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**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
DEBATES**

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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NIGERIA

Thursday, 6th March, 1958

The House met at 10 a.m.

PRAYERS

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

***O.49. Mr J. I. Izah** asked the Prime Minister, whether, in view of the size of Aboh Division and the inadequacy of the present Police detachment at Kwale, he will consider establishing police posts in strategic places like Obiaruku, Abbi and Utagballuo.

The Prime Minister : No, Sir. An Assistant Superintendent of Police will be posted to Ughelli this year to form a new rural Police division. The presence of this officer in the area will enable closer supervision to be given to the policing of the Aboh Division.

Aboh Division is served by two Police detachments; one at Ughelli consisting of 27 men under an Inspector and one at Kwale consisting of 26 men under a sergeant.

*Supplementary to *O.49.*

Mr Izah : I do not think Aboh Division is served by two detachments. We have one Police station, that is at Kwale, so my supplementary question is whether the detachment can be increased.

The Prime Minister : No, Sir.

***O.50. Mr J. I. Izah** asked the Prime Minister when work is expected to start on the additional quarters to be provided for the Police at Kwale.

The Prime Minister : There are 25 double quarters for the Police detachment at Kwale. All are of good design and in good order. As the present strength of the detachment is twenty-six, one quarter must be shared but the provision of additional building at Kwale must necessarily be deferred until more urgent calls on the money and capacity available have been met.

***O.52. Mr R. T. Alege** asked the Prime Minister what is the strength of the Queen's Own Nigeria Regiment, and how many army officers are serving in the Boys' Company.

The Prime Minister : Sir, 6,892. There are 6 officers serving in the Boys' Company.

***O.53. Mr R. T. Alege** asked the Prime Minister if he would state how many commissioned officers are in the Queen's Own Nigeria Regiment; how many of them are Nigerians, and what is the highest rank held by Nigerians.

The Prime Minister : May I refer the hon. Member to my Speech reported at page 107 in the Hansard of 20th February, in which he will find most of the information which he seeks?

The highest rank held by a Nigerian officer of the Nigerian Military Forces is that of Major.

O.54. M. Abubakar Garba asked the Prime Minister whether he is aware that wives of expatriate officers are offered temporary employment in the Federal Public Service at the expense of suitably qualified Nigerians; and whether he will make a statement.

The Prime Minister : (i) The answer to the first part of the question is no, Sir.

(ii) Nigerianisation of the Federal Public Service is the accepted policy of this Government and is being vigorously pursued. Wives of expatriate officers with the necessary qualifications are only given temporary employment, on month-to-month terms, in cases when a suitably qualified Nigerian candidate cannot be found and when it is essential that the duties of a vacant post should be carried out. In such cases the Federal Public Service Commission acts in consultation with the Nigerianisation Officer.

O.55. M. Abubakar Garba asked the Prime Minister how many Nigerian women and how many expatriate women were employed in the Federal Public Service as Secretary-Typists during the last three years and how many from each category resigned, retired or were retrenched during the same period.

The Prime Minister : As at the 1st January, 1955, the number of women employed in the Federal Public Service as Secretary-Typists was 61, all of whom were expatriate officers. New appointments during the period January 1955 to December 1957 amounted to 132, of whom 5 were Nigerian officers and 127 were expatriate officers. Of the expatriate officers, 23 were engaged locally on month-to-month terms in view of the difficulty in filling

vacancies : a difficulty which is demonstrated by the fact that the number of vacancies for Secretary-Typists is at present 51, of which 16 are being filled temporarily by expatriate officers appointed on a month-to-month basis. During the same period, 77 expatriate officers resigned, 1 was invalided, and 2 others were killed in air crashes whilst proceeding on leave or returning to duty. No Nigerian officers left the service during this period.

***O.56. M. Abubakar Garba** asked the Prime Minister how many Nigerians were promoted to the senior grades in the Nigeria Police Force during the last three years ; and how many Nigerians in the Force have been given the opportunity of training overseas.

The Prime Minister : Seventy Nigerians have been promoted to the rank of Assistant Superintendent of Police and 196 Nigerians to the Inspectorate, since January 1955. In addition there have been 34 direct appointments of Nigerians to the rank of cadet sub-inspector.

In reply to the second half of the question I would remind the hon. Member of my statement to the House on the 20th of February, in which I said that 11 Nigerian officers, 51 inspectors, N.C.O.s and constables, have completed, or are attending, various training courses in England since 1st April, 1957.

***O.58. Mr J. Mboyam** asked the Prime Minister, whether he is aware that the proposed increase in the strength of the police detachments in Nkambe and Wum Divisions for the year 1957-58 has not yet been effected, and whether he will make a statement.

The Prime Minister : I am not aware of any increase in establishment of the Nigeria Police detachments at Wum and Nkambe having been approved in the 1957-58 Estimates.

***O.60. Mr F. T. Odum** asked the Prime Minister, if he will state the number of women police posted to each of the Regions and to the Federal Territory of Lagos.

The Prime Minister : There are 38 women police stationed in Federal Territory under the command of a woman Assistant Superintendent of Police. This detachment serves as the training cadre for women police after completion of their initial training at the Southern Police College.

There are eight women police stationed at Enugu in the Eastern Region.

Eight women police will be posted to Ibadan, Western Region, as soon as quarters can be made available.

There are no women police at present serving in the Northern Region.

*Supplementary to Question *O.60.*

Mr T. O. S. Benson (Lagos West) : Do these women Police Officers in Lagos receive any Colony allowance ?

The Prime Minister : I don't understand that question.

Mr S. W. Ubani-Ukoma (Aba) : I would like to know from the Prime Minister whether it is a fact that the Police Women in the Force are prevented from marrying outside the Force.

The Prime Minister : I beg notice of that question, Sir.

O.61. Mr J. A. G. Ohiani asked the Minister of Lagos Affairs, Mines and Power what plans he has for the exploitation of the iron ore discovered in Lokoja.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Lagos Affairs, Mines and Power : The Agbaja iron ore deposits near Lokoja have been investigated by the Geological Survey Department and a detailed Report on them is available. A report has also been made on them by Dr Percival, Consultant to the British Iron and Steel Corporation Limited. As a result of Nigeria being represented at the 6th Commonwealth Mining and Metallurgical Congress in Canada in 1957, the Canadian Federal Bureau of Mines have kindly consented to run some metallurgical tests on samples of the ore which have been sent to them. The result of the test is awaited.

In 1948 the Bethlehem Steel Corporation investigated the iron ore deposits on Mount Patti near Lokoja but found that the heavy overburden made the proposition unattractive. The price of metals in 1948 was much higher than to-day when steel production is much lower and it is therefore obviously uneconomic to attempt to exploit the deposits on Mount Patti at the present time.

***O.62. C. C. E. Onoh** asked the Minister of Lagos Affairs, Mines and Power if he is aware that many houses at Ngwo have become cracked and dilapidated as a result of mining subsidence, and what precautionary measures are being taken to prevent further subsidence.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Lagos Affairs Mines and Power : Sir, I am informed that normal mining precautionary measures have been taken to prevent mining subsidence which might cause damage to the houses at Ngwo and elsewhere. I have received no details of any such subsidence but am requesting the Chief Inspector of Mines to advise whether there are any unusual features at Ngwo.

***O.63. Mr J. L. Nsima** asked the Minister of Education, how many Federal scholarships have been awarded since 1951 for courses in Civil Engineering and Industrial Science.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Education : Since 1951, 87 Federal Scholarships have been awarded for Civil Engineering, Sir.

It is not understood clearly what the hon. Member means by the term Industrial Science, but if he can define that I will be prepared to obtain for him the necessary information.

*Supplementary to *O.63 :*

Mr J. L. Nsima (Eket) : It is surprising that the Ministry does not understand what Industrial Science means.

Mr Speaker : That is not a question.

Mr Nsima : By Industrial Science you will study, or you will send men to study how to manufacture goods. . . .

Mr Speaker : Order, order. This information had better be given to the Minister privately.

ORDER OF THE DAY

THE APPROPRIATION (1958-59) BILL
(THIRD ALLOTTED DAY) : COMMITTEE

House in Committee.

HEAD 38.—MINISTRY OF FINANCE

Question proposed, That £223,540 for Head 38—Ministry of Finance, stand part of the Schedule.

The Chairman : I have the following announcement to make with regard to the hon. Gentleman's five Amendments which come first on to-day's Order Paper. I have received notice from His Excellency the Governor-General that in his opinion the first three and the last one are reserved Motions in terms of Section 62 of the Nigeria (Constitution) Orders-in-Council, 1954 to 1957. The only

Amendment which I call on the hon. Gentleman to move, therefore, is on item (23) of sub-Head 1.

Mr Jaja A. Wachuku (Aba) : I have no alternative but to accept the question that those concerned under various Amendments are reserved Motions in terms of Section 62 of the Orders-in-Council.

With the permission of Mr Chairman, I wish to comment on that advice, Sir, because there is no indication in the Estimates to the effect that these two offices are held by anyone. Under sub-Head 1, 3 and 7 we have noted in the Estimates at page 4 showing that these have been approved. Sir, my intention here is to make clear that I think this House said in no uncertain terms that the creation of so many posts by special grant and by going ahead of this House or the Finance Committee, is not acceptable to this House at all times. Therefore, Sir, while I deal with sub-Head 23, that is four Senior Assistant Secretaries in the Establishment Branch, in the Estimates last year I found that we had not any Senior Assistant Secretaries under this particular Head but this year we have four. The question arises, Sir, how many of these will be Nigerians ?

In my speech the other time I referred to the opening statement in relation to the Public Service in the report of the Malaya Constitutional Conference of January and February 1956, where it stated clearly that in any dependent country, the Public Service must be under the control of the Government of that country and there can be no question of its being composed of foreigners. Whenever you have the policy making offices held by foreigners there can be no exclusive control. Here we are asking the Prime Minister or the Minister of Finance also, to examine this proposition and we hope also that the members of the Civil Service at the moment will accept the view that now with the agreement between the Government of the United Kingdom and the people of Nigeria, that Nigeria should be Independent in 1960. In fact it is automatic that the Government of the United Kingdom has accepted that its provision is no longer one of the Governor of the Colonial Service but everybody who is in the Civil Service now becomes automatically an adviser.

Nigerianisation is our policy. (*Hear, hear.*) We agree with all hon. Members in what they say about the necessity of accelerating the policy of Nigerianisation of our service. It is very, very important, and I understand, Sir, there is a Motion which will be debated in this House which is in connection with Nigerianisation, and I am looking forward to the debate on this Motion when we expect to receive many good suggestions from hon. Members which will assist us in knowing how to go about it.

Now, Sir, this particular Amendment of my hon. Friend, Mr Jaja Wachuku, in which he is asking us to reduce item 23 by £10—I am afraid I have to oppose. Now, we have in mind, Sir, putting Nigerians into the posts of Deputy and into the Senior Assistant Secretarial post under this item.

Already now, Sir, we have an officer who is understudying this section, and we hope another officer will be appointed.

Now we are quite aware of all that hon. Members are saying and it is our hope that we shall have Nigerians before Independence to understudy some of these expatriate officers, but I want hon. Members to remember this very important point. We have expatriate officers in our service, they are senior to many of our Nigerian Officers and on the undertaking given by the political leaders in London, 1953, was that promotions in the service would continue according to the service practice. That was the promise made by the political leaders in London in 1953.

We are doing our best because of the changed circumstances and some of these supernumerary posts are being created with the intention of putting in Nigerians in the higher grades in order to understudy the expatriate officers. We will continue to do this, Sir, and I hope that my hon. Friend Mr Jaja Wachuku, after hearing this explanation, will agree that the Amendment is unnecessary. (*Some hon. Members : Withdraw, withdraw.*)

Mr Jaja Wachuku (Aba) : Mr Chairman, Sir, I put in this Amendment to seek information and in my opening remarks I asked the Prime Minister to make a statement about this. I am quite happy to know, Sir, that the Deputy Under-Secretary will be a Nigerian, and that the Assistant Secretary also will be a Nigerian. That is gratifying, but I would say that I think that without this Amendment being brought,

hon. Members would not have been in a position to have this knowledge.

However, there is one point I want to make. With the greatest respect to the Prime Minister, I do not make statements in this House lightly. The statement which I made about this particular officer from the Bahamas—if the Prime Minister wishes I will give his name. . . . (*Interruption.*)

The Prime Minister : You can tell me outside.

Mr Wachuku : It does not matter what the source of my information is, I can call his name and give clear particulars of incidents in which this man, both in his office and outside of it, even in his domestic domain—I have had complaints from his domestic servants. It is not a question of his being anti-Nigerian only in the office, he is anti-Nigerian in his own domestic affairs at home. He abuses them and calls them names, but to hear the word false well I would say it is too heavy a word for me. I am sure of my facts.

That being the case, Sir, and on being given the information that Nigerians will occupy these posts I beg leave to withdraw the Amendment.

Amendment by leave withdrawn.

Mr S. W. Ubani-Ukoma (Aba) : Sir, I beg to move that sub-head 1 be reduced by £10. I wish to. . . . (*Interruptions.*)

The Chairman : Order, order ! I cannot hear when people anywhere near me are making a noise.

Mr Ubani-Ukoma : Much has been said about the earning capacity of this country and less has been said about the wastefulness of our Government, and I wish to take this opportunity to say a few things in connection with the habit of the people in our Government of wasting money unnecessarily. Fortunately this country is blessed with a Minister of Finance who is an experienced person in business. He will agree with me that there are three grades of businessmen, or professionals. The first grade is business failure, the second one successful businessman, and the third one is the prosperous businessman. What is true of businessmen is exactly true of the Government.

We will not put this Government into the first category. We shall not be satisfied with the second category. We want this country to be a prosperous nation. We know that America is a prosperous country and that there

are many others. We are looking forward to-day to a long term policy, but we want to know what are our Ministers doing to see that there is a change in policy.

Reading through the whole Estimates I do not see that there is any change of policy. It is wastefulness which continues there, inherited from the expatriate officers, which continues and continues and yet we have a Minister who is a trained businessman.

I am making these observations in good faith and I would like him to take note. A first-class man is not one who fritters away his earnings in luxury and riotous living.

The last Saturday we were here the Minister remarked on tax evaders. Many people do not pay their tax so that it may be wasted and so, Sir, this country will continue in financial difficulty if we continue to allow this type of wastefulness.

The Chairman : The hon. Gentleman really is making more a Second Reading speech, than a Committee speech which should be short and to the point and confined to the proposals on page 71, on which we are now talking.

Mr Ubani-Ukoma : Mr Chairman, what I wish to say is on the general policy of wastefulness in this Ministry. I must be guided from the Chair... (*Interruptions.*) I do not want to hear "No, no, no"—Members do not know what I am talking about....

The Chairman : It is quite simple. The proposals on page 71 which contain this sub-head; could the hon. Gentleman direct his remarks to them particularly?

Mr Ubani-Ukoma : Well, Mr Chairman, as I was saying, the attitude of this particular Ministry towards public funds is one of wastefulness, and public money is being expended unnecessarily... (*Interruptions.*)... If Members want me to give you an example, I will give it. (*Cries of Yes, give us one.*) Well take for instance the large sum of money which is being expended on a building which could be built for half the price... (*Cries of Where? Where?*)

The Chairman : Did the hon. Member not hear me?

Mr Ubani-Ukoma : I did not hear you, Sir.

The Chairman : Will the Committee keep quiet and let me be heard. There is no building on page 71 as far as I can see. (*Laughter*) Order, order.

Mr Ubani-Ukoma : Well, Sir, I will turn to a new Head. That is Head 1, sub-head 1. There are many people here who have managed to be in some offices that are doing no work. I would like them to be pruned. To see that everybody who is employed here is doing a full day's work, and not to take thirteen, twelve, or six people wasting time on their desks. That is one of the reasons why I said that there is more of wastefulness than of service.

Mr Chairman, as long as my other criticism about wastefulness is being overlooked by the Chair, I will leave this matter until future Ministers do something about it.

Amendment proposed.

Mallam Muhtari, Sarkin Bai (South West Kano): Thank you, Mr Chairman, for this opportunity. I rise to oppose the Amendment because there is nothing substantial in that Amendment. (*Cheers.*)

Sir, I just want to take this opportunity to congratulate the Minister of Finance for the excellent way and the manner he delivered his Budget Speech during the introduction of his Budget. I will also express a note of congratulation to the Prime Minister through whose efforts the Minister of Finance was able to compile his Budget. (*Cheers.*)

Sir, this is a Budget of history; it is a Budget of confidence; it is a Budget of consequence, and it is a Budget of contrast, (*Loud applause.*) (*An hon. Member: Do not mind Solaru.*) because in that Budget Speech lays the very foundation of the country's future progress and prosperity.

But surprisingly enough, Sir, the editorial in a Lagos paper severely criticised the Minister for delivering his Budget Speech. What a vague cause for criticism! What a hopeless paper! But thanks to God, that paper could not succeed. (*Cries of "Shame, shame".*)

The Chairman : Order, order.

Mallam Muhtari : Thanks to God... (*Interruption.*)

Mr S. W. Ubani-Ukoma (Aba): Point of order. I hope, Sir, the hon. Member is not discussing the Budget Speech?

The Chairman : It seems that he was talking about the first item on the first line of page 1, which is the Ministry of Finance. (*Applause.*)

Now, Sir, as regards the point made by hon. Ubani-Ukoma as to the number of people engaged in different Departments, it is interesting to know that Mr Ubani-Ukoma was a member of the Public Accounts Committee and at no time did he criticise the accounts of the finances of the Federation. On the contrary, I think he was satisfied that there was nothing like squandermania.

Another point made was by an hon. Member who said that too many people are employed in the Ministry of Finance. I want to tell this House that we have willing and industrious Civil Servants in the Ministry of Finance, not because they produced these Estimates, but because they are truly hardworking. I would like Members to come to my Ministry about three months before any Budget Session and they will appreciate that I have Civil Servants working till about 4 o'clock in the morning, returning home to have their breakfast and returning to the office again.

I am proud in saying that when I was in the Ministry of Labour and Welfare, I was sincerely and honestly served by hardworking officials both expatriates and indigenous, and I am also happy that I am so lucky, if I may say so, that since I came to this new Ministry I have also enjoyed the loyalty and good service of industrious and hardworking officials both indigenous and expatriates. (*Hear, hear.*) I can therefore assure Members that although I cannot see everything yet before papers are passed to me my Permanent Secretary ensures that there is no attempt by any Government department to waste public funds, and I can assure you that that will be our policy. It is not a joke to fight against Ministers and departmental heads looking for money when they come to us, so that you can see that it requires some tenacity of purpose to be able to resist such things.

As regards the first speaker, the hon. Member on that side of the House, I wish to thank him indeed for the observations which he made. Well, the newspaper concerned had written according to its views but I think that newspaper is notorious for one thing, that is character assassination, and I think that those who talk about unity in this country will do well to take note. It is no use writing to the Sardauna, appealing to the Sardauna for unity if a particular newspaper makes it its stock-in-trade not to criticise public men

and public offices, but to indulge in abuses, and talk about Ministers houses that they lived in before they became Ministers: Is that necessary for a nationalist newspaper to do? We shall point an accusing finger to other Ministers but... (*Interruption*)

The Minister of Communications and Aviation (Chief the hon. S. L. Akintola): Are you campaigning against our newspaper?

The Minister of Finance: Yes, we are campaigning against your newspaper, the *Daily Service*. I do not want some people on this bench to allow me to indulge in the type of debate that this House would not like to hear, because I think they have a duty as have we of the N.C.N.C. and N.P.C. to see to it that we want unity in this country and work towards it.

The Minister of Communications and Aviation: You will save me from the *Pilot* too.

The Minister of Finance: I will ask the *Pilot* to ask you whether you built a house before you became a Minister.

The Minister of Communications and Aviation: I will answer that I come from a home.

The Minister of Finance: All I want to say is that we are all interested in the unity of this country, we are all interested in the oneness of this country and I think I should thank the Members for making these remarks that abuses and personal attacks will only open us to the ridicule of the outside world. If we begin to abuse our public men and ridicule them, and talk about their background and all the rest of it, publishing it in the newspapers, what do we expect the outside world to think about Nigeria? That this is how people are running the affairs of this Federation?

It is not for me to sermonise, nor am I worried about any publication. I have been used to the abuse of the *Daily Service*. I am grateful to Members for the compliments which they have paid to me. I can assure them that I and my Ministry will do all we can to protect the interest of this country. (*Cheers*).

Mr T. O. S. Benson (Lagos West): Mr Chairman, Sir, this Amendment is an idle one and I am happy that it has been given the

treatment it deserves. I also take this opportunity to join the previous speakers to congratulate the hon. Minister of Finance, the Omimi of Nigeria, and all members of the staff. I am sure that the Minister of Communications and Aviation must have taken note of all the points made by the Minister of Finance.

Mr Chairman, I move that the Question be now put so that we may go to other items of this Head.

The Chairman withheld his assent and, declined, then to put that Question.

The Chairman : I would like to point out to two Members on my right, Mr Olarewaju and Mallam Baba Daradara, that if they wait until this Amendment has been disposed of, it cannot be withdrawn because the Member who moved it is gone out. They will find themselves confined to Head (2)... Would they like to speak now ?

Mr M. A. O. Olarewaju (South Ilorin) : Mr Chairman, Sir, I rise to oppose this Amendment. The reason is that the Minister concerned, the Minister of Finance, has proved himself beyond doubt. He has proved himself efficient and there is no necessity to make a reduction under this Head. I will confirm this, Sir, by congratulating him for the bold courage which he took to condemn tax invaders.

Mr Chairman, Sir, I wish to educate this House that in any local councils in this country, politicians have adopted heavy assessments to evade their party opponents. In such councils, the party controlling the councils appoint the assessment committee and this assessment committee only hold their offices to see the end of their party opponents by imposing heavy taxation which they know that these people are unable to pay. In this case, there are only two alternatives, one, to go back and declare for the party in power that controls the council, or to find himself in Court, facing a charge of tax evasion. In this case I would advise the Minister of Finance to find a solution to this problem. The best way is to see that tax assessment committees in every part of Nigeria are above party politics.

Sir, I beg to oppose the Amendment.

M. Baba Daradara (East Central Kano) : Mr Chairman, Sir, it is the usual parliamentary procedure to give notice of Amendment to

particular Heads or items in order to seize the opportunity to make certain observations ; I now seize that opportunity.

Sir, there is no doubt that the Minister of Finance, together with all his staff all deserve showers of congratulations and praise from all sides of the House for the courage and ability they have shown in presenting the first Nigerian Minister's Budget. It is indeed a very tedious piece of job. Of course, Mr Chairman, our dynamic Prime Minister did make a careful and deep consideration in recommending, or rather, in appointing Chief F. S. Okotie-Eboh to be our first Nigerian Minister of Finance. But, Sir, although Chief Okotie-Eboh's Budget is a sound one, there are still some points with which we are not satisfied. We can still see more possibilities and more room for raising more revenue by, (i), if the Minister and his staff could check very carefully all the movements and accounts of Lebanese and Syrians in the country. We feel, Sir, that our Federal Government is losing a lot of revenue through wicked and dishonest people. It is high time, Mr Chairman, that we put an end to their entry into this country. I would add, Sir, that all their business accounts are fictitious.

(ii) our country will no doubt be more prosperous if the Minister of Finance, in co-operation with the Minister of Commerce and Industries will advise the foreign big firms and banks to give more encouragement to our local traders.

Sir, I beg to oppose.

Dr E. Udo Udoma (Opobo) : Mr Chairman, I would like to mention a point which I consider of importance and which has not been mentioned by any previous speaker, and that is in connection with the organisation of the Ministry of Finance. No doubt the Minister of Finance is aware of the fact that the head of the Civil Service in England is the Permanent Secretary to the Ministry of Finance. And I hope that he himself is engaged on the task of making his own department the proper department that it should be, that is to say it should be the department controlling the Treasury and also controlling the civil service. I am quite aware of the constitutional position, but I think a beginning could be made and the question of planning could be undertaken pending the constitutional conference which would presage independence, so that what I

House who does not love the unity of this country. You see, sometimes we misuse them as the people in the Western world misuse atomic energy.

I would take this opportunity to congratulate the Minister of Finance. During his Budget Speech he said it was a historic occasion for him. I would add that it was not only a historic occasion, it was also a comprehensive Budget, and this was the first time that such a Budget was produced and presented by a Nigerian Minister of the Federation. It is comprehensive in this that it portrays the economic programme of this Federation, and it is also comprehensive in this, that it indicates the present and future economic stability of the Federation. It is historic in this, that it is the first time that a Nigerian Minister of the Federation has presented a Budget.

Mr Chairman, Sir, I do feel that this is a time when we have to think seriously about the economy of this country by listening to all the speakers and a diversity of people from the rural areas for all their demands which they have been making in this House in the interests of the people from the rural areas. There is a tendency in this country for many of us who are fortunate enough to come to the big cities to forget our less fortunate relatives who are left there in the rural areas. I do hope, Sir, that these will be taken into consideration.

I beg, Sir, to oppose.

The Chairman : I think that we must take a decision on this Amendment. We have spent over an hour and we have had fourteen speakers on it.

Question, That Sub-head 1 be reduced by £10, put and negatived.

The Chairman : The only Member who had his name to the next Amendment intimated in his speech that he did not intend to move it, I think. Therefore, I put the Head.

Question proposed, That the sum of £223,540 for Head 38—Ministry of Finance—stand part of the Schedule.

Sitting suspended : 11.40 a.m.

Sitting resumed : 11.55 a.m.

Mr E. C. Akwivu : Mr Chairman, Sir, speaking on this Head, I would like to mention very briefly the issue of establishments. I am quite sure, Sir, that by now there is no doubt whatsoever in the minds of every member of this country on the desires and ambitions of

this House and the hon. Members of this House to see our Public Service, as much as is practical, Nigerianised. At this stage, Sir, one feels that perhaps it may not be out of place to make some small note of warning. We want our people in every position possible, but we want them to work for what they are having and be able to keep what offices they have with all the necessary dignity and efficiency that that office demands. Whoever is selected as a Nigerian in our Public Service, I am sure must realise that his obligations lie to this country and his fellow Nigerians, both above him and below him. There are, Sir, cases in which even when expatriates have recommended our own people for promotion, our own people have been the people to turn the recommendations down for personal reasons.

The Chairman : Is the hon. Gentleman talking purely about the Ministry of Finance or Nigerianisation in general? We are on Head 38.

Mr Akwivu : I am basing the rest of my speech on the establishment which is provided for under the Minister of Finance.

The Chairman : I hope so.

Mr Akwivu : In this question, if I may be more direct, in this question of grading such people within the public service which comes within the Establishment section, it is known that there has been a particular case in which an expatriate head of department felt that there was a grade within his department in which the amount of responsibility carried and the amount of work done was far greater than the scale of salary assigned to it. The head of department, Sir, did recommend in that particular instance to the Establishment Branch that that post be re-graded.

That recommendation, Sir, was completely turned down by someone in the Establishment Section, as we understand, Sir, through the instigation of some Nigerians, for personal reasons.

If this is the type of thing that Nigerians can do to their fellow countrymen in the Public Service, I think it is very unfortunate, and we are here, Sir, to pray that those in the public service, and those of us in the Establishment Section should do their very best to discharge the duty which they owe to this country, very very carefully.

Mr Chairman, Sir, I beg to support.

M. Maitama Sule (Kano City): Mr Chairman, Sir, I just wish to draw the attention of the Minister of Finance to what is a very serious matter, a matter which I do not very much like to raise on the Floor of this House.

Mr Chairman, Sir, I do not very much wish to delve into the question of tribalism or regionalism on the Floor of this House, but I find it rather necessary to raise a very important issue, an issue which, I think, has been brought to the notice of the Minister of Finance himself.

It is our aim in every Department in the Federation of Nigeria to try to encourage Nigerians, and I fail to understand under the circumstances therefore, why some boys in the Northern section of the Customs and Excise will not be given that encouragement. These are the few Northerners who have taken a really keen interest in the Department. These few Northerners unfortunately have not been given the necessary encouragement. Three of them so far have been dismissed from the service, and I fail to understand, if we are dismissing these young Northerners that are now taking some keen interest in this Department, how those who follow after will fare.

I do not want to preach tribalism or regionalism on the Floor of this House, but it is absolutely necessary that every section of Nigeria must be protected.

An hon Member : A point of explanation, Sir. Tribalism has so destroyed the unity of this country that M. Maitama Sule should not patch it, otherwise he will wound the conscience of people who have delved deep into it. I say, beware.

M. Maitama Sule : Now, whatever the feelings of my friend, my personal feeling is that every section, particularly the North in this particular respect where there are very very few Northerners in the Department, must be given due consideration. If, after all, Northerners who have just started to take an interest and to go into the Department are being sent out of it, what are we left to say about it? It seems in the long run, there will not be anyone from the North in the Department, and I appeal to the Minister to see to it that those people who are trying to victimise Northerners in this department, directly or indirectly, are dealt with properly. If we really want to Nigerianise the department and to come out

strong, we must see to it that the few Northerners in that Department are not being sent out unnecessarily.

I would very much like the Minister to make a report on this matter. (*Hear, hear.*)

The Minister of Finance (Chief the hon. F. S. Okotie-Eboh): Mr Chairman, I am grateful to the hon. Maitama Sule for the points which he made about the Northern youths joining the Customs Department, and I am sure that he has in mind two Customs officers in Kano which matter has been referred to me. I have already passed this to my Permanent Secretary. I can assure him that His Excellency, who is responsible for the Public Service, is very keen that good people are employed in the Public Service and whenever there is a case of wrongful dismissal, Members of this House will agree with me that His Excellency will see to it that justice is done to whoever is concerned. (*Hear, hear.*)

The matter which has been referred to I can assure you will be properly investigated and if necessary passed to His Excellency or the Public Service Commission, but if there is anything—I am sure I speak both for myself and my Colleagues in this Government—if there is anything I am sure of, it is that this Government will not discriminate against any section of this country in admitting people into its Public Service, and once more, on my part, if there is anything we can do to encourage the youth of the Northern Region to enter the Public Service, and it is necessary for us to do it, we shall do so. (*Applause.*)

Chief S. J. Mariere (Urhobo East): Mr Chairman, Sir, speaking in support of the expenditure on this Head, I wish to take this opportunity to congratulate the Minister of Finance for the bold step which he has taken in raising the export duty on crepe rubber from 5 per cent to 10 per cent *ad valorem*. This is a very desirable protective measure. Although from the Government's point of view, the Minister stated that the increase was done not for fiscal consideration but to check the growing tendency on the part of producers to export increasing quantities of crepe at the expense of higher qualities of rubber, this particular change will have the salutary effect of putting more money into the pockets of rubber plantation owners.

appointed, will do, or that he must take the hon. Member's views and Nigerianise the Customs Department at the expense of public funds and at the expense of efficiency.

We are all agreed in this House that we want Nigerianisation, and I want to say that if this matter is stretched too far, the whole reason behind it may be rendered useless. The Customs Department, as all Members are aware is a very important Department as the mover has said, and therefore much as we want Nigerians to be pushed to the top, we must be very careful, and I think that Members will do well in sounding the note for honesty—that people who want to be Assistant Comptrollers and Comptrollers and so on in a free Nigeria must be honest people.

Dr E. O. Awduche (Onitsha): Is the Minister suggesting that they are all dishonest people in the Department?

The Minister of Finance: I am not suggesting that they are dishonest people, but I expect that when Members are talking of Nigerianisation they should qualify it. And I want our people to realise that it is not sufficient for us to push Nigerians to the top, but that it is also necessary for them to realise that such responsibility must be carried out with the utmost honesty. (*Several hon. Members: We agree.*) How many Assistant Comptrollers have we got, hon. Nsima? One cannot expect us to create the one post of Assistant Comptroller at Port Harcourt and put somebody there?

It is certainly the view of Government that the time has come when the higher cadres of the Customs Department should have some Nigerians to understudy our respected expatriate friends that are doing very well for this country, and you will find that provision has been made in the Estimates for, I think... (*An hon. Member: You think?*)... for Senior Collectors of Customs in the Administrative Branch. (*An hon. Member: Oh, that?*)

I remember... (*An hon. Member: No.*) What is No. You do not jump from the bottom to the top in one day. When Dr Udoma... (*Interruptions.*)... Mr Chairman, Sir, all I want to say is that it is the view of Government, as we have been told here, that we must Nigerianise, and I think that in this case, we must not take the age of Methuselah

for our calculation or for our basis of calculation. The point is this, that everything will be done to Nigerianise, but our people must be careful in the way they criticise these things. Certainly you do not expect that one should be promoted from the post of Senior Collector of Customs to Comptroller of Customs just to... (*Interruptions.*)... (*An hon. Member: Why not, what is wrong with it?*) What is wrong with it? What is wrong with it is that... (*An hon. Member: The Gentleman is good.*) And that is what we say: "the gentleman is good." We are not suggesting that they are not good people, but certainly you do not want to eliminate and substitute. That is what I am telling you. We cannot create the position of Assistant Comptroller just because we want to have Africans there. That is again squandermania.

But what I am telling you is that the provision of two Senior Collectors of Customs in the Administrative Branch this year should be commended because they will understudy the Assistant Comptroller of Customs in the Department, in order that they will take over when the time comes. (*Cheers.*)

Dr E. U. Udoma (Opobo): Mr Chairman, I think that I am not alone when I say that we are not particularly satisfied with the explanation from the Minister. (*An hon. Member: He is not alone either.*) No doubt the Minister has to say something. But quite frankly, if the Minister were to take the trouble to look at the Civil Service list and from his own Estimates, estimate how long it will take an African to become a Comptroller, he would never have made the statement he made in this House. Because if one looks at the Civil Service List, no black man has any hope of ever rising to become a Comptroller, on the basis of what the Minister has said, because when once they reach retirement age, there could be no question of their being promoted to Comptrollers. And members of the Service have limited time within which to serve. So that why I say it is very unsatisfactory is that if you take the Comptroller, the Deputy Comptroller, the Assistant Comptroller, everybody controlling is on the top, an expatriate. No African is anywhere near. The highest the African goes is Higher Executive Officer, on this list, on this Civil Service list.

The Minister of Finance (Chief the hon. F. S. Okotie-Eboh): That is a wrong list.

Dr Udoma : Yes, it is the latest one that you have published ! So, Sir, we are saying that it does not pay anybody merely to pay lip service to independence in 1960. Surely, is it being suggested that even when we are independent, we will be hiring people to come and run the service for us ? Why do we want independence if we cannot get our men to manage this Service ? Surely if we are going to have people to come from abroad, they will be subordinate to our own men, who will direct the policy and put it into force, and implement whatever policy the Government decides upon ? And it is no use trying to say that we are Nigerianising and we are looking forward to independence in 1960 when we are not taking effective steps to bring that independence about.

I am saying that it seems to me, from the speeches we have been hearing on the floor of this House, that this Nigerianisation Scheme is not being properly followed. It does not follow any set pattern or scheme. It just seems that when any officer dreams about promoting somebody, he says, "Oh, he is an African, promote him." There is no system.

Why should it not be arranged in such a way that you have an African directly under-studying the expatriate official so that when the expatriate official goes away he will be able to take over at once without any loss of time and efficiency ? If the Minister would only tell his advisers to examine the Customs set-up, it will be quite easy that able young men and people with longer prospect in the Department would be able to be promoted in order to come forward to the higher scale to be able to under-study the Comptroller and be able to take over at any time.

Sir, it is, of course, true that we passed the Estimates on Nigerianisation, but it seems to me that that Department is not being properly tackled. Up till now we have not even got a Nigerianisation Officer ; the man who was there has now run away to another Department. . . . (Interruption) . . .

The Chairman : You cannot talk about that under this Head.

Dr Udoma : I know, Sir. What I am saying is, let us go to the practical side of this business. I am asking the Minister to take effective steps to look for younger and brilliant people with prospects in the Department to

push them forward in order that they might be prepared to under-study all the higher men in the higher rung of the ladder in that Department. Otherwise, as the hon. Member, Mr Nsima, has said, supposing all the expatriates decide to go away tomorrow, what do we do ? After all, we have given them so much inducement : the inducement to go is greater than the inducement to stay. If anybody decides to take advantage of the inducement to go and he goes away, what do we do with the Department ?

I say that the Minister should be more serious in this matter and make certain that there is always an African under-studying the man on the top in order to be able to maintain the service even after that man has gone.

Another point is that, in future, it should be the policy of Government that where there are available young men, any expatriate who retires, that vacancy should be filled by a Nigerian ; no need having another expatriate, because if these Africans have been working in the Customs Department for generations now and they are not competent to take over from the expatriates, I feel that they do not deserve to be there at all. We are not saying that inefficient Africans should be employed. Nobody will ever advocate that in this House. If a man dedicates his life to work in a Department and to make it a career, there is no reason why he should not be able to work and satisfy his employers. If the man is no good, then you are keeping the blame on yourself if you keep that man there. We are saying that it is not enough to come to the Floor of this House and say, "Oh, we do not have the men ; we do not have the men." I say we have the men in the various Departments of the Customs Department, and something should be done.

Mr Jaja Wachuku (Aba) : Mr Chairman, Sir, in spite of all the explanation that the Minister of Finance has given here, I must say that I support my learned and hon. Friend, Dr Udoma, in the views he has expressed here. We are not satisfied with this explanation.

This morning I mentioned that if you find Nigerians who have served for 10 years and upwards, they should be given an opportunity to show what they can do. I say this because I know that in Sierra Leone, which is a smaller territory than our own country, the head of the

Customs Department is a Sierra Leonean. I met him when I was returning from the United Kingdom. . . . (Interruption). . . .

The Chairman: I must say we are not talking about that sub-head now.

Mr Wachuku: I just referred to that as my introduction.

The Chairman: That need not be given any introduction.

Mr Wachuku: Mr Chairman, that is my way of warming up. (Laughter.)

The Chairman: It might warm me up to the extent of stopping me up. (Laughter)

Mr Wachuku: Sir, the Minister referred to the question of honesty and the like. We do not infer that the Nigerian who should be recruited to this post is dishonest, but it should not be assumed that dishonesty is confined to Nigerians alone. I would like the Minister to explain whether there was not an instance where the sum of £10,000 was supposed to be ordered to be written off by an expatriate officer in the Customs Department, a sum of money that would have accrued to the revenue of this country. What were the circumstances under which that should be written off? I would like the Minister to investigate whether there was an instance of that kind or not. And also, Sir, is it not correct that there are cases where expatriate officers arrive in this country, officers are ordered not to examine their baggages at the airport or sea terminal? That is why, Sir, (Interruption). . . .

The Chairman: Order, order! Is it the Establishment Officer, Group 7, who is responsible for these actions of omission? I really support that we should have this kind of debate on a wider field, and not on this one particular item.

Mr Wachuku: Mr Chairman, Sir, the Minister was trying to tell us the basis on which he could promote an African and he raised the question of honesty under this very Head, and I am trying to remind him that honesty is not the special preserve of the expatriate or Nigerian. I would like the Minister to investigate these cases whether I am right or wrong. If such cases exist and these people are still capable of holding important posts like these, I am saying that this post of Senior Establishment Officer should be given to a Nigerian.

We are coming to independence, Sir, and there is no sign in this particular Department that Africans will have any hope of coming to the top. My Friend has already referred to the Staff List and I want to remind the Minister—in paragraph 37 of the Nigerianisation White Paper, Sessional Paper No. 4 of 1956. . . .

The Minister of Finance: That is your Bible.

Mr Wachuku: Not my Bible. The Minister prepared it and gave to us. He wrote the Bible and wants us to read it, and whenever I read it he has to complain.

“Each Ministry will in future be responsible for maintaining a continuous review of the prospective staff list of the Departments with which it is concerned for keeping a record of persons known to be undergoing training of a kind designed to fit them to fill those staff needs and for supplying this information to the Federal Public Service Commission.” I stop there. How many Nigerians has the Minister produced, or how many Nigerians has the Minister sent to the United Kingdom to train in this way so as to keep the Public Service Commission in mind as to his attitude to Nigerianisation?

I would say, Sir, the Customs Department has been there all the time. I want to know within the short time that the Minister has been in office, what has he done with regard to the review? It does not matter whether he has done little, but I would like to know. What has the Minister done since he started to be in charge of this Department? Has he done anything at all? The Minister has not even read this Statement, otherwise he would have told this House, Sir, “I have done this, I have done this, I have done that.” We want the Minister, in answering to this Amendment, to tell us what he is doing to satisfy us; so that when we come for the next Budget Session we know exactly what to rely upon. Now he does not want to make any commitments, that is why he is quarrelling over this.

We have given him another period to produce the result but we cannot be satisfied having these new offices created only to see that in 1960 we have nobody. Tell me, who are running this Department? Are they not Africans? Nigerians man this Department with a few expatriates on top; and if after 20 years and more Africans are not fit to hold this Department, you know what will happen.

As soon as he has done that we will be quite satisfied; but we shall not be satisfied in having all these offices created if we have nobody to take over. We are tired of all this talk of experience. Will the Minister tell me: who actually run all these departments but Africans? There are only a few expatriates concerned, and if after fourteen or fifteen years Africans are not able to hold these posts, the whole place will be closed down and the Council of Ministers will be sacked!

Therefore, Sir, the post of Chief Executive Officer should be reserved for a Nigerian. If we cannot do so immediately we must find somebody quickly.

The Minister of Finance (Chief the hon. F. S. Okotie-Eboh): I am sure, Mr Chairman, that if the Customs and Excise Department is closed down, not only the Ministers will be sacked, but Mr Jaja Wachuku will also be sacked!

I would like to correct one impression, Sir, which the last speaker appears to have made. When I mentioned honesty, I did not mean to say that there are no honest Africans in the Customs Service. I would be the last man to suggest that; there are many of them. But each time we speak of *Nigerianisation* it will help our country if we try to drive it home to our kith and kin that it is not only book knowledge or the mere fact of being an African that we require. We also require honesty as well as efficiency.

Therefore, Sir, I am sure that hon. Members will agree with me. (*Several hon. Members: We agree*). I am not suggesting that Africans are dishonest; I never suggested such a thing.

As regards the amount of money suggested by Mr Jaja Wachuku to have been written off, I do not know anything about it. I will examine the matter closely, but I can assure Members that no one, will write off Government revenue if there is no justifiable cause presented to him. The Government is interested in collecting revenue, but it is not interested or prepared to collect money unnecessarily or to collect fraudulent revenue and put it into our coffers. The decision to write off any sum of money is not just made by one officer. It takes a long process and proper examination before any refund or write-off is made.

I am just one Member of the Government Bench, Sir, but I can assure Members that there is no one in the Customs Department who would like to leave the administration in the hands of one class of Civil Servants alone. If you examine the Estimates you will find that not only the office of Chief Establishment Officer is created, but also Senior Collectors of Custom and I hope that they will be Africans. There is another post of Assistant Executive Officer.

Members will be interested to know that Assistant Comptrollers of Customs are not resident in the Headquarters. One is at Port Harcourt, the other in Kano and there is another one at Apapa. Those are for the regional establishments. The Collectors of Customs that are in the administration will therefore have ample opportunity of understudying the Comptroller and his Deputy at the Headquarters. I think that Mr Jaja Wachuku will agree that that is a great step forward in the short time that I have been in the Ministry. (*Hear, hear.*)

There is also provision for six Inspector Instructors, Group 8, who are Africans, and I am sure that Mr Wachuku knows what Group 8 means, as well as two Senior Collectors, Scale B 4. In my own opinion, I would say categorically that nobody would contribute to the idea of closing any place against Africans. We will do these things steadily but gradually, and Members will agree that for the revenue that has been collected, the Comptroller, his Deputy, his Assistants and all the Customs Officers ought to be complimented for assisting our country and doing what they have been able to do.

Mr E. O. Imafidon (Benin East): Mr Chairman, I rise to oppose the Amendment. In doing so I have some few observations to make. I have to congratulate the Minister of Finance for his duty in providing some new vacancies for the Customs and Excise Department, thereby realising that this country is approaching independence in 1960. We are not suggesting that while the country is demanding independence the people of Nigeria are not ripe to man their Civil Service.

Now, the Minister realises the position and has taken a step forward in providing the vacancy for Chief Establishment Officer. All that the House is asking the Minister to note

is that such a post is good for a Nigerian if we are serious in achieving independence in 1960. No country can be said to be independent if the people of that country are not ripe to manage their own affairs. We feel that we are ripe for independence and that the Civil Service is ripe to be manned by Nigerians.

I have to congratulate the Minister because I feel that in his short stay in the Department he has made every effort to create vacancies for Nigerians. With these few remarks, I support the Head.

Mr P. Deem Kpumm (Jecira Tiv Division): Mr Chairman, I have one observation to make on this item—1 (4). Last year, we had five Assistant Comptrollers of Customs and Excise; to-day we have only four. Where has the other Assistant Comptroller gone to? That is what I want to ask on item 1 (4).

I now turn to the Chief Establishment Officer. Mr Chairman, is this not a device to convince this honourable House that it is in the interests of Nigerians to maintain some redundant officers? Why should this man be taken from item 3 to item 4? I am suggesting to the Minister that if this post is to be maintained at all, as the Memorandum states.... (*Interruption.*)

The Minister of Finance (Chief the hon. Okotie-Eboh): On a point of order, Sir. The hon. Member is trying to mislead the House by saying that we have taken someone from Item 3 to Item 4. That is incorrect, Sir. He will find under Item 22 that the Assistant Comptroller of Customs that was taken away from Item 3 is down in Investigations Branch.

Mr Jaja Wachuku (Aba): Why did you demote him?

The Minister of Finance: He is not demoted.

Mr Kpumm: It is all well and good. Now that he has been given another chance in the Investigations Branch, who was in the Investigations Branch before? (*Laughter*). If at all, Mr Chairman, Sir, this post of Chief Establishment Officer is to be created in the Customs and Excise Department, I would suggest to the Minister that it should be a man from outside the Customs and Excise Department, a man who is very experienced, but the man must be looked for outside the staff of that Department. Because these

people are the people that stand to cause the downfall of all those that come under their portfolios. If a man is good in the Department they say, "Oh, his character is very good, but his work leaves much to be desired." If he is efficient, but he has only one single officer who eyes him down, you will hear tomorrow they say, "Oh, he is a very hard working man but his character leaves much to be desired."

Mr Chairman, I would suggest to the Minister that he should get anybody, either from the Secretariat, or anybody from any of the departments, there are so many establishment officers, who will be able to give fair judgment and all those Africans and whoever is in the posts will be able to get on well. And for this reason, Mr Chairman, I am not going on because the Minister is a fair Minister, and one of the most reasonable fellows, and so I support the Head.

Mr F. N. H. Ayeni (Badagry): Mr Chairman, Sir, I would like to refer the Minister to Item 14 of sub-head 1. In the memorandum I would only like to read a little part of it which says: "these posts are for officers who take charge of Customs posts at Idiroko." It is very interesting to see that some young men are in this department who are aspiring to higher posts in our expectation to make our civil service commanded by Nigerians, but at the same time I feel the Minister will not forget to realise that health is wealth. That being so I am referring to the Customs post at Idiroko, on the Waterside, that place.... (*Interruption*)

The Chairman: Does that come under Item 4, sub-head 1?

Mr Ayeni: I am speaking on Item 14.

Several hon. Members: Not yet.

Amendment put and negatived.

Question again proposed, That £460,840 for Head 39 Customs and Excise stand part of the Schedule.

Mr A. E. Ukattah (Bende): Mr Chairman, Sir, I just want to say a few words before this Head is passed. When a good job of work is done, I think it is only proper that the performer should be praised. Many aspects of Customs and Excise Department have been criticised, but I feel that if this Department has done quite enough some words of congratulation should be said. When I came in here I remember in 1955, when I attended the first Budget meeting here, it was revealed to me that over 70 per cent

of the revenue of this Federation came from this Department. In fact, I never knew that, and it was only at that time that I first knew it.

I feel that this Department, then, is doing a very good job of work for, after all, if that money is not raised I wonder where all the money that we require for the services of the Federation will come from; or perhaps we might go borrowing. I think that it would be very encouraging to the staff of the Customs and Excise if a few words are said in congratulation. That is just why, Mr Chairman, I am seizing this opportunity of saying that the Minister of Finance and all the staff of Customs and Excise should be congratulated, and I hope that when the new Customs and Excise Law comes into effect these people, the staff of the Customs and Excise Department, will do their best to co-operate and see that the provisions of the new law are applied with maximum scrutiny and sincerity so that the good work they are now doing will be largely enhanced.

Sir, I beg to support.

Mr J. U. Udom (Abak): Mr Chairman, in supporting the expenditure under this Head, I want to take this chance to congratulate the Minister of Finance for his high sense of duty. I am doing this not because other speakers have poured words of praise on him, but because I know he really deserves my congratulations. We all know that Customs and Excise is the principal revenue-making Department in this country, and therefore we should do all we can to encourage the workers in this Department so that they may earn more.

Under sub-head 1, paragraph 4, though I was not recognised to speak during the Motion for Amendment, if I were to speak I think I would have been compelled to oppose that Motion. Because, you see, the Motion looks very funny in that we want our Nigerians to be promoted to higher grades, but when such grade is created we put in a Motion asking certain amounts to be reduced. So that I think there is not much sense in it. What I had in mind to say here is that, as already said by others, this particular provision. . . .

The Chairman: Order. Order. It is one o'clock and the sitting is suspended until three o'clock.

Sitting suspended : 1 p.m.

Sitting resumed : 3 p.m.

Mr J. U. Udom (Abak): Mr Chairman, I was referring to sub-head 1 (4) in the morning when I was interrupted. Here I would like the Minister of Finance to make a statement to the effect that a Nigerian will be employed to fill this post in order that he may understudy the officers in sub-head 1 (1 and 2).

Now, Sir, under sub-head 1 (22-27), I find that all the posts in these items are new establishments. Mr Chairman, Sir, there is no need to quarrel about these posts, but I want to remind the Minister of one important thing. When the Minister of Finance delivered his Budget Speech a few days ago, following the tune of his speech, I can understand that his primary idea in providing these posts under Items (22-27) is to improve the efficiency of our revenue collecting department. I want to tell the Minister that it does not end there. Creating posts, necessary or unnecessary will not improve the efficiency of our revenue collecting department.

I am not suggesting, Sir, that the posts created under these items are unnecessary, but my point is that when considering the appointments to fill the posts under these items, educational certificates alone should not be the only criterion. Certificates of good conduct and honesty should be first and foremost. And from what I have said already, some of our workers do encourage evasion of Customs Duties, for self-interest. When I am saying this I am saying it with due respect to those officers in the Customs Department who are honest.

Again, Sir, I want to tell the Finance Minister that promotion is the best form of encouragement. It is in this light, Sir, that I strongly appeal to the Minister that all the people to be appointed to fill these vacancies under Items (22-27) must be Nigerians. I am quite sure that there are Nigerians in the Department who can discharge the duties under these Items efficiently if promoted.

Another point I must lay emphasis on is this. Sometimes undeserving workers are promoted to higher grades leaving more efficient and deserving workers behind owing to corrupt practices. I say now, Sir, only the trustworthy, the reliable and God-fearing people should be allowed to interview people for promotion, people who shun bribery and

corruption, people who are impartial and not tribalistic, otherwise, Sir, our labour must be in vain. Therefore, in the absence of Nigerians possessing such qualities, I am afraid, Sir, I think anybody whether an expatriate or a Nigerian should be appointed to such a place of responsibility.

The last point, Sir, is the necessity for a launch service to convey Customs Officers to and from the new Customs House at Apapa, since most of them are not provided with quarters. I am sure this will also improve the efficiency of our Customs workers or if this is not possible, Sir, the working hours should be adjusted for a number of Officers to fit in conveniently with the ferry times.

Mr Chairman, with these few remarks I support the expenditure under this Head.

Chief T. T. Solaru (Ijebu East): Mr Chairman, Sir, when we were discussing the historic part that we now have a Minister of Finance who is also a trained businessman, we reminded him that we were looking forward not only that he would be an authodox businessman, in the sense that he is a conservative, but we would also like him to be a businessman in that he is ready to adventure. And we are very pleased, Sir, that under this Head and under other Heads under him, he has shown that at least he is thinking of new fields of advance. This thing has been pin-pointed and so I will not repeat. In some of the Heads where new provisions are made for increasing staff, either supervisory or executive, I believe, Sir, that the purpose is to increase the effectiveness and the efficiency of our own Customs and Excise Department. Sir, it does not matter how many people we put there and what posts we put them in, unless, of course, we could trust that they would do their duty quite faithfully and honestly.

Sir, I was not here this morning but I was glad that the Minister of Finance has repeated his plea for honesty. We note that we depend very much upon Customs and Excise for our revenue in this country and to read again and again in the papers of the way in which goods are being smuggled or Customs duties are being evaded, I feel sure that the ingenuity of these dishonest businessmen could not have beaten the whole army of Customs and Excise people there, if they had been as vigilant, in fact they ought to be more vigilant than those

businessmen, a good many of them should have been brought to book. I am glad, Sir, I have no prejudice to those of them who have been so vigilant that three or four cases have been brought to the public notice; we are still looking forward to their prospective prosecution.

What I am saying now I am not saying on my own responsibility but on the responsibility of those who are in close touch with these cases. They say, "What is the good of discovering evasions, what is the good of saying we have caught so many when only a few will ever come to Court?" They can go to Court and be acquitted but they must go to Court. I do not see how cases like this can be settled out of Court. And so I hope, Sir, that the Department of Customs and Excise and the Minister will see to it not only that we are vigilant but the result of our vigilance is made manifest. The purpose of catching a thief is not merely to catch him and set him at large, but to warn other thieves. There are still clever thieves who are watching to see what is going to happen.

It seems to me, Sir, that here we ought to talk to our own men. It is true we want to replace expatriates but after all a good many of our own people who are in places of trust ought to see to it that now they are getting control in higher posts, there is not only an enhancement of efficiency but also that the degree of integrity is doubly enhanced. We often say that we can do it better than the expatriate because this is not his own country. If that is all the freedom we have, just to ruin our own finances in order to feather the nests of a few people, then I think we shall have been doing ourselves mortal injury. Therefore, it cannot be too often repeated that as often as these posts are created not only must the criterion be as Mr Udoma has said, the qualifications for the job, but one of the essential features that must be taken care of when you are promoting people is their honesty and their industry. Unless they are honest, if you put them into executive posts, you will find that we shall be ruining the Department of Customs and Excise because we shall be turning it into a den of robbers. I am not a trader myself, so I cannot claim to have been robbed, but those who have been robbed are all of us together, whenever we lose thousands of pounds through evasion of Customs duty.

Sir, it is true that Nigerians are coming into their own but where we would like Nigerians to come into their own more and more is in the preservation of the revenue of our own country. There was a time in this country (we used to say before the advent of the white man but I do not know whether the white man is responsible for all of it), there was a time when you could leave your goods at the cross-roads and you could indicate by stones or pieces of wood, how much you want it sold for and the money would be there. I do not think anybody would dare to do that now. If these people who are to catch a thief are themselves thieves, it will be very difficult to get on in this country. We are saying this for the benefit of those of them who are not honest, those who are honest can have all our backing.

Mr Minister, Sir, it is these people who will be prosecuted. If a Junior Officer is over zealous at his duties and is honest in his report, you will find that it is he who gets reported and will be kicked off the premises. When you begin to find the people being chased from pillar to post and their files marred, do not delay the fight, please look into it, see that the man is really guilty of the crimes of which he is accused. I have got ample evidence on one occasion but, of course, it is not the Customs and Excise; maybe when we come to the Head I shall be talking about it, when a person was chased off by his superior officers because the man had been too zealous in doing his duties. We hope that those of them who are honest in the Customs and Excise will be rewarded for their honesty, not by being given the boot. We feel very strongly about this, Sir, and anything you can do about it will receive our full support.

Sir, may I suggest that now that we have dealt so exhaustively with Customs and Excise and having got to Chapter 3 this morning and we are now getting nearly to the end of another day, that we get on a little quicker? Thank you, Sir.

M. Shehu Shagari (South West Sokoto): Mr Chairman, in supporting the expenditure on this Head, I wish to speak on Head 1, Item 14. Sir, I am pleased to note that the Government proposes to open Customs posts in the Northern Region frontier on the following roads:—Sokoto-Illela, Kaduna-Gigia Maradi, Kano-Daura and Zinder. Sir, this is a step in the right direction and it meets continuous

demands of the Northern Members of this House. This will help greatly in increasing the revenue of the Federation. A lot of money is being lost by Government when goods pass from Nigeria across the borders into the French territory. The French have their Customs posts all along the border and they derive a considerable sum of money from such posts when Nigeria is losing. The Government must see to it that wherever there is a French customs post there should be a Federal Customs post established.

Sir, I also hope that these posts, when established, do not imitate the peculiar ways of their French neighbours. It is not unusual for French Customs Officers to seize everything a Nigerian trader owns, without any regard to the legality of the seizure. They even go to the extent of beating up Nigerian traders unnecessarily and sending them to prison. Sir, we do not like such things to happen on this side of the border.

So, if these Customs Officers are established in these new places we wish that they will heed this warning not to behave in the same way as their neighbours, and perhaps the Government will do something to investigate what is going on between the traders of this country who go across the French border, and the Customs officers on the other side.

With this, Sir, I beg to support.

Chief J. I. G. Onyia (Asaba) Mr Chairman, Sir, I would like to know the difference between this designation here under Item 6, Two Senior Collectors, Scale B 4, and sub-Head, 14, 11 Senior Collectors of Customs and Excise, Scale B 4. Sir, what is the difference? Here we have 11 Senior Collectors of Customs, and here at the top we have two Senior Collectors, Scale B 4, all Scale B 4, what is the difference?

If the new creation is intended for a Senior or other post, why not give it a different designation to avoid this confusion of names, and why not make a supernumerary post of Assistant Comptroller of Customs so that these people can directly be under these Comptrollers to understudy them?

I wish to know the difference between the two names and how these two names are going to be distinguished by people, common people

—Senior Collectors of Customs B 4. Senior Collectors of Customs and Excise. Only 'excise' is added in the lower one.

The Minister of Finance (Chief the hon. F. S. Okotie-Eboh) : Mr Chairman, Sir, I think that in replying to a debate hon. Members will agree that it is high time we pressed forward in accordance with the views of Chief Solaru, but before doing so I wish to thank him very much for the observations which he has made, and we all, agree that this Department holds the key to our revenue, and anybody employed there, whether he is our own son or whoever he may be, we expect the highest type of integrity. As I said, there is nothing much left for me to say but to stress the points which Chief Solaru has made so that our people may realise it is useless crying for higher posts we do not expect them to merit the confidence that we and the country repose in them.

As I said, a lot of them are doing very good work. Indeed, these Senior Collectors and Collectors are showing a very good example, but certainly a lot of our young men who want to go to England to qualify for law or commerce disappoint many of us. Chief Solaru spoke about people going to court and getting away. (*Laughter*). Lawyers are responsible.

M. Shehu Shagari. I wish to thank him very much for commending the programme which we have for controlling the frontiers in the Northern Region. As you know, our Customs Officers are very human, and they are gentlemen. They do their work well, but they do not send people to prison like our French friends on the other side of the border. I can assure you that our people will be treated with every gentleness, but we will not encourage them to smuggle goods across the border and to be unwilling to pay custom duties.

Chief Onyia has referred to 11 Senior Collectors of Customs and Excise. If you will look at the estimates, you will find that the two Senior Collectors of Customs are in the administration, and the 11 are technical men of the technical branch. They collect duties ; I think you should compliment us that two Senior Collectors who are Africans are going to be in the Customs Headquarters and will be doing administration. It is not sufficient to collect revenues alone, if you do not study it.

Many Members have been crying for understudies to the Assistant Comptrollers and Comptrollers. Naturally, I think it is a great step forward to have these two Senior Collectors of Customs in the Administrative Headquarters understudying what the Comptroller and Assistant Comptrollers are doing there. (*Hear, hear*).

Chief J. I. G. Onyia (Asaba) : Why were they not created as supernumeraries, as Assistant Comptrollers ?

The Minister of Finance : Mr Chairman, Sir, I have said in the morning that we must take this slowly. We cannot just create supernumerary posts of Assistant Comptrollers overnight. We have made a beginning this year, it is possible that by next year there will be another two. What we should press for is that these two Senior Collectors of Customs should prove their worth there. If they do so the Comptroller will certainly recommend other posts next year. But all I want to say is that we are making progress and I think that this progress should be appreciated and watched.

Mr D. E. Okereke (Owerri) : Mr Chairman in supporting the views expressed this morning by my learned and honourable Friends, Dr Udoma and Jaja Wachuku, I must say that I am unable to discover the policy of the Federal Government in regard to filling top vacancies in the service. In other words, what is Government's ability to replace the expatriate with an African, without recourse to the often quoted and very vexatious statement of colour bar, or no suitable Nigerian candidates can be found ? I repeat, what is Government's ability to replace the expatriate. I think it will be to the good of the expatriate if he is replaced, because after all we are thinking of independence, and when we do have our independence, the expatriates would not be exposed to a conflict of two loyalties. There might be what we may call the British loyalty, and loyalty to the British Government, and loyalty to the Nigerian Government, and in times of stress you know what will happen.

Also speaking on the point in question, I think I might as well say, as my teacher used to tell me in my schooldays, what a man has done, another can do, so that if an expatriate has done this, anybody else can do it.

We talk of independence, but we must explain that independence calls for a lot of preparation, and that calls for stability in the structure of our Civil Service, and in this preparation I can appreciate what the foresight of the Prime Minister has done.

What I really want to say is that Government might please consider giving up their policy of self-reliance. We must have a definite policy of self-reliance. Now each Minister should take, I suggest, the Departments under his portfolio and make a list of the posts which he thinks should be filled by Nigerians, and then put people who are suitable, anybody with the requisite education and is of good character; that is very very important. So long as a person has that, well give him an opportunity, give him a chance and he will show his worth. Either he then understudies someone, or is given a scholarship for further training so that when a Department has say ten vacancies to be filled by Nigerians, there will be Nigerians ready to fill them. After a person has been selected who is of good character and has the requisite standard of education, certainly he can come and do the job that the other man did.

After all, we must try to fill the key posts of our country and the way to do that is to elevate our people to the top grades, otherwise our talk of Independence is a sham.

When the time comes for a man—to use slang—to drop off, he may say, "Well I am going," and then you find that you have nobody to take his place. Well, that is when the whole thing will fall to pieces. In short, Mr Chairman, that is my suggestion.

Mr F. N. H. Ayeni (Badagry): Mr Chairman, hon. Members have said much on this Head of the Estimates and I do not propose to repeat what has already been said, but there is one point that nobody has made and I would like to point it out. I would refer the Minister to Sub-head 1, Items 14 and 15 and in reference to them would like to say that in the memorandum it was pointed out that these posts are meant for Customs Officers who will be at Idiroko and on the French Border. This brings me to the health of these people who work there. Most of them are posted on a Customs post on the lagoon. We all realise that health is wealth and that being so I am appealing to the Minister to see that these posts are

repaired. This particular post that I am referring to at Idiroko is in a deplorable condition and leaves much to be desired.

I would be very pleased, Sir, if it could be renovated in the interests of the people who work there.

Question, That £460,840 for Head 39—Customs and Excise—stand part of the Schedule, put and agreed to

HEAD 40.—INLAND REVENUE

Question proposed, That £149,290 for Head 40—Inland Revenue—stand part of the Schedule.

Amendment proposed to reduce the Head by £10.

Mr F. U. Mbakogu (Awka): Mr Chairman, Sir, I just want to make some comments on this Head. It is very unfortunate that year in and year out we have been told here that there is no need to change the tax policy of the country. Now reviewing the tax policy does not only mean increasing the amount of tax. For the last three years I have quarrelled with the Government a lot about that because every year we are told there is no need for an increase in tax. To bring our tax policy into line with modern tax policies does not mean increasing tax.

There are many things wrong with our tax policy. All over the world there is a new system of tax collection, P.A.Y.E.—pay-as-you-earn. Last year I pointed this out and the then Financial Secretary told me that he was working along that line to see if that system could be introduced here. Well unfortunately I did not hear the Minister making any reference to this sort of an arrangement being introduced here.

One of the advantages of that policy is that the workers will know at once how much they owe and how much of their salary is their own. If they are on a salary scale of £12 per month, and their tax is 10s per month, they know that out of the £12 they will only get £11-10s. They will continue to pay that 10s every month and at the end of the year will not have anyone worrying them to pay a large sum, say £6, all at once which would be burdensome to them. If they only have to pay 10s per month they will do so without flinching.

So I am asking that this type of tax policy which has been recently introduced in the Eastern Region, should be introduced here. It would not put the tax payer into so much difficulty, no matter how much tax he had to pay, or how high the rate.

At the same time we have an agreement to recover some of the taxes that are evaded. I know sometimes workers work in one Department, and after a while they resign either in the middle of the year, or at the last quarter, and off they go to another Department, or go abroad, and Government cannot make out just where they are. The result is they pay no tax.

I am saying, Sir, that Government has no chance to recover tax evaded in these cases. The workers go away with impunity, and Government never recovers that amount of tax from them. Well, Sir, that is one point.

Another point, Sir, is making tax progressive. At present we appear to have a situation in Nigeria where the richer are getting richer and richer, and the poorer are getting poorer and poorer. I would say that those who have more and can afford to make the sacrifice should do so in the interests of national economy and national progress. But it seems that those who pay tax are those who are the least able to pay, they pay more than those who have more money, maybe because it is some important person in a town.

In England, I know some people will pay about nineteen shillings and sixpence in the pound up to a certain amount after certain deductions have been made. They pay about nineteen shillings and sixpence after certain concessions have been taken away: on the first one thousand pounds of income they pay no tax because that one will not even enable a person to live. But after that he might pay fourpence-halfpenny or one shilling in the pound; after five-thousand pounds of income he might pay one shilling or two shillings in the pound; after ten thousand pounds he might pay nineteen shillings and sixpence as the case may be. These figures I am giving are not correct figures, but I am just illustrating how the scale works.

But from that angle one will see that those who have more money can pay more than the ordinary people taking halfpenny from each

one of them whether he is rich or poor. And then the amount of tax that will be collected that way will be enormous indeed.

But at present those who pay tax are those who are unable to pay it, and they must willy-nilly. With them I know that is very difficult. But it is one thing for the Minister to tell us that people are evading tax, and another thing is to make it impossible for people to evade tax. Well, one of the reasons why they say, workers for example, evade tax, is because they are given the opportunity.

I have mentioned safe method of collecting tax, one of them is the P.A.Y.E. Another case is this question of bad Assessment Committees. Some Assessment Committees are appointed: they have not the interest of the country at heart; they have not the interest of the Government at heart, so that if anybody comes out to give them one pound or something like that, they would not mind assessing a man thirty pounds below what he could pay. In other words, if a person is due for assessment of ten pounds and then he goes round to give them one pound, they do not mind assessing him five pounds. So the Government loses five pounds—one pound will go to the man who assessed him and four pounds to those who should have paid the tax.

So I am recommending that we should have a Board that should be entrusted with the question of assessment. Leave off the hands of civil servants; let them guide; let them sit round there to give expert advice, and if there are any statistical data required then they would be supplied by them, because they have the means of getting this statistical data. But the question of assessment should not be given to them. People who are honest and who have reached the highest standard of integrity, independent people, should be appointed to serve on the Assessment Boards, while the experts in the civil service who have the figures before them will sit side by side with them giving them advice wherever there is necessity for that.

Well, this practice is not working only in the Federal Territory of Lagos, but everywhere. Sometimes people are asked to declare their income at Onitsha; they declare one hundred pounds, but the clerks there on the table change it to five hundred pounds, unless they are given something.

The Minister of Finance : Point of Order. We do not collect any tax from traders at Onitsha.

Mr Mbakogu : You should be correct : I am just giving an instance. What I said was happening at Onitsha is also happening at Warri. Instead of assessing correctly, the person declaring gives one hundred pounds as his income for the year. Then the clerks on the table will put down five hundred pounds. Now if he goes back and sees them they will bring the amount to reduced figures, and then work the income tax on that. That is bad enough. That is why the rich people in Nigeria do not pay tax.

The Minister of Communications and Aviation : Mr Chairman, Sir, I want to safeguard the interests of Mr Ojukwu who is not here. You are hitting him behind his back. That is very bad.

Mr Mbakogu : Mr Ojukwu knows that Government cannot exist without taxes ; he would not grumble at all. He pays his tax I know, but the Minister of Communications and Aviation has so many buildings in Lagos on which he pays but little tax (*Laughter*). There is strong reason, therefore, for asking the Minister to introduce the system of P.A.Y.E and of establishing these Assessment Boards that will not be filled with civil servants who will collect money in different ways and then defraud the Government, thereby making rich people pay less tax than poor people. So that this question of tax evasion continues to increase day by day, and the rich getting richer and richer and the poor poorer and poorer.

Amendment proposed.

Mallam H. M. Adaji (Igalá North) : Mr Chairman, Sir I have nothing to quarrel about on this Head, but to oppose the Amendment and to expose some of the false evidence he has given before this House. When people get up to accuse workers outside, it is left to the Members of this House to decide that such people have attempted these things themselves, perhaps succeeded or failed.

For good Allah's sake leave out these things. These assessment officers remain in their offices ; from the figures they gather from the various heads of departments about the salaries or the earnings of certain workers, they assess

them (*i.e.* according to figures presented to them by heads of departments or by the clerks concerned, or the Treasury for that matter). Now which people, for good Allah's sake ? Somebody who is not honest to pay tax to the Government under which he lives, will be so dishonest to come and contact an assessment officer to reduce his tax.

When we want to accuse let us weigh the other side of the argument before we accuse. That is not the thing. You should not try to accuse people falsely because accusations in this House are getting too much. People who do not pay tax because they corrupt assessment officers are not honest themselves to declare their earnings. A measure whereby such people's earnings or income could be assessed is what we have to discuss, and not to accuse others for faults that are not their own.

Mr Chairman, Sir, it would be very wise if the Government can institute a measure whereby big traders could be asked to name the companies with which they trade or even the Customs Department, and the big firms to whom they sell produce or from whom they buy articles. If this is done I think their income could be determined. Otherwise there is no other way ; you could not force their boxes open to know the exact amount they have—some of them are not honest enough to declare what they have in the bank. So it is very difficult to accuse anybody, and it is very difficult for the Government to tackle the matter from that angle.

Mr Chairman, I oppose.

Oba Adetunji Aiyoola (Ijebu Remo) : Mr Chairman, I have to speak generally on this Head. I will not for a moment, Mr Chairman, support the amendment that this Head be reduced by £10. I agree, of course, with the Mover of this amendment that Government should introduce a method of Pay As You Earn as is done in the Eastern Region. Mr Chairman, I find that the provision which has been made under this Head will not enable the Government to do so at the present time, and therefore I think that it will not be possible at this moment to put it into operation.

Mr Chairman, I find that there is a lot of tax evasion in Lagos. The fault is not that of the people who evade these taxes ; it is the fault of the officers in the handling of the situation.

I find that the provision which has been made under this Head is not sufficient. You have 115 Assessment Clerks. I do not think that this number of Assessment Clerks is sufficient to handle the tax situation of petty traders in Lagos. Between five and ten years ago, you did not have traders keeping accounts, but recently Government has taken an effective measure of asking traders to keep their accounts. This one is a very good idea indeed. I even understand that traders are being chased to the Customs Department for entries of goods which they have imported, and by this method the Inland Revenue Department has been able to make more money than ever before.

Mr Chairman, there is the question of 3 Investigating Officers at various contract rates. We know what is really happening in the Inland Revenue Department and I am quite sure that those of our people, the senior officials who are there are able to handle the question of investigation. What, Mr Chairman, do we want to investigate in the Inland Revenue Department? We want to investigate how to increase revenue by combating tax evasion. If we want to do this, it is for us to get all petty traders to come before the officials to declare their profits, their turnover each year and assess them. I do not agree that in a cosmopolitan town like Lagos assessment Committees can be the correct procedure. The thing is to employ more and more honest officials.

I welcome the idea of reduction of company tax from 9s to 8s. I am sure that this will encourage overseas investors to come to this country and also encourage those expatriate companies who have hitherto registered in Great Britain to register in Nigeria. To-day you find the United Africa Company (*Nigeria*) Limited; even the Bank of British West Africa—I know they will, by incorporating their business undertakings in Nigeria, be able to enjoy the reduction which Government has given.

Mr Chairman, we have often spoken about Nigerianisation, and too much cannot be said about this subject. We hope that there will be a time when our men in the Inland Revenue will be in a position to occupy higher posts in that Department. I know for certain that the Inland Revenue Department is one of the few Departments of Government which are encouraging the idea of Nigerianisation. To-day you find Nigerians occupying responsible

posts in the Inland Revenue Department, and according to information they are really doing well. I have to pay tribute to the Head of that Department for accelerating Nigerianisation in his own Department, and I wish that the Minister will put himself to the task to see that the idea of Nigerianisation is implemented in other Departments within his portfolio.

I therefore oppose.

M. Sanni O. B. Okin (North Ilorin) : Mr Chairman, I am not surprised to see that hon. Members criticise this particular Department. We all know that even throughout the world, Inland Revenue Department is rather unpopular. Nobody likes to pay. We all like the Treasury, but we dislike the Inland Revenue Department. That is because the Treasury gives and the Inland Revenue Department reduces. That is why nobody likes to pay. For example, even in ordinary social clubs, some members are in arrears of 3d at the rate of 1d per month.

Now, hon. Members here who spoke levelled some criticisms against the employees of that Department. It is not so. I seem to realise that the *briber* and the *bribee* are at fault. (*Laughter.*) Mr Chairman, when a man gives something out to the employees of Government Department, why give the money at all? By doing that such a person is encouraging dishonesty.

The Minister of Communications and Aviation (Chief the hon. S. L. Akintola) : Are you a *briber* or a *bribee*? (*Laughter.*)

M. Sanni Okin : Neither of the two.

Members are crying for various amenities. Hon. Members concentrate on expenditure forgetting something about the revenue, and the revenue is the main condition of our expenditure. Without revenue, no expenditure. So we should try our possible best to encourage our people to pay their tax in time. The only class of people who are suffering too much are the workers because it is quite easy to assess the financial stability of the worker. A man earning £10 per month cannot tell the Inland Revenue Department that his salary is £6. That can easily be traced out. But with traders, it is quite impossible to assess their financial stability. If you can assess their money in the bank, you cannot assess what they keep in their room. So I suggest that

our people who come under the category should be seriously encouraged to pay their tax if you want the progress of our country. They cannot do anything.

People are crying for electricity and telephones to be installed in all Administrative headquarters; how can we do this without money? Mr Chairman, I strongly advise the hon. Members of this House to try our best to tell our people that without paying our dues to the Inland Revenue Department, nothing can be done and we are going to be denied of all the amenities we are always crying for.

Mr Chairman, I beg to oppose.

Mr J. A. O. Akande (Egba North): Mr Chairman Sir, I would like the Minister to make a statement on the position of the Inland Revenue in relation to the Regional Inland Revenue because at present various forms are being distributed to hon. Members in the Western Region asking them to pay tax on their salaries as Members of this honourable House. Are we going to pay tax on our salaries to the Western Region or we are going to pay to the Federal Territory? Later on again, we have got another form from the Federal Inland Revenue asking us to pay from the same salaries to the Federal Government. I would like the Minister to make a statement on this.

The other point is in connection with tax evasion. I think it is also correct on this occasion to ask the Minister to make sure that people leaving this country should submit their baggage for Customs examination. All our frontiers should be guarded by Police. At present at Idiroko, we have a Corporal at the frontier. We would like the Minister to recommend that this Police officer possibly should be an A.S.P. at Idiroko.

Another thing is that in Oyo Province, smuggling is going on there. That place is about forty miles to the French border. What is the Minister doing about it? If you want us to vote more money to bring in a greater revenue we shall be prepared to do it. There are certain commercial firms evading tax payment in Nigeria, for example, the Elder Dempster Lines do not pay tax to the coffers of this Government and I would like the Minister to look into it and see to it that these firms pay tax to this Government.

Chief T. T. Solaru (Ijebu East): Mr Chairman Sir, enough has been said about the Inland Revenue but we hardly look at the personnel. It has been said that a lot depends upon how they do their job. We know that the Regions have been setting up their own Inland Revenue Departments and they have been drawing very heavily upon the Federal Department of Inland Revenue. While that is also good, but after having trained these men they chose on their own volition to go away and to find posts for themselves in other parts of the Federation. But Sir, it has come to our knowledge that a good deal of those who leave are leaving because they are not so happy in the Department.

There is no smoke without fire and we hope that the Minister is listening because we would like him to investigate why it is that some of the people whom we are relying upon to take up their proper places after they have been trained in this Department, why they are leaving and getting jobs in the Regions, and leaving our offices in need of experience. And when I am talking about leaving, I do not really mean Nigerians. I understand that some Europeans too, expatriates, well experienced and have been in this job for a long time.

He is rather disgruntled because in matters of promotion other people are being promoted above his head. Now we can only hear these people at a distance but anything that is going to destroy the efficiency of this Department which is so vital to our existence, I think ought to be looked into. Matters of promotion ought to be on merit. We know, Sir, from experience in a lot of fields that it often looks to people that it is easy to control a department or to control a state if you have stooges who come to you with information about their fellows, and so on; but in the long run it does not pay because those stooges are the same people, having served you in one direction, they go back and seek favour in another direction. They were—I would not have said it but. . . . stooges are favoured in all walks of life; it does not matter whether it is a state or in a department. If there are any stooges there those stooges should not be given promotion above the heads of people who really are sincere and honest. Be they Africans or Europeans, promote them on their merits and we hope that the Minister will ask the Department to watch its own frontier and see that there is no leakage of good people because of underground movement.

Chief S. J. Mariere (Urhobo East) : Mr Chairman, Sir, it is interesting to note that a step is being taken to have strong machinery for the collection of revenue. No hon. Member will hesitate to support any action taken to bring about an effective collection of revenue. But Sir, something must also be done for the safety of the revenue already collected.

Now, Sir, the Federal Audit Report for the year ending 31st March, 1956-57, reveals great losses of revenue already collected. With your permission Sir, I quote just one or two items from the Report. 'Losses of Government funds; Misappropriation of funds, £5,073-12s-7d, Embezzlement of tax, £8,075-12s-1d, Misappropriation of export duties, £3,623-13s-4d'. What is the use of spending more money to pay people to collect revenue only to serve the dishonest ends of the people who are the revenue collectors? The Minister should not be satisfied with providing only effective means for the collection of revenue: he should also have in mind the safety of revenue already collected so that the money may be used for the greatest good of the greatest many.

If the Minister would like the suggestion, I would like to suggest one thing, that Government should follow the method of the mercantile houses where an employee in charge of handling money is required to provide cash security to guarantee the safety of the money entrusted to him. If Government do this I think there will be some fears in the minds of the people who handle money to be able to look after the money. When he knows some money has been paid against the money entrusted to him, then there would be a sense of fear in his mind. If he has no money to pay, it is all right, if he could find a guarantor or what we call a surety.

Mr Chairman, I oppose the Amendment.

The Minister of Finance : I rise to oppose the amendment, Sir, and in doing so wish to say that the hon. Mbakogu was arguing much more on Regional taxes rather than Federal one and this pay-as-you-earn is being done to a certain extent here at the moment, but we do not make a noise about it.

The point made by Oba Aiyeola about investigating officer. I think that perhaps if I give my reason the Oba will agree with me. There is no doubt that we need to investigate throughout the country the accounts which are

submitted for the purpose of assessment by Companies and by non-Nigerians who are resident throughout the country. Is it not necessary for some people to go round the country, check the accounts and be sure that the companies are properly taxed? That is why we are bringing these Investigation officers, and I think the House will endorse it. The hon. Akande, the point that he has made about Oyo—the man is not even here again, he has vamosed—(Laughter). . . . I do not see any point in replying to his questions. . . . (Laughter). . . .

Some hon. Members : Reply, reply. He will see it in the Hansard.

The Minister of Finance : I think that point is well taken, and I want to say this, that the matter is already in hand. The thing is that we do not like to spend money to control an area from which we shall not get anything. We want to put Government money into something that will yield some dividends. We are still studying the situation and I myself would like to visit Oyo and Shaki and see for myself as soon as this House adjourns, and I shall be able to see whether if we put posts or controls there we will be able to justify the expenditure as involved.

The Minister of Communications and Aviation : And salute the new Alafin.

The Minister of Finance : I will pay my respects to any Oba anywhere.

The question of police at Idiroko. I agree with him completely that the posting of a police sergeant there is not sufficient. My own view, if I have my way, is that police or customs officers put in a frontier post should be investigated too, and should be watched. That is my view; it is no use putting them there as the be-all and end-all of everything. It is my view that we should be able to have a sort of subterranean investigators to watch them. I think at Idiroko, there should be a senior police officer and if the Members of the House would agree with me, I think that my hand would be strengthened.

The views expressed by Chief Solaru are well taken, and I am grateful for them. With reference to Chief Mariere about cash security. I am sure if the Government demanded that people should pay cash security before they were given posts of responsibility, he and the other Members of the House would say that is

discriminatory because then it will only be that sons of wealthy men or members of a family that is rich and can produce security will get into responsible posts. In my view that will not be fair. I think Government posts should be given by public competition based on efficiency and integrity. Invariably you will find, Sir, that people who produce cash security want to get a quick return; maybe they borrowed the money, they will want to make money quickly to pay it back, so that the security could belong to them. That may be sound in stores where people sell goods and when they are short they are debited, but I think in public positions where public funds are involved Government should not ask for cash security.

In any case I want to tell Members that the system of revenue and tax collection in Lagos is in itself in an unsatisfactory position and both the head of the department and myself feel that something should be done. I personally think that the collection of taxation at its lower level, say from £300 downwards, should not be the responsibility of Inland Revenue. But at the moment you will agree that the Fiscal Commission is examining the system of tax collection in this country and it would not be appropriate now for us to do anything, but if they make recommendations that perhaps the Lagos Town Council should collect certain taxes in Lagos, and the Inland Revenue another, then it will be possible to realise more money.

I think Members will agree that we should report progress and pass this Head now.

Question, that the Head be reduced by £10 put and negatived.

Question, That £149,290 for Head 40, —Inland Revenue—stand part of the Schedule put and agreed to.

HEAD 41—TREASURY

Question proposed, That £143,310 for Head 41—Treasury—stand part of the Schedule.

Mr J. U. Udom (Abak): Mr Chairman, I just want to ask a question here, that is sub-head 1, Item 22. Last year, that is 1957-58, there were six temporary clerks on salaries of £375 per annum, and this year again we have the same number, six temporary clerks, at the same salary per annum. Sir, I want to know if this provision is necessary. If it is

necessary, that this provision should be provided or made, why not make it permanent? Why temporary every year? Last year it was temporary, this year again, temporary.

M. Sanni O. B. Okin (North Ilorin): Mr Chairman, I am not surprised that the Members do not at all feel to say something about this Department. I want them to realise that this Department is not well recognised, even before the Federal Government and the native authorities as well. I think the hon. Mr Dosunmu will bear me out: he knows what I am saying. You know, in this Department people to be employed or to work in this particular Department must be of unimpeachable character. They are trustworthy people, and I think they should be encouraged. They are not well encouraged. Many people as you know do not like to work in the Treasury. Even Members of the native authorities here will bear me out, they may not say it, but if you examine the bottom of their hearts, they will support me.

Now the reason for this is that in the Treasury people working there are always very, very busy, and they are always subject to various queries from various departments. For example, now if there is any misappropriation of accounts or some people have overspent their vote, the first department to be asked or to be queried is the Treasury, whereas the Treasury is not responsible for the over-expenditure. So there are many complaints from the people working in the Treasury. I suggest, and I strongly recommend that the Federal Government should try its best to encourage the people working in the Treasury.

Mr Chairman, I beg to support.

Mr F. U. Mbakogu (Awka): Mr Chairman, I have just some two points to make under this Head. I feel that this Department is full of accountants. I feel that if we want to practise political economy in this country, it should be under this Head. Now, every year Members in this House cry about lack of facilities given to Nigerians to train as accountants.

There have been cries in this House during the last few years against one particular firm of Accountants Cassleton Elliott, who were training some of our Nigerian Scholarship holders. The cry was that instead of training them to become Accountants they were being trained as clerks; they were given other jobs

like typing, leaving the main study courses for which they were sent there. Well, I feel it is now high time we should have a training course for accountants and auditors. Almost every department needs accountants.

We were crying the other day about the Police; I did not know then that accountants would come in under this Head. All the departments are crying out for accountants, Chief Accountant, Principal Accountant, Senior Assistant Accountant and Executive Officers (Accounts) and the rest; so many of them, and if you look well you will understand that these people are all Europeans because there are certain branches of study that Nigerians did not understand to be important. They did not understand that book-keeping is important. When I see them go to commercial schools they do not take to shorthand, typing and book-keeping, they leave these subjects that will make them professionals and do geography, history, and other subjects that were better handled in secondary schools. Unless we give workers in the Treasury Department training, whether they have had any original training, or preliminary school training or not, once they join Government and are blessed to go into that Department, they should be given every encouragement and every facility so that they will become professional accountants or auditors.

What I am saying is that a permanent training scheme should be established to train accountants who are needed in almost all Government Departments. At this stage when we are losing Government money every now and then, we should make it a point to train Nigerians for the job, for we do not want accountants at all costs, we want accountants at the least cost and these accountants at least cost will be Nigerians who will receive a minimum salary. Almost all expatriate accountants are on contract.

In the second place, I would, like the hon. Member who spoke last, say that workers in these Departments are not well treated by Government. You know that they have a lot of risks connected with the handling of money. That is why so many of them become dishonest, and are imprisoned for perhaps two years or three years. They handled money and money is full of temptation, and that is why a brother will rob his brother. A brother will even kill his brother just to get money. Money is

the cause of all evil. Handling money is full of risks, and risk usually carries with it a great reward or advantage. That is why I say Treasury clerks should be upgraded, they should be treated as professionals or technicians. They are just in the same position as those clerks in the Banks. Well, Bank Clerks are rated very highly, because they are in a very dangerous position, and when money is handed over to them, and there are shortages, perhaps accidental, for which they cannot account, they have to replace, and they have got no remuneration.

Sir, I am appealing on two points. One is that I would like to see a school of accountancy established, and secondly, I would like the workers in the Treasury being placed as technicians or professionals.

The Minister of Finance : Mr Chairman, Sir, if the hon. Member would look at Head 28—Nigerianisation Office—he will find that under the Federal Training Centre, Lagos, we have one Senior Lecturer (Accounts). I don't think that the Member is advocating that Government should open a special school for accountants, but we intend to train our people in this new Federal Training Centre in Accounting, in Shorthand, in Typewriting, and so on, and I think if the hon. Member had acquainted himself with the facts he would not have made the point.

Apart from that, the Government awards scholarships to the College of Arts, Science and Technology in Accounts, and then there are Commercial Schools in Lagos. I expect you know about the City College, and then there is the Roman Catholic College of Commerce.

An hon Member : There is a Commercial School at Aba.

The Minister of Finance : I don't know about Aba, you would have to ask the hon. Mr Jaja Wachuku about that. All I want to say is that people are studying accounts, and in various ways, Government is doing all that is possible to make the training available. That is the only point that I wish to make, Sir.

Alhaji Aliyu Bissalla (Abuja) : I did not intend to contribute to this Debate, but naturally, I find it very necessary just to add a few words. This section of the Government, Sir, is very delicate to deal with. They are

the most hard-working and the least cared-for throughout the Government. Theory is not practice. All the staff in this part of Government, whether in Native Authorities or in Government, are the most hard-working people, and I should add that whatever we say in this House, we must be careful in giving employment, that we only give it to those persons whom we know we can trust, so that they may handle our money in the right way. Let us choose people in whom we can have true confidence.

Mr Olarewaju rose in his place and claimed to move, That the Question be now put; but the Chairman stated that that Motion was unnecessary, as no Member had risen to continue the Debate.

Question that £143,310 for Head 41—Treasury—stand part of the Schedule, put and agreed to.

HEAD 42.—STATISTICS

Question proposed, That £94,240, for Head 42.—Statistics—stand part of the Schedule.

Chief J. I. G. Onyia (Asaba): Mr Chairman, Sir, I filed the Motion with a view to drawing the attention of the Minister to the error which has occurred in the census of 1952, and there is need now, if there was not before, to make immediate alteration. A section of my people were designated in the census of 1952 as "Ika" and it has caused a lot of confusion because even the Western Regional Government has been doubting whether these people are a different tribe altogether in Nigeria. And during the Delimitation Commission, on the 11th of November, I had a lot of argument with them in connection with these people, and the Regional Government represented by our Chief Rotimi Williams and Chief Anthony Enahoro, maintained very seriously, before the Delimitation Commission, that this section of the people are a different tribe altogether, and in spite of my explanation, they would not yield.

Furthermore, on the 16th of December, when we were at the Minorities Commission at Benin City, Chief Rotimi Williams maintained this same thing when he was talking about the people of the Mid-West and said that the Ika people were a different tribe altogether.

Mr Minister, I want you to understand that this section of the people that are so wrongly designated, are the people of Asaba Division and they speak the language we know as Ibo. Before the advent of the Europeans, the language of Asaba people was known as Ika. So it is said up to this day, from the oldest men you can learn it, that Ika speak Ibo and Ibo speak Ika. The section as a whole now designated as Ika were known previously as people of Aboh District in Asaba Division.

The Chairman: Will Chief Onyia explain what he wants the Department of Statistics to do about it?

Chief Onyia: I want the Department of Statistics to alter the name Ika to Ibo because a certain section of Asaba Division was designated or described as Ibo and a district within the division because that district is called Ika district, only a name given to it in 1952, when the census was taken, is now being designated Ika. How that came into being in the Division I want to explain. That came into being in 1952 because this district called Agbor district came to agree that they should no longer bear the place name Agbor district but they were going to bear the dialect name called Ika. So that district in Asaba Division is now called Ika District because it was called Ika District when the census was being taken, it was designated Ika. (*The Minister of Finance: Because it was their wish*). Not their wish. It was done by the enumerators in error because these people are in Ika District and, therefore, they called them people of different tribes. That is what has happened exactly. I represent the people and I know what I am saying.

The Minister of Finance: Mr Chairman, I rise to oppose the Amendment, Sir, What are the numerators to do if the people themselves tell them that they are Ika; they have to do what the people say. So you tell these people that they are not Ika people but Asaba people? If that is so, hon. Chief Onyia will agree with me that it would not be fair to alter our present record. In future, when a census is being taken, naturally if the people say they are Ibo we will put them down as such and there will be no more Ika in our bulletins.

Chief Onyia: I did not move, I said it gave me an opportunity to draw the attention of the Minister.

The Chairman : I called the Chief to move the Amendment. He might have told me that earlier instead of waiting. He spoke on the Head without moving his Amendment.

Mr L. L. Lakunle (Oyo North) : Mr Chairman, Sir, the only point I want to raise on this Head is that whenever the Government wants to take a census in the country, the Government should make sure and give sufficient education to the people so that they may understand the purpose of the census. In the past there have been cases where some people tried to hide their men and women for fear that it would result in the taxation. The Government should please educate the people, give them sufficient education to understand the purpose, so that they may give the correct number of their people. That is the only point I want to raise.

Mr M. A. Ajasin (Owo South) : Mr Chairman, Sir, in the annual report of the Department of Statistics for the year 1956-57, which is the latest we have, it is said in the introduction in paragraph 3 that there was shortage of senior staff. The Department of Statistics is not a department which we can just pitchfork people into. It requires a lot of training before one can be a statistician. That is the reason why I want to call the attention of the Minister of Finance to this section, that Nigerians ought to be trained for the higher ranks of this Department. In training it is not just training those whom you have taken from the School certificate grade, but they should be people who have to be sent abroad for training. It is necessary that the Government should look into this training programme in the award of scholarships.

I can see in the announcements made by the Government about scholarships for 1958-59 that economics is not one of the subjects and this should be one of the subjects for which scholarships should be awarded. Statistics is one of the subjects that can be taken by a person who wants to do a degree in economics and it is necessary that the Government should award scholarships on this subject and it should not be left out as unimportant.

Another thing about it is this, Mr Chairman, that in the University College at Ibadan there is no Faculty of Economics. There is a Department of Economics which is just a

section of the Faculty of Arts but that is no sufficient. If we want people to fill the higher ranks in this Department, which is very very important, it is necessary that people are to be trained, the training being possible in one or two ways; either give scholarships to go abroad or create a Faculty of Economics at the University College, where people will be able to go to read for a degree in economics, where they will be able to take special courses in statistics. Then we shall be able to have many statisticians to fill the higher ranks in this Department.

Sitting suspended : 4.38 p.m.

Sitting resumed : 4.50 p.m.

Mr C. O. Komolafe (Ilesha) : Mr Chairman, Sir, my quarrel with the Department is over the 1952 census. In that census the population of my Division, Ilesha, was put down as 188,000 and the population of another neighbouring Division, whose population we know from time immemorial is lower than Ilesha, the population of that Division was shown as 208,000. We know, Mr Chairman, that the population of our Division is over 300,000, and as a result of the census returns, there is only one representative for the Ilesha Division in this house instead of three. We are wondering if there was not a lot of guesswork about it. What I am saying, Mr Chairman, is that in future where such a census is to be taken, arrangements should be made to make sure that people are employed who are more reliable, that matters should be placed in the hands of local people who know what to do, and who make proper returns. As a result of wrong returns of census figures, we lost right and left.

Mr Chairman, Sir, I do feel that this wrong should be put right at the next census, and I hope that every effort will be made to obtain people who are reliable.

Mr H. O. Akpan-Udo (Ikot Ekpene) : Mr Chairman, Sir, in supporting the expenditure on this Head, I would like to thank the Department of Statistics for the publication forwarded to us by this Department recently. This publication contains a summary of all the educational institutions in the whole Federation, and the information contained in that publication is so valuable that this department merits praise.

However, although I must praise the Department on this, for this information concerning the education institutions is very valuable, I would like to say that I was not very much impressed the other day when the Minister of Health was answering a question demanding figures of the death roll from the attack of influenza last year; the Minister was only able to give statistics of deaths in Lagos and the Southern Cameroons and the excuse is that health is regionalised. As a result of this, all the information which would have been so valuable to Members of this House is not available. If the Department of Statistics could give such valuable information on educational institutions throughout the Federation, I see no reason why the same department cannot give such information as may be required in connection with the health of the people of this country. After all, education has been regionalised, but they give such information, and we are just demanding detailed information about the attack of influenza in this country last year, how many people died and so on.

Mr Chairman, Sir, I now come to the question of the census. I have to remark that the period of preparation that preceded the 1953 population census was so short that the ignorance that prevailed could have been avoided if the period was longer in which to educate people. The scheme came about before the census called 'Pilot census', and I take it that this pilot census must have been a waste of money to the country because very few people knew exactly what the pilot scheme was.

As a result the figures taken of the population of this country were most unreliable as the population of the people of Nigeria must be more, and we want to know the census figures, the true census figures of the Federation of Nigeria.

For instance, the Statistics Department was in a great difficulty to know the various tribes of this country. It is a bitter disappointment that this Department which is responsible for the population census of this country does not know the major and minor tribes in the country. As a result the Anang tribe is only known to be about half a million, which is a very small figure even for a minority tribe, whereas you have Anang's scattered all over the country, but they are not called that, they are known by certain other names.

Sir, in future when a population census is to be taken every care should be taken to see that people are enumerated according to their indigenous ethnic groups because they are known by such names and no others. If you take away my name you take me away from this country. Our name is very valuable to us. For this reason, Sir, we would like a definite time to be fixed by this Department very early, possibly this year, or 1959, or 1960, preferably 1959, for a population census in this country to be taken so that we may know how many we really are. Our people, Sir, in the villages are prepared to come and be enumerated and by the end of the next population census we should number not less than 40 million in this country.

With these few remarks, Sir, I beg to support.

Mr G. O. D. Eneh (Udi): Mr Chairman, I want to speak again on this Ika tribe. The hon. Chief Onyia made mention of people in Asaba Division known as Ikas. This Division is made up of three Districts, that is, the Ika District, the Aniocha District and the Asaba Urban District Council. Ika totalled up to about 86,000 strong. It would appear to me that if the people of Ilesha, a part of Yorubaland are known as Ijeshas—one might come here and say that the Ijeshas are not Yorubas. This cannot be agreeable to hon. Members of this House.

I want the Minister to investigate this matter thoroughly because according to a statement by the Western Region Government it appears that even if are Asaba going West, or mid-West, the Ikas are going West. So, Sir, I am saying that this is a serious matter. They describe themselves as Ibos, they speak the Ibo language and there is no reason why they should be grouped with any other ethnic group. I think the Minister is taking this matter very lightly. The population of Asaba Division is just under three hundred thousand and these people (Ikas) constitute about a third of the Division.

I am asking the Minister to examine this very thoroughly to know whether these people are Ibos, or what they are.

Mr M. A. O. Olarewaju (South Ilorin): Mr Chairman, Sir, Ilorin is noted for cheap raw food by this Department and this was taken into consideration when fixing labour rates in Ilorin which is now 2s-8d. This Department should consider the thousands of things and other provisions like meat, eggs and milk which are

cheaper in places like Kano and Lagos. So in future I would like this Department to know this and put it on record.

Sir, I beg to support.

Question, That £94,240 for Head 42—Statistics—stand part of the Schedule, put and agreed to.

HEAD 43—PENSIONS AND GRATUITIES

Question proposed, That £308,200 for Head 43—Pensions and Gratuities—stand part of the Schedule.

Mr J. I. Izah (Aboh): Mr Chairman, Sir, I am ignorant on this Head. I hope the Minister will pardon me. I want to know, Sir, whether officers who leave our Public Service with the lump sum compensation get or receive any pension or gratuity. For too long now, Sir, the House has been called upon to increase certain pension rights of a part of the Public Service, and already in the hands of hon. Members is a Bill to amend the existing Pensions Ordinance. The experience is that this amendment once more will only go to increase the pension and gratuity rights of a certain section of the retired members of the Public Service.

My contention is that the time has come when Government must address itself to reviewing this whole question. It is not enough to undertake this job piece-meal because it is well known that all groups of retired Government servants are quite dissatisfied with their pensions now, because of the increased cost of living. Not only the retired servants of the Government as such, the retired teachers as well are not happy about their pensions and I think as the House will be called upon next week to debate this amendment to revise the pensions and gratuities to certain sections of the retired public service, the question of the teachers pensions must now be settled once and for all. It is such a crucial point, Sir, that unless it is set right, we are not going to be happy about it and our brothers of the profession outside this House certainly want immediate action on it.

Mr Chairman, Sir, I support the expenditure on the Head.

Mr L. J. Dosunmu (Lagos East): Mr Chairman, I have no doubt that the Minister of Finance will take this opportunity to inform the House of the attitude of the Government towards the claims of the pensioners. This is

a matter which has been on for quite a long time and it seems to me that the reticence of the Government on this matter leaves much to be desired.

Now the case of the pensioners, shortly put, is this. There are certain pensioners who received certain increases at certain times. When this House decided to give them additional increases the Accountant-General's Department instead of adding to what they were originally drawing, withdrew from them the first increase and only added the new increase to the basic pension. I would put it more clearly. Let us say that a pensioner had a pension of approximately £2, I think the last increase he had was in 1952 and Government increased it by 2s so the man was entitled to £2-2s every month. In 1956 Government gave him an additional increase of 5s, so the ordinary man would expect £2-7s after 1956, but the latest circular misinterprets our decision in this House and is only giving him £2-5s! It takes the two shillings they have been enjoying all along away from them and I am quite certain that the people are entitled to agitate about this. That once they have been given an additional rate, then it should be paid in addition to the basic rate.

After all when we look at the case of the pensioners and the pensions they are drawing—some of them receive £1, £2, £3, or £4, per month you see the unfairness of withdrawing from them the increase they were enjoying before the latest increase in 1956.

This is the sum total of their case and their point is this that the latest circular puts this wrong interpretation on the decision of this House, and it works to their detriment. So I am asking the Minister to ensure that if the interpretation put on it is not what we want and what we decided in this House he will pay to these pensioners the amount that is due to them.

Many hon. Members have received their Circulars and these claims are so well set out that it does not leave any room for doubt and I think that the amount involved, by and large, is not a huge sum. If you look back you will observe that these men have been serving this country, some for 20 or even 25 years and now they have retired on very small pensions. We should not hesitate therefore to pay them what is due to them and we should also try to avoid withdrawing any amounts which are legitimately due to them.

The Minister of Finance (Chief the hon. F. S. Okotie-Eboh): Mr Chairman, Sir, the point made by my hon. Friend, Mr Izah, about lump compensation, the answer is yes. People who draw lump sum compensation are entitled to their ordinary pension, but it does not affect us. Nobody is drawing lump sum compensation from us at the moment.

As regards the question raised by my hon. Friend, Mr Dosunmu, about pensions, the recommendation of the Committee said quite clearly that it was in lieu of the increases recommended in substitution of those at present in force. In other words, the Committee recommended increases in substitution of the increases previously payable, and not in addition to the increases. Therefore, what they are drawing now is what they are entitled to in accordance with the recommendations of the Committee.

Mallam Ahmadu Babandi (Gumel): Mr Chairman, Sir, I would like to say one or two things on this very small Head. What the hon. Minister says is quite right—although the pension is based on the salary at which the pensioner leaves the job, due to the changes and high cost of living now, I think something should be done on the pensions.

Apart from that, Sir, even the treatment they are given when they want to claim the money is very awful, very bad. I hope that now that we have a very able, capable and dependable Minister of Finance to bring bad things to the light, he will do something on this issue.

The second part, Sir, is the compensation paid to the people who lose their limbs or part of their body. The present position is indeed very poor. It is something that requires to be looked into. Then apart from this, this case is rather important because though the Head is a very small one, it seems to me to be the biggest Head in the whole of the Estimates, because I hope or believe even the Minister himself would like to end his life through this small Head here. So I would like something to be done by the Minister of Finance, and even if he is to advise the Regions, we hope they will do things in time.

Mr J. A. O. Akande (Egba North): I rise to oppose the hon. Minister on the claim of the pensioners. These pensioners are mostly

Africans and if Nigerian leaders could go to London to agree to lump sum compensation for expatriates, I do not see any reason why leaders of Nigeria or this Government should not look sympathetically into the claims of pensioners. I must say at this juncture, Mr Chairman, that it is with regret that Nigerians learned about the decision of our leaders to pay lump sum compensation to expatriate officials. Money ranging from £5,000 to £9,000.

The Minister of Finance (Chief the hon. F. S. Okotie-Eboh): Point of Order, Sir. Lump sum compensation has nothing to do with pensioners.

The Chairman: Yes I agree with the Minister. What we have here is pensions and gratuity.

Mr Akande: By comparison, Mr Chairman. I only referred to it that if we were able to pay certain sums of money to expatriate officials; these African pensioners want some money to live on. It is a small sum, not much. And when I was talking about lump sum compensations, I think it is right enough for them to stay in Nigeria till independence. But if these people really have interest in staying in Nigeria, they would not run away while we are moving forward towards independence.

And I will suggest, Mr Chairman, that Government should devise a means whereby expatriates who run away because we are getting independence should not be allowed to come back to Nigeria, whether as traders or anything that may bring them. Mr Chairman (*Interruption*).

Chief T. T. Solaru (Ijebu East): Mr Chairman. (*An hon. Member: Again?*) Yes, again, and again, and again. On this point, Sir, I think there is one fact which is being overlooked. We want to be clear that this House would not pass a measure which tries to give with one hand and take away with the other. We were trying to relieve distress for pensioners when we approved an increase, so that if in the interpretation it works to the detriment of the pensioners that is what we are asking the Minister of Finance to look into. It is not a matter of asking more money; we have already granted them something. But it looks as if in the interpretation some heads of department passed circulars which

seem to work to the disadvantage of the very people we are trying to help. Surely it is not wrong to ask the Minister to look into that and to see really that they have correctly interpreted the recommendation.

