".

The last detailed report on the operations was supplied to the House by the Minister of Transport's predecessor in office two and a half years ago. He then outlined the nature of the difficulties with which the responsible authorities are faced, and it will be useful if I do so briefly once again. The essence of them is that the western harbour mole, on the Lighthouse beach side, is catching and banking up sand which, in the ordinary way, would replace that being washed away from the other side of the harbour, on Victoria beach. This, obviously, creates a dilemma, in that the presence of a mole essential to the maintenance of the harbour constitutes a threat to the stability of the coastline.

The remedy which at once springs to mind is to alter the western mole's alignment, or even to make a breach in it, but the latter possibility, on examination, has been rejected. It is doubtful whether breaching the mole would be technically feasible, without imperiling the whole structure. Even if it were, the width of the breach would necessarily be limited, and the sand flowing through it would probably block it. Finally, to breach the mole might well destroy its effectiveness as a means of keeping the harbour navigable.

Another course which the Government's advisers contemplated at one time was the building of a groyne on the Victoria beach side of the east mole, which would check the drift of the sand away from the beach, but the use of groynes would merely transfer the risk. A series of them would be required, costing £500,000 or more each, and erosion would start to the eastward of the last of them: so the expenditure of two or three million pounds in this way would afford no protection; it would only move the danger point a comparatively short distance.

I return now to the question of realigning the west mole. This, as I need scarcely tell the House, would be an exceedingly delicate technical undertaking, and correspondingly expensive. It is not to be embarked on by a process of trial and error, and here I must emphasise once more the inter-relation between the problem of the harbour and the problem of the coastline; to protect one or the other is comparatively easy: the Government is confronted with the task of protecting the coastline without detriment to the harbour, and the harbour without detriment to the coastline, which is much more complicated, since what safe-guards the harbour is apt to damage the coastline, and conversely. We cannot realign the mole in a manner likely to protect the coastline, see what happens to the harbour, and keep on realigning it until we strike a happy mean between our two objectives; the cost would be prodigious, and in the course of our experiments we should almost certainly do irreparable harm in one direction or the other.

The same applies to all but the smallest experiments in this connection, whether they affect the alignment of the moles, or any of the other factors involved, and the logical

course, therefore, is to conduct them on such a scale that mistakes do not matter.

I have said that at ports all over the world the action of the sea has ceaselessly to be made good, and nowhere is this more true than in Holland: the Dutch have to their credit the remarkable achievement of being one of the world's great maritime nations, despite a coastline which has constantly to be maintained by artificial means. Thereby they have become acknowledged experts in such matters, and they have evolved a system of experiments with models, which reproduce all the conditions affecting the section of the coast in which they happen to be interested. The Federal Government retains as consultant some of the leading Dutch authorities, and at Delft, in Holland, those authorities are now studying a model of the harbour at Lagos, and of the coastline adjacent to it. The size of the model is 40,000 square feet, and the experiment is being paid for jointly by the Federal Government and the Ports Authority. The model cost £10,000 to build.

Meantime, the erosion cannot be left to pursue its course, and on the advice of the consultants the Ports Authority, partly as agents of the Federal Government and partly on their own account, have been steadily combating it by pumping sand onto Victoria beach from the harbour side of the east mole. The House will remember that at this year's budget meeting, during the debate on the Appropriation Bill, the Minister of Transport said:—"Finally, there is the familiar threat of erosion on Victoria beach—and here, Sir, I must confess to disappointment. Last year the House was told of the success achieved by the Ports Authority with pumping sand across the east mole. This work could not be continued through a failure in the dredging plant, and has only recently been resumed, as any Member can see if he likes to visit the beach. However, we have special reclamation equipment being designed for the protection and recovery of the beach, and model experiments are being undertaken in Holland to see if some long-term policy can be evolved. Meanwhile, I think we can hold the position."

As, probably, I need not remind the House dredging cannot continue all the year round; several months during the rains weather conditions make it impossible, chiefly on account of the swell in the harbour. The dredging season

begins in October, and 300,000 cubic yards of sand has to be deposited on Victoria beach every year, to compensate for what the sea takes away. This year the Ports Authority has come to an arrangement with contractors whereby the quantity required will have been put onto the beach by Christmas. It is also very desirable, though, that the ground lost through the failure of the Authority's dredging plant, of which the House was informed at the Budget meeting, should as far as possible be recovered, and I hope that after Christmas the Authority, with its own dredgers, will be able to continue pumping, so that the beach receives substantially more than the quantity of sand essential to preserve it.

The House may consider that for a purpose of such importance it is unsatisfactory to rely on contractors, and on dredging plant owned by the Ports Authority which is demonstrably liable to failure: once again, this is a view which the Government and the Authority share, and they have translated their concern into action. Here, too, research with the model at Delft has been indispensable, to determine the type of plant best adapted to the conditions, and the consultants have now recommended new plant, costing approximately £100,000; it would have been most improvident to embark on expenditure of this order without reasonable assurance that the equipment involved would be suitable. The consultants' report on the subject has only lately been received, and the new plant is likely to take a year to build, and bring to this country, but during that period the construction of the installation needed for it can proceed. The consultants are not proposing a new dredger, in the ordinary sense of the term, but plant established on shore, whose operations, obviously, would not be interfered with by the weather, as those of floating dredgers are.

Sir, as I told the House at the outset, the Government accepts this Motion. From what I have said the House will appreciate that for the problem of erosion at Victoria beach there is no magical, quick, or easy solution. As with most of our problems, the solution lies only in hard thinking and hard work, both of which

remedies the Government is applying in full measure. The expression in this Motion of the House's support will be an encouragement, for which the Government is duly grateful.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved: That this House views with grave concern the encroachment of the sea on Lagos Island and calls on the Government to put into immediate effect measures to arrest the encroachment.

Adjournment

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Dr the hon. K. O. Mbadiwe): Sir, I beg to move That the House do now adjourn.

Question proposed.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved: That this House do now adjourn.

Adjourned accordingly at sixteen minutes to six until 10 a.m. on Wednesday the 11th of September, 1957.

WRITTEN ANSWER TO QUESTION

W.190. Mr H. O. Abaagu asked the Prime Minister of the Federation:—

What arrangements are being made to change the present uniforms worn by the men of the Nigeria Police and the Queen's Own Nigeria Regiment.

The Prime Minister of the Federation: I am advised that His Excellency has recently approved amendments to Police Standing Orders in respect of the uniform of the Inspectorate in the Nigeria Police Force. These changes substitute a tunic and shirt and tie for Inspectors instead of a shirt only. I further understand that the Inspector-General of Police will shortly be submitting proposals for alteration in the uniform of the rank and file of the Police aimed at smartness, comfort and economy. I am advised that, with regard to the Nigerian Military Forces, no changes in uniform are contemplated other than the substitution of new badges to reflect the honour recently bestowed by Her Majesty on the Queen's Own Nigeria Regiment.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
NIGERIA

Wednesday, 11th September, 1957

The House met at 10 a.m.

PRAYERS

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

PAPERS

STATEMENT BY THE GOVERNMENT OF THE
FEDERATION ON NEW POSTAL RATES

The Minister of Communications and Aviation (Chief the hon. S. L. Akintola): Mr Speaker, Sir, no Government enjoys a greater measure of goodwill than the present Government of the Federation of Nigeria. The public confidence which has been demonstrated since this National Government came into existence has no parallel in the history of the country. Confidence begets confidence. The statement I propose to make now is motivated by the desire of the Government to take the hon. Members of this House, as well as the Nigerian public, into its confidence.

I wish now to inform Members of this House of an increase in Postal Rates which will shortly come into effect and details of which will be published in the *Official Gazette* tomorrow.

My reason for making this statement now is that it has not proved possible, due to recent constitutional changes, to do as we might have wished by publishing a White Paper on this subject at an earlier date. A White Paper has, however, been produced on the subject and has been laid on the Table of this hon. House. As Members of this hon. House, as elected representatives of the people of Nigeria, it is not fair that any important information should reach you without previous warning. You are entitled, by virtue of your position as leaders of the people, to advance information on matters of public interest. That is the reason why I am making this important statement.

This House will recall that when the present Economic Programme was being debated Government allocated a sum of just under £13 million for the improvement of postal services and telecommunications in Nigeria. At the same time Government undertook to try to effect the increase in recurrent expenditure implicit in the development programme by increasing rates as improved services became available.

The former Government considered this whole matter recently and decided that increased postal charges should be formally announced tomorrow, the 12th of September. This decision, for reasons I shall give later, is fully endorsed by the present Government. The increase in postal rates is inevitable if the service is to pay its way and run on a sound economic basis.

Unless the service is run on an economic basis expansion of postal facilities, for which the country clamours, would be impossible. It is the desire of the Government to put into execution, as expeditiously as possible, the schemes set out in Sessional Paper No. 4 and Sessional Paper No. 8 of 1957 which were debated by this hon. House last March.

The intention of the Government, as shown in these Sessional Papers, is to provide postal, telegram and telephone services to meet all the needs of all the people of the Federation. This is vital for our social, economic and political development. But it would be impossible if the services provided do not pay their way. The bitter truth, which we must all face, is that the postal services now being provided are now being run at a loss. If hon. Members will permit me to give one or two figures it may be exceedingly enlightening.

The revenue expected during the current year, that is 1957-58, is £3,013,350 as against an expenditure of £3,890,000. That is for the current year alone—a deficit of £876,650. Now perhaps I may quote figures for another year, that is figures anticipated for 1958-59. The revenue anticipated would be £2,291,750 as against an anticipated expenditure of £4,010,000—a deficit of £1,718,250. This loss must be offset without further delay. That is the logic of the proposed increases in postal rates.

I would like to assure hon. Members that in introducing higher rates Government will make every effort to keep down costs and to raise the standard of efficiency. Certain measures have already been taken in this direction and have proved rewarding. I admit that there is still room for improvement. Our experts are, however, alert to their responsibility. They carry on constant investigations with a view to making the efficiency of our services second to none in the whole of the continent of Africa.

My object in making this statement now, if I may repeat, is to take Members into confidence on this important matter and to assure them that the proposed increases have only been agreed after the most careful deliberation and consideration. I do not propose to give details in this statement as they are contained in the White Paper already laid on the Table of this hon. House and as will be reprinted in tomorrow's *Gazette*.

There is one more point which I must bring to the attention of hon. Members and that is that it is likely that increases will be made in charges for other services provided by the Department of Posts and Telegraphs. The reason which may lead to the decision to increase them would be a desire to provide telegram and telephone services on an economic basis.

Those who now have these telegram, telephone and postal services would no doubt like to retain them. Unless we make them pay their way we will lose them. These increases are proposed in order that those who now enjoy the services may be able to keep them. Those who do not have the services provided now obviously desire to have them as early as possible. Unless the services pay their way expansion will be impossible and those who do not have them now may never have them at all. These increases are, therefore, proposed not only to help those who now enjoy the services to retain them but to assist in extending these same services to the others who desire them.

I appeal to all hon. Members to reserve their questions and possible criticisms until they have had an opportunity of studying in full the new charges and the reasons given in the White Paper. Progress costs money. Increased efficiency means increased sacrifice.

Mr R. A. Fani-Kayode (Ife): A question, Sir.

Mr Speaker: Although the Standing Order does not allow it, I think short questions to elucidate any points are in order.

Mr Fani-Kayode (Ife): I will ask a question with a small preamble. I must thank the hon. the Minister for taking us into his confidence at this stage of the infliction of their increases on us. But would the Minister be surprised that as far back as August, in a meeting of the Union of the Posts and Telegraphs Department, the Director of Posts and Telegraphs had

already made this statement and had been running round all over the country trying to suppress the publication of this statement in the Press and the broadcast of it over the N.B.C.? We know; it is an open secret; the news has been on since August.

Mr J. L. Nsima (Eket): While these increases in rates could be welcome from the point of view that we would normally expect some of these public departments to be run on profit basis, or at least we expect them to pay their way, but I would expect that at times some of these Departments should be run, these essential services should be supplied merely in the best interest of the consumer, that is the public, and that the public cannot afford at times to make these enterprises pay their way.

The question I would like to ask the Minister now is that in one of his paragraphs he referred to the policy being the policy of the old Government. Am I to be convinced now that new Ministers appointed will always refer to Government policy in this National Government as the policy of the old Government?

Mr Speaker: That is not the sort of question that I can allow—questions about Government policy. It is only question designed to elucidate particular points which were clear in the Minister's statement. I do not encourage them.

Chief J. I. G. Onyia (Asaba): To ask the Minister of Communications and Aviation whether it would not be medicine after death for the Legislators to debate on this White Paper after the rates have come into operation?

The Minister of Communications and Aviation (Chief the hon. S. L. Akintola): The rates have not come into operation. The notice will be published tomorrow but it does not mean that it comes into operation tomorrow. The effective date will appear in the *Gazette*.

I would also mention that referring to medicine after death—after all, medicine may be efficacious even after death. . . . (*Laughter*). . . . It may be used not to resurrect the dead, but merely to protect the living from putrefaction. . . . (*Laughter*). . . .

Mr Speaker: Order, order! I had better proceed to the questions now: they cannot be finished by half past ten o'clock unless I do take them now. There are other opportunities to elucidate the Government Statement.

selected when it was thought that the telephone and telegraph cables across the Niger might fail at any time having come to the end of their useful life. V.H.F. equipment would then have been used to provide an emergency service

Estimates of capital expenditure 1957-58 under Head 602—Highways and Bridges—be approved.

Sir, I beg to move

House of Representatives Debates

2111

[Oral Answers]

11 SEPTEMBER 1957

[Oral Answers]

2112

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

*O.320. Mr R. T. Alege asked the Minister of Communications and Aviation :—

If he is aware of the demand by the public for a departmental post office with telecommunication facilities at Isanlu ; and if he will take steps to meet the wishes of the people.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Communications and Aviation (Mr J. U. Ekong) : There is already a Postal Agency at Isanlu which transacts only 8,729 units of business per annum. The conditions governing the opening of departmental post offices are set out in Sessional Paper No. 4 of 1957. Isanlu does not at present satisfy these conditions and no change in the status of the Postal Agency is warranted.

*O.321. Mr R. T. Alege asked the Minister of Communications and Aviation :—

If he is aware that the method of conveying mails for Aiyetoro, Mopa and Isanlu, in Kabba Division, by push cycles is inadequate ; and if he will provide a departmental mail van for the Division, or arrange for contractors to transport the mail by motor vehicles.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Communications and Aviation : In view of the small amount of mail for Aiyetoro, Mopa and Isanlu Postal Agencies I do not consider that the present thrice weekly service by rural postman should be altered at present.

Departmental Mail vans and motor contract services are provided on mail routes between departmental post offices and sub-post offices only.

*O.334. Mr G. O. D. Eneh asked the Minister of Communications and Aviation :—

If he will state which of the post offices for rural areas approved for the financial year 1957-58 are being constructed.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Communications and Aviation : Of the post offices referred to in Annexure IV of Sessional Paper No. 4 of 1957 the following have been completed :—

Lafenwa ; Agbado ; Abraka ; Awgu ; Borigoni ; Agbani ; Oguta ; Birnin Kebbi ; Kumba.

The following post offices are now under construction :—

Ikorodu ; Ikot Ekpene ; Ahoada ; Tiko.

The post office projects scheduled for commencement during 1957-58 are shown in Annexure V of Sessional Paper No. 4 of 1957. Of the projects listed, Yaba and Ibadan Sorting Offices have already been completed. Sites have been selected for all other projects listed and negotiations are now in hand for formal acquisition of the plots concerned. As soon as land has been acquired construction will be undertaken either by the Department of Federal Public Works or by the Posts and Telegraphs Department's Building Team. It must, of course, be understood that progress on these projects will be largely dependent on supervisory staff being available in the Department of Federal Public Works.

Supplementary to Question O.334.

Mr J. A. O. Akande (Egba North) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to ask the Minister what time the Lafenwa Post Office in Abeokuta will be opened for transactions of business.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Communications and Aviation : I require notice of that question, Sir.

*O.335. Mr G. O. D. Eneh asked the Minister of Communications and Aviation :—

Whether he will now give effect to the resolution of the House passed on the 6th of March, 1956, to provide telephone services at all divisional and local government headquarters throughout the country.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Communications and Aviation : The Motion moved by the hon. Member for Udi calling upon the Council of Ministers to take immediate steps to connect all Divisional, District and Native Administration Headquarters throughout the country with telephone services was accepted by Government on the understanding that the implementation would be subject to funds made available to my Ministry under the present Economic Programme.

In Sessional Paper No. 8 of 1957 the hon. Member can see the Telecommunications Development Programme which will be carried out with the funds voted under the 1959-60 Economic Programme. This Programme has been designed and is being implemented to give an efficient network of main trunk and subsidiary connections which will eventually be developed to provide communications to all administrative centres in accordance with the decision of the Honourable House.

mile corner of Enugu which leads to Nsukka, Oturkpo, Alede, Makurdi and Lafia in the North.

In spite of several questions, oral and written, affecting this very important road from all sides of this House, until now the Minister paid no heed. I am quite aware of the improvements on the culverts between Makurdi and Lafia and also the general spreading of laterite which has brought the condition of the road to no where. Apart from the fact that rain washes laterite from its surface it also causes accidents and damage to vehicles.

Mr Chairman, Sir, one of the accidents that recently occurred at 14 miles to Oturkpo after Alede was that one of the small bridges cut in the middle and, as there was no public notice of this, one of the lorries plying on that road from Jos fell into the stream with passengers and loads. Luckily there was no death reported. As a result of this, other vehicles parked one after another and, unfortunately mine came in thirtieth in the row. Unavoidably we surrendered ourselves to the occasion and stayed there for two days.

Hon. Members will understand this condition and will agree with me that this is an indication that this popular road, the one and only Trunk 'A' road, should receive immediate attention from our vigilant Minister of Works. I am sure that he is aware of this and that he has already taken up the question.

Sir, I beg to refer to the Minister's answer to this question and its supplementary from an hon. Member opposite me, and that can be found in the Debates on the Second Session, 1st-15th of August, 1956, which reads thus: "O.265 from Mr N. N. Onugu, to ask the Minister of Works when work is expected to begin from 9th mile corner of Enugu to Nsukka Trunk 'A' road to the North as proposed." The Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Works replied. "During the dry season of 1957-58. At present all available staff in the drawing office are working on the Aba-Oji River and Aba-Port Harcourt project." There was a supplementary question from another Hon. Member opposite me in the person of Mr G. O. D. Eneh (Udi). He asked the Minister when work was expected to start on this 9th mile corner. The very Parliamentary Secretary got up and answered, "Next season."

Mr Chairman, the dry season has come and it has gone. Hon. Members will understand

that this very question has been rolling round all corners of this place, and every time we get a misleading answer from this particular Minister.

I would suggest strongly, with your support, that the Minister gets up now to make a statement of fact promising us exactly when the work will begin in earnest.

The Chairman : Amendment proposed to reduce Head 602 Sub-head 26 (a) by £5. I would remind the persons concerned that if this amendment is rejected it will not be possible to move the other one as it is all the same thing.

Mr M. A. O. Olarewaju (South Ilorin) : Mr Chairman, Sir, I rise to second the amendment to this Motion. My supporting the amendment, Sir, is to make my protest to the Minister of Works that he is only out to see that a distance of 25 miles out of over 85 miles in my constituency is to be tarred, whereas in several other constituencies over 100 and even 200 miles are being tarred completely.

On the Floor of this House, Sir, I have made the Members to understand that there is no means of travelling between Ilorin and Kabba other than this trunk road which is Trunk Road A. 13. Members from Kabba can bear me witness how they used to suffer in coming and returning to their constituencies whenever they came to the House.

Likewise the people in Kabba Province, when coming to the Western Region, it used to take them double money and double journey; instead of coming through by Ilorin to the West from Kabba, they go through Onitsha *via* Owo down to Ibadan and Lagos here, which is more than double distance journey. All the bridges on this particular road, Trunk Road A.13, Ilorin-Kabba Road, are all death traps. The distance of the road tarred between the Western Region, that is Ogbo-mosho, and the Northern Region to Ilorin, are differently and badly tarred. I see no reason why there should be discrimination in tarring roads. Certainly, Sir, I have to repeat that there is no other means of travelling, there is no airway, no railway, no underground station, or waterways, between Ilorin and Kabba. In fairness to the over one million people of Ilorin and Kabba, I see no reason why the road between Ilorin and Kabba should not be completely tarred.

Sir, I beg to second.

Chief J. I. G. Onyia (Asaba): Mr Chairman, Sir, the proposal to spend a sum of £500,000 to rehabilitate Federal roads in Lagos, in view of the damage done by the recent extremely heavy rains, will not be opposed if the Government will undertake to engage real experts as contractors to do the work. It should not be given to the Public Works Department. The Public Works Department has not done satisfactory work in connection with the tarring of the roads so far as we know. The Public Works Department is noted for delay tactics which fritter away the funds provided for any work.

Travelling from Lagos to Asaba, one will notice that the best part of the road is in Benin Province between Benin and Asaba. It is just a smooth sail once one gets to Benin Division and that part of the road was not tarred by the P.W.D. but by a firm of contractors. As you get to Agbor township and Asaba township, you take notice that you are going on a sort of corrugated road and that is the only portion tarred by the P.W.D. along the whole road.

I think that is the only small point I wish to make and that is that the Minister of Works and Surveys should take it very seriously to engage real experts who will undertake to do the tarring of the roads.

The Chairman: I am afraid many Members have not studied the details of Head 602 which are set out in the Estimates of capital expenditure in the memorandum on page 63. They do only refer to Lagos roads. It is true that the Standing Committee on Finance dealt with the Zaria-Kano Road but that is the only other one, otherwise we really ought to confine ourselves to Lagos roads.

Chief Onyia: A point of explanation, Sir. We do understand, some of us, that it is in connection with the rehabilitation of the roads in Lagos, but our warning is that this part of the roads should not be given to the P.W.D. but to a real expert.

Mr E. C. Akwivu (Orlu): Mr Chairman, Sir, it is only right and proper that one should congratulate the Government on recognising the damage which has been done to our Lagos roads, as a result of the unusual heavy rains. But I would ask the Government to explain when and how they propose to express the

rehabilitation of other Trunk Roads, as a result of these unusually heavy rains. (*Several hon. Members: That is the point*). I would like to mention the road between Enugu and Onitsha, that is the portion of Trunk Road going into Port Harcourt; this road is also in bad repair. Do we know if the Government has recognised these facts and when and how they propose to take steps?

Alhaji Aminu Tafida (North West Sokoto): Mr Chairman, Sir, I rise to support the Amendment whole-heartedly and in doing so I should like to make a few remarks. Mr Chairman, first of all, I should like to express my gratitude to the Government and to congratulate our first Prime Minister of Nigeria for his able speech in introducing the Appropriation Bill.

Mr Chairman, Sir, much has been said by the hon. Members in this hon. House about the Trunk A Roads in Nigeria. A Member from South West Sokoto, the hon. M. Shebu Shagari, has reported the worst accident that has ever happened on the Sokoto-Ilela Road, when forty-one people lost their lives at one time in one lorry. To my surprise, the hon. Member was interrupted in his speech by the Minister of Works and Surveys who saw no fault of the Government for not replacing the old timber bridge with a concrete one.

Mr Chairman, Sir, this old bridge was built in 1934 and was called a temporary bridge. I wonder how one could expect such a temporary structure to stand such a strain of heavy traffic for such a long period of time? I know a proper bridge could do so but not this sort of bridge. Mr Chairman, Sir, I know very well that due to this accident the people of that area would be nervous to use lorries on Sokoto bridges. There have been annual accidents over this bridge but never at one time in one lorry have forty-one people lost their lives.

I think, Mr Chairman, my Friend the hon. the Minister has accepted this as a discredit to his Ministry. Sir, a similar accident happened in February last year, 1956, when twelve men lost their lives at one time in one lorry on the Sokoto-Jega road, seven miles from Sokoto. This is also a Trunk A Road.

Mr Chairman, Sir, I appeal to both the Federal and Regional Governments to see that life compensations are paid to the families

Chief T. T. Solaru (Ijebu East): Mr Chairman, coming back to the Appropriation of the £500,000 for the rehabilitation of the roads in Lagos, Members would be aware that whatever might be done or left undone to all the roads that the Members have so much in mind, the only entry into Lagos is *via* these roads which the last rains have done so much to dismantle. Anyone who came to Lagos during one of the worst periods would find how much business was held up and how much financial loss, not to talk of personal discomfort, that people of the Federation and in the Federal Territory suffered. There was a business man, typical of hundreds of others who had suffered similar frustration. He came from Ibadan to transact business in Lagos before the office shut at 2 o'clock. He got to Yaba roundabout and got into a queue. The queue did not move for an hour. He looked at his watch and found that the office would be closing by the time he got there. He returned from the Yaba roundabout to go back to Ibadan, because it would have been fruitless to go on.

Sir, we do not want that repeated. The thing is, a lot of money has already been spent in building these Lagos roads, especially the Federal parts. The thing is that we shall go on year by year voting money which goes literally down the swamp. We all know that the Denton Causeway was built to replace the old Denton Bridge, and it was over a swamp. Surely the Federal Government could take expert advice about making really strong roads over a swampy ground. We voted not long ago the sum of £2,000,000 to make a causeway to Apapa. That is literally all swamp. I can envisage the time when we shall be voting another £2,000,000 to rehabilitate that road, if it is not done properly. Why is it that during an emergency, during the War, you could build roads over deserts, over swamps, that could carry tanks and guns, and stand all the wear and tear, yet in peace time we cannot make a quarter of a mile of road without having to do it over and over again.

Mr Chairman, we were told that the parts of the roads built by the contractors have been well done, but the ones done by our own Federal Public Works Department have been badly done. That sort of thing ought to stop. Again and again we are asked to maintain that establishment, and it cannot even maintain a piece of road without it having to fall to pieces. It is time that some home truths were told here.

Maybe this is not the time to tell it; the time will come in the Appropriation Session in March when we shall have a few things to say to the Federal Public Works Department for this kind of shabby work that is being done. Their good name is in danger if they cannot maintain a piece of road. £500,000 is not a small sum of money. Only yesterday we were talking about shipping industry and we were told that £1½ million will buy us a ship. If we maintain that bit of road three times at £500,000 that is money for a shipping line gone waste. I hope that those who are concerned with the maintenance of these roads will see that our money is properly spent.

The Chairman: I want to repeat my reminder to the Committee that it is the Lagos roads which are the sole subject of this Vote and we shall have to observe that in future.

Mr P. Eleke (Okigwi): Mr Chairman I rise to support this amendment. In doing so I would like to know from the hon. Minister of Works what is the cause of delay on the work of tarring the Trunk Road which runs from Aba to Umuahia to Okigwi to Awgu to Oji River to Enugu. The importance of this road is familiar to all of us. For the past four years money has been made available to the Government for the tarring of this road. In reply to a question put to the hon. Minister of Works last year it was stated that the work on the tarring of this road would be given on contract. During the last Budget Session we were made to understand that the contract had been signed but up to this moment there is no sign of this road being tarred. We humbly wish to know from the Minister what exactly is the position of this road with regard to its tarring, or are we still to live on flowery promises?

The Minister of Works and Surveys (Hon. Alhaji M. I. Wada): Mr Chairman, Sir, I promise the House I will not be out of order in that I will talk only of Lagos roads. But all the points made by hon. Members on the roads in their constituencies I have carefully noted. On the question of Lagos roads Members have compared the work done by the Public Works Department to work done by contractors and they say that part of the work carried out by the Public Works Department is now giving way while the piece of work done by contractors is standing firmly. I want to say here they are mistaken, they are wrong. I think they do not know what part

of the work is done by the Department and what part of it is done by the contractors.

There is the Denton Causeway, that is the piece of road which crosses what used to be part of the Lagoon. Those of you who were here about a month ago or even now should be able to see the terrific amount of work the department of Public Works is doing. That piece of road has been raised 5 feet from the original level. There the department has been working day and night; three shifts from 7 in the morning to 11 in the night. On that piece of road two lanes have already been opened and I want any Member to tell me any part of the piece that has gone bad. Beyond that section I agree from the Mainland Hotel through Clifford Street to Yaba roundabout and Apapa the work is being done by contractors. That is not by the department, and the contractors are doing what they can to keep the road open.

Mr Chairman, I think Members tend to forget how costly road building is. Here again I want to remind them to look back and picture the huge quantities of rock we have been dumping into Denton Causeway. That rock has to be carried all the way from Abeokuta to Lagos. On top of that we have to put bitumen and we have to pay for the labour.

I want here to assure hon. Members that it is the department of Public Works which is supervising the contractors. Contractors, however good they are, if you leave them alone by themselves will not do the work as you like it. So whether the work is done by the Department or it is given out to contractors it is all the same either supervised by the Department or directly carried out by the department.

There is one thing you also don't know. This sum of £ $\frac{1}{2}$ million I am asking for is in no way enough to give you the roads you require. It is not enough to give you the roads you require at all. This is only the maximum amount that can at the moment be spared out of the Economic Programme. So, hon. Members, if I confine the activities to only Lagos roads I want you to understand. Thank you, Mr Chairman.

Amendment put and negatived.

Original question again proposed.

Chief S. J. Mariere (Urhobo East): Mr Chairman, I intended to speak on Head 68—

Public Works but you warned that Members who wish to speak on Highways and Bridges will do so when we come to Head 602. You have already granted some latitude to Members and I would crave your indulgence to extend the same latitude to me in order that I may raise matters of vital interest on Highways and Bridges. I should like to point out to the Minister of Works and Surveys the steps being taken to remove oil bean trees on the Benin road. These trees have become very dangerous.....

Mallam Baba Danbappa (North East Central Kano): We are talking about Lagos roads and the hon. Member is talking about Highways and Bridges.

The Chairman: I think it is my duty to stop Chief Mariere if he continues on roads beyond the scope of these Lagos roads.

Dr E. O. Awduche (Onitsha): I only wish to point out to the Minister of Works and Surveys a matter of which everybody is aware and that is the unabating congestion on the Carter Bridge especially during the peak hours. During the last Budget Session Government assured us it was proposing having another link with the Mainland. I don't know how far that has progressed. But as an interim measure during these peak hours Government should provide two pontoon services to help to ease the congestion, because a lot of inconvenience is caused to civil servants and workers who generally are late because of stoppages. I beg to support.

M. Abdu Sule (North West Idoma): Mr Chairman, I only wish to suggest to the Minister of Works and Surveys that car parking be introduced on some main roads in Lagos here. On the Marina road, for instance....

The Minister of Works and Surveys (Alhaji Inuwa Wada): On a point of explanation, Sir, roads inside the municipality of Lagos are under the Lagos Town Council and that would not come under me.

The Chairman: I think the debate is apt to get out of order and I had better put the question now.

Original Question put and agreed to.

Resolved: That the further expenditure from the Development Fund of Five Hundred Thousand Pounds for the purposes set out in the draft Supplementary Estimates of Capital

Expenditure, 1957-58, under Head 602.—Highways and Bridges, be approved.

HEAD 603—PUBLIC WORKS EXTRAORDINARY

The Prime Minister : Mr Chairman, Sir, I rise to move, That the further expenditure from the Development Fund of Eight Hundred and Twenty-three Thousand Pounds for the purposes set out in the draft Supplementary Estimates of Capital Expenditure, 1957-58, under Head 603—Public Works Extraordinary, be approved. Sir, I beg to move.

The Minister of Research and Information (Chief Kolawole Balogun): Sir, I beg to second.

Question proposed.

Chief J. I. G. Onyia (Asaba) : Mr Chairman, Sir, if my moving this Amendment to reduce the Head by £5 the Government will take cognizance of the reasonable views to be expressed, I shall not have wasted time. Despite the views which have been and may still be expressed to the contrary, it is morally and economically justifiable to provide quarters for the junior and senior staff of this country. Morally because the country has not developed as in Europe to make available healthy, private, residential quarters at reasonable rental for our workers recruited from every nook and corner of the country. They should not be given appointment, transferred to a station and then left to roam in the streets or live in slums to the detriment of their health or to pack together in a house like sardines under the exploitation of heartless landlords.

Mr L. J. Dosunmu (Lagos East) : Mr Chairman, it seems to me, Sir, that this relates to the Police and not to other members of the Civil Service. Police: Buildings and Junior Staff Quarters.

The Chairman : I am grateful to the hon. Member; that is quite true.

Chief Onyia : Mr Chairman, I understand that very clearly. All the same, under Sub-head 11, Items 2, 4, 5 and 6 I do know they refer to the Police, but when you come under Sub-head 18 (1)—Senior Staff Housing outside Lagos—that covers it, and you find under Sub-head 18 (4)—Housing for the Legislature. Thus I am speaking on houses for the workers of this country... (*Laughter*)... and I am dealing with housing for the junior staff generally and the Police in particular. In fact

even in Asaba some Police Constables have not got their own quarters and they are obliged to hire buildings outside the Police barracks. The Inspector in charge of the Police at Asaba lives outside the barracks, and about two or three of the Police Constables at Asaba have been housed by my own Council in the N. A. quarters. So my remarks are pertinent. In fact they should not be thrown to the dogs.

Nothing is more depressing to our junior staff on appointment or transfer than the difficulty of housing. It is economically advisable because the houses will eventually pay for themselves by rental and the agitation for increase of wages consequent upon soaring cost of rent will be minimised.

I therefore take this opportunity to pay tribute to the Minister of Lagos Affairs, Mines and Power for his commendable Surulere Rehousing Scheme...

The Chairman : What I think is that the hon. Member is trying as he goes along to adapt his speech to the points which are mentioned in the Estimates, but he keeps on going beyond the Estimates still.

Chief Onyia : I take your ruling, Sir. I hope that the Government will now implement its proposal to extend Police barracks in Asaba and provide quarters for the staff.

It is noted that constitutional changes warrant more buildings. It is down here under Sub-head 14 (6). It is hoped that necessary extension will be made to the existing Legislative House towards the southern end or the Marina end to be able to house 320 Legislators in 1960. (*Hon. Members : What about Senators ?*) This House can house them because they are not so many (*Hon. Members : Who are not so many ?*) Senators; and I ask hon. Members not to disturb me. I don't think you have been able to see under Head 14 (*vi*)—Constitutional Changes—and then you come again under Section 18 (*iv*)—Housing for Legislators—(*Hon. Members : We have all seen it*)... You have not seen it.

The Chairman : Order, order. Will the hon. Member please address me and not the House.

Chief Onyia : Thank you, Sir. We cannot afford to lose the present congenial site facing the Racecourse or the present building for another. It was a short-sighted view on the part of those who planned this Legislative House. They did not take into account the

population of this country and did not envisage that the Legislature may have to expand.

Mr Chairman, I do not know whether it will be out of order in making some reference to the report on the Constitutional Conference in view of the mention . . .

The Chairman : Order, order. This is out of order and the hon. Member is too often going out of order. If he continues for long I shall have to direct him to discontinue his speech if he insists on being disorderly.

Chief Onyia : Well, Mr Chairman, Sir, I beg to move (*Cheers*).

Amendment proposed, to reduce the Head by £5.

Mr F. O. Mbadiwe (Udi) : Mr Chairman, Sir, I only want to make a point under this Head—Police Buildings and Junior Staff quarters.

I feel that the amount of £168,000 under this Head is not enough. I feel convinced myself that because a man is a constable is no reason why he should not be provided with what I should call semi-decent quarters to live in with his family.

I have been to Obalende and I have taken pains to inspect the buildings of some of our good constables and some of them have got only a room and a lounge of 10' × 12'. Because a man is a constable does not mean he should not have more than one or two or three children. I therefore feel it is time for Government to consider at least giving constables semi-detached quarters. By that I mean where you have two bedrooms, one lounge, a store and a kitchen, and that will encourage them to do their hard and arduous task.

You go from here to Iddo, to everywhere. You see constables under the sun and under the rain. Yet, when they go back home they see that the room where they ought to have rest has been occupied by their wife and children.

I think Government should do something to improve the standard of quarters for our constables.

Sitting suspended : 11.35 a.m.

Sitting resumed : 11.47 a.m.

Oba Adetunji Aiyeola Afolu II (Ijebu Remo) : Mr Chairman, I think a word or two of praise would not be out of place for the Government for making more provision for buildings

for the Junior staff of the Police Establishments in the Western Region. I find, Mr Chairman, that buildings are being erected at the present time in Shagamu and Ijebu-Ode. These buildings I must say are first class, providing large bedrooms, store, kitchen and other things, and I am hoping that at the next Budget Session provision will be made for more buildings for the Police and better facilities provided for them. In addition to this I think that men in our force to-day will fully appreciate the provisions which are being made for their comfort so that they will be more responsible in their duties, and be more polite in their dealings with members of the public.

Mr Chairman, Sir, I beg to support.

M. Usuman Angulu Ahmed (Kwara) : Mr Chairman, Sir. I would like the Minister to put me through under this Head 603, sub-head 2 to sub-head 6: Buildings and Junior Staff quarters, Lagos £64,000 now required; Buildings and Junior Staff quarters, Western Region, £40,000 required; Buildings and Junior Staff quarters, Eastern Region £46,500 required; Buildings and Junior staff quarters, Southern Cameroons a sum of £19,500 required. I should also like to assure the Minister that the Northern Region is not contented with the provision of quarters to its Police when they compare with other Regions. I have not toured the whole Region to know how they live but the local branch of the Police is clear evidence to me. I should therefore, like an explanation to-day from the Government Bench.