The Minister of Finance (Chief the hon. F. S. Okotie-Eboh): Mr Chairman, with respect, that is what I have done; the circular is in accordance with the recommendation of the Committee set up by this House.

Sir, during the 1955 Budget Meeting of this House, Government agreed to set up a Committee to inquire into the adequacy of pensions. That Committee reported and in the 1956 Budget Session this House approved the payment of increased rates of pensions and family relief recommended in the report of the Committee. In other words, the House approved payment of pension increases in accordance with the report of the Committee. Paragraph 39 of the Report of the Committee ends with these words: "the increases now recommended in substitution for those at present in force are as follows. . . ." In other words, the Committee recommended increases in substitution of increases previously payable and not in addition to the increases previously payable; although, of course, the new increases were bigger than the previous increases. That is the position, Chief Solaru, that the circular was issued by the Accountant-General in accordance with the recommendations of the Committee and was approved by this very House.

Chief T. T. Solaru (Ijebu East): Mr Chairman, I am very grateful for that very lucid explanation of what the Committee had recommended, and what we are told this House had approved. Sir, if we are trying to help someone and we find that our help has not really been adequate, surely the only thing to do then is to try and find out whether we could help them more. It seems to me, Sir, that by trying to help, we have really gone the other way.

Let us examine the cause. Why did we decide to appoint a Committee to investigate the adequacy of pensions? It is because due to the increase in the cost of living, salaries have been adjusted and increases awarded all round, and these people who are pensioners cannot get their pensions increased without any further investigation. If, by the term "in

substitution thereof" we work to the detriment of these people, I am suggesting that that Committee would have to go back again and reinstate these people who have no other means, no other means at all. That is the question. (*Hear, hear.*)

If we are to stick to the letter of the law, I suppose you can win the day. But since it is *our* Committee that recommended it and it is these people who are wearing the shoe and they know where it pinches, I say we should re-examine the issue to see whether we have put them into any hardship by using the words "in substitution". If the matter were brought to the House whether we are going to vote for "in addition" or "in substitution", I have no doubt in my mind that it will be "in addition" that will carry the day.

Mr A. Adeyinka (Ibadan Central): Mr Chairman, in supporting the last speaker, Sir, I agree that the pensioners are not quarrelling against the Sessional Paper, though they have some misunderstanding about the agreement reached on the Floor of the House by passing the Sessional Paper. But the thing is the question of the interpretation of the Sessional Paper. The Committee recommended one thing but the Financial Secretary interpreted another. That is why the pensioners do not know which to accept.

They have sent many memoranda objecting to the interpretation given to the Sessional Paper, and we want the Minister to investigate this and see whether their contention is right or not.

The next point I would like to raise is the question of pension for ex-servicemen. I do not know whether this Government is actually sympathetic with those people who actually gave their lives for the freedom of this country. Sir, as a result of the last war some of them lost their limbs and are disabled, and it beats my imagination that our own Government will not be sympathetic with the people who had suffered. It is one of those things that the Government should have considered. If you compare the pensions of our ex-servicemen with that of other parts of the world, it is lamentable. It is something that you can never compare with anywhere in the world.

I want this House to set in motion an enquiry now to enquire into the type of pension paid to ex-servicemen in Great Britain and in America

and all over the world, because actually Nigeria fought side by side with their counterparts all over the world and if you want to give them any benefits, it must be universal. I say the pension paid to these ex-servicemen is most annoying. You see, some of them are disabled and some of them are begging because of the meagre pension that is paid to them. I implore the Government to set up a machinery now to see that something is done to step up the pension now being paid to disabled ex-servicemen.

Mr J. G. Adeniran (Ibadan West) : Mr Chairman, Sir, I think in supporting this sub-head, hon. Members have spoken about this question of pensions. I know very well that pensioners have sent petitions to hon. Members and I think that is why this argument is arising. But what I would like to say is this. The Pensions Committee's recommendation has been accepted by the Government and the Government is now prepared to pay increased pensions as recommended. Please, Government, pay the increase in time. . . . (*Interruption*).

The Minister of Finance (Chief the hon. F. S. Okotie-Eboh) : Will the hon. Member please not mislead the House ?

Mr T. O. S. Benson (Lagos West) : Mr Chairman, having listened to the speech made by the Minister of Finance, I feel that all we can do at this stage is to appeal to the Council of Ministers in general and the Minister of Finance in particular to re-consider the position of our pensioners, because these people were the builders of the fabric on which our Civil Service stands to-day. And therefore, I am appealing to the Council of Ministers to re-consider their position. With the pittance they receive as pension, they buy from the same market as hon. Members ; they buy from the same market as the Ministers, and they buy from the same market as everybody in general, even the Chief Whip.

I would appeal to the Prime Minister also to look into the matter of these our pensioners. It has been recorded in this House that the Minister of Finance has made history, and I would like the pensioners to join us in the praise.

I move that the question be now put.

Question, That the question be now put, put and agreed to.

Question, That £308,200 for Head 43—Pensions and Gratuities—stand part of the Schedule, put and agreed to.

HEAD 44—PUBLIC DEBT CHARGES

Question proposed, That the sum of £24,300 for Head 44—Public Debt Charges—stand part of the Schedule.

Chief T. T. Solaru (Ijebu East) : Mr Chairman, Sir, we see that under Public Debt Charges, sub-head 6, there is inserted "Interest on the Nigerian Savings Certificates," under which there was nothing this year. I suppose the claims under the Nigerian Savings Certificates have been all paid out and there is no such thing as the Nigerian Savings Certificate because nothing appears in the Estimate for next year.

Sir, if that is so, the Minister would probably have known that some time during this session it has been suggested that we could have a Nigerian Savings Scheme in order to expedite our development schemes. Why is it that we should borrow money at interest from abroad ? Why could we not float loans internally and get Nigerians to invest in their own prosperity ?

I would therefore like the Minister and the Cabinet to think about this thing and think about calling upon the country to have a stake in the development scheme that is going on now. It will give people something to invest their money in. It is something that is quite sure ; the Government of Nigeria is quite stable and I am quite sure that if we can invest money in other people's affairs there is no reason why we should not invest money in our own affairs.

I think it is worth the Minister's while calling upon the country to contribute to a Nigerian Savings Scheme which will pay for our own development schemes. The Minister of Finance : Mr Chairman, Sir, the Certificates referred to by the hon. Chief are due for redemption in the current financial year, and no further interest is payable.

As regards the question of investing money, I think the hon. Chief referred to the raising of local loans. (*Several hon. Members : Yes*). Well, that will be forthcoming, and I think we have an Ordinance with regard to that.

Sir, we are going to bring before this House a Local Loans Ordinance at this meeting. There will be no difficulty about that, as the Post Office Savings Bank is still there.

Question put and agreed to.

£24,300, for Head 44—Public Debt Charges—agreed to.

Why it is being hidden is this. They may tell us that there are some modest civil servants who would not like to disclose their identities. I am very sorry to say so, but that is not the reason. The reason is this, the public is very much alert now to know the competence, the qualifications of anybody taking up any appointment in the civil service, and some people want to enter in disguise, going to do certain jobs for which they have not the qualifications. The civil servants are now manoeuvring to hide their identities. Let their identities be disclosed, because when we legislators rise in this House and say that this man is not qualified to be in that Department, or is not qualified to be in that post, we are confronted with, "How do you know?" Or we are not telling the truth. Let everybody be unmasked.

If you really call for educational and necessary qualifications for various appointments, and you are asking that Africans should have

requisite qualifications for these and other posts, we wish also to know whether the expatriates have similar qualifications. Thank you.

The Prime Minister : Mr Speaker, Sir, the hon. Member's proposal is quite possible of implementation. But the House would appreciate that it would require extra work, because it will also mean the extension of the list we circulate to hon. Members. Now, one can see that it might be useful to find such information, and all that I would like to tell the hon. Member in this House is that I will give this matter more detailed consideration. (*Hear, hear.*)

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved, That this House do now adjourn.

Adjourned accordingly at nine minutes to six o'clock, until 9 a.m. on Friday the 7th of March.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
NIGERIA

Friday, 7th March, 1958

The House met at 9 a.m.

PRAYERS

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

REPORT FROM BUSINESS
COMMITTEE

Mr Speaker : Mr Jaja Wachuku reported from the Business Committee that, in accordance with Standing Order 55A (1) (c), they have decided that the following Private Members' Motions should be placed on the Order Paper for Tuesday the 11th of March in the order as follows :—

- (1) National Committee for Independence—No. 39
- (2) Establishment of Ministry for Nigerianisation, etc.—No. 40
- (3) Import Duties on Educational Materials—No. 43
- (4) Illiterates Protection Ordinance, Chapter 88—No. 36
- (5) Improvement of Ibadan-Benin Trunk Road—No. 38
- (6) Compensation to Plot Holders on Railway Land—No. 35.
- (7) Construction of Odo Oba-Benin Railway Line—No. 37
- (8) Board of Nigerian Coal Corporation—No. 34.

ORDER OF THE DAY

THE APPROPRIATION (1958-59) BILL
(FOURTH ALLOTTED DAY) : COMMITTEE
(House in Committee)

HEAD 45—MINISTRY OF HEALTH

Question again proposed, That the Head be reduced by £10.

Mr Jaja Wachuku (Aba) : Mr Chairman, Sir, yesterday evening I started my speech by congratulating the Council of Ministers for the efforts they have made in trying to implement the policy that has been approved by this House in trying to start the building of the Mainland Hospital and a new maternity centre, and hoped that they would continue to make very strenuous

efforts to see that these programmes were completed as soon as possible. But while congratulating them I want to point out that the Ministers should not allow any retrograde policy to stand in the way of implementation of this new and progressive policy of the Government and this House.

In this particular respect, Sir, I want to say that it is known that one of the difficult problems facing this Government, and this country, in improvement of medical facilities, not only in the Federal Territory of Lagos but throughout the country is the paucity of qualified personnel. In other words you have not got enough doctors to meet the requirements.

Now Sir, in that respect there seems to be a policy to discourage qualified staff from working for the Government. I have an instance, Sir, following the words quoted by my hon. Friend on my left yesterday, and that is about married nurses. Married nurses who are precluded from enjoying certain amenities just because they are married. Sir, I want to say that according to our African tradition, we do not put a premium on spinsterhood : we put a premium on the married state, and I think every society does so. Why then should Government try to alter that tradition and put a premium on the unmarried state ? If we train nurses and doctors and they work together, they will marry, and naturally the better trained man will marry the better trained woman, and therefore we cannot allow the policy of the Government to upset our African tradition. The Minister should understand this. We prefer to keep our premium on marriage. Moreover Nigeria is a big country and needs a big population.

And, also Mr Chairman, marriage is a good institution, that is written in the first book of the Holy Writ and we are complying with it. (*Hear, hear.*) It should be carried through.

Now, Sir, there is a woman doctor, I repeat a woman doctor, and her services are discouraged. And why, on what grounds ? Because she is married. Because she is married she is employed on a month to month basis. They would not even give her a contract. She was not even given decent quarters, just one sitting room and a bedroom, and she was married, and had a baby, and remember, she is a doctor. And then she was put on night call, and she is given

no car to be able to convey her to the place. Imagine a woman being called out at night. Must she go on foot ?

Why does the Medical Department not give a firm contract to the woman doctor ? Why are conditions . . . (*An hon. Member : No respect for mothers.*) Yes, I agree, no respect for mothers, and no respect for fathers ; that is what I say, because there can be no motherhood without fatherhood, and the Minister. . . .

The Chairman : I think a lot of this is irrelevant. The hon. Member's eloquence is carrying him away.

Mr Jaja Wachuku : I am discussing the policy of the Ministry.

The Chairman : I sincerely hope so.

Mr Jaja Wachuku : I want the Minister to look into the principles of this policy : why married women and qualified doctors should not be given a firm contract and treated as professionals. They are professionals and nothing else.

Now, Sir, the next point I want to make is a matter that has been given very careful consideration recently. In deference to the Minister, I want to say that a statement which he made in relation to this Board of Management for Hospitals did not disclose all the facts to Members of this House. I must say also that I am happy that the Government did not close the door completely.

The Government thought it necessary that the argument put up by the Medical Profession—the B.M.A., Nigerian Branch—they thought this argument was forcible enough to make them think that it is necessary to set up an Advisory Board. I think that is a step in the right direction, but I must say that that step in the right direction should not be the end of the statement, it should be the beginning. The Government should appreciate the history of the origin of all the various social institutions. They were founded in the past, but we are not going to die in the past. We are in the present and we hope for futures.

Therefore, I want the Government to consider this proposal very seriously because it is a method which is used in other countries. I do not support any attempt to hand over the destiny of the people or the inhabitants of this country to a handful of selfish people. But, Sir, I want to say with the greatest respect (because I have a copy of the memorandum

submitted to the Medical Association of the proposal which is put down) that it is not exactly what the Minister says it is. In the interests of the Members of this House, Sir, and the interests of justice, I want to read out a few extracts from that memorandum. One of the very first points is the human factor.

"The Hospital Management Board will consist not only of doctors, but also members of the community. The policy of the Board should reflect the wishes and aspirations of the community in all health matters." But, Sir, what has been said to Members of this House and the public, and is said as being the decision of the B.M.A. is that this Board will only be representative of doctors by doctors. That is not correct.

The composition, Sir, "Doctors—one physician, one surgeon, one gynecologist, two members of the B.M.A. (Nigeria branch) one of whom should be a general practitioner. One medical officer of health, one representative of the Government Medical Department, one dentist." Sir, Laymen—"Two representatives of Lagos Town Council, two Members of the House of Representatives, one member of the Chamber of Commerce, one trade union representative, one representative of the Christian community, one representative of the Moslem community, one member of the Ministry of Social Services, three members to represent other interests."

Now, Sir, can a board of 20, and 7 of them are doctors, and the others various interested parties, be said to be a board which only represents the doctors ? I would be the last to say that the malpractices which exist do not exist. They do exist, and I am saying, Sir, that the Government should not close the door because I cannot see how the Civil Service can manage the new institutions that are being built now. I want to point out again, Sir, it was in 1954 that in one of the medical reports, the reports of the Chief Medical Officer, in one of the reports made a statement about the inability to carry out their programmes of the hospitals. Over and over again that is the one thing that we always have in this house. Lack of executive capacity.

This is the 1954 Report. I will read out what was said there. The Chief Medical Adviser wrote—"In all Regions the discrepancy between actual and estimated expenditure,

particularly in the Colonial Development and Welfare Fund was due to the failure of recruitment and the too long delay in building programmes due to shortage of Public Works Department staff."

Why I say that is this. We find that this House votes money and says so and so should be done, but owing to the fact that the Public Works Department cannot carry out the programme because it has so many trunk roads, building projects, and so on, it cannot attend to all that is necessary. But when you have a Board responsible for this, they can employ contractors from anywhere, they are not bound by any Civil Service procedure. They can employ people from anywhere to build, and that is why the University College Teaching Hospital has been completed so quickly.

I am sure, Sir, that if it were left to this Public Works Department to build the University College Teaching Hospital would never have been completed in such a record time. But we have a Board of Management responsible. They decide they have got the money, and they try to get people from all over and they know what they are paying. They are not governed by the principle of salary scale, whether the Senior Assistant Secretary should receive £2,040, and therefore the doctors, specialists or consultants should receive that, and so on, and they have to look up the seniority of the scale in order to decide whether a man should be employed or not. In other words, I am asking the Government to reconsider this matter, because in the United Kingdom—we are following the United Kingdom pattern.

The Minister of Health (Hon. Ayo Rosiji) : I beg to differ in this remark.

Mr Wachuku : I don't understand.

The Minister of Health : We have not got a pattern here, which is what you said. We are not following any United Kingdom pattern.

Mr Wachuku : We are following a pattern, that is what I say. We cannot be retrograde in our policy. This Government is supposed to be working towards Independence. I say we have got a pattern in the University College Teaching Hospital, that is a pattern. Where did you get the pattern? Certainly you did not copy it from the moon? Therefore, with regard to the policy, my point is this. You are going to put up a first-class

maternity hospital in Broad Street; you are planning now to put up a first-class hospital in the Mainland. Can the directors of the Civil Service bureaucracy sitting on the files, govern these bodies effectively? The answer is No. You need a body of men to run these hospitals efficiently, and I want the Minister to reconsider that policy.

Don't close your hearts to this. I am not saying go on with it now; I am sure that Members of the Medical Association are reasonable people. Once they have fought out the first step to their goal in the fact that the Council of Ministers which said no before has started to say "Alright, we will have an advisory board. We want you to advise us." I am sure that if after advising the Council of Ministers, the matter is left there for one year, and they begin to see reason; they will say, "Oh yes, this is necessary," they won't fight with that. They are qualified people and sensible people. But if we deliberately close the door in this, I certainly will oppose anything of the sort, and as time goes on we will find that it is better, more efficient, to run a social services institution by people who understand it.

This advisory board will have a quicker means of dealing with these malpractices which you find in hospitals. It will be the duty of members of that board to discover these malpractices because they themselves are members of the public, they know these things and they can deal with a doctor who is doing that sort of thing. Members come here and tell us a story but we have no means of executing whatever it is. We tell the Minister this and that, but a member of the board, he knows how to stop this sort of thing. He knows the terms of a person's contract and if he is contravening that contract, terminate him; and if he wants to go, let him go. But here we cannot do that. Those people will be able to take executive action, and when they take a decision, they will report to the Minister and the Minister, finding that this is so, will confirm it.

That is why I say that, as far as this particular policy is concerned, Sir, the Government should not say, "We have closed the door, and we ban it," because to do so would be to put itself in a very embarrassing situation. We are developing, and as long as that developing goes on we must work with the times. There-

fore, Sir, with these few remarks on that particular Head, I do not want to spend more time, because we have other Heads to get through, but these two points regarding our policy are very important.

First, our policy with regard to married women in the Medical Service of this country. I would like the Minister to tell us what the Government is doing in respect of this policy, because we have been shouting over this with regard to nurses, and now with regard to doctors who are in short supply. What is the Government doing about that? Since the Minister took over this portfolio has he done anything? Has the Council of Ministers thought of it at all, or have they been sleeping? If they have been awake, tell us what they have been doing about it?

Secondly, I want the Minister also to tell us in this House that the decision to have this advisory board is not meant to be just a final word in the whole matter. I am sure, Sir, that the Members of this Medical Association will not be so foolish as to say, "Well, because you did not give us a word at once we will throw the whole thing overboard." That would be just stupid, and I am sure they will not do anything of the sort, but I do not want the Council of Ministers to think that this House will support them in saying that an efficient board of management in the near future will not be a feasible proposition.

Sir, with these few remarks, I support the Motion.

Dr E. O. Awduche (Onitsha): Mr Chairman, Sir, I rise to oppose the Amendment. Both the mover of the amendment and its supporter have not made any case at all to support their contention. It can be seen that since the present Minister took over this portfolio of Health he has definitely seized the bull by the horns and vigorously embarked upon the economic programme which we have projected here since 1955. While the former Minister was there nothing particular was done....

Several hon. Members : Oh, no, oh no.

Dr Awduche : As a matter of fact the entire medical department was in a tumultuous state and doctors were on the verge of striking, but ever since the new Minister has taken over he has cleared the urgent matters, and there

is calm now on the medical front; and all the projects which we had earmarked are now.... (*Interruption*)...being carried out. On the Mainland, General and Maternity hospitals are being built now. There is a maternity hospital being built across at Broad Street. We have the Poly-Clinic going up, and all these within the period of five months that the Minister has taken over. (*Interruption*). For the whole period of two years that the former Minister was in office nothing... (*Interruption*)..

The Chairman : Mr Jaja Wachuku had twenty minutes to speak, he should not interrupt now.

Dr Awduche : nothing practically was done. As to the issue of the hospital management board, the last speaker has discussed the origin of most hospitals, and everything that concerns hospitals. The reference to hospitals in the United Kingdom or in the United States is very irrelevant. Hospitals there started for the most part as private institutions or voluntary institutions. The modern trend now is to socialise or nationalise hospitals, and so Government is to take over these hospitals, and in doing so, subsidise the hospitals, without desiring, for the time being, to interfere with the management of the hospitals as they existed before.

In our own case, these hospitals have started as public institutions. They are Government institutions, so that going back now they have developed corporations is a retrograde step. Well, I am surprised to hear from the Gentleman who has just spoken last that it would be better to denationalise an institution when the policy of expansion is to move towards a socialised state. I am very surprised. I know he is always very inconsistent.

If they adhere to their party policy we would agree that.... (*Interruption*)

The Chairman : Order, order, I must be allowed to hear the present speaker; after all he is a Doctor.

Dr Awduche : If they adhere to party policy, if they have any at all, they would realise that the step which the Minister has taken is a very good one. Another fact to consider is the fact that these hospitals that have Management Boards are usually financed by money bequeathed to them by public-spirited

persons. We haven't got financiers of that calibre yet in this country, people who would give voluntarily large sums running into hundreds of thousands of pounds as donations to private institutions, to enable them to run.

In the final analysis we find that these hospitals, even if they were run by these Management Boards, would find the finance from the tax-payers' purse. As against that most important point is that Government must, first of all, supply the hospitals which have got to be managed. The hospitals are almost non-existent now and it is the duty of Government, in the first place, to supply these hospitals. That is what Government is doing now, the Government is supplying capital to build hospitals. We find that what we have now are very inadequate. You know about the shameful over-crowding in Massey Street Hospital, and there is a lot of over-crowding in the out-patients department in the General Hospital here. Furthermore, Government is pursuing a policy too of training a large number of Doctors to ensure that you have the staff to run these institutions efficiently.

I am against the proposal to set up a Management Board because it will not work at all. An Advisory Board would be very much more practical. The Advisory Board would consist of members of the public and of Doctors themselves and they would advise Government, Government would not be bound to accept their advice but if they give reasonable advice, Government would consider it. I am bringing it before this House for discussion; we, as the representatives of the people, should be in a position to discuss these policies and pass them in this House before they are implemented. That is democracy.

Another reason for opposing this Amendment which seeks to reduce this Head by £10 is the fact that this Ministry is the most progressive of all the Ministries, in that it is the Ministry in which you have the fastest pace of Nigerianisation. Right from the top of the Ministry it is all Nigerianised. The Federal Medical Adviser, the Deputy Adviser is Nigerian, all the others are Nigerians, it is the one Ministry that has so far kept the policy of Nigerianisation.

Some Members, I think it was the hon. Mover of the Amendment, have talked a lot about question of private practice in Govern-

ment hospitals. As a Medical Practitioner myself, I want to make it known to this House that we Doctors know that private practice of any form whatsoever is now forbidden in Government hospitals. The mistake usually made by members of the public arises from the fact that when the Medical Department started in this country, it was very difficult to recruit Doctors and so, to attract expatriates to come into this country to take over the hospitals, they were given, as a condition of appointment, the right to do their own private practice in the Government hospitals and the right to earn duty pay and seniority allowance. That carried on until 1937 when it was thought necessary to revise that condition and so Officers who were employed after 1957 were not allowed private practice in Government hospitals because at that time they were now beginning to get a large number of Doctors coming in to take up appointment in the Medical Department. These old officers, who had been employed before 1937, have continued in the Service side by side with the new entrants and so you find some people doing private practice and some who were forbidden to do private practice.

Of course, the patients and the man in the street do not know who is who. He comes to the hospital and goes into a consulting room and he is asked to pay a fee, which is quite legitimate because it is part of the terms of contract, and probably the next one is not asked to pay a fee and he thinks it was just because the Doctor just didn't want to ask him to pay. The rumour has gone round that private practice is being done almost illicitly in the hospital. Just now the position is this, that although Doctors are not allowed to do private practice in the hospitals, outside the hospitals, in this Federal Territory, not in the Regions, they are free but as to the morality of the ethical status of that situation, I would not want to comment now until we get to the Medical Department, when I shall raise some issues.

But you must remember that it is very closely linked up with the question of the salaries of Doctors. If a Doctor is free to practise in his home after his working hours, although he is not free to open a hospital, he is not free to open up beds and open up a theatre or anything of that sort, but he is free to receive patients if a patient should call in.

Let me just give you an example of how it is not so easy to observe very strict "no private practice." Suppose you have a Doctor and then perhaps next door there was a neighbour who had a child and the child developed convulsions and he rang up this Doctor and said, "Will you come in, my child is dying." The Doctor says, "I am sorry, I am not allowed to do private practice; take your child to the hospital." This fellow rings up an ambulance and perhaps he gets an ambulance and the ambulance is going up past Ebute Metta. Owing to road congestion, the ambulance couldn't get there in time and the child died. I am certain that that fellow would be the first person to report that the Doctor has been extremely inhuman and has been extremely wicked. I think it is correct for this Doctor to run and give this child some treatment.

Where you allege that Doctors do ask patients to leave the hospital and meet them at their houses, that would be very bad, in which case I would say that you take this case to the Minister and report it to the Police because it is illegal, it is criminal to ask a patient to go away from the hospital and say he wouldn't get treatment unless he saw him in the house; that is wrong. It is not very easy, at this stage of the medical development of the Territory, to stop private practice completely.

When we shall have more hospitals, when our ambulance service shall be more efficient and when we shall have more doctors, then, of course, it would be reasonable to stop private practice completely because, then the public will have the facilities ready at hand, the hospitals are nearby and facilities are quite easy. But as it is now we should ban private practice in the hospitals, we should ban the running and opening of private hospitals outside by medical officers, but if they are called in to see an emergency, please let them see their patients.

We are very happy to hear from the Minister that Nigeria is now an associate Member of the World Health Organisation. Under that organisation we enjoy certain privileges, and we also have some duties to perform to qualify us to be members of the organisation. One of them is that we must have to comply with the international sanitary regulations, some clauses of which refer to the maintenance of our sea-ports and our airports under certain sanitary

conditions, such as the maintenance of quarantine at these ports. When we come to discuss Head 46 I will probably make some remarks on that.

I also have to congratulate the Government on its contribution to the Leprosy Research Unit at Uzuakoli. That institution has gained a world-wide reputation for the research work it has done in leprosy; many new drugs have been tested out there, and we hope that Government will continue to subsidize and sponsor that institution.

With this, Sir, I beg to oppose this amendment.

M. Ibrahim Gusau (Sokoto West): Mr Chairman, Sir, I should like to make a few remarks about this Ministry. If I am not mistaken the function of every arm of Government is to serve the overall interests of the governed within the Federation. Looking at it from that angle, one should ask himself what does this Ministry do to serve the overall interests of this Federation.

Sir, to make myself clear, in the first instance I have no quarrel with the services it renders in the Federal Territory. I would even ask the Ministry to provide more facilities for the capital. But what of the rest of the Federation? In the Ministry of Works, Sir, we are provided with Trunk Roads, in the Ministry of Transport we have Railway and Inland Waterways Services, in the Ministry of Communications we have postal facilities. Sir, in all the rest of the Ministries of this Government which I will not mention, apart from the Ministry of Health you find amenities which reflect your mind that they serve the overall interests of the Federation. To my mind, Sir, if this Ministry is primarily created to serve the capital territory alone, I see no reason why its functions should not have been attached to the Minister for Lagos Affairs, in order to cut away unnecessary and redundant posts of Permanent, Senior Assistant, another Assistant and Private, Secretaries. But, on the other hand, Sir, if the Ministry is created to serve the entire Federation, the only way, I think, we can benefit from the Ministry is for it to take over some duties which are at present in the hands of the Regional Governments. These duties, I consider, should be the eradication and control of epidemic cases such as smallpox, cerebrospinal meningitis, etc., which, like Trunk A roads and telecommunications, do not mind regional or political boundaries.

The Ministry can also consider to take the responsibility of controlling Malaria and treatment of tuberculosis and leprosy which are the three dreadful diseases which by reason of their infectious nature create big medical problems in the country. These proposals may not necessitate the Government establishing hospitals or clinics unless it wishes to do so. The only implication will be to grant the cash or any materials necessary to the local and regional government institutions where these diseases can be treated.

Sir, the Government should consider my points, if the Ministry is to serve the entire Federation, and if it is only for the Federal capital, I feel this should be made clear to the public.

Chief T. T. Solaru (Ijebu East): Mr Chairman, Sir, in congratulating the Ministry of Health I would like to remove any misapprehension in the minds of people either of the right, or of the left or of the centre, that when congratulations are showered upon any one Ministry this is because of partisan or of any other policy. It is not because I think all of us here, except those who are newly sworn in, perhaps, are now old enough in this Legislation to realise that when a Minister takes a decision he does not take a unilateral decision. That decision is taken in consultation with his other colleagues. When a new Minister takes over, he takes over from someone, not from nothing.

Mallam Muhtari Sarkin Bai (South West Kano): On a point of order, Sir, 25 (2). I think this point is irrelevant as far as hospitals are concerned. He is trying to draw attention to the fact that Ministers are all the same, but I think Ministers take their individual ways before they come to the Council of Ministers.

The Chairman: For the first time I could not hear properly. Would the hon. Member like to repeat his point of order?

M. Muhtari: What I am trying to say, Mr Chairman, is this. The hon. Member was trying to defend the Minister. Well, that, I am afraid, is wrong and irrelevant as far as this Head is concerned.

The Chairman: I think that argument is wrong on what Chief Solaru is saying. I think he is quite in order.

Chief Solaru: Mr Chairman, Sir, I am glad that the last speaker has raised what he

called a point of order because I think it just shows that it is very necessary for me to say what I have been saying. I repeat, Sir, that when praises are showered upon any one Minister, I think that Minister will not be foolish enough to think that all the praise belongs to him, because that decision is taken in consultation with the other Ministers in the Cabinet, and when a Minister takes over. . . . *(Interruption)*. . . please open your ears. . . . he does not take over from nothing.

It is necessary, that is why I was saying whether you are on the right, left, or centre of this House, it does not help us here. What we ought to do is to apportion blame where it is due. It does not matter whether it is on the left, right or centre. We should tell the Minister what we think ought to be done in his Ministry.

Sir, I was going to say that the sooner we stop all this bickering about which is which Minister, and so on, the better it will be for all of us.

I want to congratulate the Ministry because of the University Teaching Hospital which as we know has been in existence for quite a long time, and, Sir, we know. . . . *(Interruption)* (if you will just be quiet I can get on with my speech). . . and, Sir, we know that that hospital is our hope of getting more doctors in this country. For a long time it has been very difficult to get recognition from the London Medical Authorities for our medical degrees to be approved for work done there. . . . *(Interruption)*. . . I don't require your praises. . . .

The Chairman: Order, order. I think that Chief Solaru is interrupting himself sometimes. . . . *(Laughter)*.

Chief Solaru: Seriously, Sir, it just shows how invidious are the interruptions on this side. Sir, I was saying that for a long time we had to spend hundreds of thousands of pounds to train very few doctors. Now I think the House already knew that the Teaching Hospital has been approved to give degrees for the work done there in Ibadan. We do not have to seek for places in London in order to give our boys medical degrees. It also has the advantage that research is going to be undertaken in tropical medicine. Our hospital ranks amongst the foremost in tropical medicine.

We know how difficult it is whether you are a legal practitioner, or a medical practitioner having studied the art of the profession, you still have to learn very much on the job. Doctors who are trained, who are attending to Nigerian patients, already have enough material to do their practice and their research. We must congratulate the Ministry for this great achievement. We have heard words of praises from people who know. All we see are the buildings and the equipment but the experts tell us that our hospital ranks amongst the foremost in the world. We know that the Americans do things in a big way, but when they saw our hospital they said they had not seen the like of it anywhere in the world. So that for all that money we have spent we can congratulate ourselves that we have achieved something.

It is not only that we should say this from a distance, it is necessary for Members to go there, for the members of the staff are willing to explain and answer questions about their day-to-day work, especially as much has been said and written about the training courses in that hospital. Very recently we have seen attacks in the papers about the Nursing School—well, I don't know very much about it, but all I can say is that if anybody wants to know they can go there and see for themselves that the facilities for training offered in that hospital ranks, well, next to none in the entire world. Not only are the tutors qualified but they are also zealous.

Also you must know that in anything that is human there will always be the element of error and it is these isolated cases that give great publicity to what is being done, or what is not being done in that hospital. I say that by and large that hospital is living up to its very good reputation.

During the railway disaster, Sir, people who were in Ibadan realised how fortunate we were to have such a hospital so near because of the work they did so many lives were saved. They worked day and night and I think that we ought to put on record the gratitude of the country to them for their hard work and for the lives they saved. . . . (*Hear, hear*).

But, Sir, having praised the hospital so much there is one thing that puzzles people who like to go there. What kind of cases go to the Teaching Hospital, because you find

if you want to go there you have to spend two or three nights before you can get in? You will very often have to fight your way inside for outside there are crowds kneeling around, and after fighting your way through this barrier, if you can squeeze your way in, you find an even bigger crowd inside and you are told only those sitting on pews will be attended to. How are you to know who are those people who will be attended to? People are spending two or three nights there on the doorstep of the hospital and don't get attended to. All this, Sir, I say will give rise to complaints that the hospital is not doing its proper job.

If the hospital is a first reference hospital let us know. If the cases have to come from other medical practitioners let the public know because otherwise it will mean that every little cut, every little headache, imaginary or otherwise is going to find its way there. I say this, that it is probably due to the good food given to patients; I have heard that people refuse to leave even after they are discharged. . . . (*Laughter*). But seriously, Sir, good as that is, there are people who would like to go to that hospital but who would not like to have to fight their way in and perhaps spend two or three nights before they can enter. We thought that the story of the man who lay for 18 years beside the pool was only in Jerusalem, not on our own doorstep. Some people have been going to the hospital for one week without being attended to or being able to get admission. I think there must be a way to find a quick answer to this question, and I would ask the Minister therefore to look into that.

Sir, there is another aspect that I would like to point out. Maybe this thing is being done and may be when it is pointed out we shall be given information on it. When we have a University Teaching Hospital the duty of that hospital is not merely to teach, but also to undertake research. We produce doctors, but also we should undertake research work. Sir, I think there is a lot of material in this country which could be looked into in this way. For instance, these African cures which are so often abused have a lot of value in them. The medical profession of to-day did not derive its knowledge from nothing, it built upon the ready-made cures of other days, some of them purely psychological.

I put it to the Minister, Sir, that much research could be done in this matter of mental cures. The other day I understand the police raided the premises of a native doctor who was treating people who were out of their minds. It is one thing to raid the premises of these people but another to get from them any of the secrets they have for calming people who are mentally deranged. I therefore say, Sir, that research ought to be done into the ways of cures by the Research Department of the Teaching Hospital and account taken of them. If it is a matter of funds I am quite sure that a special vote under this Head would be money well spent.

Mr Chairman, Sir, much has been said about the conditions of hospitals in Lagos in the Federal Territory. You will remember that last year it was being said mothers were being separated from their children—a child a day old was separated from its mother—now we are all pleased that such a condition is going to be remedied. We do hope that that terrible thing called lack of executive capacity is not going to put our programme back for many years. For whether you have a Board of Management or an Advisory Board, these Boards are not going to put up the buildings—the people who are going to put the buildings up and supply the furniture are the key people just now. It is only after the building has gone up that anything can be managed.

But if I may put in a word from the layman's point of view, I think what the public wants is service: efficient service, quick service, especially for sick people. We do not want these squabbles about Management and Advisory Boards to spoil the service that we ought to get in this country. What we ought to ask ourselves, first of all, is which is going to be more efficient.

Sir, from what we have seen of corporations, whenever I hear the word "corporation" I just shake my head, because I know as soon as we have a corporation, you sort of wash your hands of everything. You know how much we have lost by corporations. Corporations are bodies set up by taxes, but as soon as we set them up, they become our masters.

Well, it is very difficult. It was only recently that Ministers began to assume responsibility for corporation matters. But even so, if you mention anything, well you

cannot see their staff list; you can have their report, but except from people who serve on these corporations, you hardly know anything that goes on in corporations. And, Sir, I would say that we should hesitate before we create another corporation, especially where the health of the people is concerned.

Mallam Maitama Sule (Kano City): Mr Chairman, Sir, I wish to take this opportunity in order to drive a certain point home. During the second reading of the Appropriation Bill, the Minister of Health explained to this honourable House the stand of the Government as regards this Hospital Management Board that was asked for by doctors in Lagos. We were satisfied at that time with the explanation that he gave to the House.

This morning, there is another side of the story represented here in this honourable Legislature by Hon. Jaja Wachuku. To me, Sir, the dispute between the doctors, who are charged with the responsibility of looking after the health of the public, and the Government, which is charged with the responsibility of looking after the people, will not be a good one. Certainly, any step that is taken in order to bring that dispute to an end, and in order to settle down all differences and come to a compromise, is something that will receive the praise of every Member of this Legislature.

I do not want, and I believe every Member of this honourable House does not wish to see this dispute continued. We have now heard, Mr Chairman, that these doctors do not want to be all by themselves. They would like to have some representatives not only of the Government, but also of the public as well, and as such, therefore, I think the Government should consider the views that have been put forward by the doctors.

At the same time, I feel that certain things have been done by the Government, very good things too. The Government is now prepared to provide hospitals in Lagos, and these hospitals will certainly be run by the Government and the doctors as well. We cannot expect these hospitals to be a success unless we have doctors that are working well and with a satisfied mind in them. Certainly, if the doctors are dissatisfied and are not prepared to put their best into their work, all these buildings and other things will be useless. I am not saying that the doctors are entirely

right, nor am I saying that the Government is entirely correct. But what I am saying is that there is something wrong somewhere, and that thing should be discovered and corrected before it becomes too late.

Mr Chairman, Sir, I would suggest, therefore, under the circumstances, that both the Government and the doctors come together again. There is still room for improvement. If they come together again and consider each other's views and come to a compromise, it would be much better. We are not going to allow these things to go on. The people of Lagos, I believe, will not tolerate this sort of thing. They would very much like to see both the Government and the doctors working harmoniously together.....(Interruption)....

The Chairman : Order, order.

Mallam Sule : Mr Chairman, Sir, I would like to say something now about the University College Teaching Hospital. Only a few minutes ago hon. Solaru said something about research. I entirely agree that the University College Teaching Hospital has a good deal to do with research. But one thing that gives me a good deal of concern is our tropical diseases. Often and again we have certain tropical diseases which are very difficult to cure by medical officers. I would suggest, Sir, that the University College Teaching Hospital should do something now, now that the hospital is in the heart of Africa, and undertake research into those tropical diseases to find out cures for them. Tuberculosis has for a long time in this country been cured to some extent by local people. It has been very difficult for medical officers trained in England and elsewhere to cure the disease as quickly as we think local people can do. I should therefore suggest that under the circumstances the University College Teaching Hospital should do something in conjunction with, if it is possible, some of our own people because they have got something from which these medical officers can learn.

I do not think that everything that belongs to Africa is bad, there is something that is good, and let us try to come together with these local people that have got some medicines from which, as Chief T. T. Solaru has said the medical officers can learn something. I suggest, therefore, that more research is made into not only tropical diseases, but also the cures that we have locally here, because such

cures may be used in the long run after they have been refined and research conducted into them, to help cure every disease that has for a long time not been cured.

Mr Chairman, Sir, I would like to say something about this emergency Science Course. To-day in every part of the world scientists are needed. In the United States of America, in England and other parts of the world scientists are needed for the manufacture of the sputniks, satellites and the guided missiles. Specialists are needed for the cure of diseases. It should be realised that as these scientists are in great demand in other parts of the world we find it very difficult in Nigeria to get them. So this emergency science course is really welcome, but I believe we would like to know, as it has already been asked in this honourable House, what is the relationship between this course and the Nigerian College of Arts, Science and Technology. I think the Members of this House would like to know this and would also like to know the standard that would be reached in this course, and whether people trained in this emergency science course will have a chance of getting further training on the completion of the course.....(Interruption)..... I would like to reserve that.

Mr Chairman, I beg to support.

Mr L. S. Fonka (Bamenda) : Mr Chairman, I rise to support the expenditure under this Head, Ministry of Health. Whilst I do so, Sir, I would like to associate myself with the hon. Gentlemen who have praised this Ministry for the good work done in the country. They have praised this Ministry for setting a good example in Nigerianisation. Whilst I associate myself with this point, I have to express an opinion in this respect.

We are very happy that the Medical Department is Nigerianised. I am appealing to these Nigerian doctors to set a good example in their services to the public. It is very sad and very unfortunate to have to say, on the Floor of this House, that our Nigerian doctors, because of their private practices, are abusing their office. What is going to happen when we get our independence for which we are yearning so much? We expect good service from these our Nigerian doctors. We wish the expatriates to do well, too, and they are doing well so far in this regard. Well, it would be

very unfortunate, and I think those expatriates when they finally go will laugh at us if we begin to complain that our African doctors for whom we are yearning, are now giving us the service which does not even measure up to what the expatriates were giving us.

So that is my appeal to our Nigerian doctors, that whilst we say we want freedom we must live up to expectations.

Mr Chairman, Sir, a lot has been said about the many hospitals proposed for Lagos—the Mainland Hospital, the Massey Street Dispensary, and so on. These are points for which we praise this Minister. I would also add this that Lagos which we say must be made a Capital City worthy of its name, I am afraid, medically it is very poor. If you take away the Marina Street, Broad Street and the Race Course Road, the rest of Lagos makes nothing but an eye-sore. I am appealing to this Ministry to do something about the sanitation of Lagos. I have my doubts as to whether the people living at the centre of Lagos have any fresh air. This is a job for the Ministry.

I have also to refer to the sanitary condition in the LegCo Flats which has been referred to recently in this House. Sir, the condition is really very appalling. It is true we have some fresh air because of good ventilation. When you get to the flat I do not think that anything like the polishing of the floor and furniture is a thing known to this House. So, I feel that the Minister of Health, if he is in charge of the health of the people of Lagos, should also see that these flats are in good sanitary condition.

Mr Chairman, Sir, I need not take up the time of this House because I know there are many people who want to talk, so I support the expenditure under this Head.

The Minister of Health (Hon. Ayo Rosiji) : Mr Chairman, Sir, I am very delighted to hear so many Members speaking about various matters in this Ministry. It shows the amount of great interest which Members are taking in these matters.

I would like to start first of all with the remarks that have been made about the University College Teaching Hospital. I was particularly gratified to hear the nice things which have been said about that hospital. I must say that I am greatly impressed about them but I think we must congratulate the

hospital and the Board that has been running it. We have in that hospital an institution of which we can all justly be proud. A lot of money has been spent on that institution and it is our duty to see to it that that money is not wasted by maintaining that hospital in the standard which is fitting and proper for the money which has been spent on it. It is our intention to keep this hospital going as efficiently as it is expensive.

Now, that hospital is there to serve the whole country, not a section of the country, and the hospital takes a very important part of my heart. I love it and I give it priority in my Ministry, because it is a matter about which the whole country can be proud.

Now, in this respect, I would like to reply to Mallam Ibrahim Gusau who said that this hospital is doing nothing for the country as a whole. I would like to tell him that that Hospital is there at his disposal and at the disposal of the whole of Nigeria.

Some points have been raised about the number of people who are treated in that hospital. I would like to make it clear from the beginning that that hospital is not like any other hospital. It is a *Teaching* Hospital. It is intended to produce Doctors and Nurses and other specialists primarily. At the same time it is intended to cure, but the primary objective of the hospital is to teach.

Now, having that in my mind, I think Members of the House will appreciate the fact that if the hospital has patients going into it, patients who have malaria which can be treated with nivaquin or whatever it is, if they appear in the place there is nothing to teach students with in Malaria, and therefore the hospital has to choose its patients so that they will be able to teach and at the same time to cure. I must say too, that the hospital, even though it is a teaching hospital, is a humanitarian hospital, and it does not apply this rule rigidly. It does not. But as the Member has said, the glamour of that hospital and the attraction to the population at large is very great, and instead of people going to the Government hospital which is the General Hospital, they rush to the University College Teaching Hospital, and the hospital therefore must choose its patients who will be treated in order to serve the purpose for which the hospital was built. I hope that

Members will get this clear and appreciate the fact that the hospital is not trying to discriminate against anybody or to cause confusion.

Now, the other matter I would like to mention with regard to the hospital is research which has been mentioned by hon. Solaru and hon. Maitama Sule. I am very well interested in the research aspect of the hospital. I know that a hospital such as that which has highly qualified people will not be justifying its existence if it chooses its curative work or teaching work without good research being done, and research which will be relevant to the circumstances of our country. And I remember the first time I visited the hospital I particularly asked to see a list of research that was being done in the hospital; I asked that the research that was being done there should be co-ordinated with the research work in all the departments so that we can only have substantial work being done in that direction. I have been sent this list and I can assure you that the hospital is working very hard on research.

There is also the West African Council for Medical Research which, as you know, is under my Ministry. Well, it is my intention too that there should be the maximum amount of co-operation between that Institute and the University College Teaching Hospital as far as research is concerned. That co-operation is going ahead. Research is not a thing which would have spectacular results in a short time, but we are having some results even though they are not spectacular.

Now, the other matter which I would like to mention is in regard to private practitioners which has been spoken about with some feeling. I would like to let the Members of the House know what the position is as far as private practice of doctors is concerned.

I am reading to you from Sessional Paper No. 28 of 1949 which is the regulation that binds doctors in Government practice in respect of private practice. It says: "Medical officers including the officers now known as Assistant Medical officers not employed in work or in posts from which private practice is debarred shall be allowed to practise privately outside public institutions, such extra-mural practice being regarded not as a right or a privilege to be enjoyed but as a means of helping to meet the public need and where

private practitioners are established as supplementing their service to the public. Extra-mural private practice as above shall be subject to the following conditions (a) It is undertaken by medical officers as a service to the public incidental to their primary and post-time official duties; (b) It can be undertaken without detriment to the faithful and efficient performance of official duties; (c) In no case shall a Government Medical officer be allowed to open a private consulting room or a private hospital, or to set up openly any private practice by any similar expedients. In undertaking extra-mural private work, the Medical officer shall be under an obligation to co-operate with any available practitioners only accepting Africans for his services, if satisfied that it is the special wish of such patient to be attended by him and the courtesies normally observed within the medical profession had been adhered to."

Well, these are the regulations in existence as far as private practice is concerned. The remarks that have been made here are directed, as far as I can see, against the opening of hospitals and private consulting rooms. Those are the remarks which have been made here as far as I can see and those remarks are already covered by these regulations.

Some hon. Members : No, not at all.

The Minister of Health : The objectives are already covered but as far as I know I do not know of the breach of these regulations and it is not my intention to snuff around doctors, to find out whether anybody is opening a private hospital or a private consulting room; but it is up to the members of the public, now that they know what the regulations are, to bring to our notice (*Shouts of No, No*) to bring to our notice any reports of any of our medical officers who are contravening these regulations. And when I say members of the public, that includes you as well, because you are the representatives of the people, and if anything comes to the knowledge of the Members of the House I will be delighted to have any such reports and to take action immediately as far as these regulations are concerned.

I must make it absolutely clear that I share the sentiments of Members of this House. Our medical officers are not paid their salaries so that they can concentrate their attention

on private practice for themselves : they are paid their salaries to look after the interests of the people whom we here are supposed to serve. They are paid salaries and allowances so that they can treat the patients without asking for further payments from them other than those that are allowed by the rules and regulations of the hospital. I must make it clear that it is not my intention to connive at any mal-practice ; on the other hand, it is my intention to stamp down immediately and with vigour, any contravention of these regulations because it is against the interest of the people.

Now, I would like to speak about the question of married women, either doctors or nurses, which had been raised here. The question of married women in the service of the Medical Department is not governed by any isolated General Order. There is a general regulation for all the departments of Government and that includes the Medical Department.

Now, a woman Government servant—I am quoting from the General Order.

An hon. Member : What number ?

The Minister of Health : General Order Number 03201 says : “No married woman may be appointed to any Government post save with the express authority of the Governor.” 03202 : “A non-expatriate woman Government servant may be required to resign on marriage but will not normally be called upon to do so. She must however immediately notify her head of department who should thereupon notify the appropriate Secretariat.” I think that particular section is the one which hon. Adeyinka had in mind when he was talking about nurses.

Now I must make it clear here that I have a definite view of my own on this matter before I came into Government and since I came into Government I have seen what the Government view is and I think that the Government view is the view which will be to the best credit of this country. This matter is receiving a new type of consideration because we are so short of staff especially in our hospitals, and I am referring in particular to nursing staff. I think that the time is ripe for us to review this particular General Order. (*Hear, hear*). The matter, I can say at this stage, is now under active consideration by your Government.

Now, the question of the doctor who was mentioned here by hon. Jaja Wachuku, it is a pity that he mentioned a specific name. I do not think it is usual for us to do that in this House but I would like to say that since he has done that, I say that the Government has taken in hand the matter of professional women in the Service and that matter is receiving special consideration even apart from general consideration about which I spoke a short while ago, and once a final decision is taken on the matter I think that all the other ancillary matters which are raised by hon. Jaja Wachuku will be solved, the question of motor, residence, I think they will all be solved together with the major issue.

I will have to close there, Sir.

The Chairman : I have to point out to the Committee that we have not even done one Head, and there are two more under this Ministry. There are two separate other Ministries, and we have about three quarters of an hour more. I suggest we should close this Head.

Mr J. A. G. Ohiani (Igbirra) : Mr Chairman, Sir, I think the sooner the Minister brings out his papers in connection with the regulations of the Medical Department for revision in this House, the better. All statements made from his documents are not up to date. Every day is the beginning of a new life. We are living in a new Nigeria, so everything should be new.

We have no quarrel with the Nigerianisation of his department.

Mr Chairman, Sir, medical charges in the department vary, bringing confusion to many people, and this does not encourage people going to the hospitals. In view of this confusion, I feel the whole Ministry should be scrapped entirely.

In the Minister's statement he says that medical officers did not have private consulting rooms, or hospitals. But I want to point out to him that anywhere can be a consulting room, even under a tree, in a corner, or in his house, or the patient's house, all these could be consulting rooms.

Now, Sir, how these doctors get their medicines to treat their patients, I do not know. The Minister says that they have no private hospitals, and no private consulting rooms, but where do they stock their medicines?

Do they carry them in their pockets? I cannot simply understand. There are Crown Counsel. We do not see them arguing in court private cases of their own, but we have doctors practising privately. The doctors are paid, Crown Counsel are paid, I do not see the reason why doctors should be allowed to do private practice and the other people are denied. So that the sooner the Minister revises his documents the better. We cannot be paying some people who carry on private practices and the others are paid but are denied private practices.

Junior officers are punished innocently in this Department. They are denied marriages. We are not satisfied with this department at all. I think if possible a meeting of this House should be called on this matter very soon, and we have everything put tight. If that would not be possible, the best thing is to scrap the whole Ministry entirely.

With these few observations, I beg to support.

Sitting suspended : 10.35 a.m.

Sitting resumed : 11.50 a.m.

Oba Adetunji Aiyeola (Ijebu Remo): Mr Chairman, I wish to refer to the Regulation which the hon. the Minister of Health read to us this morning in relation to private practice by medical officers. This Regulation was passed as far back as 1949. In the Regulation, Mr Chairman, it is said that it is forbidden for a member of the medical service to have a hospital of his own or a consulting room of his own. The Minister went as far as to ask Members of the public or even Members of this House to make a report to him as to which doctors have consulting rooms.

I am sure, Mr Chairman, that going round in Lagos you have many consulting rooms being run by Medical Officers employed by Government. It is known to everyone of us here. I am not giving the whole truth, Sir, but I will say that not five hundred yards from this place, you will find the consulting room of a medical officer employed by Government. I think, Sir, it is a matter of conscience on the part of these medical officers. Some of them we know were trained by their parents, but most of them were trained by scholarships awarded to them from funds contributed by the tax-payers of this country, and we must appeal to these members to think of the teeming population of this country, people who are becoming more health-

conscious, to consider the pockets of these poor people living in the territory of Lagos, before they think of their purse.

Mr Chairman, I appeal, and I make the suggestion that, if possible, more money should be paid to these medical officers. More money should be paid to them, and they should be given more amenities. It is often said that if you get money by foul means it must pass out by foul means. It would be very indecent in this country to create a situation which would be very embarrassing to our medical officers. I do not intend to suggest that a scheme should be made whereby our medical officers should be prosecuted simply because they carry on private practice, but we know many of them who do so. Many of them, Mr Chairman, are our friends, and I have had occasion to speak to one or two of them and I have asked them why they do this thing and their reply is, "You legislators, after you have earned your salary in your various undertakings, are also Members of the House of Representatives, and you are getting fabulous money for that. We can get that money too as private practitioners. The less we think about the money and the making of more money, the better it will be for our country.

Again, Mr Chairman, there are different ways of making money and I find that many of the medical officers actually divert patients from the hospitals to which they are posted into their private hospitals. They do so by not giving proper and particular attention to serious cases, and unless you go through them you do not get attention in the form of admission into hospitals in Lagos; and this practice is not restricted only to medical officers. To-day you find nurses engaging in private practice, nurses giving injections. Whether they are qualified or not, nurses are not allowed by law to administer injections unless injections are prescribed by trained medical officers. However, Sir, I take pleasure in the fact that the University College in Ibadan will, in the next few years, be producing doctors in good number. I think, Mr Chairman, that this is the only means by which we can combat effectively this menace of private practice by our medical officers.

I think, however, that the Government could go a step further. Why not take a bold step and say that you will look into this question of private practice by medical officers, and let us have a try at it. Let us have a go at it and see what the result will be. At a certain time, I

think in the Eastern Region, private practice by medical officers was abolished. There was a hue and cry that the medical officers were threatening to resign, but in fact no one of them has since resigned.

How do our medical officers get their patients? They get their patients by being familiar with them in hospitals to which they are attached. If a medical student, after qualifying in the United Kingdom arrives in the country to-day and opens a hospital of his own, he has very few patients to attend to, but what do they do? They go into Government service, and instead of addressing themselves to the task to which they have been called by virtue of being employed by Government, they continue to divert patients into their private hospitals.

I think, Mr Chairman, the Minister of Health and his colleagues should look into this matter and do something worthwhile. Our men are paying for treatment in hospitals and having paid once for treatment if the treatment is not successful you are obliged to look for these doctors and see what they can do for you.

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, That the Head be reduced by £10, put accordingly and negatived.

Question, That £859,900 for Head 45—Ministry of Health—stand part of the Schedule, put and agreed to.

HEAD 46.—MEDICAL

Question proposed, That £1,283,930 for Head 46—Medical—stand part of the Schedule.

Amendment proposed to reduce item (57) of sub-head 1 by £5.

Mr H. O. Akpan-Udo (Ikot Ekpene): Mr Chairman, in supporting this Amendment I wish to enable myself to speak on this Department and especially to raise a point with the Senior Health Officer in Lagos. I observe, Mr Chairman, that parts of this question have been raised already and that the Minister has given no reply to it. I wish to point out, Sir, that so much money, many thousands of pounds and maybe millions, have been spent in developing the Federal Territory of Lagos. Slums are being cleared and we are having

very gigantic buildings going up to boost up Lagos. I wish to say, Sir, that to-day so many rural areas in this country are better, in the sanitary sense, than the Territory of Lagos. I am raising this question especially with the Senior Health Officer. If we have Health Officers in Lagos, I see no reason why the drains of Lagos should be so filled with stagnant water, they are stinking. We do not experience this in the rural areas, it is a big disgrace.

I observe especially, Sir, that there has been much hue and cry against smuggling in Jankara market. While we want to discourage smuggling in Jankara market, I think we should also discourage deep stagnant water all round the market. If it happens that there is a great crowd round about the market, people could be pushed in and would have much difficulty in struggling out of the mud.

Mr Chairman, Sir, Victoria Street, Ereko Street and so many other streets in the central part of Lagos, are an eyesore to us who come from the rural areas and we want the Minister of Health and all his Health Officers in the Health Department to see that everything possible is done to clear all this filth and stagnant water from the streets of Lagos.

Mr Chairman, Sir, I move to reduce this Head by £5.

The Minister of Health (Hon. Ayo Rosiji): Mr Chairman, Sir, the hon. Mr Akpan-Udo is under a misapprehension. The office of the Senior Health Officer has got nothing to do with the matter which he has raised. The Lagos Town Council is in charge of the matter which the hon. Member has raised. The Senior Health Officer is only in charge of port health, which is a completely different matter.

Mr R. A. Fani-Kayode (Ife): Mr Chairman, Sir, I rise in defence of doctors in this House. I was most shocked to hear certain statements made from this House regarding doctors. I have to commend them to the public for their services generally.

The Chairman: I think the hon. Member is speaking on the wrong occasion. The particular Health Officer has only duties over the port.

Mr Fani-Kayode: I am speaking about the Amendment to that Head. I think I am right that under this item Health Officers, I

can discuss generally the health of the country. I do not know whether it concerns all Members of this House or the Government itself.

The Chairman : The Minister has just said so.

Amendment put and negatived.

Dr E. O. Awduche (Onitsha) : I rise to move to reduce sub-head 1 by £5. Mr Chairman, Sir, I just want to elaborate on this issue of doctors' private practice and their salaries. Mr Chairman, Sir, I will be very, very brief, I will just refer Members to sub-head 1, item 198. There you find the salaries of House Surgeons and House Physicians on £660 per annum. Then in the same sub-head at item 190, you have Nursing Superintendent, who is a Nurse, on £900. Mr Chairman, Sir, you can see the disparity between the salary of a Doctor and a Nurse, who is supposed to take instructions under him.

Furthermore, you will find that at page 90 sub-head 1, item 276, that a provision is made for compensatory allowance to Medical Officers in view of private practice. That provision, Sir, is made for Medical Officers who are already earning very high salaries, such as Senior Medical Officer for instance who is on £2,220, Senior Medical Superintendent, who is on £2,040.

Furthermore, Sir, you will see at sub-head 24 that provision is also made for refunds to Dental Officers. A Senior Dental Surgeon is paid £2,220 and then you have Dental Surgeons on £1,200 and something odd.

What I am driving at, Sir, is that it is the Government who is encouraging private practice because those who are already wealthy are given allowances in lieu of private practice and these Dental Surgeons who are earning a good salary are reimbursed with part of the earnings that they have made during the course of their official employment. It is very, very unfair that while you encourage this class of doctors by giving them this allowance, young men who are on £660, much lower than the salary of a second-class Nursing Superintendent, are debarred from any allowance, and from any form of private practice.

I am not encouraging private practice in Government hospital service ; certainly that is wrong. Nor am I encouraging any form of diversion from public institutions into private institutions. (*An hon. Member : It is immoral*)

It is immoral as well as criminal. What I am saying, Sir, is, something must be done about the salaries of these young men and their conditions of service.

I do not want to make a wrong comparison to any of my colleagues in the legal profession for instance, but someone who goes to study more must know that it is very much easier to study law than it is to study medicine. When somebody goes to study law he does it for three years, and in three years time he comes back. He could not do it if he was studying medicine. After three years he becomes a Magistrate, then Chief Magistrate and in due course becomes a Judge, while his colleague is still in the medical school, and it is only the most brilliant who can go through the course in less than 7 years, mainly it is 7 to 8 years, and sometimes it takes 10 to even 16 years or more, and by that time their colleagues in other professions have gone very high. I think there is a studied plan by Government to discourage people from going to become doctors, and this should be reviewed. When Members talk disparagingly in this House they should be more reasonable.

These young men are overworked you know, they work almost round the clock and you have got to be a bit sympathetic, the public want doctors to be at their beck and call.

Mr Chairman, I hope the Government will look into this matter and review the conditions of service of these doctors.

Sir, I beg to move.

Amendment proposed :

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Health (Chief V. Duro Phillips) : Mr Chairman, Sir, I rise on this occasion to oppose the Amendment and in doing so I speak very briefly to supplement the views already put forward by my Minister.

The Amendment concerns Sub-head 1 of page 46 in the Department of the Chief Medical Adviser to the Federal Government, and, Sir, I assure every section of this House that the Chief Medical Adviser, his Deputy, the Principal Medical Officer, the Chief Accountant and all other officials of the Federal Medical Service stand out in a distinct form of all Federal Government Departments, as very exemplary, taking into consideration the question of Nigerianisation, of which we have heard so much on the floor

of this House. Progress, real progress, for that matter has been made. Members would like to know that the Chief Medical Adviser had given very useful services and he served in his capacity in a very loyal manner.

Sir, I think, as I said earlier on, I wish to speak very briefly. It is being alleged on the Floor of this House, that the Medical Department when thinking of erecting new buildings would always not bother themselves to see that these buildings are erected promptly, and that it would always close its eyes to the public interest. I say, Sir, that it is now the policy of the Medical Department to see to it that building programmes as authorised in this House are given priority (*Hear, hear*) and as such we have decided to give out many of those buildings of which you have approved, on contract, to deserving contractors, to contractors of integrity, to reputable contractors, and I would assure hon. Members of this House that the Mainland Hospital on which we propose to spend as much as half a million pounds is going to a firm of reputable contractors.

I can also assure Members of this House that the Massey Street Clinic has already been given out. We are not waiting for the Public Works Department which is so much overworked to come to our rescue, and I hope that on this point hon. Members will be satisfied.

Sir, much has been said about the question of the agitation between the medical doctors and the Government. I think, Sir, it was my hon. Friend, M. Maitama Sule who opined that Government should open doors for negotiation and should reconsider the points of view put forward by the doctors. I think I should disagree with my hon. Friend. The question is, not what the composition of this Board should be as read out by the hon. Jaja Wachuku. The issue is not whether doctors should be on this Board predominantly, but the principal point, Sir, is, would a Medical Board, an executive board for that matter, be in the best interests of the Government and of the public! And the Government after much careful consideration has decided that the answer is definitely 'No.'

It is advisable for hon. Members of this House to examine very, very scrupulously the points of view of the Government. When the

Government says a proposal is not in the best interests of the public, it is the duty of each and everyone of us to go out to inform the public. It will be very, very malicious not to do so. It is the duty of Members of this House to tell the doctors that apart from all other things, the Government has come to the conclusion that it is only a Medical Advisory Board which will be advisory in nature, on which doctors themselves will be represented as well as members of the Ministry, and that the Medical Advisory Board will be out to seek the best interests of the Government and of the public.

Sir, my hon. Friend behind me here, has suggested that the Ministry of Health should be closed down because its activities do not extend beyond the confines of the capital. I think, Sir, that my hon. Friend is misinformed. The hon. Gentleman, if he cares to read again his Constitution, will find that the activities of this Ministry are not limited to Lagos but in fact, extend to the Port Health Service in Kano, Port Health Service in Maiduguri and to the Port Health Service in Calabar. We do not limit these activities to Lagos, but they extend. (*Interruptions and cries of time.*)

The Chairman : Order, order. Hon. Members who are now calling "time" would have found it much better if they had listened to my suggestion earlier on so that we could economise time then, and not be rushed at the end.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Health : These briefly are my views, but I would urge Members to remember that when the hon. Minister and myself had our seats on that very wide bench where our colleagues, hon. Dr Udoma, Dr Awduche, Chief Solaru, hon. Ajasin, Fani-Kayode and others are now, we gave our suggestions very uprightly.

When we stood up to criticise the Government we did so with the best of intentions not merely to throw brickbats!

Lastly, Sir, I would ask hon. Members to realise that we are here to represent their wishes and desires and we are here to carry out the suggestions as approved by this House.

I beg to oppose the Amendment.

The Chairman : Does the hon. Member wish to withdraw?

Dr E. O. Awduche (Onitsha) : After the very convincing explanation given by the

Parliamentary Secretary, particularly with respect to this issue of the Hospitals Management Board with which I have never been in agreement right from the start, I wish to withdraw. But I hope that attention will be given to the issue of the salary of these doctors.

Amendment by leave withdrawn.

Question again proposed, That £1,283,930 for Head 46—Medical—stand part of the Schedule.

Mr A. Adeyinka (Ibadan Central): Mr Chairman, Sir, I wish to withdraw my amendment but I would like to make a few brief remarks. I would like to support the Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Health in congratulating the Chief Medical Adviser. Last year there were complaints but after an investigation it was realised that he is one of the best Heads of Departments doing all that he can for the welfare of his staff. After investigations we are always convinced. As a Member of this House when I stand up to criticise I do not mean any harm, I do it in the best interests of the public. I now realise that the Chief Medical Adviser is doing his very best to improve the lot of the people in this particular Department. . . . (*Interruptions*) . . . (*Cries of Withdraw, withdraw*) I am withdrawing!

Mr Chairman, Sir, I would like to refer the Minister to the question of nurses salaries. The thing that puzzles me is that all the advertisements for would-be nurses state that people with Class VI, Class IV and Modern II are allowed to apply as nurses in training. This section of people have different types of qualifications. What I would like the Minister to clarify is that we are confused when these advertisements state that people with Class VI, Class IV, and Modern II can enter a Training College at the same time. They will apply and enter at the same time and undergo the same training, but after training they pass out and then there is disparity in their pay. This thing is very confusing and it cannot be correct. . . . (*Interruption*).

The Chairman : Order !

Mr Adeyinka : If you advertise that somebody with Class VI, Class IV, etc., should enter a training college after they have completed their course they should come out on a different salary, it is unjust. I say they should all receive the same salary. . . . (*Cries of No ! no !*) If the answer is "No"—some hon. Members are saying that, my point is unjustified. It is just

like the legal profession that there are some people who enter the law with only Class IV. (*Cries of Where ?*) They go to the same Inns of Court. . . . (*Interruption*)

The Chairman : Order, order !

Mr T. O. S. Benson (Lagos West): Point of Order. Mr Chairman, there are no people who leave school with Class IV in the Inns of Court in London !

Mr Adeyinka : If these Members would only listen they might learn something from what I have to say. My point is this : if people with Class VI, and Class IV and Modern II enter training together, it is most unjustified that after they complete their training that their pay should be different. It should be regulated. If they pass out together they should be on the same salary. . . . (*Interruption*) . . . (*Cries of No ! No !*)

The Chairman : Order, order. Order ! Would Mr Mbakogu be silent otherwise I shall have to deal with him specially.

Mr Adeyinka : Secondly, Sir, there is this question of the Hospital Secretary. There was a time when we read in the newspapers that there would be a departmental inquiry about the activities of the Hospital Secretary. Hon. Members of this House would like to know what the result of that inquiry was.

I would like the Minister to know that the staff of the Medical Department are not working amicably with this Secretary. They have been complaining for a long time against this Secretary. I therefore ask the Minister in the course of his reply to tell us what the result of this inquiry was.

With these few remarks I beg to withdraw my Amendment.

Mr M. A. O. Olarewaju (South Ilorin) : I appreciate the action of the hon. Member in withdrawing his amendment and I also wish to join him in withdrawing.

The Chairman : We are on the Head. The first mover of the Amendment said he did not want to move it. We are now on the Head.

Mr Olarewaju : I wish to make a contribution on this Head, Sir. A lot has been said about the Medical Department, more especially about the Medical Officers working under our Federation of Nigeria who are at the same time carrying on a private practice.

In my opinion, Sir, this is nothing but dishonesty towards their employers. They are cheating the public and are a disgrace to themselves. A Nigerian doctor should try to live up to the expectations of the public. They should either serve under the Federal Government or as private doctors. All money received for this private treatment is nothing to me but bribe—it cannot be otherwise, Sir.

Medical Officers within the Territory of Lagos know definitely that they cannot be transferred anywhere outside Lagos, to Kano in the North, Enugu in the East or Ondo in the West. If a medical officer could be transferred outside Lagos, he will realise that to put up a private practice is a waste both in money and in energy. The only remedy to check private practice among medical officers in Lagos is to set up a national medical service throughout the whole country. In this way, a doctor will not remain permanently in a station where he can put up private practice.

Mr Chairman, Sir, another observation I have here is under sub-head 117, under blood transfusion service. There are many ways in which we Members of this House can serve our nation. One of the ways is for each of the Members of this House to allow half a gallon of his blood to be taken as blood donors. The Minister of Health should allow a full gallon.

Mr L. A. Lawal (Ibadan East): Mr Chairman, I beg to move that this head be reduced by £10.

I wish the Minister of Health to bear it in mind that when we criticise the Department under his administrative cover, we do not do that for the fun of it, rather it is because we feel there is something wrong in that Department. What we would in return expect from the Minister is to go into such complaints and right the wrong.

I cannot remember how often we have expressed our dissatisfaction not only in this House but also through the medium of the Press about the idea of making the University College Hospital an exclusive preserve for expatriate nursing sisters.

I am just at a loss to know the need for employing these expatriate Sisters while we have sufficient Nigerian Sisters qualified and even more capable to do the work.

Mr Chairman, and as if this is not bad enough, in the Hospital we have some Nigerians serving under expatriate Sisters and even though these Nigerians have better qualifications, the expatriate Sisters still lord it over them.

I would not like to be personal, but I will just advise the Minister to go and visit the Orthopaedic Ward of the Hospital, he would discover that a Nigerian Nursing Sister is serving under an expatriate Sister, and she has better qualification than her boss. (*Cries of "Colour, colour".*) The expatriate Sister has S.R.N., S.C.M. without special training, while the Nigerian Staff Nurse has S.R.N., S.C.M. and in addition has Special Training in Orthopaedics. This idea must be deprecated.

In fact, the Minister is an able fellow, of course, he is a round peg in a round hole. I am sure he will not leave the matter lying low. But if he fails to measure up to expectation as far as this matter is concerned, I would in the next Meeting take his Ministry to task for then I would be ready with more facts and figures.

The Minister of Health (Hon. Ayo Rosiji): I just want to mention one or two matters which have been referred to. One is by hon. Adeyinka, about the qualifications of nurses-in-training. It is true that nurses-in-training can be admitted with different qualifications, but at the time of their admission. While they are in training, there is disparity in their pay because of the disparity in their qualifications. And that is necessary because we want to attract the better qualified type of entrant. But after the training is completed, when they are supposed to go into the training wards, the salary is the same, but the better qualified nurses-in-training will soon show if this is true that she had, by virtue of her better qualification, taken a better advantage of the training by the way she performs her duty; and there is no doubt that that girl will have the greater opportunity for promotion than her less qualified colleague.

Now on the question of the Hospital Secretary which was also mentioned by hon. Adeyinka. I have given this matter my personal attention. The Union made these allegations last year; the allegations were investigated by an Inquiry, and it was found that the allegations had no foundation. This

year, the same allegations had been made—no new allegations whatever, but the same ones repeated. But in order to give the Union the benefit of the doubt another Inquiry is being held. This Inquiry is still continuing. But I would like to make it clear that after the Inquiry, we shall have all the reports. If the man is found not to be culpable, I do not think that we should tolerate any persecution of any officer of our Department just for the sake of persecution. If the Inquiry finds against him, it may mean that he is not suitable for his job and appropriate action will be taken. I think that is all I have to say.

Mr L. O. Tobun (Epe): Mr Chairman, I rise to speak under this Head, and in doing so I must say that the Minister should please check up on the allegations which have been made about the hospitals. A week ago I visited the General Hospital, and I found to my disappointment, that the uniforms of the patients in the hospital is just that of convicted prisoners. You cannot distinguish a convicted prisoner coming to the hospital for treatment and a private individual who also comes to the hospital for the same purpose. If two of them stand before you, you will find that there is no difference.

So I would like the Minister of Health to take note of this allegation and try to modify the uniform. The uniform that I saw was made from grey baft, whether for the prisoners or for the free individuals. Therefore, if for economic reasons grey baft has to be used, they should be prepared in a way to distinguish a prisoner from a free man. For instance, if the free individual's uniform consists of a trouser and a jumper, as distinct from the shorts and *buba* (as at present) it would serve the purpose.

Mr J. C. Obande (South East Idoma): Mr Chairman, I refer you now to sub-head (60), that is Mosquitoes. Much has been said about the breeding of mosquitoes at Ikoyi on the Floor of this House, and as it stands now, there is no improvement at all on this search. If Members of the House could afford to cover themselves with mosquito nets, their servants at Ikoyi who cannot afford it are suffering terribly from mosquito bites. So I am appealing to the Minister to look into it as early as possible.

Mr F. U. Mbakogu (Awka): Mr Chairman, I just want to say something about the Phar-

macists in Nigeria. We have here in Yaba a Pharmacy School where Nigerian pharmacists are trained, and we vote money year after year for the training and maintenance of the students there. After their training they work for only about three or six months and run away, and Government has never stopped to ask why these people stage such a mass exodus. Now the cause is on the salary scale.

These boys are professionals. I want the Government to understand that they are professionals, and the country is in very great need of them. If the Government cannot have them, commercial enterprises and private pharmacists might like to adopt them on a high rate of salary. What is the initial salary given to these pharmacists? Only £370 per annum. That is the reason why after working for three months he gets the bond money and pays back to the Government and goes out to the field to practice. At times they have been given that money by the people who want to employ them or big traders who want to form companies so that they might work for them because they have not this certificate to start chemist and druggists' shop.

They are in great need. If the Government will not increase their salary, then there is no need wasting our money if they will work for only three or six months and go away. That is the only point I want to raise.

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, That £1,283,930 for Head 46—Medical—stand part of the Schedule, put and agreed to.

HEAD 47—CHEMISTRY

£23,160 for Head 47—Chemistry—agreed to.

HEAD 48—MINISTRY OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS

Question proposed, That £48,870 for Head 48—Ministry of Internal Affairs—stand part of the Schedule.

Amendment proposed to reduce sub-head 1 by £110.

Mr B. O. Ikeh (Abakaliki): Mr Chairman, my intention in moving this Motion to reduce sub-head 1 by £100 is only to draw the attention of the Minister to the security which exist in Abakaliki Prison. The Abakaliki prison yard is only surrounded by palm fronds and it is not safe enough. Not only that.

House of Representatives Debates

1079

[Appropriation (1958-59)
Bill : Committee]

7 MARCH 1958

[Adjournment—Dispute at
University College]

1080

We have it that whenever these palm fronds get broken, the prisoners had to go to the villages and destroy palm trees in order to make up their fences. It is causing a lot of harm to the community at Abakaliki, and very soon, I am afraid, the Minister may be sued for trespass because the prisoners go to destroy the palm trees, and all of us know that palm trees are a source of income to farmers in Eastern Nigeria.

I am therefore calling on the Minister to see that walls are built around the prison yard at Abakaliki. It is a very important prison as such.

One other thing here I would like to mention is that the warders' barracks have not got water supply and electricity supply is not there. It is only the Chief Warder who has electricity supply. . . . (Interruption)

The Chairman : Order, order ! It is now a quarter to twelve o'clock, and under the Standing Orders I must put the questions to dispose of to-day's business.

And it being 11.45 a.m. the Chairman proceeded pursuant to Order (25th February) to put forthwith the question already proposed from the Chair.

Question, That £48,870 for Head 48—Ministry of Internal Affairs—stand part of the Schedule, put and agreed to.

The Chairman then proceeded forthwith to put successively the Questions necessary to dispose of the Votes for Heads 49 to 53.

HEAD 49—PRISONS

£928,640 for Head 49—Prisons—agreed to.

HEAD 50—MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND WELFARE

£67,560 for Head 50—Ministry of Labour and Welfare—agreed to.

HEAD 51—LABOUR

£217,870 for Head 51—Labour—agreed to.

HEAD 52—CO-OPERATIVES

£10,570 for Head 52—Co-operatives—agreed to.

HEAD 53—SOCIAL WELFARE

£72,000 for Head 53—Social Welfare—agreed to.

Question, That the Chairman report Progress and ask leave to sit again, put and agreed to.

Mr Speaker resumed the Chair.

Committee report Progress ; to sit again tomorrow.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion made and Question proposed, That this House do now adjourn.—(The Minister of Research and Information).

Mr L. A. Lawal (Ibadan East) : Mr Speaker, Sir, in supporting the Motion on Adjournment I wish to make some observations on the recent dispute in Ibadan University College.

At the inception of my speech, I would wish to express my satisfaction with the discretion employed which culminated in an amicable settlement of the University College dispute and which has saved the College from the calamitous disrepute to which such incidents are apt to drag an institution. But all the same, I cannot see how the Principal, Dr Parry, can be completely blameless as far as the University incident was concerned. After all, Dr Parry should realise that he is not the first man to assume the post of Principalship of the Ibadan University College. And if he chooses to check up from records he would discover that the recent incident is unprecedented.

It would be an unrealistic and fallacious presumption to imagine that perhaps the former Principals were not also confronted with students' problems. The fact is that when problems arose they did not side-track the issues involved, rather they rose to the occasion and found solution to those problems before the situation deteriorated.

The root cause of the University incident, in my opinion, was the poor insufficient and unhygienic diet served the students. The fencing or caging was only a secondary point. It was the outward manifestation of the grouse long nursed by the students.

The Principal, of course, cannot deny that the complaint about poor diet was lodged with him by the students through a delegation of the Students' Union to him. The Principal must even thank the students. When the complaints were lodged with him, he appealed to the students not to make a press release of it and promised to appoint a committee to probe into the matter. The Principal failed to act on his promise. The students were exasperated and frustrated and considered this to have added insult to injury and so they damaged the cage.

While I must have to condemn the rash and impetuous action of the students, the Principal himself stands condemned for his delaying tactics which led to the revolt. We are happy, however, that peace has already been restored but I must disclose here that the students are still grumbling about some restrictive measures now adopted by the Principal. In the first case it is understood that the Principal had given a ruling that the meeting of the Students' Union should not be held without the permission of the Principal who may or may not allow the holding of the meeting depending on the nature of the agenda.

In the second case, informations about matters concerning the Students' Union are always circulated round the students by pasting notices on the College Notice Board; the Principal, I understand, has disallowed this unless he is kept in the know.

I am not averse to a disciplinary measure adopted by the Principal to ensure the smooth and uninterrupted running of the College. But when discipline is so rigid as to suggest discrimination, humiliation and a feeling of inferiority complex, it becomes a problem to be tackled realistically. The Students' Union is not in any way synonymous to a trade union, and as such the Principal should not look askance at it.

In the interest of peace and efficient administration of the College, there must be an absolute *laissez-faire* on the part of the Principal and I am sure that this hon. House will not fiddle while our academic Rome burns.

Sir, I beg to support.

The Minister of Education (hon. Aja Nwachuku): Mr Speaker, Sir, the question of the recent students' disturbances at the University College, Ibadan, is a matter exclusively the concern of the College Authorities. This is in consonance with the normal procedure in Institutions of Higher Learning throughout the world where the College Authorities enjoy not only academic freedom relating to the academic syllabus to be carried out but also have complete freedom to deal with matters affecting internal college discipline. It is not a matter in which the Federal Government can properly intervene.

However, I am aware of these disturbances and some of the reasons which prompted the students to act in the manner in which they

did. It will be recalled that the students' complaints about bad food was one of the contributory factors to the recent unrest at the College. In the Report of the recent Visitation, it was stated that catering facilities for students merited high priority. This recommendation is one which is wholeheartedly supported by the College Council and by me.

Members will be pleased to know that it is proposed to build a Catering and Administrative Block and the cost of this Block will amount to £82,000 which it is proposed should be met from the Economic Programme provision in the current year's Estimates. Bulk storage facilities are needed for the Catering Department and as the number of students increases such facilities will become essential if students are to be properly and economically fed. The proposed offices for the Catering staff will be in a central position in relation to the Halls and their kitchens and in closer contact with other Administrative Staff at the College.

It is planned that this building should be placed in the centre of the College site, and land there is so valuable that a single storey building would clearly be uneconomic. It is, therefore, proposed to add two floors which will provide for a Senior Common Room, which, in this central position, would meet an important and long-standing College need, and other offices both for the Catering Staff and for other Administrative Staff which will have to be accommodated as the College expands.

I trust that the measures which we are taking in this respect will alleviate some of the grounds for complaint by the students, but I would reiterate that the question of the disturbances is entirely a matter within the competence of the College Council and it is not one in which I am prepared to interfere. If the College Council considers that they require assistance from my Ministry in efforts to remove some of the causes of the students' grievances, I am always willing to give these suggestions the most favourable consideration. As I have already said, I have already acted on the recommendation regarding Catering facilities and if the College Authorities place any more suggestions before me, they will receive full consideration.

House of Representatives Debates

1083

[Adjournment]

7 MARCH 1958

[Dispute at University
Collegse]

1084

Chief T. T. Solaru (Ijebu East): I am glad to hear the reply from the Minister on the question. I would like also to inform Members of this House that it will be doing that institution of higher learning great damage if anything is said or done in this House to encourage hooliganism at the institute of learning which we value so much. Sir I am glad to hear such a strong denial that anybody will ever agree to have hooliganism in our institution of learning. You have the University Council which is appointed by the various Governments of this Federation upon which every political party is represented and so any comment or any commendation that you pass here is not upon the Principal who never acted without the action of the Council. So anything that you said about these disciplinary measures or any other measures taken is afterwards a comment on the activities of the Council.

An hon. Member: They are not above criticism.

Chief Solaru: While the Council is not above criticism Sir, it will mean that if we are to air every grievance that the students complain of in this House, we should not let them do the job that we assign to them. Sir, it will be necessary for Members of the House not only to hear the students' side but also to investigate from people who are on the Council so that they can learn the two sides of the case before they criticise. I think that is only fair. This is not probably for me to tell you because the time is gone, but if you would like to know more about it, not only from me but from any other person that knows about it, we are quite ready to lay all the facts at your disposal. But Sir, we are assuring the House that the College will deal

very strongly with any further cases of indiscipline in the College. As a matter of fact, Members should be very sorry to hear that even now. . . . (*Interruption*).

An hon. Member: You must have caused the trouble then.

Chief Solaru: Now, we know by the utterances of some people here, those who are aiding and abetting rank indiscipline among our students—no one who is a parent will send his child to that place of learning who would want him to turn out to be a dissolute drunkard, a person who patronises drinking dens and harlots.

Now, Sir, if any effective measures are being taken to eradicate this evil, I expect this House to give full support to them, as we gave full support to the Principal.

Mr Speaker: Order, order. I am afraid Mr Obaje's Motion is not likely to get time to come on to-day, nor I think, has he got the agreement of the Prime Minister because I see the Prime Minister is not in his place. It is his duty to get the agreement of the Minister concerned to answer his point on the Adjournment.

Mr C. C. E. Onoh (Udi): Mr Speaker, when the Minister of Education told us that the question of discipline and maintenance of order in the University College is exclusively a matter for that authority, we will object. . . . (*Interruption*).

And it being 12 o'clock, Mr Speaker adjourned the House without Question put, pursuant to Standing Order 4 (7).

Adjourned at 12 o'clock until 9 a.m. on Saturday, 8th March, 1958.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
NIGERIA

Saturday, 8th March, 1958
The House met at 9 a.m.

PRAYERS

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Hon. Zana Bukar Dipcharima (Minister of State): Mr Speaker, Sir, I have the following business statement to make for the week ending 15th March, 1958.

On Monday the 10th March, 1958, the following Bills will be read for the first time:

- Criminal Code (Age of Consent) (Amendment) Bill;
- Loan (Internal Borrowing) Bill;
- Central Bank of Nigeria Bill;
- Nigerian Railway Corporation (Amendment) Bill;
- Banking Bill;
- Revised Edition (Laws of the Federation and Lagos) Bill.

Then the House will go into the Committee of Supply.

Tuesday, as usual, is Private Members Day, and private motions will be taken.

Wednesday, 12th March, 1958, Committee of Supply.

Thursday and Friday, the House will continue with its debate on the Committee of Supply, but on either of these days the House may be asked to consider other Government business. This includes the second and third readings for the following Bills:—

- Education (Lagos) (Amendment) Bill;
- Nigerian Military Forces—Royal West African Frontier Force (Amendment) Bill;
- Supplementary Appropriation Bill;
- Liquor (Amendment) Bill;
- Pensions Amendment Bill;
- Criminal Code (Age of Consent) (Amendment) Bill;
- Loans (Internal Borrowing) Bill;
- Central Bank of Nigeria Bill;
- Nigerian Railway Corporation (Amendment) Bill;
- Banking Bill;

Revised Edition (Laws of the Federation and Lagos) Bill.

Friday, 14th March, 1958 four Bills will be presented. These are:—

- Widows and Orphans Pensions (Amendment) Bill;
- Income Tax (Amendment) Bill;
- Magistrates Court (Amendment) Bill;
- Regional Courts (Federal Jurisdiction) Bill.

On Saturday the 15th March, the second and third reading of Bills not completed on Friday the 14th March, will be taken.

Then there will be another business statement for the week ending March 22nd.

Mr S. W. Ubani-Ukoma (Aba): Mr Speaker, Sir, I did not hear the last sentence of the hon. Gentleman.

Hon. Zana Bukar Dipcharima: I said, there will be another business statement for the week ending March 22nd.

ORDER OF THE DAY

THE APPROPRIATION (1958-59) BILL (FIFTH ALLOTTED DAY): COMMITTEE

House in Committee

HEAD 54—MINISTRY OF LAGOS AFFAIRS,
MINES AND POWER

Question proposed, That £484,660 for Head 54—Ministry of Lagos Affairs, Mines and Power—stand part of the Schedule.

Amendment proposed to reduce sub-head 18 by £100.

Mr Ubani Ukoma (Aba): Mr Chairman, Sir, in moving this Amendment to reduce sub-head 18 by £100 I do not have any bone to pick with the Lagos Town Council as such, but I want to comment on the collection of motor vehicle licence fees. As I have said more than once in this House we expect the Federal Government to lead other governments of the Federation, but instead of that, the governments of the Regions are leading the Government of the Federation, which is wrong. We would like them to emulate the good measures carried out in the Regional Governments and not to imitate their bad ways.

What I am saying exactly is that recently the cost of collection of motor vehicle licence fees has been increased in the Federation. I have heard groans of many people in the Federation who feel that licence fees have

been so increased that life becomes a little bit unbearable, and in saying this I would like them to consider whether they were not doing the right thing in the past for the low fees they were charged, whether they were not making more money, because this is a bad business principle for you to be defending your own cause with others when you know you might be in a position to improve your earnings.... (Interruption).

The Minister of Lagos Affairs, Mines and Power : On a point of Order, Sir, I think that the hon. Ubani-Ukoma is out of order because this sub-head has nothing to do with the increase of motor vehicle licence fees. It is there to pay the Lagos Town Council who collect these fees on behalf of the Federal Government. This is the reason why this money is inserted under this head. The increased fee of motor licences has nothing to do with the Lagos Town Council.

The Chairman : I am grateful to the Minister and I am sure the hon. Member will comply with this.

Mr Ubani-Ukoma : I do not think that I am out of order because I am making a remark on sub-head 18 which has to do with the cost of collection of motor vehicle licence fees, petroleum storage licence fees, etc. What I am saying here, if I am correct.....

The Chairman : The hon. Member was going outside the scope of the Vote which is only the rates between the Lagos Town Council and the Ministry in the payment to the Ministry of motor vehicle licence fees. The Lagos Town Council will arrange this.

Mr Jaja Wachuku (Aba) : On a point of Order, Sir. Is the collection of motor vehicle licence fees not a matter within the affairs of Lagos for which the Minister is responsible? My hon. friend is trying to call the attention of the Minister that the affairs of Lagos have been prejudiced by this increase and that he should intervene.

The Minister of Lagos Affairs, Mines and Power : I would like to inform my hon. Friend Jaja Wachuku that it is not my responsibility and neither the responsibility of the Lagos Town Council to fix or amend the licensing fees. It is the Minister of Finance and the Council of Ministers; so I think you

missed your opportunity for not raising the matter during the debates on the Ministry of Finance.

The Chairman : It is plain from the wording of the Estimates.

Chief E. O. Omolodun (Oyo South) : I am referring Mr Chairman to number 18.... (Interruption).

The Chairman : I have not yet called hon. Omolodun. I wish to hear Mr Ubani-Ukoma.

Mr Ubani-Ukoma : It must be conceded to me to be able to know what I am saying and what comes under sub-head 18. What my learned Friend Mr Jaja Wachuku has said is to assist me to continue in making my remarks. If I have made these remarks under other Head, the same Minister would have said that I was out of order. So this is the only opportunity I have.

The Chairman : I think it is very plain from the wording, 'reimbursement of the cost of collection of motor vehicle licence fees.'

Mr Ubani-Ukoma : But if I have not got a chance to criticise the principal, I have a right to criticise the Agent; that is the position here.

The Chairman : Not now. The hon. gentleman has missed it; it is too late now.

Mr Ubani-Ukoma : All right, Sir, I think it is better for me to accede to the request of the Chairman but I want to make this.... (Interruption). I leave this question of cost of collection of motor vehicle licences and I come to other fees.... I think I have the right to say something about the auctioneers licence in Lagos, the fees charged?

Under the Lagos Town Council Ordinance, Auctioneers' licences are issued to the holders on the security of two persons. These two persons have to secure the Auctioneer by equal sums of £250 each. Now, there is a practice here that even when this Auctioneer is a man of substance and is able to produce £500 one time in cash and hand over to the Lagos Town Council, they refuse. They say they want two sureties even if this Auctioneer has property and his property is worth £5,000, and says "I want this to be my surety, or I deposit my deed," the Lagos Town Council say No, they want two people.

The Lagos Town Council say no. We want to ask the Minister whether this is a good way of running departments. Why is it not possible for the man to collect the money, the more so that he has sent in £500 until the man has defaulted one way or the other? I want to point out that many auctioneers are grumbling, and that we should see to that immediately that whenever anybody offers his security or cash to the Lagos Town Council it should be accepted. That is one of the reasons why I felt that they do not need money, and that £100 should be cut off from this Head. I move.

M. Abdu Sule (North West Idoma): Mr Chairman, Sir, I rise to oppose this amendment as proposed by the hon. Ubani-Ukoma. In his speech I find he has not been able to make any tangible reason why this Head should be reduced by £100.

Now, Sir, I would like to make some observations here. There is no doubt that the Minister of Lagos Affairs is a very busy Minister, and that we all appreciate the ability with which he has been dealing with this question of Lagos Slum Clearance.

The Chairman: Order, order. That must come later. This is such a small point I think we had better finish with the amendment now.

Amendment put and negatived.

Mr R. T. Alege (Kabba): Mr Chairman, Sir, I beg to move that this Head be reduced by £10. Mr Chairman, Sir, you will see that under this Head £50,000 is set aside for the reclamation and restoration of mining lands. I would like this sum to be used, and to include the reclamation and restoration of mining areas of Okeri in the Western part of Kabba Division. This part of Kabba Division has been mined quite a long time, and the people of that area could not have their land for farming. The area has already been spoiled. The people are compelled to go far away from home for a distance of 20 to 30 miles to make their farms for their local crops. So, if this amount is used fairly, not only for the Plateau areas, but to include this area, it would be better.

It is also found that £2,810 is voted for semi-permanent or temporary buildings. I am suggesting that instead of making a temporary building or semi-permanent building the Government should try to use this amount for

a better building, and then when you will not need the use of the building any longer the local people could purchase the building and this one, again would give the Government a certain amount in their purse.

The mining area in Kabba Division has long been occupied, and for a long time the people have never been given any compensation for their land, whereas during the last world war the Nigerian Government, or the British Government, realised there was a lot of columbite in that area, but for no rewards the people were only deprived of their agricultural land.

With these remarks I beg to move.

Amendment proposed to reduce the Head by £10.

M. Baba Daradara (East Central Kano): I now rise to congratulate the Minister and his staff for the services rendered during the year, and in doing that, Mr Chairman, I wish to make certain remarks.

Mr Chairman, Sir, a lot has been said repeatedly about the urgent need for more development in the rural areas. It is now the right time for both our hon. Ministers and we the Floor Members to make every necessary possible move to seek for all means and ways of extending similar urban developments to the poor rural areas, otherwise we shall be failing in carrying out our duties as elected representative members in this hon. House, for our different electorates. We do this, Sir, in order to win more confidence of our electorate and by doing that, Sir, we are no doubt making a concrete foundation on which to stand for the forthcoming Federal general elections, and I am pretty sure, Mr Chairman, that the more we develop the rural areas the better, and the more of us would be returned unopposed.

In my constituency, which is Wudil, in Kano, I beg to repeat again, Sir, that it is only 27 miles from the Kano Power Station, and we have one Junior Primary School, we have one Teacher Training Centre, we have a big Veterinary Clinic, and we have the biggest cattle market in the whole Northern Region and last, but most important, we have a mighty crafts centre. We have a number of commercial established firms. All these I have mentioned, Sir, are situated in Wudil Town, and it is also the base of the great river known as Kogin Kano.

Mr Chairman, there is a great need for electric power in that town which is, I beg to repeat, only 27 miles away from the Kano Power Station, and the Kano City, and I am humbly prostrating before our hon., generous and powerful Minister of Lagos Affairs, Mines and Power, appealing to him to spread his power along this short distance of only, I repeat, only 27 miles in order to provide electric power in this town Wudil. I hope the hon., able Minister will give my humble request first priority and very favourable consideration for early action to be taken. And thereafter, Sir, I beg to add that all neighbouring district headquarters of the same distance should be provided with electric power.

The Chairman : May I just remind the hon. Oba Aiyeola that that particular corner over there is extremely bad for acoustics, and I ask him to speak as loud as he can, if he will.

Oba Adetunji Aiyeola (Ijebu Remo) : Thank you Mr Chairman. Last week there was a Private Members' Motion asking Government to supply mobile post offices in various parts of the rural areas. Under this Head, I would like to touch on the question of electricity. In Ijebu Province, it is a well-known fact that the money which is available for the supply of electricity to towns like Ikorodu, Shagamu, Iperu, and Ijebu-Igbo, was provided on loan to the E.C.N. by the Western Regional Government. I think, Sir, that the Central Government has not done enough to give sufficient funds to the E.C.N. to supply electricity to the towns in the Western Region or towns in other Regions of the country. My point of argument, Mr Chairman, is that it appears to me that the money which is available is not even sufficient to get electricity into various nooks and corners of the places concerned.

Mr Chairman, it is common knowledge amongst the people in the rural areas that once you begin to supply amenities to one section of the town the other section of the town will not be pleased at all if they are left out since they are going to pay general rates, and I appeal to the Minister for Lagos Affairs, Mines and Power, to see to it, that money is made available to the E.C.N. in sufficient amount so that electricity may be supplied to towns in the Western Region, especially in Ijebu Province.

Next, I would like to refer to the question of contributions in respect of health services. I think this referred to Lagos, and a Member was speaking here yesterday on this matter, when he said that the health services in Lagos were very bad, and some Members said that the health services were a matter for the Lagos Town Council. If the Federal Government is in a position to give contributions for Health Services in Lagos, I see no reason why the Minister should not see to it that health services in Lagos do improve.

Mr Chairman, I would like now to refer to the question of land registering in Lagos. It is common knowledge that there is a lot of litigation arising out of the sale of land to people who would like to build houses in Lagos. I think the system of land registering in Lagos should be modified so that litigation is minimised as much as possible.

Mr Chairman, I do not propose to ask that this Head should be reduced by £10, but I would like to refer to the question of Geological Survey. Although the Regions do interest themselves in Geological Survey, I think it is the duty of the Federal Government, because they have the money available, to do this survey. In my own town, Shagamu, about two years ago, a farmer came to me with some sort of hard deposit, and I had to go to Ibadan and had consultations with the Geological Survey Department there. When the survey came out, it was reported that something called pyrites was found, but I expected the investigation to go on, but since then nothing has been done. Now that the Government has given an undertaking to carry out a geological survey of the Western Region, I hope that this survey will be extended to all nooks and corners of the Regions, especially in my own Division, where something has been found.

Mr F. T. Odum (Ahoada) : Mr Chairman, last time I was trying to bring out a case in which my Constituency is very much interested. It was in 1956 or 1957 that a Bill entitled "The Oil Pipelines Ordinance" was introduced into this House. Now we allowed the Shell Company or any other company to prospect for oil in Nigeria, and very fortunately, oil has now been found at Oloibiri and Afam. Well it may be in other parts of Nigeria.

There was no mention of paying landowners where the pipeline passed. Neither was there any mention as to the question of royalty or any payment to whatever section in which this oil is found. Now that the company is trying to lay a pipeline from Oloibiri to Port Harcourt, when laying this pipeline, it will have to pass Oloibiri, Kugbo, Oduala, Abua, Abandele, Urumagpo, Isoba, and then Diobu, which is near Port Harcourt. In laying these pipes they have to cut down farms and destroy other property. Apart from that, I think the law was that an area one hundred feet wide was to be allowed for the purpose of laying this pipe. Now during the course of laying this pipe the company had to cut up the bush, but negotiations between the Government and the Agents were not made. There was no law made in this House as to what they are going to pay the landowners.

What I am saying is that the company went to the landowners and in some places they paid £1 for an acre of land. Please note, one hundred feet of land is given to somebody to build a house and no agreement is made. Why then in the course of the year a man must get at least £30, but I am surprised to note that when the poor natives went to the oil company to make negotiations, no better negotiations were made.

Now, I turn to Head 55—Land, Sub-heads 11 and 12.

The Chairman : Order, order. We are not on that Head now. You must delay your remarks on that until we come to that Head.

Mr Odum : No, Sir, Head 54—Item 4—Federal Adviser. I think the Government has made a step now to get someone to advise Government on Petroleum, and that is why I am trying to bring my case so that the Government will consider, and especially the Minister of Lagos Affairs, Mines and Power, if it is necessary that such land should be taken without paying anything to the landowners, because the Government has got the force to extend these laws to wherever the poor people have been cheated for their land.

Why I was quoting Item 55, though we have not got to that yet, I may not get time to speak again, but there is a special place there in which it is stated that this money will be paid to the people, for example, now, people who own this land. That is what I was trying to quote.

It says special expenditure items 11 and 12 under Head 55, that is compensation for disturbance. The allowance I am referring to is a question of compensation for disturbance. The people who have this land where the pipe goes now are losing. I think they should be compensated; they pass through farms, these crops on the farms are uprooted, they pass through villages, some houses are removed. The compensation between the Government and the land owners is not sufficient, that is where I want the Government to try and see to it that some arrangement is made for compensation of land. Where you go to a rich man you give him more money, where you go to a bush man you give small money, I cannot understand that. So I want the Government.....

The Chairman : The hon. Member keeps getting on to Head 55, he is talking about sub-heads 11 and 12 Head 55, we are on Head 54.

Mr Odum : I would advise the Government to allow a certain amount of money to be paid to the land owners. I am in agreement with having the oil but I am now talking particularly on those who own the land where the pipeline goes, that something must be done; and I want the Minister of Land, Mines and Power to consider the case.

M. Usman Angulu Ahmed (Kwara) : Mr Chairman, Sir, I beg to support the Amendment on this Head. I am supporting it because no classification has so far been made or contained in the draft Estimates with regard to a definite policy concerning the exploitation of our vast mineral deposits. Although sub-heads 32 and 33 make provision for certain mineral activities connected with mining in the plateau I am, therefore, anxious that a statement should be made by the Minister in connection with huge mineral coal deposits in Kwara Division. Mr Chairman, Sir, huge coal deposits were discovered in Koton Karifi hill some years ago, but the Government has never given a date as to when exploitation of this coal deposit in Koton Karifi is expected to commence.

Recent events have made it imperative for a statement to be made in this House by the Minister, whether these deposits are to be exploited for the betterment of the country. Nobody can doubt the place of coal as a motive power in the development of industries. No prospective industrial nation ever relies

on one coal field for its needs. It is for this reason, Sir, that I am appealing seriously to the Government to think of developing other newly discovered coal fields, particularly those in Koton Karifi.

This demand of mine has even been made positive by the announcement made a few days ago by the Minister of Transport that the Headquarters of the Inland Waterways Department are to be removed from Lagos to Lokoja. This should, Sir, be a good reason for the immediate development of this newly discovered coal. It will also be a solution for the much requested needs for some electrical power to the people living around this area. This is why, Sir, I am urging that the vote for which an approval is being sought for sub-heads 32 and 33, should not be used for the plateau mines fields alone. A part of this vote should be utilised in assessing the extent of coal in Koton Karifi areas which have been found to contain coal.

There is no doubt, Sir, that production of coal in this area will prove an economic undertaking. This is more so when one considers the natural geographical position of Koton Karifi, Lokoja and the surrounding districts. It will provide more jobs for our men and women. As Members fully appreciate, every established industry, more especially if the industry is mining, brings us to a further milestone in our economic Independence.

Finally, Sir, I should like to place on record my thanks to the Minister for the brilliant working operations for the exploitation of huge deposits of marble stone at a place 15 miles from Lokoja.

Sir, another important request is about electricity for Lokoja town. Our dynamic Minister of Lagos Affairs is well aware of the increase in both population and industry in Lokoja, the Headquarters of Kabba Province. I have every hope that the Minister of Lagos Affairs, Mines and Power, will not forget this historical city of late Lord Lugard, the first Headquarters of the High Commissioner in 1900, before it was transferred to Zunguru in 1902 and shifted to Kaduna, the present Headquarters of the Northern Region, in 1917. I hope, Sir, the Minister will give his sympathetic consideration to see that Lokoja is being given light.

With this I beg to oppose.

Mr F. E. Turton-Hart (Special Member): Mr Chairman, Sir, speaking on this Head I would like to confine my remarks to Lagos affairs. I hope this is in order. I think since our last Budget Session, Lagos affairs has come under the hon. Minister and I think that we who live in Lagos are to be congratulated that we have such a popular Minister in this office. Since taking the affairs of Lagos into his hands the Minister has started something in which we are all interested and that is what we call "the beautification of Lagos."

I would like, with respect, to draw his attention to the amount of water that there is round Lagos. All the great capitals of the world which are considered to be beautiful or attractive, have water in them or around them, I would refer to Rome, Paris and Budapest. I would like to suggest that when the Minister is considering further planning of Lagos, he should remember that it is an island and that the many places on the island shore are not very attractive and in some cases they are even unhygienic. People of all types like to go to Victoria Beach. But the road is as bad as any road in the Lagos area. (*Hear, hear*). The bridge over the Five Cowry Creek is in a very poor state indeed and we have heard that it might be replaced. We have also heard that it might be substituted by a causeway. My purpose in raising this point is to suggest that to put a causeway there would spoil a very nice stretch of water which, when the land on the Victoria Island opposite is properly developed, could be one of the nicest parts of Lagos. The Hon. Minister of Finance lives there and perhaps he might support me in my plea that to close in that piece of water would really spoil what would one day become a very attractive place.

There is one other point, Mr Chairman, which concerns all of us here, and that is traffic congestion in Lagos. (*Hear, hear*.) At a certain time during the peak period, movement is absolutely impossible, and on one occasion last year there was a traffic jam which extended without hardly any interruption at all from Apapa to the Marina by Cable and Wireless. The whole traffic of the town was brought to a standstill. The cause of that was the closing of Broad Street completely.

I know of no capital city in the world where the largest shopping street would be closed completely over a large section for months at a time. It seems to me a completely wrong approach to a problem. The published statement said that it was done for engineering reasons; that it would be unsafe if it were not done. Sir, with respect, I suggest that careful examination has already shown that there was no technical difficulty in keeping it open; it was a financial one, because to keep it open would cost more than was originally allowed. But the cost to the public as a whole by closing it and continuing to close it in sections is, I think, beyond comprehension.

It might be interesting to refer to the fact that in the United Kingdom it is estimated that traffic congestion and the slow moving of traffic cost the country £500 million a year, and if the speed of the traffic could be increased by only one mile an hour, it would result in the saving of £38 million. Now our traffic and our areas are not quite as large as that, but I do feel that many people who deal with roads from the question of maintaining them and making new ones do not understand the cost to the country when they slow the traffic down. And, in addition to that, there is the financial effect on business people. By closing the road completely those people are caused tremendous losses.

I feel that if the hon. the Minister should re-examine the situation, he will find that the narrowest part of the Broad Street has now been re-opened and that the succeeding places which it is planned to close are increasingly wider, and I do feel that after a second examination, it should be possible to keep this main street of our town open to one way traffic. The present intention after Broad Street has been completed, is to close Balogun Street and when the second section of that is closed, there will be no access from the Marina or Broad Street to Carter Bridge except up Martin Street or around Elegbata-Marina, and the traffic congestion caused by all vehicles coming in and out of Lagos will produce the chaotic conditions that we had in October and November last year, and I am most honestly asking if this matter could be re-examined because all sections of the Lagos community are suffering financial loss by this closing of our streets.

Mr Jaja Wachuku (Aba): Mr Chairman, Sir, I think to start with, I have to congratulate the Minister and the Ministry staff for the achievement that has been made by that Department in the field of mineral discovery in this country. I am particularly interested in the oil production because the first load of oil from this country comes from my constituency and from my Friend's there, Rev. Bens' constituency at Afam and Oloibiri, and therefore we have cause to congratulate the Ministry for making it possible for the company that is exploring for oil to continue to be patient and to spend the capital there invested in order to make that discovery possible.

But, Sir, while I congratulate the Ministry together with the Report that it produced recently about our mineral resources—it was quite useful to me quite sometime ago elsewhere when I was with my friends over there trying to make people appreciate the potentialities of this country—I would say, Sir, that oil and a lot of minerals that have been discovered are wasting assets, and being wasting assets, as the Minister has done so well at this exploratory stage, I sincerely hope that he will be more vigilant still to make sure that nothing be done to prejudice the good work he has done so far, that is that the interest of Nigeria would be very adequately protected, because while the oil gets out it does not come in; and when iron gets out from the soil it does not come in. The same thing with gold or whatever mineral it may be.

Therefore, Sir, it is very gratifying to see that provision is being made for Petroleum Adviser. In that, Sir, in making that provision, I would like the Minister to state to this House what is the policy of the Ministry in associating Nigerians *ab initio*, that is at the very initial stage now, in the new industry that is likely to develop in this country. Has the Ministry any definite programme for training up Nigerians so that when it turns out that when there is a refinery there will be no question of lack of staff in Nigeria to be able to assist the Company, or find Nigerians who will be employed to work there instead of importing people from outside? Are we going to wait until it has been declared that we can produce this in commercial quantities before an attempt would be made to produce these people?

House of Representatives Debates

1099 [Appropriation (1958-59) Bill : 8 MARCH 1958

Committee]

1100

Secondly, Sir, I would like the Ministry also not to conclude any permanent agreement without keeping this House well informed, and without studying the procedure in Italy, South American countries, in India and other Asiatic countries where oil has been produced, and also in other countries (*Several hon. Members : Good talk !*) because oil has been the under-current of a lot of differences in other countries.

So that we must be very careful that our politics do not deter the development of the country. Oil is a very useful asset but it can also be a very destructive asset, in the type of background policy that can be played. I do not want to go into this, Sir, but I have applied my mind in a particular direction and I know that certain difficulties do arise when agreements are not properly drawn up between countries. I want the Minister to be extremely vigilant on this matter and the Ministry should make a study of all the possibilities at hand, and ensure that proper agreements are entered into with any company that may discover oil in this country.

Sir, I want to say again that this Ministry is responsible for on the revenue side the items that can be found under Head 4 ; hon. Members will see there at page 11—mining fees, royalties and so on, items for which this Ministry is responsible, items 54, 55, 56 and 57. Therefore I want to say, although in the Order of the Day the Minister might notice that a lot of amendments are in my name in connection with the various Heads, that I am interested in the policy of the Ministry in respect of *all* the various Heads, particularly with reference to Nigerianisation. I would ask what policy this Ministry contemplates to produce in the near future in relation to those various Heads 54-57? I would like a public statement on this point.

Now, Sir, it is very necessary that this House should be well informed, otherwise we may make mistakes and if we do in ignorance the Minister cannot blame us. Therefore I am asking us most sincerely to do everything possible to keep this House informed of what is going on.

Now with regard to these royalties, what is the principle guiding the royalties in respect of various minerals? When I mentioned Head 4, some of the items under this Ministry, we find that with regard to oil, the memorandum at

page 203 states: "Production for the year 1958-59 is estimated at 6,000 barrels daily, as stated in a speech made by the Hon. Minister of Land, Mines and Power in the House of Representatives on the 4th March, 1957. This figure would give an annual production of 2,190,000 barrels or 325,000 tons, on which the royalty payable would amount to £65,000."

Sir, I think that we should know what the principles are behind this, and how these royalties are worked out. What is the basis? What is the policy? What is the basis for this figure of 2,190,000 barrels, or 325,000 tons, I think this figure is too small. I would like the Minister to tell us what are the principles behind this. What is the policy and on what does he base his calculations? I would like the Minister to give this information and not only on oil, but on tin, iron and all the other things discovered in the Northern Region.

Now, Sir, what security has the Minister worked out for the inhabitants of the area where these minerals are discovered? People in my constituency as far back as I can remember have raised this matter, and the people in Aba want to know what security the Minister will give them in respect of their land. Suppose it turns out that there is a discovery of oil at Soku, that is between Oloibiri and Afam, in commercial quantities. What does the Minister intend to do for the security of the inhabitants there, and how is he going to protect their interests? I would like to know for if I know I can tell my people not to be afraid because the Minister is there, the Minister of Lagos Affairs, Mines and Power is there. . . . (*Interruption*). . . . but I cannot say things in ignorance, and that is why I say, Sir, that it is very vital that the Minister should let us know.

Sir, turning to Lagos I want to support my hon. Friend, Mr Turton-Hart. We were attacking the Minister of Works, but Lagos Affairs is in the hands of the Minister of Lagos Affairs, Mines and Power. I want to ask the Minister, is he not interested to relieve the congestion in Lagos? I am sure he is very much interested. Is it not necessary therefore to consider the possibility of putting a bridge from the end of Broad Street across to the new road which goes to Apapa—the new two mile road, along the other side of the lagoon to Apapa as a means of relieving the present congestion? It has been suggested that

another bridge should be built on the right hand side of Carter Bridge, but I would say that this will not relieve the congestion, it will only relieve the bottle-neck on Denton Causeway. I think that if a bridge is put across from the end of Broad Street to the new road, it would be helpful. It might be expensive but if sand can be shuttled about and land reclaimed thereby,—it has been done along the Marina, near the Customs area, and at other places, on Ikoyi Island, I think it is possible therefore for both sides to be reclaimed.

I also want to mention that there is a market, Jankara, which is a shocking disgrace. . . . (*Interruption*); well I think it is Ebute Ero; any way this market is a shocking eye-sore to the people of this country. It is a terrible disappointment and the Minister, what is the Minister doing? This is a very serious matter and I hope the Minister is taking note.

Now, Sir, there has been a suggestion for the Minister of Transport and others, and I think a good suggestion, that Victoria Island should be developed. It means, as the hon. Mr Turton-Hart has said, that when planning for the development of Lagos, landscaping must be taken into consideration. In the past people have not been interested in the beauty of this place, or what could be made of it. We have a number of beauty spots that could be made use of. For instance, Sir, why not build a road round Ikoyi Island and link it up to join the Marina, as a promenade. There is another thing, Sir, we are to have a new bridge at Cowrie Creek.

Why should we not have both the road and the bridge along Cowrie Creek, running from there to the lagoon? Is there nothing in that type of thing? How are we going to attract tourists, what would they enjoy? You hear of various beauty spots, but that is a mystery here. Roads are virtually temptations to tourists passing. Why should we not make roads the centre of attraction in Nigeria to the point where tourists would crave to come to Nigeria? And then when we go to the Cameroons, Jos, they too will be beauty centres to which people can go. And I ask the Minister of Lagos Affairs, Mines and Power to consider this matter seriously and use both his wit and power and everything at his command to do something about this.

Sir, I know many Members want to say something, so I will not go any further. Sir, I ask the Minister to make a statement in respect of all the things that I have said and in respect of what other Members have said, so that Members will be well-informed to know what to take back to their people, to educate their people to understand the policy of the public relations department under the Ministry of Lagos Affairs, Mines and Power. (*Applause and hand-clapping*).

The Chairman: May I remind the Committee that clapping of hands is not allowed as a means of applause.

Mr L. J. Dosunmu (Lagos East): Mr Chairman, I am in entire agreement with all the points that hon. Jaja Wachuku has made in respect of Lagos. I think I could not have put it better. But I would like to underline one particular point which he made, and that is in respect of Ebute Ero market. There is no doubt that that market is an eye-sore and a disgrace to the Federal capital of Nigeria. (*An hon. Member: Is that the Jankara Market?*) No, it is the Ebute Ero. It is the duty of the Federal Government to see that that market is not only demolished, but another one, a decent one, put up in its place, and that could only be done by the Federal Government granting a substantial loan to the Lagos Town Council that is responsible for markets in the Federal capital. Everybody knows that the Municipal Council has not the finance to build a market of that kind, and I think if application for the rebuilding is submitted to the Minister of Lagos Affairs, Mines and Power (*An hon. Member: Are you making that application now?*) he will use all his powers to get that loan granted.

Well, having said that I want to invite the attention of the Minister to a short item under the Ministry, and that is subsidies to chief, Item (11). Some years ago, some chiefs in Lagos used to receive subsidies from the Government. But upon their death Government saw fit to abolish the subsidies. Although the chieftaincy titles are still in existence and members of the family do succeed to these chieftaincies, the Government upon the death of those chiefs or the holders stop the payment of subsidy.

It might be said that the payment of the subsidy was personal to those chiefs but if that was the answer forthcoming from the Minister, I submit that that was all right in the days of the

white administrators in the Secretariat who divided the chiefs into two factions, made friends with one section and did not make friends with the other. They chose to give subsidies to certain chiefs, and among them was the late Obanikoro. They were receiving subsidies, but upon their death, Government stopped the payment of subsidies to those who succeeded to the titles.

The Government has said in one of its Sessional Papers, that the Lagos chiefs are part of the administrative machinery for Lagos. And if a case had been made there of payment of subsidies to chiefs I should have thought, Sir, that there was no justification for discrimination in the payment of subsidies to certain chiefs and not to others. So I would like the Minister in his usual sympathetic manner, to look at the case for payment of subsidies to chiefs, and to restore the payment of subsidies not only to those chiefs who succeeded to titles in respect of which payments had previously been made, but to see whether he cannot also make payment of subsidies to the other traditional chiefs of Lagos.

Mr H. O. Akpan-Udo (Ikot Ekpene): Mr Chairman, I am grateful to Members who have to-day raised the question of sanitation in Lagos as some of the points raised yesterday were supposed, to be raised under misapprehension. I wish to add, Mr Chairman, that if so much is to be paid out for conservancy in Lagos, the Minister should see that night-soil is less carelessly handled in several parts of Lagos. It is not unusual to see this stuff properly parcelled up and thrown into the streets, or dissolved into the gutter as one passes along the streets of Lagos. We hope this will be discontinued.

An hon. Member : That is the work of the Lagos Town Council.

Mr Akpan-Udo : Yes, but we have a Minister of Lagos Affairs, Mines and Power, and we are giving grants to the Lagos Town Council for this.

Mr Chairman, Sir, I wish to raise the question of electricity supply. I note from the Budget the sum of £4 million being set aside for development and improvement of electricity schemes in a few large towns in this country, and that Aba is one of these few towns. I take it about a million pounds will

go towards the development or improvement of the electricity service already being enjoyed in Aba township.

For some years now the people of Ikot Ekpene have been agitating for an extension of electricity service from Aba to Ikot Ekpene, and the distance is only 24 miles. If the power station at Aba is to be improved at such a large amount, I think it will serve the purpose by the power station being so located that it can serve both Aba and Ikot Ekpene, and it can be so located that it can serve Uyo, Abak and even Oron and Eket, perhaps Itu town, if they want electricity too. But to spend so much money on the power station for Aba and locate it in Aba so that the extra power cannot be used elsewhere, I think is rather indiscreet.

I know that the bulk of the palm produce comes from the area of Ikot Ekpene, Abak and Uyo (I know also that Aba is part of the palm produce area), but Ikot Ekpene, Abak and Uyo produce the best palm oil in this country, mostly grade one and special grade. But when we produce the oil and kernels they have to be shipped to Apapa where soap and margarine are made. Why cannot soap and margarine be made in the area of the production of palm oil and kernels? It is because we have not got the power to work the machines. So we want this power station to be so located that it can work the machines in the factories where soap and margarine and other by-products of palm oil and kernels can be produced.

I know the Minister will tell me that soap is being produced at Aba. Yes, but that is in Aba; we are talking of Ikot Ekpene, Uyo and Abak and the other areas in Calabar Province, which are producing palm produce, which is the chief product of the area. I would like the Minister to take the matter seriously now.

For some years the usual reply has been that it will not be economical to extend electricity to Ikot Ekpene, but I am aware that the Minister some time ago gave the undertaking that he would release a scheme for the supply of electricity to the smaller towns in this country.

I am taking this opportunity to ask for a statement on this scheme for electricity for small towns. We cannot continue like this indefinitely while electricity is being enjoyed by a few large towns in this country, and I think the Minister should seriously consider the supply of electricity to the smaller towns.

The Chairman : I do appeal to the Committee to try and get this Head finished within the next 20 minutes otherwise we shall have very little time left for other business.

M. Maitama Sule (Kano City) : Now, Sir, I rise to speak on something which I think affects every Member of this House. One cannot fail to be concerned about the situation in which Nigeria now finds itself as a result of the international tin agreement, an agreement that has affected adversely not only the miners, but also the labourers employed on the mines. The second point of this agreement which concerns Nigeria, is, that Nigeria which is assured of about 5.8 per cent of the total world supply must now therefore export less tonnage than she has hitherto exported. We realise, however, that this restriction has become necessary because of the fluctuation in the tin market, but we are sad to note that this restriction may have to last for about 5 years at least.

A more unfortunate thing, however, is the question of the 8,000 labour that has had to be laid off. This, although it has been described elsewhere as being surprisingly small, is certainly large, large enough to affect the economy of the country in one way or another. Under these circumstances, therefore, one can safely say that this international tin agreement has hit Nigeria twofold. It has cut down Nigeria's exports, even though in the long run we are made to understand that it cannot be very detrimental to the economy of the country, and it has also been the cause of some 8,000 losing their means of livelihood.

It should be appreciated, however, that the future will not be as gloomy as it has been recently for tin will always be in great demand for various manufactures in the world. But one is left to ask, Sir, what is the future of these 8,000 labourers or workers? In what way can we help them? Various suggestions have been put forward, one of which is a cut in pay and in the hours of work instead of this big retrenchment. This could have saved a lot of these workers losing their jobs.

Another is the setting up of industries as soon as possible in the area affected so as to absorb the labour laid off. This second suggestion I think will solve the problem permanently. I would humbly suggest another third method, and that is speeding up of the

harnessing of the Kura Falls on the Plateau which the Government has already decided upon. The supply of electricity, Mr Chairman, in a roughly-industrialised country like Nigeria is necessary as the demand is daily growing as a result not only of consumers whose consumption is comparatively too small, but also of industries springing up every day like mushrooms. A cheap supply of electricity must be sought. If the Kura Falls are harnessed it will be killing not two birds with one stone, but as many as three birds. It will supply electricity cheaply, two, it will supply labour, and three, it will help encourage these small industries. I do hope, therefore, that the Minister of Land, Mines and Power will not hesitate, and he has never hesitated over anything that is to the benefit of Nigeria, to forge ahead with something so that these people will have something to do.

Now, Mr Chairman, let me come back nearer home. Let me come back to Lagos, the chanting of the Minister and ourselves here. During the second reading of the Appropriation Bill, an hon. Member made a very important point. He said it was not enough to clear Lagos of its slums, the people of Lagos must be helped to build the houses by Government giving them loans. Sir, I am glad that the Government has established a Building Society which for the meantime caters for Lagos and as I understand it this building society caters for the workers only. I would like to see all sorts of people from various walks of life who are deserving cases, of course, given these loans to help them to build their Lagos again. I do not think it is the intention of the Government to commercialise Lagos and make Suru Lere the residential area of Lagos, but unless the Government does something that is what is likely to happen.

Finally, I would appeal to our Northern brothers resident in Lagos to take whatever opportunity the Government offers them in order to help them, because sometimes they do not see an opportunity unless it is too late.

Mr Chairman, I would appeal to the Minister of Land, Mines and Power to keep an eye more than ever before on land in Lagos. We have seen the appalling situation in which certain people of Africa find themselves, a situation

that has arisen as a result of some foreigners owning the land of the indigenous natives of the country.

Some people are now employing another "ways" system of acquiring land through which they grab the land unnoticed. In all applications for land, Mr Chairman, the Minister must clarify that it is the very applicant and not anyone else that is going to have the land. Furthermore, I do not personally see the wisdom of acquiring land on lease for 99 years by an individual and not a firm. I do see, of course, that a firm of repute can get a lease for 99 years, but one is left to wonder as to whether the whole question should not be revised to suit our modern needs. Already we have been fortunate in land ownership, following Lord Lugard, and we must remember that land belongs to the natives of Nigeria. Let us not be too slack to allow this heritage to be lost through the "ways" system of some aliens.

Mr Chairman, I beg to support.

The Minister of Lagos Affairs Mines and Power (Alhaji the hon. Muhammadu Ribadu) : Mr Chairman, Sir, I would like to thank hon. Members of this House for the many nice things said about my Ministry, and I assure the House that this is an encouragement which will make my staff and all the Departments that come within my portfolio to tighten their belts in order to increase their efficiency in the Ministry.

Now, Sir, I will try to reply to some of the points raised during the debate. Beginning with Lagos. I would like to say, Sir, that it is gratifying to note the growing appreciation of beauty, and the desire of hon. Members to see that Lagos is made a capital city worthy of the Federation of Nigeria.

Sir, the Federal Government is doing its best, as hon. Members can see the signs, in trying to beautify the look of Lagos.

The question of sanitation in Lagos has been raised. I entirely agree with hon. Members that the sanitation in Lagos is appalling and I will do my best to see that this is improved.

The question of traffic control in Lagos. I cannot agree more with what an hon. Member has said. We are not being idle on this matter. We sought the expert advice of somebody who is knowledgeable about traffic

systems. He came out to Nigeria and will return at the end of March, and I think between him, the Police and the Lagos Town Council and other interested bodies, they may be able to produce a report which will be acceptable to this House, and it will go a long way towards solving the traffic problem in Lagos.

The question of Victoria Island has also been mentioned. In the reply to the Private Members' motion last Tuesday, the House was informed that it is the intention of Government, and subject to funds being available, to develop that island.

Already we have the money available for the construction of Five Cowrie bridge; the question of that bridge being in a very deplorable position will no longer exist. But the Victoria island, as hon. Members know, is a very wide island and its reclamation will cost a huge sum of money and hon. Members know the funds at our disposal. Unless we can develop that island at the expense of other things which I think are equally necessary, then the question of developing that island will take a long time. However, it is the intention of Government to start developing the island in stages.

Now, Sir, coming back to the question of mining, some hon. Members referred to sub-head 32 and sub-head 33 and suggested that the money could be utilised for something else. I would like to remind the House that a long time ago an arrangement was made to pay £500,000 to the Northern Regional Government for reclamation of mines fields in the Plateau and for this money to be paid over to the Regional Government by instalments, that is £50,000 per year. This is the reason why this money has been provided in the Estimates. It is there, Sir, for this purpose and this purpose alone.

One hon. Member referred to the question of compensation payable to landowners in whose land pipelines pass through. I would like to inform the hon. Member that this is a matter between the company and the landlords. The protection is in the law. It says that if there is ground for objection and if the company and the people concerned fail to come to an agreement then they will refer the matter to either the District Officer or finally to the Minister who will then intervene, but as far as I know such an occasion has never arisen.

An hon Member : They have written a petition—a petition has come to your office.

The Minister of Lagos Affairs Mines and Power : I do not know who is responsible for writing the petition. I do not know if it is the people who are actually affected. I have never heard anything by way of complaint from them ; it is the question of somebody owning the land.

The hon. Jaja Wachukwu spoke about the agreement with Oil Companies. Well, Sir, I think this is very good advice and we have nothing to hide. If there is any agreement between the Government and the companies, the information will be made available to this House provided that it would not be subject to debate.

An hon. Member : Why ?

The Minister of Lagos Affairs, Mines and Power : The Council of Ministers or the Minister responsible is your obedient servant and I think you should have confidence in him and he will have the interest of Nigeria at heart, and therefore you will rest assured that he will never do anything inimical to the interest of Nigeria.

Sir, as the question of training Nigerians has already been mentioned, I would like to inform my hon. Friend Mr Jaja Wachuku that four Nigerians have been sent to Holland, to study oil business.

An hon. Member : That is good but it is not enough.

The Minister of Lagos Affairs Mines and Power : I know it is not enough but we have not got enough men to send. It is always all right to say it is not enough. All that Members say in this House will end here unless you can go to the Schools, University and Colleges and encourage our youngmen to come forward, then the situation will be improved.

An hon. Member : Are we recruitment officers ? The Minister is not serious.

The Minister of Lagos Affairs, Mines and Power : I am very serious. One hon. Member has also mentioned the deposit of iron ore. I will inform this House that the deposit of iron ore has been found in the Northern Region and the Eastern Region, but the duty of the Government is to discover mineral deposits and then to see to it that people

interested in it come and develop it or exploit it. But the iron ore which we have found in this country cannot be attractive to any foreign company and the only course open to us is to try to establish a melting plant in order to produce pig iron which will be consumed in this country. Again we are up against some difficulties because our noncoking coal cannot be suitable for this kind of work. So now, we are seeking advice from the people who are expert in this field but it will take a long time before the result is known.

The same hon. Member also mentioned about coal. Well as I told the House some-time ago, unless we can try other usages for our coal the possibilities of opening other coal mines are remote, because now, I can say we have unlimited reserves of coal in this country and also oil has been discovered in the country.

An hon. Member : Where, where.

The Minister of Lagos Affairs, Mines and Power : I am sorry—all over the world. There is plenty of oil in the world and oil can also be utilised instead of coal : it is a matter of which is cheaper, but if we can produce our coal at cheap rates, it will be able to attract foreign market.

The question of electricity, Sir, has also been mentioned by several Members. I know, Sir, it is the wish of hon. Members of this House to see that these amenities are extended to every nook and corner of the country. But that would be an ideal thing. Before that ideal can be practicable there are so many limiting factors which will have to be removed. When we talk about extending electricity to rural areas, we seem to forget one thing. Electricity is not like one of the social services, trunk roads, or hospitals which the people can go and enjoy without having to pay for it. Electricity, whether you use it for industrialization or domestic purposes, you have to pay for it ; and it is not easy to pay !

At the present stage of our country's development, as I said repeatedly in this House, we cannot afford, to enjoy electricity in the way it is being suggested in this House, but when we have heavy industries in this country which will consume vast quantities of electricity, and then they will be responsible principally for

bearing the cost of electricity and running an undertaking, that is the time when everybody in this country would enjoy electricity.

As hon. Members are aware, the E.C.N. is the organisation for supplying electricity in this country, but hon. Members should be aware of the difficult stages through which the E.C.N. has passed. Hon. Members will also remember the annual subsidies paid, to the E.C.N. It is only now that the E.C.N. has been able to lift their heads above the water. So it would be very inadvisable to expect the E.C.N. at that time to contemplate establishing new undertakings.

But now, as I have said, they have been able to make two ends meet so there is now a proposal for expansion of electricity throughout the country. (*Hear, hear.*) In regard to that the E.C.N. has selected twenty-nine urban areas....

Several hon. Members : Name them. Name them.

The Minister of Lagos Affairs, Mines and Power : I have not got the list here. And these towns, according to the E.C.N., should prove economically viable in the long run.

Again, Sir, the question of capital outlay is a problem which will cost something in the neighbourhood of £1½ million; the possibility of getting it from the Federal Government is very, very remote and I am now suggesting or, rather, I should say, I have the intention of going round all Regional Headquarters to hold discussions with the Ministers concerned to see whether this capital requirement would be forthcoming. (*Applause.*)

And capital is not only the problem. The running cost of these undertakings will be something in the neighbourhood of £400,000 and out of this sum about £160,000 would be a deficit, at least during the initial period. If any Regional Government is interested in the scheme it has to be made absolutely clear that it will provide the capital and at the same time agree that it will underwrite losses during the initial period.

The question of community development has also been mentioned. It is quite true that I informed the House of proposals with regard to that, but the E.C.N. and some Regional Governments who are interested are still

investigating the possibility of supplying rural areas with electricity. I think it would not be an undertaking which would run for 24 hours. It has to be a very small plant which can only operate in certain periods of the day, that is to, say from 6 p.m. to midnight. This is the only way at the present time in which we will be able to supply electricity to rural areas.

The Chairman : I do hope the Committee will let me get this Head off now.

Chief N. G. Yellowe (Degema) : Mr Chairman, I am glad to be allowed to speak to this Motion. If our Ministers would give Members full time to discuss matters coming under their jurisdiction before they speak, I think a lot of trouble would be saved.

The Minister has told us just now that he has selected about 29 urban areas for the supply of electricity, and some rural areas for the supply of electricity. Personally, Sir, I would like to know what these areas are. He told us that he has not got the list here but, Sir, I would like the Minister to place on record this : Degema Division is growing day by day (*Interruption*)... Mr Chairman, I crave your protection.

It is growing day by day. There is what I call some unnatural tendencies in our Council of Ministers. They always vote out the water areas in their schemes and planning. I call that a very unnatural way of doing things because we all know, every school boy knows, that this earth on which we live consists of two-thirds water and one-third land, so that it is a very unnatural way of doing things if they always leave the water areas out of their calculations in governmental affairs.

Now, Sir, I think that unnatural way of thinking is due to a very, very erroneous thinking of some old administrators who put it down on record that the middle man would be driven far afield. For a very long time now, successive governments have been harping on that. The result is that every part of the water area, especially the rural water area, is left out of government attention.

Now, Sir, I want to talk of production or the production we have in the dry land. These are palm kernels and palm oil, but may I ask, Sir, which is the part of Nigeria that is really producing something beneficial to the economy of Nigeria and the Federation as a

whole. It is the water area, and as long as you think of taking everything to the dry land so long will there be trouble. Even when we talk of palm oil and palm kernels, I think that the COR State area produces more of these palm products than any other part of the Federation. Our output of palm oil and palm kernels is greater than any other part of the Federation.

The Minister of Lagos Affairs, Mines and Power (Alhaji the hon. Muhammadu Ribadu) : There is nothing like a COR State in the Federation of Nigeria yet !

Chief Yellowe : You will hear about it very soon !

Mr Chairman, Sir, may I ask which is the production area for this Federation? You have oil in Oloibiri, that is on the Rivers Province; you have oil in Soku, that is directly in the Degema, Rivers Province; you have oil in Krama right opposite Degema Station; you have oil in Bonny. These are all the minerals that we look for which should make up the industry to stabilise the economy of this great country we call the Federation of Nigeria. Why must these places be left out of the calculations of the Government. That is what I call an unnatural tendency. That is my point, Sir, and I want the Minister of Lagos Affairs, Mines and Power to extend his power to Degema Division and see that Abonema with its twenty thousand population, gets electricity this year. We must have electricity in Degema Division, *now*. We do not want to go to Owerri or Ndizuogu to enjoy electricity.

Mr D. N. Abii (Owerri) : You must come to Owerri !

Chief Yellowe : Yes, we will come to Owerri, and you should also come to Degema Division, but we do not want to have to go to Owerri to enjoy electricity, we want to have it in Degema Division.

This matter of taking everything to the hinterland is only bringing people to the waterside to cause trouble, because we, the people in the water area are the people who make the money. We make the money.

Mr Chairman, Sir, I am going to repeat this unnatural tendency on all the Heads on which I am permitted to speak, because I will show this honourable House that we in the rural areas, chiefly in the Rivers Province

and particularly Degema Division, have been treated very, very unfairly. We have done nothing to have to be put there, but we are there, and we have no roads, no bridges. . . .

The Minister of Communications and Aviation (Chief the hon. S. L. Akintola) : That comes under another portfolio.

Chief Yellowe : I am sorry I was not here at the Posts and Telegraphs Head, or I would have told the hon. Minister the injury he has done to Degema Division, and especially that we are still without a post office at Buguma after all this time.

Mr Chairman, I want to tell the Minister of Lagos Affairs, Mines and Power, that we want his power to be felt in Degema Division *now* and not just in urban areas. We want his power to be felt in all these towns in the rural areas where there is need for electricity.

The Chairman : I really do doubt if we are going to be able to get through. We have got three-quarters of an hour left and I do not know how many of the Heads we have still to do.

Question, That the Head be reduced by £10, put and negatived.

Question, That £484,660 for Head 54—Ministry of Lagos Affairs, Mines and Power—stand part of the Schedule, put and agreed to.

The Chairman : I would just point out that we usually have a break in the middle of the morning, but I do not intend to have one this morning. It is impossible to sit here for three hours on end and talk much; it is a great strain, so I would ask the Committee not to worry a lot with interruptions.

HEAD 55—LAND

Question proposed, That £219,750 for Head 55—Land—stand part of the Schedule.

Mr L. L. Lakunle (Oyo North): Mr Chairman, Sir, in rising to support the expenditure under this Head, I want to congratulate the Minister in charge of this Department and also his able staff. I have nothing but praise for the Minister of Lagos Affairs, Mines and Power, and the staff under him. For the Minister has been our faithful and obedient servant and has been discharging his duties very satisfactorily. The staff under him too have been very polite, and we are grateful to them.

However, I want to advise the Minister that land must be extended in Lagos. There are some areas which can still be reclaimed and I want the Minister to see to it that all these places which can be reclaimed are reclaimed. I want again to tell the Minister that he should please take note that as long as expatriates are at the head of affairs in the department there will always be a tendency for them to allocate or to use reclaimed lands for the benefit of Europeans. I want to tell the Minister to see to it, that all lands reclaimed in Lagos are used for the people of Lagos and Nigeria generally.

Mr Chairman, I beg to support the Head.

M. Sanni O. B. Okin (North Ilorin): Mr Chairman, I must be brief. Before I say anything about this Head I have to congratulate the Minister of Lagos Affairs, Mines and Power for his able way and patience in solving all the complicated problems confronting Lagos, with particular reference to Central Lagos Slum Clearance and Lagos Housing Scheme. There are complaints from the people of Lagos who have been affected by Government's decision on lands and property. It was agreed, Mr Chairman, that the compensation paid to them was quite inadequate to meet the present cost of the amenities these people previously enjoyed.

Mr Chairman, as we know, clearing operations have automatically converted some of the landlords in Lagos into tenants. Sir, it is a very serious situation and must be looked into and the position adjusted by the Minister of Lagos Affairs, Mines and Power, without any further delay.

Mr Chairman, it is noted on page 16 of the second Progress Report on Economic Programme 1955-1960, you will find that the Management Committee has not been formally constituted and no advances have been made up to date. The hon. Members of this House will be very pleased to know from the Minister the cause of Government's inability to do so.

Mr Chairman, the people in Lagos are very seriously inconvenienced and their complaints must be looked into as quickly as possible. Mr Chairman, I beg to support.

Mr T. O. S. Benson (Lagos West): The point I would like to make under this Head, Sir, is the extension of the Federal Territory of Lagos, at least 20 miles. I am appealing

to the Minister on this point. The C.M.S. Grammar School, formerly at Broad Street, Lagos, is now at Bariga in the Western Region, the airport of Lagos is at Ikeja in the Western Region. Even the water we drink in Lagos is at Iju in the Western Region. Suppose there is trouble between the Western Region and the Federal Territory, anything can happen. The people in Lagos may be poisoned. All the matters of Lagos are at Mushin and Agege, they are all in the Western Region, and yet we say here is the Federal Territory. So I am appealing to the Minister to extend the boundary of the Federal Territory of Lagos to at least 20 miles to include Otta and Ikorodu and even the extension should be to the former boundary of Lagos.

Apart from this point, the Minister of Lagos Affairs is our own friend and I need not repeat further that he is our darling in Lagos here. (*Chief T. T. Solaru : Why the extension ?*) The hon. Gentleman on my left may speak when we are talking about Ijebu-Ode affairs. We are now speaking on matters of Lagos.

Mr N. A. Ezonbodor (Western Ijaw): Mr Chairman, Sir, I would like to support our Chief Whip T. O. S. Benson and when Hon. Benson is speaking I feel no other person should speak and oppose him in the affairs of Lagos because he is our accredited representative from Lagos.

Mr Chairman, what I want to say in this item is that there is a point I would like to raise in this House. We have Forcados and then there is a rumour that the land there is sinking and all the Federal Departments are running away from that place. I was trying to move a Motion to enable me to hear from the Minister of Lagos Affairs, Mines and Power whether the wild story purported to get all the Federal Departments there away to Warri, is true, and if it is true, whether the land is still fit for human habitation. If it is not fit, let all the people there quit the land. The rumour there is absolutely too wild to say that the land is sinking below the sea level and that every Department should quit. The Ports Authority is quitting, and the Inland Waterways is quitting. Why, Sir? That was the first place that had seen the light in Nigeria. But the greatest surprise to the people is that we feel that the Government is trying to improve areas, and this area has not fully been improved, and yet all the Federal

Departments are quitting that area to Warri and Igbudu.

So, Mr Chairman, Sir, we are very much afraid if it is true that the land is sinking, surely there is a way in which the Minister could reclaim the land.

Mr Chairman, Sir, I would like the Minister to see to this point.

Alhaji Aminu Tafida (North West Sokoto): I rise to support this Head and in doing so I should like to make a few observations. Sir, I should like to point out to the hon. Minister that in Sokoto, where I come from, we have native limestone which we use for white washing buildings. Yet the same stuff was used during the last Great War for building purposes. Soon after the war, when building materials became available, this stuff was completely discarded. I now want to suggest to the Minister to investigate into the possibility for supplies of this lime and to see whether it can be utilised as cement. With these few remarks I support.

The Minister of Research and Information (Chief the hon. Kolawole Balogun) 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 £219,750 for Head 55—Land—stand part of the Schedule, put accordingly and agreed to.

HEAD 56—GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

Question proposed That, £123,080 for Head 56—Geological Survey—stand part of the schedule.

Amendment proposed to reduce the Head by £10.

Mr L. L. Lakunle (Oyo North): Mr Chairman, Sir, in his speech from the Throne, the Governor-General of the Federation of Nigeria, stated that a thorough Geological Survey of the Western Region, and then the whole of the country, would be undertaken before long. In the Budget speech too, the Minister of Finance told us that the potentialities of Nigeria are great. He said that we have hardworking and willing people ready to exploit them.

The only thing I want to tell the Minister is that when it is time to undertake the survey of the country and particularly the Western Region, I would appeal to him to see to it that

the whole of Oyo North, that is my constituency, starting from Iseyin, is thoroughly surveyed. We have many mountains there from Iseyin extending to Okeho, Iganna, Shaki and Igbetti, and I am sure that there will be mineral wealth buried under these mountains. If the Minister can do this I think we shall be very grateful to him and it will definitely add to the revenue of the country too.

I have nothing against the Department; I have said all that I want to say and I do not want to move that the Head be reduced but I would like to support the expenditure under this Head, if possible.

The Chairman: The Amendment has now been moved.

Mr M. A. Ajasin (Owo South): Mr Chairman, Sir, I just want to ask the Minister of Lagos Affairs, Mines and Power about his programme of training of Nigerians for the Geological Survey. I find in the *Staff List* revised to 1st October, 1957 under Geological Survey, that the Director of Geological Survey, the Deputy Director, one of the Assistant Directors and the Principal Geologist are all men holding doctorate degrees. That shows that that Department requires men with very high qualification. So it is necessary that the Government should relate its training scheme to the needs of the country.

It is not sufficient to say that we want Nigerianisation. It is not just people in the clerical section that can be moved up to the higher rank in this Department. It is necessary that Nigerians should be trained. So every time that the Government is contemplating inviting applications for scholarship, there should be real planning. The number of vacancies in each Department under the different ministries should be carefully considered. Government should have a plan that on an important item like this they should be able to award scholarships. It is no good awarding scholarships for things like ordinary nursing which people go to England for and are paid to maintain themselves and the Government spends a very little amount of money. In this country we want that the minerals which are in the land should be known.

At present, it is very difficult to get these foreigners to come out. It is not only that we have these few experts in this Department;

there are several vacancies in this Department too, but we cannot fill them because it is very difficult for these people to come out. When they come out, also there is the question of divided loyalty. Although we can rely on a good many of them, we must view this very seriously. Why is it that important countries in the world would not like to have foreigners in their civil service? It is the question of divided loyalty. We want people who will be absolutely loyal to the country. And it is absolutely necessary, Mr Chairman, that the Minister, in preparing his programme of training, should award more scholarships and should so relate the programme to the needs of the country. (*Hear, hear.*)

Mr. Chairman, I beg to support.

The Minister of Lagos Affairs, Mines and Power (Alhaji the hon. Muhammadu Ribadu) : Mr Chairman, Sir, the question of training Nigerians under the Geological Survey Department is uppermost in my mind. But I would like to say this : it is very difficult to persuade our young men to come forward and take geological survey as a career. (*Some hon. Members : Why?*) It might be due to the work being arduous ; it takes one away from the family ; one has to spend most of his life in the field and in the laboratory where concentration is needed.

But, Sir, the Government will try its best to see that young men are attracted to this job.

I would like also to endorse what the hon. Member who has just spoken said. There is need for geologists all over the world. As I told the House the other day, as we are here trying to find out what nature has stored for us under the ground, it is so all over the world today and therefore it is the market of geologists, and if Nigerians, go abroad and qualify as geologists, you will find one or two of them will not like to come and work for the Government of the Federation of Nigeria. I can remember one instance, Sir, during my tour to the States, I met one Nigerian who is a geologist and he acquired all the practical knowledge because he worked in the mines in Canada. So when he came to see me, I promised him that on his return to Nigeria he would be absorbed by the Geological Survey Department. But what happened? When he returned he has now been given an appointment by the Shell Company. (*Several hon. Members : Yes, because it is more attractive.*)

On the question of the geological survey throughout the Western Region, I would like to say, Sir, that this is the intention of Government. But I would like to sound a note of warning. Geological Survey is a research work. It is a very slow process, and the result will not be out overnight. So when one hon. Member sees that the team is concentrating in one part of the country, he should not think that they are wasting time. It is a research work. It needs patience and it will take a long time before the result is out.

Mr Jaja Wachuku (Aba) : Mr Chairman, Sir, I only have a very short point to make on that. My purpose for adding my name to the amendment there was really to find out from the Minister what programme he has of training. My hon. Friend, Mr Ajasin, has raised this matter and the Minister has spoken now.

But he raised one further point which will confront the Government not only in his own Department but also in any other departments. He says that those qualified Nigerians have other attractions now. He referred to one who was taken by Shell. In other words, at the moment you find competition for taking qualified Nigerians between the Federal Government and private companies. I would say, not only private companies but also the Regions. It is not only confined to this department but in other departments and I can tell you the reason why.

In the first place, when these people have very good qualification and have the experience, they are given very fine appointment, very attractive conditions even in the United States and in the United Kingdom. But so far, here what do they get from the Federal Government? Not even half the terms they have over there. I have a case which I will deal with when we come to the Public Works Department. A man who was a highway engineer in the State of Ohio, had all the qualifications required ; when he arrived here they refused to give him quarters although quarters were here. In the case of Shell, not only salary ; they give them everything required by a professional man. But when they come to the Federal Government, what happens? If the Minister will investigate he will find that they do not get it. They will even prevent them from getting quarters when quarters are

vacant. These people cannot come and suffer like that. They want somewhere to lay their heads.

I would like the Minister to investigate the reasons why these qualified Nigerians when they come back do not like to come to the Government.

So I want the Minister to try again because these should not only be confined to primary degrees, they should also be extended to post-graduate degrees and particularly in this higher technical and professional sphere of geological survey.

The Minister's efforts should not in any way be lessened. He should do everything possible. I am sure that if a concerted effort is made by him and his Department, Nigerians will come forward. There should also be inducement. If inducement allowances are paid to expatriates I think the time has come when the Federal Government should give them to Nigerians. The Regions are doing so and at this rate the result will be that the Regions will take them and a vacuum will be created in the Federal Administrative Service.

I am asking the Minister in respect of his Department to use his influence because the time has come when the African should be considered in the light of his qualifications, his experience, and what is done for other members of the Public Service.

The Minister of Research and Information (Chief the hon. Kolawole Balogun) rose in his place and claimed to move, That the Question be now put.

The Chairman : I believe the Minister of Lagos Affairs wishes to reply, but after that I will put the Question.

The Minister of Lagos Affairs, Mines and Power (Alhaji the hon. Muhammadu Ribadu) : I would like to say only one word in replying to what the hon. Mr Jaja Wachuku has just said. I do not want the House to have the impression that in regard to training Nigerians for geological survey we are not doing anything.

Mr Jaja Wachuku (Aba) : No, I did not say so.

The Minister of Lagos Affairs, Mines and Power : Well, I would like the House to know that to train a person for this job takes four years, and we have at least four Nigerians

being trained overseas. Two of them who were trained in the United States have now come back and joined the Department.... (Hear, hear).

Question, That the Head be reduced by £10, put and negatived.

Question, That £123,080 for Head 56—Geological Survey—stand part of the Schedule, put and agreed to.

HEAD 57—MINES

Question proposed, That £102,690 for Head 57—Mines—stand part of the Schedule.

Mr M. A. O. Olarewaju (South Ilorin) : Sir, with good intention I would like to withdraw my amendment but I would like to make a few requests to the Minister. We believe that out of the 29 urban areas, Ilorin is included in the proposal for electricity. Secondly, I would ask the Minister to use his good offices to see that the waterfall in my constituency is investigated for the supply of electricity....

The Chairman : Am I wrong in thinking that this does not come under this Head ?

Mr Olaweraju : Mr Chairman, Sir, I beg to withdraw.

The Chairman : Does Mr Ikeh wish to move his amendment ?

Mr B. O. Ikeh (Abakaliki) : Yes, I wish to move to reduce the Head by £10. But there is one important thing I would like to say about this lead-zinc mining at Abakaliki. The Minister told us in 1956 that Government had underwritten a sum of £350,000 towards a target of £1 million required by the lead-zinc mining company for further development, with a view to tapping this mineral deposit. I wish to know whether the rest of the money was obtained and if it was, what is delaying this lead-zinc mining at Abakaliki ?

Again, I wish the Minister to realise that the people are being deprived of the use of that land, and if nothing is being done there it is very bad, because they themselves have no legal right to go and farm there because the company has acquired it.

I would ask the Minister to take a serious view of this delay because if the company is not interested it should give way to another company. The oil company which discovered

oil has started work, but this company that discovered this lead-zinc five years ago has not yet started to work there. . . .

An hon. Member : How do you know ?

Mr Ikeh : There was a report on it. . . .

An hon. Member : What page ?

Mr Ikeh : Well, you had a copy sent to you last year. One other thing I would like to say under this Head is that there is a tendency for the Regional Governments to establish certain mining companies, etc., which may be in great competition with our newly-established industries in Nigeria. For instance, the cement factory at Nkalagu, and there are other Regional Governments thinking of establishing cement factories now. Well, I think it will not be in the best interests of Nigeria to bring in other companies which will be in direct competition with our newly-established factories.

With these few remarks, Sir, I don't want to move my Amendment.

The Chairman : That is not really playing fair by me. I asked the hon. Member if he wished to move his Amendment and it was on that understanding I called him.

Mr Ikeh : Oh, in that case, Sir, I beg to move.

Amendment proposed, That the Head be reduced by £10.

The Minister of Lagos Affairs, Mines and Power (Alhaji the hon. Muhammadu Ribadu) : Mr Chairman, Sir, I sympathise with the hon. Member who has just spoken. I too am not happy about the delay in developing the lead-zinc mine at Abakaliki. I would like to say that the delay was inevitable because the first company which showed an interest in this project pulled out, and then another company which would have liked to develop the mine, could not get sufficient capital to do so.

We tried to do it in another way, that is the Federal Government, the Eastern Regional Government together with the company were to provide the capital, but as the Federal Government demand was to provide the largest proportion of the capital it should have control of the mine ; but the company concerned was not agreeable to this demand. The company is now trying instead to raise some capital, and how long it will take the company to do so I do not know.

Why foreign capital could not be made available for the work and in other words, why people from abroad could not be interested in the development of the lead-zinc mines at Abakaliki, is because the price of lead-zinc in the world markets is falling, and so it has been very difficult to attract any foreign capital. But, in view of the fact that the quality of the lead-zinc mine at Abakaliki is very good, it may be in the near future, and providing the market is brought back to normal, that we would be able to find some other people to come and develop it.

Question, That the Head be reduced by £10, put and negatived.

Question again proposed, That £102,690 for Head 57—Mines—stand part of the Schedule.

Chief T. T. Solaru (Ijebu East) : One question, Sir, in last year's Estimates we find you put in an item entitled "Geophysicists." Have you changed their title, or have you entirely removed it ?

Secondly, Sir, talking about personnel in the section for Mines and Geologists, you will find they are specialist people. Therefore, when you get trained Nigerians, it seems to me a complete waste of their training to get them dismissed on frivolous charges.

Sir, this is one of the ways in which our efforts at Nigerianisation are being sabotaged. When people have committed offences against the General Order, or when they have claimed falsely for travelling, the best thing to do, in order not to incur public condemnation, is to hand them over to the Police. But where such a matter is being dealt with departmentally and the Head of Department is saying : "I find that you are guilty of claiming falsely, therefore you are dismissed," you must consider that you are saying this to a Sub-Inspector of Mines, who has taken years and years to acquire his qualification, and is a way of putting difficulty in our Nigerianisation scheme.

I am saying, Sir, that when a person has been charged with such a serious crime, let the Police and the Courts decide it, and dismiss the man. But for the Head of Department to say : "I find you guilty and off you go", for such a trained personnel I think it is not helping the department. If he wants more details I will give it.

Mr N. A. Ezonbodor (Western Ijaw): Mr Chairman, I would like to make a very important statement on this Head, and that is that we of the Niger Delta do not know how the Federal Government came about making an agreement with the oil mining company now operating in our area. As I said earlier in this House, that if 12½ per cent is being paid as royalties to the Government, half of it should be paid to the natives. If this does not happen and since the people are now fighting to get their own states, in an independent Nigeria, we shall get outside people to come to exploit the oil there. Because definitely at present we are reaping nothing (*Several hon. Members: Which is your area?*) The fact is that the Western Ijaw people are interwoven with the Brass people, and oil has been discovered in our area (*Shouts of "One Nigeria"*).

Mr Chairman, Sir, what I am saying is that we are very much serious about it. It is a thing that could even ruin the whole of Nigeria. Discovery of oil in a place is not a joke, and then if the oil prospecting company are not checked by proper agreements, they are just allowed to go on discovering oil and the natives of the area are not benefitted the people will rebel as things go on in Nigeria. Civilisation and its rays are touching everywhere now. What is the need if the people will have nothing to gain?

Further, the company goes on to pass laws, construct pipelines and destroy properties and do all sorts of things. What is the legal obligation? Surely some amount of money is being paid to the Federal Government by this oil company, but the people do not know. When the Government is only busy on improving the already improved areas, leaving the rural areas in darkness, do we think the natives in these rural areas know whether the Federal Government exists or not. That is just the point. The Federal Government must do something practical for the people.

So that what we are saying is that some arrangement should be made to see that the natives of the area of discovery of oil should receive some benefit. Without this, the people in the Niger Delta are making a statement that these oil companies should stop forthwith. Eventually we are going to be independent and we shall get our own states; at that time we shall bring independent people to exploit the oil.

Mr J. S. Tarka (Jemgbar, Tiv): Mr Chairman, Sir, I understand from reliable circles that the gold mines in Sokoto will be re-opened.

I think that is a very timely decision, if it is true. And I am registering my appreciation to the Minister concerned with the issue.

I want to go forward to suggest to him, Sir, that we will be very grateful if, at the same time, the gold mines in Minna will be re-opened as, I think, it will ease the employment tension in the North, and will give jobs to those people from the South who have been disgracefully kicked out of the North's civil service.

Question, That £102,690 for Head 57—Mines—stand part of the Schedule, put and agreed to.

HEAD 58—VALUATION UNIT

£14,940 for Head 58—Valuation Unit—agreed to.

HEAD 59—MINISTRY OF RESEARCH AND INFORMATION

Question proposed, That £902,100 for Head 59—Ministry of Research and Information—stand part of the Schedule.

Amendment proposed to reduce item (1) of sub-head 1 by £10.

Rev. E. S. Bens (Brass): Mr Chairman, I rise to move the Amendment standing in my name. Sir, in moving the Amendment, I would like to confine my observations to the Department of Fisheries. Mr Chairman, in my opinion that department is redundant and should be scrapped.

I happen to come from a constituency in which a section or a greater part of the people are engaged in the fishing industry. And I would have thought that any good research work that is carried out by the Federal Government would directly be of benefit to my people and to myself.

For years now the Federal Government has been indulging in the research of the Fisheries industry in Nigeria without good result; not a single catch, not a single ton of fish had been produced. I want the Minister to make a statement here.

Mr Chairman, the fishing industry is a very complex one and it follows that fishes immigrate in our waters. Therefore most of my people follow the fish; now they follow it right down to the Cameroons and beyond to the coast of French West Africa. Mr Chairman, others are coming westwards; they have

come to Lagos area ; others are now in Accra and some are going beyond Ghana. What I am saying is that if the fishing industry is developed in Nigeria, it will check depopulation in Brass, and people will make a comfortable livelihood from it.

Mr Chairman, Sir, I beg to move.

Mr S. F. Nwika (Ogoni) : Mr Chairman I rise to support the Amendment but also have an Amendment in my name to reduce the head by £10.

It does not matter Sir, to what extent we industrialise this country. This country will always remain an agricultural country and therefore it is imperative that we should pay attention to the agricultural sector of our economy.

Now in the Eastern Region the population is increasing and there is a tendency on the part of the people to disregard the traditional fallow methods ; as a result, there is loss of fertility in the soil and this has also resulted in the lowering of production and of yield. In the Northern Region also Mr Chairman, variability in seasonal rainfall causes changes in periods of production. Now there is a time when you have abundance and there is another time when you have scarcity. Now this is caused because of lack of storage technique.

I should have thought Sir, that the Ministry of Information and Research should disseminate information on the various ways of improving agricultural production in this country but so far, Sir, that is not being done by the Ministry. Now in view of the importance of food crops in the economy of this country Sir, I think the Ministry of Information should give priority to research in agricultural products

Now, Sir, I notice also that in Head 60 sub-head 28, there is another special vote allotted to rust research in maize. I do not know why this should not be transferred to sub-head (1), agricultural research. I think that the £16,610 voted for this is a waste of money and should be scrapped.

Now I also go to Fisheries. The fundamental principle of education is to begin from the known to the unknown. Now the Ministry of Information and Research seems to reverse the procedure. Now, there are men right from Badagry to Victoria who are fishermen.

I do not see the sense in going right into the hinterland to create ponds in which fish should be reared when there are people who already know how to fish.

And it being 11.45 a.m. the Chairman proceeded pursuant to Order (25th February) to put forthwith the Question already proposed from the Chair and the further Question necessary to dispose of the vote under consideration.

Question, That item (1), sub-head 1, be reduced by £10, put and negatived.

Question, That £902,100 for Head 59—Ministry of Research and Information—stand part of the Schedule, put and agreed to.

The Chairman then proceeded forthwith to put successively the Questions necessary to dispose of the Votes for Heads 60 to 65.

HEAD 60—AGRICULTURE (RESEARCH)

£198,990 for Head 60—Agriculture (Research)—agreed to.

HEAD 61—FISHERIES (RESEARCH)

£46,190 for Head 61—Fisheries (Research)—agreed to.

HEAD 62—FORESTRY (RESEARCH)

£78,320 for Head 62—Forestry (Research)—agreed to.

HEAD 63—VETERINARY (RESEARCH)

£186,320 for Head 63—Veterinary (Research)—agreed to.

HEAD 64—INFORMATION

£193,000 for Head 64—Information—agreed to.

HEAD 65—PRINTING AND STATIONERY

£288,930 for Head 65—Printing and Stationery—agreed to.

Question, That the Chairman report Progress and ask leave to sit again, put and agreed to.

Mr Speaker resumed the Chair

Committee report Progress : to sit again upon Monday next.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion made and Question proposed, That this House do now adjourn—(The Minister of Communications and Aviation).

Mr Speaker : I have six applications to speak on the Adjournment of which the first was Chief Omolodun.

Chief E. O. Omolodun (Oyo South) : Mr Speaker Sir, I am sorry, neither the Minister of Finance nor the Parliamentary Secretary is on this floor and they are supposed to give replies

to my Motion. In this respect I am begging your honour to leave it till next week.

Mr Speaker : I will try and call the Chief next week.

Mr O. C. Agwuna (Awka) : I rise to draw the attention of the Minister of Research and Information to the portrait of the Prime Minister put in front of the entrance to this Chamber. I have two observations to make. The portrait is made by M. Maurice Filvet. I have never admired his art for many reasons. But that is out of the issue. The point is that there are two things to say about that painting. One is the background, and the other is the image itself.

If any Member looks very closely at that image he will discover that the colour of the Prime Minister on that board is brown, whereas, as we all know, the Prime Minister is black, ivory black. Now, the only thing black about the Prime Minister there is the moustache, the eye lids and the beard. I feel it is a very wrong representation of the Prime Minister.

Number two, in painting we use the brush to illustrate the force of character of a man. You find that the brush is used only on one side of the face, which means the painting does not bring out all the force of character of the Prime Minister. I feel that something should be done to that.

Again, if you examine the background you will find that a colour similar to the colour of plywood is used to paint the background. . . . (Interruption). I am only illustrating the colour . . . (Interruption). Well Mr Speaker, the colour of the background is what you call yellow ochre. We invariably use that colour to show desert or semi-desert, and you find that the whole background is painted in that colour, which gives the impression that half of the country is either desert or semi-desert. I think this is also a display of ignorance of the geography of the country. Even the North itself is neither desert nor semi-desert.

Now, in view of this point of view about the background and the colouring of the image itself and the shading, which should show more force of character of the individual, that painting should be removed entirely, or scrapped. It does not matter whether it is given to us as a gift from the man, or whether we paid for it. As a matter of fact, if you have a photographer, or if you ask for an artist to paint you, and you

find that the painting is bad, even though you may have paid very highly for it you can destroy it and get another painting.

A thing like this which depicts the symbol of the nation must be of the highest artistic performance. Hence I said that the whole thing should be set aside. You should send out invitations to artists, whether they are Nigerians or alien, so that we have a very good production to symbolise the nation.

The Minister of Research and Information (Chief the hon. Kolawole Balogun) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I think that the artist of the portrait in question would regard it as a very great honour that the work which he has done has been given such a conspicuous mention in this hon. House. There is no doubt that art is one of those fields in which there is room for a great deal of controversy. A great number of people hold different opinions on any given aspect of art, so that whenever there is disagreement of this nature I think it is a very healthy disagreement indeed, and that is the spirit in which we take the speech which has been made by the hon. Mr Agwuna.

All I can say at this stage is that all the points which have been made by him will naturally go to the notice of the artist himself, and other people who may be interested in doing the portrait of not only our gallant and hon. Prime Minister, but also other leaders of the country in future, and I feel happy that this will be on record, and that it will one way or the other influence the opinion of Mr Maurice Filvet and other artists who might be interested in the future.

So I take the opportunity to thank the hon. Gentleman for mentioning this matter. Thank you.

The Minister of Communications and Aviation (Chief the hon. S. L. Akintola) : Personally, I appreciated the point made by our new artist. . . . (Laughter). . . . hon. Agwuna. But there are two types of art, the layman's art and the expert's art. As far as my own layman's eye is concerned, that portrait is one of the best I have ever seen. On the other hand, I dare not challenge the authority of so eminent an expert as Agwuna. I will only promise that when he produces his own portrait of the Prime Minister, I promise to be one of those who will contribute to the cost of that portrait. Until then, this is the best. (Applause).

House of Representatives Debates

1131

[Adjournment]

8 MARCH 1958

[Portrait of the
Prime Minister]

1132

The Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Research and Information (Mr O. Bademosi): Mr Speaker, further to what has been said on this painting, I have to make one correction. There is no jet black colour in Africa. It is a shade of brown and chocolate. If the Prime Minister had been painted black, well, it would not be true to life, and it will not be true to the real colour of the hon. Gentleman. There is no jet black colour in Africa. It is a shade of chocolate, or brown, or yellow, whatever you call it—And, Mr Speaker, with regard to the background of the picture, I have to say this, that it is true the colour ochre could be used to represent desert, but in that particular picture it could be interpreted as a ray of sunshine behind the Prime Minister. Therefore, Mr Speaker, in agreement with what has been said on this by the two previous speakers, I feel that that painting is the best we have seen of its kind. (*Applause*).

Mr T. O. S. Benson (Lagos West): Well, Mr Speaker, I am not an artist from Ile Ife,

but as Fani-Kayode is not here to-day I would only go on to say that the portrait is a good one.

Chief T. T. Solaru (Ijebu East): Mr Speaker, Sir, it is very good to have this light entertainment at the end of a very heavy day, and it is a very good thing that we are having our good friend and new artist, Mr Agwuna, to supply the entertainment, but it seems to me that a war between artists should not be carried to the Floor of this House, neither should we be called to be judges as to who is the victor and who is the vanquished in this struggle. If anybody thinks that he is a better artist than that one, he is quite entitled to his own claim. Whether that is a gift or not, that thing is very welcome, and when we get a better picture, of course we shall appreciate it very much. Thank you.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved, That this House do now adjourn.

Adjourned accordingly at two minutes to 12 o'clock until 10 a.m. on Monday the 10th of March.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
NIGERIA

Monday, 10th March, 1958

The House met at 10 a.m.

PRAYERS

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

*O.64. **M. Abubakar Garba** asked the Minister of Commerce and Industry, how many private industries have received loans or grants from the Federal Government during the last three years in the Federal Territory of Lagos, the Southern Cameroons and in each of the three Regions.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Commerce and Industry : I refer the hon. Member to my reply given in the appendix to the Official Report for Monday 24th February to Oral Question No. O.10. For further information I refer him to page 4 of the draft Capital Estimates for 1958-59 which gives details of all direct investments made by the Federal Government in industry namely, in the Nigerian Cement Company Limited (operating in the Eastern Region), the Nigerian Hotels Limited (operating throughout Nigeria, but not in the Cameroons) and the Nigerian Housing Development Society Limited (operating in Lagos). In addition, the Federal Loans Board has made twelve loans to industrial concerns, all in Federal Territory.

*O.51. **Mr R. T. Alege** asked the Minister of Internal Affairs how many cases of slave dealing and child stealing were reported and dealt with in the Southern Cameroons and in the Federal Territory of Lagos during the year 1957.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Internal Affairs : During 1957, two cases of slave dealing and four cases of child stealing were reported and dealt with in the Southern Cameroons. During the same period, no case of slave dealing and seven cases of child stealing were reported and dealt with in the Federal Territory of Lagos.

*O.59. **Mr J. L. Nsima** asked the Minister of Internal Affairs what steps he is taking to combat kidnapping which is now prevalent in the Federal Territory.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Internal Affairs : I invite the hon. Member's attention to the reply that I gave in the recent debate on a Private Member's motion proposing an increase in the maximum penalties for Kidnapping, Deprivation of Liberty and Slave Dealing. The Acting Attorney-General has given a general direction under section 306 of the Criminal Procedure Ordinance that all charges in the Federal Territory of Lagos for offences under sections 364 (Kidnapping) and 369 (Slave Dealing) of the Criminal Code and under section 30 of the Children and Young Persons Ordinance (prohibition against dealing in children) are in future to be dealt with as charges for trial on indictment and are tried by a judge of the High Court. This direction will ensure that persons found guilty of offences of this nature are given deterrent sentences where necessary.

Supplementary to Question O.59 :

Mr J. L. Nsima : My question calls for measures to be adopted to stop the stealing, not how the offence is to be punished.

Mr T. O. S. Benson : What steps is the Government taking to stop kidnapers from the Western Region coming to Lagos ?

Several hon. Members : Answer now, answer, answer !

*O.66. **Mr A. E. Ukattah** asked the Minister of Internal Affairs whether the new buildings now being provided for the Prisons Department at Umuahia-Ibeku are for a remand home or for a prison.

The Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Internal Affairs : The buildings to which the hon. Member refers have been declared a Divisional Prison in the Appointment of Prisons (Amendment No. 1) Order, 1958, which was published as Legal Notice No. 29 of 1958 in the Supplement to the *Official Gazette* No. 12 of the 20th February, 1958. It is intended to confine in that prison persons remanded in custody, prisoners awaiting trial and short-term prisoners only.

Supplementary to Question O.66 :

Mr A. E. Ukattah : Is the Minister aware that there is no separate apartment for female prisoners ?

The Parliamentary Secretary : I am not aware.

*O.75. Mr F. T. Odum asked the Minister of Finance, why Degema-Abonnema has not been made an approved port, and what is the gross total of Customs duties collected at this port from 1950-56.

The Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Finance: Degema is an approved port, *vide* Government Notice No. 8 of 1956 (page 356, Vol. VII Laws of Nigeria). For Customs purposes Abonnema is included in the Port of Degema.

Customs duties collected at this port for the period 1950-56 were as follows:—

	£
1951-52	377,899
1952-53	441,508
1953-54	377,123
1954-55	306,676
1955-56	350,132
1956-57	372,000

Figures for 1950-51 are not available, but it is thought that the duties collected during that year would be in the region of £325,000, bringing the total collected for the period 1950-51 to 1956-57 to £2,550,338.

Supplementary to Question O.75:

Chief N. G. Yellowe: If the Government has collected so much from the harbour at Degema, what arrangements are they making for the harbour at Degema?

Mr Speaker: That is far beyond the original question.

Mr Jaja Wachuku: May we know, Sir, whether the Minister has removed the rock that the Chief asked to be removed?

PRESENTATION OF PUBLIC BILLS

CRIMINAL CODE (AGE OF CONSENT) BILL

The Minister of Labour and Welfare—
Second Reading—Thursday 7th of March.

LOAN (INTERNAL BORROWING) BILL

The Minister of Finance—
Second Reading—Thursday 7th of March.

CENTRAL BANK OF NIGERIA BILL

The Minister of Finance—
Second Reading—Thursday 7th of March.

NIGERIAN RAILWAY CORPORATION BILL

The Minister of Transport—
Second Reading—Thursday 7th of March.

BANKING BILL
The Minister of Finance—
Second Reading—Thursday 7th of March.

REVISED EDITION (LAWS OF THE FEDERATION
AND LAGOS) BILL

**The Minister of Communications and
Aviation—**
*Second Reading—Thursday 7th of
March.*

ORDER OF THE DAY

THE APPROPRIATION (1958-59) BILL
(SIXTH ALLOTTED DAY): COMMITTEE
(House in Committee)

M. Muhtari, Sarkin Bai (South West Kano): On a point of order, Sir, tomorrow is Tuesday and Private Members' Day. May we know the Motions that are coming up for debate?

The Chairman: I did read them to the House, I think, on Saturday and they are in the Votes and Proceedings for that day.

HEAD 66.—MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

*Question proposed, That the sum of £67,080
for Head 66—Ministry of Commerce and In-
dustry—stand part of the Schedule.*

Rev. E. S. Bens (Brass): Mr Chairman, in rising to move the Amendment in my name, namely to reduce item (1) of sub-head 1 by £10, I will respectfully recall the axiom of the Minister of Finance—"As you sow, even so shall you reap." It is memorable to me because Nigeria is an agricultural country, and I expect the Minister's advice would have far-reaching effects on the farmers of Nigeria.

Farmers in Nigeria form the very economic core of this country. Almost all exports come from this class of people. Members will recall that palm oil, kernels, cocoa, cotton, rubber, timber, groundnuts, bananas and benniseed come from these people. Sir, in my opinion, the big concerns have benefited much from Nigeria's produce market and yet, Sir, the costs of consumer goods as we have them to-day have increased four-fold in recent times.

In my view, Sir, the pricing policies of most of the companies are very greedy and irresponsible. The profits are rather too fantastic. I am therefore suggesting a Federal Fact-Finding Agency to decide whether increases in the prices of consumer goods are justifiable. In spite of all this, Sir, the Minister of Finance has reduced

company tax from nine shillings in the pound to eight shillings in the pound. Are Federal tax cuts not intended to jack up the profits that are being made by these big concerns in Nigeria ?

On the other side of the story, Mr Chairman, the public of Nigeria expects price cuts in the consumer goods but, rather, what do we find ? In the present decade prices of produce have declined very considerably. I come from a palm oil producing area. Mr Chairman, we find that palm oil and palm kernel prices have declined in the present decade by over thirty per cent. Cocoa price has dropped by over thirty per cent, too, in recent days and, Sir, our Western world cocoa markets have threatened us with the discovery of "coberine." I understand, Mr Chairman, that production and output of the palm oil and palm kernel trade have declined and, in my opinion, the reason for the decline of the production is the very poor condition in which our farmers are engaged in this trade. The prices that are paid to the farmers are too poor.

I would say, Mr Chairman, that if our palm oil and palm kernel are not wanted in the Western world markets, then why should not the Minister of Trade and Industry take upon himself to industrialise this aspect of our own raw materials on a very large scale ?

Sir, I next turn to industries. Turning to industries, one would see that Nigeria is well on the way to industrialisation. I am glad we have the necessary powers ; we have oil to-day, we have electricity, we have coal, we have the manpower which must be tapped to the fullest, and last of all we have the raw materials.

Well, Mr Chairman, in the Made in Nigeria Exhibition one would say that the spirit of the Exhibition is somehow achieved. Sir, the aim of the industries exhibition is not to parade the multitude of the industries, but to give the people a chance to observe the pageant of art in our time and, certainly, in my opinion, the present exhibition of Commerce and Industries has revealed this pageantry. In this connection I would say my congratulations to the Minister of Trade and Industries and his staff.

But that does not mean that of course, the £10 will not be reduced. Why ? This is the reason. In the Exhibition I was very eager to see the boats that were exhibited. But, Sir, it is reliably understood that the Government has only provided £15,000 for the boat building

industries at Opobo ; and lack of funds at the Opobo Boat Yard is discouraging the boat building industry, and it is even weakening the output. It should have been an important industry, Mr Chairman, in the Creeks area. In that part of the country the only means of travelling is by boats. Hence the needs of the boat building industry for skilled operatives are of paramount importance to the people of the rivers area. I should have pleaded, Mr Chairman, for at least a provision of £50,000 for this industry that is of use to my people. And, Sir, when the boats are produced, the boats are sold at so high a price which the ordinary people cannot afford, Mr Chairman, to pay, and the terms, Mr Chairman, of the payment are these : on your buying, you have to pay cash down, the total cost of the boats, before the boats are given out. I thought this is not good enough. Terms of hire purchase would be very welcome to my people. Mr Chairman, I beg to move.

Amendment proposed to reduce the Head by £10.

M. Muhtari, Sarkin Bai (South West Kano) : I rise to oppose the Amendment before this hon. House. Indeed, Sir, I am in sympathy with the hon. the Mover of this Amendment. He has been labouring but, shall I say, in vain for what I may describe as a trade decline. That is not the fault of anybody, and neither is it the fault of the Government. Unless we reorganise and form these trade unions and be honest in our dealings, trade in this country will always be monopolised by foreign people.

Sir, I should like to take this opportunity to congratulate the present Minister of Trade and Industries in particular and the Federal Government in general for their intention to encourage industries in this country. I believe the present Minister, Sir, will put the interests of this country above everything else. He is not one of those Ministers who write editorials on behalf of a Lagos paper. (*Loud laughter*).

The Minister of Finance (Chief the hon. F. S. Okotie-Eboh) : Mr Chairman, I protest on behalf of my hon. Colleague, the Chief S. L. Akintola.

M. Muhtari, Sarkin Bai : Mr Chairman, there is one point in this connection which I should like to bring to the notice of this honourable House, and I hope the hon. the Minister of Trade and Industry will take notice, and that is this. Already, Sir, we have got some

factories in this country, a cement factory at Nkalagu, a Shoe and Perfume factory in Kano, and so on, but I feel, Sir, we are making a mistake which, in my own opinion, is rather grave. We are putting up all these factories in the cities. This, Sir, is quite different from what I have seen in England. I have been to the city of Manchester, to the city of Bristol, to the city of Hull, and all those parts in the North and East Ridings of Yorkshire. In those areas, Sir, factories are put according to the nature of the place.

Well, in this country, Sir, groundnuts, cottons, etc., are being produced in the rural areas, but unfortunately all the factories are being sandwiched in cities. Take, for instance, the Federal Territory of Lagos, an area which is already too small to accommodate a quarter of a million people. We get so many factories in the Commercial Areas. For that reason, Sir, we must see that this Federal Territory is extended. (*Hear, hear*). So that we may put up all the industries. (*Interruption*). (*Chief Akintola : What do you want ?*) If we get an indigo factory at Ogbomoso, we won't have to come down to Lagos to have our clothes dyed. That is what I am fighting for, for those highly productive areas in the far north, like Dambatta, not because it is my own constituency but because it produces comparatively more groundnuts than any other area in the country. For that reason, I am appealing to the Minister of Trade and Industry to consider putting up a chocolate industry at Dambatta, and he should also consider setting up a sugar industry at Kiru and Karaye in Kano Province, for the same reason.

Well, Sir, I think I have said enough now, and I am in sympathy with the hon. the mover of the Amendment, and I hope he will withdraw, because it is quite irrelevant.

Mr Chairman, Sir, I beg to oppose.

Dr E. U. Udoma (Opobo): Mr Chairman, I would like to say from the outset that I am not opposing this amendment. I am supporting it. I am supporting it, Sir, because, in particular, the hon. mover made mention of Opobo; but, Sir, I think it is necessary to point out to the Minister at this stage that our independence will have no meaning unless we can produce in this country businessmen of considerable capacity and managerial ability.

Sir, what is needed in order to step up production in the field of business among

Africans in this country is trained personnel. Many business houses are established in this country, and very shortly after establishment they go to pieces, not because there is no money with which to run the business, but because there is not that rare fish known as the person with the managerial ability to be able to organise the business properly and, therefore, I suggest that it should be the duty of the Minister to see what help he can give to businessmen, in two directions. I have mentioned the first one; in the course of my previous speeches, and now I am going to mention another, that is, to get businessmen organised. (*Hear, hear*). Get businessmen organised; and I suggest that the Minister, instead of going abroad to recruit, should go inside the country and form an association of businessmen. Bring them together, teach them what to do, help them. That is what this country requires.

Now, Sir, there is another rare fish which is giving a lot of trouble to businessmen in this country, and that rare fish is accountants. Many business houses come to grief in this country because they have not the capable accountant to be able to assist them to organise their business and keep proper records in their offices in order to be able to tell at a glance how far they are progressing in business. I think, Sir, that the Minister would do a great service to the businessmen of this country if he would acquaint himself with the policy of the scholarships board and see that the number of the people to be awarded scholarships should not only be engineers, but should include accountants who would come back and be absorbed in business houses in this country to be able to assist in getting our businessmen established and on their feet.

Now, Sir, I was looking through the Trade Report which is given to every Member, and I was shocked to find that while we still import goods valued at millions of pounds from Japan, even to-day, Japan is not taking one item of what we produce in this country. Yet there was a Trade Mission from Japan that visited this country not very long ago, and it was published in the press that Japan was going to do something in order to take some of the things we produced in this country and, up till to-day, they have taken nothing. I don't know what the Minister has to say, whether

there has been any step taken by the Japanese Government to absorb some of our products from this country.

Now, Sir, I think it is well known that there is a general trade recession in this country, and in the world at large, and the problem now, I submit, is not the problem of production. I think the next problem that is going to face this country is the problem of exchange. The problem of being able to export our goods to new markets. I am not suggesting we should leave the old markets alone, but I think it is becoming too monotonous to trade just in one place, and I was wondering what the Minister has been doing in order to explore the possibility of sending our goods to other parts of the world directly, because, Sir, we depend so much on our export trade in this country as our internal consumption of these products is not very high.

There again it is a matter which should be considered by the Minister: by what means are we going to see to it that we encourage our own people to make use of the things we produce in this country more than imported goods? It is a very important part to be played by the Minister in seeing to it that our internal—although I suppose that has got to be done in conjunction with the Regional Governments—that the internal trade of this country is geared up, is put a step further. You have many parts of the country producing plenty of goods and yet there is starvation in other parts of the country and there is no means of making the food produced from one area available to the other part which is suffering from starvation. I think that the Minister would do well if he would examine the possibility of encouraging and gearing up the internal trade between the Regions, and that is what I might call “inter-Regional trade.”

Sir, reference was made to the boatyard at Opobo by the honourable the Mover of this Motion. I think, Sir, as far as I can recollect, when that boatyard was started, the intention was that it would train what the Americans call “operatives.” It would train people who would have to manipulate these boats when built, it would train mechanics and drivers. Sir, boats are produced, sold to customers, but very often it is impossible to get drivers and mechanics who are reliable to maintain these boats in good running order. It is not unusual

that after a short period of test use, complaints are experienced. Very often it is because of lack of the necessary “know-how” to be able to operate these boats in the proper condition in which they should be operated.

I was wondering if the Minister has given thought to the possibility of expanding this boatyard, not merely as an experimental boatyard, as Government supposes it to be, because it has gone past that stage, it is doing really magnificent work—whether the Government has considered the possibility of expanding this boatyard, in order to include a training yard for operatives of the boats produced in the area. That was the original intention, I was given to understand, but I do not know whether it has been abandoned because there has been no move in that direction. I suggest, supporting the hon. Mr Bens, that more money should be given to this boatyard to enable it to play its full part in the development of the trade and industry of this country. That boatyard supplies boats to the creek areas and these craft are used in evacuating produce. In most of these creek areas there are no roads, the main roads being the rivers.

Sir, there is another aspect touched upon by Mr Bens, with which I would like to end up my remarks. That is the consideration of the purchasing ability of the people desirous of obtaining boats. Very often orders are given, boats are built but perhaps, at the last stage, the man who has given the order is not in a position to pay the full amount required. I was wondering whether it would not be advisable, in order to assist these people who are engaged in the produce trade—that is evacuating produce—and whose only means of transport is the creek transport system, whether the Minister would not consider the advisability of making it possible for an instalment payment or hire purchase system to be introduced. I am quite sure that now the demand for boats is growing daily, that many businessmen would be helped if that system were introduced.

Mr Chairman, Sir, I support this Motion.

Mr Jaja Wachuku (Aba): Mr Chairman, Sir, in the Order Paper my name appears on the Amendment that the Minister's salary be reduced by £10 to enable him to come and defend his position and bring forward facts which may be produced in this House. If he can prove that his salary is necessary, we will

have no objection to withdrawing this reduction of £10. At the moment it is upheld by this House until he has made a defence.

Sir, I know that the Minister is new in that Department and that he has been there only a very short time but the fact that he is new in that Department should not preclude us from finding out from him certain anomalies which do exist within the Department under his control.

In the first place, Sir, I want to know from the Minister whether he knows that there is a recommendation by Mr Randell to the effect that the position of the Check Weight Tally Clerks should be changed and that the status should be changed from the original status to something better. But up till to-day, although the recommendation contained in the Randell Report of 1956, at page 20, paragraph 91, states "Check Weight Tally Clerks, although it does not come within their formal terms of reference, in view of the half-yearly reports from the Chairman and the responsible duties of the post, recommendation is that provision should be made for a pensionable post in this grade in the following terms." It goes on to say that the designation of each Officer will be determined by the Head of Department and that there will be two grades, Grade 1 F 3, Grade 2 F 1 (2). For new entrants the minimum educational qualification would be Secondary Four and they should serve for the first twelve months in a non-pensionable capacity.

Sir, this recommendation was accepted by this Government at page 4 of the Sessional Paper No. 12 of 1956, paragraph 28, which states, "The Government accept the recommendation in paragraph 91 of the Report and have decided to create the following new grades of Established Check Weight Tally Clerks with effect from the 1st April, 1957—50 Check Weight Tally Clerks, Grade 1 F 3, 100 Check Weight Tally Clerks, Grade 2 and 3 F 1 and 2. It has further been decided that the minimum educational qualification for new entrants to this grade should be Secondary Four and that such Officers should serve for the first twelve months in an Established capacity."

Now, Sir, in spite of the fact that the Government has accepted this, and that it should take effect from the 1st October, 1957, somebody sitting down on that acceptance,

somebody in the Department, and does not want the officer confirmed. Till now, letters have been written, interviews granted, but somebody does not want the people to benefit from the Agreement, from the position that has been taken by the Government. I want the Minister to inform me why this is so. Somebody has slipped up, the matter should be investigated, and somebody should be sacked. I do not want to go any further on that point, Sir. I just want to say that if workers are dissatisfied, work cannot go forward, and the Minister of Finance has said that on this point, until now nothing has been done.

I want the Minister to tell us why something has not been done.

Now, Sir, the next point I want to raise is this. I want the Minister—I want to ask the Minister, because the Minister of Finance has said that the Nigerianisation Policy is my bible, certainly it is my bible because the Nigerianisation Policy was produced as a result of a Motion by this House, and is the policy of the Government. Now, Sir, as a result of that policy every Ministry is responsible for Nigerianisation. Sir, I want to ask the Minister to tell us what steps he is taking to see that Nigerianisation within the Departments under his control is being carried on effectively and with vigour. Now, Sir, apart from that, why is it that in the past three years we have been providing a sum of £3,000 for the employment of a Chief Industrial Officer on contract rate? Till to-day that post has not been filled. Why is it vacant until now, and yet the sum of £3,000 every year is voted for it?

I want to know why it has not been filled, and why no one has had the courage to tell us that it has not been filled, and we have to go out seeking that information. Will the Minister explain why that post has not been filled, and why in spite of the fact that it is still vacant that money has been provided every year. And also, Sir, will the Minister explain to us that of the two posts of Industrial Officer only one has been filled for the past three years. Does the Minister find it impossible to get someone for the money? I understand that the money is not good enough because efforts have been made and the Department has been told that the money is not good enough. Somebody was interviewed, someone who would have been suitable, but the appointment

the hon. Minister of Commerce and Industry, Sir, we are fast coming to Independence but as far as this question of industries is concerned, the Government approach to it is rather a negative one. The Regional Governments are more realistic in this field. I think our rate of industrialisation in this country is very slow and I am sure, Sir, that no country like Nigeria which is on the threshold of Independence can just sit down and look on. Let us fast industrialise because few countries can ever exist in this competitive world on agriculture alone. We are depending on our agricultural produce for our economic survival, but in this modern world when scientists can go into their laboratories and produce substitutes for almost everything we can produce in the farm, it is dangerous to depend on agricultural economy alone.

It is high time that this Government started setting up industries all over the country. The recent "Made in Nigeria Exhibition" has dispelled all fears and has reassuringly confirmed that Nigeria is not only a potential producer, but also a great potential consumer of its own produce. Therefore, we should industrialise for we have the raw materials and the markets. We are 32 million people and we are a great factor on the world markets and we must not be content with our present position of being the market for other country's products.

Sir, there is only one more point I would like to make about this decentralisation of industry. I would like to support what my hon. Friend Mallam Muhtari and my hon. Friend Jaja Wachuku have said. Decentralisation of industry is really very important from many aspects. It supplies labour all over the country and it will discourage people from moving into the cities and creating social problems, as they have been created here in Lagos, and many other big towns of the country. In this respect, Sir, I would like to appeal to the Minister of Commerce and Industry, about one industry—one proposed industry—which is going to be set up in this country. I understand it is going to be set up in a place which is far away from the spot where the raw material is produced, and that is the sugar industry. I am just being informed by my hon. Friend that this has already been recommended by the International Bank Mission.

Well, I am still appealing to the Minister to reconsider that decision of setting up the industry along the bank of the Niger; as it is, and take it to a place called Gimi in northern Zaria (*Hear, hear*). Because it is the greatest sugar cane producing area in the whole of Nigeria; it is on the railway line, and the density of population around that area is very great (*Hear, hear*). Therefore, there is the availability of labour on the spot. Sir, I beg to oppose.

Mr L. S. Fonka (Bamenda): Mr Chairman, Sir, I will begin my observations under this Head by congratulating this Ministry for having established Marketing Boards in the Federation of Nigeria, both Regional and Central. But, Sir, I wish also to appeal to the Minister that he should make these Marketing Boards to serve the purpose which they are intended to serve, that is the promotion of trade.

Sir, it is always very difficult for Ministers to know what actually they have to do because they do not tour the Federation very much. Their tours are centred round big towns in Nigeria, and they do not go into the rural areas where some of our industries should be established.

Now, go to the Southern Cameroons, for instance. The Minister of Works and Surveys has been able to understand the difficulty of the Southern Cameroons roads because he had been there himself and has seen the difficulty. So, if other Ministers make up their minds, for instance the Minister of Commerce and Industry whose department we are now discussing, can tour that part of the Federation of Nigeria, it is only then that he will know the possibilities of establishing industries and the possibilities of encouraging these industries. It is no use, Sir, for a Minister to sit down here and only listen to us, because when we talk in this House, we appear to be very parochial, but the Minister can understand the importance of our appeals to him only, and only when he tours these parts of the Federation.

If the Minister went to the Cameroons for instance Mr Chairman, he would be able to have discussions with the members or with the chairman of this Marketing Board or with the chairman and members of the Development Agency, and from these people he will

know what other avenues there are of establishing industries in that Territory because it is these people who understand that Territory well.

Sir, as I said earlier, it is up to the Minister to encourage these Marketing Boards and the Development Agency in the Territory in order to encourage industries. How can the Minister encourage these bodies? It is by granting loans, sufficient loans, to these bodies—the Marketing and the Development Boards—and it is these bodies that can know what areas in the Territory want industries set up. I am now appealing to the Minister to encourage these Boards by granting them loans, so that they may serve the Territory fully. (*An hon. Member : The Southern Cameroons is now a Region*). It is a Region all right, but it is all One Nigeria; besides it is the Central Government that helps the Regions.

Mr Chairman, it is good that the Minister of Commerce and Industry should know that this Ministry is one of the Ministries that could determine the pace of our march toward independence. For what is the good of asking for independence if we are not able to produce most of the things we need? One other point I want to make, Sir, is about trade between the Eastern Region and the Southern Cameroons. Sir, I think this trade is important and needs encouragement from the Federal Government, and the Minister.

I feel, Sir, that the tax of ten shillings per head of cattle is rather heavy and therefore could discourage this trade. Mr Chairman, Sir, Members want to say that I am talking about Regional affairs: it is not Regional, it is Federal. I have said that it is very important for Ministers to tour the country. Many Members are appealing—pointing to this place and that place, where industries could be set up. Many places have been mentioned in the North and in the West, and I am mentioning places in the Southern Cameroons. Well, many other Members, when they get up to speak will mention places in their own areas and the only thing that the Minister can do is to tour these places and see what possibilities there are of encouraging trade and industry in these areas.

Mr Chairman, I will end by saying that I do not support the Amendment for the reduction of the Minister's salary by £10.

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Dr the hon. K. O. Mbadiwe): Mr Chairman, I have listened most carefully to the views and expressions of various speakers to this sub-head. The first speaker, the hon. Rev. Bens, raised the matter of produce and stressed the importance of agriculture. While the importance of agriculture cannot be doubted, it is certainly not within the immediate responsibility of this Ministry, although indirectly, this Ministry is interested. If the farmers do not produce, then we cannot be responsible for the internal trade of this country. But you will agree, Mr Chairman, that there is function for all agencies in the Government, and I can only answer for what I am responsible and can pray indirectly—help indirectly—for what I am not immediately responsible for.

The prices for palm oil and kernel, the hon. Gentleman said, had declined for some time now. He did not suggest that I should find the ways and means of improving the prices but he has made a very concrete suggestion: why should we not apply some of our raw materials—palm oil, kernel or cocoa—and find a means of processing them in this country. (*Several hon. Members : Hear, hear. That is what we want.*) Mr Chairman, I am in a position to say that just as you see small demonstration of what is going on in this great country of ours, the same is true in various areas to-day; firms are busy processing these raw materials.

In the course of my speech, I mentioned that already more new factories for soap are coming up: one has just been opened at Aba and there is a soap factory here in Lagos, and others are being contemplated. I am talking of large concerns. There are other small concerns. So it is of very vital importance that we do not depend only on what our produce will fetch abroad, but that we should expand industrially here to consume some of these products, and in that respect I am very much in agreement with the hon. Gentleman (*Hear, hear.*) and everything will be done to continue to expand the utilisation of our own products.

Rev E. S. Bens (Brass) : I withdraw.

The Minister of Commerce and Industry : The boat-making industry at Opobo. The hon. Gentleman suggests that the capital we have invested there is very small and that we should increase the capital investment in this vital industry. In this view he was eloquently supported by the hon. Dr Udo Udoma. I cannot tell off-hand how much has been invested but I consider the boat industry a very important industry for our river transportation (*Hear, hear.*) and nothing should be done except to continue to expand it. I will look into it more closely.

The question of the prices being too high. You know that any price which you have to place on any commodity will have to depend on the cost of production. I think what the hon. Gentleman said is that the Minister should keep constant review of the cost of production and once he sees that we have mastered the craft and that the raw material which is used in the boat is lower, then price should correspondingly be lower too, and that we will take into consideration and will have prices under constant review. (*Interruption.*)

Dr Udoma : Easy terms of purchase.

The Minister of Commerce and Industry : Easy terms of purchase—that is where I challenge the hon. Member. The Federal Government cannot undertake to do everything. We will do our own function and the Regional Government will do its own function and the Local Government Bodies will do their own function. You want steel industry; you want paper industry. Brains must go into all these. And you also want to be engaged in hire purchase for small boats. Why can the Local Government Bodies not guarantee those who are making the purchases? That is the function where the hon. Members could go home and consult their constituencies, and their Local Government Bodies. The Federal Government is producing the boat. It will make for cheaper river transportation; it will aid the produce of the country. Now is your turn to guarantee those who are capable of purchasing these boats and make it easier for the Federal Government. That is your task and mine in our constituencies. (*Hear, hear.*)

Dr Udoma : You have not heard of the failure of the U.P.E. in the East?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry : We are talking about industry, not education.

Mr Chairman, that is my reply to the question of the hire purchase. It may be that the Federal Government or the people responsible for the boats periodically may grant one or two people hire purchase, but that is too small; it will not help. I want a way in which they can give maximum help and the Local Government Bodies will play a very effective part because it will be better for the Federal Government to deal with a Regional Government or with a Local Government Body than with an individual whose identity is better known by you and by the Local Authority. (*Applause.*)

The Sarkin Bai spoke very eloquently. He has emphasised what is so important in any business undertaking, and what is known as business integrity. And I think that the Federal Government is aware of the need to develop in our community business integrity. That will aid industry; it will aid commerce also.

He asked also why factories in big cities, why not do some decentralisation? Dr Udoma emphasised the same thing and hon. Jaja Wachuku, while they were speaking.

I want to say that it may be necessary for me at this stage to re-state the industrial policy of the Federal Government so that there can be no misunderstanding about it. Our primary duty as a Government is to foster basic industry, industry which individual firms or individuals cannot undertake; industries which will lead to other secondary industries. That should be the task for the Federal Government. Industries like paper industry. You know it will be a very heavy expenditure for any Regional Government or firms to undertake. Industries like the steel industry which will make for many more secondary industries. These are really the agents of production. The Federal Government will continue to give attention to such industries. (*Hear, hear.*)

We must also realise that industry is primarily a matter for private enterprise. The Government can only come in at this stage of our development to do certain basic things which

will aid industry, and I have told you what we can do, so that there can be no misunderstanding about it. If you think that the Federal Government will jump from town to town establishing industries, that will be a mistake and I do not want you to leave with any such impression.

I want to assure you that whatever we say here and the undertaking which we Ministers give, we will do everything in our power to see that we fulfil such an undertaking. (*Hear, hear*).

The primary step in industry is that we should encourage the big firms, and the Regional Boards ; and they are doing their best. Not long ago the Western Regional Production Development Board in affiliation with another firm, opened the plastic factory ; just last Saturday, not long ago ; and also the Regional Development Board of the East in affiliation with other firms are doing their best. The Regional Governments are doing their best. There is the first cement coming out at Port Harcourt and the other industries which you yourself know very well, the industry in Opobo by the Eastern Regional Development Board. Then the Regional Development Board in the North. You are aware of the recent Kaduna Textile Mills which is one of the largest.

Now apart from what the Federal Government should do and what the Regional Governments and Boards are doing in industry and what the big firms are doing, we must take another step and that is a very very important step. That step is to encourage Africans themselves, whether they like it or not, to enter into the field of industry. I say, Mr Chairman, that this country can never come to what it ought to be, this country cannot move on the plane we wish until Africans themselves can combine to encourage in themselves can combine to encourage industry, and towards that, the Government will give every encouragement.

That is where I have my second challenge to the hon. Members of this House. How can we give the encouragement? We can, by fostering trade associations. I agree with those who have said so in the course of the debate, that is very very important. There are two ways in which we can encourage

trade associations : one, the Federal Government with the Regional Governments should encourage trade associations within their regional boundaries, and since external trade is the responsibility of the Federal Government, then the Federal Government can co-ordinate these various trade associations to have what we should call either a Federal or a National Trade Association where the traders themselves can come out if necessary yearly and tell the Government what pinches the industry or what pinches commerce, and they will be speaking with one voice. Until that happens we are not being helped, and I want to tell you that everything is being done in my Ministry to get in touch with every Minister in order to promote this very important aspect of trade which is the association of the people involved which will eventually become a Nigeria-wide affair. (*Cheers*).

The second step is where the hon. Members can help. Once we adjourn, you go back to your various constituencies. My Ministry will continue to assemble a list of small industries which with small capital can be produced. It is our duty to produce that. If you take up your telephone and ring the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, and if you cannot get the Permanent Secretary, ask the Industrial Adviser, what possible small industry with £50,000 can be produced and could be useful. It is the duty of my Ministry to assemble this type of industry, those that can do very well in the East, in the West, in the North. It is for Members now, it is now their duty to go back to their constituency and say, 'the Ministry of Commerce and Industry is starting something again', and that thing will enable the people around that location to come together. Once they can come together and say, 'we are going to get into this industry', and, as the Bible says, 'God helps those who help themselves', and they can produce so much of the Capital themselves, they will then come to the Federal Ministry of Commerce and Industry, say 'we are ready to engage in such and such industry, this is the capital which we can afford ; can you give us the know-how—the managerial know-how? We will not hesitate to do our best. (*Interruption*.)

Dr E. U. Udoma (Opobo): The hon. Minister keeps on misquoting the Bible. The Bible does not say. . . . (*Interruption*).

The Minister of Commerce and Industry : Mr Chairman, I think this aspect which I am discussing to me is the most vital, because it answered the question 'How can the Nigerians take part in the new industrial upsurge which is now sweeping this country, and that is what I am trying to answer. I said that it is your responsibility to go home and challenge our people to come together. We will be doing our own part by getting industries which are suitable and within the possibility of realisation and which our people can engage in adequately without much risks. You will have to give your own capital and look up to the Ministry for the know-how and also for the Government to add additional money to what you can produce, and then launch that industry. If we can do so in the Cameroons, in the East, in the West and in the North, helping these industries two or three, to be started, that is your second step in the realm of industrialisation which Nigerians themselves will participate. (*Hear, hear*).

I can assure the hon. Members that in all seriousness, my Ministry is committed to give you all the necessary advice, all the necessary help, to show you how you can get the managerial know-how, and when we are satisfied that the foundation is well laid in the industrial enterprise your community or your section wish to undertake, we will not hesitate to give loans that is available to foster such an industry.

Trade with Japan : I agree with you that we have been importing goods running into many millions from Japan and that Japan has not been buying from us. In 1956, our imports from Japan totalled a staggering sum of £20,000,000.

No data that is accurate is available for what they have bought from us, but it is very negligible. However, I tell you this. We have just sold 6,000 tons of Soya beans to Japan, and may be able to sell 2,000 more. 6,000 tons of Soya beans at the cost of about £30 a ton. We are also negotiating to sell Japan some cotton.

The hon. Udoma mentioned that internal trade should be geared up. I agree and we will do everything possible to do so. You cannot always depend upon external markets. There are times of war when you may not import or export. What happens? We must

go back and cast our buckets where they were. And that is to gear up the internal market. Nothing could be more acceptable.

Coming to hon. Jaja Wachuku; he talked about the tally weight clerks. He said that their status should have been changed since that was recommended by the Randell Report in October 1957. I want to say that before that Report this class of workers were daily paid, but since then they have been grouped under two categories. Tally weight clerks, Grade I, with salaries ranging from £216 to £276 per annum, and Grade II with salaries ranging between £140 and 204 per annum. That is, the daily paid status has been abolished and the Grade I are now permanent staff and pensionable posts with the salaries I have now indicated. Grade II is not pensionable but at the time they retire they are given some retiring benefits. This is a world of gradualism. In certain respects, Sir, not to stumble but you will reach the goal. The goal is that the welfare of the workers is the measuring thermometer of the progress of any nation. When the people are not well fed and well maintained, your production goes down. As the Minister of Commerce and Industry it is my responsibility and to the benefit of my Ministry to see to the workers' well being in order that they can be more productive.

Freight and Shipping. The hon. Jaja Wachuku asked what is the Minister doing about this? And he further asked what is he doing to establish a shipping line. That is a very important question, but it has to be answered in conjunction with my counterparts in the Ministry of Transport.

He has also mentioned about the Conference Lines, that they are trying to stifle the recently formed Nigerian company. I am not in a position, Mr Chairman, to make a full statement on this question raised by hon. Jaja Wachuku, but I am saying it is a matter which will warrant my fullest study. But this I would like to say to this House, as far as it concerns Commerce and Industries, I will not foster any type of monopoly or any type of company to stifle African initiative anywhere. Beyond that, Mr Chairman, having given the general policy which I will adopt, other things will be details for investigation, and I will not spare any energy to investigate them to the fullest point.

House of Representatives Debates

1159 [Appropriation (1958-59) Bill : 10 MARCH 1958

Committee]

1160

The hon. Gentleman also mentioned the "Made in Nigeria" Exhibition, and the idea that it will become an annual event. Mr Chairman, it may be very interesting for the House to know, and perhaps that will change their mind when talking about Commerce and Industries Department; many who went to the show thought it was a show planned several months in advance. It is not so. It was only in October 1957 that I called the first meeting of the high officials of my Ministry and the Department.

The Chairman : The Minister has only two minutes more.

The Minister of Commerce and Industry : And it was then that the first idea to plan this show was mooted, in order to make the Members of this hon. House see what is happening when they come here during the Budget Session. It is only four and half months that this show was planned, and that this department should have done it within such a short time is really a tribute to them, and that they are worth every penny which they are earning in that department.

Then Mallam Nuhu Bamalli said so many things, which I think in my previous speech I have covered, and all I can assure him is that when this House adjourns and before long I intend to appoint an industrial expediter. Instead of making tours to the various areas, he will speak to the people about industries, what industries are possible within a given time, what capital and how to get the know-how to serve them, and my section will be fully geared up to help in whatever way is possible.

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, That item (1) of sub-head 1 be reduced by £10, put accordingly and negatived.

Mr Benson claimed, That the Original Question be now put.

Original Question, That £67,080 for Head 66—Ministry of Commerce and Industry—stand part of the Schedule, put accordingly and agreed to.

Sitting suspended : 11.50 a.m.

Sitting resumed : 12 noon.

HEAD 67—COMMERCE AND INDUSTRIES

Question proposed, That £188,860 for Head 67—Commerce and Industries—stand part of the Schedule.

The Chairman : The Members who had amendments to this Head are not present.

Mr E. C. Akwivu (Orlu) : Mr Chairman, Sir, the Minister of Commerce and Industries, in his speech on the 20th February, made a statement to the effect that industry is an expression of the creative ability or the creative genius of the people. Sir, he also referred to the very lively debates which matters affecting the Ministry and the Department attract each time they were brought up.

Sir, successive Ministers, whether called Minister of Trade and Industry, or Commerce and Industry, have paid very great tributes to the honest and sincere efforts of the staff with whom he has had to work and I must emphasise at this stage, Sir, that we, as Members of this House and nationals of this country, associate ourselves with the compliments and appreciations that have been expressed from time to time in favour of the staff in this Department.

I would go further to say, Sir, that the people here concerned have done their best and put in their honest work in the light of their own background and personal circumstances. We are grateful to them for the services they have rendered and are rendering, but, Sir, with very great reluctance, but with every sincere conviction, after what I would describe as an objective appraisal of the roll of the department, past, present and future, that what the country needs most urgently is, if possible, the complete Nigerianisation of this Department.

In saying so, Sir, one is not talking about Nigerianisation because it is fashionable and one is not talking about Nigerianisation because it gains easy applause but because, Sir the responsibilities and the delicate nature of the work of this Department makes it very necessary and most imperative that it must carry with it intimate knowledge and intimate awareness of the background and requirements of this country and its people, in as many different matters as possible.

are all fighting. If the indigenous trader imports say, for example, 1,000 bags of cement, and a more prosperous business establishment imports 10,000 bags of cement, each of them is under obligation to clear his goods from the wharf area within 3 days from the departure of the ship, failing which every one must pay 6s per ton per day for any excess or extra time that the goods spend in the wharf area.

Sir, the man who imports such a large quantity knows it better and has the means, and it does not embarrass him, but the average trader in this country cannot cope with this, and I think, Sir, the time has come when some definite and positive steps should be taken to encourage these people to get their goods without great hardship on their trading ability and power.

Sir, the hon. Minister was telling us the other day about our balance of trade. I would with respect say, Sir, that the figures as given do not in my humble submission show the exact position. All that we are told of is the physical goods we export and the goods we import, but we are never told about the large sum of money that goes out of this country through the insurance companies, the shipping interests and others. It is my personal experience, Sir, that in the United Kingdom, the balance of trade, and the balance of payments are never said to be complete until you show clearly what is technically described as the invisible import and export. £20,000 of kernels; £20,000 of cement are very good by themselves, but we must realise that there are other resources going out of the country which will have to be accounted for, and which will have to be balanced along with every other one, in order to give us a true picture of the trading position in this country.

We cannot afford, Sir, to have several millions of pounds going out of the country every year and shut our eyes to it. Earnings from shipping are not taxed in this country, they are taxed in the United Kingdom. If you look at the figures, you will find that in the year ending 31st March, 1957, the tonnage of this country was approximately two million tons. Now, some estimate the average rate at £6 a ton and some estimate it at something else. The point is that out of every penny, profit or loss, our revenue does not derive any benefit from it.

We are having a lot of capital investments in port expansion—Port Harcourt and Apapa—sum them up and you will find that we are investing nearly £11 million on facilities for shipping. We are not claiming unjustly from the earnings of others but if they must have to account to the Governments of where the ships are registered, surely there is a case for this country having its own shipping too. If out of, say, two million tons, we ourselves have about .5, or .9, or even one million, at least we would be justified in taxing it as well as making whatever profits there are to be made from the Nigerian Ports Authority whose balance sheet we have just seen in the Second Annual Report.

The Chairman : The hon. Member must remember he has now had twenty-five minutes. Very few Members will get in if speeches are made twenty-five minutes long.

Mr Akwivu : I am very sorry, Sir, I will be very brief. I will wind up by saying that the Department as well as the Ministry should press home the case of the indigenous people of this country in respect of the manufacturers in this country. We have quite a number of manufacturers operating in this country but very few Nigerians get the opportunity to be the distributors for these manufacturers. The expatriates come and manufacture their goods; but expatriates also distribute and sell on their behalf. After all, all this is supposed to be helping in building up the economy of this country. It is the desire of the people of this country that they should be given a position that when goods are manufactured in this country, a certain reasonable proportion be given to Nigerian business people for sale and distribution.

Sir, I will conclude and in my submission I would ask the Minister and his Department to make sure that when foreign capital is brought into the country, as much opportunity as possible should be given to the indigenous people of this country not only to serve as labourers, but in the highest business function, because that is really what is going to help this country. We thank them for bringing in their money, and we would also thank them for promoting more actively, and not merely passively, the progress of the country and its people in commercial life and industrial activities....(Applause).

Alhaji Aliyu Bissalla, Ma'ajin Abuja (Abuja): Mr Chairman, I rise to support the amendment and my reasons are quite simple ones. Sir, every year when we come to this House at this time we ask the Minister of Commerce and Industry for a concrete schedule of, firstly, industries totally required to be established by the Federal Government and, secondly, industries to which encouragement is only required to be given by the Federal Government; and also to state the suitable locations for each industry. But, Sir, up to now nothing has been received.

Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Minister and his Ministry that last year during the Budget Session, if I am not mistaken, a very sound private motion on glass industry was moved on the Floor of this House and approved, calling on the Federal Government to start a glass industry in Nigeria. Sir, many hon. Members of this House appealed through the Chair to the Council of Ministers and to the Minister of Commerce and Industry in person asking him to see that this glass industry was established in Bida within Niger Province, which is the natural place for such an industry. Sir, to my surprise nothing has been done and nothing has been heard concerning this project.

Sir, if it is lack of electricity that is the reason for this, I am to assure the Minister that the work of establishing an electric power station at Shiroro Gorge on the River Kaduna, which is within a short distance of Bida, is going on well, and every necessity and requirement in connection with the electrical supply for this industry will be obtained through that power station. Because of this, Sir, until a suitable assurance and a concrete one is given to me I will continue to press that the sum of £10 be reduced from this Head.

With these few remarks, Sir, I support the amendment.

Mr P. Aiyuk (Mamfe): Mr Chairman, I rise to support the expenditure on this Head. In doing so it is only justifiable that I should congratulate the Director of Commerce and Industry. I consider that this Department is giving its best services to the country. I would also like to congratulate the Minister and the Council of Ministers in general for their bold policy of industrialisation which is improving the national economy of this country, with a view to raising the standards of life of our people.

I would like to appeal to the Minister that while industries are being organised in the cosmopolitan areas some interest should also be directed towards the rural areas to see that they are also served with some type of industry. There is no doubt that the Regions have a zonalised interest in their own spheres, but the Federal Government should have an overall interest in the country and it will not amount to any encroachment if the Federal Government could undertake to establish industries in the rural areas where the Regions are incapable of doing so.

Mr Chairman, it is not an exaggeration to say that the urban areas are being developed at the expense of the rural areas. I can only say that the Government should encourage the rural areas, which are the main areas which produce the wealth of this country. Surely, "the goose that lays the golden eggs" should be well fed, and the Government should encourage the areas so that we can understand that the Government is actually making the people who pay the piper to call the tune.

Well, I will tell the Minister that in the Cameroons, and particularly in my own constituency—Mamfe—we have several salt ponds, and these have made it possible for the people there to have some sort of crude salt industry; but I would like the Minister to see to it, if possible to send his Industrial Officer to that area to see whether it could be possible to improve the salt industry in Mamfe.

Mr Chairman, it will be noted also that in the several industrial areas of the Cameroons, where you have banana production, most of the exporting organisations refuse to take bunches of bananas of 5 hands. They only accept from 6 hands bunches upward, so that from 5 hands downwards these bananas are allowed to lie waste in the country. The value of these rejected bananas, Mr Chairman, has been estimated to be almost one-third of the good banana crop, and I think it is a waste to this country if such bananas should be allowed to perish. I would like the Minister to see if it would be possible to open a secondary industry which should be able to consume these rejected bananas (*Shout of "Yes, yes"*).

Mr Chairman, I know that the Cameroons relies predominantly on the banana economy, but I feel that this Government should encourage this Territory so as to diminish its reliance upon the banana crop, by trying to open industries which would be able to consume the primary products of this Territory.

Mr Chairman, with these few remarks—I am not making a speech on the second reading of the Appropriation Bill—I wish to support the expenditure.

Chief T. T. Solaru (Ijebu East): Mr Chairman, Sir, there are one or two things that I would like to say under this Head 67, that is, the officers who man the department of Commerce and Industry and enabled the Minister to carry out those policies which he so ably proposed. It is one thing for a Minister to propose policy, but his officers are his hands and his feet, and the degree of their speed will determine the fulfilment of the Minister's programme. This is why it is very necessary.