Mr J. U. Udom (Abak) : Mr Chairman, Sir. I just want to speak on sub-head 11 (5) that is Buildings and Junior Staff quarters, Eastern Region. I was informed since 1955 that permanent police quarters for Abak are on the Police building programme for the Eastern Region and until now no steps have so far been taken to see that the work is done. I want to make this honourable House understand that these police quarters were built before I was born, and until now the Police are housed in temporary buildings. It has been a habit of this Federal Government to overlook certain development works in some rural areas. One needs to be told when this sort of anomaly is to stop.

May I suggest that a Minister for Rural Area Affairs be appointed (*Hear, hear*) who will be solely charged with the responsibility of seeing that the rural areas are developed and

impartially dealt with. (*Hear, hear*). The police quarters in some areas particularly in Abak are an eye sore and the sooner they are demolished and replaced with better quarters, the better. Mr Chairman, I do not intend to go further.

Mr R. A. Fani-Kayode (Ife) : Mr Chairman, Sir. I oppose the Amendment and I must congratulate the Minister on providing further funds for essential buildings in the rural parts of Nigeria. But I must say, Sir, that in building these premises, the work must be given to a great extent to African contractors. (*Hear, hear*). I know that the hon. Minister of Works made a very clear statement a few days ago on this issue, but we see from the estimates that the amount required comes up to £836,000 which is not a small sum of money by any means, and it is because the amount is so large that I shall now take the opportunity of asking the hon. Minister of Works whether he will not be prepared to make a few adjustments in the statement of policy he made a few days ago in the division of contracts between Africans and expatriates.

First and foremost, Sir, the hon. Minister suggested that the composition of the Federal Legislation Board should be made up of one Parliamentary Secretary, five unofficial members and two unofficial advisers. I must say, Sir, that the two advisers who will act on this particular contract should be there only in an advisory capacity without any right of voting, in fact why two official advisers are necessary I do not know.

The Chairman : Order. I do not think this vote covers administrative work in the Department ; that is, the work of the advisers. It only covers buildings.

Mr Fani-Kayode : Mr Chairman, Sir, my intention is to see that the amount voted for the buildings go back to this country, and is not sent outside. Mr Chairman will see that £800,000 odd is to be voted by us for the purpose of erecting certain buildings and, surely, Sir, with all respect, I believe that Members of this House are entitled to say how this amount should be spent, and it is only in giving guidance to the Minister on how he is to spend this £800,000 that I am speaking. All I am trying to do is to assist him in giving him advice as to how these buildings are to be erected.

The Chairman : It still remains a fact that the adviser has his own salary and there is a

Head on which to debate that point. This is really the money for buildings, not money for staff.

Mr Fani-Kayode : I will do my best to keep within the issue of buildings and on the issue of advisers I will only say, Sir, that when it comes to giving contracts on this particular Head the Members of the Federal Registration Board should only be the unofficial Members, and that the official members should only advise and not vote.

Further, Sir, there are certain aspects of the Federal Registration Board that might give trouble and might be detrimental to the country, and that is on the issue of downgrading contractors. I hope provision will be made, Sir, if contractors are engaged to work on these items that if anything is done by such a contractor that deserves downgrading, he should be given an opportunity of being heard before such downgrading is done, and the Federal Registration Board should in no way rely only on confidential reports by heads of departments or by the Federal Architect.

We can see, Sir, from the very Estimates that very few of the items come under £3,000. All the items are £8,000 and above. In this case, Sir, I do not see why the Minister of Works will insist on keeping Grade A or people classed as contractors in Grade A. I suggest, Sir, that in view of the small amount of contracts that Government can issue in respect of this grade of contractors, that they should be combined together with Grade B contractors and the limit for such contracts should be £6,000.

Sir, it is also clear from these Estimates that a large amount of Government contracts come over the £10,000 limit to £50,000, as can be seen again from Head 603. I would suggest, Sir, that the hon. Minister should see that none but indigenous contractors are given the opportunity of building or receiving any tenders from £50,000 to £1, and all expatriates should be cleared completely of such range of contracts. Furthermore, Sir, I think the hon. Minister will agree that up till now most of the contracts given by his Department go over to expatriates, and when you know that only 27 expatriate firms exist in this country as against 176 African contractors, I think the hon. Minister will agree that they have not been justifiable in the distribution of the work.

We hope, Sir, to see in future that tenders for all those buildings enumerated in the

estimates and other tenders as well will be published in the *Gazette*. I make this statement because I remember quite distinctly that the hon. Minister said contracts over £20,000 will be published in the *Gazette*. What will happen to contracts under £20,000? The Minister was quite silent on that point. Is he going to leave it to the Director of the Department to invite people to tender and get contracts done by the back door? I see nothing wrong, Sir, if the hon. Minister will publish all Government contracts, inviting all contractors to submit tenders, in which case there will be fairplay to each and every contractor in this country, expatriate or African. I know, Sir... (*Interruption*).

The Minister of Works and Surveys (Alhaji the hon. Inuwa Wada): On a point of order, Sir. I see, Mr Chairman, the hon. Member has continued to defy your ruling. He is still talking on contracts.

The Chairman: It is very difficult for me to say exactly where the hon. Member who knows a great deal more about the subject than I do, is overstepping the line. I am very grateful for guidance by the Minister. If he is sure that any particular point is out of order, I will certainly deal with it.

Mr Fani-Kayode: I thank you, Mr Chairman and if the hon. Minister can show me where I step out of this item on the Estimates, I challenge him to do so. I am talking about tenders in respect of this Head, in respect of £836,000 that you require from this House, and I hope the hon. Minister will not try to muzzle the Members of this House.

The Minister of Works and Surveys: On a point of explanation, Mr Chairman.

Mr Fani-Kayode: I am not giving way.

The Minister of Works and Surveys: On a point of order, Mr Chairman.

The Chairman: On a point of order, Minister of Works.

The Minister of Works and Surveys: Mr Chairman, there is nothing to show that the work here is going out to contract. The Department may do it by direct labour, and so any reference to contracts is outside this Head, Sir.

The Chairman: I am bound to accept the advice of the Minister. He knows probably far more than I do, and he indicates that contracts are out of order on this Vote which

seems to me, certainly, to concern only money spent on buildings. I must ask the hon. Member not to continue on that line.

Mr Fani-Kayode: Mr Chairman, Sir, I think that we shall have to respect the advice of the Minister. In that case, Sir, we shall come here at the next Budget Session and if, Sir, the hon. Minister does not build all these houses by P.W.D., he shall have a lot to answer in this House. Because here is a man who told this House, Sir, that these items have no connection at all with contracts. In other words, Sir, he intends to put up these buildings through the efforts solely of the P.W.D. Sir, with all respects... (*Interruption*).

The Minister of Works and Surveys: I do not say so.

Mr Fani-Kayode: The Minister does not say so? Then he must make his point clear. Mr Chairman, Sir, he must make it clear to us whether he is going to put up these buildings through contractors. If he is going to do so, then every word that I have said, Sir, is pertinent to the issue and at this stage, Sir, I shall have to ask an explanation from the Minister, through the Chairman, whether he intends to build through contractors or through the P.W.D. before I can continue. We do not intend to be muzzled in this House. I am asking the question of the Minister, through the Chairman.

The Chairman: The Minister is quite entitled to answer when he likes.

The Minister of Works and Surveys: The provision here, Sir, is for the building of Police quarters, and there is no need in the Draft Estimates to say whether these buildings are going to be put up by contract or by direct labour, and therefore any attempt to connect the item with the procedure of tender is out of order.

Mr Fani-Kayode: In view of this, Mr Chairman, I shall have to stand for further ruling. If this is what the Minister is saying, then I am entitled to know in advance his intentions to do anything to the contrary. If there is any likelihood or any shadow of likelihood that a contractor might be given these jobs, then any Member of this House is entitled to advise him on that issue.

Now, Sir, I have got the necessary answer and I intend to continue for the simple reason that the explanation he has given shows clearly that the Minister has not even made up his

mind whether these buildings will be put up by private contractors or by the Public Works Department or by both. If a private contractor might be given any of these contracts, then I am quite entitled to advise him how to do it, that is what I am here for, Sir.

It is quite clear, Sir, that when the contractors for the Police buildings, for the girls' Approved School, Yaba, for the Senior Staff Housing outside Lagos, and the housing for the Legislature, two things will need to be done. Either the Minister will make up his mind and have these buildings erected by the Public Works Department, or, it is completely within the orbit of the Minister's power to give to private contractors, in which case, Sir, he shall have to use the Federal Tenders Board. Now so far as we see it, Sir, the position of the Federal Tenders Board, as suggested by the hon. Minister, is inadequate to meet such heavy expenditure. If it is quite clear, Sir, that the hon. Minister in creating the Federal Tenders Board that will expend such a heavy amount as it has already expended, has got on his Board, one Officer of the Ministry of Finance, one Director of Public Works Department, two Senior African Officials, the Head of the Department, and three Members of the Federal Registration Board, then the Board is swamped with officials. There are five officials as opposed to three Members of the Federal Registration Board. I think, Sir, that the hon. Minister should reconsider this matter and see that there are some more unofficial Members on this Board, to make it equitable.

Furthermore, Sir, we need more Barracks for our Policemen. The Barracks there, Sir, are outmoded, they are archaic, and in fact they were built before my grandfather was born. In fact, Sir, they house only about one-fifth of the total Police Force in that place, because most of the people living there are members of the Traffic Police, as opposed to the normal Police Constable. So I am appealing to the Minister, that in making this scheme for the Western Region for the general staffing of the Police, in expending the further sum of £40,000, he will take into consideration the requirements of the Police Force at Ife.

M. Shehu Shagari (South West Sokoto): Mr Chairman, Sir, I only want to speak on Sub-head 18 (4)—Housing for the Legislature. Sir, Members of this House are very grateful

to the Minister of Works for trying to meet their wishes in providing housing accommodation for them.

We have all seen the plan of the proposed block, which has been shown at the entrance hall of this House; but I want to know whether this plan is approved and is unquestionable; otherwise I should like to question its suitability to the Members of the House. Members will agree with me that the plan if it is accepted, does not suit the Members at all, since the flats are to be made in a boarding school pattern. It will be most inconvenient, Sir, for three Members to share one kitchen and one lavatory. It will also be very inconvenient, Sir, for fifty-four Members to share one lounge.

Sir, if the Government can spend £30,000 for Housing, it should see that the houses made are suitable for the purpose. Additional kitchens and latrines cost a little more. Perhaps even if the lounge could be made together with the block it would not cost anything more. Sir, it is very inconvenient for hon. Members to queue up when going in to wash, and it will be even more inconvenient for the Members to queue up when they are going to cook.

So, I wish that this plan, which is brought for Members to see, and, perhaps, to criticise, if allowed, should be scrapped, and another one, which is a more suitable one made for us, because these buildings are supposed to be there for ever. They are not meant for Members of this present House; they are meant for Members of the House for many many years to come and therefore they should be suited to their purpose.

Sir, I beg that the Minister will see to this.

The Minister of Works and Surveys (Alhaji the hon. Muhammadu Inuwa Wada): Mr Chairman, the hon. M. Shehu Shagari has mentioned a plan I have placed in the entrance hall of this House, of proposed additional accommodation for Members. If he remembers, Sir, I discussed the drawings of this plan with the Housing Committee of this House, and they approved it. This model has been put up on that plan. Furthermore, Sir, these houses, as the Member has said, have been so designed as to give the maximum of comfort possible within the limited amount of money we have at our disposal.

In each block or in each section, where six Members are to stay, there are three lavatories,

Sir, not two, and there are two kitchens. There are also three baths. Each Member has a large bed-sitting room, inside which he has a writing table, he has a wash-basin, and he also has easy chairs; and outside, immediately adjoining his room is a small private balcony for him to sit outside in the evening or at night. This, I am sure some Members will agree with me, compares very favourably with some of the first-class hotels we know of outside Nigeria.

Furthermore, Sir, the intention of the Government is sometime to build real and proper accommodation for the whole Members of a new House of Representatives, and maybe the proposed Senate. When those buildings are finished the old ones will be vacated by Members and they will occupy the new ones which we hope will be bigger and provide a little more comfort than what the present ones will.

Mr D. D. U. Okay (Port Harcourt): Mr Chairman, I rise to oppose the Amendment and I wish to make a little reference to junior civil servants quarters at Port Harcourt. For example nurses quarters measure 8ft. by 10 ft. and each room to one man with a family.

The Chairman: There is no provision in this vote for that purpose.

Mr J. A. O. Akande (Egba North): Mr Chairman, Sir, I will speak on the Lagos Water Supply. Most people do not know that the Iju Waterworks is not able to feed Lagos except for the additional millions of gallons of water everyday from the Ogun River. What is the Government doing now to compensate the Egba Government for the use of this water? The only means of getting money to run that government, the Aro Quarry, has been taken away from them by the then Central Government for 999 years in lieu of a £12,000 loan given out by the Central Government. I want a statement from the Minister.

M. Maitama Sule (Kano City): Mr Chairman, £836,000 is going to be spent by the Federal Government in putting up various buildings throughout the country. This amount of money may be spent either by direct labour or by contract given out to certain people. If this money is going to be spent by direct labour in which case the Public Works Department is to undertake all the work, I am asking the Minister of Works and Surveys to take my short observation into consideration.

We have realised quite recently that work given out to contractors, very good ones of course most of whom are African contractors, seem very much better than work that has been undertaken by the P.W.D. itself. Something is therefore wrong with the P.W.D. in that respect. More than that there is something that we have to notice. A piece of work which is undertaken by the department itself takes a longer period of time than we normally expect. Under these circumstances therefore we would like the Minister of Works to see to it that if there is any work that is undertaken by the P.W.D. it is done properly and within the shortest time possible because if the work is done within the shortest time possible it saves a great deal of money and in that case economises the money we have available for all our development work in the country.

If on the other hand the work is going to be given to contractors then it becomes necessary for us to ask the Minister to see to it that most of it, if not all, goes to African contractors. This is necessary and we are certain that certainly most of it will be going to the African contractors as far as possible because of the undertaking that the Minister has already given us. He has given us an assurance that he is establishing a Registration Board and the Federal Tenders Board and that he will see to it that much of this contract work goes to the African contractors. I am glad he has said that and I hope that next time when we come here we will find that out of this £836,000 that is going to be spent, if it is going to be spent by contract, more than 75 per cent, if not all, goes to African contractors.

Some Members have spoken a great deal about Police quarters. I am speaking about police quarters from another angle. That is to say we all know that some of us, or many of us in this country, are Moslems and there are many Moslems in the Police Force. These Moslems like every other Moslem, are allowed to marry as many as four wives. Sometimes some policemen have at least two wives and it is very inconvenient for such policemen to be accommodated in the sort of houses they have now. There is only one sleeping room to every policeman if I am correct. I cannot understand, Mr Chairman, how a policeman who may have as many as two wives can accommodate two wives in only one single room plus himself. Probably he may have

children. Probably if he is very old he may have some grand children. I do not know.

A reply might be given that in some places quarters are not provided for the Police. In Nigeria we have already committed ourselves. Since we have started providing houses for policemen it becomes imperative for us to provide the best accommodation that we possibly can within the reasonable limit. That is why I am asking the Government if it is possible to see to it that something is done in order to give more comfort and convenience to these policemen at least those that have more than one wife. These are the remarks that I wish to make.

Mr J. Mpi (Ahoada): Mr Chairman, it is only a point of clarification. I would like to know from the Minister how he came about this figure: Lagos £97,000; Western Region £100,000; Eastern Region £66,500.

The Chairman: The supplementary provision now required as far as I can see is £64,000 for Lagos. I think the hon. Member is reading the wrong column.

The Minister of Works and Surveys (Alhaji the hon. M. I. Wada): Mr Chairman, just before the question is put I want to reply to hon. Usman Angulu. During his short speech he was under the impression that there is no provision for the Northern Region. Already in the approved Estimates there is enough to keep the P.W.D. busy for the rest of the year in police buildings.

Amendment put and negatived.

Original question put and agreed to.

Resolved:—

That the further expenditure from the Development Fund of Eight Hundred and Twenty-three Thousand Pounds for the purposes set out in the draft Supplementary Estimates of Capital Expenditure, 1957-58, under Head 603—Public Works Extraordinary, be approved.

HEAD 605—OTHER CAPITAL EXPENDITURE

The Prime Minister (Alhaji the hon. Abubakar Tafawa Balewa): Mr Chairman, I rise to move, That a further expenditure from the Development Fund of £1,972,190 for the purposes set out in the draft Supplementary Estimates of Capital Expenditure under Head 605—Other Capital Expenditure—be approved. Sir, the terms of this Motion are the same as those which I have already moved in respect of Head 602—Highways and Bridges—and

Head 603—Public Works Extraordinary. But I must explain to the House the reason for the difference between the sum of £1,970,190 which this Motion seeks and the figure of £1,817,500 shown at the foot of page 61 in the draft Supplementary Estimates. The reason for this discrepancy is that in this Head under sub-head 24 we have what is called a self-balancing item, that is to say, the expenditure proposed is offset by a corresponding payment of revenue or in this particular case since we are dealing with capital expenditure by a corresponding payment to the Development Fund. Since the work in question was urgent and already partially completed, authority was given for it to proceed since the expenditure concerned was offset by corresponding revenue payments.

Nevertheless, Sir, the formal covering authority of this House is still required, and I have therefore had this sum included in the motion which is now before hon. Members. A full explanation of the expenditure proposed under sub-head 24 can be found at paragraph 21 on page 67 of the Supplementary Estimates.

Sir, I beg to move.

The Minister of Commerce and Industry: Sir, I beg to second.

Question proposed.

Chief J. I. G. Onyia (Asaba): Mr Chairman, Sir, it is only a small point. I like to take this opportunity to thank the Minister for the arrangement in providing for a new ferry at the Asaba-Onitsha crossing.

The Chairman: Does the hon. Member wish to move the Amendment or does he wish to speak on the Head?

Chief Onyia: Well, I am speaking on the Head. I may move, I may not move, but I am speaking on the Head. I say that I appreciate the provision made for a new ferry at the Asaba-Onitsha crossing. I do so because during the rainy season in particular we always experience a lot of congestion on both sides of the ferry and unfortunately at that period one of the ferry boats—we have two there—used to be sent to Lokoja for repairs and we have only one generally to cope with the traffic. Sometimes a small boat is allowed to tow some barges to help to release the congestion but for two months past only one of the boats was left to deal with the congestion and people really suffered because they could not go through. So that this provision is commendable.

Another thing I am asking is that arrangement may be made so that boats are repaired possibly during the dry season because the need to use the ferry is greater during the rainy season.

Sir, I come to the slum clearance.....
(Interruption)

The Chairman : When I asked the hon. Member whether he was moving the Amendment or speaking on the Head, he said he was talking on the Head. He cannot change his mind.

Chief Onyia : That is correct, Mr Chairman. I said I was speaking on the Head. It is only those heckling that are confusing me.

The Chairman : If the hon. Member proceeds I will deal with the heckling.

Chief Onyia : I say the slum clearance is rendering Lagos a bright and healthy resort and setting a good example to the country. It should be rigorously pursued. Those who were opposed to the scheme I hope are changing their views or will change their views in course of time.

Sir, I beg to support.

Alhaji Abdulkadiri Makama (Central Zaria) : Mr Chairman, Sir, I rise to support this Head. In so doing, Sir, I like to refer to Sub-head 20A for Fisheries. I do want to express some disappointment about the whole question of what this Department is doing. We read and hear a lot about the Fisheries Department but to me, and believe me, Sir, to many hon. Members in this House, the whole thing is simply theoretical. Sir, it is time that this Federation began to benefit by the work that that Department is said to be doing, if what it is doing is really beneficial to this country. Up till now, Sir, and despite the big amount of money that is being expended annually over this so called Fisheries Research, no change has so far been noticed in our Nigerian Fisheries. More fish are not made available to the country as a result of the work of this Department.

I would like to ask the Minister concerned to inform the country what useful purpose this Department is serving to the benefit of Nigeria and the Southern Cameroons. Sir, I beg to support.

Mr J. M. Udochi (Afenmai) : Mr Chairman, Sir, in contributing to the debate under this Head, I wish to draw the attention of the

House to Sub-head 20B—Margin for increased cost. Now, Sir, before I proceed to make my observations under this Head, I would like to let the House know what explanation the Government had to give for creating this Head and I refer you therefore to the explanatory note No. 20B. I quote. "Omitted from the 1957-58 Estimates since at the time it did not appear that such provision would be required for projects in this section of the Capital Estimates. However, a number of projects that have already been started now require additional provision from this source owing to rising costs."

Now, Sir, you will see at once that from that quotation Government is saying that this was omitted from the principal Estimates. I beg the Minister to pardon my ignorance if I say that I have referred to the Estimates of 1956-57, that was a year previous to the last Estimates, and could find no such heading. I have my Estimates here, and if he would like to go through it and enlighten me whether that heading was in the Estimates I should be pleased. Now, Sir, I want to call the attention of the House to the fact of these Estimates. If you have a particular work in hand and you are estimating for this work, you have to take into consideration the labour that will be required. You have to take into consideration the amount of material that will be required to be used. You have to make some sort of provision for any emergency that might arise. Then you arrive at a figure and you put it before the House that you wish to do such a thing and this is the amount you want approved. Nobody stands before you when you are making these Estimates. You put it up and the House considers it and approves it for you.

Now, Sir, if that goes on and you find you want more money for the work, you come before the House. Under this very heading 605, we are being asked to make supplementary provision now required. Taking away this sum of £100,000 you see that under this very Head, we are now required to make a supplementary provision for £1,872,190, that is leaving out this unknown quantity, which I want to draw your attention to. Now, Sir, if the Government brought this Supplementary Estimate before us to vote normally, the justification is clear. But when they put an unknown quantity before us and we are asked to make provision for this work, when you have

already made provision for one sum of money, that is unreasonable.

Mr Chairman, I do not like this idea of blank cheque Estimates, this is an example of a blank cheque vote. You are asked to vote a sum of money amounting to £100,000 for an un-named project. (*Laughter*). Hon. Members, do not laugh. We are the representatives of this country and our mission is to scrutinise the Estimates, it is our duty to do so. What is the provision of this sum of money for? Rising costs. Where? What particular project is concerned? You are asked to give a blank cheque, on what, you don't know. I say, Sir, that this House should rise to the duties the country has entrusted to us, that is to scrutinise the Estimates. It is no use our passing everything, this Government has to explain why and when, in asking for a supplementary vote, which you have already gladly given, they have got to tell you why the £100,000 is needed.

The Chairman : I think, having asked that question two or three times, the hon. Member had better wait for the answer from the Minister.

Mr Udochi : I am grateful to the Chairman and I shall always abide by his rulings. But the Chairman will realise that I am stressing this business because I feel that it is gross carelessness on the part of this House if we do not scrutinise these matters and ask why this £100,000 should be put down for rising costs.

I beg to support.

The Prime Minister (Alhaji the hon. Abubakar Tafawa Balewa) : Mr Chairman, Sir, I do not know, of course, how my hon. Friend, Mr Udochi, runs his affairs, or his business, but he, of course, asks for an explanation on this £100,000, which might arise due to unforeseen things. I have no doubt that most hon. Members here, many of them are business men, and they plan their things ahead of time especially at a time like this, when the cost of materials keep on rising, when wages continue to go up. When they start, for example, building a house, they might possibly make allowance for what increase in the original costs they will have to bear when it is made necessary. This is entirely why this £100,000 is there in the Estimates.

It has been our policy, and the House has known it, I am sorry if Mr Udochi does not know it, that when we have a project, we usually put aside 10 per cent of the total cost of the

project for unforeseen expenditure, which might be due to increased wages, that is the labour, or due to increased costs of materials which would be used. I have no doubt that business men in this House will agree with the wisdom of the Federal Government. It is of no use, of course, having, for example, £100 for something and while you may estimate it correctly to-day, tomorrow that thing in the market will be £120. That is why we make this provision simply.

It is not a question of asking the House to approve something unknown. I thought, Sir, that when we were explaining our Five-year Economic Programme, this was made absolutely clear to hon. Members. It is not a question of having an unknown item there, it is just a question of looking ahead. If, of course, the wages do not go up if, for example, materials still cost the same as what they are costing now, when we come to carry out the project, then there is no reason why this money should be used. But we have to prepare for it, Sir, and that is the only reason.

Mr M. A. Ajasin (Owo South) : Mr Chairman, Sir, I just want to draw attention to the subsidy in respect of Amenity Undertakings in the Electricity Corporation. There is a sum of £25,000 put down as a sort of subsidy to the E.C.N. for places like Abakaliki, Katsina and one or two other places, where the electricity undertakings are not paying. We will not quarrel with this, but what I would like to ask the Minister concerned is that other places in the country should be considered for the supply of this amenity undertaking. It is time that the Minister should present to this House a White Paper, stating the towns where electricity is likely to be installed. It should be done on the lines of what has been drawn by the Minister of Communications and Aviation, a White Paper on Telecommunications.

Now, this thing should be set down so that people may know from time to time where the next places that electricity will be installed are. There are places in the country at present, even a whole province, where none of the towns in the province have electricity at all. I refer to Ondo Province, whereas in some provinces, three or four or five towns are supplied with electricity. So that it would be a good thing if the Minister concerned could have a survey of the whole country and put up a report, so that

we will know from year to year what towns will be supplied with electricity. Then people will stop, in this House, from making enquiries from time to time, there will be a definite thing put down. I am asking the Minister if he will please look into this.

Mr M. A. O. Olarewaju (South Ilorin): Mr Chairman, Sir, I refer the House to sub-head 7 (3)—Forest Research. There is a national need for forest research in all parts of Nigeria in order to alleviate the future shortage of timber. At the same time, the Nigerian Government should take the necessary steps to control our timber by preventing the export of it overseas.

Sir, I beg to support.

Mr A. Adeyinka (Ibadan Central): Mr Chairman, in supporting this Head, I refer to Item 8, Sub-head 64. Well, Sir, I seize this opportunity in paying tribute to the Minister of Works, regarding the military buildings at Apapa. The accommodation there is very much improved and it is high time that we should give praise where it is due. I hope the Minister will give the accommodation problem in Lagos some thought.

If one goes to the provinces, to a place like Ibadan for instance, one will find that the military buildings there are more or less ramshackles. I would, therefore, like the Minister to ensure that the type of buildings which we are now providing for soldiers in Lagos should also be extended to soldiers in the Regions, so that, not only soldiers in Lagos but also soldiers in all parts of Nigeria, will enjoy life more abundant.

Chief T. T. Solaru (Ijebu East): Mr Chairman, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the House to sub-head 6, item 3, under Higher Education, that is provision for the University College Teaching Hospital Buildings and Equipment. It is probably necessary here to remind the House of an eventful happening in the University College Teaching Hospital, which recently received a very high powered visitation from the United Kingdom. As a result of that visit the Teaching Hospital has now been approved by London University for the purpose of training Doctors. (*Hear, hear*). That is a very big step forward. Any money spent on the University College Teaching Hospital will pay dividends in the increase in the number of

trained Doctors produced locally, and will be reflected in the savings which we shall have from money spent in training people overseas.

We would like to congratulate the Hospital Authorities on this splendid achievement in so short a time. We should also congratulate ourselves that we have one of the best hospitals in the world—an hospital which has attracted people from all parts of the globe. Even people from America—hon. Members no doubt know that people in that country like to do things in a big way—people from America have also paid tribute to the Teaching Hospital at Ibadan. None of us will grudge the Hospital the amount that has been voted here for the expansion of quarters and for finding equipment for the Teaching Hospital.

I would like, however, to draw the attention of the Minister of Health to the fact that this University College Teaching Hospital has started in a very big way, but it looks as if, right from the start, it might suffer a set back in this way. One finds patients of all kinds, people who suffer from maladies real or imaginary, converging on the premises of the Teaching Hospital, thinking that there they will find the remedy for all their ills. People go there and sleep outside for two nights or three nights in order to receive attention. It is known that the Hospital deals with about one hundred new patients every day. Something should be done to make the public aware that the University College Hospital is not an ordinary dispensary where one can go to wash one's sores. The people do not know, and as a result they go there with all kinds of ailments. I think that this is because the public are not educated in the real purposes of the Hospital.

I hope that the Minister of Health will do something to educate the public and stop bringing our Hospital into disrepute.

Mr M. A. Sanni (Oshun Central): Mr Chairman, Sir, the subject of sub-head 20 (b)—I am quoting from memory—is a subject for lively discussion. In my maiden speech some two and a half years ago I criticised the Fisheries Department drastically. According to my opinion at that time this Department was one of the Departments that I termed *blood suckers on the finances of Nigeria*. Since then I have continued to criticise this Department, in addition to other Departments which I considered were unproductive.

I am not criticising the provision made by the Government, but I wish to entreat the Government to consider seriously the suggestion that this Department should not stay. Our streams, our rivers abound with fish. We the natives have more than enough fish to consume, and there is enough supply of imported fish for our friends of the Caucasian race. I think that the Government should be reflecting on the advisability of abolishing this Department.

When I say this, Sir, I do not mean that expatriate officers employed in this Department should be driven into the waters. I would wish them to be absorbed in another Department where they would contribute to the growth of the national income. (*Hear, hear.*)

Sir, I beg to support.

The Minister of Research and Information (Hon. Chief Kolawole Balogun): Mr Chairman, Sir, it is a pity that we have been more or less overtaken by time, but I should like to ask hon. Members to note that the question, "What is the Fisheries Department doing?" will always crop up. Some Members have also asked on occasions: "What are you doing about Fisheries Research?" I am reminded here about the old person who keeps on complaining about his wife asking for money, and when he was asked what his wife did with the money, answered: "I do not know, because I have not given the money to her."

If Members will look at page 65 of the Supplementary Estimates they will find under paragraph 19 where it is stated that "in accordance with the White Paper on the Federal Fisheries Service (Sessional Paper No. 6 of 1957) which was approved during the Budget Meeting in March 1957, provision is now sought to enable equipment, etc., to be ordered and work commenced on a programme of Fisheries development..." We are just asking that money should be spent in order to develop Fisheries Research in this country in a big way; and just as we are asking for this money Members are saying that the Department is not doing anything.

I do not think that it is good for the morale of those who are working on Fisheries in this country that this type of allegation should be made again and again. This money should be voted and the Fisheries Department should be given a chance, and I am sure that they will uphold their future.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved: That the further expenditure from the Development Fund of One Million, Nine Hundred and Seventy-two Thousand, One Hundred and Ninety Pounds for the purposes set out in the draft Supplementary Estimates of Capital Expenditure under Head 605—Other Capital Expenditure, be approved.

Resolutions to be reported.

Mr Speaker resumed the Chair.

Resolutions reported.

Question That this House doth agree with the Committee of Supply in the said report, put and agreed to.

Resolved, That this House doth agree with the Committee in the said Resolution.

Sitting suspended: 1 p.m.

Sitting resumed 3.10 p.m.

AMENDMENT OF STANDING ORDERS

The Prime Minister (Alhaji the hon. Abubakar Tafawa Balewa): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to move that the Standing Orders of this House be amended:—

(1) by the inclusion of a new Standing Order as follows:—

"3a. Whenever the House shall stand adjourned *sine die* Mr Speaker shall, on the instructions of the Governor-General in Council, give notice of the date of re-assembly."

(2) by the deletion of the words "by Mr Speaker" from paragraph (7) of Standing Order No. 6;

(3) by the deletion of paragraphs (6) and (7) of Standing Order 13 and the insertion of the following:—

"(6) If a Member does not mark his question with an asterisk, the Member of the Council of Ministers to whom it is addressed shall cause an answer to be printed in the Official Report.

(7) If a Member is not present to ask his question, or if the question is not reached before 10.30 a.m., the answer shall be printed in the Official Report, unless the Member shall have signified his wish to postpone his question before it was called or before 10.30 a.m. as the case may be."

(4) by the deletion of the words "Ex-officio Members of the Council of Ministers" from paragraph (14) of Standing Order 25;

(5) by the deletion of the words "the Attorney-General" from paragraph (1) of

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Standing Order 54 and by the insertion of the words "a Member of the Council of Ministers to be nominated by that Council" instead thereof ;

(6) by the deletion of the words, "the Financial Secretary" from paragraph (2) of Standing Order 55, and by the insertion of the words "the Minister of Finance" instead thereof ; and

(7) by the deletion of the words "the Attorney-General" from paragraph (1) of Standing Order 56 and by the insertion of the words "a Member of the Council of Ministers to be nominated by that Council" instead thereof.

Sir, this Motion is self-explanatory. Its business is merely to adapt the Standing Orders of this House so that they may match with the present Constitution. One further word may be necessary before the House approves the amendment. Before this House had a Speaker, we were presided over by His Excellency, the Governor-General, and when in paragraph 7 in the old Standing Orders, His Excellency appointed a date of meeting after an adjournment *sine die*, he did so after consultation with the Council of Ministers. The first amendment will restore that position and the third amendment, Mr Speaker, Sir, relates to the treatment of questions and has been provided in accordance with the fact that we now have a daily Official Report in which all answers to questions are printed instead of their being put in the Supplement.

Sir, I beg to move.

The Minister of Transport : (Hon. R. A. Njoku) : I beg to second, Sir.

And, pursuant of Standing Order 54 (2) the Motion stood referred to the Standing Orders Committee.

ELECTRICITY CORPORATION OF NIGERIA
(AMENDMENT) BILL—COMMITTEE

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee)

Clause 1 agreed to.

Clause 2.

Mr R. A. Fani-Kayode (Ife) : Mr Chairman, I rise to speak to my Amendment and I would ask the hon. Minister of Lagos Affairs, Mines and Power to give us an assurance that the part which the Electricity Corporation will play is so safeguarded that foreign capital

will not swamp the financial position of Nigeria. The hon. Minister told us that there are undertakings which require foreign capital. So far, so good. I am prepared to withdraw my amendment to the Bill if the hon. Minister can assure us that if the Corporation goes into partnership with any private undertaking we will make sure that the controlling shares are invested in the Corporation.

All we want to do is to safeguard the Corporation from being absorbed into private enterprise because it is not always good that these enterprises should be run in this country on help from outside Nigeria. I do not know, Sir, whether the hon. Minister will give this undertaking, that if the Electricity Corporation goes into a partnership as a shareholder, or a partner in any enterprise, he will make sure the controlling interest is in the Electricity Corporation of Nigeria. Before I move, Sir, I would like to ask the Chairman if the hon. Minister will give such an assurance.

The Chairman : There is no harm in moving the Amendment and it can then be withdrawn if necessary.

Mr Fani-Kayode : Then I move the Amendment, Sir.

The Chairman : Amendment proposed, Clause 2, page 1, Line 9, to leave out the words "others or take shares in a company incorporated" and insert "Regional Government or local authority bodies or such other public bodies."

The Minister of Lagos Affairs, Mines and Power : Mr Chairman, Sir, I have already informed the House that if ever any outside organisation comes here to establish an electricity undertaking, the permission of the Governor-General to do so will be required. I want further to assure the House that in order to ensure the continuance of electricity as a public utility, this Bill is introduced to enable the E.C.N. to take shares in any organisation of this type with a view to having a controlling interest therein.

Amendment by leave withdrawn.

Question again proposed.

Chief T. T. Solaru (Ijebu East) : Mr Chairman, it is a good thing that this Bill has been brought in, especially this section which permits the Electricity Corporation to join in partnership with outside bodies, whether they

are Nigerian bodies or non-Nigerian bodies, because every part of this country cries out for electrification. We are very pleased to hear the assurance that the Minister has just given us, because that was the only fear that we entertained that in the attraction of foreign capital we should be careful that the economic strings are not pulled too tightly, so as to choke any further advance in any other part of the country.

Sir, we realise that wherever the Electricity Corporation operates, very often at this stage, they seek assurance from local Government bodies and other members of the community, that if they run at a loss such communities would make up the initial losses. If they are running as a commercial enterprise, especially in conjunction with other bodies, I feel quite sure that they would in effect make their business pay and will not look to be subsidised by the local Government bodies. Sir, I sincerely hope that when they do join with other commercial enterprises, maybe that will include in the Electricity Corporation some of the business attributes which distinguish such other business organisations which do not run at a terrific loss. We are very pleased that the Electricity Corporation is picking up and is narrowing the gap between its income and expenditure and we hope that this joining with other people will simply improve the position and bring electricity to the whole country much nearer than we expected in normal circumstances.

Clause 2 agreed to.

Bill to be reported.

(Mr Speaker resumed the Chair.)

Bill reported, without amendment, read the third time and passed.

HIGH COURT OF LAGOS (AMENDMENT) BILL—
COMMITTEE

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee)

Clause 1 agreed to.

Clause 2.

Mr R. A. Fani-Kayode (Ife): I must say, Sir, that since the last meeting of this House regarding this Bill, I have tried my best to find some justification in the Magistrates and Judges in England for this alarming question being brought before this House by the Council of Ministers but I cannot find a single instance where a person with only 5 years' experience at the Bar has been appointed as an acting Judge.