In the first place, when we talk about dissatisfied service, we are not merely harping upon an old tune, but would like to see that anything that makes for discord in the department should be removed. Nothing goes to make for discord than when a person feels that he is due for promotion to a post, or he is recommended for promotion, and he is not promoted. I suppose there are clearly laid-down policies about promotion, but it is in their execution that things go wrong. There is nothing wrong in the policy—the best man for the job; the man who is most experienced for the job. But when it comes to doing it, there are lots and lots of manipulations and it is not for us to go on giving instances upon instances as if we have nothing else to do. Yet we have complaints again and again, which must mean that some people are being passed over, or are not being granted promotion when they are due for it.

Now, we would not like to see whether he is black or white, because nobody is pleased when he is passed over, but it only happens that in this case the people in whose hands promotion is are the expatriate officers and their immediate subordinates. When we talk about Nigerianisation, we do not mean that the man at the bottom should jump to the top in one day. But when the man who is in the middle and hopes to be in an acting appointment is passed over, it is that kind of thing that makes for bad blood and does not expedite the business of the department.

I will now pass on from that, Sir, to the matter of importation of motor cars. Sir, if there is anything in which your department is helping to ruin the prosperity of this country,

it is in your policy of indiscriminate importation of motor cars. During the war years and the years following it, when dollars were very very scarce, you restricted the importation of American cars. Quite rightly, and quite judiciously, you granted import licences to those who needed them. Quite rightly, and we supported you. But now, motor cars of all kinds and of all prices are coming into the country and it seems to me that there is a plot among the importing firms to make Africans, Nigerians, buy cars every year. If Nigerians do not see that this is running the economy of the country, at least it is the duty of your department whose responsibility it is to see that we do harness our resources, to see to it that we do not succumb to the machinations of all these importing firms bringing in cars.

If they brought them, this is what they do, Sir: in importing a new model, they take care to see that there are no spare parts. Your car will be laid up for four, five or more months before the spare parts come, and with the result that you throw it away and buy another one (*Cheers*). That might be all right in many ways, but it is ruinous to the economy of the country. Sir, in the civil service too, everybody has a car, and while we give them basic and all that, it is not to the benefit of the people themselves. The people who benefit are the people who sell us the cars. We do not manufacture these cars in this country; there is no motor car assembly. The cars are made outside and shipped here and all we do is to sweat and labour until we buy a motor car. That is all we do. We change our cars every year, and the Government helps in that kind of thing.

We are all now motor car conscious and everybody wants to buy a car. Well, if we have sources of wealth in this country and these are as a result of the extent of the wealth in the country, that would be all right. But we are doing that despite the fact that there is no wealth in our country, and that we are going a-borrowing. There is a Bill before the House where we are going to borrow lots and lots of money. If it comes to floating loans in this country, you will find it very difficult to float them locally, because all our money has gone buying motor cars.

Sir, if you would review that aspect, that part of your duty and see to it that when cars come we do have ample spare parts (*Hear, hear*). If we cannot get ample spare parts then the buying of cars ought to be scrapped. I feel, Sir, that this ought to be done. Very often you find that importing firms (people like Arab Brothers and others who import cars) would not bring enough spare parts, and you have to go on hanging around for them. And then, Sir, it seems to me that each time the price of a car rises automatically. You bring in a car at £620 now, by the 1st April, it is going to rise to £700, and the next time it has gone up to £860—the more you buy these cars the more the prices go up. (*Loud applause*).

It seems to me, Sir, that the only thing we do in this country is a conspiracy to make us buy cars, more and more cars, and when we go on buying them the dearer and dearer the prices become. I feel that our own department of Commerce and Industry should see to it that this kind of thing is arrested.

We know that prices do rise, but they must rise in reasonable proportion. Why is it that it is only in cars that this happens: up and up and up all the time. I think the time must come when we must call a halt to it. It would not matter very much, Sir, if when these prices rise, our own goods rise in the same way; but they do not. They go up by geometrical progression but our own goods rise by no progression at all.

Then I pass on from that to promoting. . . . (*Interruption*). . . .

Mallam Ibrahim Gusau (Sokoto West): Point of order, Sir. May I remind hon. T. T. Solaru of the high cost of repairs. (*Applause*.)

Chief Solaru: Mr Chairman, Sir, apparently somebody who has suffered has mentioned one of the reasons why they do not import enough spare parts—so that they can go on repairing them at ever increasing cost.

Mr Chairman, Sir, I pass on to the promoting and fostering and protecting of local undertakings. We have already mentioned at some other stage the activities of alien traders and the way they ruin our trade by unfair competition. There our Minister cannot claim to be unaware of that. Your Department, Sir, has on many occasions been approached when one firm—I

am referring to those who make gramophone records—the preliminaries of gramophone records are being manufactured in this country and the thing is sent abroad and then the records come here. That affords some outlet for Nigerian business.

But what do you find? The very people who make them over there will fly their own people out here to come and contact our artists, give them a few pounds and take away the sources of livelihood from those people. That is the kind of enterprise in which people engage. It is very insidious, it is very difficult to arrest and unless our own people, when they get instances of it, are asking, we shall find that one day we shall be without any means of livelihood at all, and it should be a charge upon Government drawing doles. Well, we have not thought of doles now, but there will be doles later on. The only way is to help us to stand on our own feet. The African businessman has been driven off the market by this kind of unfair competition.

And, Sir, I am ashamed to say that the people who help are our Nigerians themselves. These people, when they find that they are going to be overtaken by the vigilance of the Department of Commerce and Industries, what do they do? They go and get some unscrupulous tradesman and come and say, "I am the man who invited them." Having said that under the shade of a businessman, it means that he can escape a penalty. But if we are vigilant enough, we can check up from the time when he employs his stooge to do that business for him; if we are asking we shall not only promote and foster, we shall also protect our local undertaking.

We have also seen from the speech from the Throne that there are local pirates on our local designs. This also comes within your competence, Sir. I think you have officers who are designing these things. Well, I do not know what they do, but whatever they do or do not do, the job of this Department is to promote the undertakings that are already engaged in by our own people: trade design, textile design. These are being copied indiscriminately. They cannot bring them through any other avenue except through Commerce and Industries. They must have licence to import and export. So these things are within their range and we hope, Sir, that you will do something about it very very quickly.

But, Sir, before we come to this Board of Trade, we certainly must see that there are all sorts of companies formed by the people of Nigeria and such companies can only be formed with the help and encouragement of the Department of Commerce and Industries of which the Minister is the man in charge. And all the same, whatever progressive plan the Government may have will in the long run be detrimental to the economic progress of this country unless and until the Government protects the indigenous industrialists and commercial people.

I cannot understand, Sir, the attitude of the Government to some people in keeping mute and quiet about this question of protecting our local traders who are always at the mercy of aliens. The monopolistic tendency of some of the foreign people and their inclinations to exploit and plunder the country must be checked now, now. Is it impossible, Mr Chairman, to institute a Commission of Inquiry to enquire into the activities of such aliens with a view of protecting the interests of the people of this country? Sir, the interests of the natives, wherever we find it necessary, must be protected. The disgraceful, dishonest and illegal ways of getting import licences, which are solely meant for Nigerians, through the back door, or sometimes through the indigenous natives who are businessmen themselves, must be checked. Mr Chairman, Sir, aliens engage in trades on which our own people depend for their livelihood, and it must be stopped.

This, Sir, reminds me of a complaint which we lodged in Kano with the Department of Commerce and Industries against a Syrian who was engaged in building even the bodies of lorries, and such other petty jobs which our people are capable of doing. It is no use, Sir, complaining repeatedly about these things and asking Government protection again and again against alien monopolistic and exploitative tendencies without having anything substantial done. I feel in the circumstances, therefore, that the time has come to set up a Commission of Inquiry to enquire into the activities of these people with a view to protecting our own indigenous native trades in this country.

Mr Chairman, we are all convinced that unless our people form big companies it will be very difficult for them to compete successfully with foreign companies. I ask, Sir, how much

does the department of Commerce and Industries and the Government for that matter encourage the setting up of such big companies? I know, at least in the North, especially in Kano, which has for ages and for quite a long time before the *Bature* set foot in Nigeria, been the centre of commerce and industry, there are very few such big companies formed by the natives of the country. People are reluctant owing, of course to ignorance, to come together and form companies. They are also reluctant because they have not got the capital enough to make them make a bold move. But all the same, they have the zeal, the ability, the technique of doing the business. Government should assist these by not only encouraging them to form the companies, but also helping them financially.

There is still the feeling in this country that when Government makes some financial contribution to such big business enterprises, it is not very difficult and, in fact, it is extremely easy to get the people responding readily. This, I know, is not the fault of the Government, but Government must be aware of it and try to see that our economic policy is suited to our circumstances and environment.

Sir, I would like to emphasise that our businessmen must show more seriousness, and thus I appeal to them by coming together to help themselves by themselves as much as they possibly can so that Government can be convinced that they are worthy of the help they may require later.

One is left to wonder, Sir, whether we have always been aware of the very interesting agreement between Nigeria and the United Kingdom on this question of shipping lines discussed earlier this morning by the hon. Jaja Wachuku in his speech. I would like the Department of Commerce and Industries through their experience and the academic knowledge they have about business to suggest to the Government ways and means whereby we can benefit by this agreement from which we have not benefited for quite a long time.

Sir, here is an agreement by which Nigeria stands to benefit only at an unknown date, for when shall we have ships enough to be plying the waters between here and England to enable us to collect taxes from them. For years now the British Government has been benefiting as a result of this agreement and

Nigeria has gained practically nothing. I would have thought that it is time that this agreement was revised in order to suit our own purposes, so that we too may benefit and get some taxes from these ships that are plying the waters between here and Great Britain.

Also, Sir, I wish to take this opportunity to say that the task of eradicating poverty, hunger and need in Nigeria, and the raising of the standard of living of the people of this country is to a very large extent the responsibility of the Department of Commerce and Industries. I appeal to the Minister of Commerce and Industry to see to it that he does everything to bring life more abundant to all sections of Nigeria.

Sir, I beg to support.

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Dr. hon. K. O. Mbadiwe): Mr Chairman, I find that most of the speakers under this Head dealt at length with the question already raised by previous speakers when they spoke on Head 66, and I do not want, at this time, to repeat what I have said at length on some of the matters which have been raised by the previous speakers. I can only touch on matters which were not previously raised and which have never been given any reply.

Hon. Akwivu spoke about the Nigerianisation of the Department of Commerce and Industries. Well, Mr Chairman, it is the duty of every Minister to see about the Nigerianisation of his Department, at least to see the needs and to make recommendations, and to take every possible step to accelerate the rate of Nigerianisation. I do want to say that at present in this Department, there are 31 expatriates, that is on the Senior Service level, and 17 Nigerians on the Senior Service level, and there are 18 vacancies, making a total of 66. Mr Chairman, that is in a total of 66, 31 are expatriates, 17 are Nigerians, and there are 18 vacancies. It is the intention of Government to see that Nigerianisation is speeded up and the Ministry, for which I am responsible, will not be an exception. Therefore, I am to say that we will do everything within our power to see that Nigerianisation in the Department is speeded up.

The hon. gentleman also spoke about cotton wool manufacture, on which he approached the Department, and he said that this cotton wool could be manufactured for medical purposes. He felt that the atten-

tion was not very keen. I want to assure the hon. Gentleman that from tomorrow, if he calls at the Department, we will see in what respect we failed to give him the necessary attention. I also want to assure him that we will look into the whole question raised by him, and we invite him to call again; but I am sure that the Department took every possible step to look into whatever it was he called about, and if he is not satisfied let him call again.

An hon. Member : He is not here.

The Minister of Commerce and Industry : Then you can tell him what I have said.

He said in the course of his observations that the adverse balance of trade which this country has experienced is due to the importing of more things than are necessary or than we require. I say that this is not so. The Minister of Finance, during the course of his Budget address made it clear that a country that is on the verge of industrialisation must continue to import capital goods. It is these capital goods that enable us to produce, and I have mentioned also in my reply to that Budget address that once I feel or see that the adverse balance of trade is due to consumer goods and not due to capital goods which will aid production, that we will not hesitate one minute to apply the brake.

Second-hand clothing was also mentioned. I am afraid that the observations of the speaker on this question may not be correct. There are still many more people in many sections of this country that still want to import this item, and it is not our intention to allow few to import so that prices will go up to the detriment of the common people that we serve. It is also our interest to protect them from unduly high prices.

The question of insurance companies was mentioned by the hon. Jaja Wachuku in the morning, and also raised by Mr Akwivu. Their view is that insurance companies operating in Nigeria and registered in Nigeria should take this work of insuring our produce. Hon. Jaja maintained that our produce fetches about seven million pounds worth of insurance. I am to say that this is not so, but it fetches about a quarter of a million pounds.

The Minister of Finance (Chief the hon. F. S. Okotie-Eboh): Point of Order, Sir. Dr Udoma is sleeping. It means that the Minister's speech is too boring!

Chief T. T. Solaru (Ijebu East): Sir, am I to speak on an amendment? I wish to speak on the Head.

The Chairman: Yes, you are to speak on the Head.

Chief Solaru: Mr Chairman, Sir, all I wish to say is that the Department of Marketing and Exports are to be congratulated on the vigilance that they are keeping our produce going out. In the report before us we see for the year 1956-57 under cocoa that over 900 tons have been rejected because of the result of their vigilance. This cocoa has been rejected, it had been bagged and sealed in accordance with practice, and was brought here ready for shipment, but for the check testing which was made, this rotten produce would have gone abroad and lowered our commercial integrity before the eyes of the world. In kernels they had over 1,000 bags which had to be rejected because of the check testing here, and the thing is going on now.

I mention this because of the fact that a Member in this House said that the Department of Marketing and Exports ought to remove their officers from the wharf because all the work had been done in the Regions. Well, after the work has been done in the Region we find that there are several thousand tons of cocoa rejected because the work was not properly done or because of some dishonesty on the part of those who did it. Therefore, Sir, for their vigilance they ought to be commended, and I hope for nothing else we need to retain a nucleus of honest people to check test because of the dishonesty going on in these places.

Question, That £456,710 for Head 68—Marketing and Exports—put and agreed to.

HEAD 69—MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT

Question proposed, That £536,590 for Head 69—Ministry of Transport—stand part of the Schedule.

Rev. E. S. Bens (Brass): Mr Chairman, Sir. I beg to move the amendment standing in my name, to reduce item (1) of sub-head 1 by £10. This country I would say, in my opinion, is inclined towards industrial expansion. Therefore the plan to construct a Bornu railway is an economic project. Besides, Mr Chairman, the news of the loan from the World Bank is welcome. I agree

that Nigeria has reached a stage where we cannot go ahead with our policy of expansion as we are able, unless we borrow large sums of money from the World Bank, and I hope it will help our development.

I am also glad, Mr Chairman, to know that Nigeria's trade is improving. But, Sir, I need an explanation from the Minister as to the loan value in Nigeria, in other words, I want an explanation of the Nigerian assets which qualify us for this world loan. Do I understand, Sir, that our raw materials, our products as we export them are Nigeria's loan value? If that was so I would ask him to be very careful in asking for a World Bank loan. If that is so, I am asking our Government to be very careful in this plan for a World Bank loan, because it will freeze up our produce prices on the world market.

Mr Chairman, my next point in connection with this Ministry is the question of Nigerianisation in the Ports Authority. Sir, permit me to quote an oral question that I asked the Minister last February—my question reads thus: "How many Nigerian pilots are at present serving in the Nigerian Ports Authority, and in the Inland Waterways Department and whether arrangements are being made to train more Nigerians as pilots?" Mr Chairman, the answer.....

The Chairman: I have often told hon. Members in previous years that I do deprecate the habit of reading out the whole question and then the answer. It is in order in debate to say that I asked the Minister a question about the number of pilots and he answered there were seven, or eighteen, but it is quite unnecessary to read the whole text of the question, or the whole text of the answer.

Rev. Bens: Thank you very much, Mr Chairman. Sometimes, Sir, in order to convey the true meaning of our statements we have to read them out....(Interruption.) But I have to accept your ruling.

The answer I got from the Minister was that there were no Nigerian pilots. I want to know how Nigeria can go ahead now that we are approaching Independence to-day, when we have not got a single pilot.....

The Minister of Communications and Aviation (Chief the hon. S. L. Akintola): We have a *West African Pilot!* (Laughter.)

Reverend Bens: Yes, Mr Chairman, it is true we have a *West African Pilot*, but that is the name of a West African newspaper. (*Laughter.*) Anyway, Sir, I am asking the Minister to look into this matter very carefully. There are no Nigerian pilots in the Nigerian Ports Authority and we have at the moment only expatriates who are qualified. The reason for this maybe the unnecessary conditions imposed on our Nigerians by the Ministry of Transport. I would urge therefore that the Ministry remove these unnecessary conditions and bring in new ones, so that our Nigerians can train, qualify and be appointed as pilots.

My next point, Mr Chairman, Sir, is an interesting one. Why I say that the Minister's salary should be reduced is this. The opening of the port at Akassa. Repeatedly I have said it in this House that it would be a good idea to open a port here; this port is a well-known one to everyone in this House. . . . (*Interruptions.*) . . . and indeed to everyone in Nigeria. . . . (*Interruptions.*) You should know something about that place, and you should know about the Akassa Lighthouse. . . . (*Interruptions.*) . . . Yes, we have a lighthouse there. . . . (*Interruptions.*) . . . we also have a Bar there which needs dredging and then ships could enter to take away our crude oil. . . . (*An hon. Member: What of Opobo?*) Well, yes, of course, Opobo should be opened as well. Sir, I think I have said enough. . . . (*Cries of Yes, yes.*) . . . about that. . . . (*Laughter.*) . . . but in all seriousness, Sir, I have not finished my points. . . . (*Cries of Oh! oh!*)

The dredging of the River Nun, I think, is something that this Government should consider paramount in its activities but the Government has failed completely in these dredging projects. Between 1946 and 1956, the Ten-Year Development Plan was presented by this Government. . . . (*Interruptions.*) . . . and we included there a sum of £20,000 to dredge this river, but you refused to dredge it. If you don't want to dredge it, please give me the £20,000.

The next point I want to make, Sir, in all good faith is about the shipping industry of Nigeria, that is a Shipping Line for Nigeria. One hon. Member mentioned it this morning and I am repeating it this afternoon. This House passed a Motion at the last sitting, that within the framework of the Economic Pro-

gramme this matter of a shipping line for Nigeria should be included. What I want to say here is that Government has accepted the idea for a shipping line for Nigeria, and now that we have expanded this Five-Year Programme from 1960-1962, for goodness sake please now include this Nigerian Shipping Line in this present Economic Programme.

Finally, Sir, I am very sorry—oh! I am glad Mr Chairman, that the hon. Mr Chalcraft is present. In matters of shipments, I want the Prime Minister to take a very careful note of this. Nigeria has benefited much, I agree from these foreign concerns, like the Elder Dempster Lines, the Palm Line and John Holts, which concerns have handled much of our exports by carrying our produce away to other countries, but it must be agreed that the expatriates themselves have not done this part of the job. Nigerians have supported them always. We have supplied our own personnel—Nigerians. I would say that the Krumen are particularly. . . . (*Interruptions.*) . . . (*Cries of who?*) . . . the Krumen, you know—do you understand what I mean when I say the Krumen. . . . (*Cries of No, no.*) . . . if you do not I will tell you. They are the people from Liberia. (*Cries of Oh! oh!*) It is those people and the Ijaws, Sir, who man these ships for Elder Dempsters, John Holts and the Palm Line.

Mr Chairman, I am very sorry to report that upon all the good work Ijaws have done, there is no single Nigerian, I will say no single Ijaw man, who is trained as an officer. We have supported them under hard conditions, bad weather, rough weather, the cold climate in the north Atlantic seas, but yet no Ijaw man has been found fit as an officer. I deplore the conditions. We have got Chief Cooks, but we do not want to be cooks all the days of our life. (*Laughter.*) At any rate, these are domestic matters—women can be chief cooks—but we want Ijaws to be officers.

Mr Chairman, I feel that with these matters in hand, the Minister's salary should be reduced by £10. I beg to move.

Amendment proposed to reduce item (1) of sub-head 1 by £10.

Mr Jaja Wachuku (Aba): Mr Chairman Sir, I support the Mover of this Amendment provisionally, until the Minister is in a position to make me change my mind. I am not

depending on the facts that have been adduced by the Mover of the Amendment, but I rely on my own facts.

Now, Sir, I want the Minister, to start with, to tell this House what his policy is in relation to the combined functions of the Chairman and General Manager of the Ports Authority and Chairman and General Manager of the Railway Corporation. The two corporations have, in accordance with the old practice of having one man being Chairman and General Manager at the same time, been carrying on like that. We find that this has been to the great detriment of these two bodies.

In the E.C.N. we had a gentleman who was Chairman and General Manager. He exercised the two powers and we have no possible way of checking his activities. I think, Sir, the time has come when the General Manager, or Chief Executive Officer or whatever you may call him, to remain General Manager or Chief Executive Officer, and a Nigerian be appointed to be Chairman of the Ports Authority as distinct from the General Managership, which requires more technical knowledge.

Now, Sir, I say this in all seriousness. The Chairman as a Nigerian will be able to be in regular touch with public opinion in this country, the opinion of this House, the views of the Ministry and again, that will be a means of gaining experience. We are not going to have expatriates or foreigners to man these corporations for ever. The time has come when that practice should spread to other corporations. It is already happening in the E.C.N., and we have seen the results of it. I think, Sir, that should be considered now in relation to the Ports Authority and Railway Corporation and any other corporations that may be under the portfolio of the Minister of Transport.

An hon. Member : You mean that the expatriates are inefficient ?

Mr Wachuku : I do not say that they are inefficient, but there are certain practices I will mention here which make this very necessary. The interests of the African employees in these corporations are not being adequately represented, and I will give you facts to support my argument.

Now, Sir, a little bird told me somewhere that the present Chairman of the Railway Corporation is likely to retire soon, his contract

is likely to expire, and that there may be a suggestion that he should occupy the Chairmanship and while living in London attend meetings here. I do not know if it is quite correct. If this is correct, I want to tell the Minister that that will have a very strong opposition from our side. We cannot afford to run the expense of having a Chairman outside this country to come and run our affairs here, and that is the reason why I say now, if the intention of the Bill being introduced here is to separate the functions to make a Nigerian Chairman, we will support it. But if it is to have somebody from outside this country to preside over the Corporation here, this House will oppose it with full vigour.

So I would like the Minister to tell this House whether it is correct, because I have heard the information from outside this country, anyway. I do not want to say yes or no to the Minister.

The Minister of Finance (Chief the hon. F. S. Okotie-Eboh) : Then you have a little grudge ?

Mr Wachuku : Yes, a little grudge. This is winter, and the migratory birds migrate to the tropics.

Now, Sir, the next thing I want to say here is the discriminatory practice that does exist in these Authorities in relation to Africans. In housing, Sir, you need to go to this Railway Corporation quarters, go to Ebute Metta and behind Ikoyi there. The area they have for African senior staff ; you go and look at the houses, and I would like even the Minister to go and see some of these houses. And then go to the Inner Circle where the non-Nigerian senior staff are housed, and compare the two. And then we have a Minister of Transport in charge of the Railway Corporation ! I am saying that we do not want that kind of discrimination at all.

In the Ports Authority, Sir, you find that Nigerians when employed, as I said this morning in relation to the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, you require certain qualifications. You must either be a Civil Engineer or Mechanical Engineer, whether from a University or professional school. But when it comes to an expatriate, that is not required. I want the Minister to investigate the case of Depot Assistant. If he wants further details I will give him.

This gentleman was a Sergeant in the Ordnance Depot at a salary of £400 per annum. Now he is receiving more than £2,000. He was a Mechanic in the Army here; the Army of this country not from outside. He was attached to the Ordnance Depot here.

And another point on this discriminatory practice. Instead of allowing Africans with the necessary qualifications to go and act in the posts in which they are qualified, the Chairman or whoever is responsible for that, will appoint a Mechanical Engineer to go and act in a post of Civil Engineering, when a qualified Nigerian Civil Engineer is there who could actually go and man that post. There is a case at Port Harcourt—if the Minister wants I will give the name of the man. He is a Mechanical Engineer (*Shouts of "Give us the name"*), and here is an African who is a qualified Civil Engineer, but he was not given the Civil Engineering work to do in Port Harcourt. This expatriate was sent there. Just because if you give this African the opportunity to show his capability in running the business he might eventually claim to hold the post, you go and take an expatriate Mechanical Engineer. In the long run you will find that there are Africans who are doing the work, and he will only go and supervise.

These discriminatory practices will not do. Surely, if a Nigerian is Chairman of the Corporation, and in the Establishment Committee, these matters are brought up, he will make sure that there is a fair treatment for all concerned. That is what we want. But when you have a man who is Chairman, with all the powers of the Chairman in his hand, then as General Manager again, who looks into the day-to-day business of the Corporation, do you not see that anything can happen if he becomes a dictator. We want democracy in the Railway Corporation, Ports Authority, and in all the other Corporations. Let democracy prevail in all the Corporations.

I hope the Minister is looking at it. In saying this, I do not want just to say it for saying sake. In the Ports Authority and in the Railway Corporation, there is the same tendency, to see to it that the Africans do not stay in the centre of administration on the top rung of the ladder. I know the Railway Corporation has made a good move; I must

say this. In the London Office you have the General Manager who is a Nigerian. That is a good move and I must congratulate the General Manager for that. But there is no need taking one man there. We want Africans to be brought in to the centre of affairs so as to associate them with the administration, because when these people go away, somebody must run the machinery.

We have that experience in the E.C.N., Sir.—I am only giving this as an example, I know this is not under the Minister's portfolio. One Nigerian engineer was put right round the whole undertaking in Nigeria. He was never allowed to be in the administration, although he was the most senior African executive engineer, so as to know how the administration was carried out. But there was another expatriate who came; he was only in one undertaking in the Cameroons, one tour, and then he was brought, and the General Manager was just coaching him to succeed him. We discovered that when the new Board was formed and we had to bring this man in there to show whether he was capable of that administration.

I must say, Sir, in all honesty and sincerity that the expatriate officers themselves felt that injustice had been done. This Nigerian was given a chance. They were quite happy that this man had been given a chance.

Well, why not associate Nigerians with the administration? I do not say they should not go to the field. They should go to the field and also be given an opportunity to work at the centre of administration. If this is not done, we will have political democracy and political independence and have economic independence within twenty years hence. That is the point which we want to bring in here. This policy must be examined in the Ports Authority and in the Railway Corporation and other Corporations that may be under the portfolio of the Minister. So I would like to know from the Minister what he is doing in relation to this particular point.

Sir, I would like the Minister to tell us what has happened to this investigation of bridging the Niger. I know it is a joint responsibility. But the actual bridge comes under the Minister of Works. I would like him to tell this House about that aspect of his responsibility. At what stage are we now?

Railway Corporation and the Ports Authority at the present time function, and he wants to know what the policy is. May I just say that it is very simple; that policy is the policy which was passed by this House, not only in the form of a policy statement, but in the form of legislation; and in this case, these offices are provided for by legislation, by ordinance. I might as well say, if I may not be accused of anticipation, that Members are already aware of a Bill which has been published already, which is coming up for Second Reading on Thursday, for the amendment of the Railway Corporation Ordinance; and in that Bill one of the provisions will be the separation of the offices of Chairman and General Manager.

Mr Jaja Wachuku (Aba): And the Chairman should be a Nigerian.

The Minister of Transport: I do not want to anticipate that Bill, and I therefore will not go further than that at this stage. The hon. Prime Minister has already spoken with much greater authority than I have on the question of staffing and the conditions of service and promotion of staff of the various statutory corporations and other statutory bodies. These bodies, if I may humbly add, are autonomous and we have representatives on their Boards. That brings me to the question of the importance of having on the boards of these corporations people who will understand (*Loud Interruptions.*) what they are doing, and it is these people definitely... (*Loud Interruptions.*) there are many of them (*Loud Interruptions.*) Some of those Members now interrupting me are Members of these corporations, and I hope that they are pulling their weight on these corporations. I am quite sure they are.

What I was saying, Mr Chairman is that we cannot eat our cake and have it. We devolved a certain amount of authority on these bodies and we cannot give with one hand and take away with the other. The Minister's powers with regard to these bodies are regulated by Law, and I think every Minister, as Members are well aware, is jealously guarding these powers which the law has given him, but we cannot interfere too much in the details of the management of these corporations. The Prime Minister has, as I said before, dealt with this aspect with greater force and authority than I have at my command.

Now the bridging of the Niger. I am afraid this is entirely a matter for my honourable Colleague the Minister of Works and Surveys. After all the Niger is just a gap in the trunk road A running from Ibadan to Aba! He is fully in charge, not only of the actual constructions, but also of the investigation. Members will have their chance to get some information from him.

As regards the "Saloma", I have to say that action has already been taken to increase the speed of some of these ferry boats, and, as a matter of fact, a much more powerful engine is now on order and should be arriving very shortly for the "Saloma".

Now the question of erosion of the Victoria Beach. The work of dredging the Lagoon and other waterways and getting from them sufficient sand to protect Victoria Beach, is going on. The consultants are still experimenting as to the best method of arresting the erosion. What we are doing at the moment to combat it is to build as the beach is eroded away, and the report has yet to come. One suggestion that has been made already is that when the experiments have been concluded, it will be possible to erect a structure on the beach itself which will afford permanent protection to the beach and offset the continuous dredging of the lagoon in order to repair the beach.

Now I come to the question of a level crossing which was raised by Mallam Mahmudu Bayero. I have to thank him for drawing my attention to that level crossing and I have noted the points that he has made.

Now I come to Mr Ajibola's point which he made about an advertisement in the London *Sunday Observer* for the post of Secretary, and I would like to tell him that generally the advertisements for posts appear not only in the local press but also in the overseas press because some of the most suitable candidates that we can hope to have are students who are studying abroad. That is why advertisements are also made... (*Interruptions, and Loud Laughter*).....

Now, now, will hon. Members please listen to me? Mr Chairman, you have heard only one part of what I was going to say. I say that I am trying to justify the publication of that advertisement in the *London Sunday Observer*, but I am not justifying any omission to publish

accountants who are already in the service and who should have been promoted to this post. But it was found necessary for him to go out to Europe to recruit a Deputy Accountant. It was also because the people agitated that he desisted from doing this.

So you can see at once that all is not quite well with this Department as far as the policy of Nigerianisation is concerned. I understand, too, that there is a bungalow there called the Tarkwa Bay Bungalow. That bungalow is the exclusive right of expatriates. You cannot become a member, no African member of the staff can be a member of that club unless his salary comes to £1,200 and how many Africans can enjoy that privilege? So that it becomes clear that when the expatriates do meet there they plan how best to deal with African staff on the question of promotions. At present, if they have good salaries they might be admitted, and so they only recruit the lower salaried. As far as Tarkwa Bay Bungalow is concerned, it is clear that there is definitely a colour bar. Because what they have done is to exclude Africans from becoming members of that club.

So I want the Minister to know that there is no future for Africans in that Corporation, no future whatever, and there can be nothing but stagnation and depression for African Members. The earlier something is done the better it will be, otherwise trouble is brewing in that Corporation. In a few weeks from now you might be able to hear more about this when the workers make their complaint more public.

The Minister of Transport (Hon. R. A. Njoku): Mr Chairman, I would just like to take a minute to answer one or two points made by the last speaker. I do not think it is true, in fact it is very unfair, definitely very unfair, to accuse the Ports Authority of not pursuing the policy of Nigerianisation. I made a fairly long statement on this issue and gave figures, and I have the figures here before me still. There are 262 senior posts, of which 90 are being held by Nigerians, and there are 90 Nigerians in training to fill the others, now. So it is not true to say that nothing is being done for Nigerians.

I would also like to say that the recruitment of the staff of the Ports Authority, as well as in any other Corporation, is a matter for the Corporation itself. It is not a matter for the Minister, or the Ministry, or the Department.

Also, I think that the question of recreation for various people, whether they are Government servants or servants of Corporations, is rather a private matter. There are a lot of people who have got their own huts on Tarkwa Bay. I do not know the facts about them,—but it may be that if I build a small cottage on Tarkwa Bay somebody will come and accuse me of not allowing everybody to go there. In any case that is a very small matter indeed. I have taken note of what Mr Okolo said on that issue. If it is a private matter there is nothing anybody can do about it, but if it is a matter of Corporation property then the question is different.

Mr Chairman, I move that the Question be now put.

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

Question, That Item (1) of sub-head 1 be reduced by £10, put and negatived.

The Chairman: To make it perfectly clear to the Committee, the Minister is, I believe, moving to closure that amendment in order to get on to the next Head—Inland Waterways. As I have said before I have no power to select amendments but there is a power having moved the closure, to claim to move the Original Question and that is, I understand, what the Minister is doing in order to get on to Inland Waterways, and not to spend too much time on one Head.

Mr Jaja Wachuku (Aba): Point of Order, Sir. We have not finished the first amendment to reduce Item 1 of Sub-head 1, that is what we were debating.

The Chairman: That is what we closed on.

Mr Wachuku: Then there is the amendment to reduce this sub-head by £100.

The Chairman: That cannot be moved at all if the Minister claims the main Question.

Mr Wachuku: Well I would have liked to speak on the amendment.

The Chairman: Well, it depends if the Minister claims the main Question or not; if he does I shall have to give it, and it depends on the... (*Cries of Closure! Closure!*) I will repeat the Question.

The Minister of Transport claimed, That the original Question be now put.

Question, That £536,590 for Head 69—Ministry of Transport—stand part of the Schedule, put accordingly and agreed to.

The Chairman : I do not usually have my decisions debated but if anybody does not quite understand what is happening, I shall be very glad to tell them afterwards.

HEAD 70—INLAND WATERWAYS

Question proposed, That £517,660 for Head 70—Inland Waterways—stand part of the Schedule.

Mr Jaja Wachuku (Aba) : My only point under this Head, Sir, concerns the statement that has been made by our respected Prime Minister. I want to say, Sir, that the statement would be applicable also to officers under this Head, because—I move to reduce by £10 the sub-head 1 under that Item—they also want protection. I want to say, Sir, that personally I have great sympathy for the Minister, the Prime Minister and the Council of Ministers as a whole, and I appreciate their difficulties under the present circumstances. But it is necessary to make this clear that while we are prepared to co-operate to the full to make their burdens lighter, and I am prepared to accept the statement that our Ministers should be blamed, I must say this that the circumstances under which a Minister should be blamed are not exactly the same thing as the time when the country is completely independent.

At this moment, Sir, an example has been shown here this afternoon, where a Minister assumed that an advertisement would be made in the usual manner. But what has happened? The advertisement was published outside this country and not in the country. Once they receive replies they begin to say that advertisements will be appearing in the local press—*will be appearing*—that is in the future.

Now it would be difficult for anybody to blame the Minister because under the present system the Minister has no control over the Civil Service, or the internal workings of the Corporation, and he has no right to assume that these people in authority will do the right thing at the right time, and consequently when those people in those posts do not carry out their functions as the Minister expected them to do, it provides a loophole and evidence for complaint to be brought to this House. Suppose the Minister is not able to get his

facts, he is in duty bound to raise the matter here for fear that if the matter is referred to the Department the people there will sit on it.

Our purpose here is to call the attention of the Minister to certain anomalies in his Department. There has been something said about £700 being voted for Inland Waterways and about two years ago about some electrical fittings not being carried out. Well, I am sure the Minister has the right to know of these things and why they have not been done if they have not. We also have the right to call his attention to them. All we say here is that the Minister should investigate and find out. There may be some reason for these things, they may be justified, it may be that some things were not available, and one cannot blame anybody for that.

I want the Prime Minister to appreciate that we do not make criticisms here simply to be destructive. We want to help as much as possible but there is one thing I would say, that whether it is an appeal to Nigerianise the Civil Service, or whether it is about criticisms that we think should be brought to the attention of the Minister... (*Interruption*)... I say that it is the duty of the Minister to check them.

With all respect, Sir, the Minister has not got the organisation to contact the ordinary people. We are simple folk. We are more approachable than the Ministers. When an ordinary person wants to see a Minister, first he has to go through the Messenger at the gate, through the Secretary-Typist, the Junior Assistant Secretary, the Private Secretary and so on up to the Permanent Secretary... (*Interruption*)... but as Members of this House we always have access to our Minister.

The Minister of Communications and Aviation (Chief the hon. S. L. Akintola) : Are we not Members of this House?

Mr Wachuku : They may be Members of the House, but of a different category. There is a difference between us in this House—They are imprisoned Members while we are free Members. With these remarks, Sir, under the Head of Inland Waterways, I will say that the staff there should be protected. Give them adequate protection.

The Minister of Communications and Aviation (Chief the hon. S. L. Akintola) : Point of order. I observe that the last speaker

referred to those of us on this side as imprisoned Members. Well, I do not exclude myself, but does he include the Prime Minister? Does he dare include even the Prime Minister?

Mr Wachuku : Point of order, Sir? This is not a point of order.

The Chairman : Not a point of order.

Mr Wachuku : I want to say in all seriousness, that I personally do appreciate, and I am sure Members of this House, do appreciate the difficulty of the Prime Minister, particularly during this transitional stage, the difficulty of this matter. The adjustment that is required to be made is not an easy one. But in all seriousness we will make our complaints when we find there are things to justify these complaints. But we make these complaints with the greatest sense of responsibility. We do not come to this House to make complaints just for the fun of it, and we make allowances for the frailties of human nature and the possibilities of mistake and error.

Amendment proposed to reduce sub-head 1 by £10.

Mr M. A. O. Olarewaju (South Ilorin) : Mr Chairman, Sir, I am sorry that I was unable to move my Motion for Amendment on this Head of expenditure, but I will seize this permission and opportunity to raise the point which I would like to have and which I think is relevant to this Head 70. Many a time mention has been made about navigation of River Niger from Lokoja to Jebba. This is very essential to improving water transport facility between the people of the North and the people in the Delta area. Apart from this, Jebba will serve the North as the main water port through which to send down cattle, groundnut, cotton and other commercial products. The Eastern and Western Regions, as well as the Southern Cameroons, enjoy facilities of the sea ports which are within their Regions, apart from Lagos port which is general and national for the whole of the Federation.

I would like to know what explanation the Minister of Transport will make on this particular point. Sir, I beg to support the Amendment.

Prince R. N. Takon (Ikom) : Mr Chairman, Sir, very many Members of this House have spoken, stressing the expansion of trade and industry.

Mr Chairman, trade and industry always go hand in hand with the availability of regular and convenient transport. If this Government is really embarking on expansion of trade and industry; the dredging of the Cross River should also be included in the programme.

This river is of vital importance to the country's trade. Following the report of the Co-operative Department 1955-56, you will find that the deterioration of cocoa at Ikom was caused by lack of transport between December and June when the level of the river goes down making produce evacuation impossible. The river will be of valuable services to this country along with the other important rivers as Niger and Benue, but only if it is dredged. Then it will also serve the commercial firms in transporting produce from the Cameroons to Calabar as well as other foodstuff from the Cross River.

Mr Chairman, I beg to support.

Mr B. O. Ikeh (Abakaliki) : Mr Chairman, I beg to oppose the Amendment. But I would use this opportunity to draw the Minister's attention to the promise made to me during the time I made the Motion about the Cross River last year. I was told that before the Government could undertake a hydrological survey of the Cross River, it will first of all have an economic survey of the Cross River basin. I would like to know what the Minister is doing about it. Has he arranged to have an economic survey of the potentialities of the Cross River basin? He said he would do it through the help of the Regional Government, and if the Eastern Regional Government is prepared to carry out the economic survey. Has the Minister made the request to the Regional Government?

Mr Chairman, I am really very grateful that in this Estimate provision has been made adequately for three additional ferries over the Cross River. I do not know which ferries they are, but I would like to say that priority should be given to two I have in my mind. One is the ferry between Itigidi and Ediba, and another one is the one between Oferekpe and Apiapum. The roads there are really good. The Regional Government is already tarring the roads between Ediba and Apiapum, and

the road between Abakaliki and Obubra had been well-constructed by the timber company there. So, if the Minister would see about the ferry, at these two areas, we would be very, very grateful.

I beg to oppose.

Mr F. N. H. Ayeni (Badagry): Mr Chairman, I rise to oppose the Amendment and, in doing so, I will associate myself with all the sentiments and congratulations showered on the Minister by other Members who have spoken.

But with all that I have a question to ask the Minister and at the same time I would like to give him some advice. What measure is the Minister taking to avoid the danger to lives and property of people who travel on the lagoon in canoe or small engine boats in view of past lagoon disasters? I think it is high time the Government of the Federation provides reliable craft to ply these places where the lagoon is very deep and wide, and thereby allay the fears of people. Because we expect the 32 million people of Nigeria to remain safe, and we expect them to increase in number and not decrease. This being so, I think their lives should be protected.

A group of people or individuals will not be able to provide reliable engine boats or canoes to carry people to market places like Badagry, Epe, Ikorodu and so on. But if Government will provide reliable transport of its own, I think people will have rest of mind to go to these places and with safety.

Mr Chairman, I beg to oppose.

The Minister of Transport (Hon. R. A. Njoku): Mr Chairman, Sir, I would like to say in answer to my hon. and learned Friend, Mr Jaja Wachuku, that as he very well knows, the question of advertisements for posts is a routine matter and the question of whether the advertisement appears locally or overseas is one of timing. I am told that in the particular instance to which he refers, the Nigerian candidates, the people who have applied in Nigeria here, will be interviewed before those who applied from overseas.

I want to refer briefly to the point made by my Friend Mr Olarewaju and to refer him to the investigations now being carried out by the Dutch Firm of N.E.D.E.C.O., and also to the patrol and navigational work which is being done by the Department of Inland

Waterways. I think that as much as is possible is being done and more will be done in the light of the report of the N.E.D.E.C.O.

I have taken note of the point made by Mr Ikeh and if he would like to see me in my office, I should be quite prepared to discuss with him the Motion which he has referred to and tell him of any action which has been taken. The same applies to Mr Ohiani.

I think it would be futile to expect Government to provide ferries for all the creeks we have along the coasts. There is no doubt that the most that the Government can do is to provide regulations for the safety of passengers who ply in these crafts and we have within recent months passed a number of legislative measures in this House to that end. But in any case, if there is any point the hon. Gentlemen would like to discuss, my office is quite near enough and I would be quite prepared to exchange views with them.

I beg to move that the question be now put.

An hon. Member: What about the Cameroons?

The Minister of Transport: If I may say a word about the Cameroons. The hon. Ngale expected me to answer questions on the Cameroons before the questions were put. Nothing was said about the Cameroons. This is the time to answer points that are raised and not to make a new speech. There is a Motion coming up for debate, I think it is next week, on the ports of Tiko and Victoria, and I would like to wait until that opportunity comes and I will tell Members what they want to know about these two ports.

Mr N. A. Ezonbodor (Western Ijaw): Mr Chairman, Sir, I thank you very much for the opportunity given me to talk on this item. Really it is very very difficult to speak to the understanding of Members of this House and particularly to our Ministers when they do not know about the local affairs of the people of the rural areas in the Niger Delta, with particular reference to the Ijaws. Particularly in this case, if it were possible that the Minister of Transport or the Minister in charge of Inland Waterways had been in the rivers areas, then points raised in this House could be understood. The same thing applies to any other Ministry. Some of us coming here discuss matters theoretically, but practically our Ministers should go to the rural areas

and know what is happening so that when we come to discuss matters in this House, they will know what answers to give us.

This is one of the Heads where I will encourage the Minister to tour rural areas. Other Ministers have been going on globe-trotting and people have been criticising. We really criticise them but they should have better gone to the rural areas than to go abroad. So we appeal that the Minister of Transport should first of all come to our rural areas.

Now, Sir, in the rural areas, you have the Waterways. We are saying that these Waterways are trying to absorb the work of the Fisheries Department. We expected these people to go to the areas to see about the waterways and clear all the obstructions there. But to the greatest surprise of all, these people become fishermen. All they concentrate on is to kill fish and to sell to the people, making plenty of money and forgetting the main business of clearing the rivers, while we have stumps of trees, palm trees which are standing in the river. There are many rocks up the Niger River, which should be cleared by this Department. Mr Chairman, in our area you all know that we have not got roads. What we have is waterways, and then the Government has supplied some creek launches for the expatriates there. There are about four to five. Members of this House, when they want to tour their constituencies, will have no means of getting to their people, but the ordinary people like the Government Travelling Teachers, when they tour these places, are supplied these launches to tour with. It is very very amazing that a Member of the House of Representatives who wants to go to the area will go on ordinary canoe when the ordinary Government Travelling Teachers will go in launches.

Mr Chairman, there is another point I would like to raise and that is that I have many a time pointed out that the dredging of the River Niger and the River Benue should be undertaken very vigorously. Really we have got an assurance from the Prime Minister that the Report will be forthcoming this year. But there is this point that when we are thinking of the dredging of this River, we are not thinking only of improving the transport of that area; we should think of the people who

are living along that area, because if these two Rivers are being dredged, it will do much good to the people who are living along these Rivers.

Mr Chairman, with these few remarks, I beg to support the Head.

Chief N. G. Yellowe (Degema): Mr Chairman, if the Inland Waterways Department, as I see it at Port Harcourt, is what we call Inland Waterways Department, Mr Chairman, please I ask the Minister of Transport to remove it. Mr Chairman, that branch of the Department at Port Harcourt is so badly short-staffed that the man there is the only man who goes from Calabar to Onitsha and that is why most of the time is spent in the hospital. He has been working overtime all his life and he has got no assistance whatsoever. I am asking the Minister responsible for that sort of thing to find an immediate remedy. The man is always in the hospital because he is over-worked. And the Department is of no use to us, Sir, over there. He is supposed to be the person who is to look after the safety of the people between Port Harcourt and Degema. Sometime ago, Sir, I brought a very vital matter before this House and I appealed to the Minister concerned that every year it has become a tradition that our people just get lost at Ikukri... (*Interruption*). Mr Chairman Sir, Ikukri is a land of rock, that is the meaning. 'Iku' is rock and kri is land.

Now Sir, the importance of that place cannot be over-emphasised particularly now that we know that oil is being discovered all over that area from Bonny right up to Degema and now to... everywhere they find oil. Ukikri is very very important and I want the Minister to investigate and when removing the rock he may find something there... (*Interruption*).

It is because of the importance of that waterway that the old Government very many years ago tried to open what is now known as a channel. There was no channel at all. We know the limited resources at the disposal of the Government of those days when a District Officer was being paid only £300 a year, so that Members could see there was no money at that time so that the then Government could not continue the work to remove the rock. But now the Government has money to remove the rock. The channel as you know to-day is not

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
NIGERIA

Tuesday, 11th March, 1958

The House met at 10 a.m.

PRAYERS

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

Mr Speaker : Order, order: I have to announce that the following papers already distributed to Members are deemed to have been laid on the Table :—Second Report of the Standing Committee on Finance of the House of Representatives, 1957/58, and the Preliminary Report of the Fiscal Commission, December 1957.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

O.67. Mr M. Abubakar Garba asked the Minister of Works and Surveys how many Nigerians or Cameroonians have been promoted to the senior grades in the Survey Department in the Federal Territory of Lagos and the Southern Cameroons.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Works and Survey : Thirteen Nigerians and Cameroonians have been promoted to the senior grades in the Survey Department in the Federal Territory of Lagos and the Southern Cameroons.

O.68. M. Abubakar Garba asked the Minister of Works and Surveys what is the total mileage of new roads constructed by the Federal Government during the last three years in the Federal Territory of Lagos, the Southern Cameroons and in each of the three Regions.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Works and Surveys : The total mileage of new roads constructed by the Federal Government during the last three years is 200 miles, and they are as follows :—

Roads	Miles
Lagos-Apapa	Nil
Gombe-Kumo	10
Uba-Bama	36
Yola-Bamenda	14
Zaria-Kano	11
Yola-Takum	32
Ijebu-Ode-Benin	87
Takum-Bissaula-Kamine	10
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Total Miles	200
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O.69. M. Abubakar Garba asked the Minister of Works and Surveys what is the total mileage of Trunk Road A reconstructed in the Federal Territory of Lagos, the Southern Cameroons and in each of the three Regions ; and what is the cost of constructing a mile of new road of standard specification.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Works and Surveys : Sir, it is not clear to what period the Question refers but assuming that it is the same as that mentioned in Question No. O.68 asked by the same hon. Member, the total mileage of Trunk Roads A reconstructed throughout the Federation in the last three years is 366 miles, and they are as follows :—

Road	Miles
Mamfe-Cross River	15
Victoria-Mamfe-Bamenda	60
Sokoto-Kontagora	20
Sokoto-Illela	11
Lagos-Apapa	5
Bituminous surfacing and widening	250
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	366
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This includes all bituminous surfacing and widening as it has proved necessary on occasions to reconstruct the road before applying bitumen. It is not, however, possible, without considerable research, to pick out these sections from the whole programme.

2. The cost of constructing a mile of new road of say 12 feet width and tarred to standard specification varies according to the locality between £6,000 and £12,000.

Supplementary to O.69 :

Mallam Muhtari, Sarkin Bai : May I know from the Parliamentary Secretary when the tarring of the Zaria-Funtua road will be completed ?

The Parliamentary Secretary : Mr Speaker, that is a separate question entirely, and I require notice of that.

O.70. Mr J. L. Nsima asked the Minister of Works and Surveys when work will commence on the rebuilding of the Uya-Oron bridge on the Aba-Oron Trunk Road A.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Works and Surveys : The hon. Member may be aware that a team of Engineers

from the Crown Agents have been asked to survey all the bridges on the Federal road system and to prepare plans and contract documents for the replacement of those which are not up to the required standard. The Crown Agents' team is carrying out this task in a series of circuits. They have carried out the survey of the bridges in the Eastern Region but have not yet been able to carry out the design work. They are at present completing the contract documents for the bridges on the Kaduna-Gusau and Kano-Daura roads and those for the bridge over the Imo River at Owerinta and one more bridge on Trunk Road A 7. These documents are expected here by next May. After this the team will tackle the design work for the bridges which have been replaced in the Eastern and Western Regions. These will include the bridge referred to by the hon. Member.

Supplementary to O.70—

Mr H. O. Akpan-Udo : I wish to know what devices have been made on this very narrow road for the safety of motorists and pedestrians.

The Parliamentary Secretary : That will come under maintenance, and if you talk to your Provincial Engineer, he will be able to tell you.

Mr S. W. Ubani-Ukoma : I wish to know from the Minister whether he is aware that this bridge is rickety and dangerous? Will his Ministry take early action?

The Parliamentary Secretary : Mr Speaker, nothing can be done earlier.

O.71. Mr D. N. Abii asked the Minister of Works and Surveys when work will commence on strengthening and widening of the narrow bridges before and after Owerri Township on the Onitsha-Owerri-Aba-Port Harcourt Trunk Road A, in view of the fact that these bridges now constitute a source of great danger to travellers.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Works and Surveys : Mr Speaker, Sir, I would refer the hon. Member to my reply to Question No. O.70 as the design for these bridges will be supplied at the same time as that for the Uya-Oron Bridge.

O.72. Mr J. Mboyam asked the Minister of Works and Surveys whether, in view of the extension of the Five-Year Development

Programme to 1962, he will consider increasing the vote for the construction of the Yola-Bamenda road in order that work may be started at the Bamenda end of the road.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Works and Surveys : Yes, Sir. I am at the moment considering proposals put forward by my colleague, the Minister of Works of the Northern Region. But until the matter has received further study I am unable to give an assurance one way or the other.

O.73. Mr J. Mboyam asked the Minister of Works and Surveys whether he is aware that the construction of the Takum-Bissaula-Kamine road is very slow and whether he will take steps to accelerate the work.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Works and Surveys : Yes, Sir. I will take the necessary steps to accelerate the work within the limits imposed upon me by acute shortage of labour and technical staff.

Supplementary to Questions O.73—

Mr J. S. Tarka : Will the Minister tell us why work on this road had been stopped on the Takum end?

The Parliamentary Secretary : In that area there is shortage of labour. The people there are not prepared to work.

Mr L. S. Fonka : I want to know what steps the Minister is taking to get the staff which is so short.

The Parliamentary Secretary : I have said in this House before that the Minister is bringing proposals to alleviate the difficulty.

O.101. Mr F. E. Ngale asked the Minister of Works and Surveys whether he will consider converting the Kumba-Tombel trunk road B to a trunk road A in view of the importance of the road to the Customs Department and the general public, including those who travel to the French Cameroons.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Works and Surveys : No, Sir, I am not prepared to consider converting any additional trunk roads 'B' until I have put into proper order the Federal roads for which I already have responsibility.

O.102. Mr G. O. D. Eneh asked the Minister of Works and Surveys how many African contractors or firms of contractors are registered by the Federal Government in each of the seven categories A-G.

Co-operative Building Society in the Federal Territory of Lagos. The Federal Government is, however, of the opinion that whenever possible Co-operative Societies should obtain finance from sources other than the Government. Where, however, such sources are not available the Federal Government will give sympathetic consideration for loans for specific co-operative development projects.

O.99. Chief T. T. Solaru asked the Minister of Labour and Welfare whether the Federal Government has considered giving a subsidy to the Co-operative Movement as is done in the Eastern and Western Regions.

Answer—

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Labour and Welfare : Subsidies have been made in the Eastern and Western Regions mainly for co-operative produce marketing. This type of organisation does not exist in the Federal Territory of Lagos but the Federal Government will give sympathetic consideration to individual projects when Co-operative Societies find it impossible to raise money from the other sources.

Supplementary to O.99—

Chief Solaru : Is the Minister aware that this Co-operative Department in Lagos under his Ministry is an apology?

The Parliamentary Secretary : It is not.

***O.74. Mr D. N. Abii** asked the Minister of Transport, why it is proposed to build a railway line to connect Nigeria with the Sudan instead of exploring the possibility of extending the existing lines to connect the important towns of the Federation.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Transport : Under section 15 of the Nigerian Railway Corporation Ordinance the initiative with regard to extensions of the railway system lies with the Railway Corporation, which naturally keeps my Ministry informed of its plans in this connection : I am aware that the Corporation has to some extent studied the possibility of constructing a line from Nigeria to the Sudan, but not that there is any present proposal to embark on such a project.

The Corporation is constantly, and rightly, engaged in the investigation of future possibilities, and it is interested in developments

which might ensue from the extension of its system to Maiduguri, including ultimately, perhaps, a link with the Sudan, but any enquiries it may conduct at this stage are purely tentative, and it is impossible to say whether their results will warrant pursuing them further.

Supplementary Question to O.74—

Mr C. C. E. Onoh : Will the Minister tell us of what economic value that link will be to Nigeria?

Mr Akpan-Udo : Mr Speaker, Sir, I wish to know whether this Ministry will consider the extension of railway line to Calabar Province.

The Parliamentary Secretary : I need a notice for that.

***O.76. Mr A. E. Ukattah** asked the Minister of Transport, what was the total number of deaths in the Lalupon train disaster last September, and how many of the victims were students of the Zaria Branch of the Nigerian College of Arts, Science and Technology.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Transport : Sixty-six people were killed in the railway accident near Lalupon, of whom twenty-seven were students of the Zaria Branch of the Nigerian College of Arts, Science and Technology.

***O.77. Mr J. I. Izah** asked the Minister of Transport, if he will consider extending the existing mail service between Lagos, Warri and the creek areas to Ashaka, Asaba-Assay, Utchi and Umuolu in view of the fact that there is no regular means of transport in these areas.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Transport : The service already runs to Asaba-Assay, but the craft employed could not reach Ashaka, since there is only 18 inches of water on the way there. It would be impossible, with a single craft, to extend the service to Utchi and Umuolu, and of the two crafts available in this connection one will be unable to operate again until it is replaced. This process will start within the next few months, and when it is completed I will review the service's scope.

***O.100. Mr J. I. G. Onyia** asked the Minister of Transport what steps he is taking to relieve the congestion, during the period

December-January of every year, of motor vehicles at Asaba and Onitsha waiting to be ferried across the Niger, in view of the serious inconvenience and loss of income suffered by the general public and by traders and businessmen in particular.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Transport : I refer the honourable Member to my answer to a very similar question on the 25th of February. I have invited the attention of the Director of the Inland Waterways Department to the undesirability of having ferries overhauled at Christmas or Easter, at times when Members are coming to Lagos for meetings of the House, or when they are returning to their homes thereafter.

Supplementary Question to O.100 —

Mr Akpan-Udo : In view of the fact that the proposed new ferry will be bigger than any of the existing ones, will the Minister ensure that it will go up stream at a speed not less than the speed of the ferry plying the river at present.

The Parliamentary Secretary : I have told the honourable House that a larger and powerful ferry is being provided.

***O.104. Mr G. O. D. Eneh** asked the Minister of Transport : what was his impression of the Nigerian Railway Corporation coaches in the three Regions of Nigeria, in view of his undertaking to inspect the coaches himself.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Transport : My Minister regrets that, owing to other urgent claims on his attention, he has been unable to spare time for an extended trip by rail.

O.105. Dr E. U. Udoma asked the Minister of Transport how soon it is proposed to dredge the Opobo bar in order to re-open the port to ocean-going vessels.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Transport : The honourable Member will recall that, in 1949, consulting engineers put the probable cost of dredging, and maintaining, a channel deep enough for ocean going ships through the Opobo bar at £10 million. Such a channel could not be maintained without training works, and nothing has transpired since the consultants reported

to suggest that their assessment was in any way exaggerated. The Government is already committed to extensions of the wharf at Port Harcourt, and to operations at the Escravos river mouth, which will cost over £10 million between them : in these circumstances, it cannot at present find money for the purpose which the honourable Member has in mind, but the hydrological survey of the eastern Niger Delta, for which there is provision in the draft estimates under head 605, sub-head 16 (7), will extend to Opobo, and is an earnest of the Government's desire to do what it can for waterways in that vicinity.

***O.106. Dr E. U. Udoma** asked the Minister of Transport : whether he is aware that the closure of the port of Opobo since the Second World War has caused the evacuation of Opobo by the many commercial houses which had for many years been trading there and has consequently ruined the trade of the adjoining area and reduced the town to impotence in the commercial life of Nigeria ; and whether he will take steps to ameliorate the hardship thus brought upon the inhabitants of this once famous commercial centre.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Transport : I am aware that the closing of the port of Opobo has had an unfavourable effect on the neighbourhood's economy, not least because of the consequent reduction in the local buying price of produce, and I know that some commercial firms have withdrawn their branches. As I have just explained, however, the Federal Government cannot afford to maintain a channel across the bar at the river mouth deep enough for ocean going ships. It can claim to have done its best to develop inland water traffic through the experimental boatyard at Egwanga, controlled by the Department of Commerce and Industries, which was established shortly after the port had to be closed. The economic welfare of particular parts of the country is not solely the responsibility of the Federal Government, but it is always ready to study proposals for improvements which are not properly the business of the Regional authorities.

Supplementary Question to O.106 —

Mr Akpan-Udo : Is the Minister aware that the opening of these ports will mean speedier evacuation of produce from Aba, Ikot-Ekpene, Uyo and Oron ?

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

The Prime Minister of the Federation :
Mr Speaker, Sir, I made a statement to the House on the 27th of February concerning our proposals on the prospects of a loan for the Nigerian Railway Corporation. Hon. Members will be pleased to hear that yesterday I received a letter from the Vice-President of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, notifying me that the Bank is now ready to enter into negotiations for loans with representatives of the Federal Government. (*Cheers.*)

The letter continued with an invitation to the Federal Government to send representatives to Washington. The Minister of Finance and the Minister of Transport will jointly represent the Government of this Federation on this occasion. (*Cheers.*) They will be supported by various advisers and by Sir Ralph Emerson who with two members of his Corporation will be travelling in the United States on other Corporation business at that time. Arrangements for the journey and other matters are now being worked out.

I should, however, warn the House that negotiations of the actual terms of the loan, and their approval by the executive directors of the Bank as well as by the representatives of the Federal Government, will take a little time, but I have good grounds to believe that if negotiations proceeded satisfactorily, as we all hope, an agreement can be signed with the Bank in early May.

Sir, the House will be asked in the course of this meeting to approve an Ordinance authorising the Federal Government to conclude an agreement for a loan from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development. (*Cheers.*) In view of the Bank's invitation, which I have reported to the House, it has now become a matter of some urgency. In concluding Sir, the Vice-President wrote to me and I quote the actual words of his letter: "I welcome this opportunity of the Bank being associated with Nigeria's continued development."

Mr Speaker, Sir, I must ask all hon. Members of this House, irrespective of party, to join with me in warmly welcoming this association with the International Bank which augurs so well, not merely for our economic development, but for the world confidence in our Federation. (*Loud Applause.*)

Mr Jaja Wachuku (Aba): Mr Speaker, Sir, I want to raise a point under the Standing Order 55A (c). I would like to ask the Speaker to make a ruling in connection with the dispute that has arisen between the Business Committee and the Council of Ministers as to the correct interpretation of Standing Order No. 55A (c) which reads in part as follows: "to decide and report from time to time to the House the order in which Private Members' Motions shall be placed on the Order Paper." Sir, the Business Committee has the view on the interpretation of it, to the effect that it is the duty of the Business Committee, as the Committee of this House, to select the Motions that Members have filed in a manner that they consider appropriate, and they consider will be of public interest and of interest to the House as well as to the general public. And these Motions should be forwarded to the Council of Ministers for their attention to enable them to be approved? Where there is a Motion which is likely to raise matter which is of some vital importance, the Business Committee is to use its discretion either to recommend it to the Council of Ministers or to postpone it and at the same time Sir, to give the Council of Ministers an opportunity to consider this Motion and if there happens to be such a point, the Council of Ministers will be in a position to inform the Chairman of the Committee of their views if the Motion happens to be inexpedient; but I would like to read two paragraphs of the letter which the Committee sent to the Council, and I would also like to inform the House by reading the reply they got from the Council, that has brought this matter to a head.

Sir, I will read the Committee's letter—"It is observed that hitherto all the Private Members' Motions debated in the House have been selected by the Council of Ministers. This is not considered satisfactory as it appears to defeat the very purpose which this Committee is supposed to serve. The Council of Ministers should not have a reserved responsibility of arranging Government Business and at the same time take to itself the right of choosing the Private Members' Motions that are to be debated in the House.

The Committee should themselves choose what Private Members' Motions they consider important, and these should be forwarded to the Council of Ministers for their consideration. If, for one reason or another, the Council thought

that this Motion should not be taken in the House the Minister concerned could explain to the Chairman accordingly."

Now, Sir, that was the Committee's letter, but Sir, the Committee received this letter—"I am directed by the Minister of Communications and Aviation to reply to your letter No. 752/20 of the 3rd March, 1958, on the subject of Private Members Motions. Of the Motions listed in your first paragraph. . . ."

I will not burden the House with this, Sir, I will take paragraph 2: "As regards your second paragraph, I am directed to say that it has always been customary for the Council of Ministers to consider Private Members' Motions circulated by the Clerk of the House, and to approve Motions to be placed on the Order Paper. This custom has never been seriously challenged in the House indeed when in August 1956 the Government introduced a Motion for a system of selection of Private Members' Motions by ballot the Motion was withdrawn in deference to the opposition of Members and the customary system left in operation. Under this system the powers of the Standing Business Committee are as shown in Standing Order 55A—"To decide and report from time to time to the House the order in which Private Members' Motions shall be placed on the Order Paper."

I am to say, therefore, that the Government considers that the present system should remain in force. I am to add that your Committee should appreciate that a Member of the Council of Ministers, responsible for a Motion on behalf of Government has to have time to obtain the material for his reply from the Department concerned, and that, occasionally, it may be necessary to seek for such information outside Lagos."

Now, Sir, my point is that the Council of Ministers seemed to hold the view that the Committee has been set up purely to rubber stamp whatever Motion they select. The Committee's view, Sir, is that that is not so, that in this respect, it is the duty of the Committee to select Members' Motions and if the Minister is not ready he can even come to this House and tell this House he cannot consider this because he has not been well briefed. At the same time, if the Minister feels that there is something, as I have said before, that warrants postponement of this Motion because of something of national

importance or because it is not expedient, he could say so to the Chairman, and that will be considered quite sufficient. In fact I want to say, Sir, that there has been a case even during this Session when the Committee have taken this step. Sir, on these grounds, I have raised this point, to enable the Speaker to make a ruling, because I see no reference in this section 55A (c) to the effect that the Committee should select such Motions as have been approved by the Council of Ministers.

The view of the Committee, Sir, is that by the setting up of the Business Committee the power of selection by the Council of Ministers, has been abrogated. We want a ruling on this point, Sir.

Mr Speaker: I have prepared a Ruling on the matter, and I am grateful to the hon. Gentleman for giving me notice of his intention to raise it. Before this Session it was the custom for the Council of Ministers every week to select and announce to this House the Private Members' Motions to be taken on the following Tuesday and the order in which they should appear on the Order Paper.

But on the 21st February, 1958, a new Standing Order, having been passed by this House on the Motion of the Minister of Finance, was approved by the Governor-General. Under this Order, 55A sub-paragraph (c), it became the duty of the Business Committee "to decide and report from time to time to the House the order in which Private Members' Motions shall be placed on the Order Paper." I am bound to rule that the Government, by moving the House to agree to this Order, renounced the former power of the Council of Ministers (*Hear, hear*) to select Motions and imposed this duty on the Business Committee. (*Loud cheers*).

If the Government wish to make a change it will be necessary to amend the Standing Order.

I do not know whether I should add a note that this new Order so accords with the practice of the House of Commons that when I was consulted about the framing of the Order, I assumed that the selection of Motions was being deliberately transferred from the Council of Ministers to the Business Committee, and I made it quite clear that I was in favour of it.

There are two essential safeguards which were both mentioned by the hon. Gentleman about Motions which infringe any public

policy or the national security; and the other difficulty of a Minister not being prepared with a brief on the subject, in which case he can always notify the Business Committee or the House on the Tuesday, when it comes up for Debate, that he is not ready to answer to the particular Motion.

NATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR INDEPENDENCE

Dr E. U. Udoma (Opobo): Mr Speaker, it is my pleasure to move the Motion which stands in my name, That, in view of the fact that during the Constitutional Conference held in London in May 1957, it was agreed by the Premiers of the three Regions and the Leader of Government Business in the Southern Cameroons that the Federation of Nigeria be granted independence in 1960, this House calls upon the Federal Government, in consultation with all the Regional Governments and the Government of the Southern Cameroons to set up a committee to be known as the National Committee for Independence and to charge it with the important task of planning towards the Independence of the Federation in 1960.

Sir, it will be appreciated that if we really mean to have Independence in 1960, we cannot get it by groping in the dark and it is not a matter that could be achieved by piecemeal acts by individual Ministers or even individual Civil Servants or individual Members of this House. There must be some planning towards a goal, that goal being Independence in 1960. Therefore, we appreciated the announcement which was made by the Prime Minister the other day, that the release of the Army to Nigeria and the preparation for defence, the training for foreign service, were all indications that the opportunities have arrived for the Independence of this Federation in 1960. No doubt, we all accepted those as good signs in themselves, but my belief is that if we are really serious there should be some consolidated plan throughout the whole Federation, so that when Independence comes it will not be Independence for Members of the Federal House alone, it will be Independence for the whole country.

Sir, Members may recall that at the London Conference, the Leaders of major parties, the Premiers, as this Motion put it, of the various Regions and the Leader of Government

Business in the Southern Cameroons, submitted proposals seeking the approval of Her Majesty's Government that declaration should be made for the Independence of this Federation in 1960. Sir, the Secretary of State, representing Her Majesty's Government, made an answer. He said he was not in a position, acting on behalf of Her Majesty's Government, to give a blank cheque to Nigerian leaders because there were several problems yet unsolved, and that it would be necessary that those problems should be determined and solved in order that, when Her Majesty releases Nigeria, or sets Nigeria free, Her Majesty's Government would do that with a free conscience and an easy conscience.

Sir, referring to the proceedings of the Conference, paragraph 62, which I read with the leave of the Speaker, the Secretary of State suggested that when the Federal elections of 1959-1960 were over, when the new House had met and it would be convenient to Nigerian Governments, those Governments and the United Kingdom Government, might confer together to determine the processes by which Nigeria might obtain the common objective of self-Government within the Commonwealth.

The processes (I would like that expression to be underlined) the stages, the processes, the hurdles which Nigeria must have to jump over in order to go to Independence, what are these processes, what are these hurdles? Sir, those two questions cannot be easily answered, you cannot even answer by a rule of the thumb, it requires thought, it requires planning to ascertain what these processes are. Further, Sir, our leaders were not even satisfied with that and they went on discussing the problem and obtained this statement from the Secretary of State. The Secretary of State said this, when our leaders pressed on this question of Independence, paragraph 53: "We could not, at this stage, give any undertaking that the date would be the same date as asked for in the Resolution, that is the Resolution of the House of Representatives, though we would do our utmost to meet the Resolution in a reasonable and practicable manner. Delegates, I hope, know Her Majesty's Government well enough to be sure that they would not invent reasons for officially extending the date. Her Majesty's Government would, of course, be very much guided in their choice of a date by the way everything was going, by

House of Representatives Debates

1239

[National Committee

11 MARCH 1958

for Independence]

1240

how the two Regions now about to enjoy Regional self-Government had taken the strain of this great step forward and by how the country as a whole had faced up to the problems of minorities, on which a Commission would already have reported."

Sir, it is, of course, true that when that statement was made, the Premiers—unhappily at that time we had no Prime Minister—the Premiers of the three Regions and the Leader of Government Business in the Southern Cameroons, had to give in in these words, paragraph 54 and I quote: "In the circumstances, we can do no more than take note of the Secretary of State's statement, while reserving to ourselves the right to pursue the issue further with a view to impressing upon Her Majesty's Government the necessity for granting Independence to the Federation of Nigeria not later than the 2nd April, 1960."

Sir, the point is this; we do not want again to be caught napping, we do not want again when 1960 arrives and a Resolution is passed in this House, that the Secretary of State should be able to say, "I am afraid you have not put your House in order, it is impossible for Her Majesty's Government to relinquish her responsibilities to the people of Nigeria." That is precisely why this Motion is brought before this House. It is a Committee that would concentrate on planning the processes I have referred to, and see how we would be able to overcome these hurdles, to be able to see what are the requisites which would be required by the Secretary of State in order that we must make certain that in 1960 we have been quite prepared. It is for those purposes that I bring this motion that a Special Committee be appointed charged with that responsibility.

Sir, there are many matters and I think I would only mention a few of the matters which ought to be considered and decided upon not by one man or two persons but what I consider as the best organ of the State that will be invested with the authority to handle such matters. For instance, take the question of the National Flag of Nigeria. Surely, it is not being suggested that only one man, or for that matter a few Ministers, would be able to determine the type of flag that will be accepted throughout the whole country. There is the question of the National Anthem for the Federation. Are we still

going to sing "God save the Queen", or we would have to get our own National Anthem that would express the aspiration of the people of the Federation?

What steps are being taken? How many days have we before we get to 1960? No advertisement even! No invitation to members of the public to say, let those who can compose music try a hand so that this Committee that might be set up might be able to scrutinise and select what will be regarded as reasonably suitable for this country!

Now, Sir, there is even the very important question of foreign service that is, representation abroad by men who would be real representatives of the people. Well, Sir, I think these are matters which ought to be considered by a National Committee. Then there is the question of our defence. It is of course obvious from what appears in the Forces at present that our Army for many, many years to come will be manned with expatriates, but will we be satisfied with that all the time?

Some hon. Members: No!

Dr Udoma: You cannot have a free country and have mercenary soldiers running your defence. You must have people who are born and bred in this country who would have similar aspirations, indeed identical aspirations, to the aspiration of the greatest nationalist of Nigeria. You cannot depend on mercenary soldiers because a mercenary soldier will only fight so long as you have a long purse to keep him fighting. Even then, on the slightest pretext he is prepared to leave you in the lurch.

So, Sir, there are many problems to be tackled. Even, how many people in the country are really conscious of the fact that the Regional Premiers and the Leader of Government Business in the Southern Cameroons have committed this country to independence in 1960? What is the publicity about it to prepare people's minds? What have the people in the rural areas been told about Independence? You want them to wake up one morning to find that Independence has been declared! Have you taken the people into confidence in this great journey? What is the campaign that is being undertaken by the Government to bring this important matter to the knowledge of the people of this

country so that those who are at the fore-front of the battle will be able to take the whole people with them in this great march?

Then, of course, there is the problem which stares us everywhere in the face, the problem of minorities. Sir, it is very important that this matter be faced squarely. It is no use trying to play hide and seek. That might be all right in 'Alice in Wonderland,' but we are living here in the world of practical reality and unless we begin now to think seriously of these problems in practical terms our Independence will have ended in a fiasco. Sir, I am suggesting that this question of minorities is a problem that ought to be handled by a high-powered Committee which would be able to suggest the possible solution acceptable to all sides.

Now, it is one of the problems that confronts the country. (*Interruption*). Well, I know there are people who are still fidgety about it, but I do not think you solve problems that way. All I am saying is that this is one problem that has got to be solved. It may well be that the Committee may or may not be charged with that sort of thing, but with the practical problem of getting over the hurdles which I have mentioned so that we may be able to fulfil whatever is required in order that we may not be told to go back and put our house in order.

Now, I think I have said enough to establish the case that this is a real necessity, that we must have people who are not necessarily Ministers to do this work because Ministers are engaged in the major problem of developing this great country. Naturally, whatever is decided by this Committee would be sent forward to the Council of Ministers for final approval because, after all, the Ministers of the Federation are our own spokesmen and they should know what we consider good for us.

Now, Sir, I think that I will not be doing my duty properly unless I wind up my remarks by referring to the foresight of the Members of this House which induced them to press that there should be a Prime Minister in this Federation that should lead the Government of the Federation. (*Hear, hear.*)

Sir, this was one step towards Independence, and as hon. Members may be aware or may remember, before we had a Prime Minister here, Members in this House often felt that they were mere delegates from the Regions and Southern Cameroons, but now this House

has acquired an independent authority, and it is the real Parliament of the land that can speak with the voice of Nigeria. We are grateful for that big step, but I want the picture to be complete, therefore we should not be satisfied with having a Prime Minister alone, but we should go forward and make certain that in 1960 we will achieve our goal, which is Independence.

Mr Speaker Sir, I beg to move.

Mr A. Adeyinka (Ibadan Central): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to second this Motion. This motion in my own candid opinion, Sir, is a motion most thought-provoking. It is a motion that commends itself to all sides of this House. It is a motion that calls us to strive for our great goal, our Independence in 1960. The mover of this motion has ably put forward the difficulties we may encounter in our strivings towards our goal which is Independence for this great nation; it has been pointed out that the granting of Independence to this country will depend a lot on the people, but we believe that the desire must be unanimous in demanding Independence in 1960. (*Hear, hear.*)

The mover of this motion says we have got to plan for a National flag, a national flag that will be acceptable to every part of this country. It must be acceptable, that is indisputable. Not only that, Sir, we must think of the Coat of Arms. Are we going to use the present Coat of Arms? I say, No. We must prepare our own Coat of Arms, and it must be a unanimous one.

Now, we come to the problem of the National Anthem, Sir. The duty of this committee is plain, and it is to plan what type of National Anthem we must have; it must not only be in English, or Yoruba or Hausa or Nupe, it must be a *National Anthem*, one acceptable unanimously to all the country.

The work has got to be assigned to those responsible in order to plan for Independence in 1960. The point I am trying to make, Sir, is that the work of this Committee is to plan towards Independence.

The hon. Mover referred to the problems of minorities. I will say that the problem of minorities cannot be effectively handled by the present Committee, that we appreciate, and we also appreciate that a special Commission has been set up for this purpose, so we

will wait for the findings of that Commission, which I hope will be acceptable to all sides of this House, and to the country.

I am saying that this Motion, Sir, is a very good Motion and commends itself to this House. Whether we like it or not, we have been committed to Independence by our leaders in 1960, and it will be a disaster if in 1960 we find that we are not prepared for that Independence. If there is confidence in our leaders, and our leaders agree to 1960, then every second that is passing must be utilised for our struggle towards Independence. Winding up, Sir, I would say that we have started on the road to Independence by the grant of a Prime Minister to this House which confers National leadership into this hon. House.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to second the Motion.

Question proposed.

The Prime Minister (Alhaji the hon. Abubakar Tafawa Balewa): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to move an Amendment, Sir, to the Motion. To leave out from "committee" in line 6 to end and *add*—"to prepare proposals for the celebrations to be held on the occasion of the grant of Independence to the Federation, and to submit these proposals to the Council of Ministers."

Mr Speaker, I was a bit confused, Sir, when I saw the text of the original Motion and unfortunately the proposer of the Motion, Sir, did not help me very much. He kept on wandering about from the processes by which the Governments of the Federation and of the Regions would work together, to the question of a National Anthem and a National Flag, to the question of the problems of minorities.

This, Sir, may have bearing on the Independence of the Federation in 1960, but I was hoping to hear from him, Sir, certain ideas, definite ideas which he has in mind which can be discussed by the National Committee he is asking the House to agree to.

Now, first of all, Sir, we in the Government, and you, hon. Members of the House, have no doubt whatsoever that the whole country is looking to the 2nd April, 1960. (*Applause.*) It is not a question of saying now whether we shall be independent in 1960 or not. Now, I see no point, Mr Speaker, in trying to bring in people from outside say for example, the Council of Ministers to try to prepare the major matters which will be necessary for the

Independence of the Federation. Hon. Members have entrusted the work of preparing this country for Independence to the hands of their Ministers. I would like to use the words of my hon. Friend, the Minister of Communications and Aviation in that you have entrusted the work of preparing this country for Independence to the hands of your humble servants, the Ministers in the Council of Ministers and I regard ourselves in the Council as the National Committee.

We deal with all major policy matters and I am glad that the hon. Mover has explained some of these measures which we have already taken, in fact we have gone beyond planning and we have made some definite achievements in this field.

Now my hon. Friend Dr Udoma has spoken about the taking over of our Military Forces on the 1st April—this is only three weeks to go and we shall then be in control of our Military Forces. We have told the House of our introducing a new national currency, and I have told the House that we are very fortunate because of the steps we have taken in time, but when we achieve Independence in 1960 we shall have about 40 diplomatists to go into the field. This is an achievement for other countries were not so fortunate when they started. I have no doubt that many of the hon. Members in this House are aware with how many people, for example, Ghana started its Foreign Service. India, which is of course, a very big country and in some cases different from ours did not start with more or less comparatively the big number that we hope to start with.

An hon. Member: What about India?

The Prime Minister: It is India that I am talking about, my Friend. So, Mr Speaker, I want the House to realise that the responsibility for preparing this country for Independence is ours, the Council of Ministers and hon. Members of the House as representatives of the people. I am very sorry to hear my hon. Friend, Dr Udoma, questioning that there has been no propaganda throughout the country to educate the public on the question of Independence. I regard him, Sir, as one of the many in this country who should be doing this work in his constituency. I regard it, Sir, that before he agreed to the Motion on Independence being passed in this House he was fully aware that his constituency would be solidly behind him on his return. Therefore it is the

duty of the duly elected representatives of the people to educate the people in their constituencies about our forthcoming Independence to which we have all agreed.

No doubt, Mr Speaker, in a matter of this kind we should bring in the Regional Governments. My humble Friend, Dr Udoma, spoke of the processes with the various Governments of the Federation. Now, Sir, he himself knows very well that there are certain things for which the United Kingdom Government is responsible now. When the sovereignty passes into the hands of the Federal Government arrangements will be made for who will be responsible for those things. I know, of course, many hon. Members are aware that a lot will have to be done by ourselves even after Independence to know how to assign the different responsibilities which are now either shared by the Regions and by the Federal Government, or which are exclusively shared by the Regions or by the Federal Government. These are matters which will have to be discussed later, but I do not think that a National Committee like the one that the hon. Movers are asking for will be a satisfactory body to do this kind of thing. I believe that some sort of Committee is necessary. The hon. Proposer of the Motion suggested that the Committee might deal with the question of the national flag, the national anthem and matters of this kind. This is perfectly in order.

When I first saw the Motion, Sir, I thought it would be directed mainly to the celebrations for Independence because it is only a foregone conclusion that this Independence will come. (*Hear, hear.*)

I have, and see, no objection, Sir, to agreeing to a Committee which will seek to advise on what will be done on matters like grandstands, on who will be invited, on accommodation, on the national flag, on the national anthem, and I know that the House will be pleased to hear that there are already many individual Nigerians and some organisations who have shown great interest so far in producing samples of these national flags. I have got quite a number of them, Sir, in my office and I am still collecting them, Sir. I hope when the Committee is established the Committee will make the best selection. (*Hear, hear.*) (*Applause.*)

I hope, Sir, that the major matters of policy will be left to the Council of Ministers and no

doubt, Sir, it is our responsibility here in which the Federal Government (by which I mean including this House), should make preparations for the Independence of the Federation, as it was the responsibility of the Regions to make preparations for their self-government. No doubt they see that this is something of happiness to everybody throughout the country and I see no objection, Sir, to bringing in representatives from outside the House of Representatives people who are in a position to contribute intelligently to what I would call the show we hope to put up on Independence Day.

Now there is no doubt, Sir, that we want the Regional Governments to come in with us because it is a country-wide affair and no doubt we will consult them. I hope, Sir, that the House with this explanation will accept my Amendment, and that the House will also know that apart from our achievements in the Foreign Service, Defence and other things, it is also our intention to establish a Special Committee of this House to go into the question of our new Parliament Building, and I hope, Sir, that the Committee of the House will be under your Chairmanship.

Now with this, Sir, I hope the House will accept my Amendment and I beg to move. . . . (*Applause.*)

The Minister of Lagos Affairs, Mines and Power (Alhaji the hon. Muhammadu Ribadu): I beg to second the Amendment.

Amendment proposed in line 6 to leave out from the word "Committee" to the end of the Question, and add the words "to prepare proposals for the celebrations to be held on the occasion of the grant of Independence to the Federation, and to submit these proposals to the Council of Ministers" instead thereof.

M. Muhtari, Sarkin Bai (South West Kano): Thank you Mr Speaker. I rise to support the Amendment to this Motion. We must honestly congratulate the Prime Minister for all the sentiments he expressed in connection with this Motion. We believe, Sir, that self-government to this country and to our men Sir, is very very dear, and we are already committed, as the Mover of the Motion has said, to the attainment of self-government on or before the 2nd day of April, 1960, and I do not think, Sir, that this is a Motion on which we shall belabour the House, if I may say so, unnecessarily.

We are satisfied with the expressions of the Prime Minister, but all the same Sir, I would

like to bring to the notice of this honourable House, one point, and that is this. Her Majesty's Government has made it abundantly clear that she was not ready to commit herself to any day for the grant of independence to Nigeria. Well, Sir, why is this? As the Mover of the Amendment has said, there must have been some obstacles, and it is for us here in this honourable House and for the right-thinking citizens of the country to think together and to work together, so that we shall convince the Government of the United Kingdom to concede to us the right to govern ourselves on the 2nd day of April, 1960. (*Hear, hear.*)

Sir, national unity will have to come first. National Committee is good, but according to the Prime Minister, it is unnecessary. But what we need, Sir, is national unity. We need to see all those political differences resolved as far as possible (*Cheers*) and, Sir, we must respond as far as possible to modern democracy. So, Sir, those who pay lip service to democracy in this country will have to leave politics now, now. Those who think that politics is for their own personal aggrandisement should quit now, now. (*Shouts of "One Nigeria" and "Northernisation."*) Sir, somebody here is saying Northernisation. With your permission, I would like to refer to what is now being bitterly criticised in this country, and that is the Northernisation policy of the Public Service of the North. We are not against anybody Sir. We only thought that the time has come when. . . .

Mallam Nuhu Bamalli (Central Zaria): Point of order, Sir. I think it is not appropriate to discuss the question of Northernisation in this House.

Mr Speaker: Yes, I agree. It is a small matter compared with the main subject, and I hope the hon. Gentleman will not pay too much attention to it.

Mallam Muhtari: I am very sorry, Sir, the point of order is coming from my own friend, but I wanted to make it abundantly clear the reason for the adoption of that Northernisation policy. However, so far as Members have now understood, I will leave it entirely.

A few minutes ago, I touched the point of national unity. Some politicians are doing all their best, they are touring the country recklessly, inciting people against the policies

of the Government so that they might get into power when independence comes. Well, Sir, I would like to assure those people that they will find themselves at the back door when independence comes in 1960.

Mr P. Aiyuk (Mamfe): Mr Speaker, I rise to support this Amendment. It is very gratifying, anyhow, to see that this type of Motion has been brought to the Floor of this House to be debated.

Sir, the leaders of the main political parties who went to London should be congratulated for striving to obtain an undertaking that Nigeria should have independence in 1960. In fact, if this undertaking had not been signed by the leaders the people of this country would have been very much discouraged when they returned from London.

Sir, when the proposal for this Motion was brought to me by my co-Movers, I was extremely happy to subscribe my agreement. Because I know how important any Motion dealing with Nigerian independence is to the people of this country, and more important also, because my party was also concerned in the demand for independence in 1960. This Motion is an indication of the practical example of our great desire for the freedom of our people, and its easy passage will go a long way to show our people that the leaders of Nigeria are very serious about Nigerian independence.

Mr Speaker, Nigeria is the largest of the West African territories and a progressive one at that, and it would have been the first African nation to achieve independence. But its diversity and complex problems have regrettably but inevitably delayed independence, until Ghana took the lead. However, we are not despondent and I am only very happy that many arrangements which are suitable for the achievement of independence are being planned by this Government. It is the intention, Mr Speaker, that the leading parties in the Southern Cameroons have agreed to move to independence with Nigeria in 1960, although some unscrupulous politicians and selfish ones in the Cameroons have agreed that the Cameroons should continue under the British Government when other nations are wriggling themselves out of British imperialism.

We feel that we as Members of our party, which has agreed to go with Nigeria into independence will have to move forward by the

On the question of the national flag, I feel bound to say, Mr Speaker, that there must be *black* in the colour. I am not suggesting the general setting, but I strongly feel that *black* should be included in the colours. Aside from the national anthem and the national language, I think that this question of the national flag is very necessary. But I must warn Members not to consider Mr Speaker as a Commissioner on the Minorities Commission.

Chief T. T. Solaru (Ijebu East) : It will be observed that I have put down my name as a supporter of this Motion for a National Committee for Independence in the terms set out in the Order Paper having listened to all that has been going on in the House, and to the able speech of the Prime Minister, I am sorry, Sir, I still have no reason to change my mind from asking for a National Committee, for the simple reason of the very good reasons that are given by the Prime Minister. Of course we had in mind this National Committee; well its work cannot be complete unless of course it makes recommendations about those things concerning celebrations, but you must work before you celebrate. You just can't plan mainly for mere celebration; there are certain things that must go before that, and all we are asking for is that this Committee shall explore all fields so that we can be actively prepared. And I think our motto for this National Committee should be "Be prepared." Preparation first, before celebration.

What are the things that we have to do before we celebrate. I think those are the most urgent things; I don't think the day of celebration in itself is "the thing," but the thing that leads to it.

Naturally, Sir, we have said a lot in this House about ways and means whereby we can prepare for Independence. As a matter of fact the Minister himself said that the whole business of the Council of Ministers, their whole energy has been bent towards hastening for this Independence. I agree with him. All we are saying is that you might make use of this Committee to supplement the energy that you are already putting forward. After all, Sir, we did not say it is going to be a Committee mainly of this House alone, limited to membership of this House. Surely there are members of the public who might

aid us in this arduous task so that they do not turn round and say, "If we had been consulted," or "If we had had a chance to contribute, we might have said this, we might have said that." That was what we had in mind.

Sir, these are times of emergency. I am borrowing the words of the Prime Minister himself. They are times of emergency and that is why we had a National Government. Otherwise, there is no cause for it. It is in order that we might go forward.

Well, times of national emergency demand measures of emergency. During the time of the War, in Great Britain,—you know there are no more freedom-loving people than the Britons themselves; you know one of their popular songs "Britons, never never shall be slaves." Well now, during the war, these freedom-loving people, one by one consigned their liberties, their rights, their privileges in order to achieve the main aim of the time, to win the War. And a cartoon came out in one of their papers. It depicted a large box, and several persons coming along with huge loads on their shoulders; and one by one they deposit their baggage in the box, and that baggage consisted of "my privileges," "my right of speech," and "they go into this box for the duration." Every this, every that, into the box. Everybody surrendered his rights and privileges for the purpose of winning the war.

Now, those were times of emergency, and I say these are times of emergency, and therefore the ordinary channel will not do. It does not mean that the ordinary channels are not working, but that they don't work fast enough. When you ask a question in this House about Nigerianisation, what do you get? The Minister gives very good advice; "Don't attack the Civil Servants, attack us, we take on the blame." But half the time the Ministers could not physically or possibly know all that was going on. But when it is brought to their notice, anything that is done here is not done with a view to bringing Civil Servants into disrepute, but if there are certain things that ought to be looked into as a result of what has been aired in this House, the Ministers will look into it and see that justice is done; that is what they are there for.

Sir, what we are saying is that such a Committee would be very helpful in suggesting ways and means whereby we can prepare for Independence. The Minister of Communications and Aviation, with his flare for high-sounding words—quite appropriate, I must say—said in his speech yesterday, in answer to some question, he said, “I now have in mind an industrial “expediter” which is, I think, a cross between “expert” and “expedite”. So, even although there is an Economic Plan, there is all the preparation for the industrialisation of the country, yet he wants a national expediter. I think I have never heard that in any Civil Service, a special title, but he is going to have one. He means to have one in order to see that things move quickly. Well, I must say that I have never heard of anyone being promoted to an industrial expediter, but if the demands of the times need it, well get the man for the job. Sir, that is the kind of thing we are asking for.

Take, for example, the Army. In peacetime when they recruit they go out with their bands and they go on marching up and down, and giving lectures. But in war-time, do they have time to march about? They say, “These are times of national emergency; we want people to come and serve in the Army,” and if the people don’t come quickly enough they will draw up emergency regulations and then everybody of an age group must go into the army and serve this time, and so conscription sets in. These are troublous times. These are times of emergency, and therefore, you need a kind of committee to help you through in this planning.

Sir, I say it will be the sloggers’ lingo, the person who thinks that there is time enough, who would say that we should be content at this time with the kind of answers we get when we ask questions—“This is receiving attention.” “That is receiving Attention.” This is not the time to receive attention, this is the time to act, and we think that this Committee would be able to help our able Ministers who are already overburdened with many tasks of administration and execution to expand. They are all too burdened with their present charges to find time enough to do all these things.

For example, one Parliamentary Secretary this morning, in answer to a question about the condition of coaches somewhere in the Regions, said that he had not had time to make a rail

journey to find out whether the rail coaches are good or not. He had not had time, even though when he does make a rail journey, I think he has a special coach to travel in. He does not travel in the ordinary first-class, but he had not had time even to take his luxury coach and go out and see what the ordinary coaches look like, and I believe him. He has not time. He has got his hands too full. But I think it would be unwise if, when he has not time, somebody says, “But these are the conditions; please investigate.” They say, “Well, this is a matter which is receiving attention in due course.” These are not times of “in due course” and “receiving attention”. Then that bogey we call “executive capacity”; how long are we going to be before we get rid of that? But not by the usual channels, not by the usual red tape. This is the time when we must do something in order to move quickly.

Sir, somebody mentioned the need to educate the masses. Well, I suppose he did not mean that the masses knew nothing about Independence just now. Of course the masses do know and the Members of this House in all their constituencies are doing whatever they can to impress upon the people what are the privileges and the responsibilities of Independence, and some of them are feeling the pinch of independence already. For Independence means shouldering your own burden, not waiting for somebody to put bread into your mouth.

Well, Sir, what is really meant is that this Committee can suggest ways and means. In addition to what the Members are doing in their constituencies, the Government, the Government of the Federation, could through its organs, maybe the Minister of Information or otherwise, spread among the people what the responsibilities of Independence should be.

Sir, it is along these lines that we are thinking, but when we are asked to accept the Amendment, much as we respect our Prime Minister—and all that he has asked us to do is that the Committee should say how many, who shall propose the toast, and who shall take the first chair, who shall take the next chair, and so on—well, all that is mere detail which will be done by this Committee. But we hope that they will do something much bigger than that.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I support the original Motion.

1960. Mr Speaker, Sir, every Member here will agree with me that if you go through that Speech nothing was said categorically about what the Government was doing purposely for Independence. Of course, we read something about the State Bank and all that, but we had that in the five-year Economic Programme. We knew that. But the Prime Minister was installed last September and declared a state of national emergency and formed a national government, and we expected at this meeting a categorical statement, an unequivocal statement, should be made by the Prime Minister on the state of the nation, what it will be in 1960. We did not get it.

And then the Minister of Finance came in and made his Budget Speech. We expected something, some financial proposals as to what the Minister intends to do, the expenditure that will be involved in ushering in national Independence. We did not find anything.

An hon. Member : You did not look well.

Mr Wachuku : Of course, we looked well. We examined the commas and the full stops.

Another hon. Member : What of the new Parliament ?

Mr Wachuku : Of course, with the increase of Members ; this is too small for even the present population of this House. So we knew all that. But in order to know whether the Prime Minister is really serious about this Independence, whether he is really committed to this date, in order to force his hands to come and tell us exactly what is in his mind, we brought this Motion. And, of course, it has worked. The Prime Minister, Sir, has accepted the principle of establishing a Committee to deal with matters affecting Independence in certain aspects of it. The Prime Minister, Sir, has accepted that it must be national. Call it a National Sub-Committee if you like. If you call the Council of Ministers a Committee, then this is a National Sub-Committee. The Prime Minister has accepted that and above all, Sir, the Prime Minister has reassured us here in public that the question of Independence on 2nd April, 1960, cannot be a matter for any future argument. In other words, all Members here should take it that as far as he is concerned, and as far as the

Council of Ministers is concerned, this is a national commitment from which we cannot withdraw.

That is my understanding of this language, and therefore it is incumbent upon every one of us now to gear his relationship against that day of destiny. Now, how can we achieve that ?

Sir, I want to say that we quite appreciate what the Prime Minister has done, and I am sure those of us who support this Motion agree with the Prime Minister, and to accept what he has proposed. But here the difference lies. We wanted a Committee to plan the whole problem of Independence ; but the Prime Minister says "No". What is happening now is that the Council of Ministers have accepted the responsibility to carry out the general problems involved in Independence, but we want this House to agree that we should set up a Committee that will deal with matters appertaining to the celebrations. Celebration is not only composed of feasting all over the country. You will have to find out from Ghana, from India and other countries like Canada what they did, the type of things they did when they celebrated independence. The Committee before you put a proposal to do that. You have to consider the financial implications of the proposal in the light of experience of others.

Now, Sir, not only do you have to consider this proposal in the light of experience, but also you have to examine the various other points, such things as the official banquets, (*An hon. Member : Teacups*) Yes, not only teacups, but tea spoons and saucers ; you must consider the countries you are inviting, and you must consider African customs and traditions. A celebration is a difficult thing to plan, and this Committee we want would be set up to review all the implications and to consider the set-up of the country as a whole.

Now, Sir, let me say that having tried to get the Government to accept this proposal (*Hear, hear*) is it not an achievement (*An hon. Member : Is it ?*) (*Laughter*) in the absence of a complete vacuum. Therefore, to say that the Movers of this Motion have come here to supplant the Council of Ministers is to accuse them of heinous crimes, and there is no such crime. Mr Speaker, Sir, my learned and hon. Friend must retract or withdraw such an insinuation.

It is a very very serious insinuation because he is suggesting that we are conspirators trying to Guy Fawkes the proceedings.

Now, Sir, what I am saying in this particular aspect is that this Committee will have to consider the position of Lagos among other things. Will we allow the state of Lagos to be as it is for people to come here from outside, and to look at it and take away a wrong impression? This Committee of Celebration will have to recommend to the Council of Ministers what is to be done to all these unsightly blemishes and places. We do not want people coming here and seeing eye-sores. Corrugated iron sheets have been used to cover up some of these places, but they have become eye-sores themselves, and apart from anything else the Committee would have to deal with this problem. I know what I would like to do to these places (*An hon. Member: Treachery.*) No, it is not treachery, it is a warning; A warning of what I will do. If I am to be treacherous I would keep my mouth shut, but remember people will be coming from elsewhere, Lagos must show a good face. We have a planned programme, and we hope and intend, if possible, to carry this out, whether you like it or not.

Now, Sir, apart from other considerations, people have said something about a national flag and a national anthem. You think it is an easy job to have these things, but it isn't.

Firstly for a national anthem you must have words. After the words are composed, you must examine them to see whether they are appropriate in the circumstances, considering your history. The anthem must tell something about your history, your language, your hopes and aspirations, all these things must be in the words. And the language that is used, it may be English, or some other language.

Then, Sir, having composed the words, they must be set to music. And they must be set to the appropriate music, and that is not an easy task. It may be your own national musician who will compose this or some musician from outside, and when the music has been composed someone will have to sit down and listen to it and say whether it is the best kind of music for the words. (*An hon. Member: Why?*) My learned and hon. Friend thinks that we need only go outside there and bring in a barrel organ and there you are. It is not so at all.

And then, Sir, my learned and hon. Friend has suggested a common language. As far as I am concerned, I would say that this is a matter that could be left at this moment, until the country's Independence, and then in a quieter moment we would be able to examine the implications of looking into a national or common language in the light of the progress of the country.

Therefore, Sir, I do not want to take all the time of Members, because the Prime Minister has shot a bolt from his bow. If he had made, or if I had known he was going to make the statement he made this morning, and the spirit in which he made it, and the commitment publicly this morning, I would have been in a position to say something quite different from what I have said now, in addition to what I have said. The only point therefore, I want to say is on the proposal made by the Prime Minister when he said we should go out and popularise the idea. But I want to say, Sir, I am fully aware of the responsibilities that have fallen on his shoulders. I am sure he must be having a lot of headaches, and sleepless nights, but they will not prevent him from touring the country.

The Prime Minister must go and show himself to the general public of this country. Not only in Lagos. We have now a Prime Minister of the Federation of Nigeria. My people in my constituency do not know the Prime Minister of the Federation of Nigeria. One of the greatest things will be a statement made in this House, Sir, to tour the country, and say to the country, "This statement has been made in the House; this is a statement which I myself made in the House; this is a statement which was made in London," and to tell the people all these things. And then, having led the way we will follow him, preparing the ground, as it were, doing mopping-up operations. That is very vital, and having done so—because this is not a Regional matter, it is a national matter, a state of emergency—having done so, everyone will know that we are out for Independence.

It is no use telling us in this House and on the N.B.C., the Prime Minister must go to the North, he must go to the West, he must go to the East, he must go to the Cameroons. He must go to every part of the Federation and tell them this story and the pronouncement which he has made to-day. Sir, in spite of

all he has said I have read the whole thing about the commitment about the minority commission and all that. As far as I am concerned, minorities is not the determining factor as to whether this country will be Independent or not (*applause*). Minorities Commission or no Minorities Commission, this country and the United Kingdom have decided that Nigeria will be independent in 1960. It is a question of date, and we are not going to allow the question of minorities commission to retard the progress of this country at all.

Perhaps in my younger days I might have been vigorous about this matter, and I want the Prime Minister to make the move, and the Council of Ministers to make the move. Our people will soon forget all the little squabbles which can be settled. We should not allow anybody to fish in troubled waters in our own country, because every country has got its own troubled waters. Nigeria is not the only place with minorities. In England there are minorities; the Scots and Welsh and other people are minorities. I remember, on the Minorities Commission, Mr Foot and Mr Shawcross, at Port Harcourt; and Lord Ogmores, he was telling him, "You, Mr Shawcross, you are a Welshman." Minorities are also there, in England. So the question of minorities is not a matter for Nigeria alone.

Therefore, Sir, with these remarks I would say—having forced the hand of the Council of Ministers and the Prime Minister to make these statements and to admit that there is a necessity for this committee, and the committee would be a national committee, and the duties of this committee when established would be to prepare proposals in connection with matters of independence, the form it will take, the celebration, the implication, and financial, social and economic matters—I have no alternative but to say that as far as I am concerned I think those of us who moved this Motion, although we have not got all the things we want—the Prime Minister admitted that there is necessity for planning, and I want my Friends to appreciate this—necessity for planning. This committee must plan the question of celebration and all that is involved in it, and once the Prime Minister has accepted that, it means this aspect of the responsibility will be given to a body that will see to it that it is carried out properly.

Well, that is planning. And, moreover, the lesson that we learn from that other aspect may be considered in like manner. With this reason, Sir, I do accept the amendment moved (*Applause*), and I am sure the hon. Mover of the Motion will accept it.

Mr T. O. S. Benson (Lagos West): Mr Speaker, Sir, I congratulate the Mover of this Motion and I want to appeal to him to accept the amendment of the Prime Minister, and I am happy that Mr Jaja Wachuku, one of the people who subscribed his name to the Motion, has accepted this amendment.

We are moving towards Independence. We have our Prime Minister. He is a very broad-minded man, otherwise he would not be able to have two mosquitoes on the Government Bench. (*Laughter*). We have a Nigerian as the Minister of Finance. A Nigerian was appointed the Nigerianisation Officer, and the appointment of the new Chief Justice of the Federation of Nigeria in the person of Sir Adetokunboh Ademola (*Hear, hear*) is another achievement. I entirely support this amendment.

But I would like to sound a note of warning. In the statement made by the Colonial Secretary, part of which read thus. (*Interruption*)

The Minister of Communications and Aviation: (Chief S. L. Akintola): I am a mosquito?

Mr Benson: "On receipt of your Resolution Her Majesty's Government will consider it with sympathy and will then be prepared to fix a date when they would accede to the request." He went on further, Sir: "Her Majesty's Government would be very much guided in their choice of a date by the way everything was going, by how the two Regions now about to enjoy Regional self-government had taken the strain of this great step forward, and by how the country as a whole had faced up to the problems of minorities on which a Commission would already have reported." Part of the reply of our leaders read thus: "While reserving to ourselves the right to pursue the issue further with a view to impressing upon Her Majesty's Government. . . ."

I refer to these statements so that we shall be in a position to beat Her Majesty's Government at the Conference of 1960. It is, therefore, the duty of the two Regions that have already achieved self-government to be tolerant

to the Opposition, so that we will forget about this minorities problem. In England we asked for the creation of states, and not for a solution of the problem of minorities. I might say that this question of minorities at present is the greatest havoc to Nigeria. We want states to be created, and this should be done without necessarily referring to the minorities problem. That is the point I want to make.

With these few remarks, Sir, I move that the question be now put.

Mr Speaker withheld his assent and declined then to put that Question.

Dr E. U. Udoma (Opobo): Mr Speaker, Sir, I must confess that in the course of the speech of the Prime Minister I did not see any difference between the sentiments which he expressed and those which I have expressed as being the purpose of this Motion. But it seems to me that while the Prime Minister accepts the spirit of the Motion he runs away from accepting the real Motion, and I do not know why the Council of Ministers would not accept the question of having a planning committee. Why must we not plan our own Independence? Why must we leave it to chance and say, "Oh, because we have made a statement in London, everything is all right."

I think we are not being realistic at all if we adopt that attitude and it is true that even the Motion itself, the original Motion, did imply the question of celebration. Because when the National Committee plans the various stages, the hurdles over which we have to go in order to bring about Independence, it must have to plan the celebrations of that Independence. But it is being assumed that the mere statement by leaders would be sufficient to bring about Independence. I say that it would not.

Secondly, I am saying this; while it is part of my duty to educate my constituency to their responsibilities in connection with Independence, I think the Government will be running away from its own responsibility if it does not gear its own publicity department to educate the masses of the people. It will be falling short of the duty and expectation of the Minister of Information if that Ministry is not engaged in the most important duty of educating the masses of the people.

Now, Sir, it is not my duty to act as a campaigner for Independence everywhere. I say, Sir, that even the explanation given by my

hon. and learned Friend, Mr Wachuku (he did form the cadre of the conception of the original Motion) but the fact is this, while Mr Wachuku himself accepts the Motion as one of the signatories thereto, he waters down the effort by saying, "Let us compromise with the Prime Minister."

Well, I think the Prime Minister's proposals do not go far enough; because it is assumed that we have already had Independence we must plan celebrations. We have not it, and we shall be deceiving ourselves if we say we shall get it in 1960.

I am prepared to accept the spirit which animated the Prime Minister in the course of his speech and to say that in spirit he accepts the Motion but in the letter, in the actual wording of his own amendment, he does not appear to accept it.

So I am prepared to accept his own spirit but to reject his amendment. . . . *(Laughter and Applause)*.

Mr S. W. Ubani-Ukoma (Aba): On a point of information. I wish to know whether the construction of the amendment means after or from. It says "leave out from "Committee" in line 6. . . .

Mr Speaker: Well, that is very easy. The word "from" means from after; it does in fact mean all the words after the word "Committee."

Question that the words proposed to be left out be left out, put and agreed to.

Question that those words be there added, put and agreed to.

Main Question, as amended, put and agreed to.

Resolved, That, in view of the fact that during the Constitutional Conference held in London in May 1957, it was agreed by the Premiers of the three Regions and the Leader of Government Business in the Southern Cameroons that the Federation of Nigeria be granted independence in 1960, this House calls upon the Federal Government, in consultation with all the Regional Governments and the Government of the Southern Cameroons to set up a committee to prepare proposals for the celebrations to be held on the occasion of the grant of Independence to the Federation, and to submit these proposals to the Council of Ministers.

ESTABLISHMENT OF MINISTRY FOR
NIGERIANISATION, ETC.

Mr Jaja Wachuku (Aba): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to move the Motion standing in my name which reads as follows: That, in view of the approach of the Independence of the Federation of Nigeria and the fact that many overseas officers will accept compensation and retire, this House calls upon the Prime Minister to recommend to His Excellency, the Governor-General, the establishment forthwith of a Ministry specially charged with the duty of devising emergency measures for utilising all available manpower to prevent the collapse of the Federal Public Service after 1:60, by taking charge, in particular, of Nigerianisation, training (including technical education), scholarships, and advising on possible economies in manpower in the public service of the Federation.

Now, Sir, this Motion contains a mouthful. This Motion has been filed following the statement that was made by our respected Prime Minister last September. I think it is necessary, Sir, that I should remind this House of the statement which was made by the Prime Minister. You will find it in the Official Debates for 1957-58 at page 12, columns 1605-1606.

Now, Sir, the portion of the statement that I will read is where the Prime Minister says:

"We have been given a great opportunity. What we shall make of this country after we finally assume complete control, and how we shall be judged, will depend upon the way we manage our affairs during this interim period. The biggest task before us to-day is, therefore, the work of preparing Nigeria for Independence on the 2nd of April, 1960:" and then there was loud applause. Then further on, Sir, he said: "It is our duty to demonstrate during this interim period that we have the capacity and the capability to rule ourselves. . . . Let us remember that we have irrevocably committed ourselves to the attainment of Independence for the Federation of our country on the 2nd of April, 1960; and if the world is to continue to take us seriously, we must make every effort to see that this important aim is achieved."

Then, Sir, I jump a few lines to where he says: "Nigeria has now reached a critical stage in her history and we must seize the

opportunity which has been offered to us to show that we can really manage our own affairs." And, then still further on, Sir: "My Colleagues and I pledge ourselves to the service of this cause, and I want to assure the country of our determination to do everything in our power so that Nigeria can achieve Independence in April 1960."

Finally, Sir, where this question of emergency comes in, the Prime Minister said: "Mr Speaker, I regard the period between now and 1960 as one of national emergency, a period in which we should bury our political differences and work together as a team so that our ambition to achieve Independence may be realised." This is a period of national emergency.

Now, in supporting the Prime Minister, Sir, the Minister of Lagos Affairs, Mines and Power also spoke at page 18 of the same Debates. The Minister said: "As the Prime Minister has already said, there is no anxiety about your future so long as you submit yourselves to the changing circumstances and give absolute loyalty to the Government of the day and continue to give your unreserved service to the country, your welfare in Nigeria is assured indefinitely.

"To the indigenous civil servants, I have a word. There is a common saying these days that we shall always need expatriate officers. While I agree that this is so, yet we cannot afford to be complacent and hope that this state will last indefinitely. It will end as soon as you are determined that it shall end." Then he went further, Sir, and said: "The civil service is the machinery and back-bone of the Government and it will not be peculiar to Nigeria that this machinery will be shaken when the country dependent on expatriate service gets Independence. It is high time Nigerians got themselves prepared to face the consequences of self-determination rather than quibble about the target date fixed for self-government. The date for Independence has been fixed by the politicians, and it is 2nd April, 1960. Let us all prepare for the arrival of that date."

Sir, these are two important statements made by the Prime Minister and then the Minister of Lagos Affairs, Mines and Power.

Sitting suspended : 1.00 p.m.

Sitting resumed : 3 p.m.

Mr Jaja Wachuku (Aba): Mr Speaker, Sir, I read out before the break, in putting it to the Prime Minister and the Minister of Lagos Affairs, Mines and Power, what was said last September on the state of emergency in which we were involved.

Now, in order to make Members appreciate fully the position, I intend also to conclude that aspect of my reminder by reading out some extracts from the speech of Chief S. L. Akintola on the 16th of March. You will find this at page 33 of the *Daily Hansard*, Volume 1, Number 18. He said on that occasion of March 1956: "Mr Chairman, Sir, I cannot say that I have anything frightfully new to say on this except what has been said about the general attitude of the Chief Secretary's office on Nigerianisation...". At that time, Sir, the Member was on the other side of the House. Continuing the speech, Sir, he said: "... Well, it is the question of confidence. Has the Chief Secretary confidence in the potentialities of Nigerians? If he has, and I believe he has, we would like to see a clearer demonstration of that confidence. The Chief Secretary, apart from the Governor-General, is about the most important official in the Federation. He is number one on the ladder, but rungs numbers two, three and four are not occupied by Africans. In fact, there is not a single Nigerian within measurable distance of the Chief Secretary. This is not enough, and it is really disgraceful that for all these years, there has never been one occasion that an African has become Chief Secretary. Are our African staff idiots, ignoramuses, or have the successive Chief Secretaries been incompetent inefficient school masters who can never teach their pupils?"

That shows the attitude to this question of training Nigerians to occupy responsible positions.

Now, I have raised this plea because to-day, Sir, we are dealing with the subject asking for the creation of a Ministry which will see to training, scholarship, Nigerianisation and to take emergency powers to be able to prevent possible collapse of the Federal Public Service when the country gets Independence in 1960.

Now, Sir, I will try to analyse the subject of the Motion. First of all, the Prime Minister has confirmed our belief and has reinforced my

faith, and I think the faith of Members, that we are committed to Independence on the 2nd of April, 1960. This Motion says it is because of that that we are asking for this. And secondly, Sir, that Motion says categorically that certain overseas officers will collect their entitlement and retire in 1960. Somebody may say, "Oh, well, how do you know?" I have here, Sir, two publications—*Daily Times* of the 19th of February this year, at the back page, page 16—Members will notice: 50 retired officers costing £100,000". That is in the Eastern Region. I do not need to go into detail. That shows that people are already going and collecting money. In other words, the Federal Government must be prepared for this eventuality.

Again, Sir, at page 1 of the *Daily Times* of 3rd March this year: "Over 48 expatriate staff leave the West. £300,752 paid in compensation." In case anybody is in doubt that this will happen—they find that these two Regions are self-governing and overseas staff have taken their compensation, a number of them have gone and many more are thinking of going. This must make the Federal Government to be serious about the possibility, within the next 26 months, of overseas officers, I do not say all of them, taking their entitlement and going.

Now, Sir, this Motion asked for the creation of a Ministry, you may call it the Ministry of Manpower, as in war in England, a state of emergency was declared and they created a Ministry to mobilise the man-power and all resources and everything required for the war. The Prime Minister may say that we are not in a state of emergency. It is not a normal circumstance—26 months to be able to prepare for Independence, certainly it is a state of emergency. We want a Ministry that will break down everything and get out all the files from the pigeon-holes and dust them. That cannot be done by all these bodies which peep from one pigeon-hole to another as we know now. We want a concentration of power within the centre.

Now, Sir, why do we say that? I am putting it before this House that for 13 years the Government of this country knew of the shortage of trained personnel to man the Public Service and all other aspects of development schemes in this country. They knew that we had not enough people and the Government has been doing little or nothing

They say "proposal," and then they make a "statement." Of course, the Chief Secretary got up and wrote this paper. What happened? Of course the paper was passed. And then some of us here talked our heads off that this was unsatisfactory. But anyway it went over. My learned and hon. Friend over there (pointing to the Minister of Communications and Aviation) knew exactly what we were doing at that time. We said it was no use.

The Minister of Communications and Aviation: When you were there, I was there.

Mr Wachuku: Yes, when both of us were on that side. And now we are opposite!

And I am trying now to call his attention to what we were up against then. Now, as a result of that this paper was prepared and we asked for a Director of Recruitment in order to hasten the Nigerianisation of the Civil Service. A director of Recruitment was the request, but what did we get? We got somebody called Nigerianisation Officer. And I would like to remind Members again that this Nigerianisation Officer has no powers at all. He was just a co-ordinator. Let me read to Members paragraph 39 of that. "From time to time there have been suggestions that a Director of Recruitment should be appointed. Recruitment is the responsibility, under the Constitution Order in Council, of the Governor-General in his discretion, and His Excellency feels that the appointment of an officer styled Director of Recruitment would lead to misunderstanding and to an overlapping of duties. The Governor-General has, however, recently examined the task of the Federal Public Service Commission, the Scholarships Board of the Ministry of Social Services, and the Establishment Branch of the Chief Secretary's Office as outlined in this paper, and is satisfied that there is room for the appointment of an officer to co-ordinate the work of these various branches of the Government of the nation." The appointment of an officer "to co-ordinate."

He did not even call him Nigerianisation Officer. To appoint an officer for co-ordination of these various departments, the Civil Service Commission, the Establishment Branch of the Chief Secretary's Office and then the Scholarship Branch of the Ministry of Social Services, and I take it now, the various depart-

mental schemes. Then what is it? You read the whole thing and you will find he has no powers at all. The only thing to do is to advise. No powers. Therefore, the mere fact of mention of this name of Nigerianisation Officer is deceptive. That is what I am saying. The Nigerianisation Officer has no authority at all to force anybody to do anything, and the heads of departments have used him very effectively against his own inclinations. If he wants to do anything, they say no, there is no authority to do so. The result is in our government to-day there are so many agencies responsible for this one single thing we have been yearning for, crying for, weeping for, and everyday preaching our heads off that this Nigerianisation, training and the execution of the problem is what we want.

You have, Sir, the Establishment Branch, you have the Ministry of Education, you have the Department, you have the Civil Service Commission, and then the Nigerianisation Officer, who goes there to co-ordinate and there is war everyday, this man writes one memorandum, another writes another memorandum, and they keep on arguing. When there is work to be done, nobody does it. When there are scholarships to be awarded, nobody gives it. This year, if you look at the statistics the Nigerianisation Officer published a newsletter that there is a vacancy for 700 in the public service, and about 300 vacancies in the professional class. How many scholarships did the government give last year? About 189, and this year, there is no increase. Will that meet the needs of this country at this hour of emergency? My answer is no. That will not do.

Sir, a Ministry is necessary in order to get all these factors together under one head, and know that he is committed and has responsibility for training and Nigerianisation. Now, that the Establishment Branch is in the portfolio of the Prime Minister, this Ministry will be responsible to keep the Prime Minister informed day-to-day, month by month and up to the hour. Questions about the state of Nigerianisation and training and what is going on there. Members can walk into this Ministry and ask questions from the Permanent Secretary: What is the position. Information. As it is now, before you go round all the departments and the rest of them you get tired upstairs, and you collapse.

You cannot get information. You go up there, Nigerianisation Office, Entrance at the rear. You go here, entrance at the Marina. You go to the Department of Commerce and Industries, you climb six-storey building, by the time you get there you may collapse, and have to drink water.

That type of thing will not do. It does not show at all that we think seriously of this proposition that the country has only 26 months to prepare itself for this great job.

It has been said in this House that the top rung of the ladder is not Nigerianised at all. Nothing is being done. Although I have been seeing the bringing up to date of this, it was only last September, the time we had no Prime Minister, a Government without a head, a House without a Leader, when we were just here like that, then it was that this section of the House asked that Nigerians should be appointed as deputies, and senior secretaries, even if it is necessary to appoint them as supernumerary officers, but by all means go ahead. Now we have a Prime Minister, but the Prime Minister cannot do all the work. The man has a lot of responsibility. He has to see everything. He cannot be doing establishment, doing this, doing that. These responsibilities must go to somebody. Somebody must be responsible. There are two Ministers of State.

People may say : oh yes, a Ministry will be expensive. When it comes to question of costs, we have two Ministers, earning £3,000, the same pay as you provided for. There is staff at the Nigerianisation Officer. Go to the departments that are having all these things, collect them together and they will give all that you require for a Ministry. The question of house, I am sure you will find accommodation. When you wanted that house we rented a building. I was a member of the Finance committee then.

The Minister made sure it was necessary. "You will rent a building, and house all these people in one place, and let them know that it is their job now to do this work." But I am complaining about this scattered business all over the place. It will not do any good at all. The Prime Minister cannot put his thumb on the thing even if he wanted to do so. This man will be answerable to him. If you tell him you want to see him, or you telephone him

and say, "Look I want to see you, can you see me now?" or you go there and discuss the whole matter, he knows he has definite and specific duties to perform and definite arrangements to carry out. That is what we want, but this business of telephoning "Minister this" and "Minister that," by the time he finishes, the work he has on his desk will just be left undone. It is no good and it cannot satisfy this House.

Now, Sir, apart from that, when we had Members discussing the question of the place of the Northern Region and our own Nationals in the Northern Region in the Nigerianisation scheme, particularly in the Federal Public Service, what I have to say is this. If you had a Minister here he would have power to have a certain quota reserved for those from the North. There are quite a number of the young men from the North coming out from the Universities. Now instead of going to the Eastern and to the Northern Regions they could come in here for a tour for nine months or eighteen months whatever it is, and they will gain experience here. They will make friends with people in the south here; they will gain experience, even if they go to the North then, that contact created here will last long and that will make for the unification of this country and that will be a more effective way of unifying this country than all the politicians making speeches about Minorities will ever do. I am saying this in all seriousness and during the time when you have this quota reserved, anybody who is employed there will be on contract.

We must find a way of solving this problem. That cannot be done from Department to Department with all people of diverse interests. But if you have a Minister who is charged with this responsibility, he knows that it is a national duty that is placed upon his shoulders. When you have head of departments who say "Some people are loyal and would like to stay here and finish up the job they have started so ably;" there are people with views like that. Sir, if we have somebody there who will see it as a great job and if he makes a success of it, he has made a name for himself in this great country.

The Minister of Communications and Aviation (Chief the hon. S. L. Akintola) : Don't over argue the case.

Mr Wachuku : I have to over argue this case if necessary, in order to make the Minister understand. No question of "this is within

suggestions. Suppose we take the Senior Grades, a list of men in the diplomatic service and then we shall know how many men we want to fill these positions. If there are men with the requisite education and character, let them understudy their bosses. If there are not enough men with the requisite educational character, please offer them scholarships. You know exactly how many men you want in this Department and that Department and the other Department, then it is necessary for you to find out whether you have suitable men. Whatever you call suitability I do not know, but find out and if you have not enough suitable men, then please give them scholarships to enable them to be suitable.

I always emphasise that it must be men of character because all of us know very much that the very thing that worries our country is this question of dishonesty. That is the reason why I always try to impress upon everyone of us that the men we select for our Service, especially for the top class of our Service, must be men of character. Not only must they be able, they must have the character too, the two must go together. Therefore, if there are not enough men, you must give them scholarships to qualify them for these posts. In the course of time you will be able, gradually, to replace every expatriate with a suitable Nigerian and in a few years we shall be able to pride ourselves in saying that our Civil Service is composed of Nigerians.

Until we attain that time, until it gets to that, we must not think that we are satisfied because it is very necessary that our country, our keepers, must be manned by our own nationals. No national of any other race, however good he is, however efficient he is, or however Christian he is; other races of the world do not allow it and we must not allow it. There are reasons against such a thing and I am cautioning ourselves now that we must be very careful that our Service be manned by ourselves.

In the way of promoting people to the top grades, I would suggest that the men who are responsible for such things, be men who will do the promotions on the basis of efficiency and character, avoiding methods of tribalism and favouritism. Let me repeat, avoiding methods of tribalism and favouritism because those are the things which spoil our Civil Service. Wherever favouritism comes into account, then you get the wrong man in the

wrong place and everything goes wrong. If everyone of us legislators, if everyone of us professes, if everyone of us in the Senior Service can set an example of honesty and integrity, I think the country will transform overnight. If we can only do this our country will be transformed overnight and I ask you, do try please.

I do not want to make a long speech, but an example of Nigerianisation has been given by our Governor-General himself whom I can describe as an African Governor. Yes, Sir James Robertson is indeed an African Governor. He knows our feelings and accords with those feelings. And he has done so by his announcement in the papers this morning that one of our sons has been appointed to the post of Chief Justice of the Federation. What other example of Nigerianisation can you have? That is why I am asking the Council of Ministers to also do that kind of thing. All that we want now, Mr Ministers, is that there should be created a Ministry with a portfolio for this Nigerianisation scheme. In whatever way you do it, we want a portfolio in which the Minister will be responsible to the Council of Ministers and answerable to this House on matters of Nigerianisation so that if the pace is slow or the scheme is not carried out, we can have some person whom we shall ask why is this and why is this not.

Lastly, my dear Ministers it will not be out of the way if I should say, Nigerianise Owerri as well. We want you to Nigerianise Owerri. By that I mean that since the advent of the white man all the amenities we enjoy in Owerri are the ones we have been enjoying before. Since four years back we have not benefitted by your Nigerianisation. Even simple electricity.

The Minister of Finance (Chief F. S. Okotie-Eboh): On point of Order, Mr Speaker, I protest on behalf of the Nigerianisation Officer!

Mr Okereke: And, my dear Ministers, whoever is charged with the work of Nigerianisation will find difficulties in his way. He will find disappointments in his way because there will be many youths that he will elevate who will not live up to expectation. Do not be disappointed. There may be very few of them and in that respect I should say *nihil desperandum*. Just get along and the end will be bright.

House of Representatives Debates

1287

[Establishment of Ministry

11 MARCH 1958

for Nigerianisation, etc.]

1288

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to second.

Question proposed.

Mr C. O. Komolafe (Ilesha) : Mr Speaker, I rise to oppose this Motion. I oppose this Motion on this ground. We have a Yoruba proverb that even if you continue to weep or cry you should be able to see. It is so ridiculous that a Member of this House should bring a Motion by which he is asking this House to adopt a measure which will increase the number of Ministries in this country. You want a Ministry of Nigerianisation. What work will that Minister do that the Nigerianisation Officer cannot do? If the office of the Nigerianisation Officer is not well strengthened, I think we could call on the House to ask the Prime Minister to cut out the proper system of work for the officer in charge of that Department or make a substantive motion in order to assign more work to him and to make his position more firm so that he can act more effectively and be able to do his work well. But when we call on the House to create more Ministries, I mean, it sickens the ear, it is rather ridiculous.

It reminds me of one friend of mine who was in the United States. He said that when he got to the United States, it was unfortunate that the American Negro is always being chased about by inferiority complex. When he has money, he buys the largest car in the country and when he is going on the highway he wants to go ahead of everybody and as such runs into difficulty. He runs at the rate of about 90 to 100 miles per hour. Now, barely a few years ago this system of ministerial appointment has just been introduced in this country and we have to-day 54 Ministers in this country. Fifty-four Ministers multiplied by £3,000; so much money goes away from this country. Already, in this Federal Government we have two Ministers of State and we could ask one of them to take up this Department if he needs it. . . . (*Interruption*) . . .

Mr Speaker : Order, order. Mr Komolafe.

Mr Komolafe : Is this Jankara Parliament? (*Laughter*) . . . So that when you talk of a Ministry of Nigerianisation, there is nothing that the new Ministry could do that even the man in charge of that Department cannot do. The principle of the Motion is good but

the way in which it is introduced is what makes it ridiculous, and on that ground, Mr Speaker, I oppose the Motion.

The Prime Minister (Alhaji the Hon. Abubakar Tafawa Balewa) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I feel I should come rather early in the debate on this Motion. I would start, Sir, by saying that oratory, however emotional, or however brilliant, however widely publicised in the newspapers, is no substitute for the actual truth about our Public Service.

Sir, we are faced with a very big problem about the question of Nigerianisation. Now, every time, Sir, that this matter is discussed, people seem to forget very many things.

I will start, Sir, by drawing the attention of hon. Members to some of the facts about this case, because it appears, Sir, that whenever we discuss the subject we seem to forget that the whole Federal Service is larded with expatriates. Sir, I have an analysis of the total Federal establishments.

The total establishment of posts in the Federal Service is 36,338, that is the total posts, and out of these we have vacancies of 4,479 posts; that is actually, Sir, we have in the total establishment now 31,889 posts which are filled. Now, of these, Sir, Nigerians and West African officers of this establishment number 30,378 and expatriate officers number 1,481. Now, Sir, we should qualify, Sir, every time we speak on Nigerianisation not to give the wrong impression that we are thinking of the service as a service, but we are thinking of the higher grades affected.

Now, in the, what we call, senior posts we have 503 Nigerians and other West Africans, and indeed, Sir, we have 957 expatriates. In addition we have 601 expatriates on contract or on other temporary terms. Now, Mr Speaker, it was my wish, Sir, to circulate to hon. Members the report of the Nigerianisation Officer, but unfortunately because of the pressure of work on our Government Printer, I could not get the report printed in time and circulated to the Members, but I hope that the report will be available to Members before very long, and in that report they will see the progress made and also they will find a lot of material there which will make them think. I hope, Sir, that all hon. Members will study the report very carefully.

Owerri... (Laughter)... the saying is, "if you found a hole and you wanted to find out what is in the hole, get a long stick and poke it."

Well, Mr Speaker, Sir, at least this Motion has been a bit of a poker and if it has done nothing, I would say that at least it has stirred up the dying embers, or the flickering fires, so at least the fire that you have lighted can burst into a flame.

But, Sir, I will tell you some of the things that make us impatient. You might have heard of them. You will be hearing of them in season and out of season. Nobody wants extra trouble, we have all got troubles enough; nobody wants extra trouble for himself. But if you do not want trouble and trouble seeks you out, what do you do? The only thing to do is to turn round and grapple with it.

Sir, they inserted a figure to show what is the preponderant figure of Nigerians in our service. It is shown there in the Budget, except that they did not tell us that that preponderant figure is made up of messengers, cooks, stewards, washermen and telephone boys, all of whom, of course, are entirely Nigerianised. But it is that coveted first rung that many of us are talking about, and nobody will say that we are preponderant on that level. What we are saying is that it is the few at the top who direct the multitude at the bottom, just as the Prime Minister directs the entire House, the Government Business, and controls the Federation. No one will say that there are not enough Members of the House. But we shouted a year ago when we found the Chief Secretary doing the job that the Prime Minister is doing now, and we have succeeded in that Nigerianisation, which is very welcome. (*Hear, hear.*) That is what we are trying to say. (*Applause.*)

Sir, I said that some of the things that bother us are these: imagine this vessel being set up at Onikan Road there, the reservoir to contain one million gallons of water. Suppose somebody starts punching holes in it, although it holds one million gallons, drop by drop, there will not be a single drop of water in that million-gallon-tanker. What we want this Ministry, or a Committee or whatever is set up to do, is to see that these holes are plugged. There is too much wastage. We talk about not having enough people, but

the few people that we have, we are filtering them away, and we are not making enough use of them.

We have heard enough in this House of people who are qualified in one thing being sent to another. How does that happen? It only happens because somebody has bungled either wilfully or unwilfully, either deliberately or because of blind selfish prejudice. Well, the Prime Minister is too busy; the other Ministers are too busy. Unless, of course, somebody pinpoints it and says, "here is a case, follow it up" we shall get nowhere. For everyone's sake, this is our Government in which people are being shown or led up the garden path, and then led out by the back door and thrown into the rubbish heap. I can point out, Sir, almost in every Ministry—even in this one short Session—we do not need much research. I can point out in the Ports Authority—I do not intend to do it this afternoon. I know when the time comes we shall be knocking at their door: "here is one hole, plug it".

Sir, it takes a long time to train people like Accountants and so on. What is the use of giving scholarships to people, sending them to study accountancy; they come back, after doing the job, they are shown the back door? And they say "you cannot control staff, you are not good enough"! Not that they are not good enough in accounts, but that they cannot control staff. Under that pretext they are gone. Yet, they go and do the job somewhere else. That kind of thing makes us angry.

Sir, I will not mention names, the time has not yet come. The Ministry of Information cannot claim that talents are not being wasted in that Ministry. When people are qualified, people who are in every way qualified, for the reason which baffles everybody, they are just shown the road—they are left on the road. The people's conscience will find them out. It will find them out.

The Minister of Research and Information (Chief the Hon. Kolawole Balogun): Mr Speaker, I object to that statement. The Ministry of Information is proud of its Nigerianisation to-day. The hon. Member has chosen the wrong Ministry.

Chief Solaru: I said people's conscience will find them out. It is already finding them out! If the Minister wants names when

I get out of the House I will supply him with names; in fact I am going to do it (*Several Members: Do it, do it.*) What is the use of a person educating himself, or going away to study for years and years, in coming back the job that he knew how to do, you do not charge him with incompetence, yet he is left on the road.

The Minister of Communications and Aviation (Chief the Hon. S. L. Akintola): He is left at Ikorodu Road.

Chief Solaru: You are quite right.

Sir, I could say the same for the Ministry of Transport. Sheets and sheets of petitions—every Member of the House gets petitions, every day. I am not going to read the petitions, Sir, so the Speaker should not get apprehensive. I am merely saying that these are some of the holes in that tank. Millions and millions of Nigerians, all of them seeking the light like plants in the bush. But there are tall trees above them stifling the light. I do not say that every tree damages the crop; some of them shelter them. We know who those are, but there are a few who take all the sunlight and all the refreshment, not allow these struggling people to get up.

What do I mean? How will a man continue in a department when you know that your chances of promotion are lean; the man before you does not prosper, do you ever hope to prosper? When he does not move up nobody moves up. The thing is this, he moves up one, and you move up another. But if he does not move up, if somebody steps over him or is brought before him, it means that you are going to stand there for ever. That is the kind of thing that a Nigerianisation Minister or whatever committee you want to set up, should probe into.

“We are in a hurry; what men have you got? What are their records? How many years have they served? Have you young men competent to do these jobs? That is the kind of Nigerianisation that we want (*Mr C. C. Onoh: Another Macarthy!*) I can pardon the green horn there who was talking just now. He is very new to the House and does not know what he is talking about.

In the Ministry of Lagos Affairs, Mines and Power, the same thing can happen. You know, Sir, and the Minister knows very well how difficult it is to get Nigerian mining

engineers, people who go underground and overground or wherever it is they go to, it is very difficult. As a matter of fact, Nigerians are not fond of that kind of job. And yet, when you do get a few of them, they get shown the open road, on the pretext that they have drawn an allowance. I tell you, Sir, if a man has been dishonest, hand him over to the Police. Let him face the courts, and if he is guilty, interdict him or let him go to gaol or wherever you want him to go to. But why should a Head of Department say: “O, I think you have drawn something you ought not to draw, therefore you are dismissed.” That kind of thing, I think the Committee or a Nigerianisation Minister will make it his job to probe every incident like that and see that we conserve our energy and our resources.

It is the wastage that must be stopped, but not only the wastage Sir. We must also increase the output, and that is the training which, I must say, Sir, which the Cabinet is taking up energetically. Although we do not always agree with the timing and the method, yet they are doing it. All we say is, get a body that will at least water the plants that you have sown. They will water it day and night. The Prime Minister does not mean to tell me that he is not busy enough. They are busy, very busy; that is the thing. We are so busy that our sin is not the sin of omission in many ways, but also of commission.

Well, now, it is left for us to know what they have been busy about. The hon. Komolafe has been talking about people with large Pontiacs, some people driving in their Pontiacs; they have got to ride it to get somewhere, but where they are driving to is another matter. There is no doubt about that.

Sir, when that has been said, all that has been said will be ever lopsided unless we examine the other side. It is not only that we must Nigerianise, but the Nigerians themselves who are being promoted into these positions must be vetted. We do not want to lay a premium on indolence, cupidity and selfishness. (*Cheers.*) There are Nigerians to-day who are in posts of responsibility who need to be weeded out at once. If we do not say that, we are doing ourselves a lot of injury. People are jostling for positions, they are only looking at the salaries, they are not looking at the jobs. There are people who have the contagion of the

disease of bribery and corruption so deep in them that they cannot think of anything else ; all they want the high post for is in order that they can devour the house of the widow. Well, now a Committee or whatever it is, will make it its business to look into that kind of thing and see that if a Nigerian gets to the top at all he is the best, and not a man who can pull the strings, or a man who has what they call "long legs" at night, or long purses. It will be a man who can do the job, and those who languish because they have no one to plead for them ; the man who can stand upright and face the world.

So long as this type of thing continues among our own people, so long will the contagion spread, and our Nigerianisation will only transform our Service into a den of thieves. People who will say : "it cost me quite a lot to get this position." And so, Sir, as the Prime Minister said, this committee or this Ministry, whatever he says when he sets it up, has its own job. So you see, we are not just saying what is not just in our views ; we are consumed with the passion that this work shall go on and we are ready to help so long as the Ministry itself, the Cabinet and the Government are willing to supply us with the wherewithal to carry on the job. Give us the tools ; that is what we are asking for, and in the words of Sir Winston, "we will finish the job." (*Loud applause*).

Sitting suspended : 4.42 p.m.

Sitting resumed : 4.55 p.m.

M. Maitama Sule (Kano City): Mr Speaker, I rise to make some observations on this Motion that has been moved by the hon. Mr Jaja Wachuku. I am not making my observations because no achievement has been made as regards Nigerianisation in this country. In fact, I will be the last man to say that nothing has been achieved as far as Nigerianisation is concerned in the Federal Government. A great deal has been achieved and we all know that, and certainly we should be grateful to the Federal Government who has worked so hard as to have made that achievement. But certain things that have come to our notice, and by comparing and contrasting what obtains in Nigeria to-day and in other parts of the world that have achieved their independence—and now that we are really anxious to see that everything comes into the hands of our own people, it is for us in this

honourable House to speak out our minds about these things.

I would like to make these things clear, that the service that has been rendered by the expatriate civil servant is well appreciated by every hon. Member of this Legislature and I would like to say this that if our Nigerians that we are now yearning for could put in exactly the same honest and efficient service, certainly Nigeria would boast of an efficient and honest Civil Service. But Sir, one is left to wonder what the position of Nigeria will be after independence when, as I said in my speech during the Second Reading of the Appropriation Bill, we look at the position of countries like India, Ghana, Sudan and compare the percentages of their Civil Service as regards the indigenous natives holding the key positions, and that of Nigeria ; if we take India for example, we are told—how far that is true I do not know, I stand to be corrected Mr Speaker—before independence about eighty per cent of the people on the upper rung of the ladder were Indians. In Ghana sixty per cent of the Civil Service in upper rung were Ghanaians.

In Sudan it was about eighty per cent of the Sudanese that manned the Civil Service on the top. In Nigeria to-day the position is quite different. In Western Nigeria for example, the percentage is only about fifty. In the East the percentage, is about the same. In the North, unfortunately it is just about twenty per cent, while in the Federal Government it is about thirty-five per cent. Taking these percentages together, I am speaking in general terms, one can see that it is less than forty per cent of the Civil Service of the upper rung of the ladder that is being manned by the indigenous natives of this country. Certainly we know it is not the fault of the Federal Government ; we know that the Federal Government is doing a great deal in order to expedite the matter. What we are now trying to suggest is that more guts should be put into the work so that more people should be trained to man the key positions of our Civil Service.

Now, Sir, when we talk about Nigerians manning the key positions of this country and the Nigerianisation office, people seem to forget that by Nigerianisation we mean Nigerianising the key or influential positions in the Government. Because after all what is it, if

the whole lot of the posts, junior posts in the Civil Service are manned by Nigerians when the upper rung is top heavy with people other than Nigerians. We know for quite a long time that people who have held these posts have held them efficiently well and I must say that they have done their work well and I have no grudges against them at all.

But, Sir, my point is this. There are certain posts that need no technical education, posts that need no technical academic qualifications, such posts may be key posts, and wherever it is possible, wherever we find such key posts—or influential posts as they called them in the Sudan when they were Sudanising their Civil Service—let us put our Nigerians that have got the experience and the capability. After all, we are told that experience sometimes is more important a factor than the superficial academic knowledge and in that respect I do not see why we should not try to find out those influential posts, the key posts in our Civil Service that need no academic qualifications, and then try to get our own Nigerians that are dutiful, responsible, dependable and reliable and put them into those key positions so that we can say that we have now got our own people in those key positions manning or directing the policy of our own Civil Service.

That is what we want. This was the policy that was adopted by the Sudan just before independence and if the Sudan could do it successfully well and could to-day boast of manning their own Civil Service by Sudanese, why not Nigeria? I believe these things are receiving the attention of the Federal Government and I am perfectly sure that this Government of the Federation headed by this respectable, dependable and reliable Prime Minister, (*Cheers*) will help us to achieve this.

Now, Sir, coming to the question of Nigerianisation again, it reminds me of our unfortunate brothers in the Northern Region of Nigeria, I do not like to bring the question of regionalism or tribalism on the Floor of this House, but at the same time, every conscientious citizen of Nigeria is doing everything to bridge that gap that exists between the Northerners and the Southerners. In that respect therefore, we are appealing to the Federal Government to see that every encouragement is

given in that Nigerianisation office to the people in the Northern Region of Nigeria so that that big wide gap that has been existing for quite a long time may be bridged.

It is under the circumstances, therefore, that I am appealing that when this committee is set up it should look into the problems of the people in the North. We are not saying this because we are encouraging tribalism, or regionalism, we are saying this because we believe, and I believe every hon. Member of this House does believe, that every section of the community must be taken into consideration when the question of Nigerianisation comes before the Floor of this House.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I would like to say in the end that the civil service of any country, be it independent or not, is one of the three most important things in the Government. Foreign Service, Civil Service, and Defence. The civil service is one of the three most important things in any government. And it seems to me, therefore, that we should attach the greatest importance to our civil service. It is very likely, Mr Speaker, that after independence some people may like to go. That is a fact. We have seen examples of some people that wish to take their compensation and leave from the two already independent regions of Nigeria. We do not grudge them at all. They have got their own reasons and because now they are receiving their compensation and going we do not say that we are not going to be grateful to them. Certainly, we are most grateful to them, whether they stay or receive their compensation and go after independence. We are most grateful to them for the services they have rendered to this country.

What we are saying is this. It is a fact that these people are going. What are we doing in order to fill those posts that would be rendered vacant as a result of these people getting their compensation and leaving the country after independence? That is what we want to know, and I hope that these things will be brought before the notice of this committee that will be set up by the Federal Government, and I am sure that, committee or no committee, the Federal Government, with the Prime Minister at its head and these capable and experienced Members of the Council of Ministers, will not allow us to go on shedding tears. Confident, therefore, as I am, that you

done his best in the past, and I am sure he is prepared to do more, and I greatly support the idea of creating that committee which he has suggested. And I hope that the Prime Minister will be kind enough to see to it that this Committee carries out the duties assigned to it properly.

Sir, I am aware of the fact that certain sections of this country have not yet been able to produce reasonably qualified people to take up their positions in such key positions in the Federal Service. I make this reference to the Northern Region. It is not the fault of our young men in the North; it is no shame on them at all. It is not the fault of these young men. Western education, it must be appreciated, came to the south earlier than the north. Despite that, I hope that those of our northern boys who are training abroad will be encouraged not to take up their appointments in the Regional Public Service only, but also in the Federal Public Service. (*Hear, hear.*)

This can only be successfully achieved by stopping the method of making the Civil Service a hereditary department; because there is a tendency on the part of some people, even of my own brothers, that when they get into a key position they feel that the next man in that key position must be their own countryman, or their own townsman, or their own brother, or their own next-of-kin. I think the best thing will be, since we are always talking of one Nigeria, for us to practise it right inside the Civil Service.

Mr Speaker, I beg to support the suggestion so ably put forward by the Prime Minister.

Mr Jaja Wachuku (Aba) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I think this is the time that I made a reply to the Debate so far.

Mr Speaker : I am bound to say, in honesty, that I was calling on the hon. Member in the hope that he would withdraw his Motion. This Motion has taken a great deal of the time of the House and it is rather hard luck on the other Members who have Notices of Motions.

Mr Wachuku : Mr Speaker, Sir, I would very much welcome to withdraw my Motion but the circumstances under which this Amendment has been put, make me feel most strongly that I must reply to the Debate so far. I would like to take advantage of my privileges under the Order, of the right to speak twice.

Mr Speaker : That a Member has the right to speak twice does not exist. All that the Standing Order says is that a Member shall not be debarred from speaking twice if he is replying to a Debate.

Mr Wachuku : I take note of what the Speaker says, and I think I have the Speaker's permission to reply to the Debate.

Mr Speaker, Sir, there is one thing I want to say. The Prime Minister is suggesting a Committee; he seems to forget, Sir, that the Mover of this Motion has filed a Motion calling for a Committee of this House last Session, this Motion was not brought forward. If I may refresh the minds of Members on that Motion, "That, a special Committee of the House be appointed to enquire into the rate of progress of Nigerianisation in the Federal Public Service and report to this House at its next meeting, and that the Committee be empowered to enquire into the Public Service throughout the Federation."

That Motion was filed last Session and was not brought forward in the Order Paper, consequently, it was not debated and this Session I filed a Motion, with my other Friends the Members of this House, calling for immediate action to be taken. Sir, I would not like the impression to be given here that there is any particular person who has any disagreement or any particular difference with anyone. I have not brought any Motion into this House with any bitterness in my soul. There are many matters I have raised in this House, questions of foreign service, Prime Minister, representation at the Constitutional Conference; I have been abused by people and things have been said. However, so long as I have decided in my conscience that the matter is to be raised and raised effectively, I do it irrespective of what may be said.

I am happy, Sir, to know that the Prime Minister said in his reply, "I am not trying to say that we are satisfied with the rate of Nigerianisation;" we are agreed on that. But the purpose of bringing this Motion is to say that we are dissatisfied with the rate of Nigerianisation and we want to be able to execute this very effectively and achieve the output. That has not been done and although I put so many questions through Government sources, little or nothing was done. I would not try, in this

House, to make any attempt to give the impression that anyone is trying to run down a thing just for the sake of it ; I am not, I do not belong to that class.

I would say, Sir, that in this particular respect, the Prime Minister accepted this Committee but he did not tell us what the terms of reference of this Committee are, what power will the Committee have, where will the executive power be, what type of investigations is it going to undertake ? We are entitled to know what is working in the mind of the Prime Minister about this particular Committee.

Then the Prime Minister told us that the Committee of this House will be presided over by a Civil Servant. Why shouldn't the Prime Minister or a Member of this House preside over that Committee, if it is a Committee of the House ? Surely a Civil Servant is not a Member of this House and if it is a House Committee it should be a House Committee and not partially a House Committee and partially a Committee of the Civil Service. Sir, if you are a Nigerian who is a Civil Servant—as far as I know now there are very few Nigerians who are Heads of Departments—in such a position to be able to demand the respect of all Heads of Departments : we are sure that we have such a person who would be capable and we know exactly what is in our minds Sir. Wouldn't it be proper that the Chairman should be a Member of this House or a Minister, and that the Secretary should be a Civil Servant ? I want the Prime Minister to consider this ; if it is going to be a Committee of this House it should be a Committee of this House. You cannot take the most effective and most important office in that Committee and hand it over to a Civil Servant. Sir, I want to say this in all seriousness, it is most important.

When the Prime Minister was replying, it seemed to me that the Council of Ministers or those who were in authority, seem to think that time is on our side. Time is not on our side ; you have only to look at the student population, they are becoming less and less every year. What is being done ? We ask that. The Minister should see to this because the student population is going down. In the United States, by 1960, we should find that we have more students over there. This is

not being done. The purpose of this Motion is to make the Council of Ministers think more seriously about this.

There is another point, Sir, on which I want to make a comment to add to what my Friend Chief T. T. Solaru said here. When I am asking for Nigerianisation, I am not asking that standards should necessarily be lowered, I am not saying that. When it comes to certain standards, all integrity and honesty is expected from Civil Servants. We do hear certain things, Sir, when we talk of Nigerianisation. We find that certain things happen ; some people get promotion and they are incapable while other people, perhaps younger men, who are capable, men who are loyal to their Ministers, men who are loyal to their country, men who are loyal in every way, do not get promoted.

But you will find that there are types of people who are selected for promotion and are not loyal to their Ministers, or the Members of this House, or to their country. I am not saying that all of them who are selected are like that, people who have whispering campaigns against other people. We want the Minister who is in authority to scrutinise and make sure that it is the right type of man who will be promoted and the other inefficient people will be kept down.

In this Motion, the Prime Minister has got two things to choose from, one calling for a Committee of this House last Session, and this Session my further Motion. I think that the Council of Ministers has chosen the first one. What have I got to lose ? I have lost nothing and, therefore, Sir, considering that we have succeeded in forcing the hand of the Ministry to do something, whichever way I am the winner.

What I want to say in concluding is this, nothing that has been done here will prevent me from agitating if, when this Committee is set up and it takes too long to report and nothing is done about it, and I will continue to agitate about this. We are used to agitation about changes and we continue to agitate, whether it is an all-Nigerian Cabinet or not. We have done it before and we continue to do it.

So, Mr Speaker, Sir, I feel that having gone a-hunting and shot one game and lost one I should be satisfied in that I have not been totally disappointed.

his best to bring about national unity to permeate among our political leaders in Nigeria, so that our dream for national Independence by 1960 will not be a day dream. (*Hear, hear.*) Mr Speaker, when I say national unity I do not mean a superficial and patched-up paper type of unity which can be whisked away by the slightest strain, but I mean a spontaneous and permanent one which will make our national Independence by 1960 an easy win for us. I am also making this appeal in the interest of the common men who because of their party affiliation suffer persecution, prosecution, pillage and pillory precipitated and perpetrated by political opponents who think that the only way they could score a political goal is by destroying others.

Mr Speaker: Order, order. I cannot hear the hon. Member with these constant interruptions.

Mr Lawal: Mr Speaker, Sir, the Federal Prime Minister has been loud in his cry for national unity among the leaders of Nigeria. I say that the Federal Prime Minister has been doing his best for a national unity in this country, but unfortunately his best is not good enough. Our paper cry for unity ends in paper and our shouts for unity in the Parliament perishes along with those ovation applause which oratorical ability is apt to win for us from those interested in oration.

I would humbly suggest a summit conference of our party leaders to be summoned by the Federal Prime Minister. This will afford an opportunity to bring our leaders out of their party advisers to such a sphere of political reality where mature deliberations affecting this country and not political party will be realistically dealt with.

If this Government will be run on the same pattern with those of mother parliaments in Great Britain I am sure the Federal Prime Minister will not find red in accepting my suggestion. (*Interruption.*)

Mr Speaker: Order, order, it is very difficult for the reporter or myself to hear what the hon. Gentleman is saying.

Mr Lawal: When England was under the reign of George V and when party politics threatened to become a serious impediment to the King convened special discussion with party leaders and by that he was able to avert crisis.

In 1914 when the question of Home Rule presented a serious crisis a conference of party leaders was summoned at Buckingham Palace. Students of contemporary History must be in the know of the part played by George V.

Realizing that only love, tolerance and sincere patriotism would safely and expeditiously lead us to our desired goal, I appeal to our leaders to meet and bury their hatchets and co-operate in the interest of our fatherland—Nigeria.

Sir, I beg to support.

The Prime Minister (Alhaji the hon. Abubakar Tafawa Balewa): When the hon. Member who has just spoken was asking me for permission to raise this matter on the Adjournment, he did not give me the impression that he was making a speech and that he would like me to give him a reply. All that he told me, Sir, was that he would appeal for unity, an appeal which I think all of us are very willing to support. All I would tell him, Sir, is that the appeal for unity is an appeal that every Nigerian will support and we support him fully (*Applause.*)

Chief J. I. G. Onyia (Asaba): Mr Speaker, Sir, I wish to have placed on record an appreciation, which I feel will be shared by all sides of the House, for the services rendered by the Police constables in restoring order and tranquillity in the Eastern Region. . . . (*Hear, hear.*)

I am not raising a contentious issue but I would like to say that if peace and order were not restored in the Eastern Region nobody knows who would suffer if it continued. We must pay tribute to those who risked their own lives in going there to restore peace which all of us enjoy. Most of us here can travel to the East at any time. If any part of Nigeria suffers, we as the citizens of Nigeria will suffer as a consequence.

What I wish to say, Sir, in short is that we should pay tribute to these police. Some of them left their families here to go and face great odds and when things of this nature happen, Sir, the least we can do is to place our appreciation on record.

Mr Speaker: Mr Abii, on the same issue?

Mr D. N. Abii (Owerri): Yes, Mr Speaker. I am very sorry that the Mover of the Motion on the Adjournment did not really discuss that matter with people from the East before he

House of Representatives Debates

1315

[Tribute to Police

11 MARCH 1958

[Tribute to Police]

1316

raised it. I think it is unfortunate to decide now whether the police should be congratulated for what they did during the recent trouble in the East, or not, because the matter is very doubtful.

A report has been given that the people were the first to shoot at the police. If this is true, then it is right to congratulate the police, but if they were the first to shoot at the people. . . . (Interruption) (Several hon. Members : Sit down, sit down. . . .) I think it is unfortunate. . . .

Chief Onyia : Point of Order, Sir.

Mr Speaker : Chief Onyia, I hope this is a point of order and not a debate.

Chief Onyia : Yes, Sir. It is a point of irrelevance. . . . (Several hon. Members : Sit down, sit down !).

Mr Speaker : Order, order.

Mr Abii : I feel that it is not time to thank the police until we are told who were the first people to start the shooting. I am not saying that the police did not do anything good, but to come here on the Floor of this House and congratulate them, when they have reported that they were forced to shoot at the people, only to give this explanation in order to exonerate them from the crime of shooting . . . (Interruption). Well, I think that that Motion should not arise now until we hear from the Prime Minister and the Inspector-General who

was the first to shoot at Obizi. I still maintain that the police were the first to shoot at the people, and it was just provocation that anybody took up a dane gun against the police. . . . (Sorry).

The Prime Minister : Mr Speaker, I am very grateful, Sir, to my hon. Friend Chief Onyia (*Hear, hear*) for expressing the appreciation which he has for what the police did during the trouble in the Eastern Region.

Now my hon. Friend, Mr Abii, asked permission from me to raise this matter on whether it was the police who opened fire first, or whether it was the people. I tried to find information and I understand now that an inquest will be held on those who lost their lives and one man so far who fired the dane gun at the police and confessed that he did so, will be one of the people to give evidence at the inquest. Therefore I would rather ask the hon. Mr Abii to wait until that has been held when I will be able to give him full information on this matter. . . . (*Applause*). . . . But I must say, Sir, whatever it is, people should not forget—however Mr Abii may feel—that the police really did render very very excellent service. (*Hear, hear*).

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved. That this House do now adjourn.

Adjourned accordingly at one minute to six o'clock until 10 a.m. on Wednesday the 12th of March.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NIGERIA

Wednesday, 12th March, 1958

The House met at 10 a.m.

PRAYERS

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

Mr Speaker : Order, order. I regret to have to inform the House of the death of Z. B. Olokesusi, Esquire, Member for Ekiti South and I desire on behalf of the House to express our sense of the loss we have sustained and our sympathy with the relatives of the hon. Member.

PAPERS

Mr Speaker : The following paper which has been published as Legal Notice No. 42 of 1958 in the Supplement of the *Official Gazette* of the 6th of March, 1958, copies of which have already been distributed to Members, is deemed to have been laid on the Table—The Docks Safety of Labour Regulations, 1958.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

***O.78. Mr S. F. Nwika** asked the Minister of Communications and Aviation whether he is aware of the lack of telecommunication facilities in Ogoni Division, and whether he will make a statement.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Communications and Aviation: Telecommunications facilities will be provided at Bori Ogoni during the current development programme in accordance with Sessional Paper No. 8 of 1957, Appendix 1.

***O.79. Mr F. T. Odum** asked the Minister of Communications and Aviation if he will state how many postal agencies there are in Ahoada Division, indicating where they are located and the volume of business in units transacted in each of them in each of the months from January to December 1957.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Communications and Aviation: There are at present 19 Postal Agencies in Ahoada Division. The names and units of the Agencies are as follows:—

Name	Units
Abua	18,704
Akinnima	4,963
Diobu	12,209
Egbeda	3,464

Name	Units
Ekowe	8,760
Elele	28,994
Erema	6,433
Egwi	8,593
Iba	5,564
Isoba	13,675
Igrita	4,904
Joinkrama	13,105
Ndelle	2,232
Nkarahia	11,500
Okwuzi	5,812
Omoku	17,413
Ogbakiri	9,025
Okaki	8,716

Zarama Epie opened 7-12-57.

***O.80. Mr J. L. Nsima** asked the Minister of Communications and Aviation why telecommunication facilities are not provided in the postal agencies in the District Council areas of Oniong Nung Ndem-Awa, Oyubia-Oron and Ubium in Eket Division.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Communications and Aviation: There are already two telephone exchanges in Eket Division, at Eket and Oron. It is not proposed under the current Posts and Telegraphs Development Programme to extend telephone services to the Postal Agencies mentioned by the hon. Member. However they will be given due consideration when future development plans are being formulated.

***O.81. Mr A. E. Ukattah** asked the Minister of Communications and Aviation what is the total number of units of business transacted in each of the Postal Agencies at Oloko, Oboro, Ariam and Ibere in Bende Division, and whether Government will consider providing one Post Office in place of the four Postal Agencies, in compliance with the wish of the people of the four clans concerned.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Communications and Aviation: The number of units transacted at Oloko, Oboro, Ariam and Ibere Postal Agencies is respectively 11,520, 20,773, 7,463, and 5,005.

None of the Agencies qualify for conversion to Sub Office status under the terms of paragraph 13 of Sessional Paper No. 4 of 1957.

It is generally undesirable to replace a number of Postal Agencies by a single Post Office since the communities at the places where the Agencies are closed down would be put to

House of Representatives Debates

1319

[Oral Answers]

12 MARCH 1958

[Oral Answers]

1320

considerable disadvantage in obtaining postal facilities through having to travel to the Departmental Post Office. The Department would not therefore be prepared to pursue any proposal of this kind unless the Communities themselves expressly requested it.

There may be a case, however, for affording Savings Bank facilities at Oloko and Oboro which would improve the range of facilities in the area, and this is being examined.

Supplementary to O.81 :

Mr Ukattah : Is the Minister aware of the fact that these four towns deserve one Post Office in place of the Postal Agencies.

The Parliamentary Secretary : I am not.

***O.82. Mr J. I. Izah** asked the Minister of Communications and Aviation whether he will consider providing telegraph facilities at the Ukwani District Council building at Amai, in view of the importance of that District Council and of the fact that a telegraph line passes over the Council offices.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Communications and Aviation : The line which passes close to the Ukwani District Council Office is the Sapele-Abraka-Ashaka-Kwale circuit. This omnibus circuit cannot accommodate an additional station.

The provision of telecommunications service at Amai would therefore necessitate new line construction which is not provided for in the current programme as outlined in Sessional paper No. 8 of 1957.

***O.83. Mr J. Mboyam** asked the Minister of Communications and Aviation what is the volume, in units, of business transacted by each of the postal agencies in the Southern Cameroons; and why postal agencies which have qualified for conversion have not yet been made Sub-Post Offices.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Communications and Aviation : Units of business transacted at all Postal Agencies in the Cameroons are as follows :

Agency	Units
Bafut	1,323
Bai	3,098
Bakebe	2,167
Bali	7,242
Batibo	5,935

Agency	Units
Mayemen	3,941
Mbakwa Supe	3,701
Mbengwi	3,001
Mbonge	2,906
Muea	2,517
Muyuka	11,783
Udop	3,152
Ndu	2,626
Nkambe	5,190
Njinikem	3,589
Nsaw	6,367
Nyasoso	3,928
Santa	3,112
Tombel	11,826
Wum	5,529

2. None of the Postal Agencies qualifies for conversion to a Sub-Post Office.

Supplementary to O.83 :—

Mr F. E. Ngale : Will the Minister explain why ?

The Parliamentary Secretary : We require 24,000 units of business at a Postal Agency before it could be considered for upgrading to a Sub-Post Office, and 40,000 units before it could be considered for upgrading to a departmental Post Office.

***O.84. Mr J. Mboyam** asked the Minister of Communications and Aviation, whether, in view of the statement of policy proposed by the Government of the Federation in Sessional Paper No. 4 of 1957 that priority will be given to the establishment of Departmental Post Offices at Administrative Headquarters, he will consider establishing such offices at Nkambe and Wum Divisions.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Communications and Aviation : Priority is given to the establishment of Departmental Post Offices at Administrative Headquarters in accordance with paragraph 16 of Sessional Paper No. 4 of 1957, but the units of business transacted per annum at Nkambe are 5,190 and at Wum 5,529 and are therefore far short of the standard 40,000 laid down in that paragraph of the Sessional Paper as normally justifying conversion. There are no special features which would warrant treating either office exceptionally.

***O.85. Mr J. Mboyam** asked the Minister of Communications and Aviation whether, in view of the great demand for postal and money orders in the Southern Cameroons, he will

consider authorising larger imprests for all postal agencies in the territory, and especially for the postal agencies at Bamenda, Nkambe and Wum Divisions; and whether he will authorise the handling of money orders by postal agents.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Communications and Aviation : The January returns of business transacted at Postal Agencies in the Cameroons reflect no need for increased stocks nor has any application for an increase been received by the Area Controller, Posts and Telegraphs, Cameroons.

The more complicated aspects of Post Office work such as the Money Order Service are confined to sub-Post Offices and Departmental Post Offices.

*O.89. Mr G. O. Ebea asked the Minister of Communications and Aviation when the building of the sub-Post Offices at Uromi, Irrua, Ebelle and Ewohimi in Ishan Division will commence.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Communications and Aviation : Departmental Post Offices are not to be erected at Uromi, Irrua, Ebelle and Ewohimi, but sub-Post Offices are scheduled in these areas.

The premises for these sub-Post Offices must be provided by the sponsoring Authority, *i.e.*, Native Authority or Local Council as the case may be in accordance with Sessional Paper No. 4 of 1957.

*O.90. Mr G. O. Ebea asked the Minister of Communications and Aviation when telephone facilities will be extended from Ubiaja to Uromi, Irrua, Igueben, Ebelle and Emu, the District Headquarters in Ishan Division.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Communications and Aviation : Telephone exchanges will be opened at Uromi and Irrua early next year.

As regards Igueben, Ebelle and Emu, these places are not scheduled for telephone service in the current development programme as set out in Sessional Paper No. 8, of 1957 and it is not possible to include them at this stage as all available funds are fully committed. However, the claims of these towns will be given due consideration when the next development plan is formulated.

*O.91. Mr G. O. Ebea asked the Minister of Communications and Aviation whether he is aware that Ubiaja Post Office is understaffed, and whether he will increase the strength of the staff.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Communications and Aviation : Ubiaja Post Office is staffed by a Postmaster and three Postal Officers and Telegraphists. No complaints have been received and nothing has arisen which might suggest that the staffing is inadequate. However, the matter is being examined by the Department's Territorial Controller at Enugu.

*O.116. Oba A. Aiyeola asked the Minister of Communications and Aviation when it is proposed to extend telephone services from Shagamu to important towns in Ijebu Remo.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Communications and Aviation : The extension of telephone service to the towns in Ijebu Remo is not provided for in the current Development Programme set out in Sessional Paper No. 8 of 1957. The claims of the towns in Ijebu Remo are, however, under consideration and those of them that may be accommodated in the current Development Programme within the funds already provided, will have telephone service as soon as it is technically possible to connect them.

*O.117. Oba A. Aiyeola asked the Minister of Communications and Aviation when it is proposed to supply telephones to applicants who have long been on the waiting list.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Communications and Aviation : Sir, it is the policy of the Posts and Telegraphs Department to provide telephone service for all applicants as early as possible but the implementation of this policy is conditioned by many factors the most important of which are the availability of capital funds, the rate of construction of buildings to house equipment and the availability of staff to instal necessary cables and equipment. Telephones will therefore be installed as quickly and as widely as possible having regard to these factors.

*Supplementary to *O.117—*

Oba Aiyeola : When does the Minister expect to have all this equipment ready?

The Parliamentary Secretary : Before we come to the end of the Economic Programme.

*O.118. Mr P. O. Eleke asked the Minister of Communications and Aviation when the telephone facilities at Umuahia will be extended to Etiti in Okigwi Division.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Communications and Aviation: The provision of telephone service at Etiti is not included in the current development programme set out in Sessional Paper No. 8 of 1957, and funds do not permit of the inclusion of this place during the current development programme.

*O.119. Mr P. O. Eleke asked the Minister of Communications and Aviation whether he is aware of the urgent need for a Departmental Post Office in Etiti, in Okigwi Division, in order to co-ordinate the business transacted in the many postal agencies scattered all over the area.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Communications and Aviation: Etiti Rural District, Okigwi Division, is served by a Postal Agency at Amakohia and the remainder of the Division has 11 Agencies besides the Departmental Post Office at Okigwi itself. Amakohia Postal Agency transacts 22,197 units of business and is therefore approaching the 24,000 units point specified by Sessional Paper No. 4 of 1957 as normally eligible for sub-Post Office facilities but it falls far short of the 40,000 units recommended for Departmental status. A shortage of £12 was disclosed at an inspection of the Agency on 11th December, 1957. The Agent was arrested and the Agency is still closed pending the nomination of a new Agent by the community.

*O.120. Mr S. W. Ubani-Ukoma asked the Minister of Communications and Aviation, how many Africans residing in Nigeria were employed in the senior grades in the West African Airways Corporation during each of the years 1956 and 1957.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Communications and Aviation: The number of Africans residing in Nigeria who were employed in the Senior grades in the West African Airways Corporation was 14 on the 31st of December, 1956. It was 31 on 31st December, 1957.

*O.121. Mr S. W. Ubani-Ukoma asked the Minister of Communications and Aviation, when he will inspect and negotiate for the

acquisition of the sites reserved at Aba for the construction of the proposed aerodrome in Owerri Province.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Communications and Aviation: Operationally, there is no justification for this aerodrome, which is only 40 miles from Port Harcourt. The representative from Aba said at a meeting of the Inter-Regional Conference held in May 1955, that he could not press for such an aerodrome.

*O.122. Mr S. W. Ubani-Ukoma asked the Minister of Communications and Aviation what is the number of passengers carried and passenger-load-ton-miles covered by the West African Airways Corporation during 1956 and 1957 between Lagos and Tiko, via Enugu and Port Harcourt respectively.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Communications and Aviation: The information required is as follows:—

<i>Financial Year 1955-56</i>		
<i>Number of Passengers</i>	<i>Route</i>	<i>Passenger-load-ton-miles carried</i>
4,289	Lagos-Enugu-Tiko ..	92,952
4,843	Lagos-Port Harcourt-Tiko	112,636
<hr/> 9,132		<hr/> 205,588
<hr/>		
<i>Financial Year 1956-57</i>		
5,375	Lagos-Enugu-Tiko ..	185,048
6,989	Lagos-Port Harcourt-Tiko	138,471
<hr/> 12,364		<hr/> 323,519
<hr/>		

*O.123. M. Ahmadu Babandi asked the Minister of Communications and Aviation when work will start on the proposed Kano-Gumel-Hadejia telephone line.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Communications and Aviation:

In Appendix I of Sessional Paper No. 8 of 1957, it is proposed that the present line route between Kano and Nguru through Mallam Maduri should be reconstructed to accommodate the telephone services during 1955-60 Programme. Since the acceptance of Sessional Paper No. 8 of 1957 it has been found possible

to provide funds for the provision of a trunk telephone line between Mallam Maduri and Hadejia, but insufficient funds are available for the construction of an overhead route between Kano and Mallam Maduri.

The Kano-Mallam Maduri reconstruction and Mallam Maduri-Hadejia new line will commence as soon as all stores have been received, and such stores are now commencing to arrive in Lagos. It is anticipated that the new route will be completed before the end of the year, though it may be March 1959 before the transmission equipment which is necessary to provide telephone communications between Kano, Mallam Maduri, Hadejia and Nguru will be installed.

An overhead line route project Gumel-Mallam Maduri will be considered if there are any savings of funds in other projects in the Telecommunications Development Programme.

***O.124. Mr D. D. U. Okay** asked the Minister of Communications and Aviation whether he is aware of the congestion at the post office in Port Harcourt and what steps he is taking to clear it.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Communications and Aviation: Sir, the congestion which has been experienced at Port Harcourt for some time has been due to inadequate counter space. Structural alterations to relieve this situation were put in hand some months ago and I anticipate that they will be completed soon.

***O.128. Mr P. H. Okolo** asked the Minister of Communications and Aviation when work will commence on the proposed aerodrome in Onitsha and when the work is likely to be completed.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Communications and Aviation: Sir, the cost of Onitsha Aerodrome was originally estimated at £200,000, and funds allocated. The estimated cost is therefore now almost £270,000. The demand made by land owners tends to raise the cost up to about £70,000 over and above the funds allocated. It will unfortunately be necessary to delay further action until the question of the cost of land acquisition is fully resolved and until the cost of re-surfacing the Kano and Lagos runways is known, as the remaining uncommitted funds for Civil Aviation development, which could not be foreseen when the Development Plan was drafted.

***O.129. Mr P. H. Okolo** asked the Minister of Communications and Aviation whether he is aware of the congestion at Onitsha Post Office and whether he will consider converting the Onitsha East Postal Agency into a departmental post office.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Communications and Aviation: Sir, I am aware of the congestion at Onitsha Post Office and arrangements have already been made to transfer 4 additional officers to this office.

The Onitsha East Postal Agency does not qualify for conversion to a Departmental Office but there may be a case for improving the Post Office facilities there and this is being investigated.

***O.130. M. Ahmadu Fatika** asked the Minister of Communications and Aviation, if he will give reasons for the delay in the reconstruction of the post office at Dutsen-Wai which was to be rebuilt in 1955.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Communications and Aviation: Sir, the present position concerning the erection of the new Dutsen-Wai Post Office is that a site has been formally acquired and planning completed.

The main reason why work has not yet commenced is because of fact that the Public Works Department were not able to do the construction themselves—largely because of the geographical location of Dutsen-Wai. Permission has, however, now been given to negotiate a contract. As soon as this has been done work can commence. Completion of the building is expected nine months later.

***O.131. M. Ahmadu Fatika** asked the Minister of Communications and Aviation, whether he will consider building a departmental post office instead of a postal agency at Saminaka (Rahama) in Zaria Province, in view of the fact that the town is a big commercial centre needing adequate postal facilities.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Communications and Aviation: Sir, the units of business transacted at Rahama Postal Agency are 7,552 and the Agency does not therefore qualify for conversion to Sub Office status, under the terms of paragraph 13 of Sessional Paper No. 4 of 1957.

In addition to the Agency facilities the area is served twice per week by a Mobile Post Office.

*O.136. Mr J. A. G. Ohiani asked the Minister of Communications and Aviation, if he will consider sending a telephone operator to assist the postmaster at Okene to attend to public telephone calls.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Communications and Aviation: Sir, the average number of calls made daily from the Okene Call Office is twenty and does not justify the provision of a telephone operator.

*O.137. Mr R. N. Takon asked the Minister of Communications and Aviation whether he is aware of the inadequacy of postal and telecommunication services at the post office at Ikom arising out of the irregular movement of mail to and from the post office, and whether he will now provide the promised van to convey mail between Ikom and Bansara, and take further steps to ensure satisfactory postal services at Ikom.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Communications and Aviation: Sir, the mail service between Ikom and Bansara is operated by mail runners three times per week. The time of arrival of mails at Ikom depends on road conditions which can be very bad in this area.

We are considering a motor service but investigation so far suggests that :

- (a) the cost would be prohibitive,
- (b) owing to bad road conditions it is doubtful whether the vehicle would always get through,
- (c) maintenance is likely to present a very difficult problem.

Besides the motor scheme, the possibility of improving the mail service by other means is also being investigated.

*O.141. Mr G. O. D. Eneh asked the Minister of Communications and Aviation what progress has been made in building the Udi Post Office scheduled for completion during the financial year 1957-58.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Communications and Aviation: The present position concerning the

proposed new Udi Post Office is that a site has been formally acquired and planning completed.

The building work will be carried out by the Eastern Region P.W.D. by direct labour and plans are being sent to the Regional P.W.D. for estimating purposes. When this estimate is received funds can be issued and work commenced. It is anticipated that work will start on this project before the end of the current financial year. It will take about six months to complete.

*O.142. Mr F. E. Ngale asked the Minister of Communications and Aviation why work has not started on the construction of the proposed post office for Buea for which the Southern Cameroons Government has already acquired a site.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Communications and Aviation: Sir, there have been some difficulties over the selection of a suitable site for Buea Post Office which led to a delay in the commencement of this project. However these difficulties have now been resolved satisfactorily and work will commence very shortly.

O.132. M. Ahmadu Fatika asked the Minister of Research and Information whether there are favourable conditions for growing coffee in Nigeria and where such conditions exist in the country.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Research and Information: Favourable conditions for the lowland coffees of the robusta and liberica groups exist in Nigeria over a wide area, especially in regions where cocoa, kola and oil palms are at present being cultivated. Conditions suitable for the upland coffee of the arabica type are restricted to the highland areas of the Southern Cameroons.

O.143. Mr A. Adeyinka asked the Minister of Research and Information what are the results of research undertaken by the Department of Agricultural Research since its inception as the Central Research Organisation in January 1952.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Research and Information: The main research programme is generally concerned with food crops ; for example, rice, cassava, sweet potatoes, yams and cereals, and also legumes, pasture and fodder, and fruit

trees, and is directed towards improving the quality, yield and methods of cultivation, and controlling pests and diseases.

By 1952 the cotton breeder's variety Samaru 26C had replaced Allen as the commercial cotton in the Northern Region. It is estimated that the increase in value of this improvement to the cotton industry is around £500,000 a year. Selection work with maize and cassava has produced new varieties with a potential yield double that at present cultivated by the farmer. Further selections and experiments will have to be repeated over a number of years before the research can be considered reliable, but much progress has been made. Research on citrus, kola and rubber has produced valuable new varieties which have been propagated and released to Regional Agricultural Departments.

The Plant Pathologists have made remarkable progress in devising measures for the control of black pod disease of cocoa. It was only seven years ago that a specialist was appointed to study the problem and only three years ago that general spraying of cocoa began. For this year it is estimated that the number of cocoa farmers using fungicidal sprays will have risen to over 30,000. It has been estimated that the amount of cocoa saved from destruction by this disease may well have exceeded 7,000 tons in a single Province and that this alone is likely to be more than sufficient to pay for the cost of all imported chemicals and equipment.

A notable contribution to the success of these control measures has been the very close collaboration between the Federal Department of Agricultural Research, which carried out the original investigations, and the Regional Departments of Agriculture and the Co-operative Societies who together worked out the details of applying the results of this research, including the training of the farmers in the use of the new methods.

The Entomologists have also been successful in devising control measures against yam beetles. It is now known that damage caused by these pests can be considerably reduced by treating the *seed* yams with B.M.C. dust before planting. Yam farmers are becoming interested in the possibilities of chemical control and further experiments are planned to devise the most economical measures.

For further details, I invite the hon. Members' attention to the Annual Reports of the Department.

Dr E. O. Awduche (Onitsha): Point of Order, Sir. Standing Order 13 (3). "Questions shall be taken on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays except as provided in paragraph four of this Order. No question shall be taken after 10.30 a.m." It is past 10.30 a.m. now, Sir.

Mr Speaker: It is my duty to look after that. I was just about to say to the Parliamentary Secretary that an answer so long as that really takes too much time on Questions and the proper answer I think would have been "Answer is very long and involved and I ask the hon. Member's permission to circulate it in the Official Report."

The Parliamentary Secretary: I decided to read it in view of the interest shown by Members.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

The Minister of Health (Chief the hon. Ayo Rosiji): Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members will remember that on the 28th of February, the matter of medical facilities at Ikoyi for hon. Members of this House was raised. I have considered the matter and I have taken some decision about it and I am happy to say that arrangements have now been made for the following Medical Officer to be available to provide attention for hon. Members. His name is Dr A. J. Williams, M.B., M.R.C.P., Special Grade Medical Officer. He will be available during office hours at the General Hospital, telephone number 20501, extension 25. After office hours he will be available at his house, No. 17 Glover Road, Ikoyi, and the telephone number is 23510.

ORDER OF THE DAY

THE APPROPRIATION (1958-59) BILL

(House in Committee.)

Mr J. L. Nsima (Eket): Point of Order, Sir. We had on the Order Paper of the 10th of March that that day was the Sixth Allotted Day, and to-day the 12th of March, we have it written also on the Order Paper that this is the Sixth Allotted Day.

The Chairman: That is a printer's error which has already been pointed out to me, and I am sorry for it.

HEAD 72.—MINISTRY OF WORKS
AND SURVEYS

Question proposed, That £46,680 for Head 72—Ministry of Works and Surveys—stand part of the Schedule.

Mr G. O. D. Eneh (Udi) : Mr Chairman, I beg to move the Amendment standing in my name to reduce item (1) sub-head 1 by £10.

In making this Amendment, Sir, I want to draw the attention of the Minister of Works to his recent policy with regard to tarring of the road Trunk A 3 between 9-mile corner in Udi Division and Aliade in the Northern Region. The Trunk A 3 passes from 9-mile corner to Nsukka, Oturkpo Aliade, a distance of approximately 110 miles. If my information is correct, I understand that the tarring of this road from Aliade in the North towards 9-mile corner in the South has been given out to contract, and that the tarring will start from Aliade.

The intention of my moving this amendment is to ask the Minister to start tarring this road simultaneously from 9-mile corner in the south and from Aliade in the North. Granting that the tarring of roads presently requires a sum of £4,000 to £5,000 per mile, the cost of tarring this road will come to an appreciable sum of £440,000 to £550,000. It follows, therefore, that if this project is handed over to one contractor he could easily split his workmen into two or three gangs, starting from one section in the North to another in the south.

I want to make it plain that I am not against the fact that tarring is being done at Aliade, but my view is that this tarring should be started from both ends of the road. In answer to a question which was introduced to this House last year, in September, the Minister answered *inter alia* : "Tenders for tarring of 9-mile corner to Aliade will be invited later this month. Work is expected to start early in 1958." As a result of this answer to the question No. O.329 Members from Udi and Nsukka divisions in the Federal House went home and told their constituencies that tarring would commence during the present dry season, which is January to May. Previously we had been given an undertaking that the tarring of this road, 9-mile corner to the north would start during the last dry season. That

was not honoured. This time again a second undertaking which was given in September is not likely to be honoured before the dry season runs out.

I want to say, Sir, that these two divisions have gone to the extent of convening a meeting of hon. Members, asking them to appeal to the Minister of Works to use his good offices to split this tender into two, or to ask the contractors to start from both ends of the road. There might be an argument to the effect that if the contract is split it might cost the Federal Government more money than has been voted. I think that if a proviso is embodied in the contract to the effect that the tarring should start in both ways, no contractor would have any room for grudging.

Well, Sir, I have to say that this route, 9-mile corner Aliade, is the gateway for the transportation of all produce from the North to the South and from the south to the north. And that road route is a very important one, indeed. Furthermore, Sir, the traffic density on the route 9-mile corner to Nsukka is heavier than the traffic density on the route Aliade-Nsukka.

Several hon. Members : No. No.

Mr Eneh : I stand to be corrected, and I think I am sure of what I am saying. The density of traffic on this route is heavy from the south towards the north.

The Chairman : If the hon. Member goes into such details he need not repeat what he says.

Mr Eneh : Thank you, Mr Chairman. Furthermore, Sir, very soon that route 9-mile corner Aliade will be carrying, as it were, experts who will be going to Nsukka for the construction of the University of Nigeria which has been proposed by the Eastern Regional Government and this, Mr Chairman, is a factor which the hon. Minister should consider in seeing to it that this main road is tarred immediately.

Mr Chairman, I beg to move.

Amendment proposed to reduce Item 1 of sub-head 1 by £10.

M. Bello Alkamawa (East Central Sokoto) : Mr Chairman, Sir, I rise to oppose the amendment. (*Applause*). And would like to support the expenditure under the Ministry of Works. In supporting, I should like to make certain remarks about this Ministry.

Looking at the very great length and breadth of this Federation this Ministry has been entrusted with all capital works of road maintenance, bridge construction, widening of roads and bituminous surfacing. In fact, Sir, the Minister of Works has done very well (*Applause*) and I should like to say that he is a most reasonable Minister and is working very hard to catch up with the development of this country towards Independence. (*Applause*).

Sir, this Ministry has sprung from the time of taking over responsibility of Trunk Roads A to this time, to a very remarkable situation. Many improvements have been made and attempts are well in hand to bring the highways to a good standard. Except perhaps that lack of executive capacity which has been the main stumbling block in this Department, this Ministry has put on record the most formidable expenditure of our time.

Now, Sir, viewing the road expansion programme and the amount set aside for the Capital Works, I think time could not be beaten at the present pace we are going. Already the economic programme has had a strain from the road communication while our political development took the lead, road works must be in line with the two factors I have mentioned. Our country's economy is getting on from strength to strength and our road work is largely lacking in speed. This state of affairs in the hands of this Ministry is a front which constitutes a problem of which we are always complaining. If the Minister could take Trunk A roads into his hands and the Federal Government sets up its own executive capacity, I think the situation will be better.

Sir, the Independence of this country is around the corner and the international roads will be witnessed by thousands of visitors from abroad; it is only too natural we should not like them to see the road development at the stage we are now.

Sir, the road Sokoto-Gusau has been well constructed and we thank the Minister for this prompt action and the good work being done over this road. But, Sir, from Gusau-Zaria, the section of this road is not fairly treated with only $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles of new bituminous surfacing construction, nor do I endorse the new bituminous surfacing of twelve feet width for 31 miles from Zaria which in consideration of the

importance of this road, the parts which are worst have been neglected. Sir, if the Minister could have only started from Gusau or Funtua that section of the road is the priority.

Now, Sir, the Public Works Department staff in Sokoto Province are not doing the work in consideration to the time spent in the field. I do not commend them at all. The Engineers have the habit of leaving the laterites heaped over the roadside for too long and there is one instance over which a contractor has been put to great losses by this delay. The native contractors are suffering from this very bad attitude of executive engineers in Sokoto and they are at their mercy. I appeal to the Minister to check up the ways in which these contractors are being treated by the road inspectors in Sokoto Province.

Sir, the importance of road works could not be over emphasised and I quite believe that with the present Minister of Works doing the job, any complaints from the hon. Members of this House will be welcomed by him.

Sir, I beg to oppose the Amendment and to support the expenditure. (*Applause*.)

Mr N. N. Onugu (Nsukka): Mr Chairman, I rise to support the Amendment. In doing so, Sir, I want to emphasise that the Nsukka Divisional Union, Nigeria, has urged all the hon. Members from Nsukka division to see to it that Trunk Road A 3 is tarred immediately. I raised this matter on several occasions on the Floor of this hon. House, and each time I was told the tarring would commence during the next dry season. I want to say that my people would wish the tarring to start from three points, one at Eleiyede in the North.

The other at the boundary between Northern Region, for example, in Nsukka Division, and the third from nine mile corner in Udi Division. We are not opposed to tarring from the North but we want Nsukka to be included immediately for seeing is believing. For example, Sir, Nsukka Division is one of the greatest oil and palm kernel producing areas in the country and our economy is therefore dependent on the roads.

The point which is of primary importance is that it was mentioned over the radio yesterday that the proposed University College in the Eastern Region should be built in

Nsukka. For this reason alone, Mr Chairman, I hope the tarring of the road from the three points, as stated, will be given the utmost priority.

I also associate myself with the honourable Mover of this Motion that the traffic on nine mile corner is heavier, because those who pass through Idah, pass all along through Nsukka to nine mile corner. Sir, I beg to support.

Mr Toryila Kpagh (Iharev-Masev): In supporting this Head, I want to make a few observations. Traffic congestion, Sir, has become a big headache in Lagos. Several years ago, it was even worse; it is improving every day; but it must still be improved, as every year we have more and more cars flowing into Lagos. In this wise, Sir, I am suggesting to the Minister that the building of two more bridges is the only magic wand that will solve this problem overnight.

I understand, Sir, that Government....

The Chairman: Order, Order. I would remind the Committee that there are parts of this Chamber, one of which includes where the hon. Member is presently speaking from, which are very difficult to hear from. If any other hon. Members keep up a murmur of conversation into all these fifteen microphones, it is absolutely impossible to hear anybody speaking from that remote spot; but Mr Toryila Kpagh is doing very well.

Mr Toryila Kpagh: I understand, Sir, that Government proposes to build a second bridge to link Lagos to the mainland by way of Marina Street to Apapa. I think that another one could be conveniently built east of the existing Carter Bridge. Until recently, the same headache existed in London, but this was easily solved by the construction of several, if not innumerable, bridges across the river Thames. Secondly, Sir,.....

The Chairman: It is beginning again. You know it is not the loud interruptions but the murmur from all round the Chamber which the microphones pick up and it just makes it impossible to hear.

Mr Toryila Kpagh: Secondly, Sir, I am bringing to the notice of the Minister the critical position of the Makurdi Railway Crossing on the Makurdi-Jos Road. The spot is nothing but mere death jaws. I want to suggest the immediate construction

of a railway gate; but I must warn that such gates must not become an illicit money-making device for any gate-keeper.

Finally, Sir, I want to express gratitude to the Minister for the commencement of work on the Enugu-Makurdi Road. The beginning is not enough, it is the efficient and quick or early completion that matters; and the contractors must, therefore, be urged to effect early completion, as that road is a big link between the Middle Belt and the Eastern Region as the main source of food supply.

I hope that the Ministry will also extend the tarring of this essential Road to Makurdi and eventually to Jos.

Sir, I beg to support.

Chief T. T. Solaru (Ijebu East): Mr Chairman, Sir, I know that every side of the House is very much interested in the Ministry of Works. The Ministry of Works is one of the most abused of the Ministries. Perhaps it is because we expect so much from it and perhaps it is because they are doing so much, but there is so much more to be done. One of the reasons why they are unable to do all that we require of them, we have already spotlighted during this Session, and that is because it seems that every constructional work, every building, has to be channelled through the Public Works Department.

We have already pleaded, Sir, and we hope we do not plead in vain, that this Department should not be so overburdened, especially where works of urgency are required. Why can not our Public Works Department be left alone to do much of the supervision work? Let their engineers, instead of transforming themselves into building engineers working on the sites and supervising the building, supervise the work that other contractors are doing, and in that way get more work done. I feel, Sir, that that is not fault-finding. That is just merely suggesting a way in which we can get along more quickly.

Every side of this House wants roads in their Constituencies; they want extension of roads and the improvement of existing ones; they want the building of post offices, public buildings; if all the buildings in the Economic Programme are to be handled by the Public

Works Department we shall not have the extension of the Economic Programme by two years, it will be by two hundred years.

So, Sir, one of the ways of *expediting*, if I may use that word again, of *expediting* our programme, is by seeing to it that the Public Works Department are not overburdened; That they are left to do supervisory work, so that people to whom we give work can bring them up to standard.

Having said that, Sir, I would like to go on to say that we should stop public waste, and one of the ways of stopping public waste is that when we do spend our hard-earned money, we spend it well and we get value for our money. I know the Minister is waiting for me to mention an instance in which public money has been wasted; of course he knows I am going to mention the bridge at Ijebu-Benin Road. Everybody is waiting to use this road which is going to shorten our journey from the East, from the North to Lagos by over one hundred miles. Certainly that road is important enough for urgent execution, and yet we know that twenty thousand pounds or more have been expended on this bridge, which the rains have washed away.

How is it that it is not possible; that the Public Works Department have not got the scientific knowledge to put down a bridge that will last for more than two years? I was informed, Sir, that when that bridge was being planned, the local inhabitants, who are no engineers, but who have crossed that stream backwards and forwards for an unknown number of years, informed the workers on the site that when they were putting up that bridge they should extend it beyond the bank of the river to a point where, no matter how wide the floods might be, they would not get there, but the engineers knew better than the local inhabitants, and what happened? The experts were proved wrong all the time.

Sir, I would advise that when you are considering putting that bridge back, and I hope you are going to do it quickly, that you will take to heart the suggestion of the local inhabitants and see that the beginnings of the bridge extend far beyond the bank of the river, so that when the floods come, they need not be washed away; but meanwhile, twenty thousand pounds has gone down the drain.

A recent example is in the building that I mentioned the other day. I understand, Sir, that the building would have been extended in another direction but the P.W.D. Engineer says "Oh, no, I am quite certain that it is safe on the other side." In two years the building is now sinking and cracking, cracking from top to bottom, so cracked that the expatriate officer has forsaken it, but some of our boys are still under that debris waiting to be buried alive. If the Minister of Works does not want to be the chief mourner, I think he had better do something quickly to demolish that building and find alternative accommodation for those boys. That is an example of public waste which we are hoping will be stopped. We are wasting too much money not for lack of knowledge alone but for lack of adequate supervision or because of red tape or because of—I would not like to say the people who are employed are not qualified, they are qualified, but sometimes even knowledge is often verified by craft—I wanted to say stupidity but I think obstinacy is the word—crass obstinacy.

Sir, coming again to this Lagos-Benin road, which is the same as the Ijebu-Ode-Benin road, because it is the same road, you will have noticed, Sir, that the link between Shagamu and Ijebu-Ode has fallen to pieces, especially where the large streams are. I think if something is not done to it before the rains, it will be impossible to pass between Okun and Ijebu-Ode because of the large streams and because of the substance of the surface of the road in that section of the Lagos-Benin road. We hope, Sir, that we shall not leave that for two years before it is done because "a stitch in time saves nine."

I have appealed to the Minister before to think of taking over the thirty miles of road between the roundabout and the Ijebu-Ode-Ibadan road. Because if you completed the Benin road and you left the thirty miles stretch of road between the roundabout and the Lagos Ijebu-Ibadan road out, the existing Ijebu-Ibadan road, up to mile twelve, it will mean that you will be transforming, unwittingly, that road into an inter-Regional road, because it is quicker to get from the West to the East and even up to Jos by using that road, than the other way round. Sir, if you have not thought of that I would ask you to allow your engineers to make a survey and you will find that you are not taking over a liability you are taking over something

which is already well maintained. Although it is not widened to standard all you need to do then is to widen and to resurface to the standard extent. That road is becoming an inter-regional road and I am asking the Minister to think of taking it over in his programme.

Sir, when it comes to building Post Offices and building other important administrative buildings, I need not say, Sir, that the only thing we ask for is not that the Minister shall provide the workmen to go and put brick upon brick. We have plenty of those around, but we want the Minister to see to it that these works are given out quickly on contract, to reputable contractors, not like the L.E.D.B. on the Suru-Lere road who gave some work, I do not know what contractor it was, but they dug up all the road, stopped all the drains, and that is the kind of work they are supposed to be doing. Not that kind of contractor, but contractors who are qualified, who you already know and whose work you have already seen. Increase your supervisory staff so that they can cope with the work.

Sir, I will stop there until we get to Head 73 when I shall pin-point more some of the ways in which they are not only wasting material but they are wasting man-power.

Mr F. E. Turton-Hart (Special Member) : Mr Chairman, Sir, speaking on the Motion, I would like to start by congratulating the Minister for what his Ministry has achieved in the last year. I think we sometimes forget how widely scattered are the activities of the Departments that he controls and the tremendous burden of planning and arranging that goes into any large work before anything is done. One does not always see a result very quickly, therefore, I am afraid the hon. Minister gets rather a lot of criticism and not an awful lot of praise. I think at this time of the year, a little praise is well worth while.

But, of course, a very great deal remains to be done to satisfy the needs of the country. I hope you will not mind my putting to him some of the troubles particularly on our roads, experienced by all members of this country during the last wet season. The interruption of road communications was so great that the trade and economy of the country was very seriously affected. Mr Chairman, if you will allow me I would like to go into a little detail by running through some of the roads that I think ought to be mentioned here.

If we take our A. 1 road, it was closed twice during the year between here and Ibadan, and farther North between Tegna and Kuseriki it was almost impassable for weeks at a time. Port Harcourt-Aba is an old point of complaint in this House, I think it was two years ago when my hon. Friend, Mr Howard, raised a Motion on the Adjournment about this road and the Minister made certain statements, but I am afraid those have not been kept. During the last year, the road from Port Harcourt to Aba was closed, I think, from the 11th October to the 23rd November. During that period, the Railway was also closed for a short time, as was the Regional road from Port Harcourt to Owerri. That meant that Port Harcourt was completely isolated by road and rail for a week and by road for nearly six weeks.

Port Harcourt is the second largest port in the country, it is necessary for our agricultural economy that the products of the country are exported and the imported goods are transported from Port Harcourt to the Southern part of the Eastern Region by road. When all road access to the port is closed, the whole trade is brought almost to a stand still. It is an important road and I would like to suggest that it must be kept open in future. There is a further reason for keeping it open and that is that Port Harcourt is the Headquarters through which all the heavy oil equipment is brought and if the search for oil is to continue and heavy equipment is to continue to be brought in, it will merely have to lie in Port Harcourt because it cannot be moved down one of our main trunk roads.

Coming to the Western Region, our A. 5 road from Otta to Idiroko, which is our road to Ghana, was impassable, I think, throughout nearly the whole of November.

My hon. Friend Chief Solaru mentioned A. 6, I would like to support him in what he said.

I would also like to mention A. 9 road, which we have not mentioned before, and which is the existing road from Ibadan to Benin.

It is closed for three weeks at mile 197 and as far as I know, although we have had several months of dry weather, no real repairs have been commenced yet in this section and the rains will shortly be here. The A.10 road from Onitsha to Enugu was closed in October-November ; A.13 from Kabba to Lokoja was

closed in September; A.16 from Kaduna to Jos was closed for three weeks continuously; A.17 from Gombe to Numan and on to Yola was closed repeatedly for periods of about four days at a time. Finally, A. 21 from Potiskum to Bama was closed repeatedly. I think that is enough, Sir.

These are important roads and they are important to everyone here. I have not mentioned any roads in the Cameroons because my information is not up to date, but the hon. Members from there have already mentioned them during the course of this debate. We must, if the country is to continue to expand, improve our roads. I would like to suggest that our very maintenance procedures need re-organising, they need bringing up to date. I wonder how much value we get out of the money we spend yearly on maintenance. I doubt if we get our money's worth. Then there is the policy of Regional Public Works Departments acting as agents in their Regions for the Federal P.W.D. I wonder if that is good policy now that there are staff shortages everywhere. In some cases I know that the Federal Department is doing its own work in the Regions. I wonder whether they ought not to undertake to do it all. I think it is a matter that should be considered again. When the policy was originally decided I do not think the shortage of skilled engineers was as acute as it is now.

Then we come to this policy of Consultants. Should we use more Consultants and try and get our work done in five years instead of extending it for another two? On the other hand, what about the cost of these Consultants? I do not know the exact figures, but I do know from observing the size of the contracts that have been let that the amount of money which is being paid to them is very, very considerable. Would it perhaps be wiser to offer better terms to short-term contract engineers to come and work here at a salary high enough to attract them against other parts of the world so that more of our work can be done Departmentally instead of by using Consultants? But I must point out—and I hope my friend the hon. Jaja Wachuku will not attack me too severely—that while in Nigeria there are many, many members of his profession here as in other parts of the world, there is a terrible shortage of engineers and there are very, very few Nigerian engineers.

If therefore we are to attract these engineers that are in such short supply and to retain the ones that we have at the moment, it might be necessary to reconsider our present position. I do not know how many hon. Members have seen the item in yesterday's paper of the change in plans made by the Ghana Government to retain certain of their expatriate technicians, but they have agreed to do something which most people think is not correct, that is a combination of lump sum compensation and further contracts. I do not wish to go into it any further except to remind hon. Members that Ghana has been independent for a year and anything they do now is done because they certainly want to do it and circumstances suggest it to them that it is a good thing. Perhaps in a year's time or so, certainly by the end of 1960, it would be possible to think over this matter again.

But what we must do is to turn our roads from fair-weather light motor roads into all-weather all-traffic roads if we want to expand the economy, the standard of living, the size of our industry, if in fact we want to make the country grow any larger. (*Cheers.*)

M. Abdu Sule (North West Idoma): Mr Chairman, Sir, I would like to reply to what an hon. Member has said about Enugu nine-mile corner, Nsukka-Oturkpo-Makurdi road. Sir, I want to tell my friends from the East that when we are talking of roads in this House they should be at least realistic. We all know that many of the roads in the South are very good and only very few of our roads in the North are now being tarred. The Enugu nine-mile corner passes through Nsukka and the tarring is now being commenced from Oturkpo. That is because it is well known that that section of the road is worse.

I travelled to Nsukka sometime ago and found that that section of the road, even though not tarred, is very good indeed. Sir, if the tarring starts from there it means nothing will be done in the North for many, many years to come.

Mr Chairman, Sir, about September last year when I was travelling to Lagos for the meeting of the House, on reaching Mile 5 from Oturkpo there were about twenty lorries stranded. Some of these lorries were coming from Jos and Kaduna and some from Oturkpo. They were carrying commodities to the East so that if the tarring is not begun from there I am quite sure the same thing will happen

again. Therefore I am appealing to the Members of this House to see that the tarring of Trunk A.3 road begins from Oturkpo instead of Nsukka in the Enugu nine-mile corner.

Now, Sir, I want to draw the attention of the Minister to some bridges on that road. The Minister must agree with me that having travelled on that road many times, most of the bridges are wooden. There is one bridge there; the pillars are no longer there so that accidents often occur there. It is also well known that that road is one of the busiest roads in this country because we have lots of lorries from the East and from the North too. Therefore if the Minister could see to the reconstruction of these bridges, it would be for the welfare of the country as a whole.

Now, Sir, I must blame the Minister for the arrangements to stop tarring of this road at Aliede. This is not in the interests of the people of the North. Why not go beyond Aliede right through to Makurdi? The Northern part of this road is very bad, and the tarring must start from the North, as we want to visit our friends in the South and get to know more about ourselves before independence in 1960. I repeat, Mr Chairman, the roads are very, very bad.

Now, Sir, our economy depends on our roads in this country, because we have no other means of transport. We have not got railways throughout the country, therefore, if you want to increase the economy of this country, we must devote our time and energy to the tarring of these roads.

Mr Chairman, Sir, I must mention the question of the Wakari Road. This is one of the Trunk A.14 roads. I travelled on that road sometime ago Sir, and on reaching the River Katsina Ala I found there were more than about six lorries, some of which had been there three or four days before my arrival. The river was up and they were unable to cross because the bridge there is just an ordinary one, not strong enough. I think it is high time for the Government to do something to supply barges or ferries to cross this river, or strengthen the bridges, because this bridge is not good and it gets a lot of use, and it is necessary that something be done, and I feel that the Minister must do something for us in this area.

Further, Sir, I do not know what has happened to the Jos-Kaduna road. Kaduna is our Headquarters in the Northern Region, and it is appalling. The road leading to Kaduna is very, very bad, and from Jos to Kaduna is also in an appalling condition. I would assure the Minister that this road should be tarred. A lot of heavy vehicles travel on this road to the surrounding areas and the road suffers because of them, and should be well maintained. And, Sir, this road is very often closed for long periods, I myself have witnessed this last year. I stayed in Jos for some days because the road was not passable, and I think if the Minister will do something for this road, we will appreciate his efforts very much indeed.

Lastly, Sir, I want to remind the Minister about the fact that the police lines—the Nigerian police lines at Makurdi have not been completed. I do not know what has happened to this, the buildings are not complete.

I would say again, Sir, that the tarring of this road should extend from Aliede to Makurdi and must be done quickly.

Mr Chairman, I beg to oppose the Amendment to reduce the Minister's salary by £10.

Mr J. Mboyam (Nkambe): Mr Chairman, Sir, I rise to speak generally on this Ministry. I do not support the Amendment. We have pointed out and are still pointing out that our greatest concern is the question of roads in the Southern Cameroons. We are often forced by the deplorable conditions of our roads to quarrel with the Minister of Works and Surveys. His ministry is the forerunner of all ministries, that is why we have our eyes on the Minister.

We are looking forward and are urging him to make all efforts at his command to attract new contractors of international repute to come to the aid of the Southern Cameroons; to eradicate the territory from economic instability. We are fed up with one way roads and are disgusted with the closing of the roads during the rains. That is why we must give headaches to the Minister of Works and Surveys and worry him to speed up road work in the Southern Cameroons.

I shall be very happy to leave Lagos with the assurance that the construction of Takum-Bissaula-Kamine road is continuing from the Kamine end. The vote for Yola-Bamenda

the responsibility of the Minister of Works and to be given to the Minister of Transport. This suggestion was recommended by the Bank Mission Report. If we can have a department for our roads, I think that department will be able to take care of the roads. The system of giving the works of the Federal Government to the Regional Governments is not a fair system. Certainly the Regional Governments all have their own responsibilities and they are short of staff. In this case, it is very difficult for us, we from the Regions to know the correct person to approach on the defects on our roads.

Sometimes when you meet the Provincial or Executive Engineer on this question of roads, he will complain of lack of funds, that the Federal Government has not provided enough funds. And when you write to the Minister in charge, he sometimes replies that he has sent a copy of his reply to the Regional Ministry of Works. By this, I think if we should have good roads, if the roads are indeed the responsibility of the Federal Government, I do not see the reason why we should be compelled to be worrying the Regional Governments because they have their own works to do.

There are some good roads in Southern Nigeria but as far as the Federal roads in the Northern Region are concerned, all the roads are not roads at all. If Members of this House who are from Southern Nigeria should travel to the North, they will actually see that they are having good roads in their own regions. Sometimes when travelling on the Northern roads, you do not know which is road because you just go on any smooth place thinking probably it might be the road, and until you get to the bridge you cannot detect that it is a road. If one has to travel through Lokoja during the rainy season, it will be the same thing. You will see water rushing on drifts; if you try to get inside, probably it will sweep you away, and the other bridges we have there are all wooden. It is very surprising to hear the Minister mentioning among his achievements the completion of Agbrakin bridge, a bridge which is only twenty feet in length. This shows that the Minister has done very little on that road.

There are so many defects on the roads from Kabba to Ilorin and then to Lokoja. Last year I called the attention of the Minister of Works to the dangerous bend of Oshokosho that is between Kabba and Lokoja. No

vehicle can travel on that road at more than a speed of five to ten miles per hour because if you travel for about ten miles you will be able to see the dangers behind. The road is very narrow and full of bends. I think if the Minister is willing to help us, there is a way, that is by diverting that road from that dangerous bend. We have another bend at Odo Eri. This is also very dangerous and there was a place where the road could be taken to, or rather, have the road where it was before.

When you are travelling from Ilorin again you will see that there are many rocks on the surface of that road. I think these rocks could be blasted off and the whole length be resurfaced with better materials. Hon. members were crying for the tarring of their roads but we are crying for resurfacing of our roads. When the roads shall have been resurfaced and they are all right, then we shall cry to the Minister for tarring of the roads.

If we are to have a good road between Lokoja and Kabba, the Minister should try to see that the labourers on that road are labourers under the Federal Government and not from the Regional Government, because recently some of them had to be removed from that road to another work on the Trunk B roads while this section of the road was left undone. And we have rains that spoil the road from the month of October and by this time the road had been closed and likewise both the Trunk A and B roads have been closed. People depend upon the Trunk A road, being a major road, but both B and A were spoiled.

On this road, Sir, Lokoja, we have a kind of embankment at Shintakon and nothing better has been done on that embankment. I am appealing to the Minister to look into it that something is done on it. People are now using that road better than before. Formerly people were not using it but now people feel that since the Trunk B road from Ikare to Lokoja is tarred, they can use that road better. So I appeal to the Minister to see that the embankment is given attention.

Coming to the £45,000 voted for the road camps. Actually on our own side we have some camps there, but we have never been seeing people living in them. Because these camps are very near to the villages, and it is very hard for people to quit from the village and live in the bush. I think this vote is

useful in the parts where road workers could not get a village nearby and, furthermore, if these camps are to be built, actually I think the workers should be forced to live in them, if not we would be wasting our money building camps which people will not use. By these I beg to move.

Amendment proposed to reduce the Head by £10.

Mr Jaja Wachuku (Aba): I would like to speak on the Head, Ministry of Works and Surveys. In the first place, Sir, I want to say that I do appreciate some improvements that have been made by this Ministry since the last two years; particularly I want to put on record, Sir, that there has been an improvement since the last rainy season on the construction of the road between Aba and Port Harcourt. And also, Sir, those of us who saw what went on during the rainy season between Lagos and the Mainland, you find that although it is a very short stretch, the Iddo/Ebute Metta short path there, but the amount of work that went in to make it what it is now is very considerable. But, in spite of the fact, Sir, that I have expressed appreciation of the work of the Minister, you will see from the Order Paper I put down that the Minister's salary should be reduced by £10, to enable him to be able to defend the position.

There are other matters that we want to bring before this House. I raised one before, and the Minister of Transport said that we should refer it to the Minister of Works. That is, we voted £33,000 for investigation into the possibility of bridging the Niger. What has happened about that investigation? Has the investigation been completed? Any report? We would like the Minister to tell us something about that, to-day, now.

Now, Sir, the next point I would like the Minister to explain is what is the policy of the Minister as regards the employment of African qualified engineers. We are told that qualified people are in short supply, but it seems to me, Sir, from what I have known, facts that have come to me, that somehow some people in high places in the P.W.D. do not like qualified and capable Africans to come within their establishment, within the holy of holies, the inner circle. They use different methods.

I heard a case, Sir, of one Mr Osili, who was induced to return to this country from the United States, where he was employed in the Ohio State Highway. He was a capable fellow, he was a member of a firm of consultants; he was told to come here to serve the country. He returned with a wife and a child, but the people were not prepared to give him quarters, a man who has been used to living in good quarters, he was to work and yet they refused to give him quarters. And yet there are a number of P.W.D. quarters which were let to expatriate contractors for them to live in, Government quarters given to staff of private firms, and sometimes there are several quarters lying there vacant. The man was not allowed to be in them because he was a Nigerian.

I want the Minister to investigate and tell us the reason why he should be so discouraged. This man ultimately, Sir, was given quarters in a LegCo flat and naturally when Members were coming there he was packed out and after some time the solution came when he was employed and then sent to Makurdi. Of course, he is working there, he does not mind about that, but the amount of time that was wasted over this matter, when he should have been put on the job and he would have been doing the thing, and he would have gained more executive capacity.

There is another case of somebody who came here, but on account of the treatment that he was given he took a return ticket and went back to the United States. I would like the Minister to find out from the department why that is so. The P.W.D. does not want to encourage qualified African engineers to stay there. The Minister, of course, of Lagos Affairs, Mines and Power even raised the matter the other day when he said that he himself tried to encourage somebody to come down, but before anything was done Shell had taken him. I am trying to tell the Minister that if we are going to retain our African qualified men in these highly technical fields you will find that they are in short supply and other people want them. You cannot treat them now as you treat third-class clerks; they have to be induced to stay, otherwise you will find the Regions and the private firms will take them all, and then this Government will not have the people required. They must be induced to stay in Government, and

Aviation into a Civil Servant ! Mr Chairman, Sir, with these few remarks, I call upon the Minister to give an explanation.

M. Abba Sadiq (North East Bornu) : Mr Chairman, Sir, whenever matters concerning this particular Ministry arise, the unfortunate Minister is bombarded from all sides for better roads, more bridges and so forth. I sympathise with him. I think the Minister will take to heart all the criticisms and the demands of hon. Members for the good of the public whom they represent in this hon. House, and ensure that all practical suggestions made during this Debate regarding the Ministry, will be carried out, so that next time when we meet here he will have more sympathisers.

I want to draw the Minister's attention to one very important thing ; that is, on the trunk road A. 21 between Potiskum and Maiduguri. Between mile 118 and 122 there are four bridges, each of them is in bad condition. This road, although it is in the course of construction now, when completed, it will be a first class road. It will serve as an international road, which will lead out from Nigeria into the wide world ; stretching into infinity. With its junction of trunk road A.3, when this road is completed, it will act as a feat of engineering workmanship. But what is the use of having such narrow and poor bridges on a first class road ? What I want to draw the Minister's attention to is the advisability of maintaining these bridges in good repair. These bridges should be widened and made better.

In addition to that, on the Kaduna-Jos road, between mile 45 and 44, there is a very sharp bend and a bridge together. In the last rainy season, Sir, when I was travelling on that road, on one side of me under that bridge I saw a car right in the middle of the water. I want the Minister to give the public a worthy road. On this particular road at the site mentioned, a signpost is necessary, a signpost better than the one that shows a corner and a bridge, and also cautioning drivers to be especially careful and to be at dead slow.

I do not want to pluck any more feathers from the Minister's bonnet ; with the remarks made by other hon. Members I hope he will take to heart the criticisms and mend the wrongs and give us our demands.

With these few remarks, Sir, I oppose the Amendment.

The Minister of Works and Surveys (Alhaji the hon. Muhammadu Inuwa Wada) : Mr Chairman, I know Members do not like me to get up so early but I want to remind you that there is plenty for you to talk about or criticise if you like. We are now on the Ministry Head ; we yet have to discuss Head 73—P.W.D.—and tomorrow also we are coming to discuss Highways and Bridges. I feel, Mr Chairman, as an hon. Colleague of mine said, I should get up and defend my salary, that I should say something now.

I will start, Mr Chairman, with Mr Eneh. He made this Amendment on trunk road A. 3 and asked that the tarring of this work should start from both ends. An hon. Member from the same area, Mr Onugu, supported him and instead of asking for the work to start from the two ends, he wants the work to start from three ends, both ends and the middle at the boundary. My good Friend Mallam Abdu Sule, has already pointed out that the particular place where the tarring of this road is to start from is indeed the weakest point of the road.

It is quite true, that at times of the year during the rains, lorries do get bogged up in this place. I know this road very well ; I have driven on it so many times that I cannot remember how many. Therefore, the hon. Member I think will not know any better than I and he will agree with me that the part of the road which passes through Nsukka, although I agree there is very heavy traffic there, is on stronger ground than that part of it from Ahiade to a point south of Oturkpo. That is why, Sir, the work is starting from this end.

Another argument against starting the work from both ends or from three points, is if the contractor is going to start work from more than one place, it means he must have the same plant, the same staff and all the other things that he has on one end. Which will, of course, increase the cost of the work and which will also increase the cost of the contract. The contract is going to cost the Federal Government £520,000. At any rate, the time given us by the contractors is not very long, the contractors hope to finish the work within 21 months. So, if hon. Members from Nsukka will just exercise a little patience, that part of the road which passes through their constituency will soon be tarred.

Mr Chairman, Sir, I do not mean to answer all hon. Members because when Head 73 comes to be debated, I mean to get up and talk briefly

and during my speech most of the points raised by hon. Members will be covered. I should like to mention only a few.

Hon. Jaja Wachuku has spoken of the grading of contractors. I will invite him to come to my office sometime where I can go through the documents and see if these contractors are properly graded or not. On the question, Sir, of the Oshun bridge which hon. Chief Solaru and hon. Jaja Wachuku have mentioned, the fact is that the bridge has not been washed away, not the whole of the bridge. It is only one pier, Sir. One pier does not mean the whole bridge and that also does not mean that £20,000 has gone to the drain. If you will bear with me, when I come to talk on Head 602 I will tell you more about that.

Mr Chairman, Sir, as I have said I will just leave it there because most of the points I will reply to when I make my speech and I will now ask Mr Eneh, Mr Jaja Wachuku and Mr Alege to withdraw their amendment.