In any event, in some cases in England, we find that the Commissioners for Divorce or Commissioners of Assize, who are appointed solely to help when it comes to having a lot of work in any part of the country, the standard required in England is that of an experienced High Court Judge. Usually a High Court Judge is something like the Chief Magistrate in Nigeria and a High Court Judge must have been working for about eight to ten years and when we call him experienced, he must have been serving over thirteen years. That is the only similar provision I can find in English law for creating an acting Judge, because these Commissioners work only for a specified period of time.

Mr Chairman, I believe the confusion is caused by the queer ways in which people get promotion in Nigeria, owing to lack of Judges and Magistrates. Persons are promoted from the post of Magistrate to act as Judges and then they are appointed as Judges. This is unprecedented. I hope it is only temporary in the history of our country. In England a Magistrate is always a Magistrate, for the simple reason that the type of work he does is quite distinct and apart from the work of a Judge. The same thing happens here. The jurisdiction of the Magistrate is limited to only contracts and cases of fraud and cases of criminal law or bye-law, with the result that, even if he is on the magisterial bench for 50 years, he will never know anything at all as to what goes on in the High Court. He is not, therefore, trained to act or work as a Judge.

In England, County Court Judges are appointed solely from the Bar. I shall ask the Council of Ministers if they can find more than three cases of any County Court Judge being promoted to the High Court. I think in the history of the High Court, only about five County Court Judges have ever been appointed to the High Court. They are appointed County Court Judges and they retire County Court Judges. A High Court Judge is always appointed from the Bar and only men of over 10 years' experience at the Bar are appointed to act as Judges, for the simple reason that these are the persons who have been dealing with certain aspects of the law for a long period of time. They have been dealing with fraud, all kinds of Company law and all sort of things that never come before Magistrates and Chief Magistrates.

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I am hoping that the Minister dealing with this matter will find it the right time to look into the structure of our judicial system. The whole system needs complete overhauling. It is out-dated and out-moded. It has not got a precedent anywhere in the Commonwealth. So I think this is the time when we shall overhaul the whole thing now for these five years. I am appealing to the Minister of Communications and Aviation, who is dealing with this Bill, to preserve the standard of the Bar.

I hope he keeps very long in office and I wish the best of luck in Government. But supposing one day he comes back to me here (*Laughter*)...and he has to go there to the High Court to practise again and then has to argue before somebody who does not understand the *a, b* or *c* of the Law of Tort, somebody to whom Company Law is black magic. (*Laughter*).

I think, Sir, that if we want the outside world to respect our courts and the decisions of our courts we must in no way lower their standards and I am imploring, not only the Minister in charge of this matter but also our Prime Minister and all Members of the Council of Ministers, to save our High Courts from deterioration, because if the High Court deteriorates what will happen is this: the only barrier left between the Executive and the people to preserve justice and freedom will completely disappear. Sir, it is the last stage where the citizen can bring forward his wrongs to be righted and I am saying, Sir, that in view of justice we should have only men of ten years' experience or over ten years' experience to act as Judges.

Mr Chairman, I beg to move the amendment.

Amendment proposed, in page 2, line 7, to leave out the word "five" and insert the word "ten".

The Minister of Communications and Aviation (Hon. Chief S. L. Akintola): Sir, this amendment was exhaustively argued last Monday and, since every section of the House expressed support for the amendment, the Government, which is your Government (*Hear, hear*) are prepared to carry out your wish. After giving careful consideration to the various points expressed, I assure you that it is not the desire of this Government to lower the standard of our public life in

Nigeria (*Hear, hear*). Only the best is good enough for Nigeria and, on that consideration, Mr Speaker, Sir, the Government is accepting this amendment. (*Prolonged cheers*).

Clause 2 as amended agreed to.

Bill to be reported.

Mr Speaker resumed the chair.

The Minister of Communications and Aviation: Mr Speaker, Sir, I now report the Bill from the Committee with one amendment and move that it be read the third time and passed.

The Minister of Transport (Hon. R. A. Njoku): I beg to second.

Question proposed.

Mr L. J. Dosumu (Lagos East): Mr Speaker, this Bill is hardly necessary at all because the original provision of the law is "a person with ten years' experience can be appointed as a Judge". So what is the point of saying a person with ten years' experience should now be made an acting Judge? This Bill is only necessary if the requirement of ten years' experience is to be reduced. At the moment, a person with ten years' experience at the Bar can be appointed a High Court Judge.

The original provision of the law should have been allowed to remain which allows somebody with ten years' experience to be appointed a Temporary Judge of the High Court (*Hear, hear*).

Question put and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read the third time and passed.

FEDERAL SUPREME COURT (APPEALS)
(AMENDMENT) BILL

Order for Second Reading read.

The Minister of Communications and Aviation (Hon. Chief S. L. Akintola): Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that this Bill be read a second time. The object and reasons for this Bill are very well stated in the Objects and Reasons and they are so clear that it is hardly necessary for me to reiterate them.

In brief, I should state that under the law as it is, the point is that accused persons who are convicted and who appeal to a higher court have every right to appear in person before the court of appeal, whether the appeal is on law or on a question of fact or whether the presence of that accused person is necessary at all or not.

Now the purpose of this Bill is to enable an appellant to appear in person before the Court of Appeal if the Court of Appeal is satisfied that his presence is absolutely necessary to further the course of justice. In such a case, whenever such appellant appears in person, the cost of his travelling and other incidental expenses would be borne by the State; but wherever the court does not feel that the course of justice demands the personal presence of the accused person, if the accused person wishes, he may still appear in person but he will have to bear the burden of expenses of his own appearance.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move.

The Minister of Transport (Hon. R. A. Njoku): I beg to second, Sir.

Question proposed.

Mr Fani-Kayode (Ife): I must congratulate the spirit behind the proposal contained in this Bill. I think it is essential to stop wastage of Government funds but, at the same time, I believe that there is the possibility that this Bill might cause hardship to people without money and undue advantage to persons who have committed similar offences who have money.

It is quite clear from the Bill that where the Court of Appeal feels that an accused person should be present when the appeal is to be argued, the Court can so order, but there are many cases where an appeal is on a point of fact and the appellant, rightly or wrongly, believes that he is the best person who can present his own case, especially where he has no money, where he cannot engage Counsel. This arises usually when there is an appeal on a point of fact, and the Court does not think that the issues are of such legal importance as to assign Counsel to argue the appeal for the accused person. Therefore, what happens is, Leave to appeal comes before the Federal Supreme Court. There is nobody there to explain the facts to the Judges. The three Judges put their heads together and suddenly you see them raise their heads "Leave Dismissed"—"Leave Granted."

You know these things happen often and often, and we see it happen in Court; but if the accused person is there, whether what he says or what he will say will affect the decision of the Court or whether it will not, is not the issue. The mere fact that he is being given an oppor-

tunity of expressing his own views on the fact on the record is what I am asking Government to consider. An accused person then who is not represented by Counsel will come before the Court and state his own views. Judges might be pleased. On the other hand he might be granted Leave.

What he has got to do is to pay his passage to Lagos to come here or to the Federal Supreme Court. He will pay not only for himself but he will pay for Counsel to appear. That is the only detriment I can see in this Bill; and if the right of an appellant who is in custody to be present at the hearing of the appeal shall be subject to his paying all expenses of and incidental to his transfer to and from the place where the Court of Appeal sits, I am just asking that justice should not only be done, but that injustice should not be done. There will be injustice. There will be a rule for the rich man to be present because he can pay for it and then the poor man will be deprived of the right of going to the Appeal Court to hear his appeal argued just because he cannot pay for it.

If this House says that a poor man shall be deprived of that right, let it rest squarely on your shoulders. I wash my hands of such an agreement, but I know that this House, the gentlemen of this House represent more of the men who cannot afford to pay for their fees. From the time the West African Court of Appeal has been created, accused persons had this right of going before the Appeal Court; why deprive them of the right? I do not see any justification for depriving them of these rights to-day.

Furthermore, these accused persons are in custody; locked up; no bail. They have been under lock and key the whole time and if only gentlemen of this House know how difficult it is to get bail now, they would be shocked. The principle that the Appeal Court applies is this, that no bail at all will be granted to any accused appellant unless under very special circumstances, and the court goes further to say that in deciding what are special circumstances the mere fact that the accused person would have spent the greater part or almost all his time before the appeal is heard is only one item to be considered.

To put that clearly, if a man is imprisoned for a year, and he appeals, the mere fact that he will spend about ten months in prison before his appeal is heard is not alone sufficient for the Court of Appeal to grant him bail. Therefore

the man will be in prison for a whole year or six months until his appeal is heard. He cannot see anybody: he cannot consult anybody, and then you now still further deprive him of the opportunity of coming before the Court to explain himself, if he cannot afford a lawyer. Usually the men who suffer in these cases are men who cannot afford to get Counsel.

I would therefore, say, Sir, that, admirable as the idea of cutting down wastage may be, at the same time the liberty of the subject, and the freedom and the benefit that this Government has given to poor persons in the past should not lightly be removed.

Mr A. A. Adeyinka (Ibadan Central): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to oppose this Bill, because I regard it as obnoxious. I am not a lawyer, but with even the little experience as a layman I am convinced that this Bill is not in the best interests of the common people of this country. I will refer, Sir, to Clause 2 of the Bill, Paragraph 3, which reads—“(3) The right of an appellant who is in custody to be present at the hearing of his appeal shall be subject to his paying all expenses of and incidental to his transfer to and from the place where the Court of Appeal sits for the determination of his appeal:

“Provided that the Court of Appeal may direct that he be brought before the Court of Appeal in any case where, in the opinion of the Court of Appeal, his presence is advisable for the due determination of the appeal, in which event such expenses as aforesaid shall be defrayed out of general revenue.”

After reading through this clause, it shows in its clear terms that where an accused person has appealed against a conviction in a Lower Court he is not allowed to be present at the Higher Court where his appeal is going to be finally determined. The Government says here that Government can only pay expenses of an accused person to an Appeal Court if the Judges find it necessary, but where they fail, the accused person will bear the expense himself.

This means, in clear terms, that an accused person who is a poor man is denied the opportunity of appearing before a Judge where his case, that affects him personally, is going to be disposed of. This, I say, Mr Speaker, is most unjustified. The Minister of Justice could not defend this obnoxious law.

I appeal to the conscience of the Minister and the Government to withdraw this Bill, failing which I oppose it with all the force at my disposal.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to oppose.

The Minister of Communications and Aviation (Chief S. L. Akintola): Mr Speaker, Sir, I just want to correct one erroneous impression. The Bill does not say what the hon. Member thinks. I would like the hon. Member to read the Bill.

M. Abubakar Garba (North Bauchi): Mr Speaker, I am not a lawyer, and so I do not know all the intricacies of the Judicial Department, but I just want to point out any loophole which I think there might be in the justice of this Bill. Sir, this Bill, if passed, may be fair for some people who are well off, but it is totally unfair and unjust to millions of our people who are mostly below the bread-line. They cannot afford to pay for their transport, plus their incidentals to and from the place where a Court of Appeal sits.

I suggest, Sir, if the appellant is poor, and if justice is to be done, whether the case is capital or not, the Appeal Court shall assign Counsel to appear for the poor person. There is a proverb in Hausa which says, “To appear personally is better than to send a message” (*Hear, hear*).

I will go further still, Sir, and say that even if the poor person appears personally, there should be Counsel for the Defence.

Sir, I beg to support the Bill in principle.

Mr J. A. G. Ohiani (Igbirra): Mr Speaker, judging from the speeches of Members of this House I will say that this Bill is really what I should have accepted for acceptance sake.

If this Bill is not intended to tie up the poor people I think it should be reconsidered. If we should judge the population of Nigeria I think the majority of the people are poor. If we appear to protect the interest of the people we should think twice and consider very much the condition of our poor men and have this Bill reconsidered. Out of ten people it will be seen that not up to two have the money to pay.

It will not be very fair to this great number of people to pass this Bill into law and I have every fear in my mind to support this Bill.

Mr J. M. Udochi (Afenmai): Mr Speaker, from reading the aims and reasons of this Bill

one could see that the chief motive behind it is to save money. But it is much to be regretted that Government has chosen the type of people concerned in this Bill for the people at whose expense money could be saved. I say it is most unfortunate.

Here you are, these are men who owing to circumstances have been deprived of their liberty and locked up in gaol. But their case had to be heard by another court. I don't know if the Government has considered the whole circumstances and implications of the Bill because as I know in this country it is the practice in capital cases for Government to assign lawyers to argue cases of people who are in gaol. A man is convicted for a capital offence at Calabar, his case has to be heard by the Federal Supreme Court in Lagos. The Government provided a counsel to argue it for him. The Government after having been so generous to give him a counsel is not able to bring him down for his counsel to talk to him. The Government has not considered that aspect of the matter.

Who is responsible that an appeal has to be taken in a place where an accused is not in gaol? It is not the fault of the accused. He was caught, tried in one court for his crime and convicted there. He had to appeal but owing to the exigencies of the State, all courts cannot be everywhere, his appeal is to be heard sometimes three hundred or four hundred miles away. Is it the fault of the man that his case cannot be taken where he is? Why should the Government go out of its way to make all this noise about saving money at the expense of a person in confinement and who cannot help himself? In most cases these people, when they are confined, their families are ignorant, they don't know what to do in order to get in touch with them. So that even if the people have money they don't know how to assist him. And the Government is saying that such a man should be deprived of the right if he wants to go to a place where his case is being heard?

This is an occasion on which we can afford to be generous, generous to the helpless. His case may be a good one; the Appeal Court might discharge him so that he may be in gaol innocently. Why should we be niggardly in assisting him to go to a place where his case can be heard? I can sense the feelings of every Member in this House. These are the under-dogs whose interests we are here to

champion and I think it will be the duty of all hon. Members to oppose this Bill.

Mr L. J. Dosunmu (Lagos East): Under the old constitution of the West African Court of Appeal there might have been small justification for this Bill. But with the present set up of the Federal Supreme Court which not only sits in Lagos but also moves from headquarters at regular intervals, there seems to be no justification whatever for this Bill. Under the old arrangement the West African Court of Appeal sits in Lagos so that an appellant has to be brought down to Lagos for his appeal to be heard. But the Federal Supreme Court moves from Ibadan to take all appeals in the Western Region; to Kaduna to take all appeals in the Northern Region; and to Enugu to take all appeals in the Eastern Region, so that there can be no question of large expenses that Government is afraid of.

So I humbly support all the submissions that have been made by the previous speakers and oppose this Bill.

The Minister of Communications and Aviation (Chief S. L. Akintola): I have listened to the various points made by speakers on this particular theme. By some wonderful coincidence I think the most articulate section of this House are Members of the Bar. I do not grasp the weight of the logic of their argument for the simple reason that there is nothing done here to deprive an appellant of the opportunity of presenting his case. On the other hand what has been done is to assist lawyers to give full value for the fees that they receive from their clients. I will explain how.

If the personal presence of an appellant before the court of appeal is necessary it is still up to the lawyer to convince the court of appeal that such person's personal presence is necessary, and as it is provided here, wherever the Court of Appeal is convinced that it is advisable for the appellant to appear in person they would allow him to appear and the expenses of such appearance will be charged to the general revenue.

There is one fact which some Members of this House lose sight of: crimes are on the increase in this country and the number of criminals is increasing by leaps and bounds, and it appears now that in practically 90 per cent of the cases decided in the Magistrate's

and High Court the accused persons appeal to the Court of Appeal and to that extent will the cost of carrying them to the Court be increased. Maybe there are Members of the House who do not know that, as a rule, in a court of appeal (I say as a rule excepting in certain cases where the appeal will be decided on facts) an appellant is merely to be seen in a court of appeal; he is never to be heard. The person who speaks there, the person whose presence is absolutely necessary is his counsel. In this case a provision is made in this Bill that where he does not engage a counsel he can state his case in writing and he will send it to the Court of Appeal according to the provision made here, so as to make it unnecessary for him to appear in person.

Hon. Members speak from time to time on the necessity for effecting economy. If it is wrong to start from the Floor of this House, as suggested by hon. Fani-Kayode, and it is wrong to start from the criminals, where are we going to start from? We cannot effect economy from the innocent and we cannot effect economy from the criminal. Hon. Members, where are we going to start practising this economy?

I think that the main motive in introducing this Bill as has been admitted by hon. Udochi is to see that economy is effected and it is going to be effected not by perpetuating injustice. There is nothing in this case which may be unfair to an accused appellant. He still has full liberty to present his case before the Court of Appeal, and if you trust our Judges of the Court of Appeal that they know their job and they accept their sacred mission of dispensing nothing but justice, we can trust them, we can leave it to them to decide whether the presence of the particular accused person is necessary in the interests of justice or not. Wherever they feel that the person's presence is necessary the cost of his travelling will be charged on the general revenue of the country. But where it is not considered absolutely necessary the accused person is still at liberty to appear. But whenever he appears it will be at his own expense.

Alhaji Ahmadu, Sarkin Fulani (North East Sokoto): Mr Speaker, in my opinion there is nothing wrong with this Bill because many people are unwilling to agree with the judgment passed on them and appeal to the court of appeal without any good reason. So I see nothing wrong with this Bill.

Mr A. A. Ajibola (Egbado North): Mr Speaker, I rise to oppose this Bill. I hope the Government will reconsider this Bill and make provision for it to be read again six months from now before it is passed. We know what we do everyday in the court

Take the case of an accused whose case was first tried at the Magistrate's Court. From there it went to the High Court and then to the Federal Supreme Court. By the time he had finished at the High Court he would have spent a great deal of money. He might even go into debt, but he is now in custody, maybe at Maiduguri, and the Federal Supreme Court will be sitting in Lagos. Supposing he bears the expenses himself, he has not got the money and there may be some good points in his favour if the case were brought up at the Federal Supreme Court. But for the sake of finance that man will be languishing in gaol. Not only that, he may even have the money to pay but because he has already been cut off from his family he could not contact them in order to get money.

Such cases are happening. Some people in Lagos here are in custody and the case is adjourned from time to time and their relatives are, say, in Ijebu and they cannot get the money because the person is not free. So that this Bill is not fair at all and I advise the Government to leave the law as it stands and in order that the Government may have time to reconsider the whole thing I move that this Bill be read six months from now.

Amendment proposed, to leave out the word "now" and at the end of the Question to add "upon this day six months."

Mr O. C. Agwuna (Awka): Point of Order. I think it is unfair to other Members to say "I move" without making a speech if the last speaker wants to move a dilatory motion.

Mr Speaker: I thought I heard him making a speech and concluded by moving six months.

Chief T. T. Solaru (Ijebu East): Mr Speaker, I am rising to second that Motion. I am one of those who are foremost in the call for national economy and I am glad that somehow the Council of Ministers, this National Government, wants to make a beginning. I saw a film last night the main lesson of which is that if you want to change the world you

will begin with yourself. If you want to begin with economy start with the Council of Ministers, start with your highly expensive quarters, start with your fat allowances and not at the expense of the poor man.

I am talking about the Ministers wherever they may be and from whatever quarter they may come. I can only think of the case of a person who found himself in a divorce court because he had been accused of being cruel to his wife. When this matter was called up in the Supreme Court there was this wife who had been ill-treated and there was this husband. But the fact that the Judges had a chance to look at this hefty wife and this diminutive husband, the charge of cruelty so ably made by his wife and her counsel would have carried the day with the Judges. All that the defence counsel had to do was to say, "My Lord, look at the woman; look at the husband." If the Judges had not seen this man who had been beaten by his wife, driven from kitchen to pantry and pantry to kitchen by this hefty burly wife I am quite sure that he would have lost his case. By merely looking at him the Judges gave him the benefit of the doubt.

For the sake of doing justice for once I am sure this Government will be prepared to spend hundreds of pounds to save that diminutive husband from his hefty wife. Mr Speaker, I beg to second.

The Prime Minister (Alhaji the Hon. Abubakar Tafawa Balewa): Mr Speaker, I rise to oppose the Motion. I am glad, Sir, that I should come immediately after a layman like myself. Lawyers, of course, know how to argue their cases, and we laymen should be very careful whenever we listen to them arguing on matters of this kind.

Now, the Minister introducing the Bill, Sir, told the House that crime is on the increase in this country, and on the increase usually you find great numbers of people being locked up, at the same time. And when we are to provide for transport of masses of people like that and pay for them, you could see what amount of money the Government would have to spend. Now, this matter, Sir, is one in which we thought the House would really be with us. It is not a question only of effecting economy. It is also a question of more or less giving some sort of discouragement to criminals, and I have no doubt, Sir, that no Member of this House would like to encourage criminals to increase.

Therefore, Sir, equally as lawyers argue their case on behalf of the ordinary people, at the same time we the Government, Sir, have got a responsibility to see that crimes do not increase, and that we have also, Sir, the responsibility to protect the general public. And so, Sir, I would ask the House to accept the Bill as it is and I oppose the amendment.

Alhaji Abdulkadiri Makama (Central Zaria): Thank you, Mr Speaker. Even though I am no lawyer like many of us here, and also much as I like to support all Bills and measures that are brought out by this national government, I have to say with respect that in spite of the proviso I feel very doubtful as to what I should do, to oppose or support the Bill. I am sure the good, new Minister has already seen that all Sides of this House are against the Bill.

This Amendment ought to be accepted because poor people will suffer much. I am sure the Minister will be the last person to insist on any measure which will cause suffering even to rich men, much less to poor men.

Mr J. A. O. Akande (Egba North): Mr Speaker, Sir, it is surprising that the Minister of Communications and Aviation, who has championed the cause of the Nigerian people, should be the Minister to ask this hon. House to accept this obnoxious Bill. All sides of the House oppose this Bill, and it is not wise for this Government to continue to ask us to accept it. In fairness to the Nigerian taxpayers, and in the interest of justice, I think this Bill should be withdrawn.

Mr M. A. O. Olarewaju (Ilorin South): Mr Speaker, Sir, I am glad that I am allowed to express my view over this Bill. There is something very irregular in carrying out an appeal on conviction from a lower court to a higher court. Until I am made to understand why such should continue, I cannot be satisfied.

Take, for instance, Sir, an offender is tried and convicted in a lower court to a term of imprisonment. The accused who is then a prisoner after a long time is allowed to appeal to a High Court. Luckily the whole sentence in the lower court is quashed by the High Court after the prisoner has served for almost three or six months.

I would like to know what Government would do to compensate such people for their previous punishment in the lower court. I would suggest that such people are allowed to take

civil action against such Judges in the lower court....(Laughter).... I want all the Members to be serious. Such Judges sometimes are accused of error in judgment by the lawyers: most of the lawyers who are Members in this House can bear me witness. As a human being a Judge can be partial or impartial. The Government should make provision for compensation, or give room for claiming damages.

Mr Speaker, Sir, in several cases of this nature some people serve up to three or six months as prisoners. Therefore, Mr Speaker, I wish this my expression to be taken seriously and I appeal to Government seriously to do something about it.

Mr Speaker, I beg to support the real Bill.

Mr G. O. Ebea (Ishan): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to oppose the Bill. This matter has been discussed at length, at least the mind of everybody in this House has been made known, and it is quite time that the Minister in charge withdraws this Bill. After all, what does it mean, what does it cost you? No trouble is going to come out of it. The only way you can know the feeling of Members over a certain Bill is by listening to their debate. Debates have been contributed enough, and I hope the Prime Minister would not like things of this kind to go on. He too can now intervene by giving his own views. This is not a debate where you can support only the Minister. You can also take consideration of the views of the Members of this House and give your own ruling.

We now leave the matter in the hands of the Prime Minister, and let him make his own ruling to save the public.

The Minister for Lagos Affairs, Mines and Power (Alhaji the hon. M. Ribadu): Mr Speaker, Sir, as a Government responsible to this House, it is our duty always to listen to the criticisms of the hon. Members and not only to listen to them, but very often, Sir, we give due consideration to the express wishes of this House. But, in this case, Sir, I cannot see anything injurious in connection with this Bill.

Sir, it is not altogether correct to say that the Bill has been designed in order to effect economy. After all, how much money are we going to save? Sir, all that we want is to stop the unnecessary presence of the appellants, and, Sir, as the Minister moving the

Bill has already said, it is for the Judge or for the Judges to say whether the presence of the appellants is necessary. Whenever they say so, these people will be transported to the court at the expense of the revenue of Nigeria.

And, as the Prime Minister has rightly said, and the Minister moving the Motion, if there is any case where a Judge feels that the presence of an appellant is unnecessary, and his lawyer thinks that it is necessary, it is for the lawyer to argue his case and convince the Judge that the presence of the appellant is necessary and, therefore, when the Judge is convinced, then the Government is prepared to pay for the cost of his transportation. Sir, I do not see the reason why Members should argue on this Bill quite unnecessarily. Because they have the liberty to appear before the court, nothing has been done injuriously with regard to their rights. If the Court feels that their presence is not necessary, then they have to bear the cost of their transportation.

Sir, I oppose very strongly the dilatory Motion moved by one hon. Member and I would ask the House not to delay the discussion of this Bill and I would appeal to all sides of the House to allow this Bill to go through.

M. Maitama Sule (Kano City): Mr Speaker, Sir, with self-government approaching rapidly, fundamental human rights must at all times be protected. All that we are trying to explain to the Government is this. We do realise that there is good intention behind the Bill. But very unfortunately we do realise at the same time that certain people who happen to be illiterate and poor will not probably get the justice that they should have got if they themselves had appeared in the Court.

My contention, Mr Speaker, is this. Provision has been made in this Bill that if a person is not appearing in Court he can put his case in writing. Supposing that man does not know how to write? How could he do it? It is very difficult. If you want anything done well, do it yourself. If a person was unable to write himself it would be extremely difficult to get somebody else to write all that he wanted to write on his behalf and present it to the Judge or to the Court of Appeal to which he is appealing. In that respect, Sir, it would be necessary for the man to appear personally.

Secondly, if a person has got a lawyer or a counsel to argue his own case, it is absolutely

say that we should divide, after we have spoken against the Bill how can you expect us to vote for it? So the honourable thing for the Government to do is to defer the Bill for six months.

Mallam Bello Dandago 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.

Question put, That the word "now" be left out.

The House proceeded to a Division; but no Member being willing to act as Teller for the Ayes, Mr Speaker declared that the Noes had it.

Bill accordingly read a second time and committed to a Committee of the whole House.

Bill immediately considered in committee.

(In the Committee)

Clause 1 agreed to.

Clause 2.

Mr R. A. Fani-Kayode (Ife): Mr Chairman, Sir, I shall read out my Amendment and I shall leave it to the Federal Government to do what it thinks fit, if Government believes that the feelings of the House should be respected and the Amendment is passed. That is then, I suppose, how the Amendment will be treated. The Amendment reads:—"That, lines 1 to 9 on page 2, clause 2 of the Bill should be removed". I shall read the offending parts of the clause:—"The right of an appellant who is in custody to be present at the hearing of his appeal shall be subject to his paying all expenses of and incidental to his transfer to and from the place where the Court of Appeal sits for the determination of his appeal: Provided that the Court of Appeal may direct that he be brought before the Court of Appeal in any case where, in the opinion of the Court of Appeal, his presence is advisable for the due determination of the appeal, in which event such expenses as aforesaid shall be defrayed out of general revenue."

It is true, Mr Chairman, that the Bill has gone through Second Reading but at this stage it is quite clear in the Committee that this is only part of the Bill. Members will see that if that clause were left out, more opportunities and more facilities are granted to poor people.

The remaining clause says:—"An Appellant who does not appear"—he might be ill or

something—"at the hearing of his appeal or application for leave to appeal by counsel may present his appeal and argument in writing, and any appeal or argument so presented shall be considered by the Court of Appeal". In other words, if an appellant decides himself of his own volition not to appear, the Court grants him the right to put his argument on paper and send it to the Court of Appeal. What I am trying to avoid is to deprive an appellant of the right to appear before the Appeal Court, if he so desires, simply because he cannot afford to do so.

Mr Chairman, many kinds of arguments have been brought before this House. The hon. the Mover of the Motion to accept this Bill, sensibly argued. He said:—"Crime is rising, therefore, we must do all we can to stop this crime, appoint more Policemen, increase the Police Department, give us some money, ask for more, they will give you". But to stop an appellant going from the High Court to the Assize Court to the Appeal Court, is no way to check crime.

Surely lawyers say that it is better for ten guilty persons to go scot-free than for one innocent man to stand convicted. That is all what we are trying to adjust and my learned friend on the Government Bench, the hon. Minister of Transport, puts the analogy brought before this House by the hon. Member on my right. Surely the hon. Member has seen in a Court of Appeal cases where the accused person is supposed to have killed somebody with a very big axe. The Judge looks at the accused person and wonders whether he can even lift the axe. If that man had not been present surely the Appeal Court would not be able to decide whether a man of such small stature could lift the weapon, the nature of which was used in killing the deceased.

Another instance may be found, Mr Chairman, and this has happened often, where the record of appeal is wrong, where the facts stated on the records are wrongly typed out and the only person who can brief Counsel as to the correctness or otherwise of the record is the accused person. The original records have to be produced in court and I challenge any Member of this House to say anything to the contrary.

Several times the original record of appeal is called for by the Court of Appeal when the accused's counsel says, "I never said so", or "this never happened in the court below":

Most of the time counsel who argue appeals never appear in the lower court. They are never in the case in the lower court: they know nothing of the case at all except what they read on the record of appeal.

I think it is only fair that I should explain this to Members, that when an appeal goes from the High Court to the Federal Supreme Court witnesses do not give evidence there again. All the facts stated in the High Court are typed out and kept in one single record of appeal, that is in one pamphlet. Three copies are given to the Judges of Appeal, a copy is given to the Crown Counsel and a copy is given to the defendant's counsel. It is only on the facts stated in the records that the whole appeal is argued, and often mistakes are made in typing out this record and the only person who can advise defence counsel and even Crown Counsel is the accused. Most of the time a different Crown Counsel argues the appeal and a different Crown Counsel argues the case in the court below.

Then we are told that where an appeal is about to be heard the Judges may decide whether an accused person can be present or not. The Judges do not know what has happened in the lower court. They have to decide on what is on the record and, if there is any mistake on the record, they have no occult powers for knowing what happened in the court below. The accused is the only person who can brief counsel. It may be his last chance. It is not even 'may', it is his last chance to escape imprisonment and prove his innocence—his very, very last chance. Yet, for the purpose of economy, because he has not got the money, we say 'go back to jail'.

Mr J. M. Udochi (Afenmai): On a point of order. Before my honourable and learned Friend continues the debate I would like the Chairman to give a ruling. The last argument was defeated because there was no person to . . . (Interruption).

The Chairman: Order, order. We are now discussing Mr Fani-Kayode's amendment to Clause 2 of the Bill to leave out lines one to nine. There is no relevance in the hon. Member's remarks.

Mr Fani-Kayode: There is another point that was raised by the hon. Minister of Transport. He said that in any event grounds of appeal are declared by the accused himself.

Whenever an accused person is required to declare his grounds of appeal, in nine cases out of ten the counsel appearing will have to add new grounds, completely fresh grounds, and nothing will prevent him. The only provision of the law is that the accused person himself must append his signature to the grounds of appeal. That does not mean by any chance that it is the accused person who knows no law at all that will prepare his own grounds of appeal. He himself knows that whenever counsel is briefed on any appeal and the grounds of appeal are declared by the accused person himself, in nine cases out of ten counsel will add to the facts and, furthermore, counsel will have to see this man. So that the argument of the Minister of Transport stands to be corrected and if he says it is not so let him show me in the laws where it says that the accused person must declare his grounds of appeal himself, apart from appending his signature to the form on which he files his grounds of appeal.

I think, Sir, that I have the support of all Members of this House that Government should reconsider their stand. This is a National Government and I think that the feeling of the House should be respected. This feeling is that a portion of the clause should be removed. Sir, I beg to move.

Amendment proposed.

The Minister of Communications and Aviation (Hon. Chief S. L. Akintola): Sir, I do not want to speak at length because most of what the hon. Member has said has already been said before. Furthermore, this particular section which he intends to amend is more or less the governor of the whole Bill and if you remove it from the Bill you render the Bill null and void. I therefore feel that this amendment cannot be supported in any way.

I would also point one thing out. The role of an appellant appearing in a court of appeal is more or less overmagnified. His importance in a court of appeal is not exactly what the hon. Member would like us to believe. Whether a record prepared in the lower court is correct or not is not for an accused, the illiterate, the poor person mentioned to come and just whisper to his counsel in the court of appeal. He would have discussed that fully with his counsel long before he appears in the court of appeal. And I repeat one point: if the record

of a case is not accurate, if that record is faulty, if it is not correct, if the counsel for the appellant can advise his client to swear an affidavit to show the court of appeal that the record is unreliable, is inaccurate, is incorrect, is false, I am quite sure that if this is backed up by the counsel no court of appeal will oppose the presence of that accused person in the court of appeal (*Hear, hear*).

I would point out that this law does not seek to exclude the accused person from appearing in person. What it seeks to do is that where the court feels that his presence is absolutely necessary in the court of appeal the court will ask him to come and it will be a charge on the public revenue. In other cases the accused person will appear at his own expense. That is all the difference.

I do not want this hon. House to argue the point that we want to deprive an appellant of his right of appearing before the Court. What gives him that right? It is not the fact that we pay the cost of his appearance. The right exists, regardless of who pays the cost of his appearance. The right is still there even now but the fact is: in exercising that right are we going to pay in all cases, or is he going to pay? But in cases that are not appropriate, they must retain this right, subject to the proviso that he who calls the tune, must pay the piper.

Mr D. N. Abii (Owerri): Mr Chairman, I rise to support the Amendment. My reason in supporting the Amendment is that the Minister of Transport has told us that the most important thing in the Bill is the element of time. In other words, the paying of transport for the appellants has led to delay in hearing of the appeals. I think that is not quite correct. I would say that the delay is caused by the fact that the clerks are not, perhaps, efficient, or perhaps there are not enough of them to prepare the records for the Court. I would not accept that the reason for the delay is because where applicants have got no money, Government has got to pay for their transport.

Secondly, Mr Chairman, I think that it is the intention of Government that the Federal Supreme Court may rotate. If this is so, how much will it cost to bring an appellant from custody to the place where the Judge is going to hear the case. So that if we base the argument for this Bill on economy, I think the Government will do well to delay it and accept the Amendment.

I humbly support the Amendment that those lines be left out and if there is a choice of appearing in Court that shall be left to the appellant himself. How can a Judge know whether I want to come out or not. I am appealing to the Judge to see the injustice of the Lower Court. If it is my wish to appear before him the choice should be left to me and not to the Court to decide.

I therefore humbly support the Amendment.

Mr O. C. Agwuna (Awka): Mr Chairman, Sir, before I speak, I want to make it quite clear that in supporting this Amendment there is no question of giving the impression that one is not conscious of the full meaning and implications of our new National Government. We have our National Government on one side, and we have justice on one side. This is a choice between our National Government and justice.

My only quarrel with this Bill is that it is discriminatory. One of the provisions under Clause 2 is an assumption that it might be necessary for the appellant to appear before the Judges of the Appeal Court. It might be necessary for the appellant to be present. Now the author of this Bill is not an ignoramus: he is a well read lawyer, and the Acting Attorney-General of the Federation.

By the provision under Clause 2 sub-section 3, the need for the appellant to appear in person is already assumed. If it might be necessary at any stage for the appellant to appear before the Court of Appeal, then there is no need to qualify his right to appear. The moment you qualify any right it ceases to be a right, it becomes a privilege, and if you say that he may appear, but he has got to pay his expenses, then it is no longer a right, it becomes a privilege. In cases where you have two persons; one has the money to pay for his expenses and the other has not got the money to pay for his expenses, then you see clearly the issue of discrimination which I am arguing.

So on that basis alone I support the Amendment.

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Dr the hon. K. O. Mbadiwe): Mr Chairman, I feel that in any Legislature the Members of the Legislature have a right to air their views, and they have. Also the duty of the Govern-

ment to lead must also be taken care of. Members know here that this Government has always heeded on many occasions, I can cite many instances, when the feeling and the ideas expressed by Members have weighed. It has never taken the Government any time to reach a decision to heal. Because they are not all wise men here—a monopoly of wisdom; we also learn, as well as you also will learn.

When the Prime Minister spoke to this Bill he gave an indication; that is why I thought that Members of the Legislature will know that not all what we feel is correct, is correct, and not all what we feel here, the entirety of it, is most wise; but then we must come to a meeting of the mind to reach a decision in this Legislature. Can this provision collapse this country? No, I don't think so. Why say that on the question of law the appellant will be paid for. Why do you go to appeal? You go to appeal on a point of law. There are persons who are lawyers by natural inclination and others who are lawyers by adoption, and I think we must respect each others legal attributes.

Now on the question of law, the Government will in any case pay because the Judges sitting are sitting to determine the law passed by yourselves. They are interpreters of the law and this we will pay, but on the question of fact—you know that some people can leave their clients to plead an alibi (*laughter*). You cannot expect us to be paying on such points; and so I feel, Mr Chairman, that once we have accepted the Second Reading of this Bill, I do not want my hon. friends to keep on defending the indefensible. You may be right in your own way. We are right here. The Prime Minister has spoken to this Bill, and because he has spoken to that Bill, we must follow his orders. I believe in precedence: I believe in following things as they happen. There must be a leader, and we accepted him the other day.