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, That the Head be reduced by £10 put accordingly and negatived.

Question, That £46,680 for Head 72—Ministry of Works and Surveys—stand part of the Schedule, put and agreed to.

HEAD 73—PUBLIC WORKS

Question proposed, That the sum of £759,690 for Head 73—Public Works—stand part of the Schedule.

Mr M. A. Olarewaju (Ilorin South) : Mr Chairman, Sir, the motive behind putting up an amendment to reduce this Head of expenditure by £10 is to enable me to comment on it. Now, Sir, I seize this opportunity to congratulate the Minister of Works and Surveys and also the Director of Public Works. However, I have to add the following comments.

The Public Works Department needs more supervisory staff. In many cases there is one Headman to over one hundred labourers and one Road Overseer to ten Headmen under various gangs each with the above-mentioned numbers of labourers. This is very absurd. In the North this Department always suffers from shortage of road engineers. For example,

there is only one road engineer in Ilorin and Kabba Provinces and this is the reason why the roads are always not well maintained.

It is the same condition with the artisans in this Department where a brick-layer will never lay a brick correctly for hours. A piece of work which would have lasted for a few hours takes several days and weeks by these artisans in this Department. To avoid wasting money, more supervisory staff should be added.

Mr Chairman, Sir, my last point is that the Mungo Park memorial at the bank of River Niger needs to be re-erected into a modern pillar. After re-building it, a permanent labourer should be posted there for its daily upkeep to avoid its being tampered with as at present. It is needless to tell this House how important Mungo Park memorial is to the Members of this House. The wording on the pillar which reads as follows :—

“To Mungo Park 1895 and Richard Lander 1830 who traced the course of the Niger from near its source to the sea.

Both died in Africa for Africa.”

is sufficient reason why the memorial should be modernised with day-to-day upkeep. We Nigerians owe a great deal to these two heroes. Our country Nigeria derives its name from the name of this great river Niger.

Also, I would like to add that the Public Works Department should concentrate on maintaining Trunk road A 13 which is the Ilorin-Kabba road. I have already warned the Minister of Works that no amount of maintenance will put the road in good condition. Any amount of maintenance will be waste without tarring the road completely. However, about 25 miles have been tarred but this is only one-tenth of the length of the road.

Sir, I may add and repeat that it is unfair, an injustice and a challengeable reason to base tarring of roads on traffic density. Good roads attract lorry owners and car owners. The Minister himself will not like to put his own car on a bad road. A well maintained road will always have many vehicles on it. Lorry owners and car owners always depart from bad roads as between Ilorin and Kabba, therefore I want to ask the Minister to see that this road is completely tarred and maintained and not keep laying dust on dust which is no good.

Mamfe-Ikom Road—I think there is much going on there. Sir, I support the expenditure on this Head.

M. Usman Maitambari (Central Gwandu): Mr Chairman, I rise to support the expenditure on this Head. In doing so, I would like to congratulate the Minister of Works and Surveys for fulfilling some of the promises he made in connection with reconstruction of temporary bridges and culverts on Trunk Roads A 15, Yelwa to Jega, a distance of 114 miles.

The Chairman: Will the hon. Member please speak as loudly as he can. It is a bad place he has to speak from, I know. I am sorry.

M. Maitambari: On the other hand I wish to draw the attention of the Ministry concerned that the Executive Engineer stationed at Ganwo for reconstruction of temporary bridges and rehabilitating some sections of that road is at present over-worked. I have good reasons to say so. That is, he is short of staff. As the staff he has are not trained, the Engineer at one time does the work of the Foreman and that of the accounts, and at another time the work of the Surveyor together with the duties assigned to him.

Mr Chairman, Sir, everyone of us here knows thoroughly well that road and bridge construction is a thing that at least needs employment of surveyors and foremen if the work is to reach any achievement. Lack of these two important people compels the Engineer to work up to 9 p.m.

Mr Chairman, Sir, despite all this heavy and strenuous work the Engineer undergoes, his allowances and the correspondence he writes to the Ministry are always delayed. Adding insult to injury, nobody from either the Regional or Federal Ministry of Works has paid a visit to that area in order to see what is going on or hear the grievances of the workers there. Mr Chairman, Sir, I take this to be quite discouraging and hence retards the progress of the work.

Mr Chairman, Sir, I am also appealing seriously to the Minister that it is high time now that Takware bridge is rebuilt. I was promised by the Minister for the last two years that the reconstruction of this bridge will be started this year.

The Minister of Works and Surveys (Alhaji the hon. Muhammadu Inuwa Wada): I want to know which bridge the Member is talking about.

M. Maitambari: Takware, it is the Takware bridge. May I draw the attention of the Ministry to the fact that this bridge is on Trunk Road A 15 and that the whole of Nigerian motor transport owners and the passengers they carry who are destined to go across that bridge bitterly complain of the inconveniences caused them before going over that bridge. Mr Chairman, Sir, before crossing that bridge, the lorry owners have to offload all the lorries and employ carriers who are always found waiting there to perform their heavily paid duties. I say heavily paid because for every 2 cwt of load carried across they demand 2s-6d from the owner. This is considered very dear for a distance of about 250 yards. Mr Chairman, Sir, this has been going on there for over two years now.

For the above reasons, Sir, on behalf of my people in the whole country, I strongly appeal to the Minister to make use of his good offices and see that the building of Takware bridge is started this year, or else something is done to improve the present situation especially in the way of compensating the high charges paid to the carriers by the innocent passengers. I would also like to remind the Minister to remedy the staff situation at Gawo.

Sir, with these few remarks I support the expenditure on this Head.

Mr E. O. A. Dada (Egbado North): Mr Chairman, Sir, if one has in mind the position of the Ministry of Works and Surveys, one would have sympathy for the Minister, for his work extends to all corners of Nigeria. As a result, every Member will have for him a word of praise or criticism.

I have in mind to give some words of congratulations for the Ministry of Works and Surveys, especially the Minister, during the rainy season. It was a severe test for him, for I understand even the Minister himself had to try his hand at the rake. He proved himself a hard-working man (*Cheers*).

In congratulating him, however, I should like to point out where he failed. Trunk Road A 5, between Lagos and Accra, is Federal responsibility. I remember I spoke to the Minister

ments. At the meeting of the National Council on Establishments held in December last year, the Regional and Federal Governments agreed to inform each other before making important changes in establishment matters. It would be a break of faith with

reports it is clear to me that it is essential that the Director should be free from as much desk-work as possible and be able to travel around and look at the way our projects are being carried out. If he is to have this freedom, then

House of Representatives Debates

1367 [*Appropriation (1958-59) Bill* : 12 MARCH 1958

Committee]

1368

concerned about this road. He gave me the promise that he would give attention to it. I remember also, if you will allow me to read a portion here, Sir: "In 1955-56, an amount of £25,000 was earmarked for this road. In 1956-57, about £12,000 was spent; last year, about £120 was spent on this road, and this year, Nil". It shows, as the years go on the Minister forgets about this road. Immediately I spoke to him he tried as much as possible to send about two or three labourers to see to the road for a while. Since that time no more labourers have been sent, and so the road is still narrow, and the bridges are also narrow. So it is very difficult for people to pass that way easily.

I have to remind the Minister that this is an international road, connecting the capital of the Federation of Nigeria with its sister countries of West Africa, and every day you have hundreds of people going from Lagos to other parts of West Africa, as also from other places to the capital city of Nigeria, that is Lagos. Every day you meet lorries carrying cows from the Northern Region to other countries like Ghana. So, this road is very important, not because it lies in my constituency, but because it is an international road. Apart from the bridges being narrow, there is one particular bridge known as Ajilete bridge. This bridge, as soon as any driver gets there, he chooses to sign his death warrant and stands between heaven and hell. The bridge is only one and it has just a passage which I may call a furrow where the tyre can just go. As soon as you reach there you find a street across and somebody asking you to decide which way, either to go back or to go further on at your own risk. This bridge is dangerous and we need not wait for an expert to tell us that the bridge would give way any time. The bridge is getting too old for the traffic now and as such I feel the Minister should get up and see to it that the bridge is well constructed.

With these few remarks, I beg to support.

M. Baba Daradara (East Central Kano): Mr Chairman, Sir, I now rise to support the whole Head under discussion and in doing so, Sir, I beg to make certain remarks. I am very happy, Mr Chairman, to say that the Minister of Works and Surveys is a very capable Minister and he has been doing his possible best as well as seeming to fail to provide more and better accommodation for Members of this hon. House. The Minister and his Colleagues have

kept on promising great mountains in connection with this proposed building of the Members' accommodation, but up till this time they have not been able to make a mole-hill.

Sir, we are very tired of the present situation of the flats in which we are now accommodated. We have been very fortunate that a doctor has been provided by the hon. Minister of Health for us, otherwise I shall say that our health is not at all secure due to bad congestion. I have to add that up till now it is doubtful if the building of the proposed accommodation has been started. I hope, Sir, that the hon. Minister and his staff will do their possible best to see that at least half of the number of the proposed buildings are completed and ready before the next meeting of this hon. House.

Mr Chairman, as far as construction and maintenance of Federal trunk roads are concerned, the hon. Minister and his staff are doing their best and as such they all deserve our congratulations. May I please ask the hon. and able Minister if there are any proposals for the bridging of the River Niger at Bida in the very near future. I know it is a Regional matter, but the Minister is in a better position to know that.

Sir, I beg to support.

Mr E. C. Akwivu (Orlu): Mr Chairman, Sir, I wish to congratulate the Minister on the very able work now going on at Aba-Port Harcourt road. Sir, I must say that before that work is given a finishing touch, the Minister himself should find time to see it. It is a very good widening work being done, and if I may humbly add, I think the Imo River embankment should still be widened considering the amount of flooding that takes place at that particular point from year to year. There is no limit to the extent to which it can be widened.

A Member has spoken here about the flooding of the Aba-Port Harcourt road. That indeed was a very distressing incident. But the most unfortunate thing about it, Sir, was that for a very long time there was nothing done to it; there was no control system to avoid the road deteriorating any further, and after the first few days, when the P.W.D. at Aba and Port Harcourt were contacted to find what could be done to put the road in a usable condition, it appeared that there was a great confusion between the two Divisional Engineers as to

is the substantive Senior Labour Relations Officer responsible for the labour relations of the 5,000 or so employees of the Department in the Lagos area.

The breakdown of the fifty Nigerians is as follows. We have twenty-one engineers, one architect, two senior works superintendents, nine superintendents, one higher technical officer and six technical officers. The Department has sponsored seventy students to the Yaba Technical Institute. On qualification these young men can become Assistant Technical Officers. There is, however, a tendency for these students when qualified to be snapped up by non-Government employers who can offer more attractive terms. We have three students learning architecture at the Nigerian College of Arts Science and Technology and thirty more are studying architecture and engineering on Federal Government scholarships overseas.

Altogether we have one hundred and three young men studying in one form or another for professional posts in the Federal Public Works Department.

I would like now to turn to the subject of road maintenance. I will withhold my remarks on road and bridge construction until we come to the debate on the capital budget. Some Members have from time to time suggested that the maintenance of Federal roads should be taken out of the hands of the Regional organisations and made an entirely Federal matter. This is an attractive idea but it would of course be expensive to set up duplicate organisations similar to those already in existence under the Provincial Engineers. Mr Chairman, not only would it be an extravagance, but also unless more supervisory staff can be obtained, such a scheme could not be put into practice.

The basis of the trouble lies not so much in the present system, as in the fact that there are not enough technical and professional officers available—either for the Regional or for the Federal Governments—to provide the adequate supervision so badly required. The truth, Sir, is we are not getting value for our money. But if the Regional Departments are unable to obtain adequate staff there is no reason to suppose that the Federal Depart-

ment would fare any better. It would be wrong in my view at this stage to attempt to change the road maintenance system. That is not to say there is no room for improvement. Far from it; but the present system could be made to work if adequate supervisory staff could be put on to it.

Now, Sir, I would like to answer some of the points made by hon. Members on specific road maintenance problems. There is no need for me to dwell on the damage caused to the Federal road system during last year's exceptionally heavy rains. Everybody knows what happened. A great deal has already been accomplished to repair the damage and I have every confidence that before the onset of next rains these repairs will have been completed.

To take Trunk Road A 1 first. As was mentioned by my hon. Friend, Mr Turton-Hart, there were breakdowns at Miles 21, 41 and 58 between Lagos and Ibadan. At Mile 21 the road became flooded, but the surface has now been lifted above flood level. At mile 41 the surface repairs have been carried out, but at Mile 58 the repairs will be carried out before next rains.

Now, on to Trunk Road A 3. The breakdown between Port Harcourt and Aba was indeed very serious. Some time ago I gave an assurance to my good and hon. Friend, Mr Howard, that I had taken steps to see that this road would not fail again during the rains. I would like to take this opportunity of apologising to Mr Howard and to the Committee for my over-optimism. By way of explanation I should say, however, that in the two previous years the road was breached by flood water and the Imo River Bridge. I accordingly gave instructions for the road here to be raised by 10 feet so as to make quite certain that this would not happen again. However, the flood water this time did not breach the road at this place but went elsewhere. In fact, the road was breached at Miles 19, 20 and 22. The embankment of the road at these places has now been lifted and additional culverts put in. The contractors now working on the Port-Harcourt-Aba Road have been instructed to concentrate first on these bad places. In view of my experience last time, I dare not promise that this road will never be breached again but I can say that it will be extremely unlikely.

On Trunk Road A 6 the road became waterlogged in some cuttings between Lagos and Abeokuta. Remedial measures to improve the drainage in these cuttings have been taken care of.

On the road between Ibadan, Ife and Benin, Sir, there was, indeed breaches on various parts of the road. The breach between Ife and Ibadan has been in the mind of the Government and already there is provision for reconstructing and resurfacing part of the road, those parts that are very bad. My hon. Friend the Minister of Works, Western Region, promised to do the work on behalf of the Federal Government but, unfortunately, events overtook us and you all know there was an exodus of engineers from the Western Region. As a result the Western Regional Minister of Works cannot now undertake this work by direct labour. They, however, agree to survey the road for us, which they are now doing. When they have finished the survey, the documents will be prepared here in Lagos and the first twenty miles from Ibadan which are really bad will be given out to contract, I hope, next dry season. . . . (Interruptions).

The other one, Sir. . . . (Interruptions.) . . . I hope Members will understand it takes time to survey, and it also takes time to prepare contract documents.

On Trunk Road A 10, Sir, a breach occurred at Miles 30 to 31.

The road surface is now being raised and an additional culvert provided to allow the water to pass easily under the road.

On Trunk Road A 16 there were some difficulties at the Jos end. As Members from that area are aware we are now tarring from Mile 82 to Mile 118 which is the most troublesome section. I hope also to be able to provide funds for some further resurfacing between Mile 118 and Jos.

The embankment on Trunk Road A 17 between Ture and Numan where it passes through the flood plain of the Gongola River was breached. The Provincial Engineer, Yola, has been sent additional funds to raise this embankment and to provide additional culverts. As regards the N'gurore Crossing, designs for new bridges here are under preparation and I will provide funds for raising the embankment in the new financial year.

On Trunk Road A 21 the difficulties between Birnin Kudu and Kari will be overcome when the tarring now going on has been completed, and also the section complained of by M. Maina Saleh will certainly be looked after.

Mr Chairman, I think I have said enough here and in view of the fact that tomorrow we are also going to debate Head 602—Highways and Bridges, I feel I should wait here.

The Chairman : I had better dispose of this amendment now, I think. The question is that the Head be reduced by £10. . . .

Mr M. A. O. Olarewaju (South Ilorin) : Mr Chairman, in view of the brief, tremendous, and comprehensive explanation of the able Minister of Works and Surveys, I have decided to forgive this Public Works Department. I therefore beg to withdraw my Motion for Ten Pounds reduction.

The Chairman : Is it your pleasure that the amendment be withdrawn?

Amendment by leave withdrawn.

Chief J. S. Olayeye (Okitipupa) : Mr Chairman, I had wanted to congratulate the Minister of Works before, but now that he says he is postponing the resurfacing of those portions of Trunk A Road between: Akure and Ilesha; Ilesha and Ife; Ife and Ibadan, where my car got damaged and consequently I was forced to sleep on the road for two days before I was able to get to Ibadan on the third day. When I got to Lagos, I went to the firm from whom I bought my car, and they said that they could not get the spare parts to replace the parts that had been damaged, as they were out of stock. Mr Chairman, how to get back to Okitipupa with my car has now become a problem. I think the next thing I shall do is to claim all my expenses for my car from the Minister.

The Chairman : I am sorry you cannot either blame the Minister nor expect him to pay the cost of your motor car breaking down.

Chief Olayeye : If the Minister could just take the trouble to travel from Okitipupa to Ondo, he would find that Trunk B Road between Foriku and Ondo is far better than the Trunk A Road from Akure to Ibadan. It is useless for the Minister to sit down here and say the resurfacing of the road is postponed to next dry season. I wish to appeal

to the Minister to let this work commence immediately on this road, otherwise I will seriously support that his salary be reduced!

Question, That the Head be reduced by £10 put and negatived.

Question, That £759,690 for Head 73—Public Works—stand part of the Schedule, put and agreed to.

HEAD 74.—PUBLIC WORKS RECURRENT

Question proposed, That £4,001,290 for Head 74—Public Works Recurrent—stand part of the Schedule.

Mr Jaja Wachuku (Aba): Mr Chairman, Sir, there is an item here, an amendment to reduce sub-head 5 by £5,180. In 1956-57 we have £16,565 for maintenance and replacement of refrigerators; and last year £18,000, and now we have £33,118; and when you look at the notes "for replacement of refrigerators now in use for seven years." Now, I would like the Minister to tell us how many refrigerators are being replaced that will cost £5,180, and what will happen to the ones that are being replaced. I think to spend £23,118 on refrigerators is rather excessive and I would like the Minister to explain why that should be so. I think it is extravagant.

Amendment proposed that sub-head 5 be reduced by £5,180.

The Minister of Works and Surveys: Mr Chairman, Sir, I am sure hon. Jaja Wachuku is quite aware that Government has already undertaken to supply refrigerators to all senior service quarters where the senior officials of the Government are living. The hon. Member also knows, Sir, that machinery of any kind has a limited life time. It is true we do all we can to maintain and repair these refrigerators but there comes a time when they are no longer serviceable and would cost more to repair than to supply a new one. He should also realise, Sir, it is not only in Lagos we have Federal officers, there are Federal officers all over the Federation, and these replacements are going into the houses where our Federal officers are living. Sir.....

Mr Wachuku: How many?

An hon. Member: What will happen to the old ones?

Mr Wachuku: How many? How many?

The Minister of Works and Surveys: You don't need me to tell you how many.

This is what we are asking and you can be sure that not a single penny will be spent unnecessarily. (*Hear, hear.*)

Mr E. O. Fawole (Ikeja): Mr Chairman, I rise to speak on Head 74. I have to thank the Minister of Works and Surveys for the extension of the death trap bridge between Agege Town and Sango-Otta, although there are other narrow bridges on the way.....

The Chairman: Order, order. I am sorry the hon. Member is speaking on the wrong Head. I think we had better dispose of this Head.

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, That sub-head 5 be reduced by £5,180, put accordingly and negatived.

Mr S. W. Ubani-Ukoma (Aba): Mr Chairman, I wish to seize this opportunity to offer congratulations to the Minister and all his staff for what they have done by way of providing traffic signals and danger signs along the roads. These signs are not sufficient and we would like him to provide more and more so that the lives of many road users will be safe.

I also want to congratulate him for the designing of economical houses, particularly the blocks that house six people. Not many people know what troubles these men have overcome by designing these houses, they are very good, very economical and we congratulate him for that.

I come to the Public Works Recurrent. If Mr Chairman would look at the whole Head, he will see that we have to spend over £4 million on our Public Works Recurrent. Under sub-head 1 you see that you have to spend a sum of £302,380. I wish to ask this question, whether this maintenance includes the block of flats which the hon. Members use. If so, we would like an improvement to be made, it is no use providing good blocks and then not maintaining them. We would like these buildings to be maintained satisfactorily, loose slates put right and other minor repairs done. No person from that Department has gone to inspect and see what we are complaining of, I would like that to be done.

When we are talking about maintenance of buildings, I do not know whether it is to do with painting and renovating of buildings,

or whether it means re-construction of the buildings. It seems to me that this money is too much unless we can see actually for what it is being used.

Another item is maintenance of furniture. Although there has been an improvement recently of providing dunlopilos, which are very expensive, yet I think that all these items are very expensive. There are many, many things here on this heading of expenditure such as the maintenance of electrical appliances, I do not know why we have this again and again. We require an explanation from the Minister to tell us exactly why this Head is so much.

The maintenance of roads has cost such a lot of money and this is one of the reasons why we cannot have extension of trunk A roads into the rural areas. I think hon. Members who have suggested that the Federal Public Works Department should get their own engineers, have made very good suggestions. It is no use borrowing from the Regions. If you take time to go on these Trunk A roads, you will see heaps of sand and gravel, they stay there and are not even used. I can show you one by one if you argue with me. I know that the hon. Minister himself is fond of flying but I would like him to be using these roads so that he will be able to see for himself what I am saying. This fault is not hanging on the doorstep of the Minister only, it is hanging on the doorstep of the Director and the Deputy Director who have never given a thought to the rural areas. If they travel in the rural areas it would help them to know the conditions of these roads. Take for instance, the road I have just mentioned between Ibadan and Ile-Ife, that road is shocking, it is disgraceful. The springs of our motor cars are being ruined; it goes up and down and up and down. I hope the Minister will see to the job immediately.

One other thing that I would like to say about this Head is that in the past many of our people did criticise the P.W.D. because they were spending so much money on one mile length of road. Now this has been doubled, they spend more money and we would like to get an explanation why £1,000 for one mile of road is allowed, some roads take about £2,000 to £3,000 for one mile stretch of road. All these things require an explanation so that the Legislators in this House will know how to defend the P.W.D.

There is another important thing I want to say, if roads in Ikoyi are in a very good condition, I want to know from the Minister why they have to be re-tarred over and over again. For instance, about three days ago I drove along the Glover Road which was being tarred, in spite of the fact that about six months or three months ago, I actually saw it being macadamised with about six to eight inches of stones. I want to ask the Minister of Works why, when the roads are good, he spends money on recurring expenditure? The roads are very good and you tar them again, that money should be spent in the rural areas. I do not want next year to see all these dots—dot, dot, dot on the map showing trunk roads. All these road repairs have been proposed but it has not been cut through. We want to see everything red, not dot, dot, dot, dot. That is why I am asking that the economy should be affected.

We hear of the improvement that the Department has made on the road between Aba and Port Harcourt. We want an explanation because I do not think the work was being done quick enough on that road, that money was voted in 1956, the road is now under construction. When you talk of the executive capacity this is wrong, we want you to get as many people as you can, as many contractors as you can and get everybody to put in time and effort to see that these roads are improved.

I want to come to sub-head 20, that is Federal Unallocated stores, Operating Costs. I would like the Minister to explain this, it is a large sum of money—£105,000—because there are many stores now unchecked here in Lagos.

And if you spend all this large sum of money it will be necessary to explain how all this money is being expended. In any case it is because of this criticism I have made, particularly the Ikoyi road, that I am asking that £1,000 be sliced out of this Head and I hope that hon. Members will support me.

Amendment proposed to reduce the Head by £1,000.

Mr T. O. S. Benson (Lagos West) rose in his place and claimed to move, That the question be now put.

Mr Jaja Wachuku (Aba): On a point of order, Sir, Mr Benson was completely out of order. The Chairman put a question which has not been decided and he wants the question to be put.

The Chairman : I proposed the question on the Amendment, I looked to the Minister who did not reply, and I thought it quite possible that the Chief Whip might choose to move the closure. . . . (Cheers). . . .

Question, That the question be now put, put and agreed to.

Question, That the Head be reduced by £1,000, put accordingly and negatived.

Original question again proposed.

Chief T. T. Solaru (Ijebu East): Mr Chairman, Sir, I shall be very brief. Talking on this Head, Public Works Recurrent, together with the vast sums of money to be spent, I will limit myself mainly to two points that already have been briefly mentioned but I am only just going to underline what has been said.

Sir, on the question of the maintenance of roads, will it not be a good thing, Sir, if the Ministry of Works would explore the possibility of finding out why it is that the materials used on our roads need to be renewed time and time again? Is there not a research department in the Ministry where you could do some experiments to find out which material should be used for maintenance of these roads? It might pay dividends in the future if we use the right type of material rather than go on using the same old method and wasting money all the time.

Secondly, we spend a lot of money on what we call unallocated stores, Federal, £125,000. Now, I have no doubt that the money needs to be spent, but I would also like to suggest, Sir, that the people who maintain those stores should be looked after—and that is where exactly we ought to pay more attention to these stores. I think the Public Works Department, next to the Posts and Telegraphs perhaps, have the largest stores of any in the country, and therefore if we are not to go on sustaining losses through dissatisfaction, I think that the people who work in this Federal stores really ought to be given the best attention as far as conditions of services are concerned.

That is why I would like to mention very briefly, Sir, the fact that people are constantly being passed over. If you look at the Staff List, you find a good many people who are employed in these stores. You have the Chief Store-keeper, you have senior ones, you have the Assistants and you have the petty ones. They are all there. You have a large army of them.

But there is one thing which gives them dissatisfaction. There can only be one head at a time. You cannot have two heads on one shoulder. When you do have a head, other people take their places after him. But when the time comes and people are jumped over and they are not given the proper jobs to do, the people whom you put in charge of stores get dissatisfied and that is where these stores get looked after in a very haphazard fashion. If we want to spend money and spend £125,000, we want to look after those who look after our stores.

The Chairman : I do not honestly think the staff employed are under this Head.

Chief Solaru : Thank you, Sir. That is by the way, I hope it has not fallen by the wayside anyhow.

Sir, you will find under this Head the amount that is spent on the leave, holiday and sick pay to daily-paid staff—£45,000. Naturally, Sir, this money has to be paid, but we do know from experience the number of people who go to the Hospitals who are not ill, the number of people who bring fake certificates and say they are ill, the number of people who draw sick pay who are not really ill. I think, Sir, we ought to do something because we are losing a lot of money because of people who are malingering at their work.

Mr T. O. S. Benson : Is he imputing, Sir, the integrity of our doctors?

Chief Solaru : If the Chief Whip will not waste the time of the House we should get on with the job. It is true, Sir, that people do malingering at work and therefore I feel that in a place like the Public Works Department where they are so short-staffed, we should not spend money keeping people who are not really sick in body but who may only be sick in mind because they think they are ill when they are not really ill.

Sir, the whole thing boils down to effective supervision which is not under this Head, but if you have this money and you do not supervise them the money gets wasted. I do hope, Sir, that the Ministry will be very effective in supervising the large sums of money that are being spent under this Head and to see that they are properly spent.

M. Hamza Gombe (Gombe): Mr Chairman, I rise to oppose the amendment. The Ministry of Works and Surveys is the largest

Ministry carrying the demands of every corner on this Federation. The Minister has proved himself to be efficient, hardworking and a man of integrity.

However, I should like to call the attention of the Minister to two dangerous bridges on the Bauchi to Gombe road. Dindima bridge on the River Gongola needs iron trim hedges on both sides similar to those on dangerous bridges on other rivers and streams. The other is the Jagalwa bridge. Mr Chairman, Sir, this is a wooden bridge and it is not at all safe to have such a bridge on such a road with so heavy traffic like that of Bauchi to Gombe road. I therefore appeal to the Minister to see that a permanent strong bridge is constructed in place of the wooden one.

With this, Sir, I beg to oppose.

M. 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, That £4,001,290 for Head 74—Public Works Recurrent—stand part of the Bill, put accordingly and agreed to.

HEAD 75.—SURVEY

Question proposed, That £192,090 for Head 75—Survey—stand part of the Schedule.

Mr A. Adeyinka (Ibadan Central): Mr Chairman, Sir, I wish to speak only with regard to sub-head 1 of this item 34, and that is concerning the post of Chief Lithographer, Chief Surveyor, Technical Officers, *et cetera*. Sir, I wish to bring to the notice of the Minister that there is an expatriate officer in charge of this section. This officer is actually on contract, and yet we understand, Sir, that there are Africans in the Department who have been there more than 25 years, and who have had experience of this work, and I am asking the Minister if he does not consider that it is high time that something should be done, in that one of these Africans who has served the Department for more than 25 years and has acted as Chief Lithographer for a considerable length of time should be appointed as technical officer. I say, Sir, that after the contract of the expatriate officer has expired that it should not be renewed. He should go, because as I have said, in that Department, there are Africans who can do the job.

I do not want to bore the Minister on this point, but I am asking him to look into this case thoroughly. I understand his contract is going to expire this year, and I say that it should not be renewed, although we understand he is trying to renew it.

I know there are some departments who cannot find suitable Africans to put into senior posts, but, Sir, in this section there are suitable Africans, with the experience and who should be offered the senior posts. What I am saying is that after the contract term of this expatriate officer has expired it should not be renewed and a suitable African should be offered the position.

Mr Chairman, if the matter is studied carefully, you will see that we have an Assistant Lithographer in training in the U.K. now, only one. This man will come back and take up his position, what I am saying is that he should be given a higher position and other people moved up accordingly. What I am saying, Mr Chairman, is that when this man goes on leave it is an African who acts in his position, and I see no reason why a suitable African should not be offered the post, if it is proved that he is capable of doing it while the expatriate officer is on leave.

This man, Mr Chairman is not working well with the Africans, I would not call him a Negrophobist, but he does not work well with Africans, he does not advance them so that they can take up higher posts because he does not like them. He works against their interests and it is because of this fact as well that I am saying that his contract should not be renewed. The work he is doing at present could be just as effectively done by the Africans in that section of the Department.

I do ask, Mr Chairman, that the Minister should look into the case of these people and set right the wrong that has been done them. If this man cannot work with Africans, he must go.

With these few remarks, Sir, I beg to move.

Amendment proposed to reduce the Head by £10.

The Minister of Works and Surveys (Alhaji the hon. Muhammadu Inuwa Wada): Mr Chairman, Sir, in rising to oppose the amendment I also beg to ask your leave, Sir, to say a few words on the Federal Survey Department generally.

of Commons to be trained. But I notice that there is no such provision. So I would like the Prime Minister to consider this seriously and bring Supplementary Estimates to see that we put somebody else on training.

Now, Sir, I have said this over and over again : why do we always have Library Assistant to this House? Independence in 1960! We are thinking of building a new House. I am sure the library we are going to have is not going to be this type of thing we have here. It is time now that the House should consider providing money for a proper Librarian to be trained together with some assistants so that when we have our new House, we have a proper library with a librarian who will look after a proper library. Sir, when I visited India, I saw the library—I am not going to talk about the library of the House of Commons; I am talking of a young country that is just coming up. You have different sections; you have sections for politics, history, literature, and so on. When Members come here they would like to go to the library and refresh their minds with lighter subjects. But here we cannot. You only go and see dry things like volumes of the law. Nobody wants to see volumes of the law. You want your mind to wander a bit; to find philosophy; to find history; to find everything there. After all, a legislator is supposed to be an all-round man as much as is humanly possible, and the library here does not give you the facility at all.

Along with that, Sir, you find every year—if n may read out from the Estimates—Library in 1956-57 the provision was £299; then in 1957-58 £400, and we come again this year, £400. We are static; we do not move. I would like the Prime Minister to consider that the time has come now when the vote for this library is increased. It does not seem to me that the money is being used at all, and the reason is quite obvious. The librarian who is put there, I think, is a third-class clerk. He does not know anything about books, only to keep them there. He cannot suggest anything unless the Clerk of the House takes the initiative to suggest something. You need somebody who understands the book business, who is trained, who watches the book reviews; he can collect geography from different libraries. If he is a member of the Society of Librarians, he

has communication with these people and he will be able to find valuable books that will be useful to us.

I suggest that when we have our new House, our library should be the most useful in this country. In fact £2,000 or £3,000 a year is not enough. I have said this over and over again and I continue to say it especially now that we have our Prime Minister and not a Chief Secretary, we should get a library worthy of this House and worthy of the membership of this House. The Oxford University Press will always be ready to assist us. The same thing with the Cambridge University Press.

Now, Sir, apart from that, I want also to raise the question in connection with the upkeep of grounds. I do not know what that means. I would like an explanation. Is it upkeep of the grounds of this House or does it include upkeep of the grounds of the LegCo. flats? Sir, the LegCo. flats, I must say, are very much short-staffed. One person is supposed to look after three blocks of flats! You can appreciate what that means, and each block has six flats; 18 flats by one human-being! And then in each flat you have about three rooms. How can a person like that look after their cleaning? I am saying, Sir, I do not know what this means. If upkeep of grounds includes that thing, you can appreciate that the provision here is not enough to provide labour to keep that place clean.

And not only that, Sir; Members have been complaining about the upkeep of that place. In fact, there is little or no equipment at all. People go without kettle or any sauce-pan, nothing at all. Even if you have your own servant to do the work for you, you have not got the things there. You want polish, they say P.W.D. has not supplied. If they cannot do it, we can do it ourselves. I would like to use my own hand to polish my own room and let the place shine so that if anybody wants to see me, I feel it is presentable.

I would like the Prime Minister to explain to us what this means. I think some Members will have some other things to say about this Head, and therefore I will not exhaust everything.

But before sitting down, Sir, I want to put it on record how much we appreciate the work that has been done by the staff of this House. (*Hear, hear*).

When I was saying that we want expatriates who have had experience in independent countries, know how independent countries are run, that will serve us well, I think we have an example of it here in this House, our Speaker, a man with ripe experience from the mother Parliament (*Cheers*). Those who know what he has been doing and the contacts which he has in London, and his past experience with that House over there, the facilities that have been given to us, I would say that a lot has been due to his activities and the activities of Mr Fellowes who is the first man to come here to assist us. These people have the interest of this country at heart.

This is the type of people that we want here. They have the knowledge, they have the experience, they have the love of the country, they want to assist. And I want to say Sir, that we are very happy to have the Speaker here because he has had two major operations and we are lucky indeed that he should be well to be here with us. (*Cheers*). When he was ill in the hospital, I was in London and he was so pleased to see me because at that time he did not know I was in London. He was so happy and he felt that Nigeria was there with them.

It is this type of thing that we want and we hope that when we criticise any expatriate people, he has listened patiently and he has been able to weigh our word, knowing that we say these things when we find something is wrong, we say it without mincing words. But when we discover that sincerity, the love and affection, the willingness to serve and assist, we do not hesitate to give honour to whom honour is due. And we hope our other friends who are serving in this country will be able to have this type of attitude because no sooner they develop this attitude, they will find our own attitude changed, and once we have this spirit of give and take and the readiness to assist, there will be harmony as among members of a Commonwealth of Nations. (*Cheers*).

Amendment proposed to reduce sub-head 1 by £10.

Mr D. N. Abii (Owerri): Mr Chairman, Sir, I rise to oppose the Amendment. One of my principal reasons to oppose it is that the Mover of the Amendment rather gave reasons to support the Head and not to move his

Amendment. I am only going to forward the idea which he has given in my support of the Head.

I believe everybody in this House will agree that the staff of the Legislature should be quite different from the Civil Service. Number two, if it is so, there must be a kind of committee or a commission of the House to arrange matters affecting ourselves. The salaries of the members of the staff of the Legislature should be quite different because the nature of their work is quite different. We are heading to independence, we should not be afraid to take the proper steps even though they may cost us heavily. That is why I am pointing out to the Prime Minister to examine the payment given to our staff. I feel it is not what they should have. If we read the books, we will find details of the salaries of other members of the staff of the Legislature, take for example, that of the mother Parliament, I think the Speaker receives something not less than £5,000 per annum. The Clerk of the House receives not less than £6,000 per annum. In the Western Region I think the Speaker gets £2,500. In the Eastern Regional House, the Deputy Speaker receives £1,500 even though he does nothing.

Chief T. T. Solaru : They do things in a bigger way.

Mr Abii : I accept what Chief Solaru has said 'they do things in a bigger way' and this is a bigger House for the country. This is the Nigerian Parliament and we are hoping to have independence; when we have independence there will be no going back out of it. The Speaker of the House will demand what he deserves, the Clerk of the House will demand his own. It is but proper now that we start to make a move. And so I recommend to the Prime Minister that in the meantime he should do something to show to the world that we know what must be done even though we cannot do it now. I humbly appeal to him at least to re-examine the question about the salary of the Speaker, of the Clerk of the House, the Deputy Speaker. I think that will give a kind of hope to other members of the staff.

If there is a separate committee or commission of the House to look after their salaries, believe me, many of them will not be willing

to run away. Because I have it on good information that some of your Secretary-Typists and other important members of the staff are willing to change hands to the regions. If we allow them to go out now, 2nd of April, 1960 will come and they will begin to clamour for contract people. I think the best thing to do now is to set an example, have that commission of the House, revise their salaries, at least for the senior members of the staff and that will be an encouragement to other members to stay. So that when we have our independence, we shall not be crying over spilt milk.

Mr Chairman, Sir, another point I have in order to support this Head is concerning the flats. The flats are for the use of the Members whenever the House is sitting. Why should the maintenance not be carried out before our arrival. Many of the flats are so dirty that if it were your own you would not go into it until it was properly brushed up. There is shortage of water in all the places. By that I want to say that many of us are suffering indeed, we do not know what to do.

And that brings me to another point. In spite of this suffering, do you know we pay rent at the rate of 10s-9d a day? When this House sits for about three months a year, for ninety-three days, it will take from each Member sixty-one pounds and something. Work it out again, and you look into the cost of petrol, you will find that the £140 you give as your consolidated allowance, you take about three-quarters of it, for by your petrol system and the question of rates, what have you left for the Members to pay for their ordinary tax? I am suggesting therefore that the Prime Minister will examine it, find out how to keep the house properly good for the use of the members, cut all these rents (*shout of "Yes"*). I am leaving that to the conscience of the Prime Minister, and to answer, for I am supporting it by saying that he should find out how much the Ministers pay for their houses and how much the Parliamentary Secretaries pay for their houses, and then leave the rest for all the Members to find out.

Mr Chairman, Sir, I have another point for sub-head 15, the provision for Members' travelling overseas. Members travelling overseas, this is a very welcome item but I feel

that the travelling of Members should not only be limited to overseas. Many Members from the North have never been to the East, West, except coming to Lagos. Many Members from South, East or West, they have not been in the North and we have economic projects. Why not select some Members to travel and see these economic projects and know how far they are progressing? I feel that the Prime Minister should examine it, not only looking for those to go overseas. Get some Members and let them go to the North and see what economic projects we have there; and another man to go to the East, another to go to the West, so that we can mix up.

Another point I have to mention, Mr Chairman, is about the work of the Whips. I think that what hon. Wachuku has said about the Whips is quite necessary. But reading some of these books dealing with Parliamentary Procedure, we find they should have separate offices. We have no offices for the Whips because we have not got our independence. The Whips, I think, must have their offices in order to co-ordinate the work of the House. The work of the House is going always on the goodwill of the Members of this House. There is no dignity to the position of the Whips. I feel that the Prime Minister will start that and give them offices where they go and have their dignity, so that when we obey them, we know we are obeying people in a dignified position. We do not want to be obeying people who have no dignity.

I feel also that when the Prime Minister will agree to appoint a Chief Whip, the office will be there to help us to carry on the work.

Mr Chairman, I support.

M. Muhtari, Sarkin Bai (South West Kano): Thank you very much, Mr Chairman. I rise to associate myself with the sentiments already expressed by my hon. Friends, Mr Jaja Wachuku and Mr Abii. And again to bring another point which has not yet been pointed out, and I hope hon. Members will welcome it, and that is in connection with the meetings in this hon. House, Sir. Formerly, we used to sit three or four times a year. But this financial year we only sat twice. I know, Sir, there have been engagements, London Constitutional conference and other conferences, and many Ministers had to tour other countries abroad. Nevertheless in my humble opinion I

feel that hon. Members of the House are not, I am sorry to say, Sir, sufficiently taken into confidence.

We are being called, Sir, to pass the Estimates for the year 1958-59, but what did we find? We found that we are overburdened with Bills, Amendments, Ordinances, and so on and so forth. Sir, already hon. Members are tired, and I see, Sir, that the Action Group Back Benchers have already run away. Sir, one thing which makes it more devastating is the fact that the Ramaddan fast is fast approaching and I am drawing attention to this fact, I am not trying to challenge the decision of the Business Committee of which Jaja is the Chairman, nor am I trying to point out that it is the fault of the Ministers. Now, Sir, we do not mind coming to Lagos at any time of the year to debate Bills, but, for goodness's sake, when we come here to debate our budget let us confine ourselves to the budget. (*Applause*).

Finally, Sir, I should like to pay tribute to the officials of this hon. House. I understand it is somewhat unparliamentary to pay tribute to the Speaker but, at any rate, all the Members of this hon. House would bear me out that for the past four years our Speaker has been most strictly impartial and did his work most excellently well. (*Applause*).

I should congratulate also the Clerk of the House for his friendly approach to all hon. Members in this hon. House. (*Applause*). And finally, Sir, I should like to pay tribute to the Verbatim Reporters in general and to the Editor Hansard in particular for compiling and producing our daily Hansard.

Mr Chairman, I beg to support the expenditure.

The Prime Minister : Mr Chairman, Sir, many interesting and somewhat important points have been raised, Sir, on the debate on this amendment which I rise to oppose, and all that I would like to tell the Committee is that I have taken note of all these points and some of them are worthy of further consideration, and I would also like to tell the committee, Sir, that I have been considering some of these points, and I hope, Sir, that by the time the House meets I will be able to show the proposals which I have and which I hope the House will approve. (*Applause*).

On the debate, Sir, on the Public Works Estimates I heard a point made by Mallam Baba Daradara. He said that the new accommodation being provided for Members has not yet started—the construction has not yet started. I think the hon. Member, if he cares to go round Ikoyi, Lugard Avenue, he will see the buildings are more or less half way up. I hope, Sir, that these buildings will be completed and that Members will have the comfort which my Friend Jaja Wachuku is always after.

Mr Jaja Wachuku : Mr Chairman, Sir, I rise to withdraw my amendment.

Amendment by leave withdrawn.

Question, That the sum of £260,450 for Head 76—House of Representatives—put and agreed to.

HEAD 77.—JUDICIAL

Question proposed, That £112,300 for Head 77—Judicial—stand part of the Schedule.

Mr A. Adeyinka (Ibadan Central) : Mr Chairman, Sir, in rising to move my Amendment on this particular Head to reduce it by £10, I would seize this opportunity to praise the Federal Government or the Governor-General in the wise appointment of the Chief Justice of Western Nigeria to the post of Chief Justice of the Federation. I would say without any hesitation, Sir, that the appointment is a wise one and welcomed all over this country because the man so appointed is somebody who has been able to maintain the policy of justice. In my opinion, Sir, I would say that the appointment is according to law, and I wish the person appointed a long stay in his present position.

Now, Sir, I would refer to the question of Registrars in the High Court of Lagos. I understand, Sir, that Registrars have submitted a petition to the Chief Justice of the High Court of Lagos in respect of their present re-grading. I do not know why that petition has not been looked into, and I understand that somebody is sitting on these petitions, and does not want them to be implemented. The nature of the petition, as I understand, is that the Registrars want to be converted from their present grade of C Executive to C Technical, because they believe that their job is more of a technical nature than of an executive nature. I think that anybody who cares to look into the work of the Registrars will agree with me that their work is very much of a technical nature.

These people are legal officers and they do a very technical job, so I would like their petitions to be considered.

The next point is the question of study leave. I understand they have been denied their study leave for the past four years. In the past, Registrars were allowed study leave in the United Kingdom, so that they could broaden their experience, and thus enable them to be promoted to a higher grade ; but I understand that for the past four years, Sir, they have been denied this type of study leave, and I would like the Prime Minister or the Minister of Justice to be, to look into these allegations, and also the petition. I understand that the Minister of Communications and Aviation is in charge of this Department.

Several hon. Members : Finance, Finance, Ministry of Finance.

Mr Adeyinka : Well, whoever it is in the Council of Ministers. What I am saying is that their petitions and their complaints must be considered. If somebody is trying to hold up their complaints or their petitions, I want the Minister to look into it, because the Registrars are not satisfied with the manner in which their complaints are being handled. The question of conversion from Scale C Executive to Scale C Technical should be implemented without delay because the people deserve so to be classified.

Now we come to the question of the Magistrates' salaries in the Federal Territory. I think that the salaries of the Magistrates in the Federal Territory should be the same as the Magistrates in the Regions, if not higher, because when you say Federal, Federal is higher than Regional. Federal means Nigeria as a whole, and so people working in the Federal Territory should have higher salaries than those people in the Regions. Therefore I say that the salaries of Magistrates will have to be considered. The two Members for Lagos will, I am sure, support me in all that I have just said in respect of Registrars and Magistrates.

My real reference here which is the question of these Registrars must be considered. Their petition must be looked into.

With these few remarks, I beg to move.

Amendment proposed to reduce the Head by £10.

Mr C. C. E. Onoh (Udi) : Mr Chairman, Sir, as a Member of the honourable Society of the Middle Temple it gives me the greatest

pleasure to move this House to congratulate His Excellency the Governor-General on his appointment of Sir Adetokunbo Ademola, former Chief Justice of the Western Region as Chief Justice of the Federation. All Nigeria should join in wishing this illustrious son of Africa every success in the Judicial field.

The Law, Mr Chairman, is the personification of justice. It has no faults, nor flaws, and the Chief Justice of the Federation represents the Law. When we remember, hon. Members, that under the Promissory Oaths Act 1866, the Judicial Oath requires the Judge to swear "To do right to all manner of people after the Laws of usages of this reign, without fear or favour, affection or ill-will." We pride ourselves because in the appointment of Sir Adetokunbo Ademola the advocates of Nigerianisation here or elsewhere have scored a fitting victory. Nigeria as a whole, and in particular the Bench and the Bar will rejoice that they have produced a person who, after twenty-one years of meritorious service has, despite our political, cultural and tribal diversities, fulfilled the stringent provision of the Oaths Act.

In our Chief Justice we have a man impartial in the administration of the Law ; a man experienced in the diverse problems facing this great Federation, and above all a man prepared to maintain and to uphold the rule of Law. There is no doubt whatsoever that the Governor-General has appointed the right man. He holds the power of life and death over many of us and, judging from past experience no person, no matter his qualities, need fear that in going before his Lordship he is running the risk that his opponent has or ever will influence his Lordship.

Mr Chairman, coming now to the question of Law Reports. The Law books in this country are completely inadequate. Most of the young Lawyers that have recently returned to this country cannot purchase the necessary books even if they have the money, and we will be grateful if the Federal Government will facilitate the printing of Law books.

Now we come to the question of the wages of Magistrates. In order to preserve the rule of Law and to maintain the impartiality of the Judiciary, it is essential that Judges and Magistrates and other persons holding judicial posts should be given enough wages to prevent them from taking bribes.

The Chairman : That is not the Head to talk about the salaries. The expenditure for the emoluments of the Judges, Chief Justices, is not challengeable in this House, and therefore should not be criticised.

Mr Onoh : I am not at all criticising it, Mr Chairman.

The Chairman : I think you are suggesting that they should be increased.

Mr Onoh : I am just making some remarks. My other hon. Friend in fact pointed in that direction when he was suggesting the increase in the salaries of the Magistrates. It is that point that I am trying to elaborate.

In conclusion, I feel that in the Judicial Department we have shown an example of Nigerianisation, and with these few remarks I beg to oppose.

Mr R. A. Fani-Kayode (Ife) : I join in congratulating the Government on the appointment of the Chief Justice of the Federation. I cast my mind back to 1938 when several persons in this country doubted the efficiency of this person who had not been so exalted. Several articles flashed through the pages of certain papers in this country. I am glad that this scandalous news published in these papers has now been disproved. With all the emphasis at my command. . . .

The Minister of Education (Hon. Aja Nwachuku) : Point of Order, Sir. Is not this such an important matter that controversial points should not be introduced into it ?

The Chairman : That is not a Point of Order, I am sorry.

Mr Fani-Kayode : If those who are responsible for those scandalous attacks are now feeling unhappy it is because they are ashamed of themselves. We welcome the appointment and I think every African is entitled to be happy in that appointment.

Coming now to the Judicial Department. . . .

Mr Jaja Wachuku (Aba) : Point of Order, Sir. I think referring to something which happened in 1938 is not relevant.

The Chairman : I always deprecate going too far back into ancient history, but I am afraid you are taxing my resources too high to ask me to judge on Nigerian history of 1938.

Mr Fani-Kayode : It is a pity that all your Officers in this country, at least in the Federal Government, are not placed on the same scale. Very soon we shall be losing very important, efficient and high up officials from the Legal Department to the Judicial Department. Although you find this in the higher ranks of the Judicial Department, the same thing does not apply to the lower ranks of the Judicial. The salaries of the Judicial staff in our country on the small bench should be increased, in order to entice and induce persons with great experience to join these benches.

It is not barely a month ago that a Magistrate in Lagos asked a witness to stoop down the Court as a penalty. I do not know where he got the power from, but the witness was actually made to stoop down from Court. I will not delve into the mysteries of Magistrates but several Magistrates on the bench to-day are worth more than they are being paid. We are aware that Government has been promising to look into this matter but this Government has been very tardy in looking into the status. I do not know who is responsible for this Department and I think the Minister is speaking instead of listening to me. Mr Chairman, more effort should be put in by Government to see that the status of Magistrates improves.

Sir, we find that in the Estimates, provision has been made for editing of the Law Reports. We also find, Sir, that the fees for editing reports amount to £106, that is after expenditure. I wonder why the Federal Government will not follow the same procedure which is followed, I believe, in the Northern Region and the Western Region to-day, that is keeping officials who actually edit and publish these Law Reports ? I think the East too is following the North and the West in trying to publish their own Law Reports. It is a pity that the Judicial Department in the Federal Territory is not prepared to follow these lines.

I find under the Head, Sir, that fees for services of summonses have been included in this present Estimate, whereas Bailiffs have been transferred to the permanent staff. To whom will these fees be paid ?

Further, all Law Officers should be given more training. In the near future, we shall need Law Officers who shall be experts in their own fields, experts in navigation, in international affairs and such other matters.

In the Legal Department to-day we have two Expatriate Draughtsmen, no African Draughtsmen. I think it is about time, Sir, that Government should look into these matters.

Sir, I think that our prisons are so congested that Magistrates and Judges should be encouraged to enforce more fines. I am not saying encourage fines at all events, but I asked the Minister for prisons and he said there is no space for prisoners. So, if more fines are imposed and the persons convicted have to pay the fines out of their own salaries, it will hurt them more and it will help the country. I will now give the Minister a chance to reply.

The Minister of Communications and Aviation (Chief the hon. S. L. Akintola) : I want to thank Members for the compliments paid to the Governor-General and more especially to Her Majesty's Government, on the appointment of a Chief Justice of the Federation. I do not want to belabour that point since the appointment has received general approval throughout the country. That shows the extent of the confidence which we all have in the Government of the Federation and the confidence which we have in the standard of justice which is being enforced from our Courts.

I will start by making some minor corrections in the Estimates. I would invite the attention of Members to Head 77, sub-head 1, item 18. There I would like the following provision to be inserted:—Entertainment Allowance for the Chief Justice—£300.

Mr Jaja Wachuku (Aba) : Point of Order, Sir. I wonder if the Minister is allowed to do this, should he not bring his provision forward in the form of an Amendment?

The Minister of Communications and Aviation : May I say, Sir, that I wonder myself. I have made investigations and found that this provision is not subject to vote by this hon. House and, therefore, need not be brought in the normal form of an Amendment. I would like the correction to be made and since it is not part of the general provision, it does not affect the Appropriation Bill which has been voted, this is extra provision in the Estimates; it is not part of what we are doing now. I stand to be corrected by the Speaker.

But my correction does not stop there, it also extends the provision made under sub-head 15—Allowances for upkeep of Chief Justice's house and grounds—increased from £250 to £300.

Now, I would also go to sub-head 18, Items 1 and 2. The salaries payable to the Chief Justice and to each of the High Court Judges are fixed by law, *vide* section 7 of the High Court of Lagos Ordinance No. 25 of 1955. These salaries were by virtue of section 2 of the High Court of Lagos Ordinance No. 36 of 1957 upgraded to £3,500 and £3,000 respectively, but in the draft Estimates the salaries are still shown at the old rates, that is £3,240 and £2,640 respectively. These figures have been amended to show the new rates. Well, I mention that because this is not subject to vote, to be approved by this hon. House. It is a statutory provision which ought to be made in any event.

Well, the next point mentioned by the hon. Members is in connection with the conditions of Registrars. Well, I would not separate Registrars from other officers of Government. The question of the salary of the Judges of the High Court of Lagos as well as of the Supreme Court has more or less been settled, but I do appreciate that there has been a lot of dissatisfaction expressed by the Magistrates as well as by our Law Officers. All I can say at the moment is that a Committee has been set up in the Establishment Branch of the Prime Minister's Office to examine reasons why recruitment into the Magisterial Bench has been so difficult and what also are the causes of dissatisfaction both among the Magistrates as well as among Law Officers, and the report of this particular Committee is under consideration by the Government at the moment and everything will be done to speed it up.

I am also sure that what has been said by various Members of the House will still speed up the process of this consideration so that the final decision is given as early as possible. This also extends to the senior members of the Legal Department. The points made by the hon. Fani-Kayode and hon. Adeyinka will also be considered when we are considering the report of the enquiry.

Now, hon. Kayode made mention of the speed of issuing law reports for which provision was made last year. Law reports are being issued by some Regional Judiciaries and are also being issued by the Federal Government. We are stepping that up and whatever may appear in the Estimates will not prejudice the policy which has been followed in the past, that is of issuing law reports at regular intervals.

Now, fees for the other services have been provided and some of the bailiffs have been made permanent staff. This particular provision was made before bailiffs were converted into permanent staff and before the last one, who happened not to be a permanent staff, retired. Now, if this money is not paid I am quite sure it will go back to the Exchequer.

Hon. Fani-Kayode mentioned that fines may be imposed in lieu of imprisonment. I think that is a point which the Judges and the Magistrates may take into consideration if they do feel that fines will be adequate deterrent and if also they feel that our prisons are congested and that we can do with less number of people in the prisons here.

The Chairman : Under Standing Orders, I must now take action enjoined upon me in order to finish the proceedings. I am bound to put the question to dispose of all business.

And it being 5.45 p.m., the Chairman proceeded, pursuant to Order (25th February) forthwith to put the Question already proposed from the Chair and the further Question necessary to dispose of the Vote under consideration.

Question, That the Head be reduced by £10, put and negatived.

Question, That £112,300 for Head 77—Judicial—stand part of the Schedule, put and agreed to.

The Chairman then proceeded forthwith to put successively the Questions necessary to dispose of the Votes for Heads 78 and 82.

HEAD 78.—LEGAL

Question, That £65,170 for Head 78—Legal—stand part of the Schedule, put and agreed to.

HEAD 79.—PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

Question, That £29,640 for Head 79—Public Service Commission—stand part of the Schedule, put and agreed to.

HEAD 80.—AUDIT

Question, That £60,360 for Head 80—Audit—stand part of the Schedule, put and agreed to.

HEAD 81.—MISCELLANEOUS

Question, That £1,594,010 for Head 81—Miscellaneous—stand part of the Schedule, put and agreed to.

HEAD 82.—CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE DEVELOPMENT FUND

Question, That £7,042,550 for Head 82—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.

Postponed Clauses 1 to 4 agreed to.

Bill to be reported.

Mr Speaker resumed the Chair.

Bill reported without amendment.

In pursuance of Standing Order 63, the Minister of Finance moved :

That the Bill be now read the third time and passed.

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.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion made and Question proposed, That this House do now adjourn (The Minister of Transport.)

Mr Speaker : The first of the three requests that I have to speak on the adjournment is from Chief Mariere.

Chief S. J. Mariere (Urhobo East) : The Minister is not available to explain.

Mr Speaker : Mr Abaagu.

Mr H. O. Abaagu (Kwande) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I reserve my remarks until another day.

Chief E. O. Omolodun (Oyo South) : Mr Speaker, Sir, the Motion that I am presenting to the House is such a one as will affect all sections of this House, and it is not only a question of mere sentiment.

The Committee which was set up was given a mandate to consider an increase in the salaries of the pensioners and not to consider substitution for their salaries. Sir, here is a man who retired in 1945 with a pension of 10s per month, and by a snail's pace of increase, he rose to £1.

A Bill was passed into law, 1956, for an increase in the salaries of the pensioners. Under this law, he was to receive 120 per cent increase. Automatically that will bring this man to £2-4s-0d per month, but to the surprise of everybody, he was paid only £1-6s-0d. He could not understand why he was short paid 18s. I want all hon. Members here to realise that the increase for the pensioners must be adequate. The index for cost of living rose by 1s and the pensioner was given an increase of 3d. This is most ridiculous. I commend this to you hon. Members that you may have this in your hearts. Some pensioners when they come for their pay in Lagos have to spend the nights at market-stalls, because they cannot afford to pay high rent in Lagos. And instead of helping these poor pensioners, who had once served this country faithfully..... (Interruption)

Mr Speaker : Order, order.

Chief Omolodun :in the past, they are left to suffer. I am therefore asking the Minister of Finance as I know that at some future time he will become old as well, to consider the matter of these pensioners.

I am sure that this hon. House will be happy when any fresh Bill of the pensioners is brought to this House to be passed into law. I am asking the Minister not to worry about the substitution but addition for the pensioners. In fact, what is wanted is the payment of a reasonable pension to comfort the pensioners.

The Minister of Finance (Chief the hon. F. S. Okotie-Eboh) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I had thought that our hon. Legislator was going to cause me some embarrassment because I had replied to this question once in this House explaining the position. But he has introduced a different aspect which I think is a new one. That is to say, that he has realised the position of the law as it is at the moment, and pleads now

that the House doubts the adequacy of the increase addition, and therefore feels that the matter should be re-examined by the Government. (*Hear, hear.*) I am not saying that I think so, I say he feels so. That is the argument of the hon. Member.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I am grateful to the Member for his kind prayers. I am one of those who respect age; all I can say, Sir, is that this new point is one which will be noted by the Government, and I am not in a position, of course, to commit the Government this way or that way on the matter.

One thing I would like to say is that the question of increases, either of pensions or of salaries of any group in this country, is a very delicate issue. Much as are sympathies with the request, you know that starting a vicious circle and the moment you start giving the pensioners or other classes of people an increase, then other groups will come; they will say that prices have increased because of this or that, and they will demand increases. Other groups of workers will demand them also. (*An hon. Member : No.*)

You say no, but you can only speak for yourself and not for everybody and it is not all that easy, much as we sympathise with it from the sentimental point of view or otherwise. I can assure you that as far as I am concerned when matters of this nature come up, we do not take them lightly; we should study them and realise the implications before we jump to conclusions.

My point therefore is this, that the point that has been made is worth taking seriously; there is something in it but, there are other considerations which ought to be considered by Government, and in that light I can only say that the point is noted, and that it is a matter for consideration.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved, That this House do now adjourn.

Adjourned accordingly at three minutes to six o'clock until 10 a.m. on Thursday the 13th of March.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NIGERIA

Thursday, 13th March, 1958

The House met at 10 a.m.

PRAYERS

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

*O.92. Mr G. O. Ebea asked the Prime Minister, if he will consider increasing the strength of Police Detachment at Ubiaja in Ishan Division, in order to cope with the volume of work there.

The Prime Minister : Yes, Sir. Provision has been included in the Police Estimate for 1958-59 to increase the police detachment at Ubiaja in Ishan Division by five constables.

*O.93. Mr G. O. Ebea asked the Prime Minister how soon it is proposed to rebuild the Police quarters and offices at Ubiaja in view of the fact that the existing buildings are very old and inadequate ?

The Prime Minister : Consideration will be given to the rebuilding of the Police accommodation at Ubiaja in the coming financial year but the priority of this project will depend on comparison with needs in other parts of the country and I can give no undertaking about a date for completing new accommodation at Ubiaja.

*O.94. Mr R. T. Alege asked the Prime Minister if he will state how many Nigerians from Kabba Division were repatriated from overseas in 1957, and why they were so treated.

The Prime Minister : As the records maintained by the Immigration Authorities are not designed to show from what Division any Nigerian repatriated from overseas originated I am unable to supply a specific answer to this question. However, if the hon. Member would let me have the names of those repatriated persons about whom he would like further information, I shall arrange for him to receive it.

*O.146. Mr F. E. Ngale asked the Prime Minister whether Government will increase the strength of the Police Detachments in the three Administrative Divisions in Bamenda Province, in view of the density of the population and the frequency of riots in the Province.

The Prime Minister : The establishment of the Police detachments in the Bamenda, Wum and Nkambe administrative divisions is respectively 48, 8 and 8, a total of 64, and it is considered that this should enable the effective policing of the area at a level generally comparable with that which is possible elsewhere in the Federation with the Government's present financial resources. I am not aware that riots are frequent in this area but because of a recent possibility of disturbance the effective strength of the three detachments was increased temporarily by twelve men drafted from elsewhere in the Southern Cameroons and similar action would again be taken if this were to prove necessary.

Supplementary to O.146—

Mr L. S. Fonka : Is the Prime Minister aware that the distance between Bamenda and Nkambe is about 110 miles, and that it is too much for the two police stations to control.

The Prime Minister : I consider the police strength adequate, Sir.

*O.147. Mr G. O. D. Eneh asked the Prime Minister why acting allowance was not paid to a certain officer who acted as Assistant Chief Clerk from 19-10-54 to 7-2-55 and as Chief Clerk from 8-2-55 to 25-6-55 in the office of the Commissioner for the Southern Cameroons at Buea.

The Prime Minister : Enquiries made of the Commissioner of the Cameroons show no record of an officer of lower rank than Assistant Chief Clerk having undertaken the duties of Assistant Chief Clerk or of Chief Clerk either in 1954 or 1955 who was not gazetted as such and paid the appropriate allowance.

*O.148. Mr R. N. Takon asked the Prime Minister whether he will consider increasing the strength of the Police Detachment at Ikom in order to ensure a more effective policing of the Division ?

The Prime Minister : No, Sir. The present establishment at Ikom should suffice for the policing of the area at the general level of effectiveness permitted by the resources of the Federation.

*O.150. Mr P. O. Eleke asked the Prime Minister, when work will start on the proposed Police Post at Umuduru in Okigwi Division ?

The Prime Minister : Although an increase of establishment in the 1957-58 Police Estimates of 12 other ranks was authorised for a new police station at Umuduru, I regret that it has not yet been possible to undertake the construction of the necessary buildings for the police station and quarters. It is hoped, however, to construct them in the coming financial year.

***O.155. Mr P. H. Okolo** asked the Prime Minister, what is the strength of the Police Detachment, including Special Constables, in Onitsha Division; and whether he would consider establishing a sub-police station at Aguleri in view of the inadequate means of communication in the areas adjoining Aguleri and Anam.

The Prime Minister : The strength of the police detachment at Onitsha Division is at the moment 225. There are 170 special constables. The second part of the question is covered by my answer to question O.92.

***O.156. Mr J. A. G. Ohiani** asked the Prime Minister whether, in view of the congestion in the existing Vehicle Testing and Licensing Stations in the Northern Region, he will consider opening Testing and Licensing Stations in all Divisional Headquarters in the Region.

The Prime Minister : No, Sir. The present establishment of vehicle inspection officers is insufficient to allow the setting up of testing and licensing stations in all divisional headquarters in the Northern Region. As I have already pointed out in my answer to the Honourable Member for Mamfe, there is a general shortage of vehicle inspection officers.

***O.158. Mr J. O. Igwe** asked the Prime Minister, whether he is aware that some police officers in Abakaliki have no quarters in the Police Barracks, and whether he will consider providing quarters for these officers in the Barracks.

The Prime Minister : Sir, Quarters for one Inspector and twelve rank and file are in the process of construction at Abakaliki and I understand are nearing completion. The provision of new quarters to replace the present accommodation and the building of additional quarters will be considered in the coming financial year in relation to the claims of other areas.

***O.162. Chief J. I. G. Onyia** asked the Prime Minister whether he will consider the training of Vehicle Inspection Officers who should be posted to the important Motor Licensing Stations in order to facilitate the issuing of licences.

The Prime Minister : The Government has not the facilities to give such training. A candidate for appointment as Vehicle Inspection Officer is required to have served a four to five-year apprenticeship and to have passed the examination for the intermediate certificate of the City and Guilds Institute in motor mechanics or obtained an equivalent qualification. In addition applicants are expected to have a minimum of two years practical experience after passing their qualifying examinations.

Supplementary to O.162—

Chief E. O. Omolodun : Last year it was stated in this House that six Nigerians will be trained for this work—what about them?

The Prime Minister : I need notice of this Question.

***O.163. Chief J. I. G. Onyia** asked the Prime Minister if he is aware of the frequent loss of lives in the River Niger as a result of privately-owned powered canoes used in ferrying passengers across the river at Asaba meeting with accidents when there are no rescuers in the vicinity; and whether he will consider stationing a detachment of Water Police at Asaba in order to ensure that owners of powered canoes comply with Marine Regulations and to rescue victims of accidents?

The Prime Minister : A Police detachment equipped with a launch is stationed at Onitsha which is responsible for checking that powered canoes operating on the River Niger comply with safety and licensing regulations, and whenever circumstances require it and the condition of the river allows, a water patrol from Onitsha can operate as far as Asaba.

***O.164. M. Ahmadu Fatika** asked the Prime Minister how many motor accidents were recorded in each Region during the period 1956-57; and how many people died as a result in each Region.

The Prime Minister : The following motor accidents and deaths were recorded in each Region between the 1st of April, 1956 and the 31st of March, 1957.

House of Representatives Debates

1411

[Oral Answers]

13 MARCH 1958

[Oral Answers]

1412

Region	Number of Motor Accidents	Number of Deaths resulting from Motor Accidents
West	3,034	504
East	1,891	132
Lagos	1,408	46
North	820	119
Cameroons	311	25
Total	7,464	826

Supplementary to O.164—

M. Abubakar Garba : How much money was given to the bereaved relatives from the Insurance Company as a result of these deaths in each Region ?

Mr Speaker : It seems to me that that is outside the Question.

Mr J. S. Tarka : What is being done to reduce the number of these accidents ?

The Prime Minister : Mr Speaker, Government is trying to impose regulations on driving tests and things of this kind to reduce these accidents.

***O.165. Mr M. Ahmadu Fatika** asked the Prime Minister how many constables of the Traffic Section of the Nigeria Police Force were convicted for corruption during the period 1956-57.

The Prime Minister : Eleven, Sir.

Supplementary to O.165—

Mallam Muhtari Sarkin Bai : May we know where these eleven policemen work in each part of the country ?

The Prime Minister : The details are, in the Centre—Nil ; in the West—Three ; in the North—Six ; in the East—Two ; and in the Southern Cameroons—Nil.

***O.166. M. Ahmadu Fatika** asked the Prime Minister, how many women are employed as Confidential Clerks and Secretary-Typists respectively in the Federal Public Service ; of these how many are Nigerians, and what steps are being taken to train more Nigerians for these posts.

The Prime Minister : In the Federal Public Service five women are employed as Confidential Clerks and 97 as Secretary-

Typists. Of these there are five Nigerian women Secretary-Typists, the remainder being expatriate women officers of whom 20 are temporary appointments on month-to-month terms.

The Federal Training Centre was set up last year primarily for the purpose of training Nigerians both male and female in stenography and typewriting. Regular courses are being held and thirty girls are at present being trained as stenographers—others are undergoing the more advanced training for Secretary-Typists.

***O.153. Oba A. Aiyeola** asked the Minister of Education, what steps he proposes to take to enquire into the cases of mental disorders among Nigerian students studying in the United Kingdom.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Education : The hon. Gentleman will be aware, from recent reports in the Press, that the Western Regional Government has initiated action in this matter by arranging for its Alienist Specialist (Dr T. A. Lambo) to conduct an enquiry lasting three months, to investigate the cause of mental illness among Nigerian students in the United Kingdom and to make recommendations for reducing the incidence of this condition among existing and prospective students. The Western Regional Government has also arranged for a clinical psychologist and psychiatric social worker to assist Dr Lambo in his enquiry.

At the request of the Western Regional Government, the hon. Minister agreed to co-operate with Dr Lambo in every way possible and to render every assistance to him to facilitate his investigations. He also gave an undertaking that his Ministry would be prepared to co-operate in every way in carrying out any measures recommended by Dr Lambo to ameliorate the conditions which he may conclude are contributory factors in mental illness amongst Nigerian students in the United Kingdom.

He also has so far, assisted Dr Lambo by complying with a request from him for detailed information regarding such matters as the number of scholarships granted by the Federal Government between December 1955 and December 1957, the form of medical examination to which recipients of scholarships are subjected, and so on.

He also has consulted his hon. Colleague, the Federal Minister of Health, and he agrees with him that it would be superfluous for this Government to carry out an investigation into this matter also. The Minister of Health also agrees that they should jointly consider what measures can be taken to ameliorate this unhappy condition as soon as Dr Lambo has completed his investigations and made a report on his findings.

***O.157. Mr J. G. Adeniran** asked the Minister of Education, what courses are designed for the students now in the Emergency School of Science; how many of them follow each of the courses; and whether he will make a statement on the prospects of these students after they have completed their training.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Education: The following courses are held in the Emergency School of Science, Sir, and the number of students who take each, is given after the name of the course:—

Chemistry	185
Physics	151
Biology	50
Zoology	44
Botany	46
Engineering Drawing	56
Pure Mathematics	114
Applied Mathematics	112
English	199

On completion of their courses, students will, it is hoped, gain Advanced Level, in the General Certificate of Education.

Those who pass will have the opportunity of entering the University College, Ibadan, for degree courses in the fundamental sciences; those who wish to take degrees in Engineering or architecture will go to the Nigerian College of Arts, Science and Technology. Where Honours Courses are not available it may be possible, provided students' results are sufficiently promising, to send some students to the United Kingdom.

*Supplementary to *O.157—*

Oba Adetunji Aiyoola: What is the duration of these courses leading to the G.C.E. Advanced Level?

The Parliamentary Secretary: Three years.

***O.159. Chief T. T. Solaru** asked the Minister of Education, what is the total number of students admitted to the emergency School of Science recently established; how many of them are male, and how many female; and what is the quota from each Region.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Education: 200, Sir, out of which 4 are female. There is no Regional quota system for admission of Students to the Scheme.

*Supplementary to *O.159—*

Chief Solaru: The Minister is aware of the meaning of my question: of the existing students, how many students came from each Region? Surely you ought to know that?

The Parliamentary Secretary: Mr Speaker, I do not think that is the real meaning of your question. But if you want me to explain, I will give it to you. The students originated from Regions as follows:—

Eastern Region	109
Western Region	66
Northern Region	4
Cameroons	4
Lagos	17

The above figures refer to the Regions of birth, and not the Region from which they came into the Emergency School. The vast majority of students are people who were in the Federal Public Service. There is no quota system as such as I have explained. The school was designed first, to overcome the shortage of students required for ultimate service in the Public Service. All students, irrespective of their parents, department or Regional Service, are bonded to serve the Federal Government after completion of their course.

Mr S. J. Una: I would like to find out from the Minister of Education on what basis were these students selected?

***O.160. Chief T. T. Solaru** asked the Minister of Education, what are the conditions of admission to the Emergency School of Science; and what relationship, if any, exists between this school and the Nigerian College of Arts, Science and Technology.

The Parliamentary Secretary: This will also answer the question asked by the hon. Member: The conditions of admission to the Emergency School of Science are that a student

shall have credits in the General Certificate of Education in English, two fundamental science subjects and mathematics. In certain cases where very good results are shown on the science side and in mathematics, students are accepted with a pass in English.

Credits in General Science, Physics with Chemistry and other minor science subjects rate half the value of the subjects chemistry, physics and biology. A credit in mathematics is regarded as essential in those cases.

The Emergency School of Science has no direct relationship with the Nigerian College of Arts, Science and Technology at this stage, but it is hoped that many of the students will qualify for the awards tenable at the Nigerian College of Arts, Science and Technology.

Mr S. J. Una : Mr Speaker, I beg to inform the Minister that my Supplementary Question is not yet answered. I would like to know how many of these came . . .

Mr Jaja Wachuku : On a point of order, Sir. I think the hon. Member has asked to know what is the basis of selection.

Mr Speaker : I think you either put that question down or get it answered by correspondence from the Minister.

***O.161. Chief T. T. Solaru** asked the Minister of Education, how much it has cost the Government to establish the Emergency School of Science.

The Parliamentary Secretary : The sum of £30,372-16s-2d from public funds has been expended to-date.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

Hon. Zanna Bukar Dipcharima (Minister of State) : Sir, I beg to move, That this day and for the remainder of this meeting (1) the proceedings on Government Business shall be exempted from the provisions of Standing Order 4 (Sittings of the House); (2) Government Business shall be taken at the following times :—

(a) this day and on Monday, 17th March, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.; from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.; and from 9 p.m. to 12 midnight;

(b) on Friday, 14th March, from 9 a.m. to 12 noon; and from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m.; and

(c) on Saturday, 15th March, from 9 a.m. to 12 noon.

Sir, I beg to move.

Mr T. O. S. Benson (Lagos West) : Sir, I beg to second the Motion.

Question proposed.

Mr Jaja Wachuku (Aba) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I want to say that this is a great affront to this House and ministerial dictatorship on the part of the Minister.

This Motion, Sir, has been brought here without the slightest regard to the Business Committee of this House. The Minister has not even the courtesy to inform the Chairman of the Business Committee that it was the intention of the Government to bring a thing of this nature. I must say, Sir, that this very question of possibility of sitting at night was raised by us in Committee; they did not accept it at that time and we arranged, for their own convenience, that the House should finish all its business on the 18th.

The Minister of Finance (Chief the hon. F. S. Okotie-Eboh) : On a point of information . . . (*Several hon. Members : Sit down, Minister, sit down, Minister.*)

Mr Wachuku : I must say, Sir, that it is a great threat of dictatorship to the House, and it does not mean that if the Minister had approached the Business Committee, the Business Committee would not have co-operated, but this coming by the back door to put this on us, we must resent it and oppose it vehemently, even though the House will accept it as a matter of convenience. I think that perhaps it is done in order to appease our friends from the North; I can appreciate that. But even in that respect, even when the business of this House is being arranged, we put that into consideration, especially the Minister of Finance, who has a lot of financial matters and other papers to prepare, to come here with this kind of information; and even the Minister of Works and Surveys, all of them were there when this was being arranged. But when it comes to bringing it to the House, no attempt was made to take us into confidence.

In relation to this I beg to invite the Speaker's attention to the *Official Report*, at page 4 of the *Hansard*, No. 18, Volume 4.

We were told by the Minister in charge of Presentation of Bills, a number of Bills were listed there to be read a second time to-day. We all got ready for these Bills, but what do we notice on the Order Paper? These Bills are put right down at the bottom of the Order

Paper, which means they are not ready, they are not prepared to go on with the second reading of these Bills. I am complaining that this sort of just manipulating us like this will not do, and I want the Minister to stop it. This is a democratic Government. Even though we may accommodate it this time, we protest most vehemently and hope that the Prime Minister will have an influence on the Ministers not to sabotage the purpose of the Business Committee.

The Minister of Finance (Chief the hon. F. S. Okotie-Eboh) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to say that for once the hon. Mr Jaja Wachuku has bungled. . . . (Interruption). . . .

Mr Speaker : Order, order ! All these remarks are addressed to me.

Chief T. T. Solaru (Ijebu East) : We must protest, Sir. He is not going to dominate this House.

The Minister of Finance : Mr Speaker, Sir, I expected that hon. Members would not forestall any explanation that would be given by the Government and sensible people only listen to reason and do not act irresponsibly.

What I want to say to the House is that no attempt has been made by this Government to side-track the authority of the Business Committee. . . . (Interruption). . . . Mr Speaker, Sir, in the Business Committee, as hon. Jaja Wachuku has just. . . .

Mr Wachuku : Point of order, Sir. The Minister is not addressing the Speaker. He is addressing the hon. Chief Solaru.

The Minister of Finance : Mr Speaker, Sir, in the Business Committee when the question of late sittings was raised, Mr Jaja Wachuku has rightly said that the Ministers then gave the undertaking that there was no need to sit late at that time, but that when the Business of the House will be examined in future, we shall be able to say whether we shall sit at night or not. Now, Sir, if the hon. Jaja Wachuku would only stay indoors after the adjournment of this House, and if one can trace him and stop him from going from one place to the other collecting information. . . . (Interruption). . . .

Every attempt was made by me personally yesterday, Sir, to trace hon. Jaja Wachuku, and hon. Olarewaju was particularly detailed by me to chase him and he could not be found.

So that, Mr Speaker, Sir, I can assure hon. Jaja Wachuku that there is no attempt at all for anybody to side-track the authority of the Business Committee ; and furthermore, Sir, there has been no divergence in the allotment programme. We have not changed anything. To-day is the Eighth Day and if you look at your allotment programme you will find at pages 602 and 603 that those you have queried are on the eighth allotted day. But the second reading to-day. . . . (Interruption). . . .

Mr Wachuku : Are you ready ?

The Minister of Finance : We are. And you told me yesterday that you were prepared to go on further with the debate to-day and I told you we don't mind.

Now, Sir, what we have only done is to extend the time. otherwise we have not changed it. And you will find that there is a proviso there that nothing should prevent the Committee of Supply from proceeding beyond the Heads allotted to any day if time was available. What we have done is to make time available by extending the time of sitting ; nothing more than that.

Mr Sanni O. B. Okin (North Ilorin) : Mr Speaker, what we are saying is that we are entitled to know. Unfortunately the Ministers are not regular in our meetings. Sometimes we could not see them. A definite decision had been taken by the Committee that we should not allow sittings at night but none of the Ministers attended the meeting, and whatever might be the case, I think the Minister now says that Mr Jaja Wachuku was being traced yesterday. I think that thing had been sent to printing after the decision had been taken by the Council of Ministers. I suggest that we feel that we do not like to accept such a thing. I think we must be respected. The Business Committee must be respected. I think that the Minister will have to apologise to the Business Committee.

Mr D. N. Abii (Owerri) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I think this Motion is for the House to debate and not for the Business Committee to debate. We appreciate the fact that if they were not consulted it is not quite good, but it will be wasting our time for us to listen to the debate by the Members of the Business Committee in this House. (Applause.) The Motion is welcome and the Minister has tried to find the

Chairman of the Business Committee who very often is not in his flat. We need not waste time and we accept the Motion. (*Applause.*)

Mr L. S. Fonka (Bamenda): Mr Speaker, I disagree totally with the last speaker. I appreciate the difficulty we have had with the Ministers who are members of the Business Committee. The Minister stated that it was decided in the Business Committee that when later on we find it necessary to introduce night sitting, the Committee was going to decide it. Now they made the decision and were only tracing the Chairman. If he saw the Chairman and two of them decided it, it would have been so hot all the same.

This House has set up the Committee and we must all respect the Committee and allow the Committee to do its work. There is no need setting up a Committee if the Committee will not be allowed to do the work. I have to say that this Committee has been side-tracked and that is improper, and the Ministers have not been co-operating and the Ministers are members of the Committee. Mr Speaker, this Motion is not proper.

The Minister of Research and Information (Chief the hon. Kolawole Balogun): Mr Speaker, Sir, I think that most of the points that had to be made on behalf of the Business Committee have been made by the hon. Jaja Wachuku, and I do not think in a debate of this nature every member of the Business Committee should necessarily take part. But the only reason why I am making any contribution is that it is not fair to say that the Ministers who are members of that Committee are not attending the meetings. If there is any mismanagement in the Business Committee I think we should go there and discuss it and not on the Floor of this House. I want to put it on record that we attend quite regularly.

Mr Speaker: The question of attendance either of Minister or Member is not a proper subject for debate in this House, and it is not very proper to debate where a Member or Minister may be at any particular time.

Mr T. O. S. Benson (Lagos West): Mr Speaker, Sir, I realise the fact that some members of the Business Committee may, by sitting from 9 a.m. to 12 noon, be debarred from attending night clubs, Lagos being a nice place. (*Laughter.*) I informed the Chairman of the Business Committee that Members would like to sit late, so that we can finish in time, and when this decision was taken I

was looking for the Chairman of the Business Committee and he could not be found. He even came late this morning. And since a decision has been taken by the Government, and this being a Government of the people by the people and for the people, I appeal to members of the Business Committee in particular and to hon. Members in general to accept this Motion so that we may proceed with the business for to-day.

Mr J. A. O. Akande (Egba North): Mr Speaker, Sir, I think it is unfair to debate important Bills in the night. You have the Central Bank of Nigeria Ordinance and others like that. If we are sent here to work, we should sit down and do the work but all work and no play makes Jack a dull boy. It is better for us to come here at the appropriate time, from the morning to one o'clock, from three o'clock to six o'clock, go back home, finish up on the 20th or so, or on the 19th as the case may be. Why do you want Members now to sit down in the night, and when you come here in the night you find most of the seats empty, and important papers and bills are being considered? It is unfair to tax payers to pass important Bills in the night when the majority of members will be absent from their seats.

Mr. Bello Dandago (South West Central Kano): Mr Speaker, Sir, there is no difference between the announcement by the Minister of State and the argument put forward by the Chairman of the Business Committee. The Chairman of the Business Committee, Sir, took time to say everything and expressed his feelings against this, but in the course of his speech he said the idea originated from the Business Committee and passed to the Government. They did not consider it then, but when they considered it and brought it to the House they agreed to what was already presented by the Business Committee. Then what is the fuss about?

Mr Speaker, Sir, the hon. Jaja Wachuku is an old Member of this House; he used to work in this House up till 2 a.m.; we old Members know; so there is no difference about this and I suggest we accept the Government Statement and let us move on with it.

Chief J. I. G. Onyia (Asaba): Mr Speaker, Sir, a time has come when the Minister should make a categorical statement in this House to the effect that when we come here for Budget Sessions we should deal with Appropriation Bill and give full time to it instead of . . .

Mr Speaker : I think this is quite irrelevant.

M. Muhtari Sarkin Bai (South West Kano): Sir, I think we have had enough debate on this Motion and I beg 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.

Resolved, That this day and for the remainder of this meeting (1) the proceedings on Government Business shall be exempted from the provisions of Standing Order 4 (Sittings of the House); (2) Government Business shall be taken at the following times—

(a) this day and on Monday, 17th March, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.; from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.; and from 9 p.m. to 12 midnight;

(b) on Friday, 14th March, from 9 a.m. to 12 noon; and from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m.; and

(c) on Saturday, 15th March, from 9 a.m. to 12 noon.

ORDER OF THE DAY

SUPPLY (EIGHTH ALLOTTED DAY) COMMITTEE
(House in Committee)

ESTIMATES OF CAPITAL EXPENDITURE, 1958-59
HEAD 602—HIGHWAYS AND BRIDGES

The Minister of Finance (Chief the hon. F. S. Okotie-Eboh): Mr Chairman, Sir, I beg to move that this House approves the expenditure from the Development Fund of Six Million, Five Hundred and Forty-two Thousand, One Hundred Pounds for the purposes set out in the draft Estimates of Capital Expenditure, 1958-59, under Head 602, Highways and Bridges.

The Minister of Works and Surveys (hon. Muhammadu Inuwa Wada): Mr Speaker, Sir, it is usual for the Minister of Works when his Heads of the Capital Budget come up for debate in the Committee of Supply to give what my honourable friend the Minister of Communications and Aviation called, when he was Leader of the Opposition, my "Annual Report". That is to say I go through a long list of projects and give the House the details of progress on each one of them. I am not going to do that this year. First because I think Members find it a bit tedious and second because details of progress are available to Members in the White Paper reporting progress on the Economic Programme and also in a little pamphlet called

"Progress Record" which I am having distributed to Members to-day. I propose instead to tell the House something about the more interesting projects that I have to deal with and to say a little bit about my policy with regard to road construction and tarring.

The House will wish me to say something about two important bridge projects which are under consideration by the Government. First the new mainland bridge linking Lagos Island with the Mainland. Consulting engineers were employed to carry out an investigation into this project and to advise both on its site and the type of bridge most suited to the physical conditions of the site. A preliminary report has now been received and the site recommended is one upstream and alongside the present Carter Bridge. The cost of such a bridge is about £4 million. The recommendation of the consultant was made originally with the idea that the new bridge would replace the existing Carter Bridge. However, the repairs on Carter Bridge will be completed next May and I understand the bridge will then be good for another 25 years. Therefore any new bridge will not be a replacement of Carter Bridge but will be in addition to that bridge.

The second mainland bridge is, of course, intimately related to the solution of the Lagos traffic problem. As Members are aware an expert in traffic problems came to this country in December last year and examined the problem here on the spot and held consultations with the various bodies and authorities concerned. His report is expected in the very near future. When this report has been considered it will be possible to reach a decision on the location of the second mainland bridge. Some people hold the view that it would be a mistake to locate the bridge alongside the present Carter Bridge since this would continue to concentrate traffic on the already congested roads immediately north and south of Carter Bridge. A possible site for the second bridge would be from Elegbata to the area now occupied by the E.C.N. coal wharf. If this line were taken it would be necessary to widen the Marina between Customs Wharf and Elegbata and to join the northern end of the bridge to the new Iddo-Apapa road.

North-bound traffic could then proceed along the Marina over the new bridge, over the new causeway and northwards *via* Western

House of Representatives Debates

1423

[Capital Expenditure

13 MARCH 1958

Estimates, 1958-59]

1424

Avenue which links Iganmu to the Abeokuta road near Yaba Roundabout. South-bound traffic could then come in down Clifford Street and across Carter Bridge and to Tinubu Square *via* Victoria Street. I must emphasise that these are only preliminary ideas and that no firm decisions will be taken until the report from the traffic expert from the Road Research Laboratory at Harmondsworth has been received.

The second interesting bridge proposal which the House will wish to hear about is the bridge to span the River Niger in the vicinity of Onitsha. (*Applause*) In 1956 our good friends the Northerlands Engineering Consultants—known as NEDECO—were asked to investigate this problem and to bear in mind the possibility of constructing a tunnel under the river and of constructing a dam across the river. The report from NEDECO has recently been received and is being studied. No decisions have as yet been taken. Nevertheless I am sure the House will be interested to know what NEDECO have reported. A tunnel under the river would cost between £21 to 24 million and clearly it must be ruled out on grounds of the high capital cost. A dam would be a multi-purpose project—to provide not only a road link but also a large amount of hydro-electric power and considerable irrigation potential. The estimate for the basic requirements only, comes out at about £52 million. Clearly a dam project would have to be related to the problem of the navigability of the Niger and Benue River systems which are presently being studied by NEDECO as a separate exercise. The generation of hydro-electric power would have to be tied in with any long term planning now being carried out by both the Northern Region and the Electricity Corporation. As regards a bridge, NEDECO recommend a site to the south of Onitsha and a bridge estimated to cost £5,400,000. There are a number of questions posed by this report which will require a good deal of further study—notably the economics of a toll bridge which according to the NEDECO calculations would not be a viable project. However, until Government has studied the NEDECO report in greater detail I am not able to say any more about the possibility of this bridge.

Turning now to the road projects. Members will wish to note what is happening about

some of the contracts I referred to in the last meeting of the House.

On Trunk Road A.1 the bridging contract was making good progress and is, I understand, about 35 per cent complete. I am sorry to have to say that the supply of steel from the United Kingdom is likely to hold up the completion of some of these bridges—notably the Lafenwa Bridge which I know is dear to the hearts of Members from the Abeokuta area. Kubani Bridge at Zaria is going on well and I have arranged for the old bridge to be retained to be used as an auxiliary foot-bridge after the new bridge has been completed. (*Applause*). Progress on the reconstruction and bituminous surfacing between Ilorin and Jebba has been disappointing and I would like to see some improvement in the contractors' output. Between Jebba and Mokwa work is going on very well. Tenders for the contract for both the Bokani-Kontagora and Kontagora-Tegina sections of this road have been received and I hope to award the contracts very soon. Northwards from Tegina I have arranged for consultants to put in hand the preparation of the contract documents to continue the reconstruction there. Between Kano and Daura a soil survey is being carried out as a preliminary to the tarring work. Between Daura and the French frontier tarring is now in progress.

On Trunk Road A.3 we had a very serious setback in the breakdown of the road between Port Harcourt and Aba. However, the Public Works Department are giving this section close attention. Between Aba and Okigwe the contract has been let but as the starting date was only the 1st of November last year not much has been accomplished so far. The tenders for the Okigwe-Oji River section have been received. The Nine-Mile Corner-Aliade contract was awarded last December and I am pressing for energetic action on the part of the contractor. The Makurdi-Lafia contract, which is for 10 miles only, is making progress and I am having the approaches to the Makurdi Bridge improved. Between Lafia and the bottom of the Assob Escarpment the realignment is far from satisfactory. I have asked consultants to survey the whole area and advise me on the best possible line to be taken.

Members will wish me to say a few words about the Ijebu-Ode-Benin road and the reasons for stopping the work last December. Between Shasha and Benin construction has been going on since 1952 on a fixed fee contract. At that time no contractor was prepared to take the work on on any other basis. The Public Works Department was very short of staff and was unable to provide supervision. By this form of contract the contractors became the agents of the Government. But this form of contract also made it possible to push on with the work without the long delay which a proper survey and the preparation of the usual type of contract would have made inevitable. Because it recognised these factors the Government allowed this fixed fee contract to continue in spite of its well-known aversion to fixed fee contracts. However, when I was informed that the completion of the Shasha Benin section was to be postponed from October 1957 to December and then from December until June 1958 and that additional funds were required, I felt it right to report the situation to the Prime Minister. After careful consideration of the situation the Prime Minister agreed that the whole problem should be carefully investigated by an impartial Working Party and that work under the present fixed fee contract should be closed down forthwith. The Working Party has submitted its report which the Government is now studying. I would therefore appeal to Members not to press me for more details on this. But I can assure the Committee that this project will be started again as soon as Government has taken a final decision on how the work will be carried out.

(I think that I should inform the House that the report of the Working Party makes it quite clear that the contractors have carried out what they undertook to do and that if there are any faults to be found in the administration of the contract they are not to be ascribed to the contractor.)

On Trunk Road A.19, tarring is in progress between Zaria and Funtua. Between Funtua and Chafe consultants are carrying out a survey for re-alignment: this re-alignment is designed to cut out the necessity of replacing a number of weak bridges on the old line. Replacement of the sub-standard bridges between Gusau and Sokoto was delayed by slow deliveries of constructional steel.

On Trunk Road A.21 between Kano, Maiduguri and the French frontier, as I have already mentioned, tarring is in progress between Miles 84 and 134 and between Ngandu and Beni Sheik.

For some time now the line of the road between Maiduguri and the French frontier has been under discussion between ourselves and the French authorities in Tchad territory. Members will appreciate that geographical conditions, notably the annual flooding from Lake Chad and the prevalence of black cotton soil make this a difficult engineering problem. Various routes have been mooted and discussed. In order to have the complete picture on which sound decisions can be taken, I have employed a firm of consultants to carry out a survey of the whole area, using aerial photography where necessary, in order to recommend the best possible route for this road. The report of the consultants has been promised for this month. Once the line of the road has been decided I propose that the consultants should again be employed to prepare the contract documents so that the work can be put in hand as soon as funds are available. The significance of this road from the point of view of bringing freight from Tchad territory to rail head when the Bornu railway extension reaches Maiduguri needs no emphasis from me.

The contract for the Maiduguri-Bama section, 45 miles in length, is now ready and is being put out immediately to international tender. I expect work to start there next dry season. From discussions with the consultants carrying out the Maiduguri-Fort Lamy road link investigation it is already clear that the Bama-Dar-Al-Jimail line will not provide a satisfactory solution to the problem. This section has therefore been deferred from the present road programme.

As regards the Lagos-Apapa approach road scheme, good progress is being made on the overbridge near Iddo Station and I expect it to be ready for traffic in June next year.

The causeway over Ebute Metta Creek has caused me great anxiety owing to more settlement than had been expected in the original design for the project. The contract for the first half of Western Avenue started in January and the project is expected to be completed towards the end of the dry season of 1959-60. While on the subject of Lagos roads Members

may like to know that work on widening the Apapa-Ebute Metta road to 22 ft. with pedestrian and cycle tracks between Point Road and Iganmu has started. Clifford Street between the Yaba Roundabout and the bus stop is about to be resurfaced and the drainage improved. The drainage of the southern part of Clifford Street has already been completed.

Finally, I would like to say a little about my policy with regard to road construction. Members are already very knowledgeable about roads and I am sure they will appreciate a layman's explanation from me on the technical side of this problem.

The basic requirements of a Trunk Road are good drainage and solid foundations for the carriageway. Drainage is provided by adequate ditches and run-offs and the raising of the road where necessary in relation to the surrounding countryside. The carriageway should be in the form of a properly designed "pavement." The pavement is made up of three specific sections each one of which has its part to play. Underneath is the sub-grade on which the pavement itself is constructed and this can be given a better bearing capacity by ensuring that all top soil is removed and by properly compacting by heavy rolling. The functions of the base and sub-base are to spread the load carried by the carriageway. It is possible to measure the bearing capacity of different materials used in road making. Here we use the "C.B.R." method. C.B.R. stands for California Bearing Ratio. By this method it is possible to estimate the strength of the material used for the road in relation to the weight it will have to carry. Insufficient strength of base material is the most common cause of road failures in Nigeria and I consider it essential that base materials used in our roads should be properly tested to meet the design requirements. It is a mistake to apply a bituminous surface to a road unless tests have shown that the foundation conditions are satisfactory for present and early future traffic conditions. The opinion that only roads with a bituminous surface are any good is widely held in this country and as a corollary that because a road has a bituminous surface it is necessarily a good road. This is not so and I can quote examples of roads which have been provided with a bituminous surface which have failed very rapidly. For example, the

Bukuru-Assob section of A 3 and the Mamfe-Akagbe section of A 4, except where tests show that the base is entirely satisfactory, it is best to defer the application of bitumen until the road has been open to normal traffic for at least one wet season. But, of course, testing facilities on the site must be available.

A large proportion of the road programme is concerned with the reconstruction and improvement of already existing roads. Of course we are building brand new roads through virgin country, but the mileage of this type of road is a good deal less than that for reconstruction. For this latter type of road I propose to develop the carriageway by progressive stages. The first stage will be an 18 feet gravel or laterite carriageway; next a 20 feet gravel base with a 12 feet wide bituminous surface; then the bituminous surface will be widened to 18 feet. The next stage is a 22 feet wide gravel base with a 20 feet wide bitumen surface followed by a 24 feet wide gravel base and a 22 feet wide bituminous surface. By this method it will be possible to make continuous improvements to the carriageways of our roads in relation to the ever increasing traffic and to fit the costs to the amount of money available. Sir, I beg to move.

The Chairman: I come to the Amendments but I must point out to the Committee that I think we have got into rather a tangled procedure in discussing these Heads of capital expenditure. There are thirty-eight Amendments down to the various Heads of capital expenditure and if you spend twenty minutes on each Amendment that is far more time than exists during the time we have at our disposal.

I must ask hon. Members only to move those Amendments which they really want to take a decision on; we ought to have most of the Debate on the general Head. Individual Members may want particular decisions taken on their own Amendments but I do ask hon. Members not to move unnecessary Amendments which can be debated on the Heads. Mr Nsima is not here.

Mr Jaja Wachuku (Aba): In the light of the explanation of the Minister, the first Amendment becomes unnecessary. I think the explanation covers that fairly generally, the Committee having had the information from the Minister of Transport and the Minister of Works.

The Chairman : I have other people desirous of talking on this. I think the only thing is for me to extend the Debate on the subject on which Amendments are made. We must have, I think, a series of biggish Debates even if Amendments are not moved. Sub-head 2; we are in Committee, we can talk in general in Committee and I think I had better proceed on that basis. I will call Mr Turton-Hart now to make his speech on ferries, because no Member is debarred from speaking twice.

Mr F. R. Turton-Hart (Special Member) : Mr Chairman, under this question of ferries, I would like to relate my remarks to what the hon. Minister said about the investigation into a bridge across the Niger at Onitsha or some alternative method of providing transport across the river. A general examination of the economic programme in relation to our roads, shows that long before any decision can be implemented about the bridge, our Trunk A roads, with their reinforced bridges, would be complete. The point I want to emphasise is that the money allocated for ferries, even in the extended economic programme, is not sufficient to produce ferries of the size that will enable those bridges to be used to their capacity. It is no good taking a vehicle with a gross weight of 22 tons to one side of the Niger and then off-loading it and loading similar vehicle on the other side.

Surely, in view of the tremendous problem that has got to be solved before any bridge can be made, we ought to think about ferries. Many hon. Members have complained about the delays on the existing Onitsha ferry and they are undoubtedly correct because those same difficulties are delaying the development of the country as far as the East and West trade is concerned. I know it can be argued that the volume of that trade will increase only after the Delta Ports have been improved but the fact remains now that many industries, including the oil industry, want to use heavier vehicles. The Government and the hon. Minister of Works, has implemented this desire, by increasing the strength of our bridges but what about increasing the strength of our ferry? I think that is an important point and a fact that could be put in hand long before any other decision could be made.

Mr Jaja Wachuku (Aba) : There is one point I would like the Minister of Transport

to take note of. At the moment, we have only one way to enter and the same way to go out. I would like the Minister to consider having a two way ferry, where you can come in one way and then go out from the other, instead of getting there and lowering this and reversing that. A lot of trouble and delay is caused that way but if you have a two way ferry all the difficulties and delays will be avoided.

The Chairman : Is Chief Onyia going to talk about ferries or about the Head?

Chief J. I. G. Onyia (Asaba) : I thought Mr Chairman said that we could speak on the Head, if I understand you correctly.

The Chairman : Yes, but I cannot disregard the Amendment on the Paper. Does Mr Akwivu want to talk about the ferry?

Mr E. C. Akwivu (Orlu) : While thinking of ferries, I do not know if the Minister would also consider the wisdom of thinking in terms of comfort and convenience of persons using the ferry, particularly on very rainy days, such as staying in a stationary car whilst waiting. I think some little extra provision could also be made for shelter of persons crossing.

The Chairman : Now we come to Chief Onyia's subject. I cannot help thinking he really wanted his Amendment to sub-head 5, he has put down sub-head 6 which is only Colonial Development and Welfare and its effect on strengthening bridges. I think we should have a debate on strengthening bridges generally.

Chief J. I. G. Onyia (Asaba) : I think perhaps we can do away with Amendments and allow a general debate so that I can speak once and for all because I am not prepared to move.

The Chairman : Then I suggest you speak generally.

Chief Onyia : I want to take this opportunity to congratulate the Minister of Works and Surveys for his statement this morning, particularly in connection with a bridge across the Niger. It gives hope that something is being done. I hope that when the Council of Ministers take decisions they will take a decision in connection with the construction of a toll bridge and not in connection with constructing a tunnel under the Niger or constructing any dam, the cost of which are so

House of Representatives Debates

1431

[*Capital Expenditure*

13 MARCH 1958

Estimates, 1958-59]

1432

prohibitive. What we ask in this House is about a toll bridge and from the report he has given here, the toll bridge will not cost more than £6 million. That is better than going to £15 million.

I come now to the question of ferries. I know the difficulties our people suffer to go over to Onitsha. Really it is worth while to construct a sort of shade at Asaba where the passengers could remain some time before going over. Some passengers used to remain long waiting.

Now to the question of road strengthening and widening. Sir, we are laymen and we do not claim to be knowledgeable about roads but all we do know is that if we see a straight road, a wide road, a smooth road, we say that road is good. We know that those who will be responsible for the better construction, better straightening and better widening of the roads are those technical men or engineers and so we place our hope on the Minister of Works and Surveys and his own Department of experts to construct good roads for us.

In fact, as you ride along certain roads, you find all corrugations, bumps up and down, and you suffer a loss of springs and what not. Particularly, when you are going from Ibadan to Ife; it is the worst part of the road going to Asaba. And of course between Ilesha and Akure you find that the road is so serpentine that one must take great care not to meet with collision. Such roads, particularly between Ilesha and Akure, need to be made straight as much as possible. Also between Benin and Agbor, at some section there, the Minister must have taken notice of that that the road too is serpentine and such roads would need to be widened and straightened. All that we expect is to find these roads straight. We do not know what are the circumstances that influenced these roads being so constructed, but all we want is that you should make these roads as straight and as wide as possible so that two motors going abreast can cross each other without any difficulty because some of the accidents are due to the narrowness of the roads.

Furthermore, Sir, we are asking the Minister of Works to make it a principle really when he is going to do his tarring of roads to examine

all the roads of the country and find out the worst portions. If there are ten or twenty miles of this road that are really very bad, causing heavy damage to cars and causing a lot of accidents, he should find out where these roads do exist along Trunk A roads and do the tarring and straightening and widening in that area so that gradually others can be done instead of starting from one spot, a spot going along 200 miles. If you have in view, for example, tarring the road between Lafia and Jos, it is better that instead of starting from one end of this Trunk A road to begin your tarring to find out where between Jos and Lafia which is the worst part which cannot allow passengers to go when there is the slightest bit of rainfall. Some passengers have got to halt two or three or five hours at the least drop of rainfall. Such places could just be repaired as they are found out.

Before I take my seat, I wish to touch only one point and that is this question of supervision. I know the Minister complained of lack of executive officers but we all clamour here that the only way by which he can get competent supervisors to do the job is to award as many scholarships as possible to our Children. Sir, if he wants the children to apply after they have left the secondary school he will find difficulty. I ask the Minister to try whether he can recruit the best children from the secondary schools through the Principals. Some school children after leaving find difficulty in submitting their applications for award of scholarships because they cannot get people to sponsor them but if the Minister takes the Principals of secondary schools into confidence and gets into contact with them, they will be able to find out those boys who have a bent of mind for engineering and are good in mathematics, and grant them scholarships direct through the recommendation of the Principal. In this way we will be able to produce the number of Executive Officers we require for the supervision of work.

The Minister said yesterday that it would cost so much for the Federal Government to undertake direct maintenance of roads without going through the Regional authorities. All I would ask the Minister to do is to effect a compromise and that is to begin in a small measure. Begin as much as possible to take direct control and allow the Regional Government to have the

the last wet season, you will find that the road was overflowed and it took car owners time to pass over. There were some people who were travelling that way and they had to go through Ibadan to Ijebu Ode. That is a very regrettable condition, and I feel that when the Minister starts on the work, it will be properly done.

Mr Chairman, I would like to call the attention of the Minister to a question which I asked in this House during the September 1957 sitting, about a very narrow bridge on the Ibadan-Lagos road. The Bridge is No. 62/3. This bridge is so narrow that it is with difficulty that some lorries carrying trucks do pass over them. There was a time when the left wing was blown off; the Minister at the time said what he could do was to have the left wing repaired. This was done, but I do not think it was satisfactorily done.

Mr Chairman, I wish also to say that the roundabout at Idi-Auyire about 12 miles to Ibadan, is being reconstructed, whereas the original work which was done on it took place about five years ago, or even less. Mr Chairman, I think this is due to lack of foresight either on the part of the Government or on the part of the officials who designed the roundabout.

Now, Sir, I think that the roundabout should be reconstructed in a manner which would not involve Government in another expenditure in the very near future. Even then, Sir, the roundabout at Shagamu, so attractive as it is, is giving way at the present time. If you happen to go from Lagos on your way to Ibadan or to Ijebu-Ode you will find that many parts of it are giving way. I think that the Minister has to look into the question of the roundabout. It is, I think, a new invention on our roads at the present time to create roundabouts, and when once these roundabouts are not constructed in a way that Government will not have to go back on them and spend money, it would be a waste of the revenue of the tax-payers of this country.

I would like to say that road signs on bridges are not effective enough. You have several accidents occurring these days and I think that this is due to the ineffectiveness of road signs these days, and it is pitiable to note the rate of accidents which occur in the Western Region during the past year, and the number of deaths involved. I would personally like to

appeal to the Minister to give effect to the encouragement which he has promised for the establishment of schools for drivers in this country.

I beg to support.

Mr J. U. Udom (Abak): Mr Chairman, I want to remind the Minister of Works and Surveys of one bridge on the Aba-Oron road, that is Yaron bridge. Times without number we have been talking of this bridge, but as it is, it appears no step has been taken, no action whatever and there is no hope whatever. So I want to put it on record once again.

Nobody doubts the solidity of this bridge, but the bridge is on trunk road A, Aba-Oron. I do not think the width of the bridge is wider than this desk. The bridge is so narrow that when a lorry goes there the passengers go off before the driver manages to risk his life and crosses the bridge. A few days ago several lives were lost in this river because of this bridge; there were over 20 lives involved. Seeing is believing. I do not want to exaggerate the danger of this bridge, but I think the Minister should find time to go and inspect that bridge and I think if he goes and inspects the bridge himself he will be convinced that there is every necessity for the widening of that bridge.

Now, another bridge is between Aba and Ikot-Ekpene. That bridge is almost as narrow as the Yaron bridge so that I will also take this chance to appeal to the Minister that he should make a tour of inspection along that road. I think when he sees those two bridges himself he will be compelled to take action.

The Chairman: I would very much like to deal with the next two rather small sub-heads. Mr Sanni and Mr Jaja Wachuku are on Five Cowrie Creek Bridge. I think we might deal with this.

Mr M. A. Sanni (Oshun South): Mr Chairman, Sir, I rise to move to reduce sub-head 7 by £10. For this sub-head, Sir, the Government is demanding £100,000 for construction of Five Cowrie Bridge. The present bridge is a bad specimen of an antediluvian type of bridge. It is rickety and unsightly. It constitutes a great hazard to the public and it is a disgrace to the capital of Nigeria. The residence of the Finance Minister is a few yards away from the bridge. The motor vehicles passing through it now and again cause it to make a hideous noise.

Sir, in the remarks column you find "reserved for re-examination of total cost." My purpose is to question this remark. It shows that Government is not very serious at the construction of a new bridge, since Sir, a demand which seems to lose itself upon mere sentimentality cannot claim to be serious. The note signifies the probability of procrastination. Mr Chairman, Sir, it is against probable procrastination that I am seeking this sub-head to be reduced.

Mr Jaja Wachuku (Aba): Mr Chairman Sir, in putting an amendment to this sub-head on about a £5,000 bridge, I would like the Minister to tell us the type of bridge they want to build there. Will it be as narrow as the present one, or will it be as wide as the Marina? I say this because a number of bridges are being built which are not wide and the result is that you may be driving along a smooth and wide road and you suddenly come to a narrow bridge and if you are not careful you will find... (*Interruption*) I am saying, Sir, that this bridge is a wreck between Lagos Island and the Victoria Island and there is a proposal to develop the Victoria Island.

I think the Minister and his staff should take into consideration future traffic density on that stretch of road. If you develop Victoria Island and the Victoria bridge is also developed, the tendency is that you will have more buildings, residential buildings, and people will be coming there for sight seeing and things like that. Traffic will grow and we do not want what happens on the Carter Bridge to happen. Apart from the type of bridge, the width of the bridge, there also is the question of the life of the bridge. There must be foresight about that; not the question of a bridge that will last for twenty-five years. The Minister should tell us how long the proposed bridge will last and I would like the Minister to take this into consideration. Is it going to be a very narrow bridge that you will have to cut across. I would like to know because also there is the proposal for the new Parliament building to be in that area.

I want to know something about the nature of this bridge so as to give us an opportunity to say something about it, if we are satisfied with the plan. I would like also to see the design of the bridge, to see whether it is a design we would like. A bridge the total cost

of which will be £5,000 certainly will not be enough; it will not be the type of bridge we want. I would like the Minister to furnish information about this.

The Minister of Works and Surveys (hon. Muhammadu Inuwa Wada): Mr Chairman, Sir, I just want to reply to the question on bridges. The two bridges on Imo River referred to by Mr Akwivu; they are at present considered quite strong enough to carry traffic, but nevertheless, when the Crown Agents team for bridge extension come out again, I have the intention of asking them to prepare a drawing and other things necessary for the replacement of these two bridges.

On the question of the bridge to link Lagos Island and the Victoria Island, Sir, the provision of £100,000 here does not mean that this is going to be the cost of the bridge. In fact, the bridge is estimated to cost something a little more than £300,000, and when you see it, Mr Jaja Wachuku, it is going to be very wide. It is designed to carry two-lanes of traffic and on either side of it there will be pedestrian and cyclist tracks. The bridge is going to be of reinforced concrete which means that it is not going to be a temporary affair. It is going to be permanent, so permanent that hon. Jaja Wachuku... (*Interruption*). And also, Sir, this bridge will be completed in time to allow for the development of Victoria Island for vehicles and people using the various buildings and other things on Victoria Island.

Chief T. T. Solaru (Ijebu East): One of the recent things is the Five Cowrie bridge. The Minister has been talking about the immediate future. I would like to talk about the immediate present. The present bridge for all its rattling and hideous noise, has a traffic light provided, Sir, for the safety of people coming from opposite directions. It does not work with the result that... (*Interruption*).

An hon. Member: Tell the L.T.C.

Chief Solaru: I was saying, Sir, you know our taxi drivers, much to the annoyance of owner drivers, as soon as they see a private car approaching that bridge, they are on a bend, they rush on and then they come to meet you half-way on the bridge and then they say they have been on the bridge before you, with the result that—unless of course, you are prepared

Mr Wachuku : And so I want the Minister to do something about it, otherwise the Minister of Finance will be sacked ! I won't discuss this road further because I know, Sir, there are other Members who have something to say on this road, and because, from their speeches the Minister will appreciate the importance of this particular road ; because these bridges carry very heavy weight. It is along this road, Sir, that Shell Company make use of their heavy lorries, 20-ton lorries with big machinery and the rest of it. So we want the Minister to realise the importance of this road. This is an oil road.

Several hon. Members : What ?

Mr Wachuku : It is an oil road, and therefore great attention should be paid to that particular road. I notice that the Minister has taken off his glasses because I say this is an oil road or Shell road. It is important that the Minister of Works should put that road right otherwise your power will be reduced.

Mr Chairman, Sir, I won't go any further on this. Other Members have something to say on this road.

The Chairman : Are we still on this particular road or on the Head ?

Mr H. O. Chuku (Bende) : On the Road, Sir, the Enugu-Onitsha-Owerri Road. Mr Chairman, Sir, when the Minister was making his statement he was silent about Owerri Bridge. It may well be that he had had something in mind about Owerri and Owerri Bridges. He told us that the delay in carrying out capital works on bridges was due to slow delivery of construction steel. I don't know really what is responsible for this delay in the delivery of this construction steel. I might guess that the Crown Agents are responsible because there are three factors that are responsible for delay in carrying out our capital works ; one is Public Works Department one is lack of supervision ; and the other one is the Crown Agents. I would suggest that the Minister (I know he has his hands full) should make direct contact with manufacturers overseas to make sure that our orders arrive here on time. If he is not in a position to do that, Sir, I might further suggest that he consult the local big-combines who have the interests of this country at heart and know the urgency of our requirements for the Government of this country, and then make

some arrangements by themselves on our behalf to see to it that materials required for these bridges are sent to us in time.

Furthermore, Sir, I wish to seize this opportunity to draw the attention of the Minister of Works and Surveys to the bridge between Aba and Port Harcourt. It is quite strong enough, there is no doubt about that, but the fact is that it is not wide enough. This bridge between the Imo River and Port Harcourt, the Minister has already told us he is making some arrangements to see to it that there will be no flood again in the coming year. But I still cannot share that view with him. There is no guarantee that the flood will not occur again because it occurred in 1956 and in 1957, and nothing particular has been done to stop it from happening again.

So if a little bit of attention is paid by whoever is concerned, we shall be delighted to know that, because during the last time when that road was closed it was not only the Government that suffered losses on this, it also affected the individual traders. Their produce was stopped at Aba and then had to go through Owerri and then the bridges along the Owerri-Port Harcourt Road are also bad, so it was impossible for them to evacuate their produce from Aba to Port Harcourt which is a shipping port for the whole of the Eastern Region. And that also affected the trade on produce, with the result that some of the produce dealers were faced with increased costs in respect of extra labour, transport, and so forth, and the Produce Department was not prepared to subsidise whatever the difference might be. So I would suggest that the Minister will be kind enough to tour and see things for himself so that when we come here to talk we are not talking for talking sake, we are talking because it is necessary to tell him what our feelings are about these things.

Mr Chairman, Sir, I also want to draw the attention of the Minister of Works and Surveys to the condition of Aba, Umuahia, Okigwi, bridges. These three bridges are not only death traps but they are also too narrow. Even if the Minister himself wants to pass along them he cannot do so because the bridges are bad. They will not take the Minister's big car, I am quite sure of that. I would like the Minister,—he has told us

that this road has been given on contract—to do his best to see to it that those bridges are widened and strengthened. And then speaking of the roads, the trees along the roadside also want cutting, as has been done in Port Harcourt and Aba Roads.

I must congratulate the Minister for the wonderful work he has done in having the trees cut at both parts of the road between Port Harcourt and Aba.

Thank you, Mr Chairman.

The Chairman: I think Mr Akwiwu wanted to talk about that particular Head.

Mr E. E. Akwiwu (Orlu): All I wanted to say has been covered.

The Chairman: Does Mr Olarewaju want to move to reduce the Head?

Mr M. A. O. Olarewaju (South Ilorin): Mr Chairman, I do not move.

The Chairman: He may wish to speak on the Head. I will call Mr Akwiwu first.

Mr E. C. Akwiwu (Orlu): Mr Chairman, Sir, talking generally on the Head, I would like to draw the attention of the Minister to the narrowing down of roads which is caused by bituminous surfacing. Usually, Sir, when you have a road about 40 feet wide, by the time the surfacing finishes it is reduced to about 12 feet wide, that is, the central portion of the road, leaving out the sides, and very soon the rest of the road is overflowing with weeds and grass. I think, Sir, that that in itself not only makes the rest of the road unusable but it also constitutes a source of danger through dust rising from vehicles using the untarred portion of the road. I would like the Minister to carefully examine this question and see that something is done to it.

Secondly, Sir, on the question of felling trees on roads one would like to congratulate the Minister for the great work that has been done but, at the same time, Sir, there has been some omissions that I consider very dangerous. Immediately after Benin one would notice that a lot of trees have been felled but you still have very dangerous stumps left, some of them are about four to five feet high and as they die and lose their natural colours, they become more and more difficult to identify, especially when one is moving fast. We have the same thing, I think, on the Onitsha-Owerri road and we strongly appeal to the Minister that these things should be put right. We fully

appreciate the good work that has been done in moving the trees but when you leave very dangerous stumps which are not easily visible, then the danger is in itself much greater.

Finally, about the extension of Trunk A 3 road to pass through Orlu Station, I think something should be done about that.

M. Maitama Sule (Kano City): Mr Chairman, Sir, I do not know whether it may be necessary one day for some of us on this side of the House to petition the Government against the adverse effect on the economy of the Northern Region and of Nigeria caused by the condition of Trunk Road A 1 that links the Southern part of Nigeria and most of the Northern part of this country. If we look at this map, Sir, I hope the Chairman has got the map, you will find that Trunk Road A 1, which goes from Lagos to Kano and to Daura stretching into French Territory, is one of the most important if not the most important Trunk A road in this country. But it is most unfortunate that as you go along this road you will find it tarred up to Ilorin; if you leave Ilorin for a distance of about 400 miles, all the way from Ilorin to Kaduna, the road is neither tarred, nor is it wide enough, nor is it properly constructed; the bridges are terribly bad, every bit of the condition of the road is so bad that sometimes you have got to come down from your car and walk to make sure that the road is good before you drive your car. I have seen some work being done on the roads, I entirely agree, but what I am trying to point out is that work should be expedited as much as possible so that people in the Northern Region, at least, may benefit from the work that is being done by the Federal Government as far as this particular road is concerned.

When people talk about tarring of roads we do not think we should go as far as that because the roads are not yet properly constructed to be tarred. We are asking for the roads to be properly constructed first before we ask for them to be tarred. Can you imagine that all the length of that road, which is about 400 miles, is not tarred? You keep on asking for some of your roads to be tarred, I sometimes wonder if we have got "a road."

Sir, I also see that some of the bridges, I will congratulate the Minister of Works for that later, some of the bridges have been

re-built. But, Sir, there is something that I cannot understand: the economy of building bridges only to be re-built after a few years. If you look at some of the bridges you will find that they are still not wide enough; we want bridges that are wide enough to accommodate two lorries at the same time. In the long run we shall not be compelled to come back and build the roads again, thereby incurring more expenditure and draining the revenue of the country that might have been otherwise expended elsewhere.

It is for that matter that I am speaking generally of building bridges all over the country, that whenever we build bridges in this country we must see to it that the bridges are good so that we shall not have to bother ourselves for the next 30 years, 40 years, 50 years, in fact 100 years. If you go towards Kaduna say from Zungeru where some of this work has not yet reached, you will find some of some wooden bridges. Do you know, Sir, that they are wooden bridges? Some of these bridges you cannot be sure whether to go on them or not.

Often I have known many hon. Members from this side of the House come out of their cars, particularly during the rains, when they are not sure of those roads and test those bridges first before they go on them. Certainly more than half of the Members of this Side of the House can bear me out. I am asking that the work should be expedited so that these bridges can be constructed and when they are constructed or built, they must be built so that we shall not have to bother ourselves for the next 100 years.

During the dry season as well as the wet season, many lorries come from the Northern Region of Nigeria to the South, carrying all sorts of things and taking back with them kola nuts and other commodities from the Southern Region of Nigeria, and as such it is a very important road. Anything that is done to that road to make it modern, up-to-date and serviceable throughout the year, is something that will be appreciated not only by the people in the Northern Region of Nigeria but also by people in the Southern Region of Nigeria.

Sir, it is for these reasons that I am earnestly requesting the Minister of Works and Surveys to do a great deal elsewhere and on this particular road to expedite work so that we may not find our economy in the Northern Region being adversely affected.

Sir, I beg to support the Head.

Mr M. A. Ajasin (Owo South): Mr Chairman, Sir, I want to bring to the notice of the Minister the question of building lines on the Trunk A roads. There are many irregularities in the building lines; in some places they are 100 feet from the centre of the Trunk A roads and in other places 50 feet and some other places only 25 feet. I am asking the Minister to make these building lines uniform so that you have the same thing all through the Trunk A roads. I want to refer in particular to the Trunk A road 9 passing through Owo. In that place the requirement of the Ministry is that the line should be 100 feet from the centre of the road, which is rather bad for the people. My people are asking that the Minister should kindly make this only 50 feet from the centre of the road.

I hope the Minister will consider this; it is too much asking that an area as much as 100 feet from the centre of the road should be left alone.

Now, the other thing, Mr Chairman, that I want to refer to is the widening of the Trunk A roads. In some places the roads are being widened, particularly in the townships, but this widening is left alone without being tarred. So I am asking the Minister to see about this, that in the townships particularly it might not be possible for the Government widening the main roads all over to do the bituminous surfacing all at once, but in the places where these roads pass through the towns and are widened, places it is necessary that they should be tarred at once right on to the end of the road on both sides, because of the dust that the passing motor vehicles blow up to the houses, the shops and the wares of traders which they display near the edge of the road. So those are the things to which I would like to call the attention of the Minister.

The third thing is about this map which has been supplied to Members. It is stated here that existing roads are in unbroken lines of red marked on the map. But we find that Ijebu-Ode-Benin road has not yet been completed and yet we have been given the false impression in this map that the road has been completed. The Minister should give us correct information at all times.

House of Representatives Debates

1451

[*Capital Expenditure*

13 MARCH 1958

Estimates, 1958-59]

1452

Mr J. A. O. Akande (Egba North): Mr Chairman, the widening of the Trunk A road 9 passing through Abeokuta to Ibadan has been long overdue and I am asking that, although in the Estimates provision has been made for widening the road, the provision should not be on paper alone and the work should be taken up as early as possible. On this Trunk A road 9 you have a new bridge at Lafenwa. Members will be aware that this bridge was proposed and passed at the time when the N.C.N.C. and the N.P.C. formed the Government of the Federation. Really what I want done is that the work should be speeded up. It appears those now doing the work have neglected it. If you go there now, nothing is being done. So I want the Minister to pay a visit to this particular bridge. From what the public have said it appears that the bridge is not even wider than the one that was demolished completely. I want the Minister to see to it that this particular bridge will take two lorries at a time so that they will not have to collide with each other.

I invite particular attention to the level crossing Mile 45 on the Lagos-Abeokuta road. The other day I asked the Minister to make a statement on it because that place is a death trap. Many accidents have occurred on this level crossing but up till now nothing has been done. I would like the Minister when coming to see the Lafenwa bridge to see this level crossing and see that something is done without any further delay.

Mr J. A. Effiong (Enyong): Mr Chairman, I want to call the attention of the Minister of Works to one important fact. When he was making his statement I noticed that no bridge in Calabar was mentioned and also no road in Calabar was mentioned. I also would like to remind him that the Uya Oron bridge needs widening. The bridge is very narrow and very dangerous. Also, we who use the Aba-Oron road going to Calabar (there is a river between Oron and Calabar) have a lot of inconvenience in getting our cars across. I want to suggest a possible road which will make it possible to avoid the water between Oron and Calabar. If we look at the map showing the roads, it is possible to construct a road from Ikot Ekpene through Itu, Arochuku to Calabar and if that road is constructed it will make it possible to avoid delay at Oron.

I would also like to mention the importance of constructing a bridge across the Atimbo River. We are building a road between Calabar and Mamfe and if that bridge is not constructed the trade between the Southern Cameroons and the Eastern Region will be jeopardised.

Mr Chairman, I would like the Minister of Works to take those points into consideration.

M. Muhammadu Bello Alkamawa (East Central Sokoto): Mr Chairman, Sir, in rising to support expenditure under this Head, I would like to say that construction under the highway Sokoto-Illela has been very very slow. A distance of only 17 miles has been rehabilitated in two and half years. While I appreciate the difficulties surrounding construction work in this part of the country, I would like the Minister to take into consideration the heavy losses of lives and property and of transport which are increasing on this highway. Moreover, with the Government's intention to send a Police officer and establish a custom's post on the northern border, there are other essentials which demand a speedy programme to accomplish this work.

Again, Sir, noting that of the £80,000 voted for the reconstruction of this road another £20,000 has been increased to enable more security over the Rima River embankment, I thank the Minister for that effort. So far so good, but, Sir, the question is, how soon will he come to the rescue of the worst section of the road? We would prefer to suspend all the construction works until the bridge and embankment have been made. Sir, the site of this place as it is at present is even now under the Police guard. At the top of the gorge over the steep hill, a Police officer has been stationed and no lorries are allowed to pass over the embankment and Zanzalu bridge after 7.30 p.m. until 6 a.m. in the morning. This measure has been adopted to safeguard lives over the terrible embankment, and the same ban has been applied on the other end at the city gate.

Sir, is this inconvenience going to continue simultaneously? I would be most grateful, and the people in Sokoto would be glad, to hear any statement by the Minister of how long it will be before the problem is settled and what remedies are being effected.

Now, Sir, this road Trunk A 19 which starts from Zaria has after all been greatly cared for by the Minister of Works and the 44 bridge reconstructions between Gusau and Sokoto are well in hand. We do hope that before the rains most of the bridges now diverted will be reconstructed. But, Sir, the Minister should please inform the contractors that the kinds of diversion now in use should be closed and new and better ones constructed before the rains. The diversions which are in use are very dangerous and they are too deep. Lorries of heavy weight up to ten tons use the road day and night. . . .

The Chairman : I am bound to suspend the sitting now, but before I do so I am going to put a suggested programme before the House. If we carry on with this Head until say, four o'clock, I think we ought to be able to do Head 603 in two hours. That will bring us to six o'clock and leave us three hours in the evening which is the full length of Friday. So we would still have three hours this evening for what would have been tomorrow's programme provided we can do Head 603 by four o'clock.

Sitting suspended at 1.00 p.m.

Sitting resumed : 3 p.m.

M. Muhammadu Bello Alkamawa (East Central Sokoto): Mr Chairman, Sir, I was saying that the 44 Bridge reconstructions on the Gusau-Sokoto Road now undertaken by a firm of contractors is a great credit to the Minister of Works. People from the Sokoto province are really grateful for it.

But, Sir, the diversions temporarily in use are not at all safe and as the bridges are so numerous and the work split on various sections, the diversions should be made in a way to carry the heavy vehicles safely. At present the road could be passable, but what I am afraid of is the rainy season. The ground is very soft and often during the dry season vehicles get stuck on the side when overtaking, much less if the diversions are left in such a deplorable state. I should therefore be most grateful if the Minister could now send instructions to the contractors to stop breaking any more bridges until they construct good and safe diversions. I have seen similar measures adopted by Costain and other firms on my way to Lagos. And Sir, these must be ready before the summer.

So, if the diversions have not been safely reconstructed before the rains, the work of bridge reconstruction will be delayed. The roads would be impassable and great inconvenience would be suffered.

Another thing I would like to draw the attention of the Minister to is that the road overseers who look after the highways are housed in dilapidated buildings and the roofs are shattered. In the interest of maintaining the road construction now in full swing, these houses should be made of concrete, especially the one at Dauge.

Sir, I beg to support.

Mr G. I. Ayim (Ogoja): I just want to endorse my views to the words already expressed in thanking the Minister of Works. I just want to say that the work already begun on the roads should be continued with increased vigour. Already I have made several complaints about our bad roads, and bad pot-holes and the rest of it, and I now see that I have not made my speeches in vain. Something has been done and I am very happy about that.

But I would like to say that on the other hand some of our bridges are not strong enough and very often too narrow. They are usually built on dangerous corners and the roads leading to the bridges, that is the approach, are also very bad. So I am asking that something should be done about them to strengthen and straighten them. . . . (*Interruption*). . . .

The Chairman : Order, order. No interruptions please.

Mr Ayim : I think if there is any place which is being industrially developed in this country to-day, it is my Province. We have the biggest cement industry now. . . . (*An hon. Member : Where ?*) Abakaliki. As some Members have already said our roads need widening and strengthening and I would say the same for the roads in my area which is fast becoming a very important place in this country.

Mr Chairman, I just want to put this on record and say 'thank you' to the Minister of Works—I would not say 'thank you,' for that is too small—but the next time I come here I will say 'congratulations'. . . . (*Hear, hear*).

Chief J. S. Olayeye (Okitipupa): Mr Chairman, all I wish to impress on the Minister of Works and Surveys is in respect of the damaged Imo, or Oshun River Bridge, and to

House of Representatives Debates

1455

[Capital Expenditure

13 MARCH 1958

Estimates, 1958-59]

1456

ask him to cause the Committee of Inquiry, to which he referred, to expedite their report on the damaged bridge with a view to submitting it before the end of this current financial year in order that the repair of the Bridge might be started very very early.

Mr Chairman, what amazes me about this important road is that there has been no damage done by the last flood to any of the bridges constructed by the contractors,—Messrs Costain. These bridges are still in a sound and satisfactory condition, while the Imo or Oshun River Bridge constructed by the Public Works Department, on which we spent £20,000, has been washed away by the last flood.

Every tax-payer in my Division is under the impression that the Public Works Department is wasting our money and that the work of Messrs Costain is more preferable to that of the Public Works Department, and that the Public Works Department should be sacked and replaced by another Department.

I remember that I drew the attention of the Minister to my speech in this House some time ago that my people in the Division wished that the Federal Government should help to improve one of the existing roads made by the people's effort which burst out at mile 54, and mile 40 from Ijebu-Ode. They desired that this road should connect Okitipupa Division with the Ijebu-Ode-Benin Road which is the shortest way from my Division to Ijebu and the Federal Territory of Lagos, but the Minister refuses to help in this matter.

Mr Chairman, you might have been aware of the recent tax agitation in Okitipupa Division: the people wish the Government to do something for them who pay their tax to the Government. Sir, if you want to make my people happy there are two things that you can give them, the first is education and the second is good roads; and I wish that every Member in this House would join me to persuade the Minister to help the people in my Division, particularly with regard to that one of the roads I have already mentioned at mile 54 and 40 on Ijebu-Benin Road.

It is my wish to pay visits to certain of my friends, like Chief Solaru, at week-ends but I cannot do that because of the bad conditions of the roads, therefore, Sir, I am not happy. I accused the Minister that he keeps on

postponing re-surfacing certain portions of the Trunk A road between Akure and Ibadan. I would like to say that my people wish to be proud of this road from Okitipupa Division, I mean one of the roads; whether the one at mile 54 or the other one at mile 40 on the Ijebu-Ode-Benin Road, that is, between Ijebu and Ore being improved and be connected with Okitipupa Division. But the Minister appears to be making people believe that Okitipupa Division is not part of Nigeria. If this is the case why should I come here to represent my people? I am put here by my people to say something on their behalf. (*Hear, hear*), but I am afraid, Sir, that all these things disappoint me.

Finally, Sir, I would like to ask that the Minister would expedite all the work that is necessary on our roads, and only then shall we be happy.

Mr J. G. Adeniran (Ibadan West): Sir, a lump sum of money is earmarked for payment for road equipment. Well, I would appeal to the Minister of Works and Surveys to please get on with this equipment in great quantity. The reason is that when the Regions, and most especially the Local Government Councils' use of this big road equipment is needed, and if the Federal Government could not increase the mileage of Trunk A roads, I think when we want to construct roads in rural areas they will apply to the Federal Government for equipment, whether we may pay for it or the Federal Government may think of giving the equipment free. We have several times wished to have equipment for this road construction and on application to the Public Works Departments in the Regions, the applicants were directed to the Federal Public Works Department, Ijora here, and sometimes we did not get the necessary equipment to be borrowed or for which payment could be made by the Local Councils. I appeal especially to the Ministry of Works and Surveys that all this equipment should be bought in sufficient quantities, so that local councils and other bodies could come and borrow from the Federal Government, on payment or without any payment.

Sir, also this equipment should include axes and cutlasses too. Many times you will be going on this Trunk A road from Lagos to Ibadan through Abeokuta, and then you find a tree fall across the road. You have to go around the surrounding villages to get labourers to help you. But at times you are

told that the old axe was worn (or that he has none), and that his cutlass was just broken the previous day and they have not got a replacement. If this equipment we are considering could include axes and cutlasses and the labourers are supplied with these, that embarrassing situation would not arise.

Sir, I would also like to appeal to the Minister of Works and Surveys that there is a bridge at Odo-lena which needs strengthening, I think eight miles from Ibadan, on this road Lagos-Ikorodu to Ibadan. I think people have been working on this bridge for months, and yet the bridge has not been completed. The rains will soon break. I will therefore appeal to the Minister to see that this bridge is completed in time.

Also, Sir, this Ijebu-Ode to Benin road. The value of the training at Shasha River course is too important in the Western Region, and it has prevented us from going to the training since October, and I would appeal to the Minister to see that something is done in this direction, so that this road will be completed, and the necessary arrangements made with a view to help the people going to this course, because it is very important to us in the Region.

M. Shehu Shagari (South West Sokoto) : Mr Chairman, Sir, in supporting the expenditure on this Head, I should like to express my appreciation at the formidable work undertaken by the P.W.D. Sir, much has been done in all aspects of Public Works, and a lot has been spent, of course. But the still pressing needs of a rapidly growing country have made all efforts appear grossly inadequate.

Sir, the Minister of Works and Surveys must bear with us when we express our feelings on the dissatisfaction with the progress of work in the department. It is only natural that those in need tend to think more of those needs rather than of somebody else's deeds. For example, we naturally tend to ignore the numerous works going on everywhere : on the re-bridging, the re-alignments, and the tarring of roads through which we have passed on our way to Lagos, when presenting our case for the improvement of our own roads in our constituencies.

Sir, while appreciating this difficult but understandable position, I beg to remind the Minister of Works and Surveys that Trunk A roads, no matter where they are, have a paramount importance over all

other works, since they are the lifeline of the whole Federation. Sir, for this reason such roads must be first-class ; at any rate, they must be much better than Trunk B Roads. It is surprising, however, to find that in some cases all these are better than Trunk A roads, save perhaps, in a few places where they are tarred. We can all appreciate the time and magnitude of the work and the money involved in building and maintaining the long weary roads all over the country, but we cannot help admiring the Region of even the Native Authorities when we see how remarkably well they build and maintain their roads, with their comparatively meagre and limited funds and personnel.

No wonder our constituencies always complain that they can see nothing good in the Federal Government. They often find it difficult to agree with our repeated excuses that the Federal Government has too much to do with services in its hands. How can the big man cry, "I can't" when the little ones are doing their best? The Federal Government must be up and doing in the field of Public Works before it is too late. They must not allow the public to lose confidence in them. Roads and only roads are the visible concrete evidence of the good services of the P.W.D. in the eyes of the average taxpayer in the Region, and for that reason the Government must educate them to understand its usefulness.

Sir, it is very difficult for an hon. Member to complain of bad roads outside this House when he has any complaint before the public that the roads are bad. Because the only answer that an hon. Member of this House gets is this : they say that when voting money for buying of their own cars, they forgot to vote money to build roads on which these cars run. We always reply, Sir, that we have voted sufficient money to maintain these roads, to build roads and widen the roads, but the P.W.D. has still got too much on its own hands and could not complete the work. But, Sir, how long shall this continue?

One disappointing situation which illustrates my point is this. A very important Trunk Road A, Trunk Road 15, from Sokoto to Jega is being degenerated into a mere path, through the negligence of the Federal P.W.D. I am surprised also to note that there is no mention of this road in the Minister's speech this morning.

This road is being virtually killed by two opposing Regional roads, namely, the Zamfara Valley Road and the Jaredi-Argungu-Birnin Kebbi Road. While the two Regional roads are being excellently cared for, the Federal road is neglected.

I understand, Sir, that the North Regional Government has voted a sum of £260,000 this year to tar the Trunk Road B road from Birnin Kebbi to Jaredi, where it meets the Federal road. When this work is accomplished, it means that the Trunk A road remains as the worst in the Province (*Some hon. Members: Very bad*). And heaven knows the amount of economic and other set-backs it will bring to the inhabitants of this area.

I urge the Federal Government to stand up and act, and tar this very important road, at least from Sokoto to Jega. Delay in this road will mean the loss of not only the economic potentialities of the area—which incidentally is oil—but also the support and goodwill of the tax-payers who number more than half a million. I must also remind the Minister, Sir, that once again these people need the road to pass through Yabo, an important town, and save money and inconvenience caused by the present narrow winding road.

Sir, it is our duty to present to the Ministry the wishes of the people we represent, and they in turn should make it a point of duty to consider them seriously and sympathetically.

Sir, I beg to support.

Mr J. Mboyam (Nkambe): Mr Chairman, Sir, I want to draw the attention of the Minister to the section of trunk road A 4 that lies between Bamenda and Bansa. There is still a good deal of temporary bridges on this section. I call upon the Minister to hasten the replacement of these bridges with permanent ones. The traffic on this road is often heavy during the rains when Kumba-Mamfe-Bamenda road and Mamfe-Ikom roads are closed. This section of the road right from Bamenda to Nkambe has several sharp corners and narrow places. We ask the Minister to see that these sharp corners and narrow places are widened.

I have a point to make on the Takom-Bissaula road. I have already made my remarks on this road but what I am pressing now is to have the assurance that the construction of this road is not going to stop from Nkambe end of the road. This assurance I want to get

from the Minister before I leave the Legislature for Nkambe.

Now, my last point is that I have to thank the Minister for producing this map which has shown us all the Federal roads so that we can now levy our criticisms on these roads without mixing them up with the Regional roads.

Mr D. U. Okay (Port Harcourt): Mr Chairman, Sir, when we met here in September 1957 I demanded from the hon. Minister of Works the taking-over of those roads leading out of Aba and Owerri respectively. Now, Sir, that the hon. Minister has taken over these roads, I have to thank him on behalf of Port Harcourt for honouring this responsibility.

Now, Sir, I find that there is a good job of work going on at Aba-Port Harcourt road, but, Sir, I do not know whether the Minister will tell us, as I do not know, whether those bridges at Umukoroshe and Umunashe would be made permanent bridges because at the moment they are wooden bridges. So I demand a statement from the hon. Minister of Works in respect of these bridges.

Mr Chairman, Sir, another point I would wish the Minister to make a statement upon is this. I find in the Estimates here something going on on Aba-Port Harcourt road, but I do not see any provision made for the widening of the road from Port Harcourt to Owerri. So, Sir, I need an explanation from the hon. Minister of Works. I ask the Minister to take it over, and I support this Head.

The Minister of Finance (Chief the hon. F. S. Okotie-Eboh): *rose in his place and claimed to move, That the Question be now put.*

Question, That the question be now put, put and agreed to.

Question put accordingly and agreed to.

Resolved That the expenditure from the Development Fund of £6,542,100 for the purposes set out in the draft Estimates of Capital Expenditure, 1958-59, under Head 602—Highways and Bridges, be approved.

HEAD 603.—PUBLIC WORKS EXTRAORDINARY

The Minister of Finance (Chief the hon. F. S. Okotie-Eboh): Mr Chairman, Sir, I beg to move, That the expenditure from the Development Fund of £7,845,360 for the purposes set out in the Draft Estimates for Capital Expenditure, 1958-59, under Head 603—Public Works Extraordinary—be approved.

The Minister of Research and Information (Chief the hon. Kolawole Balogun): Mr Chairman, I beg to second.

The Chairman: Can I have the approval of the Committee for combining the subjects which are down in the Amendments to some extent, as we did in the last Vote? If so, I would suggest to Mr Wachuku that there are three Amendments which seem to refer to Aviation and that is his first one; and the ones on sub-heads 21 and 23, that is Mr Akwiwu, who is not here at the moment. Those are all Aviation. Then there is a group of about six about buildings: Queen's College, Lagos, Trade Centre, Yaba, Housing for Legislature, a new Parliament building. All buildings. I wonder if Mr Jaja Wachuku would like to talk about this Aviation Amendment now: sub-head 2?

Any Member must tell me when he wishes to divide on his Amendment or take a part.

Mr Jaja Wachuku (Aba): Mr Chairman, Sir, under sub-head 2 of Head 603 you find aerodrome improvements, airport terminal buildings, new aerodrome, Onitsha, then Kano and Lagos runways strengthening. Now, Sir, we have here for this year £8,000. There is a note here "reserved pending further details of expenditure to be incurred."

Now, Sir, I want to say here that for years we have been asking that an aerodrome should be built at Aba. Sir, the Government came to Aba sometime and in fact decided to have an air-strip in the neighbourhood of so many villages and there was a misunderstanding about that. The people offered somewhere else, but for some reason or the other, they decided not to have the aerodrome again at Aba. Now, Sir, not only at Aba, but in Owerri Province in particular. Now we have at Enugu one aerodrome, another one at Onitsha, 68 miles away being proposed, at Calabar another one and another one is being proposed for Uyo, just a short distance. But when you take Aba, Aba is the centre of traffic in the Eastern Provinces. All the roads by land, by air, by sea, by any means pass through Aba. There is a river from Aba to Opobo.

And now, Sir, last year when Port Harcourt was cut off, the rail closed, Port Harcourt-Aba road closed, Owerri-Port Harcourt road closed. As I have said, the railway was no use for some time and the people were just suffering there.

But suppose famine had occurred, how would you feed the people? But if you have an aerodrome there, Sir, it will be easy to take one of the Herons or B.C.3 and collect things and get them over.

Again, Sir, in the recent disturbances in the East, here we were taking people from Lagos to the East. They had to go to Enugu, you got them down by train or by road; you know road transport, anything could happen there. Or you drop at Port Harcourt and then begin to motor to Aba or Owerri as the case may be.

Whereas if you have an aerodrome at Aba you will serve Ikot Ekpene, Owerri, Umuahia and the surrounding towns. There is no doubt about that. The excuse has been given that if an aerodrome is built at Aba, Port Harcourt aerodrome will be affected. That is a very lame excuse because Port Harcourt is a seaport; it is there, you cannot help it, but Aba is the industrial seat. It is developing very rapidly, and most business people consider Aba as the most appropriate place for their business, but they want to get there quickly.

In all directions the whole Crown land in that area is exhausted. In fact, there is no Crown land to be let to anybody, but if the Minister is afraid that he cannot get land, let him say so and I will show him where to get land for the aerodrome. Between Aba and Ikot Ekpene you can get land, or between Aba and Umuahia you can get land, or between Aba and Owerri, you can get land. I think an aerodrome at Aba will be more useful than the one at Onitsha. I am not saying that the Onitsha one should be taken off; what I am trying to say is that from a business point of view, Aba is a commercial centre, even more than Enugu and any other places. I am asking the Minister to consider these things.

The construction of an aerodrome will mean providing one aerodrome for Owerri Province which is the largest Province and the most thickly populated. When you have that second-class fare to come from Port Harcourt to Lagos, you find many businessmen coming to Lagos regularly, there were people from Aba and Umuahia and all other places to make use of this air transport, but they cannot. All export and import trade in the East, you go to Port Harcourt and find out, you go and take a record; you will find that the greatest volume of business done through Port Harcourt is done from Aba. The Port

House of Representatives Debates

1463

[Capital Expenditure

13 MARCH 1958

Estimates, 1958-59]

1464

Harcourt Traders are dealing with the local firms, they generally deal with G.B. Ollivant, etc. Aba is a distributing centre, distributing everything, food, everything and anything at all.

So I am asking the Council of Ministers to consider this matter very seriously. We want an aerodrome to be constructed at Aba in Owerri Province. Onitsha Province has got two, one is at Enugu, one at Onitsha; and Calabar Province has got two, one at Calabar and the other, the new one at Uyo. Rivers have got one. We are unanimous in Owerri Province that the new aerodrome for Owerri Province should be located at Aba. We want the Minister to make special provision to create an aerodrome in Owerri Province to enable me to fly home.

Mr Chairman, I beg to move.

Question proposed, that sub-head 2 be reduced by £100.

The Minister of Communications and Aviation (Chief the hon. S. L. Akintola): I think I will remember correctly if I answer these points one by one. It is so soon after lunch that one's memory may soon fail him, and the importance of Aba is such that I cannot delay making comment on the speech of my hon. Friend Jaja Wachuku.

I know that Aba is extremely important, not only will it soon become a commercial capital of the Eastern Region, it may soon become the spring-board from which all travellers will go to the moon. I will therefore share his sympathy about his need for an Aba aerodrome. Well, unfortunately, we must cut our coats according to our resources. But I would invite the attention of the hon. Members to one provision in this particular sub-head, and that is Kano and Lagos runway estimate for which a sum of £750,000 is being provided.

Now, hon. Members will realise that when Kano aerodrome was completed, we thought that we had spent all that we have to spend on it and that Lagos aerodrome was all right; but as a result of the heavy rainfall of last year and further, as a result of the increase in the weight of the aeroplanes making use of these aerodromes, it was discovered that they must be further strengthened. Now the amount provided is £750,000. We merely

presume that that may be adequate, but for all practical purposes we may discover that it is not even adequate.

Well, this amount was not envisaged when we were making plans for the five-year development programme; so this has to be taken out of the money provided for other schemes, and as a result of that we were in doubt whether we would be able even to fulfil all the programmes already envisaged under the five-year development programme. And the five-year development programme did not take full cognizance of this newly discovered economic importance of Aba.

As a result, in the 1956-60 Economic Programme Aba is conspicuous by her absence. I say the White Paper makes no provision for an aerodrome at Aba. Even those that have already been provided for will not all have it as a result of deterioration resulting from weather conditions, both Kano Aerodrome and Lagos Aerodrome. I would, therefore, appeal to my hon. Friend to ensure this progressive growth of Aba. Not only would Aba grow in importance, I would appeal to Aba to grow also in patience so that by the next development programme period the claim of Aba may, may be considered.

M. Maitama Sule (Kano City): Mr Chairman, Sir, rather than open many more aerodromes, I believe it is absolutely necessary that the ones that we have already should be strengthened. It will be economically unwise for the Government to open many more aerodromes when the existing ones that we have have got some faults in them.

Sir, I am very pleased to hear that the Minister of Communications and Aviation has it in mind to do something about strengthening the Kano and Lagos runways. We have heard also that because of the size of aeroplanes that are now coming to Kano and Lagos airports, this has become necessary. Another reason that has also been given is the fact that the rains have done so much damage to these runways. But in the Estimates we find that this has been reserved pending further details of expenditure to be incurred.

I would warn, and I hope the Minister is listening to me—he is not—I would warn, Mr Chairman, that if no work is done before the rains, Government will be compelled to spend much more money than they expected,

so the sooner the work starts about these runways both in Lagos and Kano, the better. It should start now, now. Sir, I beg to support.

Mr L. S. Fonka (Bamenda) : Mr Chairman, Sir, I want to congratulate the Ministry of Communications and Aviation for the money voted to improve the existing aerodromes. I only hope, Sir, that the Mamfe aerodrome will be one of these aerodromes to be improved. It is very, very funny to see that that aerodrome is being maintained by Government, and Government is seeing to it that the aerodrome is improved. I am wondering whether the Government is going to make this aerodrome at Mamfe a playing field.

Sir, we no longer accept the explanation that geographical conditions make it impossible for this aerodrome to be used. We do not accept it. We do not know whether these geographical conditions have arisen after the aerodrome was surveyed and approved and constructed. So we still believe that may be the Government can use this money which is voted for the improvement of aerodromes to improve and put Mamfe aerodrome into use.

The second point I want to make, Mr Chairman, is about the airport terminal building at Tiko. It is too small. There are only ten seats in that small building, and the aeroplanes that land and take off from Tiko can carry forty-five passengers, and they are always full. Now, while ten people are sitting thirty-five would be hanging about. So I am appealing to the Minister of Communications and Aviation to make an effort to see that there is a larger building at the airport at Tiko, so that passengers travelling through it will find convenience in waiting for aeroplanes to arrive or to take off.

Well, I hope, Mr Chairman, that the Minister of Communications and Aviation is actively taking note of what I am saying and I support the expenditure under this Head.

Mr A. Adeyinka (Ibadan Central) : Mr Chairman, Sir, I would only remind the Minister about the position of the aerodrome at Ibadan. I think sometime last year, Sir, there was a statement in this House that they were negotiating for a land to convert the present aerodrome into an international airport. Sir, I want to ask the Minister of Communications and Aviation, what has happened to that programme? Is it dead? After all, taking

the position of Ibadan as the capital of the Western Region, it is high time that an international aerodrome is built at Ibadan. Ibadan has the same prominence as Kano and Lagos, and if you go to Ibadan Aerodrome at present you will see that the place is all ramshackle. I would not call that an aerodrome. I have never seen such an aerodrome in my life. Actually, I have looked through this Development Programme and I do not see any mention of Ibadan in it at all. It seems that the Minister has actually forgotten his own headquarters!

Ibadan, for that matter, is very important. Several times when our Ministers in the Western Region had occasion to travel, they have to go all the way to Lagos to take off in the planes. The aerodrome should be improved. We were told last year that money had been voted for it, but to the best of my knowledge, Mr Chairman, nothing has been done. It seems that the Federal Government is forgetting that capital city. If you have the mind to develop all capital cities, why do you want to put Ibadan behind?

Mr Chairman, Sir, this is a very serious matter and it would appear that this aerodrome at present as it stands does not befit a capital city like Ibadan at all. The aerodrome is a ramshackle and I want the Minister to do something to improve the aerodrome at Ibadan.

M. Ibrahim Gusau (Sokoto West) : Mr Chairman, Sir, I should like to speak generally on the development programme under this Head and in doing so I see that provisions have been made for various purposes for the economic development of the country but, to my surprise, Sir, one very important point has been ignored by the Government. Sir, the topic of the day is Independence for Nigeria in 1960, but I wonder how we can enjoy political freedom when one-third of the population of the country is in complete danger of desert penetration involving the social and economic stability of over ten million people. . . .

The Chairman : I hope the hon. Gentleman is talking about this amendment, which is only about four items on Aeroplanes or Aerodrome Construction. It is sub-head 2 of Head 603, Aerodromes, Improvement, new aerodromes, etc. (*M. Ibrahim Gusau resumed his seat.*)

Dr E. O. Awduche (Onitsha): Mr Chairman, I just want to make a few remarks about this proposed aerodrome at Onitsha.

In answer to a question by Mr Okolo yesterday, the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Communications and Aviation said that there was a disagreement as to the price of the site on which this aerodrome is going to be built in Onitsha. It happens that the site lies within the township. There are a good many other places outside the township which can be taken up. After all, the aerodrome in Lagos is all the way at Ikeja, the one for Enugu is about seven miles from the township, and the one for Port Harcourt is about eight miles away from the township. So that if there is a difficulty with the landlords, there are quite a number of other places, Sir, where this could be done.

Since it has gone down in the Estimates, I am pleading that the work should be carried on as early as possible. If there is definite difficulty in getting a site on the Onitsha-Enugu road, then an attempt should be made on the Onitsha-Owerri Road. After all, if there is an aerodrome at Nnewi, for instance, it will serve Onitsha as well and, in fact, would meet our friends of Owerri half way, so that it is better for it to lie half way between Owerri and Onitsha. And there is no reason why instructions should not be given for this, because I realise the difficulty of getting this thing into the Estimates, and for a flimsy excuse like price of land to debar such an amenity is unspeakable.

Sir, I hope that the Minister of Communications and Aviation will explore every possible means to see that this aerodrome is built.

I can assure the Minister, Sir, that there are townsmen in Onitsha prepared to give the site free, and double the size of the land you want for it, to bring it down to Obosi, which is just a few miles from Onitsha. And so, Sir, I hope that this matter shall not be dropped. I am pleading that the Minister should make every effort to see that this aerodrome is built.

Thank you, Mr Chairman.

Mr J. C. Obande (South East Idoma): Mr Chairman, I rise to remind the Minister about the deplorable condition of Makurdi airport. This House will remember that through the achievements of my Adjournment Motion,

the airport was restored. It is a pitiful thing to have to say in this House that some of the United Kingdom passengers had to stay at Makurdi Catering Rest House for over two weeks waiting for 'planes; the reason being that some of the 'planes were not allowed to land there owing to the bad condition of the airport.

So I am taking this chance to appeal to the Minister to see that it is put right.

Mr G. O. D. Eneh (Udi): Mr Chairman, Sir, I want to speak about the proposed Onitsha aerodrome. There is no place in the Eastern Region where we would be able to get land free. There is no place at all where you could get land free of charge. You can only get the land after consultation with the people and you pay the people compensation. I don't want people to come here and say that the aerodrome can be built either inland or elsewhere and that they are prepared to give the land free. That is a falsehood.

I quite realise that the Minister of Communications and Aviation is arranging to transact and to pay compensation to the people who own land near Onitsha in order to get a site for the aerodrome. We would ask him to proceed with the arrangements because we realise that the site which he wants to acquire is a site that is reasonable, and if you consider the price of land at Onitsha the price that the natives are asking for it is reasonable. There is no place you can get land free, so that if somebody comes here to say that his own townsmen are prepared to give land free that is not true at all.

The Minister of Communications and Aviation (Chief the hon. S. L. Akintola): Mr Chairman, I just want to answer some of the points already made. I do appreciate that there are difficulties in putting into execution the scheme for the Onitsha aerodrome, but part of the difficulty is due to the rather heavy demands which the landowners are making regarding compensation. Well, a sum of £200,000 has been provided for the entire scheme, but the claim which is being made now totals about £70,000. This is...

Several hon. Members: How many acres?

The Minister of Communications and Aviation: I am putting the facts before you. I am not blaming the landowners for asking for compensation, nor can I say that because they

ask for compensation without regard to the limitation of the resources of the Government they should just be paid as such. I said the entire provision is for £200,000. When making this provision the Government thought that this would be an all-inclusive cost, and if that had been the all-inclusive cost, the work would long ago have been in progress. But as a result of these demands the Government would either have to find an additional sum of £70,000, which we cannot get, or we would have to prevail upon the landowners to reduce or cut down their claims.

Well, I believe that the best thing for us to do is to contact the people and appeal to them with a view to being more reasonable in asking for a lower rate of compensation than they are now claiming. We feel that this ought to be explored before we consider the possibility of a cheaper site elsewhere; but I would appeal to hon. Members that if demands continue to be exorbitant it will make Government schemes rather prohibitive and some schemes may have to be deferred indefinitely.

Now it is due partly to these demands, which nobody thought would have been so high, that we have to defer the scheme for Onitsha aerodrome. I do appeal to Members who wish for this aerodrome at Onitsha to use their good offices to persuade the landowners to accept more reasonable compensation.

Point two: Members have also spoken of an alternative site away from Onitsha, but what applies to Onitsha also applies to Ibadan. It has been discovered that where aerodromes are too far away from the centre of population, it diminishes the value of air travel. If an aerodrome is situated at, say, ten or twelve miles from Onitsha, it makes it difficult for people who would like to travel to Onitsha quickly, to travel by air because the advantage that they gain by travelling by air would be lost by the distance by motor from the aerodrome to Onitsha. That is why the Government are being a little bit tardy in getting aerodromes too far away from the centre of population.

In the case of Ibadan, I do sympathise with hon. Adeyinka and others who have spoken in such terms about the necessity for improving the aerodrome in Ibadan. My predecessor in office did everything he possibly could to speed up the provision of a new aerodrome for

Ibadan. When I took office I did my bit to ensure that a new aerodrome is provided quickly.

M. Muhtari, Sarkin Bai (South West Kano): Point of Order, Sir, Ikeja international aerodrome is in the Western Region and if the Minister insists that Ibadan aerodrome must be improved, well let us have the Ikeja airport lodged in the Federal Territory of Lagos.

The Minister of Communications and Aviation: I do appreciate the predicament of my Friend, he is fighting a very tough battle; he always declares war against geography. In any case, my contention is not whether Ibadan should be made an international aerodrome or not; as far as that is concerned I am not insisting that Ibadan should be an international aerodrome or not; my point is whether it is an international aerodrome or not? The present aerodrome is not one of which the Federation could be proud. My predecessor in office and the Government has always realised that and enquiries have been made from time to time.

Now we come across a snag, the configuration of the land round about Ibadan makes it difficult for us to find a new site for an aerodrome in Ibadan near enough to make air flight of any advantage to the people of Ibadan. At one time it was thought that we might be able to get a new site at a distance of about 15 miles from Ibadan. Even that was technically described to be very difficult and we have failed in being able to get an alternative site which would be near enough to be of any advantage. So it is now being proposed, after all is said and done, that the best solution would be the development or improvement of the existing aerodrome.

It will not be a quick business, experts are being consulted as to the best way to do it, not only to serve the public but to make the aerodrome absolutely safe. As I said before, owing to the configuration of the land, I understand from the experts that Ibadan aerodrome is not quite as safe as experts would wish it to be. But whatever can be done to make it safer and also to make it more modern, is being considered seriously now and I may be able, within a short time, to make a statement on the final decision arrived at.

The point made by hon. Fonka about Mamfe aerodrome, seems to be a very strange one to me. Mamfe aerodrome was constructed

in the hope that people would be air-minded and in the hope that it would be economical and it was up to trial, but the various trials revealed that it is not an economical proposition. If we are satisfied that there has been a change of heart on the part of the people and that they are now more air-minded than ever, we do not mind trying it once again. But we have no evidence that people are now more air-minded than ever before.

The point made by hon. Maitama Sule about Lagos and Kano runway is worthy of consideration. We have been doing everything possible to start the work on the Kano runway as well as on the Lagos runway. As soon as this is done the better and perhaps the more economic the proposition will be. I would repeat one point which I made before, that the provision made under the five-year development programme is strictly limited and there are many unforeseen circumstances now draining even the rather limited resources. I mentioned a while ago that out of this provision, about £ $\frac{3}{4}$ million will be frittered away in improving the existing aerodromes in Kano and Lagos, that was not thought of before when the scheme was being made. If the land owners in Onitsha have their way, it will mean an additional £70,000.

All these things will have to be taken into consideration and while we are mentioning Aba, we are mentioning Ibadan and such other aerodromes. There are other smaller aerodromes in the country which we must take care of if the Ministry is to satisfy the growing needs of the country. There are smaller aerodromes in many parts of the Northern Region which are needing improvement and which we have not yet been able to attend to fully. During the rainy season it is unsafe for us to use many of these smaller aerodromes and we feel that we should be able to devote or divert, if we have any extra funds, to the improvement of these smaller aerodromes because they are essential to the economic life of this country. We are not oblivious of the needs of other areas but we must take all these things into consideration.

The Chairman : I think we should come to a decision on the Aviation part.

Mr Jaja Wachuku (Aba) : There are two points, Sir. The Minister has told us that there is demand for a sum of £70,000 but he has not told us the basis of that demand. The basis ; is it acquisition outright, is it an outright purchase of the area of land, or is it on a fiscal basis ?

The Minister of Communications and Aviation : Acquisition.

Mr Wachuku : Acquisition. How many acres of land are involved ; we need to know this ?

The Minister of Communications and Aviation : I want a notice of that question.

Mr Wachuku : In asking for a notice of this question, the Minister is just delaying the whole set-up. He has asked Members to assist in persuading the land owners to ask for less. I have knowledge of the circumstances under which the aerodrome is acquired. I know the Government is paying £400 per annum for nearly 1,000 acres of land. I would like to know if we are going to persuade these people, we must know how many acres of land are involved and the competitive figures. After all, the Government is paying so much, why should they ask these people to ask for less ? We must know how many acres of land are involved, otherwise how can we persuade them at all ?

There is one other point, Sir. The Minister mentioned that they are taking into consideration not to put the aerodrome too far away, eleven miles or eight miles or seven miles. Look at Lagos, Ikeja is virtually in the country. Any important town, if you are building an aerodrome now 20 miles from Aba, I can tell you in 20 or 15 years you will find it will be on the edge of the town because if you go along that road you will find that houses are springing up on all sides. The question of a distance of twelve miles won't be anything at all. Therefore, that should not debar anybody from putting up an aerodrome if they have decided to build an aerodrome around Onitsha.

I would like the Minister to answer this particular point that I have raised.

The Minister of Research and Information (Chief Kolawole Balogun) 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 sub-head 2 be reduced by £100, put accordingly and negatived.

The Chairman : We now come to a group of amendments about buildings and I think

we might take them together. Technical Institute, Trade Centre, Yaba, Housing for the Legislature, and so on. Mr Jaja Wachuku.

Another Amendment proposed to reduce Item (1) of sub-head 6 by £100.

Mr Jaja Wachuku (Aba): Mr Chairman, Sir, I will take them together. Sir, I take Item 1, Queen's College, Lagos. I notice there is put there £83,800 which includes £30,000 for additional dormitory accommodation.

Now, I would like to know from the Minister of Education what is the capacity of the new Queen's College? How many boarding students is the College designed to accommodate? This is very important, Sir, because the old Queen's College had tradition and anybody who has gone through a boarding institution knows the difference between a boarding school and a day school. And for a place like Lagos, it is a good thing that the new Queen's College is a boarding school and we hope in the near future it will build up a reputation and tradition of its own. And being a college that is meant to serve the whole of the Federation, it should have sufficient accommodation to be able to absorb girls from all parts of the Federation of Nigeria, sufficient enough to be able to turn out for this country enough young women who will play an important role in the affairs of their own country.

Also, I would like the Minister, considering what we have been saying here about the Emergency Training Centre, to make sure that Queen's College should have adequate provision from the beginning now for more advanced science courses for girls. There is no need trying to put dormitories and no proper laboratories. I would like provision to be made now for adequate laboratory equipment to enable the girls to be able to do post-secondary courses in science so that they can compete in Ibadan University or elsewhere. The Minister should consider that now to enable that to be done. There is no use saying in the future there is no place where the girls can go and do their Higher School work in science and their G.C.E. at Advanced Level. The time has come now when our girls must take as much part in the affairs of this country as our boys. As far as this is concerned, Sir, I would like the Minister to give a reply to that.

Now, about the Trade Centre; I do not want to repeat what has been said about the Technical Institute. Here a large sum of money has been voted. Is the Minister doing something to make sure that this Technical Institute is not a white elephant, more money being sunk into it and very little being produced for this country? It was very severely criticised by the International Bank. We want to know really whether there has been a change of heart, otherwise there is no need wasting so much money for them to be producing about 15 people a year in this institution.

The next point which I want to raise, Sir, is about housing of the Legislature. I want to speak particularly on the Parliament Building and the housing of the Speaker and President of the Senate. Now, Sir, for the Parliament Building I think the Prime Minister has said that there will be a Committee to deal with this on which the Speaker will be Chairman, but whatever the Committee may do, I would like to say, Sir, that in putting up a building that will cost us a total sum of £1,300,000 for which £300,000 is now being provided, it should be important to consider building for the future, not building one place and then when we have a revision of the Constitution we have to put up another building. This House was designed to take a small number and then the Constitution changed and we find it difficult to accommodate everybody.

Now, there is a revision making for 320 Members, that is 100,000 people to one seat. The time may come, in less than ten years perhaps, when the Constituency representation may be only about 50,000 people to one seat. That must not be forgotten. The time may come when the number of Members may increase or even double, and therefore in building now there must be foresight. In deciding anything now, we must build in such a way that we do not have a House that will not accommodate at least 600 people. Anything less than 600 people will not do for us. Therefore, I say that whatever is being spent, let us spend it in such a way that at least in the foreseeable future we should have a place that will be fairly permanent.

And of course, Sir, as I have said before, the capital Lagos is a place with plenty of workers. There is beauty in having a water front. It makes a difference with the vege-

tation around it. When this house is being built, let us take into consideration the use of the water which we have and also preparing the grounds to be really beautiful. If suggestions are called for when the Committee is set up I think a lot may be done. I would also like whoever may be in that Committee to take into consideration buildings and ideas from other countries, particularly countries of the Commonwealth. I think we will have good help from the Commonwealth in suggesting ideas, not forgetting our own traditions and our own designs and ideas which should be incorporated in the buildings.

Now, Sir, I come to the housing of the Speaker and the President of the Senate. Now we have a Deputy Speaker, Sir, do the Government not want him to be housed? If you have a Speaker and a Deputy Speaker, I do not think it would be a good thing for the Deputy Speaker of the House to be squeezed in with three or four other people. He will have to deputise for the Speaker occasionally, and the Speaker may want to get in touch with him. Surely he must have somewhere to lay his head. I would like a provision to be made, and there may be a time when we have here also a Chief Whip who is usually in the House of Commons a Minister or of Ministerial status. Surely there must be provision for such a person. I do not see anything here for that provision and considering that 1960 is getting nearer, all these things should be considered now. If I am wrong I will be corrected.

Therefore, Sir, these things should be taken into consideration.

Now, Sir, with regard to the Central Bank. I do not know whether that comes into this discussion, Mr Chairman?

The Chairman : Oh yes, I think so.

Mr Wachuku : Sir, this is under Sub-head 18. The State Central Bank building. I do not like it. I am not an architect but I do appreciate certain things. I do not like the building that is shown. Now, if this is going to be the Central Bank building, I think we need more designs to be presented to us. There is a drawing shown outside which is supposed to be the proposed State Bank building. We would like something really much different, something very special. Land is very scarce these days, and we do not want to build something that is not really worth-

while, because we are not only building for ourselves, but we are building for the future, and we do not want to build anything that will be unworthy of us, but also wasting space, and this building does seem to me to be guilty of that.

We must have something that will be really attractive, something beautiful, something to look at and be proud of, something that you will appreciate, and other people will appreciate. But, Mr Chairman, that thing looks so drab, and it is not right at all, and I think the Prime Minister should have some more designs from which to make a selection. I am not an architect. . . .

The Prime Minister : What about the time factor?

Mr Wachuku : I appreciate that, but that should have been done before now, particularly from the Public Works Department, and. . . .

The Minister of Finance : Half a loaf!

Mr Wachuku : It is not a question of half a loaf of bread or cake, it is building for the future.

The Minister of Finance : Where do you want the Bank to be built?

Mr Wachuku : In the centre of the square. Sir, people will come here and will see our buildings. We want them to see this Central Bank building and be able to say that the people who designed it knew what they were doing. We must remember, we are building for the future, for posterity.

Now, Sir, there is an item under building for two small air-conditioning units. And these cost the large sum of £25,000 (*Interruption : Cries of sit down*).

Mr Wachuku : No, I will go on. For whom were these units purchased: we would like some information about this item, Sir.

The Minister of Finance : Are you going to speak on every item?

Mr Wachuku : No, I am not; I realise that there is much to be done, and I am trying to get it all done so that I need not speak again. Now, Sir, I wish to speak about senior staff housing.

I would like an explanation about what arrangements have been made to enable us to understand what the Government think about

this particular matter. Members may not think it important now, but I think in the near future it—well, we are all now players in these various acts and posterity will judge us from what we have done; therefore I want, if I may, to ask Government to explain all these matters, and then we may be satisfied or dissatisfied.

Sitting suspended : 4.40 p.m.

Sitting resumed : 4.50 p.m.

Mr E. C. Akwiwu (Orlu) : Mr Chairman, Sir, we notice under sub-head 29 something about building of junior staff quarters, Eastern Region, for the police. Sir, we are very happy to note that a lot of building work is going on. A number of new buildings of good standard and quality for policemen have been put up in various places also. But I wish to bring to the notice of the Government, Sir, the deplorable state of the police quarters at Orlu and Okigwi stations.

Sir, these houses have outlived their usefulness, and if anything, they are not only harbouring policemen, but also what I do not know whether to describe as police rats.

An hon. Member : Police what?

Mr Akwiwu : Police rats. They are so big, Sir, that I think if the policemen are to do their work and also exercise healthy influence over the neighbourhood, the buildings, Sir, ought to be replaced. We are not asking for very expensive buildings. We are not asking for two-storey and three-storey buildings—the type you have in Lagos and the type you are beginning to have in Port Harcourt—but we could do, Sir, with simple, nice concrete buildings.

Then, Sir, I will mention briefly my personal comments and views on the plan of the Central Bank now in the hall of the House. I would humbly say straightaway, Sir, that that plan is not very impressive. A national building like that ought to portray the character of the people. I do not think our people are the sort of people that build houses with glass. To build a National Bank, Sir, one of the showcases of the country with glass and nothing else, is very tragic.

If the Bank of England had been built with glass; if St. Paul's Cathedral had been built with glass; if Westminster Abbey had been built with glass. (*An hon. Member : Glass or*

glasses ?) Glass or glasses, it is the same thing . . . they could not have survived the raids of the last war. Again, we have neighbouring countries that suffer from earthquakes from time to time. We are also having the oil exploration going on. Sir, I think that we ought to think in terms of more concrete buildings. A building can be attractive, a building can be solid, a building can be all you want it to be, without being so much a piece of glass case.

Some people might say, Sir, that money may not be available for all that, but it is my humble submission that the building should be re-examined. We want less glass work in it and I think the experts that are responsible for designing it will be able to produce something equally impressive but depicting a firmer character and confidence.

Mr C. O. Komolafe (Ilesha) : Mr Chairman, Sir, just one note with regard to Head 15, Police. It is gratifying to note that a sum of £74,000 is put forward in the Estimates for building junior staff quarters for Police in the Western Region. One particular note I want to make is in regard to the police quarters at Ilesha. For the past ten years, police had been posted to Ilesha, especially during the gold rush of the 1940's and ever since no appreciable improvement had been made to quarters of police in that place. The Charge Office, the office of the A.S.P., let alone the buildings of the constables, I mean the places where the constables live, leave much to be desired.

I feel that when this money is going to be spent, the Authorities should note that this important centre, the important area in the Western Region, adequate provision should be made to improve the quarters of the police there—I think they are about sixty strong in that area, because it is the small headquarters for Ife, Oshogbo and all the areas around that part—and it is but proper to make the place worth seeing or habitable for human beings. These people do a lot of work; they go round there and they are gentlemen, and now that we are trying to attract educated youngmen to the Police Force, I feel that it should not be only in salaries, but also in the places where these policemen are to live.

If anybody, any Federal Minister is passing that area, let him stop and see the police quarters in Ilesha. It is nothing but ramshackle buildings made of pieces of mud and nothing

else. It is not attractive at all. So what I am saying is that when this money is going to be spent, Ilesha should be taken into consideration.

The Chairman : Chief Onyia put his name down for an Amendment but has not moved.

Chief J. I. G. Onyia (Asaba) : Mr Chairman, when I filed my Motion there was no statement at all made in this House in respect of this Parliament Building that is going to be put up. But since then, Sir, we have heard something about it. I was doubting what was going to happen with the present Building, and where the next building was going to be sited. I felt that if we were going to have a new building, and we have the same short-sightedness which existed in the time of putting up this building, it was better that this House thought again.

I remember in 1950, when the Government was contemplating on building this House, and it was debated at Enugu in March 1950, there were people who were opposed to this building being set up, and it was set up only to house the people that were imagined should come to this House. We know Nigeria is growing ; the last Constitutional Conference has agreed on 320 Members coming to the House. Perhaps in the course of a few years' time we may need accommodation for 500 Members, and perhaps, Sir, the Parliament Building envisaged here is intended only to house the 320 Members.

We do not know whether in the course of 10 years, as hon. Jaja Wachuku has put it, we would have to house 500 Members. What I wish to say and emphasise is that consideration should be given not only to accommodating 320 people but to make it possible to accommodate more than that with a view that there may be another constitutional change. Further, if we do not take that into consideration, it may be that we may have to lose the site which we contemplate to acquire now and in the long run we may need more accommodation. We should not continue to lose sites. If there was not short-sightedness we may not have been confronted now with losing this present site which is very good. That was my reason for putting up that amendment.

Another one was about building Police quarters at Asaba. I indicated in this House about three years ago the necessity to extend Police quarters at Asaba, and ever since

nothing had been done though a site had been acquired for that purpose. I remember having said that I interviewed the Inspector-General of Police over the question of this land as regards the question of extending the Police quarters because some Police Constables to-day, including the Inspector of Police, live outside the Government quarters ; they live in the town and that does not make a very good picture.

Asaba is also a growing place. The Inspector-General of Police knows about all the trouble there. All the Legislators from the East pass through Asaba and some Legislators from the Cameroons and some travelling from the North pass through Asaba. They need some security. I remember one Legislator was robbed at the ferry there—that was Rev. Bens—and it created a very wrong impression of the town. We do know the indigenous are very honest inhabitants. That can be proved by the fact that Asaba is one of the towns having the largest population of pensioners. The trouble at Asaba is not due to the people but to many travellers by water and land making Asaba a rendezvous for criminals. Therefore travellers need protection, not so much the people of Asaba as the protection of the travellers for the good name of the town.

Fortunately when the Governor-General visited Asaba last September, this matter was brought before him and he has taken it up and the Police have promised to see that some buildings are set up and that the Police quarters are extended. I am asking that this may not again fizzle out as was the case in the past. I feel that this must be done now.

And the last but not the least is in respect of the need to have some shelter or a sort of rest-house at the ferry approach at Asaba because there are many travellers who are obliged to stay overnight at the ferry approach. Some travellers land there late in the night. Sometimes they find it very difficult to look for quarters and some of them too do not like to leave their vehicles along the waterside and seek somewhere else to stay because they have a lot of things to fear, and it is worthwhile that there should be a sort of shelter at least where people who travel could lay their heads.

The Minister of Finance (Chief the hon. F. S. Okotie-Eboh): Mr Chairman, Sir, I desire to reply to only one point and I am sure my Friends who are concerned with this point are becoming a little bit fidgety.

Sir, I very much appreciate the views expressed by my hon. Friends who belong to the legal profession in criticising the plan of the proposed Central Bank. For the first time I began to appreciate that law is quite a different thing and poles apart from architecture, and so when lawyers criticise such a fine design of building, one can appreciate that they are quite ignorant or they are unable to appreciate the finesse in a beautiful architectural finish as was put in there.

Sir, I want to say straight away that the design is original and not a carbon copy and it is done by no less a reputable Consulting Architect than the famous Paton Company of Architects who have designed and who have reputable international ideas about designing buildings of this kind. For your information, they designed the famous Ambassador Hotel in Accra, the Kumasi Hotel and the proposed Legislature in Accra. I am sure that those of you who have been to Ghana will agree that these are very wonderful buildings indeed, and I am sure I speak for many hon. Members here who have praised this wonderful architectural finish.

Well, I do not know that people do not like glass buildings; all I do know is that those who stay in glass houses should not throw stones. I think I am sure that all the Members here are quite happy about the design and all I can ask my hon. Friends to do is to wait and watch the building grow. When it is finished I am sure the hon. Akwivu and hon. Jaja Wachuku will be the first people to go there and collect their salaries.

Chief T. T. Solaru (Ijebu East): Mr Chairman, Sir, there is a conspiracy on the Ministerial Bench to-day to keep people on this Side quiet. The Minister of Finance all the day has been pointing an accusing finger this way. But if he will only listen to what I am going to say, it is very short.

You have been talking about buildings all day and a Member has said you told us very little about our Parliament buildings, the new one. There is one question I would like to ask. Here I find the sum of £1,300,000 for which provision is made next financial year for

£300,000. And we read in the Papers that £300,000 was going to be utilised in making temporary measures to accommodate Parliament before the other building is ready. Is it true that we are going to spend £300,000 making temporary accommodation ready before we have a permanent one? If it is, please say so.

The Minister of Lagos Affairs, Mines and Power (Alhaji the hon. Muhammadu Ribadu): It is; what is wrong with that?

Chief Solaru: Well, Mr Chairman, Sir, I am glad that I asked the question. These are the people who are supposed to take care of the finances of the nation. The Minister asks: "what does it matter if we fritter away £300,000 without telling anybody about it?" Sir, if they intend to spend £300,000 for a temporary measure, at least they can lead us into that secret and tell us what they want to do and why it is necessary to do it. That is how they do things by the back door.

Sir, I do not think it is necessary to spend £300,000 for temporary expediency until we know what we are going to do. I do not think this is quite right.

Mr Jaja Wachuku (Aba): What is their definition of *temporary*?

Chief Solaru: We do not know, Sir. They do not tell us anything. The thing is put down here, and anybody would think that £1,300,000 is going to be the cost of the new Parliament Buildings. That is the intention here. That is what it is supposed to be. But probably they have some secret plot when they say £300,000 for temporary buildings.

They could have put it under a different Head—the permanent one £1 million and the other one £300,000. Therefore Mr Chairman I am bringing it to the notice of the Committee that if this is the way things are done by the back door we do not approve of it and we want an explanation from the Minister.

Mr E. C. Ealey (Special Member): Mr Chairman, Sir, I should like to say a very few words on sub-head 6, item 3, the expansion of the Trade Centre and the Technical Institute. This estimate of £143,740 for next year fore-shadows a very bold expansion of our technical training, and the hon. Minister of Education is to be congratulated. (*Hear hear.*)

There is no greater need in Nigeria to-day than for technical education, and here private industry and Government will co-operate fully to help to train Nigerians to become technicians. With that successful co-operation the Trade Centre and the Technical Institute will not be white elephants. On that we are determined.

Now, Sir, this Head is for buildings, but, with your permission, I should like to say that buildings will be useless without instructors. Technical training will not leap fully into its stride until we have hundreds of Nigerian instructors; but until that happy day arrives we shall need expatriate instructors and we shall need them urgently. They must be dedicated men, with a mission to serve Nigeria, but even dedicated men need adequate remuneration.

The whole world is asking for these instructors and we shall have to pay for them if we want them. Our present scales, I fear, are too low to attract new comers. By all means let us invest this money in buildings and other facilities for technical education, but let us also be prepared to pay and to pay well for the instructors to train our Nigerian technicians.

Mr Chairman, Sir, I support. (*Applause.*)

The Prime Minister : Mr Chairman, Sir, on this question of Parliament Buildings, I really find it difficult to understand from what estimates my hon. Friend, Chief Solaru, got this idea of a temporary building costing £300,000. These figures, Sir, are not in the Estimates which are before Members of the House.

Sir, I informed the House—the Minister of Finance, I think, also did the same—that the Government is proposing to set up a Committee of the House under your chairmanship, Mr Chairman, to go into the question of the new Parliament Buildings.

The £1.3 million in the Estimates, Sir, nobody can say whether the new Parliament will cost exactly £1.3 million. This committee which we will set up, we hope, will examine the detailed accommodation required and the kind of buildings which will be required. The cost may be £1.3 million; it may be more than £1.3 million, or it may be less than £1.3 million.

Therefore, Sir, any question of the Government hiding any figures from the Members or from the Committee, I think is out of place. It is this committee, Sir, which is going to examine all these details and make recommendations. And so no one can tell how much the new Parliament Buildings will cost until after we have all the details before us. (*Hear, hear.*)

Chief N. G. Yellowe (Degema): Mr Chairman, Sir, I will speak in a lighter vein this afternoon. I am not going to speak about Ikukri, but I only want to make a very strong appeal to the Minister of Works and that appeal is in connection with the Police quarters at Degema.

Now, Sir, the importance of Degema cannot be over-emphasized, I mean the Headquarters of the Division; and nobody who goes there to-day can believe that Degema as it is now has been there for many, many years before some of these decorated cities were founded. I am appealing to the Minister to consider the Police Detachment quarters at Degema in the Estimates for this year.

There is another suggestion I want to make. The Minister of Works is also responsible for Surveys. Now, Sir, I want to suggest to him to make a comprehensive map containing the rural areas of Degema Division or of the whole country for that matter; this is because, as the Minister of Finance said in his Budget Speech, the Government caters for all the ordinary citizens of the Federation. The people in the rural areas are included in the term—"ordinary citizens".

Sir, some of these rural areas are becoming important due to the incidence of oil discovery so that I would suggest that we have a map of these places with a view to finding out how to link them up with the principal centres of the Federation.

For instance, Bonny has the coconut plantation there and oil has been found in Bonny. What are we going to do? What is the Minister thinking about how to connect Bonny with a place like Port Harcourt and so on?

But, Sir, under sub-head 12, item 5, we have "Stores, Port Harcourt, Security Measures £13,000". Mr Chairman, Sir, one of the reasons why we want security, one of the

troubles about these stores in the large centres, is that for want of space the stores are so compact that it is not easy to keep them safe.

If you look across Port Harcourt, right over the creek, you have an expanse of land, and beyond that expanse of land you have a very wide river about four or five times wider than Port Harcourt creek. Why does the Government not try to link such places with Port Harcourt so that Government can use that big river?

Apart from relieving the congestion at Port Harcourt, the river will facilitate quick turning round of ships. To-day we are thinking of improving Port Harcourt harbour; if they have that river there, the Bakana River, Government would find much greater facilities than it had now in Port Harcourt. So I am suggesting that the Minister should try to find out, let the Minister travel as widely as possible all over the Federation, and find out how to link some of these rural areas, find out what possibilities there are in these places, so that the Government may make use of them.

M: Chairman, I thank you.

M. Usman Angulu Ahmed (Kwarra): Mr Chairman, Sir, I just want to draw the attention of the Minister of Works to the Police Charge Office at Lokoja. That office is out of date, Sir, and, therefore, I will draw the attention of the Minister of Works to it to see that a better one is built there.

The Minister of Works and Surveys 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 Item (1) of sub-head 6 be reduced by £100 put accordingly and negatived.

Original Question put and agreed to.

Resolved, That the expenditure from the Development Fund of £7,845,360 for the purposes set out in the draft Estimates of Capital Expenditure, 1958-59, under Head 603—Public Works Extraordinary, be approved.

HEAD 604—CAPITAL: POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS

The Minister of Finance (Chief the hon. F. S. Okotie-Eboh): Mr Chairman, Sir, I beg to move that the expenditure from the Development Fund of £5,776,470 for purposes set out

in the Draft Estimates of Capital Expenditure 1958-59 under Head 604, Capital, Posts and Telegraphs, be approved.

Question proposed.

Chief J. I. G. Onyia (Asaba): Mr Chairman, Sir, my amendment is on sub-head 1, Telephone Exchange: Equipment. I complained sometime ago about bad telephone exchange equipment in Asaba Post Office, and that also accounts for, as it was said, sometimes for bad reception. I hope that when these Estimates are passed, a better exchange will be allowed to Asaba Post Office. That is the only point I want to make.

Amendment proposed, That sub-head 1 be reduced by £10.

Question, That sub-head 1 be reduced by £10, put and negatived.

Mr E. C. Akwivu (Orlu): Mr Chairman, Sir, I will be very brief. First of all, Sir, we in Orlu Division have protested very vehemently at the poor postal facilities in Orlu Station. The post office building is really very much below the dignity of the Division. Sir. Everything considered, we feel that both from the volume of business transacted and the importance of the Division, this post office has outlived its usefulness and we are really looking forward to a much better building with far better postal facilities.

Secondly, Sir, the postal facilities at Port Harcourt are very much below the standard. I quite appreciate that in the White Paper it was said that some building work would be done in Port Harcourt, but one thing I would like to draw the attention of the Government to is that already Port Harcourt needs about three or four more post offices. The original post office, even if rebuilt, will still not be sufficient to meet the needs of the town. Like every other place in this country, it is a growing city, and the money invested in rebuilding the new one, if no other building is put up, would really not meet up the needs, especially when people have to wait at the post office after coming from a radius of about three or four miles to the post office, and remain there for about three or four hours to get served.

Sir, I do hope that the Government in its expenditure on this Head would also look closely into the question of doing what one might describe a re-distribution of postal

facilities in order to meet up the needs of the various business and commercial centres in the town.

Finally, Sir, the telephone service at Port Harcourt, and particularly between Lagos and Port Harcourt, is most unsatisfactory. We have been here for about four weeks, and in about ten days, or two weeks, out of these four weeks, it has not been possible to get Port Harcourt on the phone and invariably while we could hear the person speaking from Port Harcourt he could not hear the person speaking from here. That makes us wonder where all the V.H.F.'s go. If any place deserves services, or the advantages of V.H.F. Service, certainly Port Harcourt is one. Remember, it is your oil port, and I am quite sure that everyone would agree that, taking into consideration the future of the town and the more important role it is going to assume, a most efficient telephone service is a necessity.

I believe that if Port Harcourt is included it will be very very useful.

Amendment proposed to reduce sub-head 18 by £10.

Mr F. U. Mbakogu (Awka): Mr Chairman, thank you for this opportunity to express the appreciation of my people to the Minister of Communications and Aviation for the very wise and fine consideration he has given them on the problem of Aguata Post Office. I don't think that my people would like it, in fact I feel they might vote "no confidence" in me if I were to leave the House without their hearing that I expressed their thanks to the Minister. (*Hear, hear*).

Well, the Members are aware of the struggle that ensued as a result of the misunderstanding that arose over the post office controversy, and Members will be interested to hear that our problem has been solved; and I hope to make use of this opportunity also to ask the Minister now that he has agreed to come to our aid, that he should help us to the full. Well we have not just been given a post office straight away, but we are building it with our own money. Now, if we had been allowed to build that with our own money, it might have been built in 1955, but our hands were tied and now that we are liberated we shall not waste an inch of energy to see that it is done as quickly as possible. If the

Minister will help us to equip this post office after it is built with the same speed as we intend to build it, in that way the sufferings of people who have to travel forty-seven miles to register letters and to deal with Money Orders, telephones, and the rest of it, will be greatly mitigated.

Now, another thing I would like the Minister to think of is this question of rounding the Cape of Good Hope. I would not call it good hope this time, it can be called bad hope. Now people have to travel from certain areas in the district from Uga, Achina, and Umuchu to collect their letters or post letters or transact other business. Well, Aro-Ndizuogu is very near to our people but it is just at their back. I am asking the Minister of Communications to allow Uga, Achina and Umuchu Postal Agencies to carry their activities to Awka, instead of Aro-Ndizuogu. Awka is still on the direct route, even though Ndizuogu is nearer than Awka. It will take a longer time for letters to travel to and from Ndizuogu.

For example, I received a telegram from Port Harcourt informing me that a telegram sent from Port Harcourt to Uga was received after seven days. If this had come through Awka the people could have received it either on that same day or on the second day, so that I am pointing out that the Minister should make these postal agencies carry their activities to Awka as before. No doubt the Minister who gave the ruling was trying to mitigate the sufferings of the people, because Ndizuogu is nearer than Awka, but instead, events have shown that the sufferings of the people have mounted as a result of these arrangements.

I am therefore asking the Minister to think back on this decision and revert to the old arrangement of Awka. I would like the Minister to do this to please the people of Aguata. He has gone halfway, and I hope he will soon visit that place to speak to the people because as things stand now, Sir, he is the darling of the people. (*Hear, hear*.)

M. Usman Angulu Ahmed (Kwara): Mr Chairman, I rise, not to support the Amendment, but to support the expenditure on this Head. However, I shall take this opportunity to draw the attention of the Minister of Communications and Aviation to the request of my Constituency, which I have been voicing out in this Chamber for the past four years. This

request is that the people of Koton Karife, which forms sixty per cent of Kwara Division, want conversion of the existing Postal Agencies into full Post Offices, but up till now, Sir, the Minister has never done anything about it. We want the Minister to provide powered canoes for running or carrying mail between Koton Karife and Lokoja. This too is a necessity because if one considers the volume of postal packets received in Koton Karife, it is such that bicycles cannot cope with the business.

Another important request again, Sir, is a telephone trunk or telecommunication to connect Koton Karife with Lokoja, the Provincial Headquarters. The reason why this telephone trunk is necessary for Koton Karife is that nature has situated it between the two great Rivers, that is the Niger and the Benue. As you all know there is no motor road from Lokoja to Koton Karife and we have got no powered canoes. These two important rivers make the communication between these two brotherly towns difficult. It used to take a pedal canoe eleven hours to cover a journey of twenty-five miles between Lokoja and Koton Karife in order to carry out official routine or commercial consultations, which would have taken a matter of some minutes if it were done by telecommunication.

Mr Chairman, Sir, I am therefore appealing very strongly through the Chair to our dynamic and wise Minister of Communications and Aviation to consider these requests very sympathetically and remedy the situation very urgently.

With these few remarks I beg to support.

M. Zubairu Bamu (Nasarawa): Mr Chairman, Sir, it is now almost three consecutive years I have been asking the Minister of Communications and Aviation to build a Post Office in Keffi. Sir, my constituency is in a remote corner of Benue Province and has gained nothing from this Federal Government such as Trunk A roads, aerodromes, Nigeria Police and so on.

Mr Chairman, Sir, Keffi is now progressing rapidly, it has a Regional Government College, a Teachers Training College, hospitals and dispensaries. Most of the students in the Colleges come from Plateau, Ilorin, Kabba and the Southern part of Benue Province. It is a pity to hear that such a town has no Post

Office. Sir, post offices and telecommunications to connect Kabba and Niger Provinces are eagerly required.

Mr Chairman, Sir, the nearest Post Office is at Gudi, which is thirteen miles distance. It would be a surprising thing to hear that even a divisional post office, which was built in 1954, has no telephone. If the D.O. wants to send a priority telegram, he has to travel for one mile to the N.A. office where a telephone connects Gudi.

Through you, Mr Chairman, I am asking the hon. Minister of Communications and Aviation to build a first-class post office in Keffi.

Mr S. W. Ubani-Ukoma (Aba): I haven't got many things to say, Mr Chairman, but when we talk about post offices I would like us to think about one at Aba. Aba post office is so congested that we require two more. I would like to extend an invitation to the hon. Minister of Communications and Aviation to come here to Aba and see for himself. It is difficult for us to buy stamps from Aba post office. The country is expanding and growing and we want the Minister to give us everything we require. If the Ministry is not disposed to providing a second post office and a third post office, it should think of extending the hours of service so that the members of the staff would remain at least up till twelve o'clock at night, because it is very difficult for a gentleman to go to the post office.

If he wants to buy stamps in the post office, he must dress roughly owing to the fact that he might have to fight his way through the crowds. (*Laughter*). This is far from funny. I think that the attention of the Minister should be drawn to see what to do so that we are able to get a post office wide enough to accommodate all the Aba people's postal transactions. (*Laughter*).

I want the Minister and the House to be more serious about this. When we look at this Head we find that there is a great amount of money being expended, but there is nothing being done for Aba. There are so many millions of pounds provided for this programme yet nothing is provided for Aba. That is why I am asking the Minister... (*Interruption*). I don't want the Minister to cast any sarcastic remarks. I am inviting him and other Ministers to come to Aba and see how the

land is growing; there are many strangers coming into the land, we do not invite them but they continue to come.

One other thing I want to say is that the Ministry should cultivate the habit of continuity of policy. It is no use one Minister saying one thing and then his successor doing another thing. That does not savour that we have a good Government; there must be continuity of policy.

These post office facilities I am speaking of also remind me of the telephone exchange and the telephone communications that are required by many people in Aba. We have many industrial projects and undertakings in Aba, but many of the people are denied the use of telecommunications. I want the Minister to supply everything they need so that they may be able to expand more usefully and more rapidly. It is no use getting more money from these excise duties without giving them all the things they require. That is why I criticise the Ministers not to be going abroad but to travel within Nigeria and see what is happening.

I hope that all the Ministers will take note that we want them to come to Aba, everyone of them.

Mr L. A. Ning (Wum): Mr Chairman, I am very glad to speak to the Committee on the problem of postal facilities in Wum. It is a pity, Sir, that Wum Headquarters are very badly served by this Department. At one time it was arranged that the Native Authorities were responsible for carrying mails from Bamenda general post office to the divisional headquarters. I think that was done by this Government and that failed because the Native Authorities themselves have a lot of business and they are short of vehicles. Afterwards, it was arranged that mails should be carried by prison lorries. Just think of that, mails, confidential letters, telegrams and parcels have to be put in the lorry with criminals who would continue to commit crimes because they are already criminals and they do not mind how many years they have to continue to be there. And that actually took place.

Sir, you will be surprised that in the Wum divisional headquarters, you have to get a slip for a parcel and somebody, 18 miles away from the divisional headquarters, will have to sign

this slip and then the slip will have to be taken to Bamenda and after one week the parcel is brought to Wum postal agency and then the man has to come again to claim the parcel. I think this is deplorable; it is not encouraging to our divisions.

It was said last year, Sir, that the Government was making arrangements for a *land rover* to carry mails between Nkambe and Wum and Bamenda General Post Offices. But from the reply to a question asked in that regard it seems that nothing is being done about it. Government has now made arrangements with one Cameroons Co-operative Transport Union to be carrying mails from Victoria to Bamenda, and I would wish the Minister to make this extend to Wum and Nkambe in order to minimise their difficulties.

The Minister of Communications and Aviation (Chief the hon. S. L. Akintola): Sir, the hon. Member who has just spoken mentioned the need of Wum and other places in the Cameroons. He has made a very important point. (*An hon. Member: Do you know Wum?*) I have not done advanced geography yet. He has made an important point, but I do not want to repeat myself because there is a Motion coming forward on mail services in the Southern Cameroons. My reply to that Motion will deal exhaustively with the points raised by the hon. Member. I hope he will be patient and bear with me until that Motion comes forward.

In any event we are doing all we can in order that we may expedite the moving of mails in the Southern Cameroons.

The hon. Ubani-Ukoma spoke at length about congestion at the Aba post office. I must confess that the Department is fully aware of this problem of congestion. The post office at Aba was built not very long ago, but the community in Aba is growing so rapidly that we feel that there is a need for improvement. What is undertaken now is the building of a new sorting office in Aba so as to relieve the congestion in the main post office. We feel that that will meet the need for the next few years at least.

The hon. Member also mentioned the telephone exchange. We have spent not less than £50,000 on an automatic telephone exchange for Aba. Within the next few

months this exchange will come into operation and I feel that all the complaints of the hon. Member will be met when the new automatic exchange is open. (*An hon. Member: What of the V.H.F.?*) The establishment of a V.H.F. station is a means to an end. The aim is to speed up telephone conversations between any two given stations and we feel we have made arrangements whereby the needs of Aba will be satisfied.

The hon. Member also mentioned the question of accommodation in the post office. As I said before, the provision of a new sorting office will relieve congestion and I feel that what is left will be commodious enough for those who come to transact legitimate business in the post office. We cannot promise to accommodate all the inhabitants of Aba or Oji River, but we can provide accommodation roomy enough for the legitimate business intended to be transacted in the post office.

The Member also mentioned that Ministers instead of globe-trotting should visit Aba. I think this is very good advice, but recent events do not encourage some of us to go to Aba.

Mr T. O. S. Benson (Lagos West): I would like to suggest, Sir, that in the new general post office an apartment should be set aside for night letter services and, before that is completed, similar provision should be made in the post office here or in the one that is at Catholic Mission Street for a small place where one can go and send night letter telegrams, as is being done in London and elsewhere.

Lagos is the Federal capital and I feel that these facilities should start now.

Another point I would like to make, Sir, is that the Minister of Communications and Aviation should make it a point of duty to install a telephone in each of the Members' flats in Ikoyi, so that if Members would like to telephone they would not have to leave their flats and go to the corridor at midnight, or even to go downstairs as is often the case.

The last point I would like to make, Sir, is that Ikorodu here is in the Colony Area. We have only one man there who can speak to Lagos or anywhere else in the country by

telephone. I appeal to the Minister of Communications to see that telephones are provided for anybody who would like to install them in his apartment.

M. Haruna Wakilin Daji (Daura): Mr Chairman, Sir, although much has been said about this Head, I feel that I must say one or two words. The first thing I would like to remind the Minister responsible for this Head is that we would not like him to concentrate his services only on large cities and townships. We want him to extend his services to the headquarters of the rural areas.

My second point is that I would like to remind the Minister that Daura is in great need of post office and telephone facilities. It is the Administrative Headquarters of the Daura Emirate and I am therefore appealing to the Minister to include this ancient town in the present project.

The Minister of Finance (*Chief the hon. F. S. Okotie-Eboh*) rose in his place and claimed to move, *That the Question be now put.*

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

Question, That sub-head 18 be reduced by £10 put and negatived.

Alhaji Aliyu Bissala Ma'ajin Abuja (Abuja): Mr Chairman, Sir, I rise to move that this Head be reduced by £10. Sir, as one of my national duties I find it necessary to present my views and make them clear. I will start by thanking the Minister of Communications and Aviation for the building of Abuja Post Office. But even then, Sir, our needs are not all answered. I complained that the equipments at this post office are not good. We want to see that this post office is equipped with up to date equipments and is brought up to the standard of a first-class post office. But, Sir, up till now, nothing has been done. I appreciate the difficulties of the Minister, but we would like these faults corrected, and we want another Post Office at Dapoi in addition.

Amendment proposed, to reduce the Head by £10.

The Chairman: And it being six o'clock the sitting is suspended until 9 o'clock.

Sitting suspended: 6 p.m.

Sitting resumed : 9 p.m.

The Chairman : We are on Head 604, Amendment proposed to reduce the Head by £10.

Mr G. O. D. Eneh (Udi) : Mr Chairman, Sir, last Tuesday, the Minister of Communications and Aviation promised that the Udi post office would be started before the end of this financial year. Yesterday, Sir, the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister also gave the same assurance. I want to know how far that Ministry has gone with the starting of the post office at Udi, because to-day we have only about two weeks to go before the year ends.

Again, Sir, I have made a case for the Udi post office in that the unit turnover of that post office has risen progressively from 40,000 in 1952 to 60,000 in the present year. I take it that the assurance given to me by the Minister and his Parliamentary Secretary is the assurance of the Government which must be fulfilled, and that is that that post office will be started within this financial year ?

Again, Sir, I want to speak about Oji post office, the unit turnover of which is already in the region of 30,000. We were led to understand the Government would convert postal agencies, the turnover of which is in the neighbourhood of 18,000 units, into departmental post offices. The Oji post office has qualified for this conversion. I am asking the Minister to convert the Oji post office into a departmental post office.

Finally, Sir, I would like to thank the Minister for the Aghani-Agban post office which was recently opened by the Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Communications and Aviation. My people are very grateful for the conversion of the post office, but unfortunately, telegrams are sent by telephone.

The Minister of Communications and Aviation (Chief, the hon. S. L. Akintola) :
What is wrong with that ?

Mr Eneh : It is wrong to send telegrams by means of telephone.

The Minister of Communications and Aviation : Why ?

Mr Eneh : There is a special instrument which is used for the transmission of telegrams and that instrument is required at the Aghani-Agban post office.

With these few remarks, Sir, I beg to support.

Mr J. A. G. Ohiani (Igbirra) : Mr Chairman, Sir, I only want to say a few words to the Minister. I do not want to be ungrateful to the Minister, but I would like him to know that at present there is a telephone service in Okene, and not very many people or exchange centres in the country know of it. I was trying to contact Okene a short time ago, and I was told by the Exchange Centre that Okene has no telephone. I would be grateful if the Minister could inform all Exchange Centres of this.

Mr Chairman, Sir, I would like the Minister to know that from Okene to Lagos is only about 350 miles, and up to this time letters take up to seven days to get to Lagos. That is, letters take one day to travel 50 miles. I do not know what is the cause of this, but I hope the Minister will look into it. It may be, and we do know, that staffs are over-burdened, but that does not mean that a letter should take one day to travel 50 miles. Mail lorries travel twice a day to Okene, at times, carrying letters, and yet it takes one day to travel 50 miles. I hope the Minister will take note of this.

The Minister has also promised that by the middle of this year, private trunk calls will be ready, and I hope he will not delay this, and will provide all the necessary equipment.

My people have asked me to reserve any congratulations or thanks due to the Minister until he has satisfied their needs.

Mr N. N. Onugu (Nsukka) : Mr Chairman, Sir, I will be very brief. In doing so, I should like to know the cause for the delay of opening the V.H.F. telephone service at Nsukka. The building and the power are there, and the equipment provided, but still no move has been made. I wrote the Permanent Secretary last August on this subject, and the answer was as usual, that is, "As soon as possible." My question on the same matter received no attention. I should, therefore, like to ask the Minister to make a statement letting me know why the telephone has not been installed and started to operate.

Secondly, I should like to know the reason why the daily mail service in Nsukka Division which I have spoken of before has not been restored.

Mr Chairman, I beg to support.

Mr Sanni O. B. Okin (North Ilorin): Mr Chairman, I have only a few words to say and that is on sub-head 20, which is down as "Other Buildings". The words "Other Buildings" are vague so that they leave no room for criticism. I should like to know, as Mr Minister has authority for all the types of buildings he wants, if he would explain what "Other Buildings" means. Whether they are lunatic asylums, P. and T. buildings, hospitals or police stations and so on. You will see a very nice sum of money has been voted for these "Other Buildings" and I believe hon. Members would like to know the details of "Other Buildings". So I shall be very pleased if the Minister can stand up now and explain to the House.

Mr F. T. Odum (Ahoada): Mr Chairman, Sir, I just want to bring the attention of the Minister of Communications and Aviation to the Post Office building at Ahoada. I want to know why there has been delay, and why this Post Office has not been built up till now. I thought it was supposed to have been included in the Economic Programme, and yet nothing has been done. I see there is no provision for it in the Estimates. Ahoada Division is the largest Division of the Rivers Province as I have been telling you all very often, and the distance from Ahoada to Port Harcourt is 47 miles and the people in this area are suffering too much from lack of postal and telephone facilities.

Referring to the Question I asked the Minister yesterday, Sir, Question O.79, the Minister answered that there are 19 Postal Agencies in that Division and out of these 19, there is Elele having above 28,000 units which is above the maximum number that is required for a sub-Post Office. According to his promise, if any Postal Agency has over 24,000 units they will have a sub-Post Office.

I am telling you that in your answer Elele has over 28,000 units which is above the maximum. Therefore it should now be included in the list of those places which should have sub-Post Offices.

Now at Head 604, Sub-Head 20, you have got in the Estimates for Other Buildings a sum of £1,988,510. I wish you to try and put this under that Head. So, Sir, I want the Minister to tell me particularly about Ahoada Post Office which is really the only Post Office for the whole Division and I ask him that he should include these 19 Postal Agencies which have

over 28,000 units and Abua which has over 18,000 units. I ask again that he should try and include all these things in next year's Estimates.

M. Ibrahim Gusau (Sokoto West): Mr Chairman, Sir, in view of the fact that large sums of money have been voted under this Head, and that I think, Sir, that so far progress has been very disgraceful, I heartily submit some points for the Minister to note in order to share the benefits of this Economic Programme equally all over the country.

I always remember, Sir, when we meet in this House for the Budget Sessions, Members from Sokoto often complain of the awful telephone services between Sokoto-Argungu-Birnin Kebbi. Although the telephones are only in the Divisional Offices and not linked with the exchanges for general services, yet that is the only privilege that this vast Province with a population of nearly three million peoples has to link the three Divisional Headquarters in the Province. The time has come when Government should consider the installation of telephone services in these areas.

Sir, postal services in Sokoto are still as poor as ever before. It takes many days to get a letter sent, say from Kano to Sokoto—almost seven days. A telegram from Gusau to Sokoto may take three days before it is delivered to the owner.

There are a number of large towns, both in population and business which deserve full General Post Offices in Sokoto Province. Places like Argungu, a Divisional Headquarters, catering for about 200,000 inhabitants, which should get a General Post Office. Jega and Talata Mafara are two very busy places and trading centres, with a population of over 70,000 each, they should also get General Post Offices. Shinkafi Postal Agency should also be converted to a General Post Office, as it is one of the busiest places in Sokoto Province. Kaura Namoda Post Office, Sir, is about five miles from the city. Postal Agencies should be established in the town to remedy the position.

Sir, during the Budget speech, I referred to telephone operators in some part of the country being used as political agents in their official duties. I should like to seize this opportunity to make the Government aware of the serious danger of telephone tapping, which recently threatened the security services in Britain,

which has been introduced in this country through some telephone operators. This is very serious indeed, and the Government should not hesitate to investigate and tackle this nasty business. (*Hear, hear*).

The Minister of Research and Information 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 Head be reduced by £10, put and negatived.

Original Question put and agreed to.

Resolved, That the expenditure from the Development Fund of Five million, Seven Hundred and Seventy-Six Thousand, Four Hundred and Seventy Pounds for the purposes set out in the Draft Estimates of Capital Expenditure, 1958-59, under Head 604—Capital: Posts and Telegraphs—be approved.

HEAD 605.—OTHER CAPITAL EXPENDITURE

The Minister of Finance (Chief the hon. F. S. Okotie-Eboh): Mr Chairman, Sir, I beg to move, That the expenditure from the Development Fund of Nine Million, Eight Hundred and Five Thousand, Seven Hundred and Forty Pounds for the purposes set out in the Draft Estimates of Capital Expenditure, 1958-59, under Head 605.—Other Capital Expenditure—be approved.

Question proposed.

The Chairman: Would the Minister of Lagos Affairs, Mines and Powder like to speak now or later?

The Minister of Lagos Affairs, Mines and Power (Alhaji the Hon. Muhammadu Ribadu): I will speak now. (*Applause*). Mr Chairman, Sir, with your permission, Sir, I would like to seize this opportunity to inform the House of the progress which has so far been made in the Slum Clearance Scheme. First of all, Sir, I would like to place on record my deep appreciation to all hon. Members for their unflinching support and understanding without which the execution of such a difficult and somewhat unpleasant scheme as this would have been impracticable (*Applause*).

Mr Chairman, Lagos occupies a unique position in that it is not only the Federal Capital but also the principal port of Nigeria. It is the mirror through which foreigners make their initial appraisal of Nigeria and many regard it as an index of the progress and pros-

perity of Nigeria. Apart from business and commercial interests, Lagos is a meeting place for very many purposes. From the health point of view this is very important because if there should be an outbreak of epidemic in Lagos it will easily spread and quickly affect the whole country.

Sir, the large influx of people from all over Nigeria who come here to find employment, or in the interests of their business, has caused a severe strain on the accommodation. The demand considerably exceeds the accommodation available, with the result that the town has become over congested and full of slum conditions in several areas. These conditions are humiliating to any person with a sense of national pride, and thanks to the growing national pride among the people of Nigeria, the slum clearance scheme launched by the Government has received the co-operation and acclamation of the people (*Applause*). Sir, it is the wish of the Government to make a good job of it and make Lagos a capital worthy of this great country (*Applause*).

One inspiring thing is that the people affected by the scheme appreciate its necessity although they too have expressed some fears and anxieties about the scheme. Their fears were based on suspicion of this scheme and the probable hardship to which they might be exposed. The Government appreciates those fears and in order to allay them and to dispel any shadow of doubt from the minds of the people, the Government set up a fully representative Committee to consider the problems and to make recommendations. At all times, the Government made it clear that it would do everything possible to minimise hardship to which anybody might be inevitably exposed and to make it possible for as many original owners as is practicable, to get back their land. The Committee met on several occasions and submitted recommendations which have been adopted by the Government. I had broadcast these adopted safeguards but with your permission, Sir, I would like to read them to the House.

(1) First of all, all land wherever possible will be reconveyed to the original owners, but where it is not possible an equivalent area of land will be offered to the owner as near as possible to the land originally held and they will be given a period of not exceeding six months in which to accept this offer.

(2) Where persons possess land holdings which are too small to meet the required provision for rebuilding, they will be offered priority of consideration for freehold plots in other areas being developed by the Board and such plots will be granted freehold.

(3) Where land is held by a communal group, the land will be reconveyed to them as a common family holding.

(4) No person will be displaced unless alternative accommodation is available elsewhere.

(5) An independent committee will be formed to identify and vouch for *bona fides* of tenants in the area to be cleared and to help in the allocation to those persons of quarters in the rehousing estate at Suru Lere.

(6) At all stages, the interests of displaced persons shall be paramount.

(7) If there are aged or infirm who cannot be accommodated by their relatives at Suru Lere then free accommodation will be provided for them in the Old People's Refuge at Yaba.

(8) Free transport will be provided for the conveyance of persons and their effects from the cleared area to Suru Lere and on their return in due course when the cleared area has been rebuilt.

(9) The amount of land reserved for public purposes in the cleared area will be kept to a minimum.

(10) Three Mosques are scheduled for demolition and it is proposed that three new Mosques should be built by the Board in lieu of compensation for land.

(11) Certain buildings of approved standard and design have been scheduled as being exempt from vesting under the scheme, this will not be taken over, but remain in the hands of their present owners.

(12) Though no freehold grants can be made in the rehousing estate for this will be used at other stages in the clearance scheme, persons displaced will be given first consideration on application for land in other areas being developed by the Board

(13) Funds will be available under the mortgage scheme to finance rebuilding.

Sir, I ended my broadcast speech in these words: "Lastly I wish to appeal to the people

of Lagos whom the Scheme particularly affects. It is their duty to co-operate with the Government and other citizens of Nigeria outside Lagos who look forward with pride to a Lagos that will compare in every respect with other capital cities. The indigenes of Lagos must share the determination of the Government to improve the city. This they can do by following the details of the Scheme very carefully and building in accordance with the approved plans. To do this will be to provide a first class city, but thrift and great foresight are needed to be able to do it well."

Sir, it will be appreciated that with the limitations of human nature, so, too, must be the draft safeguards put up at a given time. With experience of operation, these would be varied, amended and improved for the benefit of the people concerned. The Landlords' Association had pointed out some snags and where these might work adversely in the interest of the people, immediate consideration was given. For instance, in the original scheme it was stipulated that the compensation to be paid for land should be based on 1951 values, that is the value current during the year when the scheme was gazetted, and the reconveyance charges should be based on the total development cost which would include the compensation for land and buildings, demolition, construction of roads and drains, etc. The Government considered the representations made and the approval of this House was sought to amend the scheme. The Land value is now based on the market value as at 1st October, 1955, and the reconveyance charges are now based on the cost of the compensation for land, plus 20 per cent. In other words, the cost of land in any particular scheme area is based strictly on the amount of compensation paid for land not taken up for use of roads or drains, plus an additional 20 per cent. This is then spread over the number of plots to be allocated.