Let us give the Judges time to go on with the provisions of this law. You are the Legislators here. And we will witness it. We are not all dying. Even if we are dying, generations will come and if the administration of this provision of the law causes hardship on the people, there will be no hesitation in putting in an amending Bill. For this reason, I think that we must come to a decision on this point.

Mr D. N. Abii 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.

Question, That the words proposed to be left out be left out, put and negatived.

Original Question again proposed.

Chief T. T. Solaru (Ijebu East): Mr Chairman, Sir, much as we are anxious to support the Government on this issue, I think woe betides the day when this legislature is bullied into submission on a point on which we feel very strongly. Sir, we can see the embarrassment of the Government on this issue, but instead of appealing to us in a gentle manner, they have put up somebody... (*laughter*)... who trained upon us the full volume of the cannon of which he is capable. Some of us have withstood the bombing of the Germans, and cannot be frightened by the shouting of one single man. This Legislature stands firm as a rock upon the foundations of justice to the common man, and our national Government will not lead us into doing an injustice. This clause here, which we have been forced to allow to remain part of the Bill... (*interruption*)....

The Minister of Commerce and Industry: Doctor of Religion?

Chief Solaru: Mr Chairman, Sir, talking about lawyers by adoption, some people are lawyers by honorary degrees.

Clause 2 agreed to.

Bill to be reported.

Mr Speaker resumed the Chair.

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

HIGH COURT OF LAGOS

(AMENDMENT NO. 2) BILL

Order for Second Reading read.

The Minister of Communications and Aviation (Chief S. L. Akintola): Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the Bill entitled an Ordinance further to amend the High Court of Lagos Ordinance, 1955, Ordinance 25 of 1955 be new read a second time. And I am a little bit inspired in this because I am quite sure that this House will be non-contentious.

The purpose of this Bill is to increase the salaries of the Chief Justice and Judges of the High Court of Lagos, so as to bring them into

line with those payable in the Eastern and Western Regions. This matter received long consideration by the last Council of Ministers, and it has been discussed time without number on the Floor of this House. In introducing the Bill I am encouraged to say that the Government is merely giving expression to the will of the Members of this hon. House. The justification for the increases in the salaries of the Chief Justice and the Judges of the High Court may be summarised as follows.

The responsibility of the Judges of the High Court, Lagos, are at least equal to those of the Judges of the Western and Eastern Regions. This is particularly so when one has regard to the fact that a large number of commercial cases are heard in Lagos. Those who perform identical functions are entitled to receive the same pay.

Secondly, it may be difficult in future to obtain the services of the best Judges for appointment to the Bench unless the salaries of the Judges are equal to those payable in other Regions. If the salaries are lower, suitably qualified persons may well be more attracted to the posts in the Regions, while the posts in the Federal Territory may be left unfilled. I should also mention that we have always clamoured on the Floor of this House for an impartial Judiciary. It is true we ought to have an impartial Judiciary, but what is more, we should also have a contented Judiciary.

Mr Speaker, I beg to move.

The Minister of Transport (Hon. R. A. Njoku): Sir, I beg to second.

Question proposed.

Mr L. L. Lakunle (Oyo North): Mr Speaker, the Government should be congratulated for seeing the wisdom at last of bridging the gap between the salaries of the Chief Justice and Judges of the High Court of Lagos and those of their counterparts in the Regions. It is a well known fact that cost of living is much higher in Lagos than in the Regions. The question of accommodation is there, too. And it is surprising that the Government should even wait until to-day before bringing this Bill. Anyway, it is better late than never.

We must be grateful to the Chief Justice and the Judges for taking their salaries as they were since these days, and I appeal to the Government to see that the Bill is made

retrospective so that these people can claim arrears, if possible, in order that they will have nothing to lose when they compare their own pockets with those of their counterparts in the Regions.

I think the provision of this Bill will not be limited to Chief Justice and the Judges alone. I think the Government will do something about the Magistrates, too, when the time comes.

Mr Speaker, I beg to support.

M. Abubakar Garba (North Bauchi): Mr Speaker, many a time in this House we have accused the Government of lagging behind and being led by the Regional Governments in most things essential for the betterment of the country.

Now, Sir, we have our new Prime Minister, the head of the Federal Government, assisted by his all-African Colleagues and so we hope there will be no more objections whatsoever from any person in the Cabinet, and we trust the Federal Government will now keep abreast in all spheres of activities with the Regional Governments.

Sir, I beg to support.

Mr R. A. Fani-Kayode (Ife): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to support this Motion. But I should like to add, Sir, that I believe that the salaries of the Judges and of the Chief Justice of the High Court of Lagos were originally very low because of a mistake made during the writing of the Gorsuch report.

I understand the Report stated that the jurisdiction of a High Court Judge in Lagos has diminished as a result of breaking the courts into Regional courts, but later on it was discovered that there was actually no diminution in the jurisdiction of the Judges and at last the Council of Ministers acceded to the request of this House to raise the salary of the Chief Justice of the High Court of Lagos and also the salaries of the Judges of the High Court. I would implore the Council of Ministers to consider making this Ordinance retrospective from the time that Gorsuch made his mistake. If Gorsuch had made a proper report, I think it was in 1954 or 1955, these Judges would have earned the same salaries as their contemporaries in the Western, Eastern and Northern Regions, and I do not see any reason why any of them should be deprived of these amounts simply because of the original mistake of one man.

Furthermore, Sir, the amount that will be paid to them in arrears is not as much as the one we first imagined. And if the hon. the Minister will go into the figures he will see that the persons to be paid are very few and the amounts to be paid are not very high and we will be doing justice to these Judges if the payment is made retrospective from whatever time the first computation was made.

Mr Speaker, I beg to support.

Mr T. O. S. Benson (Lagos West): Mr Speaker, Sir, this Bill is non-contentious. There are only three points involved. First, to thank the Council of Ministers for bringing the salaries of the Judges of the High Court of Lagos into line with those of Judges in the Eastern and Western Regions; secondly, Sir, to pay the Judges retrospectively from October 1954—that was the time Mr Gorsuch made his mistake—and thirdly, Sir, to increase the salaries of the Magistrates in the Federation in order to bring them into line with those of their counterparts in the Eastern and Western Regions. With that, I think we are satisfied.

Alhaji Abdulkadiri Makama (Central Zaria): Mr Speaker, Sir, both sides of this House have agreed that this Bill is non-contentious. I do agree with them entirely and so I move that the question be now put.

Question, that the question be now put, put and agreed to.

Question, that the Bill be now read a second time, put accordingly and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read a second time and committed to a Committee of the whole House.

Bill immediately considered in Committee.

(In the Committee)

Clauses 1 to 2 agreed to.

Clause 3.

Dr E. O. Awduche (Onitsha): Mr Chairman, if indeed the disparity in the salaries between those paid to Western and Eastern Judges and those paid to Judges in the High Court of Lagos arose as a result of a mistake in the Gorsuch awards, I do not see why these beneficiaries of the award should suffer as a result of the mistake. Clause 3 states that the award should start on the date of passage of this Bill. I think it is not fair to the beneficiaries of the Bill and I would have wished that it was retrospective from the date on which Gorsuch made his mistake. Apart from this, I agree in principle, Sir.

Mr J. A. O. Akande (Egba North): Though this third clause has been inserted and the previous Bill was passed through this House as we had no say than to allow it to pass, I hope the Government will take into consideration the views expressed by Members that payment of money be made retrospective from the 1st of October, 1954.

Clause 3 agreed to.

Bill to be reported.

Mr Speaker resumed the Chair.

Bill reported without amendment, read the third time and passed.

PORTS (AMENDMENT) (No. 2) BILL

Order for Second Reading read.

The Minister of Transport (Hon. R. A. Njoku): Mr Speaker, I rise to move that a Bill for an Ordinance to amend the Ports Ordinance No. 27 of 1954, be now read a second time. During the Budget meeting of last year, an hon. Member from the Southern Cameroons inquired why that territory was not represented on the Ports Authority. In reply, it was pointed out, on my Ministry's behalf, that the wharves at Tiko and Bota were operated by the Cameroons Development Corporation under leases from the Government. The Ports Authority, where Cameroons ports are concerned, confines itself to keeping the approaches in good order by dredging, buoying and other means. This state of affairs is likely to continue for some time since the Ports Authority is fully occupied with the development of such key ports as Lagos and Port Harcourt. But even if it had the resources to widen its responsibilities in the Cameroons, it could not proceed to do so unless the existing arrangements with the Development Corporation were revoked. There is no apparent reason to contemplate such a step and the certificate of occupancy by virtue of which the Corporation administers the ports at Tiko and Bota have a duration of sixty years. However, the Ports Ordinance, as originally enacted and as it now stands, lays down that the Ports Authority shall consist of sixteen members excluding the Chairman. Ten appointed by the responsible Minister and six elected. Of the elected members, three represent payers of ships' dues qualified for this purpose as shipowners and three represent payers of harbour dues, qualified for this purpose as importers and exporters.

Of the members appointed by the Minister, one must have understanding of and show capacity in the working of the Nigerian Railway, and one must be similarly qualified with regard to the Marketing Boards, and there must be one similarly qualified with regard to the organisation of workers. Six are to be appointed after consultation with the Governors of the Regions, two representing each Region.

At the time of the Ordinance's enactment, as Members will remember, the Southern Cameroons was still part of the Eastern Region. After considering the matter at length, I have arrived at the conclusion that, notwithstanding the manner in which the Cameroons ports are operated at present, the Southern Cameroons deserves by virtue of its standing in the Federation to be represented on the Ports Authority in the same way as a Region, although not to the same extent. That is, the Southern Cameroons shall have a place among the Authority's appointed members specifically reserved for it, and the place should be filled by the responsible Minister after consultation with the Commissioner of the Cameroons, who should in turn, of course, be obliged to consult his Executive Council.

This is in short what this Bill sets out to do, and at the same time the occasion has been taken to correct a printing error in the drafting of the main Ordinance. By the addition of a member from the Southern Cameroons, the number of the Authority's appointed members will now be raised from ten to eleven.

Sir, I beg to move.

The Minister of Lagos Affairs, Mines and Power (Alhaji the hon. Muhammadu Ribadu): I beg to second the Motion.

Question proposed.

Mr L. J. Dosunmu (Lagos East): Mr Speaker, Sir, while supporting the Second Reading of this Bill, I should like to enquire why the hon. Minister has not taken this opportunity to incorporate into this Bill one of the recommendations of the London Conference. I know that the Minister for Lagos Affairs will look into this, but I should have thought that this was a grand opportunity for him to have incorporated it into this Bill.

Mr T. O. S. Benson (Lagos West): I was merely going to say, Mr Speaker, that that was exactly the point I was going to make, but I will leave everything to the Minister of Lagos

Affairs, Mines and Power, who, I am sure will be doing everything necessary.

Chief T. T. Solaru (Ijebu East): Mr Speaker, Sir, in rising to support this Bill, I would take this opportunity, now that we are going to have (I suppose that is the purpose of the Bill), to appoint another member from the Southern Cameroons, so as to reflect the Federal nature of the Ports Authority, I take this opportunity to express my admiration personally of the way in which this young Corporation has been carrying on its affairs. I only wish to say that if they carry on as they have been doing it may well be that they will break a new line. But of course workers everywhere are always difficult. However, I am quite sure that if the Ports Authority under its able Chairman would look carefully into all the grievances whether they are real or imaginary, I think all the difficulties that are now in their way could be solved.

It is true that when workers were transferred from the Marine Department into what is now the Ports Authority a lot of anomalies might have cropped up. People have their fears, but I am quite sure that under the able guidance of the present Chairman of the Ports Authority those difficulties can be solved; and now that the additional member is coming from the Southern Cameroons, I am quite sure that the Ports Authority will grow from strength to strength.

I take this opportunity to say how much we are watching the progress of the Ports Authority with great interest.

Mr P. A. Aiyuk (Mamfe): Mr Chairman, I rise to support this Bill very strongly. In doing this I wish to congratulate the Government for listening to the complaints of Members of this House and for taking the line of action which has prompted them to introduce this Bill. As the Minister has said this Bill is apparently the result of a question which I asked in this House in March of last year. I am glad to see that the Government has listened to my aspirations, although the answer which they gave at that time was to me a disappointment.

I noticed from what the Minister answered when I asked the question that the Ports of the Cameroons have been leased to the C.D.C. This is one of the things which are very distressing to our people. I would like the Government to clarify this point. Who made

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this move on behalf of the Cameroons people? Were the Cameroons people consulted? Coupled with that, the C.D.C. is financially unfit to cope with its own undertakings, much less to cope with the responsibility which should have fallen squarely on the shoulders of the Ports Authority. I would have liked the Ports Authority to take over this responsibility.

I presume that when these Ports were leased to the C.D.C. it might have been assumed that the C.D.C. was going to be the only great exporter in the Cameroons. But now we have many co-operative societies and individuals who are finding great difficulty in exporting their bananas, cocoa, and coffee just because of the monopolistic attitude of the C.D.C. over these Ports. The C.D.C. themselves are exporters, so that the private individuals who are farmers and who are trying to compete with them cannot get the chance of exporting their produce.

I am asking the Government to see if it will be possible to have this lease abrogated because it is detrimental to the economy of the country and it is not to the best interests of individual farmers in the territory.

With these few remarks, Sir, I support the Bill.

Mr D. N. Abii (Owerri): Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to support this Bill, and in supporting it, I wish to make a few observations.

At Port Harcourt, Sir, I think they are using direct labour whereas in Lagos they are using contract labour. I am informed that at Port Harcourt there is a rumour that many prefer contract labour to direct labour. I humbly ask the Minister to make enquiries and report to this House why the people of Port Harcourt prefer contract labour to direct labour, and often it will be necessary to have the same method throughout both in Lagos and in Port Harcourt.

Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, I support the Bill.

Mr R. A. Fani-Kayode (Ife): Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, a few days ago when discussing a subject under Inland Waterways which comes under the Ports Authority, I made a few remarks about a gentleman I called "the ancient Mariner". I have since discovered, Sir, on further investigation that this gentleman is not only very efficient. . . .

The Minister of Transport (Hon. R. A. Njoku): Point of order. The hon. Member's

remarks are completely irrelevant to the point at issue.

Mr Deputy Speaker: I would very much like the hon. Member to speak on the Bill before the House.

Mr Fani-Kayode: All right. I will go by the backdoor. I must congratulate the Minister for the point of order. But in actual fact, I was going to commend his Department, and I see that he does not want commendation from this side of the House.

Men are now, Sir, needed in the Ports Authority for its development. I am very happy that one more unofficial member would be added to the Corporation. And, Sir, I can say with all sense of sincerity that there are many efficient men there already who are looking after the waterways of our country. Unfortunately, a few days ago, a gentleman who was referred to as "ancient Mariner", we still found on further investigation that this man is very efficient in the Marine section of the Department. . . . (Hear, hear). . . . and, Sir, without any reservation I withdraw the statement made about him. . . . (Applause). . . . He is the youth of the African, and he is not as ancient as we were led to believe. He is a young man giving a long service to this country, and I think young men of his calibre should be encouraged and not discouraged by such remarks as those I made on the former occasion. (Hear, hear.)

Question put and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read a second time and committed to a Committee of the whole House.

Bill immediately considered in Committee.

(In the Committee)

Clauses 1-3 agreed to.

Bill to be reported.

(Mr Deputy Speaker resumed the Chair).

Bill reported without amendment, read the third time and passed.

Adjournment

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Dr the hon. K. O. Mbadiwe): Sir, I beg to move, That this House do now adjourn.

The Minister of Research and Information (Chief the hon. Kolawole Balogun): Sir, I beg to second.

Question proposed.

Mr O. C. Agwuna (Awka): Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to raise an issue which should provoke the sympathetic concern of every Member of this House. It is an issue concerning the health and the state of mind of a prisoner now serving a term of seven years in the Port Harcourt prison. The prisoner is Dr Nwafor Orizu. He was sentenced to imprisonment for seven years in September 1953 for conspiracy to defraud and stealing. Normally, Dr Orizu would be due for discharge on May the 18th next year.

I happen to have visited Dr Orizu in Port Harcourt prison. I visited him not merely because he is Dr Orizu; I have taken pleasure in visiting certain prisoners because I happen to know that many people behind the bars are not essentially criminals but they are criminals for one reason or the other, and they are capable of being reformed. When I saw Dr Orizu last, his state of mind was not very favourable. As a matter of fact, he can be described as somebody insane. He spoke to me and I could not understand a word of what he was talking about and a letter he wrote to me while we were sitting here in March last looks like something which was written by a Standard I boy. I am very sorry to say these things but that is just to show the House the state of his mind now.

Well, after all Government, I am sure, do not just send people to prison to suffer onto death. Government has reasons for sending people to prison. Criminals are sent to prison for two reasons. Firstly, they are sent to prison in order to isolate them from the community and to safeguard the interests of the community. Secondly, they are sent to prison in order to reform them. But you cannot reform somebody by continuing to keep him under conditions which affect his health adversely.

I am asking whether it will not be possible to appeal to the Prime Minister and the Minister of Internal Affairs to see whether a humble prayer could not be addressed to His Excellency the Governor-General to see whether Dr Orizu could not be released. Things like that are not unheard of. There are instances in this country and outside this country where prisoners have been sent out of prison for reasons of ill-health.

Some people may say that Dr Orizu deserves his punishment. That may be so, but do not

forget that there are more criminals outside the prison than inside the yard and Dr Orizu is a man of great talent. I am sure that if he is released before he dies it is possible he may be useful to this country one way or another. I am therefore appealing to Members of this House to see whether something can be done to help his position.

The Minister of Internal Affairs (Hon. J. M. Johnson): I think I am in a position to allay the fears of the hon. Member who raised this point. The release of Dr Nwafor Orizu from Port Harcourt prison has been ordered by the Governor-General on medical grounds, (*Prolonged applause*) and the Superintendent of Prisons, Port Harcourt, has been asked to release him without delay. (*Applause*). The release has been ordered on the grounds that he is ill in mind and his life will be endangered by further confinement.

It is hoped that he will be handed over to his relatives to-day or tomorrow. (*Applause*).

Mr Speaker, I will also add, however, that I was able to recommend his release after the Medical Officer in charge of prisons had submitted his findings after examination. His findings too have been subjected to another panel of doctors who examined the case, that is a medical board of two doctors, one expatriate and one Nigerian, and they all agreed that it should be in the interest of the Doctor that he should be released forthwith.

Question, That the House do now adjourn, put and agreed to.

Resolved, that this House do now adjourn.

Adjourned accordingly at six minutes to six until 10 a.m. on Thursday the 12th of September.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

0.378. Mr L. S. Fonka asked the Minister of Research and Information :—

What contribution was being made by the Federal Government in the research being carried out on banana diseases in the Southern Cameroons.

The Minister of Research and Information: The Cameroons Development Corporation has a Research Section within its organisation to investigate the diseases of bananas and other crops and also to investigate the possibilities of using varieties of banana resistant to banana diseases.

The Department of Agricultural Research's annual programme of research is drawn up in close consultation with Regional Governments and the Government of the Southern Cameroons.

O.379. Mr L. S. Fonka asked the Minister of Research and Information :—

What were the results of the trawling trials which have been going on for some time in the Southern Cameroons, and whether he would consider developing the industry.

The Minister of Research and Information : These latest trawling trials were made to test opinions formed as the result of earlier trials made from November 1948 to May 1949 and from October 1952 to April 1953.

The trials were made with a 30 feet motor boat using a 20 h.p. Diesel engine. The boat was manned by an all-Nigerian crew under the supervision of a master fisherman.

The trials tended to confirm the earlier opinion that a fleet of four or five small motor boats costing about £2,000 each could, if properly managed, made a reasonable living for the owner and his crews. A catch of 50 lbs weight of fish per hour of trawling, selling at, say, 5d per lb. at Bota or Victoria should be easily achieved. A normal fishing trip entails four hours trawling and at least 300 trips a year

should be possible in the favourable fishing conditions of the Southern Cameroons. 500 trips would pay for the cost of the boat.

The development of the industry is a matter for the Southern Cameroons Government which has been made aware of the results of the trials.

O.380. Mr L. S. Fonka asked the Minister of Communications and Aviation :—

Whether he is aware that the telephone services in Victoria are so poor that a telephone call from Bota to Victoria often has to be sent to Tiko to be relayed to Victoria, and whether he will cause this situation to be investigated urgently and remedied.

The Minister of Communications and Aviation : I am aware that the telephone service in this area requires improvement. New equipment for the proposed automatic exchanges at Victoria, Tiko, Buea and Kumba is now on order. When the new equipment is installed I trust that the difficulties now being experienced will be overcome.

A new exchange has to be built at Victoria. A site for the exchange has been selected but not yet formally acquired by the Federal Government. No difficulties are anticipated over the acquisition. I hope by the end of October to have fixed priorities for exchange construction when I shall advise the hon. Member when the work will be completed.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
NIGERIA

Thursday, 12th September, 1957

The House met at 10 a.m.

PRAYERS

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

PAPERS

Mr Speaker : I have to announce that the following Paper, which has been already distributed to Members, is deemed to have been laid upon the Table :—Report of the Standing Committee on Finance of this House.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

The Minister of Labour and Welfare (The hon. Chief F. S. Okotie-Eboh) : Mr Speaker, Sir, it had been my intention to avail myself of the opportunity afforded by Mr Efiang's Motion on the subject of the Delegation to Fernando Po, which was listed for the 10th September, to make a statement about a visit which it is proposed shortly to pay to the island, and to give the House some information about conditions there. In the absence of Mr Efiang, the Motion was not taken. I am grateful to you, Mr Speaker, for giving me the opportunity to make a brief statement today.

As Members are aware, I last visited Fernando Po in January of 1956 in the company of the Minister of Labour and the Minister of Welfare of the Eastern Region. Members may recall that at a meeting of the House in February of that year I commented briefly on the visit. An invitation has recently been extended to us by His Excellency the Governor-General of the Spanish Province of the Gulf of Guinea to visit the island again, and shortly a small Federal delegation shall visit there.

In view of the fact that the vast majority of workers in Fernando Po are Easterners, the Government of the Region is especially interested in conditions on the island and it is proposed to include in the delegation my Colleague, the Minister of Welfare from the Eastern Region, and one or more representatives of the Eastern House. It is possible that a member of the opposition of that House shall be included.

I do not wish to anticipate any further statement which might be made to the House following the proposed visit, but in view of the

interest that has been aroused in conditions on the island by recent criticisms, I would ask the indulgence of the House to permit me to take this opportunity of making one or two general observations.

The history of the migration of workers to Fernando Po is a long one. In the early days, before any agreement existed between us and the Spanish authorities, much suffering and unhappiness was caused by scheming and ruthless persons who ranged over the rivers and coastal areas adjacent to the island and who induced people, in many cases innocent and gullible youths, to travel in the most appalling and dangerous conditions across the water to the island. It was to put an end to these practices and also because we could exercise no control over the conditions under which our people worked that an agreement was entered into between Nigeria and the Spanish territories in 1942.

This agreement introduced for the first time a legal and fully supervised recruitment procedure. It provided that each recruited worker should be medically examined and properly contracted prior to embarkation. Every contract was attested by a Labour Officer whose duty it was to explain its terms to the individual worker. The contract provided for a regular wage and laid down conditions of service which included provision for housing, food, medical facilities, hours of work and so on. The contract stipulated that a worker would be engaged for a period of two years with the option of recontracting for a further period of 18 months after which he would be compulsorily repatriated to Nigeria at the employer's expense. It also provided that a portion of wages should be deferred and held in sterling against the worker's return to Nigeria. Finally, the Agreement provided for protection to be afforded by the Nigerian Government, through the Consular Agent, and one of his duties was to ensure that the terms of contracts were honoured.

Mr Speaker, it would take me too long to review in detail developments over the intervening years and the various revisions of the agreement that have taken place. There have been four such revisions. These have among other things given effect to the provisions of the International Labour Convention relating to contracts of employment and have provided for increased wages and overtime pay, the

complete elimination of imprisonment for breaches of contract, compensation for incapacity incurred as a result of accidents at work and the posting of a Nigerian Labour Officer in the island. The latest of the revised agreements was negotiated as a result of my visit in 1956 (*Hear, hear*). It will be ratified this month and published. Certain of its provisions are already in force. The agreement is, I believe, of mutual benefit to both countries.

I have seen the criticisms of labour conditions and of our organisation in the island that have been made in recent months. Much that has been said is, to my knowledge, misinformed and inaccurate. I cannot in the time now at my disposal take up each of these individual criticisms, analyse it and answer it. But I would like to give the House the general assurance that I will spare no efforts in investigating and acting upon any specific and proven instances of ill-treatment or mismanagement that are brought to my notice. (*Hear, hear*).

I should stress that while the Labour Agreements are agreements between the two Governments, the contracts of employment made under the agreement are contracts between individual workers and their employers. As in any country there are good employers and bad employers. Of one thing I am satisfied and that is of the sincere desire of the Spanish Government to honour the terms of its agreement with us and to co-operate with our representatives in the island to see that contracts are fulfilled and malpractices stopped. I might mention that in one case, upon a complaint being lodged by our representative concerning the beating of a labourer by his employer, the matter was immediately investigated by the Spanish Authorities and on the case being proved, the Manager of the Estate was not only heavily fined, but his permit to reside in Fernando Po was revoked and he was ordered to take the next boat home. In other cases where ill-treatment has been established, recruitment to particular farms has been prohibited either by the Spanish Authorities or by the Federal Government. Regular reports are received in my Ministry from our representative on the island and action is taken on all matters that appear to be unsatisfactory.

When my Eastern colleagues and I visited the island the Spanish Government gave us every facility to see conditions for ourselves and there was frank discussion between us. As I

previously informed the House, no roads were barred and we were able to mix and talk freely with the workers. I am sure that the same facilities will be made available to us again. If as a result of what is seen by the delegation it is found that any conditions are unsatisfactory a full report will be made to this House.

In conclusion I would like to make one further point. Fernando Po is a foreign state and, just as no Minister from a foreign state has the right to demand that he should be permitted to inspect conditions in Nigeria, so too we have no right to insist on ministerial visits to other countries. Such visits usually take place by invitation arranged through diplomatic channels. I have never found the Spanish Authorities reluctant to receive me and I regard the invitation which the Governor-General of the Spanish Province of the Gulf of Guinea has extended to us as further evidence of his Government's desire faithfully to implement the agreement drawn up between us. (*Applause*).

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

O.375. M. Abubakar Garba asked the Minister of Lagos Affairs, Mines and Power :—

When Bauchi will be supplied with electricity ?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Lagos Affairs, Mines and Power : The Electricity Corporation of Nigeria has no plans at present for providing Bauchi with electricity.

***O.336. Mr G. O. D. Eneh** asked the Minister of Education :—

How many Nigerians are now studying in each of the following places : Canadian Universities, the United Kingdom, the Continent of Europe, the United States, India and Pakistan, Egypt and Japan, and in the U.S.S.R.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Education : It will take some time to obtain accurate figures in respect of the details which the hon. Member requires. I am, however, taking steps to obtain this information and as soon as it is available it will be circulated in the Official Report.

***O.373. M. Abubakar Garba** asked the Minister of Education :—

If he will state the cost of training a student to qualify as (a) a doctor, (b) an engineer, (c) an

agricultural officer, and (d) a veterinary officer, in (i) University College, Ibadan, (ii) the United Kingdom and (iii) the United States of America, assuming that the training is done in the minimum possible time.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Education : To give an accurate answer to this question will involve a considerable amount of research. As soon as the information is available I will communicate it to the hon. Member and ask for its publication in the Official Report.

*O.374. **M. Abubakar Garba** asked the Minister of Education :—

How many candidates of the Northern Region origin have in the last three years been awarded Federal Scholarships for study in British and American Universities and Technical Institutions, and what are the corresponding figures for the Western and Eastern Regions, the Southern Cameroons and the Federal Territory of Lagos.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Education : Records of Scholarship awards are not maintained on a Regional, Provincial or Divisional basis. The details which the hon. Member requires have been published in the *Official Gazettes* and the relevant issues are :—

- 1955 .. Government Notice No. 2090 in *Official Gazette* No. 42, Volume 42 dated 22nd September, 1955.
- 1956 .. Government Notice No. 1763 in *Official Gazette* No. 57, Volume 43, dated 27th September, 1956.
- 1957 .. Government Notice No. 1520 in *Official Gazette* No. 46, Volume 44, dated 22nd August, 1957.

At this juncture, Mr Speaker, I wish to refer hon. Members to the provisions of Standing Order No. 12, subsection 9 which states that a question, the answer to which is already available in the official publication shall not be asked.

Supplementary to O.374.

M. Maitama Sule (Kano City): Mr Speaker, Sir, we are not aware of the total number of scholarships and their distribution and how many there are from each Region.

The Private Secretary to the Ministry of Education : Mr Speaker, Sir, the first paragraph of my answer covers that. I said that records of Scholarship awards are not maintained on a Regional, Provincial or Divisional basis.

Mr L. J. Dosunmu (Lagos East): Will the Hon. the Minister agree that in the application forms filled by candidates they are expected to disclose their origin and from these he can supply the answer to the question ?

Ministerial Statement

The Private Secretary to the Ministry of Education : The figures are wanted for the purpose of records in the Ministry and scholarships are not awarded on this basis.

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Dr the hon. K. O. Mbadiwe): Mr Speaker, Sir, I wish to make a brief statement about the Bill to prevent dumping which was published in the *Gazette* of the 29th August. The Ordinance is to be called the Customs (Dumped and Subsidised Goods) Ordinance. Originally it was the Government's intention to introduce it at the present meeting of the House. Then we thought that members and the commercial community would wish to have rather more time in which to consider it. So I propose now to give a brief explanation of what it sets out to do and how it sets out to do it. When the Bill is introduced at the next meeting of the House members will have had time to study it with care and will be in a better position to debate it.

What is meant by the expression "dumped goods" and "subsidised goods" is explained in the Bill, but it may help members to hear why it is that these practices are harmful. Goods are not described as "dumped" by an exporting country just because they are cheaper than similar goods from other countries. Such goods may be cheaper because the people who make them are paid lower wages or because they use more efficient machines and methods. From the point of view of the importing country cheapness is a good thing because it means the customer has to pay less money than otherwise, for his shirts, for example or for his shoes. But sometimes goods are brought to this country and sold to importers at a price which is *below the costs of production*. It may well be asked: why ever should anyone do such a thing? How can it profit the exporter and why does he do it? There are two main kinds of reason.

In the first case, it may suit the private plans of a large manufacturer to make a temporary loss on goods sold in Nigeria—this is “dumping”. This would enable him to capture the market by driving his competitors out of business. Then later, when he had got the market to himself he would put up his prices and people in Nigeria would have to pay whatever prices he asked, or do without, since competition had been killed. Obviously to do this a manufacturer or exporter would have to be very wealthy and powerful. This is quite possible in these days, for in many countries industry is owned by the Government and the Government can run industries at a loss, if necessary, for much longer than could be done by a private enterprise. Some Governments also have political motives for getting a foothold in countries like Nigeria. They are not so much interested in trade, as in getting their agents here so that they could, at some future date, trouble and weaken the Government. So I think it will be agreed that it is the duty of the Federal Government to prevent harmful “dumping” by whatever motive it is inspired.

The second kind of reason for goods being sold abroad at artificially low prices is this. Some countries have difficulty in selling their goods abroad because they are too dear. Yet they must obtain foreign exchange somehow in order to pay for essential imports. A common practice in these circumstances is for the Government to subsidise exports. That is, they make it possible for a manufacturer or exporter to sell goods abroad for less than the price they would charge in the home market. This is done in various ways which I need not go into. It does not necessarily harm us here, unless the price charged is so low that the subsidised goods drive similar goods from other countries out of the market. Then, when the “subsidy” is taken off, people here would find that they had no choice but to pay a very high price or do without—in the same way as with dumped goods.

Now, I think it will be clear that dumping and subsidising of goods will not always be harmful to us. It may be that occasionally we shall just get goods at bargain prices. But bargains are always a bit suspicious and it will generally be found that someone's interests have been damaged. If similar goods are made in Nigeria, then local industry will be hurt. If importers have stocks on their hands, and someone comes along with a

large cargo of dumped goods, then they will suffer a loss through being unable to sell their goods at a fair profit. Finally, the customer himself may suffer in the way I have explained. After a short time of low prices, he may find himself obliged to pay much higher prices than ever before.

I think Members will agree that the Government should protect all local industries and legitimate commerce from *unfair* competition—and I must stress the word *unfair*. That is what this Ordinance will do. The method proposed is very simple. The Government will be empowered to impose extra duties on dumped goods. As a result they will be made more expensive and there will be no object in continuing to send them here. Actually the very fact that the Government has such powers which it can use quickly will probably be sufficient to deter people from even trying to dump goods in Nigeria.

I shall say no more, Sir, about the Bill except that it is in accordance with Nigeria's international obligations under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade and the best possible advice has been taken in drafting it to make sure that it is an efficient instrument.

AT THE COMMENCEMENT OF PUBLIC BUSINESS

STANDING ORDERS (AMENDMENT)

The Prime Minister (Alhaji the hon. Abubakar Tafawa Balewa): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to move That this day, notwithstanding anything contained in Standing Order 54, the quorum of the Standing Orders Committee shall be Mr Speaker, the Deputy Speaker and one other member of the Committee.”

This is simply to allow the Committee or the quorum of the Committee to meet in connection with a Motion which I moved yesterday.

Sir, I beg to move.

The Minister of Transport (The hon. R. A. Njoku): Sir, I beg to Second.

Question proposed.

Mr Jaja A. Wachuku (Aba): Mr Speaker, Sir, Standing Order 4 (1) stipulates the number of persons who shall be members of the Standing Orders Committee, and further that four members other than the Speaker and the Deputy Speaker, then the Attorney-General

when he used to be here, four members other than members of the Council of Ministers should be on it.

According to Standing Order 4 (3), the quorum of the Standing Orders Committee shall be the Speaker, the Deputy Speaker and the three members. Now, Sir, the Prime Minister's proposition is that instead of these two, we are now reducing it to one, other than the Speaker and the Deputy Speaker, one member. The Prime Minister's amendment is in effect that a Member of the Council of Ministers should take the place of the Attorney-General, that is, it should be the Deputy Speaker, the Speaker, and, say, a member of the Council of Ministers who can transact business.

I think the purpose of having four members, not Members of the Council of Ministers, but Members of the floor, is to safeguard the interests of this House. There has been no suggestion that it has been impossible to get the Standing Orders Committee to be attended by two Members of this House out of four. I feel that to whittle it down now to the number required by the Prime Minister will gradually reduce the Standing Orders Committee to a kind of Committee on which the House does not have effective representation.

The Prime Minister : This is required for one day only.

Mr Jaja Wachuku : Even for one day, Mr Speaker, I think we are commissioned Members in this House. If those Members were not attending meetings of the Committee they should tell us.

Mr Speaker : May I just point out that the wording of the last composition was Mr Speaker or the Deputy Speaker in the ordinary event, not a quorum of four.

The Prime Minister : If the Speaker will allow me to reply to the hon. Member. Unfortunately the hon. Member was not in the House when I moved the Motion yesterday. If he was he would understand the urgency of this Motion. It was moved, Sir, so that we could have a quorum for the Standing Orders Committee to meet. We had business coming before the Standing Orders Committee and we could not delay the business of the House or the Standing Orders Committee simply because some Members decide not to be in the House.

I am very sorry that the hon. Member was not in the House and I think the Motion was perfectly in order and clear (*Applause*).

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved : That this day, notwithstanding anything contained in Standing Order 54, the quorum of the Standing Orders Committee shall be Mr Speaker, the Deputy Speaker and one other Member of the Committee.

NOTICES OF MOTIONS AND ORDERS OF THE DAY

CUSTOMS (DUTIES AND EXEMPTIONS)

The Prime Minister (Alhaji the hon. Abubakar Tafawa Balewa): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to move the resolution standing in my name for the confirmation of the recent Customs Duties Order increasing the export duty on bananas from 3*d* to 1*s* per ton bunch.

Sir, Section 10 of the Customs Ordinance provides that the Governor-General in Council may, by order, make interim amendments to the tariff setting out the rates of import and export duty. Such interim arrangements expire, however, unless confirmed, amended or revoked by a resolution of this House after four days from, and within fifty-six days of, the date of their publication.

The reasons for increasing export duty on bananas are, firstly, that it is only equitable that the banana industry should pay a rate of duty comparable to that imposed on other export crops. Secondly, the need of the Government of the Southern Cameroons to receive additional revenue.

As for the first reason, hon. Members are doubtless aware that whilst the rate of export duty on groundnuts, cocoa and palm produce fluctuates according to price actually received for the commodity, it does not fall below 10 per cent of the value. Over the last three years the value of banana exports has averaged £2,500,000, on which the duty paid averaged nearly £50,000, which is equivalent to *ad valorem* duty of slightly less than 2 per cent.

Government has given consideration to the imposition of *ad valorem* duty on bananas but, as it appears that such a duty would be hard to administer, we feel that the optimum position would be an increase in the duty to 1*s* per ton bunch, which will yield a rate approximately 8 per cent at present prices.

Under the existing revenue allocation arrangements, practically the whole additional revenue arising from this increase estimated at from £75,000 to £100,000 a year will accrue to the Government of the Southern Cameroons. Sir, I need not enlarge on the need of that Government for additional revenue but I would confirm that that Government strongly recommends that this increase in duty should be made.

Sir, I beg to move.

The Minister of Commerce and Industries (Dr the hon. K. O. Mbadiwe): Sir, I beg to second.

Question proposed.

Chief T. T. Solaru (Ijebu East): Mr Speaker, the intention of the Motion made by the Prime Minister is no doubt admirable, and one could only hope that the increase in export duty on bananas would not lead to our bananas being too dear in overseas markets and unable to compete with bananas from other parts of the world.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved: That, in accordance with section 11 of the Customs Ordinance, the Customs (Duties and Exemptions) (Amendment No. 3) Order, 1957, be confirmed.

CUSTOMS (DUTIES AND EXEMPTIONS)

The Prime Minister: Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to move the resolution standing in my name for the confirmation of a recent Customs Duties Order which introduced certain changes in the Customs tariff with effect from Saturday, the 7th of September, 1957.

As I have already mentioned in my speech in the resolution to increase the export duty on bananas, such orders require the confirmation of this House between four and fifty-six days after the date of their publication.

I wish to make it clear, Sir, to hon. Members that the object of the changes now before the House is not to raise additional revenue: their effect on revenue would be negligible. The majority of the changes are, however, routine amendments designed to tidy up and clarify the Customs Tariff and to give legal sanction to certain practices which are already being followed by administrative arrangements.

Two amendments to Part I of the Tariff—amendment to Item 43 of Part 3 of the Tariff,

and the insertion of a new Item 12A in Part 3 of the Tariff—all arise in connection with one clause on imports, namely, Certain Materials. Honourable Members will recall that this House agreed in March of this year to the amendment of Item 43 of Part 3 of the Tariff in order to give effect to the recommendation of the Committee on the stimulation of industrial development that relief on import duty on certain materials be instituted to help Nigerian manufacturers to compete with their overseas rivals. Experience shows, however, that the wording of the amendment approved in the last meeting of the House was too narrow and certain articles, such as medicine bottles and crates containing machines, which had previously been exempt from duty legally became liable to duty.

As it would have been contrary to the clear wishes of this House to collect duty in such cases, the previous Government continued to grant exemption by administrative arrangement. The recent amendment, Sir, corrects the legal position.

The remaining six amendments all affect Part 3 of the Tariff. The first of them extends exemptions under Item 15—cordage, rope and twine of all materials. On a strict legal interpretation, rope made of steel wire or nylon was not previously exempt. The second amendment provides that fire bricks, fire clay and fire cement and furnace cement should all be exempt from import duty. When these commodities are imported initially as an adjunct to, for instance, boilers, they are automatically exempt and it would appear only equitable that when they are imported as replacements they should similarly be exempt.

Thirdly, a slight amendment, Item 34, makes it quite clear that operators and appliances coming within the category of (a) to (m) of that Item are exempt from duty even if they are not actually machinery. Examples of these items for which the position is now clarified are portable oil burners and scrabbles.

The fourth amendment is merely an extension of the existing policy that all articles associated with the printing trade, other than the paper on which printing is finally carried out, should be exempt from import duty. The various printing firms use a monotype casting, which requires, as an integral part of the process of printing, a certain type of spool paper. This paper would be quite useless for

final printing for publication and the amendment is, therefore designed to permit the exemption of such spool paper from duty.

Fifthly, under Item 53 (10) exemption of rice from import duty has been confined for some years to rice in the grain and the amendment merely makes this quite clear.

Finally, Sir, it is proposed that a new Item 57A should be inserted in order to exempt packages containing spoken messages in the sense of personal verbal communications recorded on tape or wire. Such messages are, I understand, already exempt from duty in the United Kingdom and if they are, in effect, only a more personal method of communication than a written letter, and written letters are naturally not subject to any import duty, it is only logical that this item should be added to the list of exemptions.

Sir, I beg to move.

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Dr the hon. K. O. Mbadiwe): I beg to second, Sir.

Question proposed.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved: That in accordance with section 11 of the Customs Ordinance, the Customs (Duties and Exemptions) (Amendment No. 4) Order, 1957, be confirmed.

FACTORIES (SANITARY ACCOMMODATION) REGULATIONS

The Minister of Labour and Welfare (Chief F. S. Okotie-Eboh): Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move the Motion standing in my name on the Order Paper: That this House, in pursuance of the provisions of section 72 (2) of the Factories Ordinance, 1955, approves the Factories (Sanitary Accommodation) Regulations, 1957, made under section 18 of that Ordinance.

Sir, before touching on the question of these Regulations, I would like to make a brief reference to the results achieved in the first year's operation of the Factories Ordinance.

Honourable Members will recall that the Ordinance became effective on the 1st September, 1956. The Ordinance is in effect a piece of parent legislation and in it provisions exist for the extension and implementation of its terms by order and regulation from time to time as the need becomes apparent. It is as the result of the growth of our experience and

from what we learn by applying the provisions of the Ordinance that we can determine what further provisions will be necessary.

The Ordinance having been in operation for one year, it is now possible to take stock of the situation and determine what is necessary to broaden the scope of its application.

737 premises in which 60,446 persons are employed are on the register of factories and, although much requires to be done to educate both employers and workers on the obligations imposed on them, the general picture is one to cause satisfaction. I am glad to say that the Factory Inspectors have encountered a spirit of co-operation when they have visited factories and although the degree of effort made by occupiers to remedy breaches of the Ordinance varied considerably, it is noteworthy to mention that the majority of them had taken positive steps to put their premises in order. In the larger and modern factories machinery adequately guarded has been installed. To assist employers and workers safety posters have been prepared with the invaluable co-operation of the Federal Information Service and have been widely distributed; a short Guide to the Factories Ordinance has also been published and has had a wide circulation.

As regards the welfare provisions of the Ordinance, a great contrast has been observed in the provision of welfare amenities by occupiers. They range from the provision of elaborate welfare buildings in which locker rooms, club rooms, bathing facilities and canteens are provided, down to those places of work where employers have as yet provided nothing for their workers. The First Aid Boxes (Prescribed Standards) Order, 1956, came into force on the 1st April, 1957, and lays down the minimum standards for the contents of first aid boxes which employers must provide. An Order scheduling occupational diseases occurring in factories was made in September 1956. The Order requires an occupier of a factory to notify a factory inspector in the case of a worker employed by him developing a disease that is contained in the schedule to the Order.

Members will recollect that in this year's Budget Session I informed the House that it was my intention to introduce regulations to safeguard the working conditions of dock workers. Draft Regulations have already been prepared but owing to the complexities of the

matter I am not yet in a position to lay them before the House. I hope to do so early next year.

Sir, I now turn to the Sanitary Accommodation Regulations which is the purpose of this Motion. A copy of the Regulations has been circulated to Members of this House. The purpose of the Regulations is self-evident. The provision of adequate and suitable sanitary conveniences is a fundamental necessity where workers are employed in close proximity to one another. The standards set are reasonable and I consider them to be an obligation that an employer of labour in a factory should be expected to provide.

I would like to add that my Federal Labour Advisory Council has had the opportunity of studying these Regulations and have recommended their making.

In the administration of these Regulations it is important that close liaison should be established with local medical officers of health in each district and that any matters calling for professional advice in relation to the application of the Regulations should be referred at once to the medical authorities. Accordingly a Guide to Factory Inspectors has been issued which clearly lays down the division of responsibility between Factory Inspectors and the medical authorities. This Guide has been prepared in consultation with the medical authorities and both the Regulations and the Guide are acceptable to the Regional Governments.

It will be noted that the Regulations do not come into operation before the 1st March, 1958. I have considered it necessary to allow a sufficient time to enable occupiers to conform with the provisions of the Regulations.

And, Sir, before concluding, I would like to pay special tribute, not only to the big companies, but also to the small African companies in the country which have co-operated with my Department to see that the Factories Ordinance is of immense benefit to the workers of this country.

Mr Speaker, I beg to move. (*Applause*).

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Dr K. O. Mbadiwe): Sir, I beg to second.

Question proposed.

Dr E. O. Awduche (Onitsha): Mr Speaker, I seize this opportunity to congratulate the Minister of Labour and Welfare for his

Factories Ordinance which has proved so very popular with both employers and employees throughout this Federation. This Motion before the House is absolutely non-contentious and I recommend it to all sides of the House. The sanitary provisions made in the Regulations are quite adequate and within the financial limits of the employers who would have to provide them.

There is only one omission which I notice in the Regulations, and that is the absence of penalty for those who fail to comply with these Regulations.

With these observations, Sir, I beg to support.

The Minister of Labour and Welfare (Chief F. S. Okotie-Eboh): Mr Speaker, the penalty for it is provided in the general body of the parent Regulations.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved: That the Factories (Sanitary Accommodation) Regulations, 1957, a copy of which was laid before this House on the 10th September, be approved.

PRODUCE INSPECTION (RUBBER AND
GROUNDNUTS) (AMENDMENT)
REGULATIONS⁴

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Dr the hon. K. O. Mbadiwe): Mr Speaker, I beg to move the Motion standing in my name on the Order Paper which invites the House to approve Regulations made under the Produce Inspection Ordinance. The Regulations in question are the Groundnuts (Inspection for Export) (Amendment) Regulations, 1956 and the Rubber (Inspection for Export) (Amendment) Regulations, 1956. The Regulations have been made by virtue of powers vested in the Produce Inspection Board under section 8 of the Produce Inspection Ordinance, which allows the Board to make regulations for a wide variety of purposes. Once made, such regulations must be laid upon the Table of each House of Assembly and House of Chiefs and thereafter approved by the House of Representatives at its next meeting. This House need not, of course, approve that. It may, if it sees fit, amend or revoke that. But they cannot be laid before this House before they have been on the Table of the Regions. The Regulations with which this Motion is concerned have both been laid before the Houses of Assembly and the Houses

of Chiefs. The Regional Houses are entitled to comment if they wish, but in these cases they have not done so.

Members have copies of the regulations. The groundnut regulations are merely a clarification of technical terms, but the rubber ones are more interesting. Until last year, the big plantations were allowed to grade their own sheet rubber for export; all other rubber had to be graded by the Produce Inspection Service at some inconvenience to the exporter. As a result of the Calver-Ash Report, these regulations were introduced after full discussion with every one concerned. All the firms named may now grade their own sheet rubber for export without reference to the produce inspection service. If, however, reports of misgrading are received and proved on investigation to be true, the culprits may be removed from the list by the produce inspection board. This will operate as a powerful sanction against wrong grading by exporters. A number of bad reports have been received and are now being investigated, but in general the new system seems to be working reasonably well and should prove more satisfactory than the old one, both to the local shippers and overseas buyers of our rubber.

Sir, I beg to move.

The Minister of Transport (Hon. R. A. Njoku): Sir, I beg to second.

Question proposed.

M. Haruna, Wakilin Daji (Daura): Mr Speaker, in supporting this Motion I would like to say one or two words, particularly on groundnuts. Firstly, Sir, I want to inform this House that the price of groundnut at last year's season was not favourable to the farmers, nor to the buyers, because the producer price paid last season here in Nigeria was much less than what is being paid in neighbouring countries. Mr Speaker, I should like to remind the House that if the Marketing Board could not compete with the neighbouring countries to buy our groundnuts at a fair price, it will be only a small profit but a great loss because, whenever the price is fixed less than in neighbouring countries, Sir, most of our groundnuts will be taken outside Nigeria. I feel, Sir, that if our selling company sells our groundnuts at the world market price, I cannot understand the reason why the marketing board could not compete with the neighbouring countries to buy our groundnuts at fair prices.

Mr Speaker, Sir, although whenever that happens the Government prevents selling outside Nigeria, I feel that that will not do, unless the marketing board competes with the other countries. All that I am trying to point out, Sir, is that the Marketing Board must compete, otherwise we shall lose most of our revenue from groundnuts.

There is another thing also which I would like to inform the House. In some places buyers of groundnuts always complain that they are afraid to buy groundnuts because there are no produce inspectors to help them in buying those. . . .

Mr Speaker: The Minister of Commerce and Industry has informed me that this is a Regional subject, and it is not proper to debate it here. I am afraid if that is so I must call the hon. Member to order.

M. Haruna: Thank you, Sir, for your explanation. I am just giving an example; it is not only for the Northern Region, Sir.

I am very grateful, Sir, and I will reserve my comments for the proper place.

Chief S. J. Mariere (Urhobo East): Mr Speaker, I rise to support this Motion and to congratulate the Minister for the steps which he has taken to bring this Motion before this hon. House. I come from the rubber producing areas and we have had a lot of headache from the method of inspection of rubber for export.

Sir, there is no scientific method by which rubber was being inspected. It was a question of opinion of the produce inspector as to which is B2 and which is A1, and a lot of personal opinions have been a set-back to rubber producers. Now that it is considered by the Government to extend the facilities given to some big firms to other small producers to grade their rubber by themselves, it will help to increase production, and I am happy that this Motion has been brought to this House.

Mr Speaker, I beg to support.

Chief T. T. Solaru (Ijebu East): Mr Speaker, Sir, while we congratulate the Minister for this greater measure of responsibility being devolved upon African and expatriate firms, one would hesitate or, rather, one would like to seek the assurance of the Minister that sufficient care will be exercised so that irreparable damage is not done to our reputation abroad by careless grading. Even where a whole battalion of produce inspectors examine

and pass our produce, cases have been known where adulteration had been carried on even under the noses of these inspectors. Well, this is not to do any damage to our reputation, but human nature being what it is, I do hope that there will be some measure, at any rate some steps, of counter-checking somehow so that we can stop the damage before it is done.

It has been said that there is no scientific method of grading rubber. That is a matter of opinion. I dare say, Sir, that in these things whether it is an art or whether it is a science, long experience of grading rubber would have evolved a measure, some method of grading would have been stabilised during the years, and it is only the man who has experience of these things, who can talk about them. Unless, of course, the last speaker could tell me that he has worked in the produce inspection department and therefore he had every thing at his finger tips, I think it will be wrong to think it is a matter of opinion.

The method of preparation of rubber might be one, the colour of it, the texture of it might be one, and people who would study these things are really qualified to talk about them. My main concern is that in giving a greater measure of responsibility to our people we should not do damage to our reputation abroad.

Mr A. E. Ukattah (Bende): Mr Speaker, there is nothing controversial about this Motion. I only wish to congratulate the Minister of Commerce and Industry because, in my maiden speech here in 1955, I mentioned the inconvenience and the difficulties experienced by rubber producers in this country, and that was due to the fact that I was able to investigate to see the amount of time that was lost when rubber grading was left in the hands of the rubber inspection department.

Now that an opportunity has been given to the exporters to carry out their own grading, I am almost sure it will result in improvement in the quality of the rubber exported, and that in turn will increase the revenue of this country. And therefore, Mr Speaker, I am happy that this is done.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved: That the Rubber (Inspection for Export) (Amendment) Regulations, 1956, and Groundnuts (Inspection for Export) (Amendment No. 2) Regulations, 1956, copies of which were laid before this House on the 9th September, be approved.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

SHIPPING AND NAVIGATION (AMENDMENT) (NO. 2) BILL

Order for Second Reading read.

The Minister of Transport (Hon. R. A. Njoku): Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move, That A Bill for an Ordinance to amend the Shipping and Navigation Ordinance (Cap. 206 of the Revised Edition of the Laws, 1948) be now read a second time.

This Bill makes important contributions towards the development of traffic by inland waterways, and of employment for Nigerians at sea. The first clause is concerned merely with the Bill's application. Clause 2, and the first sub-clause in clause 4, contain amendments necessitated by a transfer of responsibility between Ministries in the United Kingdom.

Before the war the Board of Trade dealt with shipping matters, during the war its functions in this respect devolved on the Ministry of War Transport, and in these days they are assigned to the Ministry of Transport and Civil Aviation. This latter Ministry in the United Kingdom lays down standards which are accepted by consent throughout the Commonwealth.

The amendment in clause 3 of the Bill arises out of the changes in the organisation of the Nigerian Courts which have attended constitutional development. Members will see that reference in the original law was made to the Supreme Court. The various High Courts of the Regions have got jurisdiction in this matter, and amendments have been made in that respect. So far the effect of the Bill is purely formal; the first of the significant departures which it will bring about emerges from the second sub-clause in clause 4.

Hitherto section 26 (b) of the Shipping and Navigation Ordinance, that is, the main Ordinance, has provided for the granting of certificates of competency to river masters, boatswains, quartermasters, and engine drivers. Under section 39 (1) (c) it has been obligatory for launches more than 26 feet long, or of over twenty horse power, to carry a quartermaster as well as an engine driver; in smaller launches, if designed in such a way that one man might safely control them, one man qualified both as quartermaster and engine driver has been enough.

The requirements which a man must fulfil before he can be granted a certificate as a quartermaster or engine driver are exacting, and it is right that they should be so, since in either capacity he has a heavy responsibility for the safety of the travelling public. The qualifications demanded are indeed rather more than is necessary for those who handle relatively small craft, but while Nigerians could not afford to own such craft this imposed no additional hardship. During the last few years, however, the operations of the Federal Government's experimental boatyard at Opobo, and other similar institutions like Epe and Lokoja have brought the price of small passenger and freight carrying craft within the means of enterprising people in this country; but it has been difficult to man the craft which they have bought in conformity with the regulations as they exist now, partly because people with the requisite qualifications are few and far between, and partly because of the high wages which would have to be paid for them.

Clause 4 (ii) of the Bill will create two new categories of persons eligible to man river craft, known as "rivermen" and "motormen." A riverman will be not less than 21 years of age, and will have served for not less than two years as a deckhand in powered craft. He will be of good character, literate, and hold a medical certificate that his eyesight is without serious defect. He will have a satisfactory knowledge of helm orders, the meaning of navigational lights and sound signals, of collision regulations, navigational rules, and the use of lifesaving and firefighting appliances.

Motormen will be not less than 18 years of age, and similarly qualified with regard to character. They will have served as greaser or second driver for at least a year, and be able to operate, maintain, and repair the types of engine with which they will have to deal. Naturally also they will have to understand the use of firefighting appliances.

In contrast, a quartermaster must have served for not less than four years as a deckhand in powered craft, and the standard of his professional knowledge must be substantially higher than that which will be required of a riverman. An engine driver must serve a formal apprenticeship, and be competent to work engines of a more complicated and powerful type than those to which motormen will be confined.

Clause 5 of the Bill markedly widens the class of craft which need not carry quartermasters or engine drivers, in that it exempts from so doing launches less than 50 feet long and of less than 40 horse power, as against launches less than 26 feet long and of less than 20 horse power as hitherto. Henceforward launches, that is, powered craft, less than 50 feet long and of less than 40 horse power will be allowed to ply if manned by a riverman and a motorman or, if they are specially designed for the purpose, by a single individual qualified both as riverman and motorman. I must say that I am satisfied that this arrangement will not be prejudicial to safety, and it has been warmly welcomed by the Regional authorities concerned.

Clauses 6 and 7 of the Bill are consequential on the measures which I have already described. Clause 8 removes an anomaly in the main Ordinance, which up to now has purported to let a licensing officer, at his discretion, register a boat which he did not consider seaworthy.

It remains for me to draw the attention of the House to clause 4 (iii), which will make it possible for Nigerian ratings to obtain certificates as Able Seamen in this country, with all that this implies as regards status and pay. An Able Seaman's certificate is recognised throughout the world and within the Commonwealth the qualifications for it are based on the requirements of the United Kingdom Ministry of Transport and Civil Aviation. Hitherto Nigerians desiring the certificate have had to take the examination abroad, and this has inevitably been a serious obstacle in their way. The House, I am sure, will learn with satisfaction that this obstacle is now to be removed.

I am quite sure that this Bill will commend itself to all sides of this House and particularly to those Members in whose constituencies water transport is not ordinarily a pleasure but an absolute necessity.

Sir, I beg to move.

The Minister of Education (Hon. Aja Nwachuku): I beg to second.

Question proposed.

Chief J. I. G. Onyia (Asaba): Mr Speaker, Sir, this is a commendable measure to protect the lives of the people particularly now that the river launches are on the increase as evidenced on the Niger between Asaba and Onitsha, consequent upon production of more launches from Opobo Boatyard.

Sir, there are some reckless incompetent rivermen and motormen who know little or nothing or care little about the lives of passengers. I hope that a competent authority will always be on the wharf to see that the seamen do possess certificates of competency and to check them from time to time.

One would have liked to know what the A.B. stands for in this Bill. I do not know whether it means "Able Men" or "Able Service Men", but we all agree the granting of certificate of competency is "A.B."... (*Interruption*)....

Mr Speaker: Those letters actually do not appear in the Bill; they are in the "objects and reasons". They are not in the Bill which we are discussing now.

Chief Onyia: Well, Mr Speaker, the competency, industry and humanitarian activities of the Inland Waterways men between Asaba and Onitsha in saving lives and helping those in difficulties on the Niger need not go unrecorded here.

Sir, I beg to support.

Mr E. O. Awduche (Onitsha): Mr Speaker, while I welcome this Bill, I would like to point out that the possession of these certificates of competency is not really an assurance that the lives of passengers are secure. There ought to be some system of inspection such as happens with, say, the motor traffic, to guard against overloading and over-speeding. The mere fact that a motor driver or a boatman has a certificate is no guarantee as to his carefulness or his precautions against accidents taking place during the course of his duties. I am suggesting, Sir, that some form of traffic inspection be instituted to have a system of water police patrolling the most often used parts of rivers such as Chief Onyia has just said, between Asaba and Onitsha.

Furthermore, Sir, I wish to point out that in licensing canoes, the licensing officers should be very strict over putting out dugout canoes. Most of them might look sound on the face of them, but by the mere nature of these canoes, they are very likely to break up in the middle of the water. I hope that the Department of Commerce and Industry will try to produce even smaller canoes, not necessarily powered, smaller canoes which will be strong enough to carry loads and being paddled in the old way so as to ensure safety of passengers travelling on water.

Sir, I beg to support.

Rev. E. S. Bens (Brass): Mr Speaker, Sir, I want to seize this opportunity to congratulate the Minister of Transport for this Bill. As mentioned earlier, Mr Speaker, Sir, hitherto those of us who have the privilege of running shipping industry find it very difficult, absolutely difficult, to staff our boats on the facts that, firstly, the qualification required does not give us sufficient men to cope with the number of boats that we are getting, and secondly, Sir, because they are highly qualified, they demand higher wages which, as you know, minor industries will not be able to cope with, especially when we start to carry out these industries.

So, I am sure that this Bill is going to alleviate the troubles that we have been meeting with, and I shall seize this opportunity of drawing the attention of the Minister of Transport to this—whether the time has not come to prohibit or restrict our out-board motors from carrying passengers in these areas. I am speaking particularly of the distance between Port Harcourt and Brass. The distance is too long and out-board motors cannot certainly cope with passenger service.

Mr Speaker, I beg to support.

Mr N. A. Ezonbodor (Western Ijaw): Mr Speaker, Sir, I would like to seize this opportunity to thank the Minister concerned that this is a step forward to helping the seamen in this country.

I would like to point out that I do not see with the last speaker that the out-board motor should be prohibited from carrying passengers. Mr Speaker, Sir, you know our Delta areas have been crying for these boats, and it is only recently that we got these out-board engines, and they are helping the people greatly; so that you cannot expect everybody to run the big steamers.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I do oppose the suggestion, and I have to thank the Minister again. This is the first time that we have talked about the seamen in this country. Our seamen are suffering greatly and nobody has talked of them before. The articles they sign here are not articles made in Nigeria; they are articles made abroad, and all the laws they are following are laws made outside and not within Nigeria. So I am appealing to the Minister to see about the welfare of the seamen in this country.

Another point is that I thank the Minister for extending the Creek mail services from Lagos to Trofani, a point which I made in this House. I do not want to mention any names yet, but people who are manning that ship should be people from the locality who understand the feelings of the people so that they know what to do. And then the fare they pay—there are several complaints which I do not want to make yet about this, but I would like the Minister to see about it. With these few remarks, I support the Bill.

Chief T. T. Solaru (Ijebu East): Mr Speaker, just one point. I was very happy to hear the Minister, in introducing this Bill, mention that among other qualifications there will be one of character. He has not told us how that is going to be assessed, but I do hope that the yardstick that would be used would include one of sobriety. It seems to me that the river areas are the stronghold of illicit distillation, and that is where the danger lies. If the yardstick would include sobriety, that is abstinence from drinking, at least immediately before duty or during busy hours, I would be a very happy man. . . . (*Interruptions*).

The Rev. E. S. Bens (Brass): On a point of order, Sir, people who drink are not found mostly in the creek areas. . . . (*Interruption.*)

Mr Speaker: I did not call the hon. Member on a point of explanation but on a point of order.

Chief Solaru: I was only trying to safeguard the lives of the people in the river areas where swimming and drinking go hand in hand. We would not like people's lives to be under the guidance of a drinking motor man or frog man. Accidents do happen, but if they happen let them be of the type that could not have been prevented, not the type that happens when one has taken a glass too much.

Therefore, Mr Speaker, I am appealing that sobriety should be one of the factors to be taken into consideration in these matters.

Question, That the Bill be now read a Second Time, put and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read a Second Time and committed to a Committee of the whole House.

Bill immediately considered in Committee.

(In the Committee)

Clauses 1 to 3 agreed to.

Clause 4.

Mr Jaja A. Wachuku (Aba): Mr Chairman, Sir, on clause 4, I would like the Minister to

explain why one of the qualifications is that a person shall be *literate*. He did not say whether he means *literate* in English or in whatever language. *Literacy* does not explain the position.

Secondly, Sir, I would like the Minister to explain to my hon. Friend, Chief Onyia, the meaning of AB. Chief Onyia does not know it.

The Rev. E. S. Bens (Brass): Furthermore, Sir, I would like the Minister to consider whether it is not advisable to reduce the age of a Quartermaster, which is prescribed as 21, to the same age as that of a Motorman, which is 18. I think that a person who is eighteen years of age is strong enough to man a boat less than fifty feet long and whose horse power is less than 40.

The Minister of Transport (Hon. R. A. Njoku): Mr Chairman, I take it that *literate* means literate in the language in which, in the normal execution of the particular person's duties, he is bound to come into contact with. There are normally navigational signs, and these are written in a certain language. A person must be literate in that language, and that language is English. The person must be able to understand signs, and read the various papers, which he has got to display on his ship and on the various parts of the engine.

AB. I must say that there was some doubt as to whether we should have this abbreviation in the Ordinance here, but it was pointed out that the same abbreviation is of international use. It is used internationally and it occurs in the United Kingdom Ordinance itself. It is just a popular way of referring to an Able Seaman.

Rev. Bens talks about reducing the age of a Quartermaster. Surely, when there are two people in a ship—the one senior and the other second in command—it is always of some advantage to have the senior man a little senior also in age to his junior colleague. In any case, if the Motorman has got to start at the age of 18 in a subordinate post, it takes about two or three years before he gets enough experience to assume greater responsibilities, and that brings him safely into the range of twenty-one years.

Clause 4 agreed to.

Clauses 5 to 8 agreed to.

Bill to be reported.

Mr Speaker resumed the Chair.

Bill reported without amendment, read the third time and passed.

Sitting suspended : 11.27 a.m.

Sitting resumed : 11.50 a.m.

STATISTICS BILL

Order for Second Reading read.

The Prime Minister (Alhaji the hon. Abubakar Tafawa Balewa): Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the Bill entitled a Bill for a Statistics Ordinance be now read a second time.

The purpose of this Bill, Sir, is straightforward and, I hope, non-controversial. Its purpose is, quite simply, to give the Federal Government Statistician authority to collect statistics and, at the direction of the Governor-General, to take a census of the population. Hon. Members will perhaps be surprised to learn that this measure is necessary. The Nigerian Government has possessed a Government Statistician and a Statistics Department since the latter part of 1947. The Department is an active and valuable one. In its short life it has established a fine reputation. Why then, hon. Members may ask, does it need an Ordinance to enable it to carry on work which it is already doing, and doing well?

The reason, Sir, is this. The Census Ordinance, which is of respectable antiquity, dating from 1917, provides authority for the taking of population censuses. For the collection and publication of other kinds of statistics, however, there is no statutory provision at all. In other words, where the Government Statistician is dealing with the public at large, as distinct from other Government Departments which will naturally co-operate, he is entirely dependent on the voluntary co-operation of private individuals in obtaining the information he wants. There is at present no law which can be invoked where information is refused or unreasonably delayed, or where false statements are made.

Now, Sir, I do not wish it to be thought that I am in any way criticising members of the public for not co-operating with the Statistics Department. I am not aware that the Federal Government Statistician has had any cause for serious complaint on this score. The fact remains, however, that the field of statistics over which the Department operates is constantly widening as Government extends its activities. Furthermore, important parts of our revenue allocation system are based on statistics which the Government Statistician has to assemble by

enquiry from commercial firms. It is therefore no longer really satisfactory that Government should be dependent on the good-will of the public in these matters. Ninety-nine times out of a hundred the public will give full co-operation, but on the hundredth occasion the force of the law may have to be invoked to get it. That is the main reason for this Bill.

It is, Sir, not the whole reason. The interests of the Government have to be protected, but so do those of the private individual. This Government has no use for unauthorised snoopers and busybodies. We do not want to chivvy the householder or businessman with demands for useless information. The Statistics Department has an important job to do. This Bill will enable it to do its job effectively. But it will also set clear limits to acts by officials which could injure the rights of individuals and I include in those rights the right to privacy in one's own home and the right not to have one's business affairs revealed to competitors.

When examining this Bill in committee, hon. Members will have an opportunity of seeing how scrupulous Government has been to safeguard these rights and to avoid affront to the privacy of the home. A good example of this care is Clause 5 (2) which restricts the power of a census enumerator to enter a dwelling house. Another is Clause 12 (2) (b), which protects trade secrets from disclosure.

The text of the Bill, Sir, is modelled on that of statistics legislation passed in British East Africa and the former Gold Coast. I use the word "modelled" advisedly. The Bill is not just a carbon copy of what has been found suitable in other countries. The subject of Statistics is a concurrent item in the Legislative List. The recent London Conference decided that the subject of Census should also become concurrent, instead of Federal as formerly. The Federal Government has therefore been under an obligation to consult the Regional Governments in the drafting of this Bill and it has done so at all stages with the result that the text of the Bill now before this House is an agreed text.

Not only that, the public, and especially the business public, has a close interest in the provisions of this measure. The Government has therefore thought it right to take the commercial community into its confidence about the Bill, believing as it does, that a measure of this kind should be so framed as

to command the understanding and support of those who will be mainly affected by it. I am happy to say that it is the Government's conviction that the Bill as now drafted will be acceptable in the main to the business community and workable and fair in its practical application. I am indeed grateful to the Chambers of Commerce and other interests which have over a period of two years devoted much time and thought to studying drafts of the Bill and making suggestions for its improvement.

I turn now, Sir, to one or two main principles of the Bill which are worthy of emphasis.

In the first place, the Federal Government Statistician is answerable to the Minister responsible for Statistics in the exercise of his duties as laid down in clauses 7 and 8. In other words, the enactment of a Statistics Ordinance will in no way render the activities of the Statistics Department immune to the ordinary processes of parliamentary questioning and debate.

Secondly, clause 3 provides that a census—which is perhaps the most important of all statistical exercises—shall be taken at the discretion of His Excellency the Governor-General. That is to say, the decision to take a census will be a collective decision of the Government and not merely that of the Minister or the Statistician. Legislation for the taking of a census already exists in the form of the Census Ordinance. Clause 21 provides for the repeal of the Census Ordinance, but I am advised that this is unnecessary and I shall move the deletion of the clause in committee. Suitably adapted, the Census Ordinance will be available for Regional Governments wishing to take censuses of their own within the Region.

Thirdly and finally, the Bill is drawn up so as to take account of the Regions' concurrent responsibility for Statistics. So far no Regional Government has set up its own Statistics Department, but this is a situation that may change in the future. Clause 13 of the Bill therefore enables the Legislatures of the Regions and the Southern Cameroons to legislate for the taking of a census other than a national census and for the collection and publication of statistics other than the Federal statistics defined in subclause (1) of clause 6.

The First Schedule to the Bill lists the subjects on which the Statistician may call for

information from any person. It can be amended by order of the Governor-General in Council under clause 19. It is a formidable list, deliberately drawn up so as to be comprehensive, but I would assure the House that there is no need to take alarm. These are subjects on which the Statistician *can* collect information. They are not subjects on which he is *bound* to collect it. Usefulness and usefulness alone will be the Government's guide in authorising the collection of statistics under this Bill.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move.

The Ministry of Works and Surveys (Alhaji the hon. Inuwa Wada): Sir, I beg to second.

Question proposed.

Mr A. E. Ukattah (Bende): Mr Speaker, Sir, I do not intend making any long speeches on this. The Bill is clear and does not call for any controversy. To my mind it is one of the best that has ever come into this Legislature since the formation of the new National Government. Look at the schedule, the first schedule will reveal a wide range of subjects on which the Government intends, if this Bill is passed into law, and at regular intervals, to give statistical information to the people of this country. On this I think the Government should be congratulated.

May I also, Mr Speaker, take this opportunity of congratulating the Minister of Research and Information, and the staff of the Federal Information Service on the production of similar statistical information to the country. I have to mention as an instance a publication that was circulated some time last year entitled "A Hundred Facts About Nigeria". Today, in the Eastern Region, that booklet is now used as a text-book on general knowledge, and I think this is exactly what this country should look forward to.

Now turning to the Bill itself, I would like to make an observation under Part 2, section 5, subsection 1. "The Statistician and any person authorised by him in writing, upon production of his authorisation, may, for any matters connected with the taking of a census enter between the hours of seven o'clock in the morning and six o'clock in the afternoon any premises where persons are employed and, subject to the provisions of subsection 7, any dwelling houses and may there make such

inquiries as may be deemed necessary for the performance of his duties" . . . and so on.

Now, Sir, I would just like to point out that this provision is quite a wise one but is not sufficient, particularly with reference to population census. I have to warn you that whenever population census is taken wide publicity should be given to it and people should be sufficiently educated. I remember during the last population census I happened to be one of the enumerators. Now, in some homes I was treated with hostility, that being due to the fact that most of the people did not understand what the long pencil and papers I had stood for. There was no sufficient education, therefore, the people could not, in the atmosphere of unfriendliness give any accurate information. That is just the point, Mr Speaker, that I have particularly desired to draw the attention of the Government to.

This, as I have said, is a very good and commendable Bill and there is no reason why every Member should not support it. Sir, I beg to support.

Mr E. C. Ealey (Special Member): Mr Speaker, Sir, this Bill, which is largely a commercial and industrial Bill, has been presented by the hon. the Prime Minister and I should like him to know, Sir, that established industries in this country have great faith in Nigeria (*Hear, hear*). . . and they are showing this faith by ploughing back profits to improve present factories and to build others. (*Hear, hear*).

In addition, Sir, industry here must and will Nigerianise even to a greater extent than it is doing to-day. Thereby it is presenting and will present great challenges and great opportunities to Nigerian youth which must and will be accepted and seized.

Returning to this Bill, Sir, I must say that it is still viewed with apprehension by the commercial and industrial centres throughout the country. In all fairness, Sir, I must also say that no piece of commercial legislation has been so fully discussed in the preliminary stages by all shades of commercial and Government opinion throughout Nigeria. In the early drafting stages commerce and industry have been given full opportunities to recommend amendments and safeguards to the Bill and almost everyone of those safeguards has been fully accepted. This says much for the good intention of the Government and for the

possibilities of co-operation between Government Departments and commerce and industry (*Hear, hear*). It is also true to say, Sir, that for many years both Government and commerce were handicapped by lack of statistics but, thanks to the energy of the Government Statistician and his colleagues, much of that handicap has been removed. Commerce and industry, therefore, Sir, are unable to understand why it is necessary to give such wide and sweeping powers to the Statistician and why the Census Bill and the Statistics Bill are being combined in one piece of legislation. The Census Bill is a necessary piece of legislation and we should have preferred to see two separate and simpler Bills so that full justice could have been done to the Statistics Bill without jeopardising the necessary Census Bill (*Hear, hear*).

I have said, Sir, that this Bill is viewed with apprehension in the commercial centres in Nigeria. Commerce and industry are the red and white cells of the blood-stream of this country, and nothing should be done to clog the arteries of that vital stream.

The second part of the Bill, Sir, however much it is amended during its passage through the House, carries with it some of those inherent risks. Too frequent requests for statistics can place a costly and heavy administrative burden on commerce and industry and there will always exist the danger that other departmental heads will ask the Statistician to use his powers on their behalf. What is more disturbing, Sir, is that commerce and industry may be asked more and more questions, not only about their own affairs but about the private affairs of other people. This is happening elsewhere, and could happen here if these greater powers are given and used unwisely. Any encroachment on the privacy of the individual should be vigilantly watched. That is why, Sir, I am pleased to see that Clause 7 introduces a safeguard which would presumably allow representations to be made to the appropriate Minister if the departmental demands were ever considered to be unreasonable.

In this type of legislation, Sir, the manner in which it is applied is all important and it should be always approached with caution, common-sense, co-operation and goodwill. I fear, Sir, that there is a risk that sometimes legal powers may be preferred to the exercise of the qualities I have mentioned. Mr Speaker, Sir, I should

have been happier if this Bill had been presented in the form of two separate and simpler Bills, one dealing with Census and one with Statistics. This might have made it unnecessary for the Bill to include such sweeping powers (*Applause*).

Mallam Maitama Sule (Kano City): Mr Speaker, Sir, this Bill which, as it is, is an industrial Bill, is also a Bill that affects the public as well, as regards the question of census.

In the past, Mr Speaker, the public has not co-operated with the Government in the course of taking census because of the ignorance they have as to whether the information that is being collected is going to be used in assessing them higher than they had previously been assessed as regards taxation. Under these circumstances, therefore, so many people in the country, because of the ignorance that they have, do not co-operate as much as they should. I would take this opportunity to ask the Government to educate the people as much as possible whenever any census is going to be taken so that the people may not entertain any fear at all.

I wish also to take this opportunity, Sir, to congratulate the Prime Minister for the provision that has been made in Clause 5, subsection 2 to safeguard the interest of all the people. I am very pleased to say that the only fear that we might exercise with regard to this Bill is the question of entering a dwelling house. Hon. Members know, Sir, that most Moslems do keep their wives in purdah, particularly in the Northern part of this Federation, and therefore they as such would not like anybody to enter their dwelling houses.

I am very pleased to say that our fear has been allayed in that in this particular section provision has been made that a person is not to enter right inside the dwelling house but is to stay outside or in the reception room and get whatever information he wants from the persons concerned. This provision is excellent and for that we give our wholehearted support to the Bill and we congratulate the Prime Minister.

Mr L. L. Lakunle (Oyo North): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the second reading of this Bill which has been so ably moved by the Prime Minister. I think it will not be too much to repeat what my hon. friend, Maitama Sule, has said.

In the past whenever population census was being taken in this country there had been misrepresentation on the part of people. They had always misunderstood the intentions of the Government that the Government wanted to know the number of people simply because it wanted to collect more taxes, and such people used to run away or give false information particularly in the rural areas. Now, whenever a population census is to be taken, I want to appeal to the Government to make sure that they give sufficient education to the people to understand the procedure and the intention of the Government so that they may give the correct information.

In some areas, particularly in the Western Region, there are some Divisions in the rural areas which have greater populations than others, but when they were taking the census these Divisions gave their populations much lower than their populations were. Other Divisions whose populations were not as high as those of those Divisions gave their own correct populations and as such the Divisions which have greater populations were entitled to less representation in the Federal and Regional Legislatures, and the people are suffering for it now. I hope the Government will do everything in its power to remove such an anomaly when population census is taken next time.

With these few remarks, Sir, I beg to support.

M. Sanni Okin (Ilorin North): Mr Speaker, I rise to support this Bill. The Bill needs nothing but co-operation of our people. In the past it was quite impossible to get accurate figures of the census but the people are now conscious of their civic responsibilities. In my own town, for example, we have just got water supply. People are complaining that water taps are quite inadequate to supply the needs of the people, but what we normally tell them is that it depends upon the figures you gave to the court and that is why you now have less water to drink. At present we have political campaigners. It is our duty now to educate our people by telling them that by not giving accurate figures you get less facilities and by so doing people will be quite conscious of their civic responsibilities.

I therefore appeal to all the political parties in this House that when we go home we should educate our respective constituencies, and I believe our people will be able to

co-operate with the Government. The Government can do very little if the people are not co-operative.

Chief T. T. Solaru (Ijebu East): Mr Speaker, without going over the grounds already covered as to the proper education of the community, as to the benefits to be derived from accurate statistics whether it be census or industrial statistics, it is necessary I think to look at the other side. Why are the people afraid to give accurate information? Why do businesses hide their figures, if ever they do?

First of all, it seems to me that the instrument used by the Government needs looking into. If you are a barber and you use blunt instruments in shaving your customers heads, you should not be surprised if they do not come to you next time. We have seen some of these enumerators. We have seen, Sir, their bullying and swaggering attitude, holding their pen as if it were a bayonet. "How many children have you got? What is this, what is that?" They have not the foggiest idea of how to obtain the confidence of the person whom they are interrogating.

Sir, you can take example from the time when the cocoa disease was the scourge of this country. When the Agricultural Department was trying to help farmers, it was not the expatriates who were sent to these people, it was the Nigerians themselves who went to these farmers. And what did they do? "We are coming round to your farm to-day; we have been ordered to cut all the cocoa trees" and so the people were afraid and so the rumour went round that the Government are sending people round to cut our cocoa trees so that we may get less for our cocoa and so that they might subsidise the cocoa being grown in the Amazon or somewhere on the globe. Well, such false information goes around and is not dispersed by the attitude of the officers whom you send round.

I am glad that in a clause of this Bill, that is Part 5, Clause 16, there is something about unlawful disclosure of information received during the course of duty. But I would like to see some protection given to the ordinary householder to protect him from the bullying type of officer. They need not be illiterate. If an officer comes to my house and he talks rudely to me, have I not any right to resist him? There is nothing here to protect the householder. He is simply at the mercy of these all-powerful statisticians. I therefore hope

that if it could not be written into this law, at least the spirit of it could be drilled into the heads of these officers who would be given such wide powers.

Sir, it has been said that the State is more and more encroaching on the liberty of the individual. Well, that is inevitable in a modern state where we want to do things together. For a long, long time it has been impossible to pursue any course of development in our country for lack of accurate statistics. And it is not only in matters of census but in matters of wages.

Suppose any of us were asked the wage level of our country? I cannot tell them. Because there is no accurate statistics kept. If I was asked, "What is the death rate in Nigeria," I could get accurate statistics from Lagos and other big centres, but for the whole country I could not. And this affects us all round, so that before this Bill comes into operation and before people are sent round I would like the people who are going to operate this Bill themselves to be educated as to the benefits to be derived and as to the tactful way they can approach the public, so that we can get this necessary information for the development of our country.

It has been pointed out that commercial houses stand in great jeopardy, especially in the ways these powers might be used. Of course, they are the best people to know where the shoe pinches. But whenever we hear of commercial houses, which, in their own country, are used to these things, expressing fears, then those fears must be real. We are not accustomed to these things, they are just coming in. And therefore I think heed should be given to any note of warning that is sounded by people whose lives in their own countries are hemmed and hedged round with all these statistics. There was a time in the United Kingdom when unless you could give accurate figures you would have no breakfast, no lunch, no dinner. You ought to be able to count up how many points, and all the rest of it. Well, it is true that that was a time of emergency. But the housewife got used to it, and they got used to the wise manipulation of their points that they could feed their household on very little. Well, we are a very long way from that.

In the application of the provisions of this Bill, I do hope that sufficient time will be given to first of all educate the statisticians

and their employees and then wide publicity given the general public as to the benefits to be derived from statistics of all kinds. In the Schedule given here we find a formidable list, as the Prime Minister said, but we will find that in prosecuting any future development plan, any business at all, in giving accurate figures to people who will come here to invest, unless we have accurate information as to all these things here, it will be impossible to really assess the possibilities of this country, whether economically or otherwise.

Mr Speaker, it is an admirable Bill, but like all good things they can be marred in the execution and it is on that that we are speaking.

Mr Speaker, I beg to support.

Mr G. O. Ebea (Ishan): Mr Speaker, I rise to support the Second Reading of this Bill, and in doing so I have only a point to make, and that is that when taking the population census local people should be employed to do the job, because, in the rural areas, you have several villages bearing the same name, in one town. Now, it will be the work of the men employed to know the names of the various villages in the town, to go there, conduct the census and take the correct record accordingly.

In the previous population census in my division, several mistakes occurred. The people's census in one group of villages was merged with the other, in another town entirely. This was responsible for the decrease in the population census for one village and increase in that of the other. The only check to this is to employ local people who understand the people, who can explain to the people properly the reasons for taking their census and then will be able to tell them why it is necessary that the census should be taken. Mr Speaker, Sir, if this is done I am quite sure that the correct census of every division will be recorded.

Now there is another difficulty and that will be at the headquarters where the compilation of these things is taken. People get confused with the various names of towns and divisions, and unless local people, too, are employed to work with some people who are doing the compilation at the headquarters, there is going to be inaccurate population census. With these few remarks, I support the Bill.

Mr M. A. O. Olarewaju (Ilorin South): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Bill. In

the urban areas Government should appeal to landlords and houseowners to co-operate in taking the census. The Officer who will be responsible for this delicate work should approach everybody in good manner, and in simple ways, because one will not agree for somebody to ask, "How many children have you, how many wives have you, how many dogs have you kept," in such a rough and insulting manner. So those people who will be doing this delicate work must be warned to take very simple methods to approach individuals. Sir, I beg to support.

Mr T. O. S. Benson 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.

Question put accordingly and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read a second time, and committed to a Committee of the whole House.

Bill immediately considered in Committee.

(In the Committee)

Clauses 1 and 2 agreed to.

Clause 3.

Mr J. A. O. Akande (Egba North): It is unfortunate, Sir, that this Government is unable to call another census before the General Election in 1960. Mistakes have been made in the last census and it will be impossible to get correct representation in the Federal Legislature unless you have a new census to give us the accurate information that we require. I hope the Government will take these things into consideration.

Clauses 3 and 4 agreed to.

Clause 5.

Mr E. C. Ealey: Mr Chairman, Sir, I beg to move the amendment standing in my name on the Order Paper, to leave out the words "or as to the number thereof" in line 20, page 4.

When commercial opinion was sought in the early stages, recommendations were made amending the original clause, and these were accepted. The recommendations have been somewhat weakened by the inclusion of the words which the amendment seeks to leave out. If the statistician has any doubt as to the number of persons employed or living on any premises, he can presumably use his powers under subsection 1 (a) if no returns have been made.

Mr Chairman, Sir, I beg to move.

Amendment proposed.

The Prime Minister (Hon. Alhaji Abubakar Tafawa Balewa): Mr Chairman, I do very much appreciate the fears of commercial people and Members of the House as to the operation of this Bill. I have no quarrel with the amendment moved by the hon. Member, which I am quite prepared to accept; but I would like to warn the House that although we have powers to legislate the human side in operating it is another thing. But we will do our best to see that these powers are not abused. I accept the amendment.

Amendment agreed to.

Clause 5.

Mr E. C. Ealey: Mr Chairman, Sir, I beg to move the amendment standing in my name on the Order Paper, "To leave out from 'section' to end of line 33" in page 4, line 31. The intention behind this clause is quite harmless but the power could be so easily misunderstood and so widely resented on one side and so easily abused on the other that I sincerely believe that the Bill will be strengthened rather than weakened by its removal. Mr Chairman, Sir, I beg to move.

Amendment proposed.

The Prime Minister: Mr Chairman, again due to the fears expressed by hon. Members on the over-enthusiastic census enumerators we can of course say that while for example one of these people marking a building or something like that may spoil the whole thing, I think this is a reasonable amendment which Government is prepared to accept.

Amendment agreed to.

Clause 5, as amended, agreed to.

Clauses 6 to 20 agreed to.

Clause 21.

The Prime Minister: Mr Chairman, I beg to move the deletion of Clause 21. I have informed the House in my speech in introducing the Bill that I would seek the deletion of this clause for the main reason that census is now a concurrent subject as a result of the recent amendment to the Nigerian Constitution. It means that the Census Ordinance now takes effect as a Regional Ordinance and will thus be available for any census that might be taken by any Regional Government within its Region.

The Chairman: Does the Committee know that it is not moved as a formal amend-

ment; but my question is that Clause 21 stand part of the Bill.

Clause 21 disagreed to.

Schedules 1 and 2 agreed to.

Bill to be reported.

Mr. Speaker resumed the Chair.

Bill reported, with amendments.

Question proposed, That the Bill be now read a third time.

Mallam Sanni O. B. Okin (North Ilorin): My observations are that the Government should make all necessary arrangements to see to the implementation of this Bill to see that census is taken before April 2nd, 1960.

Mr J. G. Adeniran (Ibadan West): Mr Speaker, in supporting the passing of this Bill I would like to appeal to the Government that the statisticians here are given powers and that Government should see that the powers are used in the best interests of the people of this country. During the time when social and economic statistics will be taken in rural areas I will appeal to the Government to see that the officers who are going to take the statistics employ the assistance of local people who could solve local problems of those rural areas. I beg to support.

Chief J. I. G. Onyia (Asaba): Mr Speaker, there is no gainsaying the fact that during census-taking various suspicions are engendered and I happened to be a supervisor during the last census. I warn the Government because there are times when for some reasons certain people will give certain information which may be either to lower the figure or to increase it unduly due to certain interests. If the people realise that figures are needed for certain benefits for them they will increase the figures unduly. I had such an example during the last census. If the people had the suspicion that they are going to be called upon to do certain duties or pay taxes they will reduce their figures unduly.

Therefore I warn the Government to be careful so that during the period of census-taking they may not unduly lower or increase the figure.

Mr J. A. O. Akande (Egba North): Mr Speaker, it is necessary again to sound a note of warning. This census ought to be taken before

the general election in 1960 if there must be adequate representation at the Centre. It is necessary to have adequate census at the centre and not halfway. Government should consider the question of taking census before the next general election.

Chief T. T. Solaru (Ijebu East): Mr Speaker, the only purpose of rising is that I would like to stress our appreciation that the Government have seen it fit to accommodate these two Amendments. In the House yesterday, throughout. . . . (*Interruption*). . . .

Mr Speaker: What happened yesterday is not relevant to the Bill.

Chief Solaru: Mr Speaker, what happened to-day is that the Government has seen fit to allay the fears of this Legislature by accommodating the Amendments that have been moved, especially by robbing the petty officials of the big stick which they would have wielded over the poor members of the community, subjecting them to fines.

I am congratulating the Government for accepting the Amendments.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read the third time and passed.

BANKING (AMENDMENT) BILL

Order for Second Reading read.

The Prime Minister (Alhaji the hon. Abubakar Tafawa Balewa): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to move that a Bill for an Ordinance to amend the Banking Ordinance, 1952, be read a second time.

Regarding the purpose of this Bill, I would refer hon. Members to paragraph 43 of the Report by the Nigerian Constitutional Conference, which deals with amendments to the Exclusive Legislative List, and, in particular, to the sub-paragraph concerning the amendment of Item 5, Banks and Banking, which, with your permission, Sir, I would like to quote in full:—

“This Item should be deleted and the 1954 Constitution Order should be amended at an early date in the sense that:—

(a) the Federal Government should continue to have exclusive responsibility for central banking matters, exclusive powers of legislation concerning banks and banking and exclusive power to supervise banks and banking;

(b) the Regional Governments should be permitted to own or participate in commercial banks.”

After the Report of the Tribunal of Inquiry was published, the Government of the Eastern Region signified that it proposed to run the African Continental Bank as a statutory body under an Eastern Regional law. As the Banking Ordinance at present stands, in order to obtain a licence to operate, a Bank must be a limited liability Company registered under the Companies Ordinance. The Bill now before the House provides, firstly, that a body incorporated directly by a law of the Legislature of the Federation or of a Region or of the Southern Cameroons shall be regarded as a Company for the purposes of the Ordinance, and, secondly, that persons carrying out the same functions in relation to such a body as do the Directors of a Company shall be regarded for the purposes of the Ordinance as Directors.

Hon. Members will appreciate, therefore, that the initial purpose of this Bill is to accommodate the Eastern Regional Government in enabling them to carry out their expressed intention, and, secondly, to permit Regional Governments generally to own or participate in commercial banks; consequently, I cannot see that the Bill is in any way controversial.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move.

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Dr the hon. K. O. Mbadiwe): Sir, I beg to second.

Question proposed.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read second time and committed to a Committee of the whole House.

Bill immediately considered in Committee.

(In the Committee)

Clauses 1 and 2 agreed to.

Bill to be reported.

(Mr Speaker resumed the Chair).

Bill reported without amendment, read the third time and passed.

DISTRIBUTION OF GERMAN ENEMY

PROPERTY BILL

Order for Second Reading read.

The Prime Minister (Alhaji the hon. Abubakar Tafawa Balewa): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to move that there be now read a second

time, a Bill for an Ordinance to provide for the collection and realisation of German Enemy Property and for the distribution of the proceeds thereof.

Hon. Members will be aware that as a result of the Trading with the Enemy Ordinance, 1939, there were vested in the Custodian of Enemy Property all the assets in Nigeria and the Cameroons, which, on the outbreak of War, belonged to German enemy nationals or to non-German nationals who were resident in German-controlled territories during the war of 1939-1945.

Generally speaking, the objects of the Trading with the Enemy Ordinance and subsequent International Agreements among the Allied Powers were, first, to provide a fund against which claims could be made by persons who were owed money by German enemy nationals or German residents and, second, to provide a fund from which the Allies could compensate themselves for the havoc wrought by a war which was not of the Allies' seeking.

With one or two small exceptions, the Custodian of Enemy Property has now realised in cash all the assets which in the form of buildings, plantations, stocks of goods and so on, came into his hands by virtue of the 1939 Ordinance. The latest statement of account of the Custodian's affairs which was prepared at the 31st of March this year, shows that the total value of the assets vested in him is £1,836,000. I should explain that of this sum £386,000 represents a surplus of income which has accrued over the years from interest on the Custodian's investments.

From what I have already said, it will be appreciated that the first call on this fund is the payment of any persons who can show outstanding debts in their favour due from German nationals or residents at the outbreak of war. In Nigeria such claims have been few as compared with the funds at our disposal because of the large and valuable properties which the Germans held in Nigeria at the outbreak of war. In addition to these straightforward claims, there may also be one or two valid claims by non-German owners whose properties were seized in 1939 because they were resident in German-controlled territory during the war, and by non-Germans who were share-holders in German businesses.

Until recently it had seemed that after Nigeria had met all these claims it would be incumbent upon the Federal Government to hand over to the British Government the balance of the funds held by the Custodian in order that they could be used to meet similar claims in the United Kingdom where, as hon. Members will appreciate, the claims made have been very much in excess of the funds at the United Kingdom Custodian's disposal. It should, I think, be realised that a national of any other Allied country is just as much entitled to have paid to him the money which he was owed by a German on the outbreak of war as are residents of Nigeria.

However, the United Kingdom Government has decided that it will not seek the transfer to itself of assets surplus to the requirements of individual dependent territories in respect of local claims. Instead, the balances remaining are to be left at the disposal of the Governments of the territories concerned. This is an act of generosity by the British Government which should not be allowed to pass without remark.

The purposes of the Bill now before us are, firstly, to make the necessary provision for the paying off of all those who have valid claims against the assets in the Custodian's hand and, secondly, to make provision for the disposal of the surplus which I have already referred to.

It is not of course possible for me at this stage, Sir, to give an exact figure for all the claims which will have to be met before the surplus can be finally known. Approximately £37,500 has already been paid out by the Custodian of Enemy Property to local creditors and it is apparent that £236,000 of the £1,836,000 now held will be more than sufficient to meet any further claims which may still be received and proved. This leaves a sum of £1.6 million which the Government considers could with perfect safety be applied to the public benefit. As to the balance, it is proposed that a time limit should be set for the making of claims, and the Government intends to set this time limit as expiring early in 1958. Thereafter no further claims will be admitted except from non-German owners whose property was expropriated. These claims, if they exist, will have to be admitted at any time, so I am advised by the Attorney-General, but the Government is as confident as it is possible to be in such matters, that there

will be no valid claims of this nature. A final distribution of funds should, therefore, be possible in 1958.

I now have to deal, Sir, with the question of the use to which this substantial sum should be put. Let me emphasise that, for the moment, we have only £1,600,000 to distribute: the balance can only be distributed when it is known that all claims against German Enemy Property have been met. In making these funds available to Nigeria the British Government has expressed the hope that they will not be absorbed into general revenue but will be used to finance schemes of development and welfare for the benefit of the people.

Before I come down to a consideration of figures, I would like to emphasise that a very large part of the Custodian's funds were derived from the expropriation by the Custodian of the German plantations in the Southern Cameroons. These plantations, Sir, were purchased from the Custodian by the Nigerian Government in 1948, and subsequently leased to the Cameroons Development Corporation. The purchase price was £850,000 and although it was originally intended that this amount should be refunded to the Nigerian Government, this has never been done because, as a result of the 1954 constitutional changes, the freehold of the plantations became vested in the Government of the Southern Cameroons.

I mention this point because it has had a considerable bearing on the proposal which the Government will put forward as to the manner in which the total of some £1,800,000 should eventually be distributed among the Governments of the Federation.

That proposal is that the Government of the Federation should receive £940,000, while the Government of the Northern Region should receive £260,000, of which £60,000 would be allocated specifically to the Northern Cameroons. The Eastern and Western Governments and the Government of the Southern Cameroons would receive equal amounts of £200,000 each. The House will see that the proposal is in effect that the three Regions and the Southern Cameroons will each get £200,000. The Federal Government will get back what the former Nigerian Government paid for the Southern Cameroons plantations in 1948, plus a modest bonus of £90,000 representing interest, while the Northern Cameroons will also benefit in virtue of its position as a Trust Territory.

As I said, these figures are based on a total distribution of £1,800,000. The distribution of the £1,600,000 available at the present time, made in the same proportions, would be approximately:—

	£
Federation	835,000
North	231,000
East	178,000
West	178,000
Southern Cameroons	178,000

The Government proposes to table a resolution seeking the House's approval for this distribution in accordance with Clause 7 of the Bill, as soon as it becomes law.

Mr Speaker, Sir, this is a matter of some complexity and I have attempted, as far as possible, to explain the proposed Ordinance without over-much reference to figures and the mass of legislation and International Agreements which make the details confusing even to those who have constant cause to refer to them. I have no doubt, however, that the House will give this measure its support. It is necessary for two reasons. Firstly, it brings Nigeria into line with the other countries which fought beside her in the war as regards legislation for the settlement of claims by her citizens against German debtors. Secondly, it provides legislative authority by which the Custodian's surplus proceeds can be disposed of by this House for the benefit of the people of the Federation.

Sir, I beg to move.

The Minister of Lagos Affairs, Mines and Power (Alhaji the hon. Muhammadu Ribadu):
Sir, I beg to second.

Question proposed.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read a second time and committed to a Committee of the whole House.

Bill immediately considered in Committee.

(In the Committee)

Clauses 1 to 8 agreed to.

Bill to be reported.

Mr Speaker resumed the Chair.

Bill reported, without amendment, read the third time and passed.

Sitting suspended : 1 p.m.

Sitting resumed : 3.11 p.m.

PUBLIC ARCHIVES BILL

Order for Second Reading read.

The Minister of Education (The hon. Aja Nwachuku): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to move the second reading of the Bill entitled, The Public Archives Ordinance, 1957, which received its first reading on September 2nd.

This Bill, Sir, is not a controversial measure—it provides for the establishment of a National Archives office in Nigeria and of the setting up of a National Archives Committee to advise the Minister on all matters in connection with this subject (*hear, hear*). At the same time it provides for a Director of Civil Archives who will be responsible for the custody, preservation, arrangement, repair and exhibition of the National Archives. The National Archives are limited to those public records, documents and other historical material of every kind which are in the custody of any public office or which may be required by the Director which relates to the period before 23rd January, 1952. Archives which relate to the period after that date are the property of the Regional Governments concerned, but collection and preservation of these archives may under clause 8, with the consent of the Government to which such records belong, be conferred upon the Director.

The present collection and preservation of public records is the responsibility of the Advisor of Public Records, Mr K. O. Dike, who has established his headquarters and central public records repository in Ibadan. The activities of the Public Records Office are now expanding rapidly under Mr Dike's drive and enthusiasm. A repository is now being built at Ibadan and it is hoped to start one wing of the repository at Enugu also this year. In Kaduna, temporary accommodation is being used as a repository, and there is a vast volume of records being collected from all over the country and will now be registered and bound.

Professor Dike is also sending his staff for training overseas to ensure that the Nigerian Records Office is run on up-to-date lines. Although the Central Records repository is at present at Ibadan, the permanent repository for national archives will be built in Lagos.

This Bill is based on recommendations made in the report by Professor Dike—as he now is—on the preservation and administration of

historical records, and the establishment of the public records office in Nigeria which was a Sessional Paper in 1954 and approved by the House. It has been prepared on the advice of the Archives Committee of which the Chief Justice of the Federal Supreme Court is Chairman, Professor Dike Secretary, and many other prominent and well informed persons in Nigeria are members.

Clause 2 of the Bill sets out the interpretation of the word 'Archives' as used in the Bill. Clauses 3 to 8 provide for the establishment of National Archives of Nigeria and the post of the Director of Federal Archives. Clauses 9 and 10 provide for the appointment of the National Archives Committee of which the Chief Justice of the Federal Supreme Court is Chairman. Membership of this Committee will be on a wide basis, providing for representatives from each Region, including the Southern Cameroons and from the University College, Ibadan. Clause 11 provides for the restriction on the exportation of historical documents; clause 12 provides for the Minister to make regulations.

This Bill, Sir, as I have already said in the beginning of my speech is not a controversial matter, but is one which is most desirable if the public records of this country are to be properly collected and preserved.

Sir, I beg to move.

The Minister of Works and Surveys (Alhaji the Hon. M. Inuwa Wada): Sir, I beg to second.

Question proposed.

Mr M. A. Ajasin (Owo South): Mr Speaker, Sir, the Minister has said that this Bill is non-controversial. I agree. I think the time is due, Sir, for the establishment of a Federal Archives Office for the whole country, and Professor Dike should be thanked on having started the work and having gone so far in collecting old documents about the country.

What I would like to say, however, is that this has been a part-time job for Professor Dike; he works in the University and he does this work also. And now that the post of a Director is created it should be a full-time affair. Professor Dike should not be saddled with this responsibility, as the work is going to be expanded, and there will be depositories

in many part of the country. So I think the post of the Director should be full-time and no more on a part-time basis.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to support.

Chief T. T. Solaru (Ijebu East): Mr Speaker, Sir, it is true that for a long time the history of Africa in general, and of Nigeria in particular has been very difficult to compile, one of the reasons being that written records go back only a few decades. But for the fact that we have the beginnings of a museum in Nigeria some of us would have been made to believe that we just dropped from the sky without any origins at all. The first sign that I knew Sir, there was in Nigeria remains of art or archeology and when the first clue was found to our tradition, was when I got hold of two volumes of the work of Leo Frobenius, then I realised how much our work of art and treasures have been going overseas.

In some way when students have to make research we find ourselves researching on affairs of Africa or conditions in Africa and probing through the Museums and public records offices of Europe and America. As a matter of fact, in order to do research on primary education, one has to come to the Public Records Office in London and comb the Missionary offices in America and in Europe, not Africa when the actual things were happening. You cannot get the records simply because the record is not there; it is elsewhere. We are very grateful therefore to Professor Dike, himself by no means a mean scholar of history, and he has found it difficult to compile his work in history, for getting out records, and I am quite sure from his experience that he is now trying to benefit posterity.

Sir, it is true that our records would not go back very far, but as the years go by, these few that we have will go on mounting up, and unless they are preserved and preserved fittingly, we shall find that those who are coming after us will not be able to get archaic records of what is happening nowadays.

Sir, some time ago, someone referred to some happening in one of our first newspapers in Lagos here; but do you know, Sir, that we could only find that out in one of the Public Records Offices in London, and one of them in the British Museum at that. These records are preserved in other countries; why should they not be preserved in countries of their own origin?

Mr Speaker, Sir, any money spent here, whether it be on full time directors and other people like that, will be money well spent, because we shall be laying the foundation for the future people who will write the history of this country, and people who will dive into the past and bring forth treasures old and new.

Mr Speaker, I beg to support.

M. Maitama Sule (Kano City): Mr Speaker, Sir, for quite a long time people who are very sensible in this country have been asking themselves as to whether some of us are really sincere in our declared policy of preserving the traditions and customs of this country, because they say that if we were really sincere, we would try by all means to keep old records so that people that are coming after us could see the type of people that we were some years before.

Certainly we have history in this country, and certainly our traditions have been long established. Certainly we have records that should be kept. Due to the lack of interest on the part of some people a few years ago, about the collecting of these records, so much useful information was lost. Now that the Government has taken a keen interest in this, I believe that all the records that would be very useful and that are now useful will be collected and that will go a long way to preserving the sort of tradition that has long been established in this country.

I therefore congratulate the Government for this move and I hope that this Records Department that will be established will serve the interests of the entire population of this country.

Sir, I beg to support.

Mr E. A. Dada (Egbado South): Mr Speaker, Sir, I congratulate the Minister of Education for bringing out such a Bill of this nature. It is truly non-controversial. My advice is that when these archives are set up they should not be window dressed; not something nominally set up—an office in Lagos, and putting a stop to all work; or just inviting people to submit arts and some other documents. The people who are given this job to do should not sit down in Ibadan or Enugu alone; they should go to the people in the bush.

An Hon. Member: They should go to Badagry.

Mr Dada : Not only Badagry, Egbado as well. There are works of fine art which are so impressive that people, not knowing what to do, have converted them into little gods and they are being worshipped. Such people should be approached by the officers responsible for the archives so that people might be asked to submit such work so that we will have something to be proud of in Nigeria.

With these few remarks, I support.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read a second time and committed to a committee of the whole House.

Bill immediately considered in Committee.

(In the Committee)

Clauses 1 and 2 agreed to.

Clause 3.

Mr J. G. Adeniran (Ibadan West): Mr Chairman, Sir, in this clause 3, it is stated that the establishment of these offices will have so many branches. I would suggest, Sir, and I appeal to the Government that if branches will be established, I think each Administrative Headquarters in the Region should have an establishment or an office to be created in each provincial headquarters, so that the people in each province may be able to send their archives to that office at the proper time. It will not be good, Sir, that this office be created only in the Regional Headquarters, where so many people from rural areas or other District Council or Local Government Councils will not be able to go in time.

Clause 3 agreed to.

Clauses 4 to 8 agreed to.

Clause 9.

Chief T. T. Solaru (Ijebu East): Mr Chairman, in clause 9 the composition of the National Archives Committee is set out in broad as well as in general terms, the Chief Justice of the Federation being Chairman; but I look in vain, except for the members of the University College, who shall be appointed by the Senate, for any member of the Federal Education Department.

I would have thought that the Federal Adviser on Education could usefully be a member of this Committee, and I respectfully submit that the Minister would consider making an Executive Member of the Education Department of the Federation, a member of this Committee.

The Minister of Education (The hon. Aja Nwachuku): The suggestion made by the hon. Member will be considered.

Clauses 9 to 12 agreed to.

Bill to be reported.

(Mr Speaker resumed the Chair)

Bill reported, without amendment :

Question proposed, that the Bill be now read a third time.

Mr Jaja Wachuku (Aba): Mr Speaker, Sir, this Bill is a welcome one. My only quarrel is that it does not go far enough. The definition of this Bill, Sir, refers to all public records. I do not know why there is no clause in this Ordinance which should have given authority, other than the one here, to restrict any importation of documents to what may be considered to be an archives. There is none that will make a Minister or somebody in authority get us some private documents or some records which may be valuable to the nation as such.

In clause 4 (2) we are told that the custody of any public documents shall be transferred to the archives. Where is this national archives? Is there a museum here? We don't know. I hope, Mr Speaker, Sir, that when we talk of archives here we are not going to have what is an apology of a real archives but what is worthy of this Government. I would ask the Minister to do something more positive to build up a real archives for this nation and not just get this Bill passed and then later on tell us we have something, and if you look for it you don't see it.

The Minister of Education (Hon. Aja Nwachuku): Mr Speaker, it is a pity that the hon. Member was not here when I was moving the Motion. I said that there will be a permanent building at Ibadan and also in Lagos where we have this national archives unestablished. If he had been present he would not have raised this point.

Mr L. J. Dosunmu (Lagos East): Sir, I do not understand my hon. Friend Mr Jaja Wachuku. He is asking the Minister to compulsorily acquire private documents.

From clause 5 of the Bill it is clear that the Director can, by contract, enter into an agreement to acquire private documents for the national archives.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read a third time and passed.

DISTILLATION OF SPIRITS BILL

Order for Second Reading read.

The Minister of Internal Affairs (Hon. J. M. Johnson) : Mr Speaker, I beg to move that 'A Bill for an Ordinance to make provision for control of the distillation of spirits in Nigeria, for the purpose of levying an excise duty on such spirits, and for purposes ancillary thereto' be now read a second time.

Section 8 of the Liquor Ordinance places a complete ban on the distillation of spirits in Nigeria, unless they are to be denatured or used exclusively for scientific, medical, surgical or pharmaceutical purposes.

The Governments of the Eastern and Western Regions and of the Southern Cameroons, have asked the Federal Government to remove this ban in their territories. The Federal Government have also decided that it should be removed in Lagos. The effect of the Bill, if passed into law, will be to remove the ban immediately in Lagos. Constitutionally, the Federal Government cannot finally remove it in the Regions, and it will be necessary for Regional Governors and the Commissioner for the Cameroons to take the action prescribed in Clause 7 of the Bill, if they wish it to be removed in their territories. It will, under that Clause, be necessary for them to have published in their Gazette, a notice that Clause 7 shall have effect.

It is not the intention of the Federal Government that all control over the distillation of spirits should be removed. My honourable Friend, the Prime Minister will be moving a Motion declaring spirits to be excisable goods under the Excise Ordinance and imposing a rate of Excise Duty on them. It will then only be legal to manufacture spirits under licence from the Comptroller of Customs and Excise, and it is the intention of the Federal Government to make Regulations in the near future which will limit the issue of licences to persons whose largest still will be at least of 400 gallons capacity.

That will exclude the small 'backyard' distiller. But the possible danger to Government revenue if 'backyard' distillers were licensed is so great that the Federal Government could not possibly, at this time, take the risk. Excise control of distilleries is highly complicated, and the Federal and Eastern and Western Regional Governments are in agreement that

the grant of licences must be confined to concerns which will be able to conform to the strict controls envisaged.

I know that there is a section of public opinion which, on religious and moral grounds, will be sorry to see the enactment of this Bill. (*Hear, hear*). It is not the object of the Government to make it easier to buy and consume spirits. The excise duty will be kept at a level which will safeguard the present revenue from duties on liquor, but at the same time should enable local distilleries to produce spirits at a competitive price. It is hoped that spirits locally distilled, under licence, will to some extent at least replace illicit spirits, which are generally most injurious to health.

The Bill will enable a new industry to be started and will, it is hoped attract foreign capital investment, which this country greatly needs. There will be plenty of scope for capital investment by Nigerians in the industry, possibly in the first instance, in partnership with foreign distilling firms. Two of these firms have already shown a keen interest in starting a distillery in Nigeria.

Sir, I beg to move.

Hon. Victor Mukete (Minister of State) : Sir, I beg to second.

Question proposed.

Mr D. D. U. Okay (Port Harcourt) : Sir, my quarrel with this Bill is that it is inadequate. It removes the existing restriction on the distillation of spirits locally, but does not lift the prohibition on the drinking of spirits in certain areas of the Western, Eastern and Northern Regions. Sir, what is the purpose of distilling drinks if people are barred by law from cooling their thirst.

I wish, Sir, to congratulate Chief S. L. Akintola, the hon. Ezondobor and the Rev. Bens for this Bill. Their relentless fight to get the distillation of local drinks—or if you prefer TIMOSHENKO—licensed, has been rewarded.

Sir, I beg to support.

Rev. E. S. Bens (Brass) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I am grateful to the last speaker who has already showered some complimentary words on my name and some people who fought for legalising illicit gin. Please, Sir, although by profession I am a priest, I must say clearly that the church itself is not opposed to drinks but to over

indulgence. No sacrifice after all is complete without drinks being included.

When I first came into this House I firmly advocated that illicit gin, as we call it, is not illicit in the true sense of it. I am saying this with responsibility, my own responsibility that even those charged with the duty of preventing the distillation of this illicit gin are themselves guilty of taking it.

Mr Speaker, I thought that when this law is being introduced by the hon. the Minister of Internal Affairs he is coming to help to remove all the troubles that people are encountering in distilling illicit gin, and I would go straight away to say that this Bill is iniquitous and therefore should be opposed by all Sides of this House. By its title, Mr Speaker, it says it is to make provision for control of distillation of spirits in Nigeria, and then the mover of the Motion was saying he wants to gain the interest of this country by making such regulations that would kill the minor industries and the people operating in the industries. Well, I thought people who should be encouraged are the local people. Those are the people who are paying money into our coffers. You cannot invite a big concern from Holland or Germany to come and distil here. They already have theirs.

I am very much surprised that a National Minister of this kind will be setting up a Bill which he says is going to make provision for control and yet he is not able to control. Clause 3, Mr Speaker, says that no persons shall distil any spirits and that no person shall possess, sell or dispose of any spirit in Nigeria except in accordance with the provisions of the Ordinance. And then where is that Ordinance now? How can we commit suicide by passing a Bill which we do not know? (*Laughter*)....

Mr Speaker, to pass this Bill is to commit suicide, and therefore I say it should not be passed.

The last omission I want to call the attention of the Minister to is the licence fee. I thought he would state clearly how much the licence fee would be. When it is not written here, why can he now say it when he was moving the Bill?

I beg to oppose this Bill, Mr Speaker.

Mr Jaja Wachuku (Aba): Mr Speaker, Sir, I support this Bill for a different reason. It is known that distillation has been going on and

our people have been drinking what is called illicit gin. Some call it O.H.M.S., others call it Timoshenko, some other people call it Akpetashin, and all sorts of names, just to disguise it. They have gone from a very crude stage to a more refined stage.

An hon. Member: How do you know?

Mr Wachuku: I have seen some of it, but I do not drink at all. But it is necessary that when the Government is faced with a reality there is no need hiding the fact that the thing is there. It is facing reality now instead of saying this is illegal, and you see people doing it by the back-yard and behind you, anywhere, so much so that you just move around and you see it. They then choose to recognise the fact and then legalise it, at the same time bringing in some control.

I do not agree at all with my hon. friend Rev. Bens, to say that we should give a free hand, everybody just distilling as he likes. If we want to convert this country into a home of drunkards, then let us have a free hand. But the Government must control it.

There is one point on which I disagree entirely with the Minister. Surely, if there is any industry in which we want foreign capital it is not in this one. I would like foreign capital to go into something more constructive: this is destructive. The other time we had a record here of how many million bottles of beer are consumed in this country. Is that a good thing for this country? That aspect of industrialisation of the country should wait first. Let the local ones that are doing it here continue. We do not want big distilleries in this country. We do not want distilleries for whisky, gin and all sorts of things. If the people who have been doing it can be encouraged to form companies, gather their money and distil, then they will know the quantity they will distil that will not be so much as to get the nation drunk.

We want foreign capital into something constructive. We have raw materials: our cocoa which is sold abroad; we do not produce chocolate here. Why does not the Minister invite a capitalist to manufacture the chocolate here from our cocoa? We have these things: these are beneficial to human health, but not this. I am not a kill-joy, but at the same time I am not a reverend gentleman. I was neither an ex-Reverend nor a reverend gentleman.... (*Laughter*).... But in reality there is no need

encouraging excessive drinking because we want to increase revenue. If this is the only source of increasing revenue in this country, I think we might as well dry up.

The Bill is welcome in the sense that it is not only making a provision that not every Tom, Dick and Harry should begin to distil gin whether you are capable of doing it or not, but also to place restriction on our people. We want to keep vigilant to make sure that once we want to start this thing we start it properly. But in the name of goodness, as I have said before, do not invite big capital for the purpose of distilling gin or whisky in Nigeria. I do not think that is in the best interest of Nigeria. We want foreign capital to come into other places, not this one. If we all become drunk, I think we will not be able to think and when we are drunk people will take away our heritage, our birthright.

I therefore beg the Minister to discourage distilling companies to come into this country with their capital. If they are not prepared to invest capital in other spheres more profitable to our country, then let that capital remain elsewhere and let our people try to build up their own industries in their own way under the supervision of the Government.

Mr T. A. Ajayi (Ekiti North): Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg most humbly to oppose this Bill. What are the values of these trade spirits? As far as I know, Sir, they lower the morality and mentality of a nation. Therefore why should we engage in preparing policies which will eventually kill our race. At present, Sir, enough harm is being done by the imported spirits which are being prepared under very good methods and very careful attention. What will become of the nation then, Sir, if we encourage the local distillation of spirits which perhaps may lack supervision and every Dick and Jack will prepare it? I think we shall be bringing upon this nation many more injuries, for there is no guarantee that even local ones will use such adequate methods of distillation that will not be injurious to human beings.

Mr N. A. Ezonbodor (Western Ijaw): On a point of order, Mr Speaker. It has been allowed in this House that native drinks should be made.

Mr Speaker: That is not a point of order.

Mr Ajayi: I know there are certain people in this country whose stock-in-trade is to revel

in dangerous things. I am glad I do not belong to that section of the country. It is our business in this country to do as much as we can to discourage this habit because it is becoming now a panacea.

Mr Speaker, I think the welfare of our people should take precedence over the financial gains to be derived by Government in the form of duties. I am suggesting, Sir, that Government should insist on preventing people from distilling any spirits in this country for 'Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof'. I beg to oppose.

Mr J. C. Obande (South East Idoma): Mr Speaker, I rise to support the Bill. Clause 3 of the Bill is so explanatory that I can do nothing other than support it. I would also like to make one observation. I suggest the aim of the Bill, that the Government claims that if spirit is being distilled in Nigeria the payment of heavy charges for the drink should be reduced.

In this respect, Sir, I would like to refer to the existing Star Beer which is now in existence. The price as we expect it to be has gone in a different way. It is as costly as any other beer that we still import. In supporting this Bill, Sir, I would like the firms or companies so authorised to distil this drink to be careful in seeing to it that they help to reduce the prices of whatever they produce in this country.

With these observations I beg to support.

Mr E. C. Akwivu (Orlu): Mr Speaker, it is very easy to pretend that existing facts do not exist. You see, whether we like it or not, up to this moment local distillation of spirits has been illegal, but, nevertheless, it has gone on extensively. Now, Sir, if we are to administer any system of control effectively, I would feel that perhaps the first and best thing to be done is to make these underground and backroom producers come out into the light and, if they come, teach them how to do it well. Charge them what extra duties you may, and I am quite sure that they will pay. I think the health of the nation suffers a lot more if by very rigid and arbitrary forms of control we make them prefer making them at the backyard and inside thick forests and in the most interior parts of the creeks in the way they are doing now.

I feel, Sir, that every human being is entitled to exercise his own craft in the society. We

patronise the English distillers; we patronise the Dutch distillers. The duties and freight paid have not debarred them from selling their products all over the world at some gain. Well, if these distillers can be condemned as being criminals, then everybody else is. So what we have got to decide once and for all is whether we are patronising spirit distillers. If we are, then our own nationals are entitled to such recognition and to such form of patronage. Sir, I beg to support.

The Minister of Research and Information (Chief Kolawole Balogun): Mr Speaker, I wish, Sir, to say that Government's purpose in bringing this Bill is really two-fold. The first, Sir, is to keep in step with the various demands in this House that something should be done about the obvious fact that many people have been really engaged in this art of distilling gin and all that, and that in the best interests of the health of the people of this country something should be done to protect the people generally, and what the Minister has done here is to bring forward a proposal which recognises this fact, at the same time the health of the people of this country.

And that is really the main reason why I wish to speak, Sir, to point out the two main reasons for this Bill. The first, to recognise the fact that our people are getting rather very adept in certain parts of the country in making this gin, and therefore to make it possible for those who want to engage in this industry to engage in it; and then the second purpose is that they should engage in it a proper manner. The main purpose of this Bill is not to legalize, as some people have been saying, illicit gin *per se*. That is that people who are making illicit gin, the Government has now handed certificates to them; so long as they can come forward and take a licence, then they can carry on making illicit gin, it does not matter how they make it.

I do not think that is the purpose of Government at all. The purpose of Government is that these liquor restrictions are being relaxed and, secondly, anybody who wants to manufacture liquor now will go according to the proper procedure, the time tested procedure. After all, gin is not a Nigerian drink, and I do not see why we should be so much anxious to perpetuate this underground method of making gin in Nigeria.

And I want to disagree with people who say that this is not one of those industries which should be encouraged. I am not saying that drink should be encouraged mainly for the purpose of encouraging it, but there is one significant fact, and that is this, that lots of foreign drinks are coming into this country to-day. They will continue to come into this country, and it is one of the ways of protecting our own interests in this country that those things that we import should be made in this country. If we are all agreed that some people are making gin and that they are doing it in the proper manner and that since gin is being drunk in this country it should be manufactured, then what Government has done is this: to say, anybody who wants to manufacture gin will be given permission to manufacture gin, so long as he observes certain elementary standards so that whatever he produces is not going to be to the detriment of the health of the people of this country.

Mr Speaker, that is the purpose of this Bill.

Mr M. A. O. Olarewaju (Ilorin South): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to congratulate the Minister who introduced this Bill. I believe, Sir, the Minister concerned might have taken into consideration the punishment suffered by our people in Nigeria who tried to introduce our own way of distillation of spirit in Nigeria. This Bill, if passed, Sir, will increase our wealth, by obtaining cheaper drink and also will add to the industrialisation of this country. Government should consider licence fees not to be too high for individual persons in Nigeria to obtain. I beg to recommend nothing over £5 for licence fees.

An hon. Member: For how many gallons?

Mr Olarewaju: As many gallons as the person can distil.

If the licence fee is too high it means the Government encourages contravention on illicit gin. Again, Sir, the present simple method of distillation of gin in Nigeria should be improved and the present locally made drink known as illicit drink should now be regarded as Nigerian drink. Government should also invest power on the local authorities in various parts of the country to issue licences to anybody requiring them for distillation. Sir, I beg to support.

Mr P. D. Kpumm (Jecira): Mr Speaker, I wish to congratulate the Minister who has

introduced this Bill. This is an important Bill which should have the support of the Council of Ministers and hon. Members in this House.

Whether we like it or not the illicit gin will be on sale. Whether it is dangerous to the health of the people or not it will still be on sale. The only thing I will ask the Council of Ministers is what method the Government will now take to eradicate the idea of distilling illicit gin? I remember when a friend of mine was taking a bottle of illicit gin, he died of the alcohol. It is so dangerous to health that from the beginning you may be enjoying it but after taking it for some time it will show you what it is and what it was. It is of no use allowing this gin to go into Nigeria. I do not hope anybody in this House will say that illicit gin should be introduced into Nigeria. Any drink for that matter that will harm anybody is not good to be produced in Nigeria.

An hon. Member : What about whisky ?

Mr Kpumm : That is a thing I cannot answer here. So, Mr Speaker, I support the Bill.

Mr N. A. Ezonbodor (Western Ijaw) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I find it very hard to support this Bill. We have often come to this House and repeatedly prayed the Government to legalise the native drink for the people in rural areas. When this Bill came up we were very happy that the Government is now trying to help the people, but when I went through the Bill, ever since I attended this House I have never seen a dangerous and obnoxious Bill like this before. It does not help my people ; it does not help the people distilling this drink. The allegation you are making in this House is that certain firms have been persuading Government not to allow the people to distil this drink. The Minister has said that certain firms are to be invited to come to distil.

Mr Jaja Wachuku (Aba) : We opposed that one.

Mr Ezonbodor : When they say the drink will be legalised they say a reasonable amount will be paid. It goes to show that the poor people will not be allowed to make it. Go to our area : it goes to ban Ijaw people, my people, from distilling this drink. It goes to say that only rich men are coming into this country. The people are saying here that they are paying tax out of this drink they are selling.

I said last time here that when the Governor-General toured our area we prayed him to come

and tell this House to allow the distilling of this gin in the country. We thought the Governor-General had done so. Now we have come to introduce this Bill. We oppose it and we beg the Minister to withdraw this Bill. If we allow this Bill to pass through this House we go to encourage corruption in this country. The people who are distilling this drink will not leave it. They will continue and knowing too well that the law is now rigid, the policemen in this country will seize this opportunity to enrich themselves with the bribe they receive when they arrest them ; the people will definitely be afraid and they will spend money to bribe the police to get free. I remember a certain case when a man was arrested for being in possession of two bottles of this gin in Ajoromi Apapa. He was taken to court and fined £200 or one year imprisonment. So that if this comes in we go to increase corruption in this country. So that, Mr Speaker, I beg the Minister to reconsider this Bill, withdraw it and re-draft it to go to help the natives.

Not only that, if the Government is bent on industrialising this drink they should go to the area where people are distilling this drink—not to industrialise it in Lagos or Ibadan or anywhere that people don't know how to do it.

With these remarks I beg to oppose.

Mr S. W. Ubani-Ukoma (Aba) : Mr Speaker, I don't know what this Bill aims at, whether the object is to make more revenue for the country or to encourage drunkenness. We all know what evil drinking brings to a nation and a young country like Nigeria not yet with a very good foundation is to encourage the drinking of alcohol. I think that our Ministers should have taken into consideration what evil drinking is to the nation and not to think of encouraging foreign firms to come to this country to help us do it.

I remember what an expatriate officer said last time when he gave us the number of gallons that are consumed. It was no praise for this country, it was a mockery and I see no wisdom in supporting this Bill. Sooner or later the problem that faces America is going to face Nigeria, and that is the greed to drink. People are consuming much drink in this country and if this Bill was designed to help the people who live along the creeks who have been in the habit of drinking some sort of liquor to warm their bodies, it should have been made easier for them to distil ; but in this case I

think the Government is making it more difficult for them.

So I find it strange why the Government of the country should be in this position of encouraging the distillation of gin in such a way that it does not help the authorities concerned. Rather it tends to bring foreign people to this country to distil gin.

Mr Speaker, I think that the position of this matter is that whether you oppose it or not, because of the National Government, people will not even speak their mind. Even after speaking their mind, they will go to support the Bill. Whatever happens, my conscience is clear and I think it is a very bad Bill for this country, and it should not come to this House at all. I oppose the Bill.

The Minister of Internal Affairs (Hon. J. M. Johnson) : Mr Speaker, Sir, the arguments of those who are attempting to oppose this Bill can be classified under three heads. It has been criticised on grounds of morality. Certainly, Sir, it does not matter what we say here to-day, the drinking habit has come to stay. The fact that we are going to establish distilleries in this country will not necessarily encourage heavier drinking, and I must remind you that the object of this Bill is not to legalise backyard distilleries that you find all over the country now.

It is good, as you say, that instead of bringing in this Bill, we should have brought in interesting projects like the manufacture of chocolate and the like. But somebody has said that it is very very difficult for you to have a successful feast without having spirit. So I think the only place to fight this habit is outside this House. Those Gentlemen of the collar will make more use of their opportunities in the pulpit. But what are concerned about now is increase in revenue. I am not in favour of people having more and more opportunities for drinking. But the fact remains that these drinks are still coming into this country and what this Government is anxious to do is to encourage the people to produce part of the drinks here which in the end will reduce the quantities coming here, and instead of customs duty, we shall be drawing excise duty on them, and more employment will be given to our children. At the same time it is another form of industrialisation. Many of us may prove experts at this distillation job.

Happily, all hon. Members here have volunteered to discourage the drinking of illicit gin.

Copper, brass and dangerous things are being used to distil the dangerous drug that is called illicit gin. We are doing our best now to bring foreign capital into the country. You will be able to join these foreign investors or form your own companies and establish distilleries here yourselves. The question of whether drinking is good or bad I will not touch.

People are complaining very much that those who are already distilling illicit gin are not given a lift in their trade, that we are not asking them to continue to distil this gin so that everybody buys from them. I am sure that serious-minded Gentlemen in this House will not back this view at all. If you allow, for purposes of argument, everybody to distil his own drink at the back of his house, where are you going to get the staff of Customs officials to go round and check for the purpose of collecting excise duties? How are you going to keep control on them and to see that they are properly done? It is quite impossible. If drinking is an evil, it is an evil that has come to stay, and we are not going to perpetuate it by just folding our arms and allowing foreign countries to take all the money without making an attempt to cash in on it ourselves.

So I am asking you, Gentlemen, to be very very realistic and back this Bill. *(Applause.)*

Chief T. T. Solaru (Ijebu East) : Mr Speaker, I was very sorry when the Minister for, is it Internal or Eternal Affairs, was defending this Bill, as he ought to, made some jibe at people who would have their opportunities in the pulpit. He seems to think that the pulpit and the Floor of the Chamber belong to entirely two different worlds. Well, he had better learn what is called integration : if you cannot integrate your spiritual life with your physical and your social life, then you are a divided personality.

Sir, it is very difficult to speak for or against this Bill. It is quite a mixed Bill, like a bad and good part of something. It is like asking the question, "Would you rather have your neck wrung or would you have your throat cut?" Well, neither is a pleasant prospect. Here is a Bill brought forward for admirable purpose, to control what is really a pest in the country. Everybody is agreed that illicit distillation is quite harmful. If you do not know, ask the Doctors, ask the Pharmacists, let them analyse the thing and let them show you what poison people are imbibing. The fact is that the

The Minister of Internal Affairs (The hon. J. M. Johnson): I think that the hon. Member is talking about Clause 1.

Mr Ezonbodor: Because we do not know what the Minister is referring to. It says, "No person shall distil any spirits, and no person shall possess, sell or dispose of any spirits in Nigeria, except in accordance with the provisions of the Excise Ordinance and regulations thereunder". Where are the regulations and why aren't they discussed here?

Sir, what I am trying to understand in this Clause is that the Government is trying to invent another drink in this country, so that is another invention. This Clause is a very bad Clause.

The Minister of Communications and Aviation (Chief The hon. S. L. Akintola): I think in fairness to this hon. House, a point has been made which should be replied to. Members have expressed surprise regarding the possibility of some sort of foreign monopoly being established to take out the control of the proposed industry from the hands of the indigenous people. I think it is an important point and in fairness to the Government, it ought to be said that for some years past great emphasis has been laid on co-operation between foreign capital and indigenous capital and Members will realise that the response from the foreign capitalists has not altogether been discouraging.

I happen to know through personal experience, that people from foreign countries are to-day afraid of bringing capital into this country without affording it with the goodwill of the generous people of this country. Those who have been travelling from abroad in this country, either from the United Kingdom or from America, have always been anxious to see that they bring the money to industrialise this country and they are not here with the whole spirit of domination and of monopoly. Members here in this House and elsewhere, have been approached, even with a view to finding some information about an African who might be interested in that part of industry, with a view to making them directors; and not only that, the foreign investors have also got various corporations interested in their activities.

I say this, and I am quite sure that the Minister of Commerce and Industry will agree with me, that enquiries have been directed to the Government by intending investors trying to find out what Africans are interested in, the particular lines of industry, with a view to getting their co-operation and to get whatever capital is at their disposal. I am quite sure that, even in this case, Africans who are willing and who are interested and who have the money, will always be approached by intending foreign investors. I realise that individuals may not have the necessary capital, that is absolutely clear, but what is happening to-day in the Regions as well as in the Federation here, has more or less become the policy for the various bodies to invest their money in important industrial ventures by way of, more or less, the underwriters. So that, in due course, it may be possible for Africans to purchase those shares and I do not think it is the intention of the Government that this particular venture should be an exception.

I would close by referring to the point just made by our Friend hon. Mr Ezonbodor. I feel very much afraid to cross swords with him on a subject of which he is so of the opinion of an expert. (*Laughter*). But I would say this, that where references are made to a distant law or regulation, Members should spare the time to read those laws in order that they will be able to ask intelligent questions.

This Bill was published previously in the Gazette and there was ample time for Members to have studied it carefully. (*Interruption*). This subject of illicit gin has not just come to us to-day. That subject has always been with us and I would normally have hoped that, in view of the interest of Members getting an assurance in this House on the subject of illicit gin, hon. Members, especially directly opposite me, would jubilantly accept this particular Bill without even asking a question; and I would not be surprised if, when this House adjourns this evening, that hon. Members will be celebrating in illicit gin.

Clause 3, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 4 agreed to.

Sitting suspended : 4.35 p.m.

Sitting resumed : 4.50 p.m.

Question proposed, That Clause 5 stand part of the Bill.

Mr Jaja Wachuku (Aba): Mr Chairman Sir, this is a Clause, which I think has been treated very rigorously. Line 2—"Any person who commits an offence under section 3 shall be liable—in respect of the first offence—to a fine of £500, and in default of payment to imprisonment for three years." Now, Sir, in respect of a second or subsequent offence a fine of £500 and in default of payment to three years imprisonment, or to imprisonment for three years without a fine, or to both such penalties.

Those of us who feel that a part of this legislation is

An hon. Member: Ambiguous.

Mr Jaja Wachuku: Not ambiguous at all, but it is not encouraging as it should be. We feel that Clause 5 should be amended by the Government.

People are already doing this thing. It is not by passing this Legislation now that it can be changed overnight. To say that if anybody is found in possession of any of these things now that he will be fined, on a first offence the sum of £500, and if he fails to pay this he will go to prison for three years, is not the most effective way of putting a stop to this matter. I think those who sent us here will not say that we have been considering their best interests.

An hon. Member: But we want to stop it.

Mr Jaja Wachuku: Much as we would like to stop it, the thing is there. Even the Minister of Communications and Aviation recognises that fact. The thing is there. The distillation is going on, and we have to face that fact. We must just go gradually, so as to convince these people that the Government has not come to get them out like that, in order to import people to come and take over the industry from them. The purpose of this is to encourage them to establish a healthy industry and not to discourage them altogether.

People have become practised in this thing. We want to make these people feel that the Government is considering the health of the people. Now by a fine of £500, are we improving the economic health of the country. We are going to turn out more criminals, there is no question about it; whereas if we make it more reasonable, say about £50, or three months

—Not that I want to encourage people, but this is something that is general. If a fine say of £50 or three months imprisonment does not deter people then the Government can bring in an Amendment to increase the penalty. The House will be in a position to know the facts, and in that case it will not hesitate to give the Government the necessary support.

Mr Chairman, we hope that the Minister will look into this.

The Minister of Internal Affairs (Hon. J. M. Johnson): The penalties laid down here, Sir, are already in the Criminal Code, for anybody who at present contravenes under the Excise Ordinance. So that this is not a new one, and as the last speaker understands very well, it does not necessarily mean that when you have £500 maximum, that every offender will be fined this amount. Many, many offences have this penalty, but you do not invariably, impose the maximum punishment of £500 though it is there. So that it is not a new one and, as the last speaker understands very well, it does not necessarily mean that when you have £500 as a maximum penalty you invariably give that maximum punishment. Let us say for instance you have cases of illiterates who are distilling illicit gin, one or two bottles. What if you went to a place and found somebody had put up a £2,000 distillery and that he is making a lot of money from it and it is found out that he is having one of these things—I understand in Scotland it is called boot-legging—are you going to fine him, say, two or three pounds like you will do to an unfortunate poor man who is trying to distil one bottle or so?

I think we must leave that to the discretion of the presiding magistrate (*Shouts of "No"*).

Mr F. O. Mbadiwe (Udi): Mr Chairman, Sir, if there is a word there like "maximum" I do not think anybody would quarrel with this section. This section says, "Any person who commits an offence under section 3 shall be liable in respect of a first offence to a fine of five hundred pounds and in default of payment to imprisonment for three years, and in respect of any second or subsequent offence to a fine of five hundred pounds and in default of payment to imprisonment for three years or to imprisonment for two years without such fine, or to both of such penalties." There is no mention of even right of appeal. So that if the word "maximum" is incorporated under this section

For this reason I agree with the Minister who introduced this Bill because he is saving us.

I remember when I was a Chief Warder at Badagry, when I got there I found the people of that place making this gin. My friend here was a Dispenser at that time.

Several hon. Members : Who is that ?

Mr Olateju : Hon. Ayeni... (Laughter)...

A bottle of gin at that place at the time was one shilling and three pence. It is a bad drink. When people take it, it gives them sickness. For that reason, I support this Bill since when they know that there is punishment for people who do not know how to do it they will not do it again.

Mr Abii 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.

Question, That the Bill be now read the third time, put and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read the third time and passed.

BUILDING LINES (FEDERAL TRUNK ROADS)
BILL

Order for Second Reading read.

The Minister of Works and Surveys (Alhaji the hon. Muhammadu Inuwa Wada) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I am glad that this is going to be a very short Bill and it is very non-controversial in comparison with the Bill that has just passed through the House. Mr Speaker, I beg to move that an Ordinance to provide for the application of Building Lines in respect of Federal trunk roads be read a second time.

In 1951, Sir, powers in respect of the prescription of building lines adjoining highways, including Trunk A roads, were devolved to the governments of the Regions. However, in respect of Trunk A roads, it is necessary for the effective discharge of Federal responsibility for their construction, alteration and maintenance, that these powers should be vested in Federal authorities. This is the purpose of this Bill, Sir.

If hon. Members will turn to the objects and reasons, they will find it fully explained there. I want also here to add, Mr Speaker, that the Regions have all been consulted and they are in general agreement with the provisions of this Bill. Furthermore, Sir, no

regulations will be made in connection with this Bill without due reference and consultation with Regional Governments.

Sir, I beg to move.

The Minister of Research and Information (Chief Kolawole Balogun) : Sir, I beg to second.

Question proposed.

Mr Jaja Wachuku (Aba) : Mr Speaker, it seems that some hon. Members have lost their sense of duty to the public they represent and think they earn their pay by saying Aye, aye. We will help the Government where necessary but we will not be precluded from making statements where necessary.

Now, Sir, I remember I have raised a point here before, about legislation by reference. In clause 4, Sir, of this Bill, there is again legislation by reference. Last time, during the Budget Session, I think I raised this matter, taking into consideration that Members of this House are not all lawyers by profession, and many of them are not familiar with the various Ordinances. It has been suggested, Sir, that they should go to the library. There are 184 Members of this House and the books there, the lot contains only about two volumes of each in the law library, and they are not all there so that, if all Members were to go for these things they would not even get them.

The then Attorney-General, Sir, promised that later on if there is a reference to any particular section of the law, that particular section will be quoted so that Members will be familiar with that. Then, Sir, I made the suggestion that in the old Legislative Council volumes of the law were presented to Members of the Council to help Members in their discussions. The Ministers should see to it that each Member has a volume of the law in discussions. The Ministers should see to it every case when you make your reference, so that if he gets a copy of the Bill and he has a volume of the law in the house he can make his reference.

But what do we have here ? Clause 4 tells us references to the Building Lines Regulations Sections 4 and 6, and so on and so forth. If you ask the Minister what is the provision of Sections 4 and 6 of the Building Lines Regulations the Minister cannot answer now. I am saying, Sir, that while we are not opposed to

this Bill, we hope that the Minister will make it possible for Members to understand what he is talking about. Then it will make easy passage for any legislation that comes in here; otherwise you will find Members will come in here, perhaps to oppose a thing when they would have supported it, or to support a thing when they should have opposed it, and that does not help the House at all.

On this point, Sir, I do not support and I do not oppose.

The Minister of Works and Surveys (Alhaji the hon. M. I. Wada): Mr Speaker, Sir, I can very well understand what the hon. Member means. We all know he is a lawyer and, being a lawyer, he wants to get free copies of the Laws of Nigeria.

Sir, Members know all Bills are first published in the *Gazette*. Due notice is given to all Members: they get copies of these Bills in their *Gazette*. It is their duty if they do it well—to study their Bills even before they come here, and make all the references they require. But, Sir, to provide every Member of this House with a complete set of the Laws of Nigeria would put the Federal Government into a huge expenditure. And that is what the hon. Jaja Wachuku wants. And anyhow, Sir, I am sure there are many Members here who have studied the Bill, made the necessary references and are now prepared to support it.

Mr D. D. Okay (Port Harcourt): Mr Speaker, Sir, I am happy about this Bill. We want all Federal roads to be uniform, and of the same standard. Sir, some trunk roads in the rural areas are so narrow . . .

The Minister of Works and Surveys: On a point of order, Mr Speaker, this Bill is on building lines.

Mr Speaker: The hon. Member's speech is not, so far, connected with the Bill at all.

Mr Okay: I support the Bill.

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

Question put accordingly and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read a second time and committed to a Committee of the whole House.

Bill immediately considered in Committee.

(In the Committee)

Clauses 1 and 2 agreed to.

Clause 3.

Chief J. I. G. Onyia (Asaba): I would like to know from the Minister of Works and Surveys how are these Building Lines being observed. At Asaba Urban District Council you have two trunk roads, as it were, from the township leading down to the wharf. One is from where you have the ferry approach road, and the other one was the old approach road. We do not know whether your building lines, as indicated here, apply to both roads and whether both roads are still Federal Trunk A roads.

The Minister of Works and Surveys: Mr Chairman, I hope the hon. Member would realise that there is only one trunk road passing through Asaba. The old one is dead.

Chief Onyia: On a point of explanation. When you get to Asaba, just about a quarter of a mile inside the town, at the Cable Point, you have two roads, one was the old trunk A road, leading down to mile 321, and then there is another trunk A road leading from the new ferry approach road. I do not know whether you have abandoned one to the Asaba District Council or whether those two roads leading to this junction still belong to the Federal Government and are both still trunk A roads.

The Minister of Works and Surveys: Mr Chairman, Chief Onyia, being the Chairman of the Asaba District Council, Sir, should know that the Federal Government is only responsible for the road now actually in use, and leading direct to the ferry. The other one, if the hon. Member wishes, he can take over and maintain.

Clause 3 agreed to.

Clause 4.

Mr S. W. Ubani-Ukoma (Aba): Mr Chairman, not many people can say whether the building line mentioned in this clause is five feet from the grass verge or fifteen feet, or thirty feet from the crest of the road. I would like to know from the hon. the Minister what this is, and also to know what is the distance between the crest of the road to the building line at corners.

The Minister of Works and Surveys: Mr Chairman, this is a rather difficult question to ask in that some roads are single lane roads and others are double lane. All that this Bill seeks is power to make regulations for the building lines. These regulations should vary from place to place and from Region to Region.

Mr Speaker . Order, order : It is a quarter to six o'clock, and I am bound to interrupt the proceedings. Debate to be resumed.

The Minister of Works and Surveys (Alhaji the hon. Inuwa Wada) : Tomorrow.

Adjournment

The Minister of Works and Surveys : Mr Speaker, Sir, I have now to move, That this House do now adjourn.

The Minister of Research and Information : Sir, I beg to second.

Question proposed.

Mr A. E. Ukattah (Bende) : Mr Speaker, Sir, on this Motion for adjournment, I would like to speak on a point which concerns a new railway level crossing for Umuahia-Ibeku. During the last Budget meeting, I was to move a Motion asking the Government to call on the Railway Corporation to provide a new level crossing for Umuahia-Ibeku, but the then Minister of Transport thought that it was not necessary for me to move the Motion, as seen from a letter he addressed to me then, a part of which I wish to read, with the permission of the Speaker. "A new level crossing at mile 70 at Umuahia-Ibeku has recently been agreed by all concerned and arrangements are being made to provide this level crossing as quickly as possible". On the strength of this letter, Mr Speaker, I did not think it necessary to move the Motion. In fact, before I got home after the Budget meeting, I heard that a start had been made on a point selected for the new railway level crossing.

But all of a sudden, the work came to a standstill, and the people of Umuahia-Ibeku have been very much worried. They have been suffering greatly and I have been asked to ask the Minister of Transport to make a definite statement on the situation. In fact I was told never to leave this place until a satisfactory statement has been made by the Minister of Transport because the people are suffering greatly on account of the nature of the railway line passing through the centre of the township, dividing it into Eastern and Western sides. It is impossible for anybody on the Eastern side to come over to the Western side because the old level crossing is such that the gates are always locked.

So, Mr Speaker, my point is that I ask the Minister of Transport to make a definite

statement on this matter so that I can have something to convey to my people at home.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Transport (Hon. F. E. Ofor) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I must thank the hon. Gentleman for having brought this matter to my attention. The existing level crossing in Umuahia has to be closed almost every time a train is shunted. The new one will not be exposed to this inconvenience.

The Railway Corporation has built a culvert and a gate for it and are providing signals, and the Regional Public Works Department is responsible for the road work required and I am enquiring into the progress made in this matter.

M. Maitama Sule (Kano City) : Mr Speaker, Sir, when last I spoke about the level crossing in Kano which is really very dangerous, I threatened that I would not go back home unless an assurance was given me that something would be done. This time I am not going to say the same thing because I understand that since I spoke last action has been taken, but not enough has been done. I am therefore asking Sir, now that the survey has been made, the Minister of Transport to take *immediate* action so that either a bridge or a gate or something that will stop these fatal accidents is erected there at this level crossing. It is very important, Sir, and you do not know how many lives are being lost every year and the sort of property that is being lost. I ask you, please, to do something about that level crossing.

Question, That the House do now adjourn, put and agreed to.

Resolved, That this House do now adjourn.

Adjourned accordingly at ten minutes to six until 9 a.m. on Friday the 13th of September.

WRITTEN ANSWER TO QUESTION

O.384. M. Gwani Dogo asked the Minister of Lagos Affairs, Mines and Power :—

When the Government will permit the mining of the aluminium found in Kano Province, in order to increase the wealth of the country.

The Minister of Lagos Affairs, Mines and Power : There is no known economic deposit of bauxite, the ore of aluminium, in Kano Province or elsewhere in Nigeria.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
NIGERIA

Friday, 13th September, 1957

The House met at 9 a.m.

PRAYERS

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

PAPERS

Mr Speaker : I have to announce that the following Papers which have already been distributed to Members are deemed to have been laid upon the Table :—

Annual Report of the Federal Fisheries Services for 1955-56 ; and

The Annual Report for the Department of Marketing and Exports for 1955-56.

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

Mr Speaker : I have to inform the House that a Report has been received from the Standing Orders Committee and will be considered under the relevant Motion on to-day's Order Paper. It has been printed and circulated to hon. Members.

ADJOURNMENT SINE DIE

The Minister of Labour and Welfare (Chief the hon. F. S. Okotie-Eboh) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move, That this House, at its rising this day, do adjourn *sine die*.

Sir, I beg to move.

The Prime Minister (Alhaji the hon. Abubakar Tafawa Balewa) : Sir, I beg to second.

Question proposed.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved, That this House, at its rising this day, do adjourn *sine die*.

NOTICES OF MOTIONS AND
ORDERS OF THE DAY

EXCISE DUTY

The Prime Minister (Alhaji the hon. Abubakar Tafawa Balewa) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to move the Resolution standing in my name, No. 2 on the Order Paper, that an excise duty be imposed on spirits manufactured in Nigeria, and that such duty be at the rate of £6-13s-4d a proof gallon.

This Resolution arises directly from the Bill for the Distillation of Spirits Ordinance, which was passed by the House at its third reading yesterday and which, as my Colleague, the hon. Minister of Internal Affairs, mentioned in moving the second reading, provides for the control of the distillation of spirits in Nigeria. Hon. Members will recall that the Ordinance stipulates that no person shall distil liquor in Nigeria other than in accordance with the provisions of the Excise Ordinance. It is essential that the distilling of spirits in Nigeria is controlled, otherwise we would have the wholesale production of immature spirits, which firstly would damage the health of Nigeria and secondly would damage the revenue by escaping the payment of duty.

The system of control which Government will exercise, is that any distiller must obtain a licence from the Comptroller of Customs and Excise under the Excise Ordinance. In order that such a licence shall be legally required, it is necessary to impose a duty on spirits under Schedule B of the Excise Ordinance. That is what this Order does.

The duty imposed by this Order is equivalent to the import duty on spirits. It is possible that, as a result of negotiations, this House may be asked at a later stage to agree to a different rate of duty calculated to encourage local industry on the one hand and protect the revenue on the other. For the time being, as I have said, it is necessary to name some duty, so as to bring the local distilling of spirits within the Excise Ordinance. For the time being, therefore, we have introduced a rate of duty equivalent to the rate of import duty.

Sir, I beg to move.

The Minister of Labour and Welfare (The hon. Chief F. S. Okotie-Eboh) : Sir, I beg to second.

Question proposed.

Rev. E. S. Bens (Brass) : Mr Speaker, yesterday, when we were debating the Bill which was to make provision for the distillation of spirits in Nigeria, much crossing of swords was encountered and there, Sir, I had the privilege to tell the Minister of Internal Affairs that to pass that Bill without knowing exactly the cost of the licence was committing suicide, and it appears to me that my fears are now confirmed. To ask somebody to pay the duty of £6-13s-4d for a gallon of liquor is too high.

How much then will the manufacturer be able to sell it to people who will buy in order to make a profit?

If this Bill, which we passed yesterday, has got good intents I do not see the reason why local people will not take up this occupation or trade and if, Sir, we are going to encourage this distillation, then the duty of £6-13s-4d is too high. I thought then that this Excise Motion is trying to seek the destruction of our local industries, which we thought would be encouraged. The only way I think that we can successfully encourage this trade to grow in Nigeria, is by approaching the Council areas where the actual tombo is being tapped and then, after getting control of a good supply of the tombo, the industry will be instituted, if we are able to send materials or the necessary machinery into these places.

I am sure, Sir, the present Bill which we are moving was intended to encourage local industry but at this rate, even if people agree to combine in this trade, because of this £6-13s-4d licence per gallon of liquor—the two are going together, so that whether it is duty or not they have got to pay it. It is making the case worse, and apart from this Excise duty, you have got to pay some licence. So, I am praying the new Prime Minister, the Prime Minister whom we all love, to consider this matter more carefully. For heaven's sake try and encourage local people who are engaged in such trade. It is an honourable trade... (An hon. Member: Are you speaking from personal experience?) I am speaking of what I know about it.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I will not waste the time of this hon. House but I feel that this Excise duty rate is too high and perhaps when we next come to this House, it will be as small as it has been in the past.

Chief J. I. G. Onyia (Asaba): Mr Speaker, Sir, the duty of £6-13s-4d on a gallon of spirit is prohibitive. It may discourage the local distillers, because it means that the cost of a bottle of locally distilled gin, after paying the duty, will come to the value of £1-2s-3d. I fear, Sir, that the small traders are being discouraged locally and it will be playing into the hands of notorious monopolists at the expense of small distillers.

Sir, I feel that the Government should consider this prohibitive imposition of duty.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved: That, under section 13 of the Excise Ordinance an Excise duty be imposed on spirits manufactured in Nigeria, and that such duty be at the rate of £6-13s-4d a proof gallon.

STANDING ORDERS

The Prime Minister (Alhaji the hon. Abubakar Tafawa Balewa): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to move that the Standing Orders of this House be amended as set out in the recommendations contained in the Report dated the 12th September from the Standing Orders Committee, as follows:

(a) *Standing Order 6*

In page 3, paragraph (7), line 18, to leave out the words "by Mr Speaker."

(b) *Standing Order 13*

In page 6, line 48, to leave out paragraphs (6) and (7) and insert the following:—

"(6) If a Member does not mark his question with an asterisk, the Member of the Council of Ministers to whom it is addressed shall cause an answer to be printed in the *Official Report*.

(7) If a Member is not present to ask his question, or if the question is not reached before 10.30 a.m., the answer shall be printed in the *Official Report*, unless the Member shall have signified his wish to postpone his question before it was called or before 10.30 a.m. as the case may be."

(c) *Standing Order 25*

In page 10, paragraph (14), line 45, to leave out the words "*Ex-officio* Members of the Council of Ministers".

(d) *Standing Order 54*

In page 20, paragraph (1), line 17, to leave out the words "the Attorney-General" and insert the words "a Member of the Council of Ministers to be nominated by that Council" instead thereof.

(e) *Standing Order 55*

In page 20, paragraph (2), line 37, to leave out the words "Financial Secretary" and insert the words "Minister of Finance" instead thereof.

(f) *Standing Order 56*

In page 20, paragraph (1), line 45, to leave out the words "the Attorney-General" and

insert the words "a Member of the Council of Ministers to be nominated by that Council" instead thereof.

(g) *New Standing Order*

To add a new Order—

"3A. Whenever the House shall stand adjourned *sine die* Mr Speaker shall, on the instructions of the Governor-General in Council, give notice of the date of re-assembly."

Sir, I beg to move.

The Minister of Labour and Welfare (The Hon. Chief F. S. Okotie-Eboh): Sir, I beg to second.

Question proposed.

Mr L. J. Dosunmu (Lagos East): Mr Speaker, Sir, obviously there is somebody who is charged with the functions previously performed by the Attorney-General in the Council of Ministers and that being so, I find it difficult and I cannot understand why the Prime Minister has chosen to use so many words in describing one person who will be performing the duties of the Attorney-General, in respect of the Attorney-General, a Member of the Council of Ministers to be nominated by that Council, but whoever that person is we do not know. I should have thought that in the arrangements in the Council of Ministers, they ought to have made up their minds as to who was responsible for the functions of the Attorney-General.

What happens if this House is sitting and we have matters to deal with somebody who will be performing the duties of the Attorney-General? It is going to be difficult for us to know who to approach in respect of such matters. I should have thought, Sir, that the hon. the Prime Minister ought to make up his mind to whom the duties of the Attorney-General are to be assigned.

The Prime Minister: Mr Speaker, Sir, I think the hon. Member raised a point which I should explain. Nobody in the Council is charged with the duties of the Attorney-General. That is one thing we should understand. The hon. Member, unfortunately, Sir, was not present in London at the Constitutional Conference. The Attorney-General is still the Attorney-General of the Federation, but from the Council of Ministers we have a Minister

who answers for the Attorney-General's Department in the House. But this does not mean he is charged with the Attorney-General's responsibilities, Sir.

We have made this provision in the Standing Orders so as to get any of the Members of the Council of Ministers put in that place and, no doubt, when we come to make the nomination we shall, of course, do all we can to see that we have a member of the Council to really assist in the working of the Standing Orders Committee.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved: That the Standing Orders of this House be amended as set out in the recommendations contained in the Report dated 12th September, from the Standing Orders Committee.

TRADES DISPUTES (ARBITRATION AND INQUIRY) (FEDERAL APPLICATION) BILL

Order read for resuming adjourned debate on Question (12th September), That the Bill be now read the third time.

Question again proposed.

The Minister of Labour and Welfare (Chief F. S. Okotie Eboh): Mr Speaker, Sir, yesterday my hon. Friend Mr Fani-Kayode was raising a point about the trade dispute pending in the West African Airways Corporation. I wish to seize this opportunity to say a few words on it and to say that, much as I appreciate the enthusiasm of the hon. Member, I am sure that he, as a prosperous lawyer, will appreciate the fact that when a matter is *sub judice* it is inappropriate to bring it up in this House. I want to give him the assurance that the Department of Labour is always aware and alert to its responsibilities and that in the matter of the trade dispute mentioned a conciliator has been appointed, and the reports are being examined at the moment. It will, therefore, be unnecessary and inappropriate to bring such a matter out here, as it may prejudice the result that we all expect.

Mr R. A. Fani-Kayode (Ife): It is a good thing, Sir, that the hon. Minister thus spoke. I think, Sir, before we use certain phrases we should analyse them properly. When a matter is *sub judice* the contents of that matter are before a tribunal. The issue before the tribunal is, as it was termed, the activities of

one Mr Imeh in the West African Airways Corporation. That is the issue that is *sub judice*. The mere fact that the West African Airways Corporation is being mismanaged, and that there is maladministration, and that there is nepotism, is not *sub judice* at all. I challenge the hon. Minister to bring any facts before this House to show that an enquiry has been instituted into the administration of the West African Airways Corporation.

But that is just by the way. I have to say, Sir, in continuing my speech of yesterday, that it does not appear to this House—at least to me—that the hon. Minister made any reference whatever in his otherwise very able speech in introducing the Bill as to whether organised labour was consulted before this Bill was presented, and also whether the Federation of Employers has also been consulted. After all, it is very important that before a Bill of this nature is brought before us that both the employers and organised labour should have been consulted and their views sought. I hope this has been the case.

Secondly, Sir, it does not appear as if there is any provision at all that any decision made by the committee of enquiry set up would be binding on the parties after the matter had gone into arbitration. I do not know what provisions are made, whether these bodies would just be consultative and when a decision has been given whether it will be binding or otherwise. If not, the question of setting up tribunals of this nature will be a colossal waste of time.

In this country, Mr Speaker, more often than not, the employer is the Government, and I hope, Sir, that this new Bill will not prejudice the position of workers, because it would appear that whenever there is a dispute between Government and employers, unless the Minister goes out to make sure that the persons appointed have the confidence of the workers, it will be very difficult to have a just and satisfactory arbitration of any dispute between Government and its workers. So that we have to implore the Minister that whenever this Bill, when it becomes an Ordinance, is to be put into effect, and when the dispute is between Government and Government workers, that the confidence of the workers will be sought in the appointment of arbitrators.

Last of all, Sir, on this point, I should like to say that we hope that this law will be employed only, and only if all efforts at conciliation, all efforts at negotiation, have completely failed. Because a dispute between employers and employees can only be settled by mutual understanding. When a decision of an arbitration committee is forced upon people, you always find that such decisions will not work out well for such parties.

Now, Sir, as an example of the kinds of injustices that this Bill is trying to remove I will only make passing reference to the West African Airways Corporation. Just as an example. Here is a department, Sir, a Corporation that this House is paying 67 per cent of all its shares—we are holding 67 per cent of its shares, so Nigeria has a lot to say about the management of the Corporation—here are very important allegations being made by the workers in respect of its operations. For, Sir, as I said yesterday, there are over 80 redundant European officials working in that Corporation. Five European officials alone keep one store. These are allegations. More than that, 30 per cent of the workers are wives of expatriate.....

The Minister of Labour and Welfare :

On a point of order, Sir. I am sure, Sir, that the hon. Member is bringing a different argument quite apart from this Bill. It is quite irrelevant, Sir, the argument of redundancy has nothing to do with me, I am not the Minister of Communications and Aviation. He should refer that to the hon. Chief S. L. Akintola, my respected colleague.

Mr Speaker : The Minister of Labour, who is handling this Bill, is not responsible for administration of W.A.A.C. and, unless it is shown that the argument which the hon. Member is raising is a cause of trade disputes, it is irrelevant.

Mr Fani-Kayode : Mr Speaker, Sir, if only the hon. Minister will not bring premature points of order before this hon. House, I shall try to bring forward the causes of a trade dispute, and there is the Minister trying to "Edusicise" me... (Laughter).

I say, Sir, that I am trying to show the types of ills that workers complain of that bring labour disputes. There are allegations, as

I was saying, that 30 per cent of the workers there, paid by you indirectly, are wives of the very officials working under the Corporation, and the only kind of work they do is similar to the work of office messengers, they go about passing papers after making coffee and tea.

Furthermore, Sir, there are cases of unlawful dismissal and cases where any one who tried to organise a trade union in that department is victimised. These are causes of trade disputes. And furthermore, Sir, it is quite clear that the Corporation is completely against Nigerianisation or, as you might call it because it is a West African project, Africanisation of the Corporation. There are about 216 senior expatriate civil servants there, as against 30 African Senior officials, and the thirty are doing the most contemptuous work, despite the fact that they are fully qualified, and trained, at your expense. We train them to certain kinds of jobs, nonetheless they cannot do these jobs because the management will do nothing about it.

On the Corporation we have only two representatives, Mr H. O. Davies and another African.

Furthermore, Sir, we all see that the workers might be justified in being annoyed and in being discontented in that Department. You find advertisements in the papers asking for African Air Hostesses. We see them waving the flag at Ikeja, but they are definitely not given similar amenities as those enjoyed by their English or expatriate counterparts. These people live in Lagos. There is no arrangement for transport for them. Since the...

Mr Speaker : It is quite clear to me, and I think the whole House probably feels the same, that this is a speech that should properly be delivered on a debate on the administration of W.A.A.C. What we are debating is the Third Reading, which is much narrower than any Second Reading of a Bill in general terms dealing with trades disputes. To mention a trade dispute as an example of the harm that might be done by bad administration under this Bill is quite enough, but there is a very clear distinction. It is not easy to draw the line, but there is a clear distinction between a speech that is directed only to a single dispute and a speech on the Third Reading of this general Bill. I do ask the hon. Member to bear that in mind.

Mr Fani-Kayode : I accept that point, Sir, and I would say that I am only showing this House that, as far as I am concerned these are items that might lead to trade disputes, and in fact they have led to one.

Now, Sir, this Bill has given the Minister ample opportunity of bringing tribunals to bear on such matters, if the hon. Minister of Communications and Aviation, and the hon. Minister of Labour will set up a tribunal such as they are given power under this Bill to do, to look into the administration of the West African Airways Corporation. I would say, Sir, that it is the duty of the hon. Minister, when there are these allegations, it is his duty to set up a tribunal to look into it. I am not saying that "A" is right or "B" is wrong. I am not here to give judgment. I am not here to say who is right or wrong. I am putting the facts before the Minister and imploring him to set up a tribunal to enquire into the administration of this Department. Since these allegations have been made, it is his duty to set up this tribunal, and if he objects and says that he cannot do it, then it is about time he thought about creating his own airways corporation.

Mr Speaker, I beg to support.

The Prime Minister (Hon. Alhaji Abubakar Tafawa Balewa) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I do not like to cross swords with my hon. Friend there, but unfortunately, I do not like the hon. Members of the House to start endorsing allegations made by Members, either of the Service or of the Trade Unions. Now what we ask them to do is when they receive complaints or allegations of bad administration, it is in the interests of Government, as well as in their own interests as representatives of their people, to try to go and see the Minister responsible for that particular department, and find out the facts; and if they are not satisfied, then there are all sorts of ways by which they can bring them to the Floor of this House. But really, Sir, we should now understand that here on this Government Bench you have the Ministers. The Ministers are the people that should be criticised, and every Member of the House is free to criticise on any aspect of Government activity, the Administration of our Department, and all the policies of Government; but we should be very pleased if hon. Members would try to see us, Sir, before these serious allegations are made on the Floor of the House,

adequately prepared at least to have representatives in two or three places of importance within the Commonwealth and outside.

India trained her people : the same thing with Ghana. They utilised the period before independence to produce some indigenous people in the field. For the Gold Coast—Ghana—the moment their independence was declared in the United Nations a citizen of that country, one country, was put there to represent his country. So, Sir, that is why I say this is a foretaste of things to come. This short period is a period when we have to get our young men who will take up responsibility immediately we have independence. On the 3rd of April there should be a Nigerian ready to take his place in the United Nations.

Sir, with these few remarks I beg to support the Motion... (Applause).

Mr R. A. Fani-Kayode (Ife): Mr Speaker, Sir, I think I will have to commend Government on bringing this Bill. It shows that Nigeria is gradually taking her place in the world of Nations. It shows that our maturity is fast approaching and, furthermore, I hope that there will be complete reciprocity in other countries after this Bill has been passed.

I hope Government will train or send out if possible—and I don't see what will stop us either legally or constitutionally—Commissioners to parts of the Commonwealth at this stage. Surely, if we can send a Commissioner to the United Kingdom to represent us, there is nothing to stop us sending Commissioners to other parts of the Commonwealth, and I think that this should be adequate training ground for these persons who will spread throughout the world, as hon. Jaja Wachuku has suggested.

I hope that if we do send out the Commissioners to different parts of the Commonwealth the same immunities and privileges that we are now granting to Commonwealth Commissioners will be granted to our own Commissioners.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to support.

Mr E. C. Akwivu (Orlu): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to support this Bill. The humble suggestion I wish to make, Sir, is that for too long a time we have been looking at our affairs in a very small and civil service-minded way. Already, Sir, we have made a start in sending out people to go and work in some Embassies to get a good idea of what foreign representation is, but I think, Sir, that now in this country

and in training abroad, we have got people with reasonable background, socially, educationally and otherwise, and people who have also taken the occasion to undertake studies in international law and international relations.

I feel, Sir, that the time has come when we have got to look for this class of people, give them encouragement and, Sir, if need be, see how we could organise courses for these people to spend any time from three months to six months or a year in some foreign countries with a view to getting some idea of how Ambassadors and Commissioners should look and how they should comport themselves and what is their normal function.

Really, Sir, I feel that the responsibility of representing the State as such will have to fall on this class of people and not mainly on the civil service-minded class of people who would be very efficient Secretaries but perhaps not very imposing or not very good Ambassadors. It is one thing to be a clerk and another to be a representative of a state.

Sir, I beg to support. (Applause).

Mr D. D. U. Okay (Port Harcourt): Mr Speaker, Sir, this Bill is welcome (hear, hear). I hope, Sir, that other Commonwealth countries are extending the same privileges to our diplomats abroad.

I am informed, Sir, that the twelve persons selected for foreign service training will leave Nigeria by the end of this month. It might be said that they are cradle diplomats, but I would like to know from the Prime Minister their status abroad. Do they enjoy privileges or are they just glorified clerks?

Sir, I beg to support.

The Prime Minister (Alhaji the Hon. Abubakar Tafawa Balewa): I think the hon. Member should have known that they have left. He said they are leaving next month (Laughter).

Question put and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read a second time and committed to a Committee of the whole House.

Bill immediately considered in Committee.

(In the Committee)

Clause 1 agreed to.

Clause 2.

Dr E. O. Awduche (Onitsha): Sir, I just want to make a few remarks about clause 2

sub-clause 1 (b) which enumerates the personnel and personalities entitled to this immunity. At present no mention is made of the family and servants of the Chief Commonwealth Officer. If barred from this immunity it appears to nullify the immunity indirectly because if members of the family of the Ambassador or representative have no immunity from legal processes or the criminal code of the country, then there is very little immunity for the Ambassador himself (*laughter*).

The Prime Minister : These are matters which if one tries to stretch too far they become useless. I hope the hon. Member appreciates the point. (*Applause*).

Clauses 2 to 5 agreed to.

Schedule agreed to.

Bill to be reported.

Mr Speaker resumed the Chair.

Bill reported without amendment.

Question proposed, That the Bill be now read the third time.

Chief J. I. G. Onyia (Asaba) : Mr Speaker, Sir, this is an opportunity to advise the Government to think seriously about making some of the Regional Commissioners go to the Commonwealth to represent us so that we may present an outlook of one Nigeria in London. Secondly, I am asking the Government to be vigilant to protect our trainees abroad against the machinations of our enemies who would like to retard our progress by sending bad reports on these trainees.

I beg to support.

Chief T. T. Solaru (Ijebu East) : I wish to make an observation on the reply of the Prime Minister to the hon. Awduche's question about diplomatic immunity applying to the wife or immediate family of a representative of the country.

Mr Speaker : I think they are strictly in the Bill.

Chief Solaru : Yes Sir, but the fact is that we understood that some time ago there was a case in London when a Russian citizen who came to Britain as an athlete

Mr Speaker : It is official servants I mentioned and I said we cannot stretch the point too far. Anybody who is not included in the wording of this Bill cannot be discussed on third reading.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read the third time and passed.

PENSIONS (AMENDMENT) BILL

Order for Second Reading read.

The Prime Minister (Alhaji the hon. Abubakar Tafawa Balewa) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to move, That a Bill for an Ordinance further to amend the Pensions Ordinance, 1951 be now read a second time.

Under the 1951 Pensions Regulations, an officer may, at his option, receive in lieu of a full pension, a reduced pension and a gratuity. The amount of the gratuity is calculated by reducing the full pension by one-quarter and by multiplying this reduction by a number. Under the old European Officers Pensions Ordinance (Cap. 62) and under the Pensions Ordinance of 1951, the multiplying number was ten times the reduction in the pension. In 1954, this Government accepted the recommendations of the Secretary of State that in the light of a review carried out at that time, he was satisfied that there had been an improvement in the expectation of life of Colonial pensioners since 1924 and therefore the corresponding multiplying number under present conditions should be increased to $12\frac{1}{2}$ times. This recommendation was put into effect by the Pensions Regulations, 1954, which substituted $12\frac{1}{2}$ times for 10 times in the 1951 Pensions Regulations.

All Officers serving in Nigeria at present receive the benefit of this enhanced multiplying factor. However, officers who were serving in Nigeria before the introduction of the present Ordinance and who transferred to another territory before the 1st of January, 1946, *i.e.*, the operative date of the new Ordinance, still have that part of their pensions earned in Nigeria computed under the provisions of the old European Officers Pensions Ordinance. As the amendment of the multiplying factor applied only to the 1951 Ordinance, the transferred officers still have their gratuity calculated on a multiplying factor of ten times.

The failure to amend the old European Officers Pensions Ordinance at the same time as the Regulations to the 1951 Ordinance were amended was due to an oversight and the purpose of Clause 2 (b) of the present Bill is to rectify this oversight and extend the benefit of the increased multiplying factor to officers whose pensions and gratuity are still calculated under the provisions of the European Officers Pensions Ordinance.

ously, Sir, I am taking a preliminary step towards that idea because I am fully convinced that what was operating in his mind was to create a National Government. Why then has he left this House in such chaos. . . .

Some hon. Members : Shame, shame.

Mr Ubani-Ukoma : I must make it very clear, Sir, that although one Member of the UNIP has taken it upon himself to sign an unwritten and illegal merger with the Action Group without any consultation with the parent body, that was a stupid thing to do. My party has refused to acknowledge the existence of a merger in no ambiguous terms. For all I know my party was in an alliance with the Action Group. I can see no reason why a major matter of this nature should be discussed without adequate consultation.

I quite remember that there were certain secret disciples of some Parties, at a time like this, uniting with their equals and losing their identity. . . .(Interruption). . . .

Mr Speaker : Order, order ! If I really heard the hon. Member aright, he is referring to matters not even within the scope of the Minister of Internal Affairs because they appear to be of some Party more than of anything that pertains to the Prime Minister. If he would adhere to the terms of the Motion which he gave me, and to the Prime Minister too, I am sure the Prime Minister will answer him.

Mr Ubani-Ukoma : I thank you, Mr Speaker. What I want to say is that the composition of the National Government without an Opposition—if the question of the major political parties is gone into—they have all been incorporated in forming a National Government and have the sense of seeing that there are minority parties which are left in this House, why. . . .(Interruption). . . .

Mr Speaker : This is clearly out of order on the Adjournment. The organisation of parties cannot be debated in Parliament.

Mr Ubani-Ukoma : What I was saying is that before the House meets again any time this year or next year, the hon. the Prime Minister should recognise an Opposition. . . .(Interruption). . . Adequate arrangements should be made by Mr Speaker to see that this country has an Opposition. Throughout the whole Commonwealth of Nations there is nowhere where we have. . . .(Interruption). . . .

The Prime Minister : Mr Speaker, Sir, it is very interesting to hear such suggestions coming from my hon. Friend, Mr Ubani-Ukoma. The House could remember that not very long ago during the present meeting, the hon. Member asked me why the U.N.I.P. is not represented in the Council of Ministers. . . .(Several hon. Members) Oh ! Oh !. . . .He asked me the question in this House. At that time, Sir, he was not thinking of providing the House with an Opposition. Well, I do not like, Sir, to appear in replying to him as if I am trying to say that he is to get in either as a Minister or as a Leader of the Opposition, but I would like to explain that the Members of this House are free to criticise the Government activities, but I hope that at this time all of us should put our heads together and work really constructively, through your criticisms, through the efforts we are making, to produce something good and to go forward together. . .(Applause). . .

We are not trying to stop an Opposition in the House. If my hon. Friend, Mr Ubani-Ukoma, could give me a list of his opposition members and with their consent they agree to recognise him as their leader. . . .(Laughter). . . this really, Sir, could be considered. But it is wrong for him just to stand up and say, "Well, the Government should recognise an Opposition". The Government is not to provide an Opposition for the Opposition; but if he would give us the names of his opposition members, there is no reason why we should not consider it. But as far as I know, Sir, the U.N.I.P. Members in the House do not appear to recognise the hon. Member as their leader and, possibly, that post cannot be occupied by the hon. Member even if it is created.

Of course, Sir, I have already explained to the country the reasons why this is what I call a National Government. We have got a common purpose. I can remember during the Conference in London, the Secretary of State asked us to go and assure him that we could work together. I have no doubt that we can work together in this country. We must unite because we have a common destiny.

I was in Holland not long ago—they are very sensible people, I tell you, especially in their Legislature; I went in and their Minister of Transport told me that he had a very big programme of constructional works which they

are putting up along the coast line. Now, in a fight against the sea, all political parties in Holland are united. In their House they have Communists, they have all sorts of different little parties. But when a measure of a common cause comes, all political parties unite and no politician dare oppose the measure (*Loud applause*)... I said, "well look here, I wish this could be the same in my country, but whatever you say in the Legislature here, that is democracy, whatever you say here, people will contribute".

I could remember, Sir, about 1953 the Secretary of State, Mr (now I think he is Lord Chandos)—said, "Well, if a politician says 'without fear of contradiction' I think it is time he had better go and see a doctor". Really, Sir, I would, of course, like my hon. Friend, Mr Ubani-Ukoma, to give us names of his opposition members, and we should, of course, consider it. It is not a question of depriving the House of an Opposition. Members should criticise us, and I think at this meeting we have been criticised very heavily, and we like the criticisms you made. (*Applause*)... because that is the only way that we know how the country feels. You are the representatives, and we know how the country feels through you, and then we here sit in Lagos trying to interpret your wishes. If we do not know how you are thinking, how could we interpret your wishes correctly? This is not a question of depriving the country of an Opposition and, I am very sorry that in the Cabinet, of course, we have not been able to get a U.N.I.P. member. (*Applause*)...

Mr R. A. Fani-Kayode (Ife): Mr Speaker, Sir, at this stage of our history, it is very unfortunate that the hon. Member on that side of the House has just made a statement this morning. I think we ought to realise that between now and 1960 there must be such a welding together of all our Parties in this country and all our members towards one end, and that is securing the freedom of this country. There must not be anything at all to distract our attention from that motion, and with apologies to the hon. the Minister of Commerce and Industry, we must not let anything hinder or hamper us in this matter. I had trusted the hon. Ubani-Ukoma, after careful thought, because he must have thought over the speech of the hon. Prime Minister, to withdraw the statement he has made and let us all

unanimously proceed together to a strong self-Government for our country in 1960.

Mr E. C. Akwivu (Orlu): Mr Speaker, Sir, I only wish to say, at the conclusion of the present meeting, that we congratulate the Government and we wish them well and hope that they will continue to work in peace. We also hope, Sir, that they will succeed in carrying out their duty, which is leading this country safely, speedily and in unity to self-Government in 1960.

Mr Speaker: Mr Fawole and at least one other Member have given me notice of their desire to congratulate and thank the Prime Minister on this Adjournment Motion. I am sorry to say that the Adjournment Motion may be used to criticise the Government or a particular Minister but it has been ruled in England that they must not be devoted purely to speeches of congratulation or eulogy and so I cannot call the Members for that purpose alone.

I am afraid it is equally irregular of me to wish you all good-bye but I do and I hope that we may meet again in safety.

Question That, this House do now adjourn, put and agreed to.

Adjourned accordingly at nineteen minutes to eleven o'clock, sine die, pursuant to the Resolution of the House this day.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

W.185. Mr J. Mpi asked the Minister of Finance:—

What grants have been made to the Federation of Nigeria from the Colonial Development Fund in each of the years 1954-1957, and how were these grants shared each year among five Governments within the Federation.

The Minister of Finance: Prior to the introduction of the present constitution on the 1st October, 1954, all Colonial Development and Welfare assistance to Nigeria was channelled through the Nigerian Central Government, which was responsible for the Colonial Development and Welfare schemes within the Revised Plan of Development and Welfare for Nigeria (published as Sessional Paper No. 6 of 1951). These schemes were mostly due to come to an end on the 31st March, 1956. They were administered either directly by the Central Government or by Regional Governments in cases where the subjects dealt with were within the latter's constitutional responsibility.

2. The balances of Colonial Development and Welfare grants due on schemes being administered by Regional Governments at the time of the introduction of the 1954 Constitution were calculated and credited to Regional Governments, which thereafter assumed full responsibility for bringing them to completion. The amounts so credited were :—

Northern Region	.. ..	£ 2,334,446
Western Region	.. ..	1,306,021
Eastern Region	.. ..	619,364
Southern Cameroons	.. ..	202,005

The residue of the unspent balance, £352,591, was retained by the Federal Government for the completion of schemes which remained its responsibility. Since the 1st October, 1954 the Secretary of State has dealt directly with Regional Governments in consideration and approving new schemes under the second United Kingdom Colonial Development and Welfare Act of 1955, where the subjects are within the constitutional responsibility of the Regions. For the financing of such schemes the Secretary of State has approved the following block allocations to Regional Governments for the period 1955-60 :—

Northern Region	.. ..	£ 4,750,000
Western Region	.. ..	500,000
Eastern Region	.. ..	3,750,000
Southern Cameroons	.. ..	1,330,000

3. The amounts of these allocations have been determined by the Secretary of State after direct consultation with the Regional Governments. The Federal Government, being still responsible for schemes in Lagos and for schemes dealing with Federal subjects, has received a block allocation for the same period of £3,750,000.

W.206. Mallam Abubakar Garba asked the Minister of Research and Information :—

If he will explain what consultative machinery, if any, exists for the co-ordination of the activities of the Federal and Regional Information Services.

The Minister of Research and Information : "Public Relations" is, of course, a concurrent subject under the Constitution, and there is no formal machinery at present for consultation between the Federal and Regional Information Services; there are, however, informal contacts from time to time between the Director of the Federal Information Service and the Regional Directors.

W.207. Mr J. M. Udochi asked the Minister of Finance :—

If he will state under what authority instructions have been issued for the payment of Disturbance Allowance and Hard-Lying Allowance, indicating why payment is made retrospective from the 1st of August, 1955, contrary to the policy adopted by the House at the last Budget Meeting against the making of retrospective monetary awards; and whether he will state how much will be required to meet the payment of arrears.

The Minister of Finance : The decision to pay disturbance and hard-lying allowances was taken after an agreement in the three Federal Whitley Councils (i.e., Whitley Council I, which deals with the interests of senior staff, Whitley Council II, which deals with Clerical Staff affairs and Industrial Whitley Council, which deals with technical staff affairs). The proposals were laid before the Government who approved payment with effect from the 1st of August, 1955. This date was fixed in accordance with the assurance given in paragraph 56 of the Federal Government's White Paper on the Gorsuch Report that the effective date of the introduction of these allowances would be the 1st of August, 1955.

While it is not possible to give an estimate of the cost involved, it can be stated that payments will be limited in size and number and it is anticipated that it should be possible to meet claims from the normal departmental votes for this financial year without the necessity for augmentation of the funds approved in the estimates.

W.209. Mr J. A. O. Akande asked the Minister of Health :—

Whether the Government will now cease to employ expatriate Nursing Sisters in view of the vast number of Nigerians qualifying for such appointments.

The Minister of Health : Until adequate numbers of suitably qualified Nigerians are available it will be necessary to continue to recruit expatriate Nursing Staff for specialist posts such as sister tutor and midwifery tutor.

Honourable Members will be glad to know that 95 per cent of our present staff of Nursing Sisters are Nigerians. It is my aim to increase this percentage as rapidly as possible till all the Nursing posts in the Federal Medical Service are filled by suitable qualified Nigerians.

W.210. Mr E. O. Oyedeji asked the Minister of Health :—

How many patients have been admitted to the lunatic asylum at Yaba during the period 1951-1957, and how many of them have been cured.

The Minister of Health : (a) The details which the Honourable Member requires are set out in the following table :—

Year	In Hospital at close of Previous Year			Admissions			Discharges		Total
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	
1951 ..	132	83	215	67	27	94	46	9	55
1952 ..	152	91	243	76	26	102	42	12	54
1953 ..	149	96	245	61	14	75	32	9	41
1954 ..	160	88	248	49	16	65	18	22	40
1955 ..	167	84	251	49	13	62	39	10	49
1956 ..	167	81	248	45	19	64	31	7	38
1957 ..	165	90	255	89	26	115	52	17	69
Total	1,092	613	1,705	436	141	577	260	86	346

Total number of cases treated during the period :—

Old cases	..	..	..	1,705
New cases	..	..	..	577
Total	..	..	..	2,282
Discharged, presumed cured				346

(b) The majority of patients are relics from pre-treatment days. Owing to the enormous size of this country with inadequate communications it is not always possible to follow up the discharged patients and thus it is difficult to tell how many remain stable and how many have relapsed.

(c) Now that admissions are strictly confined to patients from Federal Territory it should be easy to follow up all discharged patients in the near future.

W. 211. Mr E. O. Oyedeji asked the Minister of Education :—

If he would state how many awards of Federal Government Scholarships were made during the years 1956 to 1957 and how many candidates from each of the Regions, the Southern Cameroons and the Federal Territory of Lagos benefited from the awards ?

The Minister of Education : Records of scholarship awards are kept neither on a Regional, nor provincial nor Divisional basis. The details which the hon. Member requires have been published in the *Official Gazettes* and the relevant issues are :—

1955 ..	Government Notice No. 2090 in <i>Official Gazette</i> No. 42, Volume 42 dated 22nd September, 1955.
1956 ..	Government Notice No. 1763 in <i>Official Gazette</i> No. 57, Volume 43, dated 27th September, 1956.
1957 ..	Government Notice No. 1520 in <i>Official Gazette</i> No. 46, Volume 44 dated 22nd August, 1957.

W. 212. Mallam Abubakar Garba asked the Minister of Research and Information :—

If he will state why representatives of the Press in Lagos only were sent to London at Government expense to cover the recent

Constitutional Conference, in view of the charges made by a section of the Press in Zaria of discrimination against the provincial Press.

The Minister of Research and Information : The selection of journalists whose attendance at the Constitutional Conference in London was assisted financially by the Federal Government from funds available under Head 54—Ministry of Research and Information ; Item 11—"Contribution towards the cost of overseas visits by journalists", was confined to journalists working on newspapers published in Federal territory. The hon. Member will appreciate that 'Public Relations' is a concurrent subject, and it is open to the Regional Governments to offer similar assistance, if they think fit, to journalists working within the Regions.

W.213. Chief J. I. G. Onyia asked the Prime Minister of the Federation :—

What is the present strength of the Police Detachment in Asaba Town and whether he is aware that it is unable to cope with the various police duties in Asaba, in view of the fact that the town has become a converging point for travellers between the Eastern and Western Regions.

The Prime Minister : The present strength of the Nigeria Police Detachment at Asaba is two Corporals, three Lance Corporals and twenty-three Constables. It is recognised that Asaba is a converging point for travellers between the Eastern Region and the Western Region, and an increase in the present establishment of police there will be considered for inclusion in the 1958-59 Estimates. Approval of this will depend on the strength of competing claims for additional police and on the availability of funds.

W.214. Chief J. I. G. Onyia asked the Prime Minister of the Federation :—

When the resolution passed in the House at its last meeting for the establishment of a Traffic Branch of the Special Constabulary will be implemented, and when a detachment of the Traffic Branch of the Nigeria Police Force will be stationed at Asaba.

The Prime Minister : In accordance with the terms of the Motion referred to by the hon. Member, consideration has been given to setting up a traffic branch of the Special Constabulary. The main difficulty has been that Special Constables employed in traffic

duties would have to spend a considerable time in Court as Police witnesses. This would unduly inconvenience them in their civilian employment. A Traffic section of the Lagos Special Constabulary has, however, been formed to work in close association with the Lagos Motor Traffic Division of the Nigeria Police, and has been in regular operation on one night per week since the 1st of May as well as on other special occasions. The Provincial Traffic section of the Nigeria Police stationed at Benin is responsible for patrolling the trunk road between Benin and Asaba and for carrying out traffic duties at Asaba. A special traffic section for Asaba is not under consideration at present.

W.215. Mr L. S. Fonka asked the Prime Minister of the Federation :—

Whether, in view of the frequent need to despatch Police Constables to Mbonge and Tombel, which are thickly populated Plantation areas, he will consider setting up a Police sub-station in each of these places.

The Prime Minister : The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the reply given in answer to Oral Question No. O.363.

W.223. Mr L. S. Fonka asked the Minister of Internal Affairs :—

Whether he is aware that some of the Warders' quarters in Kumba are too poor for occupation and whether he will improve them.

The Minister of Internal Affairs : I am aware that some of these quarters are in need of replacement and it is expected that ten quarters will be rebuilt during the current financial year.

QUESTIONS AND WRITTEN ANSWERS

W.224. Chief J. I. G. Onyia asked the Minister of Education :—

Whether he would cause an investigation to be made into the report that Students' Section of the Nigeria Office in London has not catered adequately for Nigerian Students in the United Kingdom.

The Minister of Education : I have no knowledge of the report to which the honourable member refers. If he will furnish me with full details of the complaints I will give further consideration to the matter in consultation with the Prime Minister who is responsible for the affairs of the Office of the Commissioner for Nigeria in the United Kingdom.

W.225. Mallam Owani Dogo asked the Minister of Lagos Affairs, Mines and Power :—

Whether the Government will consider the possibility of harnessing the River Niger at Lokoja for hydro-electric power, in view of the need for electricity all over the country.

The Minister of Lagos Affairs, Mines and Power : No, Sir. Even if it were possible to dam the River Niger at Lokoja, such a project would cost many millions of pounds and the demand for electricity in the area is insufficient to make such a scheme even remotely economic.

W.238. Mr D. M. Dokotri asked the Minister of Transport :—

If he will state whether or not the contract for the construction of the new railway line from Kuru Station to Burnu has been placed and, if it has, indicate the value of the contract and the name of the contractor concerned.

The Minister of Transport : The Railway Corporation has not yet entered into a contract for the construction of the proposed line from Kuru to Maiduguri. As the Prime Minister informed the House on the 7th of September, representatives of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development are expected in this country shortly, to study the project with a view to the Bank's lending some of the money for it. It is expected to cost about £20 million all told.

W.197. Mr R. T. Alege asked the Minister of Communications and Aviation :—

Whether he will consider introducing helicopter services for the transportation of mails coming into Kabba Division from other

Provinces, in order to remedy the present irregular and slow movement of mails into the Division.

The Minister of Communications and Aviation : No, Sir. I consider fixed wing aircraft to be more suitable for the Kabba area.

W.226. Mr M. A. Sanni asked the Prime Minister :—

If he would state the assets and liabilities of the Union Bank of West Africa, which wound up voluntarily in December 1952, indicating the monthly salary of the liquidator of the Bank and the total remuneration earned by him up to and including the 31st of August, 1957.

The Prime Minister : I understand that no Company entitled the Union Bank of West Africa has ever been registered in Nigeria. A Company styled the Union Bank of British Africa Limited was, however, incorporated under the Companies Ordinance on the 5th February, 1952. A resolution was subsequently passed on the 27th December, 1952, that the Company be wound up voluntarily and a liquidator was accordingly appointed. The liquidator has since filed interim accounts at intervals of six months with the Registrar of Companies, and these accounts are available for inspection by any creditor of the Bank in accordance with section 214 of the Companies Ordinance.

2. In view of the fact that the Company is in voluntary liquidation as a result of a decision by its members, the Official Receiver is not the liquidator, and I am not in a position to divulge the monthly salary of the private liquidator.

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