Sir, hon. Members will no doubt see that every effort was made and every possible concession was granted to enable the original owners to return and take their land. When I explained the scheme to the Oba of Lagos and his White Cap Chiefs, I told them that the Government has done its duty but without co-operation and determination by the people concerned it would be difficult for them to make use of the benefits available and for this they

would have themselves to blame. I advised them that in order to prevent any possibility of "squandermania" the people concerned should be encouraged to deposit with the L.E.D.B., the compensation received for land and building and to take advantage of the interest payable thereon. When the time comes for reconveyance to take place, there will then be less difficulty in finding the money. Unfortunately, this advice was flouted and out of a total of £988,000 paid by way of compensation for land and building, only about £50,000 was deposited with the L.E.D.B. It would have been an ideal thing and our desire that the original owners should be able to take back their land in both commercial or residential zones, build for themselves, reside therein or rent it out.

The detailed progress of the scheme up to date is as follows :—

(a) Out of 12 sub-areas comprised by the scheme, seven have been vested in the L.E.D.B.

(b) Three sub-areas have been completely cleared, one more than half cleared, and a start made on the fifth.

(c) Rather more than 4,500 persons removed.

(d) Over 285 properties demolished.

(e) £988,000 has been paid up to date for compensation for land and building.

(f) Estimated cost of acquisition and site development to date in respect of sub-areas 1, 2, 3, and part of 4 is £1,500,000, out of which it is estimated that £960,000 will be recoverable on reconveyance.

(g) 131 plots have been allocated.

(h) 59 plots have been reconveyed ; out of this number, 15 have been totally reconveyed and the full price paid ; 10 per cent deposit has been paid for the remainder and agreements signed.

Where plots have been reconveyed in the commercial zones, I understand that they have, in the majority of cases, been leased to non-Nigerian firms. (*Several hon. Members : Shame ! shame !*)

Hon. Members will observe that the scheme has not made progress as speedily as it was envisaged, due to the fact that the people concerned were reluctant to take back their

land when reconveyancing offers were made. This created a grave situation and in view of its gravity, I addressed a letter to the Oba of Lagos and requested him to use his influence with the people concerned and to persuade them to take back their land.

A Committee was set up by the L.E.D.B. to interview the people concerned in the first sub-area and to investigate the cause of their reluctance. The Committee submitted a report which can be summarised as follows :—

(a) The fragmentary nature of the previous plots made them incomparable with the new plots of standard sizes. Accordingly the compensation received in respect of the former plots was in some cases inadequate to meet the cost of the reconveyance of plots of standard sizes. The list of one sub-area (residential zone) has been prepared. Of the total of 24, 18 received compensation less than the total price of reconveyance, the average difference being £423. In six cases, however, compensation exceeded the price of reconveyance by an average of £1,212.

(b) The total amount paid by way of compensation does not in all cases reflect the amount which the individual seeking reconveyance has received. This is because, in some cases, the total sum paid has been shared among several people as joint beneficiaries and the share of the person or persons seeking reconveyance is therefore inadequate.

(c) Some people to whom offers have been made in the residential areas are reluctant to accept because they say it is not economical to do so.

Many of their tenants have been allocated houses at Suru Lere and are living quite happily there. Other tenants have made their own arrangements to own houses at Suru Lere. It will, therefore, be difficult to get tenants in Central Lagos, where exorbitant rents will have to be charged if landlords are to get back their capital.

On the recommendation of the committee, the Board has suggested that the scheme should be amended to allow the residential plots to be used for the combination of commercial and residential purposes. This will enable the ground floor to be used as shops and the other floors to be used for residential

purposes. If this should be allowed, we shall be going back to where we started, turning Lagos into rows of shops.

In my view all this is an excuse for shirking responsibility. Lagos people cannot expect the Government to do everything for them. As the late hon. Mr Onwenu said in this House: "They too must make some sacrifice." There are lots of avenues from which they could raise the small additional amounts required, if they sincerely wish to help themselves.

Sir, I now turn to the question of the mortgage scheme and I would like to correct the statement made by the hon. Mr Dosunmu. The mortgage scheme is not just what is holding up the buildings to be started in the cleared area. An initial sum of £850,000 has been earmarked for the scheme and hon. Members will observe in the Lands Department's estimates, provisions were made for an architect and an accountant for the operation of this scheme. But the mortgage scheme is to enable the people to rebuild and not for the purchase of the land. The ownership of the land must be established, and 5 per cent of the total loan required must be deposited before the loan is given out. When this is done, the mortgage scheme will commence without further delay.

Hon. Members, this is the position and I am sure you will agree with me that the Government has gone out of its way to help the people of Lagos in a practical manner. *(Applause)*.

The Chairman: Mr Wachuku has a series of amendments. Does he want to decide on any in particular?

Mr Jaja Wachuku (Aba): Mr Chairman, Sir, I would like first of all to take the one dealing with Broadcasting—sub-head 3, item 1, and also the other one, sub-head 34. I will first deal with the points about Broadcasting.

Under this Head, Sir, Head 605, sub-head 3, item 1, and sub-head 34, item 1, you will find there, Sir, expansion of Broadcasting, £72,000. And then Nigerian Broadcasting Corporation Working Capital, £60,000. Now, Sir, this Broadcasting Corporation, before it came into existence, we had high hopes that it was going to start off as a Corporation that starts Nigerianisation from its very foundation. But now, Sir, it has taken a different turn. With regard to the Corporation Nigerianisation, I

mean not only in personnel, of people who are working there, but also in the content of what is being broadcast there.

Those of us who listen to the N.B.C. will find that it is gradually becoming a complete extension of the B.B.C. And, while I would favour the guiding hand of the B.B.C. so as to be able to lay a sound foundation, care must be exercised to prevent this young corporation becoming completely a replica of the B.B.C. because we are moving towards Independence.

Now, Sir, I have my grounds for saying this. Every morning, we hear English by radio. . . . *(Interruption)*. . . .

Dr E. U. Udoma: Is it not good?

Mr Wachuku: Mr Chairman, Sir, I do not think that Dr Udoma actually listens to this. It is a good thing, it teaches people phonetics, diction and the like but, Sir, we have a country that has a problem of languages. The other time we were talking about choice of national language. Why do we not introduce in the N.B.C., Hausa by radio, Yoruba by radio, Ibo by radio and others of the national languages of this Federation by radio? . . . *(Applause)*. Sir, this is one of the simplest ways of getting some vocabulary. In this country I am sure you have some people who are not able to converse with their own nationals. Every day, English by radio. I do not say it is a bad thing. But we want a programme to be introduced on the lines that I have suggested for it will be very helpful to us and perhaps a lot of our younger children.

Now, Sir, it is this that I am concerned with. It is a necessity. We need it. Some of us who are Members here must be able to have at least greetings, how to greet your friends, that will be a very useful thing, early in the morning if I know how to greet you in Yoruba, and you know how to greet me in Ibo.

Now, Sir, the next thing I want to say is this. We have in the N.B.C. a Nigerian, a very capable musician. At one time there was a programme where you find this man went round this country recording our music, our folk-lore in form of music. He went around, recorded Western music, Eastern music, Northern music and music from the Cameroons. Now, Sir, recently this gentleman went to the United States, and from the information at my disposal now, he made very great contacts which will be very useful to this

country, particularly in giving world-wide publicity to our music, our culture, and things of that like in the American system of broadcasting.

He made tape recordings, but, Sir, I understand that some of these records which this man made have been wiped out from the tapes. The result is that when we want these things we cannot get them. If any of you have visited the music libraries of other countries, you will know that there is a whole section devoted to folk-lore music, and you will know what it takes to gather people together, get this original music in its proper form and so on. If you destroy that thing now it will be extremely difficult to get that same type of thing again because people who did it before, some might be dead, some might be scattered. Why should we allow this thing to happen. I want the Minister. . . .

An hon. Member : To make a statement.

Mr Wachuku : Not to make a statement, but I want the Minister to investigate the thing. I am saying this with a deep sense of responsibility. We want to preserve these things, so that when we have a permanent building and we have archives and things like that we will have these things recorded and put on discs in proper form. When you go to the United States and some other places you will see a department set up specially for folk-lore music and nothing else, and then from that you can make a comparative study of this folk-lore music of the different countries, and then you preserve the work of the different countries. In music you discover the soul of a nation ; you know their life and their customs and so on. I feel, Sir, that we do not appreciate these things enough.

I notice that this particular gentleman has been put as the head of music. What does that mean? Why not call him the Director of Music there and give him the definite responsibility for that. What does that really mean? I would like the Minister to ask this gentleman to give a full account of his training and a report of the contacts he made in the interests of this Corporation and of this country, and then the Minister can value the work that he did there, because I have it on information that some people there try to make things difficult for him in that Corporation, and I would not like that to happen at all. It should not be so. We should not allow somebody who has proved his talent in the world and is recognised in the world to

come here to be forced out again from this country. Those that have been trained and have made their mark internationally must be kept here. We talk about composition of national anthems and the world's music and all that ; why should we not try to get our own people who have got these qualifications, so that they will be our composers of our own music? I am saying this and I would like to see the Minister on this point and give him whatever material I have available. I have got this material.

I understand that as a result of this man's contacts, the Rockefeller Foundation is even considering giving an award for one year for folk-lore music research in the United States, and yet there is somebody in that place who says, "Before you can accept this thing it will be over my dead body." I hope the man will die before this thing is finished.

I have it on authority and I will speak to the Minister. I won't mention anything more about it here because I want the Minister to hear it first. I am saying these things because if this is the type of thing we are going to have in that Corporation, then it will be a very serious thing. I am prepared to give the Minister the facts. It is not a question of keeping it dark.

Not only that, Sir, I would also suggest, particularly in this field of music, that this man should be given an opportunity to do more research ; and there are other talented Nigerians from the East, from the West, from the Cameroons, from the North and different parts. Therefore, if you make this man a Director, and he has a division which he heads, and he gets all these people together he will be able to build up for us our musical and cultural activities and they will be able to build a library of our own music and put it in a permanent building to be preserved for all time. It is something at least to contribute on the musical side.

We know exactly what happened in this country with one artist we had. He was tucked away in one section here as Adviser on Arts. No one heard of him at all or made any fuss of him until the Queen gave him recognition. It was immediately the Queen gave him recognition by agreeing to sit for him that he was raised from £980 to £2,040. In this very country the heads of departments did not want him to be recognised : they tucked him away

in the Information Office here. Why do we need outsiders to recognise our own people? Why? Why? Why?

Several hon. Members : Be quiet! Sit down! Sit down!

The Chairman : Order, Order.

Mr Wachuku : Mr Chairman, I am not at all concerned. I want the Nigerian Broadcasting Corporation to be a success. I want that Corporation to be a credit to this country, and I want us to retain that link with the B.B.C. But, Sir, in retaining that link and that friendship through the interest we have there, we should not lose our national character. That is my point. We need the personality of international community. There is need when you go to America or the United Kingdom for people there to want to know something about Nigerian arts, Nigerian culture and all that, and the only way you can put it to them is through the Nigerian Broadcasting Corporation. But supposing a Nigerian presented the British culture or the American culture, people would say what is there in Nigeria. He would be a misfit when he went into company. But when you go abroad to the U.K. and you find you require some music you go to the B.B.C.; in their library you sit and hear some recordings which are always handy. Supposing you go to the Information Service in the United States or United Kingdom, or say the Minister goes on tour. He is doing some entertaining and he wants a certain type of music or something like that. He just contacts the Information Service at home and they will fly it out to him so that he can use it.

An hon. Member : Music is international.

Mr Wachuku : Music is international, we appreciate that, but we want to make it. . . .

The Minister of Commerce and Industries (Dr the hon. K. O. Mbadiwe) : Where is your national dress, Jaja?

Mr Wachuku : My national dress? . . . Well, we are on night duty; I use any dress I like. I stand for harmony. I said it in my speech. I am out for harmony. International relationship. I wear any dress I like. Perhaps next time I come I shall put on the Ghandi cap; and the next day I put on. . . .

An hon. Member : Don't elaborate on it, get on with the business.

Mr Wachuku : Alright, I won't belabour this point. I have raised the point which I want the Minister to investigate; and I also want him to investigate the rate of Nigerianisation. Whether in fact our people are getting their due in that Corporation, or whether there is an attempt to make it difficult for those of them who are on top to continue to be there, or to force them out in order to create opportunities for non-Nigerians; because this is a very serious thing. I would like the Minister to answer these things.

I think I have dealt with the broadcasting side of it. I don't know, Mr Chairman, whether I should leave the other points until they come up or whether I should deal with all my amendments now.

The Chairman : Other hon. Members are due to speak on Broadcasting now. I will call you again.

M. Bello Dandago, Sarkin Dawaki (South West Central Kano) : Mr Chairman, Sir, I used to be a very very bad enemy of the Broadcasting Department, which is now a Corporation, but I have now completely changed my mind about it and I do not agree with my good Friend Mr Jaja Wachuku that he is not satisfied with the question of Nigerianisation in that Corporation. I was so interested about this Broadcasting Corporation, that is why I went to great length to learn more about it.

Mr Chairman, the Nigerian Broadcasting Corporation is the one Corporation which is quite ahead as far as Nigerianisation is concerned. In that very Corporation, Sir, and it is a young one, no less than 120 Nigerians are there. With the Nigerianisation, that Gentleman argued that the recording tape was rubbed away; it might have been rubbed away for a very good technical reason. Mr Chairman, Sir, if it is rubbed out or rubbed off, the music is African, it is Nigerian music, we are in Nigeria, the people are there and it has been recorded. Mr Chairman, I do not agree with my good hon. Friend on the question of Nigerianisation not being there. That Broadcasting Corporation is the one Corporation which is trying to satisfy everybody, which is not easy. It is the responsibility and the duty of the Corporation to try its utmost to satisfy everybody, which is not easy. But it has succeeded, Sir, in achieving a considerable

amount, that is why I do not think the charges made and the anger expressed by hon. Jaja Wachuku is justified.

Mr Chairman, Sir, all the argument, all the anger, all the points raised by this Gentleman are entirely wrong; the man in question is not the Director, he is called the Head, the two terms are identical. It is a matter of just elevating somebody to a higher rank if he directs something; he directs music, that is right.

Mr Chairman, Sir, our Broadcasting Corporation is doing its best and it is appreciated. It is a Corporation which puts something on the air, somebody tunes off because they do not like it, but still it is being recorded and some people will be listening. That is the problem, that is the fate of the Corporation, what pleases you may not please me.

Mr Chairman, I do not agree with hon. Jaja Wachuku.

The Minister of Research and Information (Chief the hon. Kolawole Balogun): Mr Chairman, Sir, I only mean to emphasise one point and that is this, that although the N.B.C. owes a great deal, and I am sure this House will agree with that, that the N.B.C. owes a great deal to the B.B.C. for its growth and development, there is no doubt that it is the intention of every person in this country who has anything whatever to do with the Nigeria Broadcasting Corporation, that it should turn out eventually to be a Nigerian Broadcasting Corporation.

A lot of signs can be seen that this objective is being actively pursued. You will remember that not very long ago, we used to have about one or two repetitions of the National news of Nigeria, but I think from only about three or four months ago, you will find that the National news has been repeated about four times every day. Apart from this fact, the news is recorded in the three principal languages of Nigeria on the National system and in very many of the other languages in the Regional system. I think this is a clear example that as much as possible, although we rely for a good part on the B.B.C., we try and put out a standard of our own.

Secondly, I think that it can be clearly observed that the N.B.C. takes every available opportunity to bring into its fold people who are interested in the arts and culture of Nigeria.

Even though I never had notice of this particular question to-night, it came vividly to my notice to mention just three names and in mentioning those three names there will be a number of people that I forget. I want to mention very quickly the names of the great musician Fela Sowande, the name of the great writer Cyprian Ekwensi and the name of one of our journalists Oliver Jackman. You will find that all these people are in the N.B.C. to-day and every effort is being made to bring into the fold of the N.B.C. people who show talent in the arts and culture and music of this country.

When I have said this I am not saying that the N.B.C. is perfect and I am not saying that the administration is perfect because it is very difficult to find an administration which is perfect. But this much can be said, that the N.B.C. is doing, in my own opinion, as much as possible to encourage our indigenous culture. One can also say this, that when you speak in terms of culture it is not enough that our own culture here should be developed thoroughly, others culture is a thing that we must also take into account. There are certain things which we can get from the Western world but there are certain things which we reject and reject absolutely. But the culture of the Western world and the culture of Nigeria can be mixed for the better development of this country, and that is the objective of the N.B.C.

Sir, as regards the mention, and there has been very clear prompting, as regards who this gentleman is who was spoken of by the hon. Jaja Wachuku, all I can say is this, that we will look into this matter, we will make investigations. But I will give one assurance to this House; whoever has to conduct Government relations with the N.B.C., and I think this is uppermost in the minds of everybody, will give encouragement to every person there who wants to contribute to the programmes of that Corporation.

And when we talk in terms of Nigeria, we find that our effort in that respect is even double, and I want to assure the hon. Gentleman that we shall do everything possible to encourage the reasonable aspirations of the staff of the Nigerian Broadcasting Corporation.

The Chairman: We have to move on to Education. Mr Jaja Wachuku.

Mr Jaja Wachuku (Aba): Mr Chairman, Sir, I do not move my second amendment, that is sub-head 6, Item 1, but I go to sub-head 6, Item 2, University College, Ibadan, Building and Equipment, £1,000,000.

Well, Sir, this may be regarded as one of those subjects on which one finds himself ignorant, but I am glad my friend over there, Chief T. T. Solaru, will perhaps help the Minister as far as this is concerned. Sir, I would like to know from the Minister what programme of expansion this our University has in relation to the desire to meet the needs of this country that is developing very fast, because, Sir, as I have already said before elsewhere, by 1960 the population pressure on various Universities in the United States will make it difficult for room to be found for admission for our own students. And also in the United Kingdom that has been very generous in taking our people and training them in different institutions, their own needs may be so great that every year the number that can be taken in will be getting smaller and smaller. What plans has our University College to be able to absorb students who will be qualified to get their preliminary training in this country?

For so many reasons, Sir, this will be economic both for this country and for parents and guardians if it is possible to have such an expansion so that the primary degrees could be taken there and our people going outside this country go out as post-graduate students with a more mature mind and riper experience and can benefit more.

Those of us in years back used to see a number of Indian students and students from other parts of the world; they have their primary degrees and they came there to have their post-graduate degrees. I think that is extremely useful to their respective countries. It should be one of the aims of this country to develop different faculties to enable our own people to have this primary degree here before going out.

Now, Sir, in that respect, I noticed that when we went out to India, in the University of Delhi, there is a Department of African Studies and one of the lecturers happened to be a man from Ghana. But in the University College, Ibadan, we have no faculty of African and Oriental Studies. I see in these Estimates,

Sir, there is a provision for money for the School of African and Oriental Studies, in London. Surely, Sir, is it not strange that you want to study African and Oriental things you have to go to London to do it? Now that you have got a University I think the time is due when this faculty should be established in the University College, Ibadan. The foundation should be laid now.

Sir, I think the time is now overdue for the establishment of a faculty of Laws in Ibadan University College. . . . (Cheers). . . In the old Universities, Sir, there are four faculties; you have the Laws, Divinity, Medicine and the Arts. These were the fundamentals of the old Universities. Now you come to this country. For some reason or the other, people are just prejudiced against the law. You need the law in order to give you the fundamental training in order to fit you in politics and in world affairs. Whether you like it or not, the training in law, its conditioning of your mind, is so important and you cannot just deny that. That is why it is called the 'learned and honourable' profession.

Sir, we are training our diplomats. Surely, you must have also in your foreign office people who are trained in international law and in international relationships and the rest of it. Now, in our University there is nobody who is thinking of laying this foundation to be able to train our people for that. This is very important. I want the Faculty of Laws to be established.

Now, Sir, it was said that a Department of Economics will be introduced in Ibadan. The sister University of Ghana has got a Faculty of Economics and Nigerian students go there. But these students are there and no concrete effort is made by our own Government to support those students that are there studying Economics. Why is a Faculty of Economics not established in Ibadan University? We have only a Department! What is going on there, I do not know. That is why I want the Minister to tell me what this our University is doing in order to establish this Faculty.

There is also the Faculty of Political Science, Government and Administration. Will somebody tell me that where there is such a great demand to train out these people that such a thing is not a vital need for this country? It is all right, we want technicians, we want

people to build roads and bridges, but these faculties will be the cement of our society when we are able to produce people who will be coming to the Administration and other walks of life. Also there is the Faculty of Commerce where you can get your B.COM. degree.

I may say these things and people may laugh, but they are very very vital. All these are very necessary. If this country is going to have a continuous stream of trained people in the Arts, Science, Medicine and Engineering and the like we must have these Faculties now, and I would like the Minister to tell us what the University proposes to do about it, whether they have talked about it at all, whether they are doing something about it. If they have done nothing about it I would like the Minister to tell the Board or the Senate or the University Council to put up a proposal about this whole matter and let us know what it will cost; whether this country can bear the cost of the whole and if we cannot to know exactly what faculties the country can add to the present faculties at Ibadan University College.

Mr D. E. Okereke (Owerri): Mr Chairman, my humble observation under this Head, and indeed under allied Heads, is that in view of the financial implications of independence and also in view of the fact that Government funds are not inexhaustible, I will urge the Government to make haste slowly. I know this is a stable Government with a stable policy and that it will not be carried away by the requests and demands of Members of this House beyond the bounds of frugality.

But, Mr Chairman, when I read this Head through, and other Heads also, and remember similar Heads in past years, my heart faints. What is the fate of the Owerri Division in this Federation?

My dear Ministers, lend me your ears. Give me your hearts and examine your consciences. Alas, with four years of your indifference, with four years of your bargaining, not a single penny, nor a single pound has been earmarked for any project whatever for the people of the Owerri Division.

Are we not a part of the Federation? Have we had enough of your amenities and therefore deserve no more? I pray you,

reveal your programme and squeeze in something for us. In a year you will vacate office and without doing something, however trivial for the people of the Owerri Division, . . .

Mr S. J. Una (Uyo): Point of Order, Mr Chairman, the hon. Member is most irrelevant.

The Chairman: I do not think he is very irrelevant although it depends on how much nearer he comes to home.

Mr Okereke: Unless the hon. Member has a double meaning to the word "irrelevance."

I was saying, hon. Ministers, that when you vacate office this year, if you do not do something, however little for the people of the Owerri Division, they will remember it with dismay, that a group of Federal Ministers between the years 1954 and 1959 did not do anything for them, did not spend a penny of public money. *(Interruption).*

The Chairman: Order, order, the hon. Member must be heard in silence.

Mr Okereke: If nothing is done, I will go back to my constituency in tears.

Mr Chairman, I beg to support.

Mr S. J. Una (Uyo): Mr Chairman, Sir, when I spoke the other time reference was made to me as an U.N.I.P. member for the Ikot Ekpene Division. Before speaking of the Motion on the Floor, I would like to make a slight correction. I am a member for Uyo Division, an Action Group member.

Mr Chairman, Sir, I know that it is very very difficult for students to gain admission into the Universities overseas, and I was minded was made some time ago to ask that the Government should set up a machinery by which our students could go overseas to study.

While we have this University College, Ibadan, Sir, I would like to explain to our Friend, Mr Jaja Wachuku, about the proposals for expansion. It is proposed that within the next five years, that the population of the college will grow to about 2,000 and this number makes provision for an increased number of Faculties. At the moment, Sir, this year a department of economics and social studies was inaugurated with the understanding that, within the next two years, it will grow into a Faculty. Mr Chairman, Sir, I am in full support and sympathy with Mr Jaja Wachuku when he says that the Government should insist on the establishment of a Department of Oriental and African

Studies. It is an absolute necessity and it would help not only our students, our Nigerian students or African students for that matter, but it will enable Canadians, Americans, Australians and people all over the Commonwealth to come to Nigeria and learn African culture, African Studies and African Education.

Mr Chairman, the sum of £1 million which is proposed for the College is intended for the building of Science Laboratories, Medical Laboratories and all the rest of it, and I want to say something in connection with that particular aspect of studies in any University. A University gains international recognition and importance, depending upon the type and quality of its research, otherwise a University if it satisfies itself with merely teaching graduates becomes nothing more than a glorified Grammar School and thus this vote, as I have said, for research in all fields is a good thing.

Mr Chairman, Sir, I do not support Mr Jaja Wachuku's motion of reducing that vote by any amount; rather I ask the Government to give the University College every encouragement.

The Minister of Education (Hon. Aja Nwachuku): Sir, the last speaker explained the reason why it will be most unnecessary to reduce anything out of the million pounds meant for the University College, Ibadan. The Mover when he started, first asked me to say what we were doing in order to expand the present University College; and then in asking for expansion he also asked for a reduction of money. Our expansion will be based on the amount voted and if anything is taken out of this money the expansion will not be possible . . . (Applause) . . . (Mr Jaja Wachuku: *I am forcing you to explain*). Well, you are forcing me to explain, but you have not done it in the right way.

The Amendment which has been submitted to reduce the capital sum by £100, if approved would most adversely affect the proposed increased number of students for the College. By the end of 1962 we shall be able to have about 1,250 students, and the proposed annual increase of students will be sufficient to take all those who have the necessary qualifications at the present rate of Secondary Education, that is about 150 students every year, and some of the people who have not got the necessary qualifications to enter the University College, Ibadan, will easily gain admission into the Nigerian College of Arts, Science and Technology.

If this sum is reduced, and taken out as the Mover has suggested, the result would be that there would be less students ready for entry into the Public Service in 1962 than are at present envisaged. (*Hear, hear.*) A number of students whom it will not be possible to accept, as I said earlier on, in the University College, Ibadan, will gain admission into the Nigerian College of Arts, Science and Technology, the College at Fourah Bay and the Kumasi College of Technology.

There has also been a question of sending students overseas, but this question does not arise for we have always seen that students who are qualified have benefited from Federal Scholarships and Awards and that they are accommodated in Institutions for Higher Learning both in West Africa and overseas. (*Applause.*)

The Chairman: Order, order. I think it is time for us to have a short break for ten minutes and when we come back, we might move on to the next Item, which is on Victoria Island.

Sitting suspended: 10.35 p.m.

Sitting resumed: 10.47 p.m.

The Chairman: We shall continue with the debate on the Ikoyi Island Pilot Scheme.

Chief T. T. Solaru (Ijebu East): Mr Chairman, Sir, just a few words about the subject we had been discussing before the House rose, on the University College and the number of faculties and those things that people want to be opened in this place. I only wish to say that it is a good thing that Members of the House take such keen interest in the affairs of the University College. As a matter of fact, one main object of the University College is to serve the needs of this country, and that is the reason why we wanted—and we have had—a University College of our own.

Sir, I want to assure hon. Members that the one aim that that University College should have is to have as many faculties as possible, but the only thing is that these things take time and also a lot of money too. It is no easy thing to recruit the necessary staff or even to train our own people in order to be able to man these faculties. But, Sir, I have no doubt that all we have said in this House about a Faculty of Economics, about a School of African

Studies, will be taken to heart by the authorities of the College, because we know that unless a country can be proud of its own culture, it is very difficult for it to find its soul; our culture is our soul. And I know that what is being said in this House will be taken in good part.

It is not the case of the public warring against the University College. It is a case of the public advising the University College what it wants and of the University College saying what can be done at the appropriate time and with the appropriate funds. I am sure that with the co-operation of the public the University College can come into its own in a very big way.

You will note, Sir, that if Members will read the Report of the Visitation, you will find that every step is being taken to meet their wishes. As a matter of fact the Visitation was so pleased with what they saw and has encouraged expansion much faster than you can ever dream of. At present we have over a thousand students, and we know that in another year or so we shall be having nearly 2,000 students. That is why we wanted that money we applied for the Ministry, and I think this money is a token of what is to come. I think that if Members will support the University College in every way, we will eventually get the faculties that the Members desire.

Chief J. I. G. Onyia (Asaba): Mr Chairman, Sir, events have overtaken my Motion and I do not move it. But I would like to take this opportunity of making some observations not only on sub-head 15, but on others appertaining to this Head. I said....(*Interruption*).....

The Chairman: We have concluded our debate, you know, on things like the University College, Ibadan, Victoria, and so on. Chief Onyia is required to talk on his sub-head 15 item (1).

Chief Onyia: I said events have overtaken my Motion and I do not propose to move it. But I only want to make a remark that too much emphasis cannot be made on the necessity of extending the Police buildings at Asaba. As I said before, the travellers congregating at Asaba need protection. It is not the question of protecting the indigenous inhabitants. Left alone, the indigenous people have no trouble whatsoever. But the travellers congregating at Asaba make it very necessary that

something must be done to protect the good name of the town.

Question again proposed, That £9,805,740 for the purposes set out in the draft Estimates of Capital Expenditure, 1958-59, under Head 605—Other Capital Expenditure—be approved.

Mr L. J. Dosunmu (Lagos East): Mr Chairman, Sir, Members of the House would expect me to say something....(*Several hon. Members: No, no, no!*) Members would like me to make a statement after listening to the speech of the hon. Minister of Lagos Affairs, Mines and Power, and I wish to confine myself to item 11 which was the subject matter of his statement.

Let me say at the very outset that nobody objects to development of any kind. But if people have fears and justifiable fears at that, they are entitled to give expression to them, and there is no doubt that the hon. Minister himself did appreciate that the fears of the people of Lagos over the slum clearance scheme were genuine and that was why he went to the extent of giving as many safeguards as he has disclosed to the House. The fear of the people of Lagos was that the execution of the scheme is not unlikely to lead to their lands passing to aliens hands. Whether that fear is justified or not, events have shown and I shall give you an instance in respect of which that fear is justified. The hon. Minister himself said that the areas in commercial parts of Lagos are now being leased to European firms. He himself said so.

The Minister of Lagos Affairs, Mines and Power: I said "non-Nigerians."

Mr Dosunmu: They are all non-Nigerians, any way. Since these areas have fallen to the hands of non-Nigerians, to use the Minister's words, I wish to say that even the fears he was attempting to allay were not completely safeguarded. As I was saying, Sir, our fear was that our lands might not remain in our hands and I must confess that the Minister had made some effort to allay the fears of our people. But in his statement, he said that those were no safeguards, but concessions. After all, what are those safeguards? You said that land should be returned to the owners. Do you regard that as concession? Surely the land has to be returned to their owners after development.

I am linking that, Sir, with the last statement which the hon. Minister made and that is the decision of the Government not to accede to the request of the people. The Minister himself confessed that the scheme is having some difficulty. That is quite true. Those of us who are actually helping in the work of the Development Board know that the scheme is having difficulty and we appreciated it when he set up a Committee which reported to him, and the report of the Committee was a unanimous one.

People are not willing to take their lands back. That is ironic but that is a fact. The reason is this, and the Minister carefully in his speech omitted to disclose it. I challenge him. (*Several Members : Challenger !*). I challenge him to cite a case where more money has been paid for the area of land acquired except where land returned by the Government is less than the actual area taken from the owner. The Minister averaged eight cases where people had to pay more by £400 than actually the Government gave to them and he tried to compare that with where in fact the Government paid them more than they asked them to pay back, and he said the average in respect of one was £400 and the average in respect of the other was £1,000.

But you will appreciate then that in those cases where you did pay more to the people, you are returning the lands to them less than you in fact took from them, and I stand to be corrected on that. This is to show, Mr Minister of Finance, that the scheme, unless Government takes a realistic view of it, is not going to make progress as is desired.

Let us take a practical case. Government acquires a piece of land for £2,000. The land, together with the buildings on it. In some cases Government asked them to pay £3,000 for the empty land. If they are paying for the empty land £3,000, where do you expect them to get the money to put the building on top? That is the problem. And we all set our minds on that, how are we going to get these things done? I am giving credit to the Minister where it is due, because he did ask us to look into the matter, how we could get it done. Then the committee quite unanimously recommended to him that the only way we can get this thing going was

to allow people to develop commercial and residential purposes. That suggestion was unanimous, it received the support of even the Executive Officer.

It is amazing that the Minister has come to this House to say that he was going to reject this recommendation because the result of that is this, that even if people pay for their land, if they deposit ten per cent, the land belongs in law to them as a result of that. But if they do not develop it, is not unlikely, because there is no money forthcoming anywhere, what do you get from that? All you have succeeded in doing is to demolish the houses to make it empty land.

I now come to the question of mortgage schemes. It is even more amazing that the Minister has not changed his mind. After all, this scheme was supposed to be complementary. I asked the Minister to tell this House, has he established the mortgage arrangements? Has he ever worked out anything? The Minister is saying that because all landowners have not paid for their land back; if the mortgage scheme would have to wait the time when all the lands have been taken, you would have to wait until Doomsday before that actually comes to pass. After all, some fifty people have already paid for their own wholly, and some of them have even deposited the ten per cent, and yet this your mortgage scheme is not forthcoming. If this your mortgage scheme is complementary to this your demolition scheme, at least those fifty persons who have paid can carry on and that will give encouragement to others. But if you persist in what you are doing, I will tell you what is likely to happen. Either the Government, would expropriate all the land to itself because people have no money to pay. The Government would eventually have to take the land from the owners, or, indeed, buy it from them and begin to erect buildings. Well, if you have money for that, you could do it, but you cannot force people to pay money that they do not have. That is why we have offered suggestions to help people to come back to the land. We want them, people whom we put away to Surulere, to come back. Why do not they want to come back? Because they have no houses to come back to among other things.

Surely I prefer to stay in central Lagos if I have a house rather than to stay far away, but if there are no houses, to where should people come back ?

And one of the difficulties in the way of the scheme is that except provision is made for these people at Surulere to return, there will not be room for others who will take their places in Surulere. That is one of the difficulties in the scheme, if you want to be true to everybody. You have no further rooms for people in Surulere that the displaced persons could go to, and except you encourage them to come back, even with the assistance of the Government, it is going to meet with difficulty. That is why I am suggesting that you should not take this attitude, that you are not going to allow the commercial/residential purposes in areas already zoned for residential purposes only.

I know that your decision does not receive the support of the Members of your Board, or even of the Executive Officers. It may be the members of your Ministry who gave you this advice, but if you persist in it, and I say this with the support of my learned Friend hon. Benson, if you persist that you are not going to allow this type of development, because that is the only thing that even makes the people to deposit the money, before that suggestion came from the Board people were not willing to pay their ten per cent because they had no money to build the type of buildings that you require of them ; it was when it was made known to them that you will be kind enough to let them have this type of development, not only residential but partly residential and partly commercial ; that some of them were encouraged to deposit this ten per cent, and if they got to know that you were not even allowing that, you would see what was going to be the consequence. . . . (Interruption).

Several hon. Members : What was going to be the consequence ?

Mr Dosunmu : The consequence is going to be this, that you are going to have empty lands around the place. Nobody would build on it. And if that is the sort of Federal city you want, you will have it. I know the Minister is a very sympathetic person, he looks at the matter in an objective manner, and that was what prompted him to write to the Oba, when he saw the whole position. He himself of his own volition wrote to the Oba to see what could be done, and it was

suggested to him what could be done to expedite things. But it is amazing that he is giving a decision that they are not going to budge.

As I was saying, if the Minister should assist the people to go back to the land, and not leave the lands as they are now, because that is no credit to the Board or to the Minister himself. I know there is nothing to please the Minister more than to see buildings springing up on these vacant plots of land. He is waiting for the time when he is going to turn the first sod there. But that is about three years now since we started demolition and yet nobody is anxious to come back because they have no money to build on them.

As I was saying, one suggestion I want to offer is this. The amount of money you are asking people to pay is more than they in fact received both for their land and for their buildings. That is a fact. Although you gave the average difference at £400, the difference, in some cases is more than £3,000, £5,000, and I would like to be corrected on that. Now, except you allow them to pay either by instalments, the purchase price of the land in order to allow small money with them to start buildings, nothing will happen. We all have to face realities. There is nobody who does not want development, but I would like the Minister to give further thought to this thing.

I know Government funds may be inexhaustible ; you have already spent about £1 million, you are asking for another £1 million ; and one other difficulty in your way is this. You have undertaken to the people that you are not going to demolish their houses unless you have an alternative for them. After all, the Federal Territory of Lagos has a boundary. If you build up to the end of Lagos territory, you have to stop there except you have to go to the other territory. So the best thing is to encourage the people to come back to Central Lagos, so that rooms may be available for others to move to. If you do not do that you are going to have a stalemate. That is all I have to say on that.

Well, Mr Minister, you have anxiety that our lands should not go to the hands of aliens. As I said, it has started to happen. It is not that the people want it but they are forced to. It is even not so bad when people lease

these lands to aliens, because they remain the freeholders; to collect rent, that is not so bad. But what of when they are forced to sell it? Some of them even under cover, in order to get the land back from L.E.D.B., arrange with some of these aliens to give them money to pay the L.E.D.B. back, so that the land may belong to them. Eventually, it belongs to these aliens.

Mr Minister, you did say about a year ago that you are contemplating bringing legislation to control alienation of land to aliens. It is high time you do something about this. These things are complementary. One must necessarily go with the other. If you allow things to go as you are doing now, what will happen is this, that land will fall into the hands of non-Nigerians, to use your words again. Mr Minister, I know that you are a very capable man. (Interruption).

Several hon. Members : Do not bribe him. Do not bribe him.

Mr Dosunmu : I have nothing to gain by bribing him. It is that I am convinced that this matter has got to be looked into in order to make the scheme go as quickly as he himself desires, and as everybody desires, it is that something has got to be done in the way of the suggestions that have been proffered either by the members of the public to which you yourself can testify, and so I earnestly ask you to pursue that course.

Mr T. O. S. Benson (Lagos West) : Mr Chairman, Sir, I rise to congratulate the Minister for Lagos Affairs for the nice and excellent work that is going on in Lagos at present. At the same time, there are some good points in the speech of my learned Friend hon. Dosunmu. I support him that we must bring legislation in this House to punish those people who are go-betweens between the people of Lagos and the aliens here. While Dosunmu is supposing that lands here should not pass to the aliens, there are some eminent lawyers here who act as go-betweens and who are responsible for the transferring of these lands from the people to the aliens. There are some eminent lawyers and go-betweens who assist these aliens to take the land away from these natives.

Mr D. E. Okereke (Owerri) : Do not call them lawyers, they are not.

The Chairman : I have asked Mr Okereke to restrain himself once already, if I have to speak again I shall have to take measures against him.

Mr Benson : Now my suggestion is this. There are some of these people at Surulere who will not come back to Central Lagos because they cannot afford to rebuild their houses. Therefore, instead of this land going to the aliens, the Government should provide money to build these houses and give them to Lagos people to rent or on a leasehold basis. Surely even though they cannot afford to build them, they can be allowed to live in these houses on a rental basis.

Mr Speaker, Sir, my learned Friend, hon. Dosunmu mentioned about the Lagos boundary. I therefore appeal to the Minister of Lagos Affairs to extend the Lagos boundary for at least twenty miles. (Hear, hear). Mr Dosunmu again challenged the Minister, well I think we should not quarrel with my learned Friend because those people who are used to the Ministers of the Western Region will know that their Ministers are challengers.

Mr Speaker, Sir, with these few remarks, I beg to support.

M. Muhtari Sarkin Bai (South West Kano) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the expenditure on this sub-head 11, Slum Clearance, Lagos. Sir, in the first place, I should like to say straight away that it is most surprising to hear from a Lagos Member on my right that this scheme is still not satisfactory; and the Members here will recall the loud protests against this Scheme. Sir, I understand (and I have been to many places in Lagos), that many people are most grateful about this slum clearance scheme. (Hear, hear).

Lagos to our mind is very dear. I think it is the duty of every hon. Member to see that Lagos measures up to the required standard. For the last few years, Sir, there has been a considerable improvement in Lagos, especially with the advent of this slum clearance scheme, but unfortunately, I understand, and rather authoritatively too, that recently the progress on this scheme has been hampered, partly due to what we normally refer to as lack of executive capacity, and partly due to the uncompromising attitude of the Action Group controlled Lagos Town Council !

Sir, this Party, in its election manifesto promised everything for the people of Lagos but immediately after coming to power—through the back door—they turned their backs on the people of Lagos. What I mean, Sir, is this, unless the present Lagos Town Council is dissolved (*Hear, hear*) and a new election is held, Lagos will not get all those local improvements.

It is most wonderful, Sir, to know (I knew it very secretly), that this Town Council of Lagos spend most of their money on garden chairs and carts. I wonder what all these carts are for. I once asked a driver of one of these carts; I said: "What are these carts for?" He said: "Oga, the people never know about it!"

Again, Sir, I would say that the City of Lagos is still congested, the houses are dirty, and the only one road to Marina from the Victoria Beach belongs, I think to the Lagos Town Council, and is in a most deplorable condition. I know the Minister of Communications leaves his car behind and goes on foot to Victoria Beach because of the bad state of this road.

Sir, I should like to congratulate the Minister for Lagos Affairs for this slum clearance scheme, and many people in Lagos are most grateful about it; but, Sir, there is something natural, something technically wrong with the City of Lagos. In the mornings, in the afternoons, hundreds of people, Europeans and black men alike, go either to Victoria Beach or to the Atlantic Terminal on the Marina, presumably for a breath of fresh air. Why? On investigation, Sir, I observed that they are doing so because of the congestion in the City of Lagos. Well, Sir, it is most unfortunate in a Federal Territory like Lagos that people must go out three to four miles to get a breath of fresh air. For that very reason, I humbly and respectfully recommend to the Federal Government to consider the expansion of the Federal Territory of Lagos. (*Hear, hear*).

In my humble opinion, Sir, the Federal Territory of Lagos is too small an area to accommodate over a quarter of a million people. For that reason I humbly submit and appeal to the Council of Ministers to re-consider this decision.

Mr Chairman, I beg to support.

The Minister of Lagos Affairs, Mines and Power (Alhaji the hon. Muhammadu Ribadu): Mr Chairman, Sir, the hon. Mr Dosunmu has said the figures I used are a little bit misleading. Mr Chairman, Sir, with your permission, I would like to read out the figure in detail so as to enable him to know how I arrived at the average figures. The people who received less than what they were asked to pay are as follows:—(1) £37, (2) £701, (3) £196, (4) £926, (5) £790, (6) £1,345, (7) £178, (8) £678, (9) £254, (10) £288, (11) £539, (12) £104, (13) £34, (14) £40, (15) £252, (16) £450, (17) £379, (18) £423. Those who received more than what they had actually had to pay are as follows:—(1) £248, (2) £480, (3) £661, (4) £3, (5) £3,365, (6) £2,515. The size of the land does not matter but what they were asked to pay is by far less than the amount which they had been paid.

Mr Chairman, Sir, Mr Dosunmu also suggested that I should accept the recommendation of the Committee, so as to allow the combination of residential or commercial buildings in areas which were reserved for residential buildings alone. Sir, it is the intention of the Government and that of this House, that Lagos should be planned in a manner so as to make it a worthy capital of Nigeria. But if we are going to allow the whole of Lagos to be turned into a commercial centre full of shops, then I do not think that we are doing anything that will beautify the position of Lagos. It is not a matter for me to decide it is a matter for the Council of Ministers to decide and above all the matter has been brought to this House and I do not think that you will have anybody in this House who will support you in this respect. (*Applause*).

The concession was granted and if he had listened attentively he would no doubt realise that so many concessions were granted and if the people made maximum use of them, all these difficulties would not have arisen.

Sir, the hon. Mr Dosunmu has said, I am very sympathetic I agree, and I will continue to look into the problems of the people and I will do everything possible to meet them, so long as the complaints are reasonable. Instead of talking too much in this House, I would like Mr Dosunmu and all those concerned and who have the interest of the people at heart, to use their good offices to ask the people not to dissipate the money, the money should be deposited and

not used to buy unnecessary luxuries. Who is going to give them extra money? It is up to them to keep the money and when offers are made to them they will use this money to get back their land.

You talk of loans, I have explained the matter fully here. I said that even tomorrow if you can get somebody who has paid and taken up his land and he is waiting to build, the mortgage scheme facilities will be made available to him. (*Applause*).

Mr Chairman, Sir, the question of the introduction of legislation to prohibit alienation to land has also been mentioned. Even the proposed legislation does not in any way stop the people from alienating their land; all that the proposed legislation stipulates is that instead of people leasing their land up to a period of 99 years, they can do it at their free will, up to 33 years and above that period they require the sanction of the Governor-General. Therefore, the people can do the same thing, unless we alter the Law and say that people should not under any circumstances alienate their land, nothing can stop them.

The Minister of Research and Information (Chief the hon. Kolawole Balogun) 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 expenditure from the Development Fund of £9,805,740 for the purposes set out in the Draft Estimates of Capital Expenditure, 1958-59 under Head 605—Other Capital Expenditure—be approved, put and agreed to.

HEAD 601—LOANS

The Minister of Finance (Chief the hon. F. S. Okotie-Eboh): Mr Chairman, Sir, I beg to move that the expenditure from the Development Fund, of £6,870,000 for the purposes set out in the draft Estimates of Capital Expenditure 1958-59, under Head 601—Loans—be approved.

Question proposed.

Chief J. I. G. Onyia (Asaba): Mr Chairman, Sir, there was a proposal in this House just before this present House came into existence, that an electricity programme be extended along from Oji River even to Oshogbo. It was also contemplated, according to what I saw in those days, that the coal at Asaba or the lignite might be explored to help in the work of this electricity. Ever since, the Asaba people have

been watching and waiting to know whether the extension of electricity would come to the town. Nothing has happened and the electricity at Oji has reached Onitsha, which is just a stone's throw to Asaba. All their expectation is that the extension to Asaba would not be a great difficulty and many people have signified their consent of having this electricity installed into their houses and have sent their applications to the Electricity Corporation but nothing has been heard since.

My appeal on behalf of the Asaba Community is that attempt should be made to extend electricity from Onitsha which is a stone's throw to Asaba. It is possible for the Minister to help us in this respect. It will pay its way all right, many subscribers are there and are willing to pay.

Mr S. J. Una (Uyo): Mr Chairman, Sir, I am very grateful to have this opportunity to say one or two things about the Electricity Corporation of Nigeria. I notice now that a vast sum of money is going to be spent on expansion of electricity and when we were debating the Advanced Proposals certain towns and villages were mentioned in connection with this particular expansion for which the sum of £4 million is sought and there was not a single mention made of a town in Calabar Province.

An hon. Member: What of Calabar?

Mr Una: Electricity in Calabar was put up years before some of us were even born. Uyo particularly is the next important town in Calabar Province and there is no single mention made of Uyo. The Federal Government has not forgotten one spoke of bicycle in Uyo. Nothing is left there. Now, we have been asked to give approval to the expenditure of such large sum of money.

I rise to support the Motion that the Head should be reduced by £10 unless something is done for Uyo. I would like the Minister of Lagos Affairs, Mines and Power to give an undertaking here now that out of this £4 million Uyo and other towns in Calabar Province will be considered, otherwise there will be a very big question. So Mr Chairman, Sir, before I get hotter than I am now I would like the Minister at least to try to cool me down particularly with regard to the supply of electricity in Uyo and other places in Calabar Province. We have been so much forgotten.

Mr A. E. Ukattah (Bende): Mr Chairman, I should just like to say a few words in support

of this Amendment. When one looks at the heavy sum that is going to be spent in expansion of electricity in this country, one feels like saying a few words.

Sir, in 1956 I made a Motion calling on the Government to supply electricity to every village or hamlet that was prepared to provide 50 per cent of all installation costs. Pressure was brought to bear upon me to withdraw it and I withdrew it against my will. As soon as the sitting was over, either by design or by accident, I was told that one Mr Coker was sent to Umuahia-Ibeku to investigate the possibility of electrifying that place. The gentleman came back and I understand the report was favourable. I later interviewed the Minister of Mines and Power on this matter and he told me that a big power station was being contemplated for Aba and that it might be possible to do something from that place to electrify Umuahia-Ibeku. Sir, till now nothing has been done and there is no sign of any start. I think this is an opportunity to get a statement from the Minister and I would like him to give me a clear statement now.

Mr J. A. G. Ohiani (Igbirra): Mr Chairman, Sir, I seize this opportunity of informing the Minister of Lagos Affairs, Mines and Power that the people of my Division need electricity.

At the present expansion of the Divisional Headquarters, Okene, electricity is very essential. There are so many high institutions there and more in construction. We actually need electricity. They want to know and see what electricity is. They want to enjoy it. They will pay all the necessary fees. I have gone round my constituency before this sitting and they have asked me to bring this before the House. I just do not come here to ask or say this for saying's sake. It is the actual demand of my people.

I hope, Sir, that the Minister will take heed with his whole heart and record it down so that immediate action could be taken on the rising of this House.

Mr F. U. Mbakogu (Awka): Sir, I would only like to say that we are not making the best use of the money we vote under this Head. At Onitsha, I feel we are wasting a lot of money for electricity supply. There are many streets at Onitsha through which electric lights have passed but many houses on these streets have not been supplied with this electricity. There is discrimination at Onitsha. When a rich man builds a house at

Onitsha, or a European or a rich merchant, immediately he applies he will get his electricity supply. Even if he wires it to-day, tomorrow he will get his supply. But when poor people build houses, you may get houses about twenty yards away from a house that has electricity and yet that house will not be supplied with electricity. I cannot understand such wastage.

In the inland town of Onitsha, there is only one street, the Obi Okosi Street, which is supplied with electricity, and not even the whole breadth of it. Other streets are not supplied with electricity. I feel it is a national and economic waste which should be removed immediately.

Now, again we have electricity brought to Onitsha through Oji Power Station and that has passed through Awka. I do not say that every nook and cranny in Awka Division should have supply of electricity. That is impossible. But the point I want to make is this, that this town should have a supply of electricity. (*An hon. Member: How many houses?*) There are many houses round about there, there are a number of colleges—training colleges, many of them around that place, and hon. Members travel through there and they will see that the people are living closely together. The seat of Government, the market place, the police station, the training college should be supplied with electricity, otherwise it is a waste of money for electric power to pass through that place, and yet the people do not have that advantage. What I am saying is that houses in the towns through which the electric supply passes to Onitsha do not benefit by having a supply of electricity, for which they have suffered economically!

So, I appeal to the Minister to see that many towns through which the electricity supply has passed on its way to Onitsha get an electric supply. I do not say, Mr Chairman, that every small town or village through which the electricity supply to Onitsha has passed should get an electricity supply, it would not be an economical proposition for places that only have a population of about 2,000, but I am appealing to the Minister to see that the Electricity Corporation makes the best use of the money allocated to it.

Oba Adetunji Aiyeola-Afolu II (Ijebu Remo): Mr Chairman, Sir, I would like to associate myself with the sentiments expressed by the last speaker. The supply of electricity is circumscribed. On enquiry, Sir, I was made

to understand that although the E.C.N. is a commercial concern they will not supply electricity to cover the whole town, and in those places where the E.C.N. expect a loss it happens that those areas of the town will have to pay for coal which the Electricity Corporation will supply.

Mr Chairman, Sir, it is not a good thing for Government to ask concerns like the Nigerian Police Station to have to pay for coal which is bringing the electricity supply. I mention in particular the Nigerian Police Station at Shagamu on the Lagos-Ibadan Road. It is within the extension of the town and at the moment, we are expecting electricity towards the end of the year, but nothing has been done to plant the necessary posts for the supply of electricity to the Nigeria Police Station, although as I said, it is within the extension of the town. There are other institutions in this place including a training college, which we understand electricity will not be supplied to.

I know, Sir, that the E.C.N. is a commercial concern and it has suffered some losses in the past. I know, too, Sir, that the E.C.N. is making up the losses it has suffered over the past year, but I think Sir, the E.C.N. should not call on us to make up the losses. They should think of the benefit which would accrue to the people, as we have said in this House on many occasions, and I appeal to the Minister and the Prime Minister himself who is in charge of the supply of electricity to see that when electricity is being supplied to Shagamu the policemen will not be forgotten.

Mr P. Deem Kpumm (Jecira, Tiv Division) Mr Chairman, Sir, there is a point I would like to ask the Minister, and that is about the supply of electricity to Gboko. I am just asking the Minister if there is any possibility that we would be able to have electricity there. I can assure you that many of the people will be prepared to contribute a reasonable amount to help the cost of this in Gboko. I hope the Minister will not reply as the Posts and Telegraphs have done, when we offered to contribute a substantial amount in order to facilitate the installation of this service from Makurdi to Gboko. The offer was turned down, and we were told that the contribution was an extra inducement although the people were prepared to contribute some amount towards this service.

Mr Chairman, I beg to support.

Mr M. A. Ajasin (Owo South): Mr Chairman, Sir, I would like to remind the Minister about the pleas that were put forward from time to time here for the supply of electricity to the important towns in Ondo Province. I have to inform the Minister that in the Ondo Province there has not been a town there that has been supplied with electricity, and it is a big province, the biggest in the Western Region.

There are towns like Owo, Akure, Ondo, and many others; these towns should be supplied with electricity. Sometime ago here, in this House, the Minister of Lagos Affairs, Mines and Power told us that there were about twenty-nine towns which had been earmarked for the supply of electricity, and from time to time I have asked in this House, that a White Paper on the supply of electric power should be tabled by the Minister. I would like to know when this is going to be done. We want to know which towns are going to be supplied within the next five years.

Mr Chairman, another thing I would like to speak about is the extension of the Railway Line in the Western Region. Mr Chairman, in the year 1928 a survey was undertaken by the Government of the day for the extension of the railway line from Odo-Oba up to Benin City. Shortly after that there was the world depression of trade which prevented the scheme from being carried out, later on, after the depression when trade became brisker came the second world war.

Well, Sir, we have emerged from that and now is the time that we made arrangements for the expansion of the Railway in some parts of the Federation and I would like to . . .

The Chairman : Can we get to the E.C.N.?

Mr Ajasin : It is here, under the Head, Mr Chairman. So I am asking the Minister who is responsible, that is the Minister Transport, is it not time that this question of the Railway in the Western Region should be considered?

The Chairman : We are talking about the E.C.N.

Mr Ajasin : Item 3.

The Chairman : The debate so far has been on Item 1 of sub-head 1, Electricity Corporation.

Mr Ajasin : Mr Chairman, I wanted to ask them all at once because there may be no time later for me to speak.

The Minister of Lagos Affairs, Mines and Power (Alhaji the hon. Muhammadu Ribadu): Mr Chairman, I would like to inform the House that there is a Motion for Electricity Supply coming before the House. (*An hon. Member: When?*) Tuesday next, and that will give hon. Members ample time to say everything they like on the extension of electricity supply, and, Sir, I would like to reserve my reply to the points raised now until then. (*Applause*).

The Minister of Finance 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.

Mr J. U. Udom (Abak): Mr Chairman, I just want to . . .

The Chairman: I am sorry, the Motion has been closed so I am bound to put the Question.

Question, That the expenditure from the Development Fund of Six Million, Eight Hundred and Seventy Thousand pounds for the purposes set out in the draft Estimates of Capital Expenditure, 1958-59, under Head 601—Loans, be approved, put accordingly and agreed to

Resolutions to be reported.

(Mr Speaker resumed the Chair.)

Resolutions reported.

Resolved: That this House doth agree with the Committee in the said Resolutions.

EDUCATION (LAGOS) (AMENDMENT) BILL

Order for Second Reading read.

The Minister of Education (Hon. Aja Nwachuku): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to move the Second Reading of the Education (Lagos) (Amendment) Bill, 1958, which I am sure will commend itself to this House as a non-contentious measure. The reasons for bringing this Bill to the House are plainly set out in the Objects and Reasons at the footnote of the Draft Bill.

Under the present regulations it is only possible for Government to aid Schools situated within the confines of the Federal Territory. The purpose of this Bill is to rectify this anomaly so that grants-in-aid may be paid to the Church Missionary Society Grammar School, and the Baptist Academy. Both these Schools have embarked on building programmes outside the Federal Territory. This was necessary due

to the shortage of suitable sites in Lagos, and the plans for reconstruction enjoy my full support.

As I have already said it is clear that we cannot pay any grant to these Schools under the existing regulations because they are outside the Federal Territory of Lagos. Naturally we wish to continue to make grants to these two excellent Schools provided they continue to satisfy the normal conditions governing the payments of grant-in-aid to Schools. To enable us to do this it will be necessary for this Bill to be approved by the House, and I am sure that hon. Members will agree with the objects of the Bill.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move.

The Minister of Finance (Chief the hon. F. S. Okotie-Eboh): Mr Speaker, Sir, in seconding this Bill I would like to congratulate my hon. Colleague for his foresight. It is very fortunate that this grant-in-aid should be ready well in advance because I am sure it is the wish of this House that the Lagos boundaries should be extended for twenty miles.

Question proposed.

Mr L. J. Dosunmu (Lagos East): While welcoming this Bill in principle, I would like to submit that this is a very belated Bill. Why do I say so, Sir? It is very belated because it should have been brought before this House two or three years ago. After all these schools are not the first schools in Lagos that have moved to the Western Region. You have the Ahmadiyya School which was established in Lagos and when it moved away the Government did not do anything, although the school is drawing its student population from Lagos. The Ansar Udeen School, at Isolo; and the Eko Boys High School—each drawing their student population from Lagos and yet the Government did not do anything about it when they moved. But, Sir, now that some Christian Voluntary Agencies' Schools are moving away, Government is bringing this Bill forward. They should have had the foresight long ago. . . . (*Interruption*). . . .

Why I am complaining is this, the Minister ought not to have limited this aid to these two schools. He should have provided aid for other schools that are in the Western Region.

The basis of the matter is this, that the student populations in these two schools are largely drawn from Lagos, that is the reason why you are giving them assistance. Because there is no accommodation for these schools in Lagos they moved to the Western Region. But I say, Sir, there are other schools which are worthy of this assistance in the Western Region and I have mentioned their names already, the Ahmadiyya School; the Ansar Udeen School at Isolo; and the Eko Boys High School each of which is drawing their student population largely from Lagos. I submit that the other schools which I have mentioned qualify for this aid, and that it is

short sightedness on the part of the Minister to have listed only these two schools. I am suggesting, Sir, that even the.....

Mr T. O. S. Benson (Lagos West) : A point of order, Sir, it is now twelve midnight.

Mr Speaker : Order, order. The time for the adjournment of the House is now reached. Debate to be resumed ?

The Minister of Lagos Affairs, Mines and Power : Tomorrow, Sir.

Adjourned at 12 o'clock midnight until 9 a.m. on Friday, the 14th March, 1958.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
NIGERIA

Friday, 14th March, 1958

The House met at 9 a.m.

PRAYERS

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

PAPERS

Mr Speaker : Order, order. I have to announce that the following papers already distributed to Members are deemed to have been laid on the Table :

(1) Annual Report on the Nigeria Police Force for the year 1955-56 ;

(2) Annual Report on the Treatment of Offenders for the year 1956-57 ;

(3) Progress Record, an Account of the Federal Public Works Department in 1957-58.

PRESENTATION OF PUBLIC BILLS

WIDOWS' AND ORPHANS' PENSIONS
BILL

The Minister of Finance (Chief the hon. Festus Okotie-Eboh) : Second Reading—Tomorrow, Sir.

INCOME TAX (AMENDMENT) BILL

The Minister of Finance (Chief the hon. Festus Okotie-Eboh) : Second Reading—Tomorrow, Sir.

MAGISTRATES' COURT (LAGOS) (AMENDMENT)
BILL

The Minister of State (Hon. Zanna Bukar Dipcharima) : Second Reading—Tomorrow, Sir.

REGIONAL COURTS (FEDERAL JURISDICTION)
BILL

The Minister of State (Hon. Zanna Bukar Dipcharima) : Second Reading—Tomorrow, Sir.

RAILWAY LOAN (INTERNATIONAL BANK)
BILL

The Minister of Finance (Chief the hon. Festus Okotie-Eboh) : Second Reading—Monday, Sir.

NOTICES OF MOTION AND
ORDERS OF THE DAY.

DEVELOPMENT FUND : GENERAL REVENUE
BALANCE

The Minister of Finance (Chief the hon. Festus Okotie-Eboh) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to move, That this House approves the appropriation into the Development Fund on the 1st of April, 1958, of all that part of the General Revenue Balance in excess of Five Million Pounds as at the close of business on the 31st day of March, 1958.

Sir, this is the customary Motion which has been moved by my predecessors each year since 1956.

Its purpose is to convey authority for the budget surplus for each year to be transferred to the Development Fund to finance further capital expenditure. The significance of the words "in excess of £5,000,000" is that £5,000,000 is the sum which we estimate the Accountant-General needs to have at his disposal as working capital to cover the day-to-day costs of all aspects of the Federal Government. (*Hear, hear*). Any sums which accrue in excess of this sum are, however, available for capital development.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move.

Question proposed.

Dr E. O. Awduche (Onitsha) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to support this Motion. It is really non-contentious, but I would just like to congratulate the Minister for the very phenomenal rise we have in our budget surplus during the last year. Although it had been estimated at about £900,000, yet, by the close of the year it was found that we had about a £3 million balance which is now being transferred into the Development Fund. There is nothing out of the way about this, because already in 1956 we had passed a Motion while discussing the economic programme that this was one of the items which would go to build up our funds, our revenue for development.

Sir, I beg to support.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved, That this House approves the appropriation into the Development Fund on the 1st of April, 1958, of all that part of the General Revenue Balance in excess of Five Million Pounds as at the close of business on the 31st day of March, 1958.

DEVELOPMENT FUND—MARINE
RENEWALS FUND

The Minister of Finance (Chief the hon. F. S. Okotie-Eboh): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to move the Motion standing in my name on the Order Paper "That this House approves the appropriation into the Development Fund as at 31st of March, 1958 of all that part of the balance of the Marine Renewals Fund which represents accrued contributions in respect of craft now transferred to the Nigerian Naval Force." The Marine Renewals Fund was originally used to finance the cost of replacing all marine craft. However, with the formation of a Nigerian Naval Force, certain craft which were formerly operated by the old Marine Department have now been taken over by the Naval Force. Now, Sir, as Members will appreciate, Naval craft change rapidly in design and in performance and it is unlikely that one craft would automatically be replaced when it reaches the end of its useful life by craft of exactly similar design. It is common for naval craft to be replaced as out of date before they are worn out. But the whole basis of a Renewals Fund is that the capital equipment which it seeks to renew will be of a similar type and of a similar cost. It is, therefore, no longer appropriate for Naval craft renewals to be financed from a Marine Renewals Fund.

In future, therefore, such Naval craft as may be required will have to be purchased from the Development Fund which is the source of funds for all our capital expenditure.

Since this is to be so, it is only logical that the accrued renewals contributions which already exist in the Marine Renewals Fund in respect of Naval craft should be transferred to the Development Fund (*Hear, hear*) which will in future bear the cost of such renewals. The sum involved is in the region of £115,000. (*Hear, hear*).

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved, That this House approves the appropriation into the Development Fund as at 31st March, 1958 of all that part of the balance of the Marine Renewals Fund which represents accrued contributions in respect of craft now transferred to the Nigerian Naval Force.

THE EDUCATION (LAGOS) (AMENDMENT) BILL

Order read for resuming Adjourned Debate on Question (13th March), That the Bill be now read a second time.

Question again proposed.

Mr L. J. Dosunmu (Lagos East): Mr Speaker, Sir, I do not intend to repeat what I said last night, but I do intend to draw the attention of the House to the provisions in support of this Bill. It is stated, Sir, that this Bill is intended to assist two specific cases, and the two specific cases are listed in the body of this Bill.

Mr Speaker, Sir, my point is this; why should Government assist only these two specific cases? Government did endeavour to give reasons for so doing, Sir. They said it was because these two schools draw their pupils from Lagos. But I do not think that the hon. Minister would deny that it is not only these two schools that satisfy these conditions. There are other schools which satisfy these conditions, and as I mentioned there is the Eko Boys High School, the AnsarUdeen School at Isolo, and the Ahmadiyya School at Agege. These schools, Sir, satisfy the conditions, because they too draw nearly 90 per cent of their students or pupils from the Federal Territory. These schools are approved schools, approved by the Federal Government before some of them moved from the Federal Territory to the Western Region. One of these schools, Sir, was established in Lagos, and it satisfies all the conditions. They were originally built in Lagos, and it was lack of space and lack of accommodation that necessitated them moving into the Western Region.

As I was saying last night, it is hardly explicable why when these schools were moved, it never occurred to Government to give them Federal grants. They were tossed to the Western Region to maintain them. No one took any notice of their move from the Federal Territory. But when these other schools are moved under the same circumstances, you find a grant on the part of the Government to provide assistance.

House of Representatives Debates

1543

[Education (Lagos)
(Amendment) Bill :

14 MARCH 1958

Second Reading]

1544

Mr Speaker, Sir, there are other schools that I have not mentioned who deserve the assistance of the Federal Government, some of them have not been able to complete their building programme. They have not sufficient science laboratories. So, if the Government can see a way to examining this problem of these other two schools and giving them assistance in the form of building grants and other grants, why then should not the Federal Government consider the cases of these other schools?

I am asking the Government not to restrict their assistance to only these two schools, because if they do that, they will be giving the impression of discrimination. They may not be doing it deliberately, but that impression cannot be removed completely from the mind of people directly concerned, and as I was saying these schools do need considerable improvements, and I would have wished that the Minister should have included these other schools that satisfy these conditions which made him give grants, Federal grants to schools sited in the Western Region. If these schools satisfy these conditions, they should have been included in the list.

I know it may not be possible for the Minister to do something straight away, but I am asking him to give thought to it and see whether he cannot amend the provisions of the Bill to meet the needs of these other schools.

Mr T. O. S. Benson (Lagos West): Mr Speaker, Sir, I have to congratulate the Minister for making grants-in-aid to the C.M.S. Grammar School and the Baptist Academy, and I strongly support the point, raised by the hon. Dosunmu in respect of making grants-in-aid to the Eko Boys High School, the AnsarUdeen School at Isolo, and the Ahmadiyya School at Agege, because what is good for the goose (*Several hon. Members : Is good for the gander*).

Now, Mr Speaker, Sir, I would go further, and say that making grants-in-aid to schools outside the Federal Territory of Lagos is a stronger case for the expansion of... (*Loud applause, Hear, hear*).

I want to tell this House that if the Federal boundary of Lagos had been extended for at least 20 miles, there would have been no need for us to come here this morning appealing to

the Minister to give grants-in-aid to these schools, for all of them would have been on the same basis.

The Western Region generally get their share of money from the Federal Government; in addition they use the money from the Federal Government to help schools which were once established in the Federal Territory but which are now in the Western Region.

I think therefore, Sir, that my learned Friend Mr Dosunmu in fairness to himself and the people of Lagos, will support the extension of the boundaries of Lagos.

M. Muhtari, Sarkin Bai (South West Kano): I rise to support the Second Reading of this Bill, and Sir, with your permission I should like to pay tribute to one, Mr A. A. Shillingford, now Chief Federal Adviser on Education, for the services he rendered in the Northern Region. Sir, this man rendered excellent service in the Northern Region for over 20 years and through his guidance and advice the North has been able to develop to its present standard in the educational field and I believe that through his advice and guidance, education in the Federal Territory will develop greatly.

Finally, Sir, I should like to congratulate the Minister of Education for presenting such a timely Bill, and for all his efforts, and I appeal to the Minister to set up more schools within the Federal Territory of Lagos and to give them financial aid.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to support.

Mr Jaja Wachuku (Aba): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Second Reading of this Bill and to make a few comments. In the first place, Sir, I want to endorse what the hon. Mr Dosunmu has said in relation to giving assistance to the other schools that have left the Federal Territory to migrate to the Western Region, and also the comments of the hon. Mr Benson about that.

But I want to say this, that even if we support this grant to schools which through force of circumstances have migrated out of the Federal Territory, we do not blame the Minister for doing nothing about that, for the simple reason that the hon. Mr Dosunmu did not tell the House that these people brought their migration to the notice of the Minister and he did nothing. The Minister is not supposed to be hanging around the schools and their Boards of Management—it is their duty to call the Minister's attention to consider their cases.

Mr Dosunmu did not tell this House that these schools applied for assistance and that the Minister had refused it. Therefore the Minister is not to blame in this respect at all. Secondly, there has been some suggestion that there has been discrimination, but I think that that disposes of that possibility.

I would have thought that the hon. Mr Dosunmu with his experience would have brought an Amendment to this House on this Bill, to include these other names which he has mentioned. But not to start talking about bringing another Bill for further consideration.

As the hon. Mr Benson has said, I want to re-emphasize what has been said about the extension of Lagos boundaries. I am appealing to the Prime Minister, and the leader of the Delegation to the Constitutional Conference,—after all it has not been concluded, it is still to be resumed.

When we were fighting for this House to be represented on that Conference, we were successful, and so I say it is now for the representatives from this House on that Conference to raise this matter when the Conference is resumed. After all, we know the circumstances under which the boundary of Lagos was arbitrarily cut down—it was purely a political act! If there is any organisation, or any unit in this Federation which should inherit the authority of the British Government before, it is the Federation and not any Region. Therefore, Sir, I say that the common boundary of Lagos should be the old boundary that was Lagos....(Hear, hear)

I would like to warn you now that we are going to continue to ask, and we are going to start a campaign and at every meeting of this House we shall keep on asking until the Prime Minister has got that boundary back for us....(Hear, hear).....Nothing less than those 20 miles, Sir, from now on nothing else will satisfy us....(Applause). Sir, I think that the majority of people in this House want that..(Applause). There is a case for it now.

In fact commercial firms are finding it difficult, Sir, because outside the Federal Territory....

Mr Speaker : I think the hon. Member is taking his argument too far. These two particular schools and their removal may be an argument for the extension of the boundaries of Lagos, but that is not the subject of this debate.

Mr Wachuku : I am sorry, Sir, I appreciate that. I do not want to go far. I was only trying to bring it to the notice of the Government. But apart from what I have just said, there is also the problem of registration. You have to go to Ibadan to register.....

Mr Speaker : That is just a development which I deprecate.

Mr Wachuku : Mr Speaker, Sir, I am sorry. These schools were transferred to this area, but instead of registering their land here, they went to Ibadan. These schools, Sir, I am saying must be adequately protected, and I want the Minister to seriously consider this matter and avoid any possibility of bringing further Bills to this House on this score or to give assistance for welfare centres in the Western Region, and perhaps contribute towards Research Institutions in the Western Region and so on.

With these few remarks, Sir, I support the Bill.

The Minister of Education (Hon. Aja Nwachuku) : Mr Speaker, I wish to answer briefly the points raised by the hon. Mr Dosunmu, supported by the hon. Mr Benson and later endorsed by the hon. Mr Wachuku concerning the limitations of this Bill to these two schools, the Church Missionary Society Grammar School and the Baptist Academy. Although it is true that several of those schools mentioned by the hon. Mr Dosunmu have recently moved from Lagos to the Western Region, these schools have never received any grants-in-aid from the Federal Government.

Before the Constitution of 1954 grants-in-aid to secondary schools were paid from several Government funds by Regional allocation. With the coming into force of the Constitutional Revision, the Western Government was vested with powers and duties in relation to secondary schools within its area. Certain schools which were removed from Lagos to the Western Region before this date, therefore, became the responsibility of that Government and not that of the Federal Government. The C.M.S. Grammar School and the Baptist Academy remained in Lagos at the time of the Constitutional change and therefore were regarded as Federal schools for purposes of grants-in-aid. This was agreed to by the West Regional Government,

Mr M. A. Ajasin (Owo South) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I want to congratulate the Minister of Education for bringing this Bill in respect of these two schools. Some Members have been labouring under great misapprehension about the extension of the territory of Lagos. It should not be forgotten that the Western Region is now self-governing, and we cannot take any part of its territory without the consent of that Government. *(Interruption)*...

Mr Speaker : Order, order.

Mr Ajasin : Mr Speaker, Sir, I think it should be remembered by hon. Members that there are some Federal institutions in the West, in the East and the North : we have the University College Teaching Hospital, the Moor Plantation and the College of Technology in Ibadan ; the College of Technology at Enugu ; the Veterinary at Vom and the College of Technology at Zaria. *(Interruption)*. So that if these two schools draw their pupils from the Federal territory but are located in the Western Region, it is nothing strange at all.

Mr Speaker, Sir, we have to say this about these schools, that they had been working under very unwholesome conditions all this time and now that they have areas of land in the Western Region, they would be able to develop more. It is not an easy thing to work under the conditions in which these schools had been set up during these years, and it must be to the credit of the proprietors and the teaching staff of these schools that even they had been able to maintain such a high standard all this time in such very cramped conditions. We know that in these schools there are no places for play grounds, and education is not only the development of the mental ability ; it is also a development of the physical part of a man. The same thing about morals ; there is not sufficient accommodation for building of dormitories, but now in the new areas to which these schools are removed there is ample room for building of dormitories where boarders would live and they would be looked after by House Masters. That would make for communal life and the development of character.

Even when you talk about the question of mental development, in the former areas here in Lagos, there was the hooting and horning of cars and all sorts of attractions distracting

the attention of the pupils in these schools from their studies. But now they have moved into very congenial areas where they would be able to develop more.

So Mr Speaker, Sir, I feel that the Minister of Education and the Government should be thanked for making this provision, and also the West Regional Government should be thanked for giving this land *(Cries of No, no)*.

Mr Speaker, I beg to support.

Mr L. L. Lakunle (Oyo North) : Mr Speaker, Sir, in rising to support the second reading of this Bill, I would like to congratulate the Minister for his gesture of goodwill in making provision for grants-in-aid to be made for these schools. I am happy that he has explained the conditions under which the other schools mentioned by Mr Dosunmu were not given grants-in-aid.

Yesterday, when Mr Dosunmu made his allegations, in fact some of us were shocked to hear that these other schools were not given grants-in-aid because they were Moslem schools. It is a very bad thing, and I do not agree with Mr Dosunmu at all. I do not think it would help the unity of this country if we introduced religion into our already complicated politics, and so I would appeal to Mr Dosunmu to try and verify facts before making allegations of this nature.

I would like also to appeal to the Minister to see to it that as these other schools must have qualified for grants-in-aid by now, he should do all that lies in his power to see that grants-in-aid are made to them.

Mr Speaker, I beg to support.

M. Shehu Shagari (South West Sokoto) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I support this Bill with a proviso, that is, provided the grants-in-aid to the schools in question are paid by the Government of the Western Region, either directly or indirectly.

Sir, I have said this before, that there will never be an end to Amendments to our Laws so long as the Colony area remains under the yoke of Western Region imperialism *(Applause)*.

Sir, if the imperialistic ambitions of the Action Group cannot be harnessed by this honourable House, we can at least ask them for colonial grants paid for the Federal schools in the Federal territory annexed by the Action Group.

An hon. Member : Annexed ?

M. Shagari : Yes, annexed. Sir, if the Western Government is ready for a compromise, at least before the resumed London Conference they could undertake to pay these grants on behalf of the Federal Government, otherwise there is nothing to prevent Nigerians of the East, North and Southern Cameroons to demand as of right the immediate transfer of the schools in their territories to the Federal capital.

Sir, I wish also to support my hon. Friend, Mr Dosunmu, in asking for the same privileges to be extended to other schools situated in the same strips which have the misfortune of being in the Western Region. He has my sympathy in that he has the misfortune of seeing his old dear school annexed by the imperialistic greed of the Action Group.

Sir, the Action Group should help Mr Dosunmu by granting these schools the money they require, that is in compensation for the land which they have annexed.

With this, Sir, I beg to support.

M. Sanni O. B. Okin (Ilorin North) : Mr Speaker, Sir, many hon. Members have spoken a lot about financial aid to the schools mentioned by hon. Dosunmu. I have to congratulate the Minister for the financial assistance rendered to these schools, but the question is, it is rather unfortunate that these schools are within the boundary of the Western Region. The feeling of the hon. Member is that these schools will be within the Federal territory of Lagos. When Members say that Lagos boundary should be extended to 20 miles, they forget to put one thing, and that is that in the alternative, what was known as Lagos Colony twenty years ago should be completely resuscitated.

Mr J. M. Udochi (Afenmai) : Mr Speaker, Sir, there is only a little point I would like to raise in connection with this Bill. I respectfully submit, Sir, that Bills of this nature create more problems than they can solve. It is obvious that the need for this Bill arose because these two schools have transferred from the authority of the Education Ordinance, Lagos, to the authority of the Education Law of the Western Region.

Now, Sir, in my opinion, it is not entirely satisfactory that we should legislate to continue to bear the financial burden of these schools when in all other respects they are under the

authority of another Government of the Federation. However, I think we cannot avoid that. But there are other implications. I would like to know whether the Minister has had some sort of concordance with the Western Region as to the management and running of these schools now that they are no more under his authority. Would he time and again, if there is anything to be done, be compelled to bring an amendment to the Law in order to justify taking any step or doing anything in respect of these schools ?

I think an understanding ought to be made with the Western Region and the Government should look into the whole of this question of the nearness of Lagos to the Western Region because this is not the only case that will arise. I do not know whether the extension of the boundaries is what will solve the problem, but there is no doubt that problems of this nature will continue to crop up in one respect or the other, and until Government takes a firm step to review the whole problem and solve it one way or the other, I do not think application of this nature is going to help us a long way.

Mr Chairman, I support the Second Reading.

Mr S. J. Una (Uyo) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I am very happy that the transfer of these two colleges from Lagos has created some problems and we are beginning now to feel the pinch; we are getting to realise the stupidity of breaking up education in the country or Regionalising education. There is a greater trouble in that other place, in the East. But Mr Speaker, Sir, . . .

An hon. Member : Where do you come from ?

Mr Una : I do not know if I come from there. (*Interruption*). If I were there the Budget proposals would have been ready before they went. (*Interruption*).

Mr D. N. Abii (Owerri) : Point of order, Mr Speaker, Sir, the hon. Gentleman speaking, we understand that his brother, hon. S. G. Ikoku, stole away the Estimates thinking that they were "empty sacks".

Mr Speaker : There is no point of order in that, as I am sure the hon. Gentleman will learn in the next few weeks.

House of Representatives Debates

1551

[Education (Lagos)
(Amendment) Bill : Committee]

14 MARCH 1958

[Military Forces
(Amendment) Bill :]

1552

Mr Una : Mr Speaker, Sir, I thank you very much for ruling this hon. Gentleman out for his most irrelevant utterance this morning.

When I was heading a college at home and the college was experiencing quite a lot of financial difficulties, I went carefully to examine all the schools and colleges receiving grants from the Federal Government and from the other Regional Governments as well. And I am saying this with the greatest responsibility at my command that I have a feeling, and a very strong one, that this Ahmadiyya College was grant-earning from the Western Region when Lagos was part of the Western Region, and after the 1953 Constitutional Conference when Lagos was constituted a Federal Territory, this very college started to receive grant from the Federal Government. . . (Interruption).

Mr Speaker : It has nothing to do with anyone of these two.

Mr Una : I am coming to that point.

Mr Speaker : In that case the hon. Gentleman is being as irrelevant as his interrupter.

Mr Una : Mr Speaker, Sir, I am not to be whipped by somebody from the N.C.N.C.

I do not know whether the Minister is not making a slight mistake in saying that this college was never grant-earning from the Federal Government. So that if my contention is right and if this college was receiving grant from the Federal Government, I think that after the college had transferred from the Federal Territory to the Western Region, consideration should be given to this college as is being provided for these other two colleges now.

Mr Speaker, 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 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.

THE NIGERIAN MILITARY FORCES, ROYAL
WEST AFRICAN FRONTIER FORCE
(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 to amend the Nigerian Military Forces, Royal West African Frontier Force, previously known as the Royal West African Frontier Force (Nigeria Regiment) Ordinance, be read a second time.

I think, Sir, it will be helpful if I give the hon. Members some idea of the background to this Bill. The discipline of our Military Forces is governed by the Ordinance which this Bill now seeks to amend and that Ordinance is in its turn linked with the Army Acts of the United Kingdom. Recently in the United Kingdom the Military legislation was thoroughly revised and the new Army Act was passed in 1955 and came into force on the 1st of January, 1957. This new Act constitutes the basic Military law applicable to all United Kingdom troops and is so applicable to them when they are in Nigeria as well as when they are at home or at other stations overseas.

Military Forces raised under the Nigerian law will be subject to this new Act only to the extent provided by Nigerian law. The Royal West African Frontier Force Ordinance as it now stands refers of course to the earlier Army Acts, and indeed in section 109 of the Ordinance, specific reference is made to the Army Act of 1881 which no longer exists. Put quite simply, Sir, the purpose of the Bill now before the House is to bring our legislation into accord with the new disciplinary procedure set out in the United Kingdom Army Act of 1955.

At the same time the opportunity has been taken to introduce a number of amendments which are largely formal to conform to the modern usage of Military Legislation. I should like to inform the House that the Federal Government has been fortunate with the advice of the Director of the Army Record Service in the War Office when this Bill was

prepared. We can be confident therefore that our Military Legislation will be fully up to date if the House decides to approve this Bill.

Sir, some hon. Members may fairly ask if it is advisable for the Nigerian Military Forces to conform, in matters of discipline, to the United Kingdom practice. In the first place, the House is aware, and as I told them Sir, much earlier, we shall, for some time to come, rely on the British Army in certain categories. It is plainly desirable that in courts-martial, courts' enquiry, rules of procedure and rules of evidence, we should have a common pattern of administration with which they will be familiar.

Secondly, Sir, Members of the Nigerian Military Forces will from time to time be posted to the United Kingdom for instructional courses, attachments, and so on. It is plainly right that they too should be familiar with the requirements of military discipline in the British Army. And finally Sir, I am convinced that every Member of the House will wish to ensure that our legislation is based on the most modern practice as has been done by the British Army and found satisfactory. In these matters Sir, we have no better guide.

Sir, I beg to move.

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

Question proposed.

Mr A. Adeyinka (Ibadan Central): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Second Reading of this Bill. This Bill as it stands Sir, is a progressive one. If you look at clause two of this Bill, you will see a lot of changes in the mode of complaint of serving soldiers. Because in the past Sir, when we were in the Military Forces, the mode of complaint at that time was regimented but with the introduction of this Bill, I have seen that the mode of complaint now is a wise thing in that a soldier cannot only on any complaint or in any matter appeal to his immediate officer, that is the commanding, but also if he is not satisfied with the Commandant, he can appeal to the Governor-General of the Federation. This is a progressive method, it gives somebody a chance of putting his case before his superior officer.

The Prime Minister has been able to tell us that this Bill is in line with the modern army in the United Kingdom; in as much

as we derive the staff of the present Military Forces from the British Overseas Officers, well, I think the Bill is quite progressive, because we cannot afford at this stage to have our old different type of army discipline in Nigeria and other one in the United Kingdom so long as both the United Kingdom and Nigeria are working together I think they should have the same mode of discipline and we should emulate them in all respects of their military service and action.

So with these few remarks, I beg to support the Bill.

Dr E. U. Udoma (Opobo): Mr Speaker, Sir, I wish to pay my tribute to the Prime Minister for his foresight in introducing this Bill at this stage. I think it is good that when we are having this Army transferred to us in this country that we should start on the right line straight away because if we make a good foundation, then the structure we are trying to erect will always stand erect.

I would certainly agree with the Prime Minister that there could be no better precedent for this country to follow in military history and practice than Great Britain. No doubt, in course of time when the army is well established and properly constituted and set up, many changes will be made. But for the present, it is only wise that we emulate what is going on in Great Britain.

I notice, Sir, that the Amendment under section 2 says that it creates a right of the soldier to be able to lodge complaints to various officers. But I do not know whether it is sound, because it is not stated, if a soldier has a complaint against the Commandant, where such a complaint will have to go through the Commandant, to the Governor-General or Commanding Officer, as the case may be. We know very well in the Civil Service that even where a civil servant has the right to complain, he has to send it through his immediate boss or through the head of his own department to wherever he may wish to lodge the complaint.

Therefore, Sir, I do not know whether that is likely to happen in this case because if that is likely to happen then I can well imagine the case of a soldier being destroyed before ever getting to the Governor-General. There is one very important feature in that section which

makes it obligatory either on the Commandant or on whoever the complaint is made to, to take steps as to either enquiring or offering some regrets, and I think that is a welcome procedure.

Now, Sir, my only warning is that I hope that what is going to be the practice under that section would be as expressed in the Bill, that is to say, if for instance, a soldier complains to the Commanding Officer and the Commanding Officer fails to take appropriate steps as prescribed by the law, he should be entitled directly to forward his complaint to the Governor-General. There should be no question of any bottle-neck.

Now I have also noticed the procedure as regards court-martials on the question of evidence which I think is very modern and up to date. On the whole, I would certainly add my tribute to the Prime Minister, and say that this is a welcome Bill and very up to date indeed. (*Cheers.*)

M. Nuhu Bamalli (Central Zaria): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to congratulate the Prime Minister for bringing this news to us that Nigeria will have its own independent Army. Nothing, Sir, is more reassuring, for independence is on our door steps. Sir, I take this opportunity to say a word or two not about the serving soldiers but about the retired soldiers. I hope—and that is the policy of my party—that everything possible will be done to make adequate provision for the welfare and happiness of the ex-servicemen.

Mr Speaker: I do not think that comes under this Bill to be debated.

M. Bamalli: Well, that is the only point I would like to raise.

Mr P. H. Okolo (Onitsha): Mr Speaker, Sir, this is a very welcome Bill and I am sure that all sides of this House will support the Bill. This is the time when we are trying to encourage our youngmen to get into the Army and we must do everything possible to attract them.

There is one point I would like the Prime Minister to investigate, and that concerns our youngmen who have given about at least eighteen years service in the Army, and who are still strong, have not reached the age of 45 before retirement, and have had very good record. I understand, they were not allowed to re-enlist after this age, and that some of them

asked to be re-enlisted, and they were not allowed. I would like the Prime Minister to investigate this matter because, as I said, this is the time when we are trying to help our youngmen into the Army and by refusing to get them re-enlisted they only swell the number of unemployed ex-servicemen, and the less of these unemployed ex-servicemen we have in the country, the better it would be for the country.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I support.

Mr M. A. O. Olarewaju (South Ilorin): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the second reading of this Bill. To pledge my support, I would like to remind this House that, in order to relieve the Prime Minister from too much work an appointment of a Minister of Defence is necessary. . . . (*Interruption.*)

Mr Speaker: That is quite outside the debate.

Mr Olarewaju: We should also Nigerianise our Army by introducing national uniforms. Such a uniform that will suit our hot climate. Sir, I beg to support.

Mr G. O. D. Eneh (Udi): Mr Speaker, Sir, in supporting this Bill I want to say that discipline in the Army should be such that could attract Nigerians into the fold. The conditions there as well as the discipline should be in line, as the Prime Minister is now bringing it, to the U.K. Army Organisation.

I want to say, Sir, that this measure is a very welcome one, but if we go to the Objects and Reasons of this Bill we will see that the amendments are rather formal and relate rather to phraseology in very many respects. So that in actual fact the intention of this Bill is not a very great change on the present ordinance which governs the Army. I want to say, Sir, that in order to bring the Military in Nigeria into line with the United Kingdom militia, certain aspects of discipline there should be also in line with the U.K. Army Regulations.

Well, Sir, this Bill relates to complaints and discipline. In discipline we are dealing with courts martial. Under the U.K. Government, the 1951 Court-Martial Appeals Act, has changed the mode of procedure there and that mode is also being introduced in Nigeria. Under that procedure, Sir, the Army Appeals Act (Court-Martial Appeals Court) has been widened to include the high court

judges of England, Wales and Northern Ireland, and other persons of legal experience. We want to see in this country an Army Court-Martial Appeals Court which will be able to look into the judgments which the Army Court-Martials have inflicted on our soldiers.

During the War years the courts-martial had actually acted in a way to force out West Africans from the fold because the terms were not related to the Army Courts-Martial Act of the United Kingdom. In that case, Sir, I want to say that in any court-martial soldiers should have the privilege of being represented by counsel. What actually obtains presently is that an advocate is appointed by the Army Authorities to defend soldiers when they are in difficulty. Normally such an advocate may be an officer of the rank of lieutenant or captain, who have not the legal knowledge, in which case it becomes impossible for some people to get justice as they require. I am asking the Prime Minister that in making this Amendment to the original Ordinance he should see to it that improvements continue to be made until our own discipline and mode of procedure are completely in accord with the United Kingdom Army Regulations.

I beg to support.

Mr J. G. Adeniran (Ibadan West): Mr Speaker, Sir, I congratulate the Prime Minister for presenting this Bill to this hon. House but, Sir, life in the Army is what many hon. Members have not experienced, and it is difficult to criticise precisely what is really in this Bill. But, Sir, as I see it, it appears that when a soldier has committed any offence and is undergoing punishment, he would not be paid for that particular day. So when he deserts, it is true that he has gone, he is at large at his own will, and he should not be paid. But what of when he is in the field, he is receiving punishment, and after he has received the punishment, then he will not be paid. I think this should be looked into, Sir. When he is in prison, during the period that he is serving the terms of imprisonment, he will not be paid. I could quite agree with that, but what of when he is working in the field where the work is for the unit, or for the company, or for the soldier himself, or for the upkeep of the military forces? I think the punishment in this case is double. He will not be paid and will still be punished. I think this must be reconsidered.

The Minister of Internal Affairs (Hon. J. M. Johnson): Mr Speaker, Sir, I am very happy that this Bill has the support of the whole House, but I would like to explain one or two points mentioned by Members. One is about discipline. I feel that it is going to be a very, very sad day for Nigeria if we do not tighten discipline in the Army to meet the United Kingdom and other civilised countries' standards. Of all the Services in the world, discipline is strictest in the Army and it would be wrong for us, as a Member said, that discipline should be such as to encourage people to be attracted to the Armed Forces. If we want to attract people—we know nobody likes to be well disciplined in anything he does. Even people find that the discipline in the Civil Service is too much for them, even though they are not in the Army.

Another point mentioned by somebody was that opportunity should be given to soldiers when they are court-martialled to be represented by Counsel. Well, unless I do not know my subject, I think there has never been a time to my knowledge, in the history of the Nigerian Army when anybody was court-martialled without his being represented by an officer in any court-martial in Nigeria and/or overseas; and not in all cases of discipline do you have people court-martialled. Court-martialling people is the last disciplinary resort that will be taken in any battalion. You can go before your Commanding Officer for small offences, and when they find that it is something they cannot cope with you can go before your C.O. for what you call Orders. You are only sent for court-martial on very very serious charges.

I do not want the impression to be left here that if the soldier does anything wrong he invariably goes in for court-martial. It is the last resort. It is just like sending somebody here for trial in the lower Courts and after preliminary investigation he is sent to the Assizes; and practically in all such cases he will be ably defended by an officer who has got legal experience or who is supposed to be well versed in Army Laws. So I think it is the same thing that has been happening in the last war that will still happen with our present day Army.

As regards the question raised by Dr Udoma, I would like to say this, that if we find that it is very necessary for us to go from court to court, or in the language of the layman, from one officer

to another in our Civil Service, why do we want a discipline that will be less than that in the Army? If you cannot leave your head of Department, if you must pass a letter to the Financial Secretary through your head of Department, why do you want to encourage a disciplined soldier to report his boss above the boss's head direct to the Governor-General? I think that is going to weaken morale generally in the Army.

And you may remember, in going through these Laws, there is even something in Army Laws like making frivolous complaints. Once you allow anybody in the Army, who is disciplined, to go straight to the Governor-General, we must create a secretariat there to deal with this class of complainants. So I think that these new Regulations will usher in a new era for our budding Nigerian Army (*Hear, hear*).

Question again proposed.

M. Sanni O. B. Okin (North Ilorin): Mr Speaker, Sir, I would like to add certain observations. I had not been intending to speak but I am being now moved by the speech of the Minister of Internal Affairs. During the course of his speech he said that only certain offences should be tried by court-martial, and I think according to him the maximum penalty is ninety days. Supposing the soldier commits a serious offence, such as murder, according to him now, only the most serious offences should be tried by court-martial and the maximum penalty to be imposed is only ninety days; I think that should be changed.

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.

(In the Committee)

Clause 1 agreed to.

The Chairman: I will take the clauses in groups, if any Member will stop me if he wants to speak on a particular Clause.

Clause 2.

Mr Hashime Adaji (North Igala): Mr Chairman, Sir, as Mr Adeyinka said some time during the Second Reading, this has modified the previous Army Ordinance. I would like the Prime Minister to make it abundantly known to the officers concerned

to educate the soldiers as to their right of appeal from various stages in the army from officers to the Governor-General.

Mr J. C. Obande (South East Idoma): Mr Chairman, Sir, in this Section II it does not explain in what manner the soldier should bring forward his complaints to these people mentioned, either by writing, or by personal appearance. It has been mentioned at times, that before a junior soldier reaches the office of a superior officer he has got to be passed by other superior officers, so it should have been explained whether this complaint should be done by writing or by personal appearance.

Clause 2 agreed to.

Clauses 3 to 5 agreed to.

Clause 6.

Mr J. U. Udom (Abak): Mr Chairman, this point has been raised during the Second Reading of the Bill. But the Minister of Internal Affairs when he was replying to some points did not touch that point, so I want to underline it again, that is "No pay shall accrue or become due to any soldier of the forces in respect of any day during which he is absent on desertion or without leave or undergoing any sentence of imprisonment or field punishment." That is the point I want to understand. This field punishment, what does it mean? Whether undergoing imprisonment or any other thing, I would understand it to mean whether cutting of grass in the field or any other kind of punishment, so that if that is the intention, why should his pay for that day be cut off? That is the point which I want the Minister to explain.

Mr A. Adeyinka (Ibadan Central): Mr Chairman, Sir, I am very sorry for the misapprehension under which the hon. Member finds himself. Normally in the Service when one is undergoing a field punishment, he is not entitled to any pay because it is one of the last measures being adopted to effect strong discipline in the Army. Well even in the Civil Service, to make a comparison, when a Civil Servant is sent to jail, he is not paid while he is there. Well the same thing applies in the Army. If somebody is sentenced to a field punishment or I.H.L. he is not supposed to be entitled to anything while undergoing this punishment. It is a corrective measure so that he can be a disciplined man. You cannot consider loosening the strings of discipline in the Army or people will think

excess fees charged on applications for licences or the renewal of licences between the 1st of July, 1953, the date on which the Liquor (Amendment) Regulations came into Force and the 30th of September, 1954. Clause 4 of the Bill seeks to do this.

The Northern Regional Government is introducing legislation at the current meeting of the House of Assembly to validate fees charged after the 30th September, 1954, in that Region. No doubt similar measures will be taken by the other Legislatures.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move.

The Minister of Finance (Chief the hon. F. S. Okotie-Eboh) : I beg to second.

Question proposed.

Mr A. E. Ukattah (Bende) : Sir, this Bill is not a controversial one, but I get up now to speak in support of it in order to be able to hammer on one particular point that has actually struck me here.

I know, Sir, that to err is human, but when that error is due to carelessness that error becomes culpable and this Amendment Bill reveals such a culpable error. It was due to want of care that a fee that has been laid down in section 31 (2) of the Ordinance was erroneously raised from five shillings to seven shillings and sixpence, and by regulation too that became operative from the 1st July, 1953. Now this means that since that date anybody who applied for a licence had to pay seven shillings and sixpence instead of five shillings—in fact that person paid one and a half times as much as was laid down by the law. Well this was unfair because this error was due to carelessness.

What actually pains me here is that in this Bill it is euphemistically called an oversight, when it is a gross mistake. Sir, when we expect the citizens of this country to obey our laws we must make sure that those laws are honest and just. Well there, Sir, you have somebody who wants to pay five shillings as laid down by the law, but on account of carelessness on the part of a legal draughtsman, he has to pay two shillings and sixpence in excess. Now to-day we are being called upon to validate this excess, in fact this House is being asked to give consent and parliamentary blessing to a series of acts of fraud. I am very vehement about this, Sir, and in speaking I want to draw the attention of our legal draughtsman to this. We do not want

this to happen again, they must be very careful. Their duty is to exercise the maximum care.

We cannot afford, Sir, excesses like this every time. I must say, Sir, that I will be one of the first people here to get up and ask the Government to refund such excesses if they occur again in the future, and that they should be paid with money deducted from the salaries of those people responsible for this type of mistake.

Sir, I beg to support and I warn them.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read a second time and committed to a Committee of the whole House.

Bill immediately considered in Committee.

(In the Committee)

Clauses 1-4 agreed to.

Bill to be reported.

Mr Speaker resumed the Chair.

Bill reported without amendment.

Motion made and Question proposed, That the Bill be now read the third time.—(The Minister of Internal Affairs).

Mr G. O. D. Eneh (Udi) : Mr Speaker, in supporting this Bill I want to draw the attention of the House to the fact that Nigerians are now drinking beer too much. Quite recently the number of gallons that have been consumed by Nigerians. . . .

Mr Speaker : Order. I am afraid the hon. Member's remarks are quite irrelevant.

Mr M. A. Olarewaju (South Ilorin) : Sir, the only observation I have is that palm wine should be taken off the Liquor Ordinance. I say this because palm wine is regarded just as a vegetable and not alcoholic drink.

Mr Speaker : Order. The debate on the third reading should be confined to what is in the Bill and not what is outside it. I am afraid we cannot discuss extraneous matters.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read a third time and passed.

PENSIONS (AMENDMENT) BILL

Order for Second Reading read.

The Minister of Finance (Chief the hon. F. S. Okotie-Eboh) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to move, That a Bill for an Ordinance further to amend the Pensions Ordinance, 1951 be read a second time.

Under section 16 of the Pensions Ordinance, when an officer dies in the service or as a pensioner, a payment can be made to his estate of a sum equal to one year of his pensionable emoluments. If, however, the officer concerned has been in the Public Service for about 17 years, this gratuity is usually less than the sum he would have received if he had retired at the date of his death and had asked that one-quarter of his pension be paid to him as a lump sum gratuity.

The present Bill seeks to provide in section (1) that where an officer dies in these circumstances, his estate may be credited with either one year's pensionable emoluments or the commuted gratuity he would have received had he retired at the date of his death, whichever of these two sums is the greater one. It will thereby end the present discrimination between an officer with over 17 years service who dies while still serving and a similar officer who retires on pension.

The purpose of section 2 of the Bill is to cover the case of an officer who retires on pension and dies soon afterwards, where it may be found that the sums he has received under the Pensions Ordinance are less than the pensionable emoluments he was receiving at the date of his retirement from the service. To meet this eventuality it is proposed that the Governor-General may be empowered to grant a gratuity which makes up the difference between the two sums. This gratuity will, of course, be payable to the estate of the officer and to assist his dependents.

Sir, I beg to move.

The Minister of Research and Information (Chief the hon. Kolawole Balogun) : 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 and 2 agreed to.

Bill to be reported.

Mr Speaker resumed the Chair.

Bill reported without amendments, read the third time and passed.

THE CRIMINAL CODE (AGE OF CONSENT)
(AMENDMENT) BILL

Order for Second Reading read.

The Minister of Labour and Welfare (Hon. J. M. Johnson) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the Bill entitled "The Criminal Code (Age of Consent) (Amendment) Ordinance 1958" be read a second time.

Mr Speaker, the Government has the prime duty to the country to keep under constant review legislation affecting the social health and well-being of the community. It has a very special responsibility towards children and young people. This legislation is directed to afford protection to young girls before marriage, and will be applicable to the Federal territory of Lagos where the dangers to which young girls are exposed are probably more serious than elsewhere in Nigeria. The question of marriageable age is not affected by the legislation.

Several years ago a survey of child prostitution was carried out in Lagos by the Social Welfare Department. As a result it was considered that the existing legislation enacted many years ago did not provide adequate protection to young girls in the difficult living conditions in Lagos. These views have recently been strongly endorsed by the Federal Social Welfare Advisory Board, which is representative of a wide cross-section of the community in Lagos.

A cosmopolitan and rapidly expanding town like Lagos presents social problems which, in small towns and village communities are resolved by strong family and traditional customs. I do not think that any one can now at this stage of our development, contend that a girl of between 13 and 16 is of an age at which it might be thought that she ought to be able to protect herself, or at least her own consent should be sufficient to release her from a person forcing his attentions upon her.

It is normally accepted that it is the duty of parents to protect their adolescent daughters, but the position of Lagos is that many parents cannot or will not afford their daughters such protection. In such circumstances, it is imperative for the State to step in and afford them the protection of the Law. In order to give young girls this additional protection, the Bill provides that the ages of 11 and 13 years,

saying that before preference is given to imbeciles, they should be proved imbeciles; because it is very easy for the kind of person described by Mr Akande there to say that there was something wrong mentally with him when he committed the offence. However, I think the doctor will take care of that.

What I am trying to say here is this. I find here in section 218 of the law that the punishment for it is fourteen years, with or without whipping. I should have thought that the Minister, keen as he is in protecting these young ones, should amend that section and say 'with whipping' not without, with whipping for that kind of offence.

Sir, furthermore, it should be noted that this law is intended for the court. Now it says Federal Territory of Lagos. It is true that in many capital cities, all types of people congregate, people who are fortune hunters and people who are without jobs. Satan finds some mischief for idle hands to do. But if Satan finds them something to do I think it is somebody's job to see that he keeps Satan at bay by mortifying their bodies and thereby saving their souls, as the holy Bible says. That is why I said that this punishment with severity should have been introduced and the word 'without' deleted. I am glad that a doctor has spoken to it. The incalculable damage that is done to a child's health, but more to the mind, poisoning them and warping them for life, cannot be over-emphasised or over-estimated. And that is why I hope that this law will not only apply to Lagos but wherever the big centres are; Port Harcourt, Enugu, Ibadan, wherever it is, where all these crooks and this type of criminals congregate. I think the Minister of Labour and Welfare would see to it that this law applies all round wherever children are being polluted. He should see that this law goes all round.

I heartily congratulate the Minister for bringing this in, but there is one thing, Sir, in section 3 where it says that it shall only be a defence to a charge or any offence, etc., to prove that the accused person believed on reasonable grounds that the girl was of or above the age of sixteen, and then it goes on to say, and then to prove that he has not previously been charged. Well, are you not giving a loophole again? After all, he says, "I think the girl was above that age, that is

why the offence was committed." And then for him to prove again, "I have never done it before." I thought the law does not recognise that type of thing. It is for the Judge to determine the circumstances and not to write it in the law that if he has not been charged, that is an offence. I should have thought that that should not have been put in. The man is charged; it is not enough to say that he has not been charged before. If the presiding Judge or Magistrate would like to take the circumstances into consideration, that is up to him. But this is providing a deliberate loophole for criminals of this type to escape.

But for that, Sir, I think it is a very good thing and the Minister should be congratulated.

Chief J. I. G. Onyia (Asaba): Mr Speaker, Sir, mine is to ask a question. I want to know from the Minister whether this provision or law is not under the concurrent list of the Federal and Regional Governments, and if so, whether it does not fall under such order that whatever law that is made for the Federal Government should have precedence over any law on such an issue made by the Regional Government. And if the answer is in the affirmative, cannot this law therefore be made to be applicable to the whole country because it is a welcome provision which should not be restricted only to the Federal Territory.

Mr L. J. Dosunmu (Lagos East): Mr Speaker, Sir, I would just like to speak in defence of section 3 of the Ordinance. An accused person, less than twenty-one years of age is charged for committing an offence with a girl of sixteen or seventeen, and he is a first offender; I think he is entitled to some leniency, because the two parties are about the same age. The provision does not apply to an accused person who is above twenty-one years.

Mr A. Adeyinka (Ibadan Central): Mr Speaker, Sir, I would like to refer to clause 2 (b) which says 'by the substitution of the words "sixteen years" for the words "thirteen years" wherever those words occur in the said sections'. I regard this as a strong loophole where an innocent man could be convicted. For example, with the impact of civilisation, especially in the rural areas, there are some girls of the age of fifteen that are fully matured and get married.

Under the present law it means, in effect, that the husband of such a girl could be convicted because he is marrying a girl who is under age. He was comparing the age of puberty. This is an English terminology which cannot be applied to our African way of life. Mr Chairman, Sir, I think there are some loopholes in this law through which innocent people can be prosecuted.

Mr J. G. Adeniran (Ibadan West): Mr Speaker, while congratulating the Minister of Labour and Welfare for this Bill, Sir, I associate myself with the sentiments expressed by some hon. Members. This Bill, as I see it, will help school-girls as well as illiterates who do not know anything about the law. But, Sir, there are some defects in the interpretation of the law which seems to me should be amended. And that is this; I think this Federal Government is competent to make laws for the whole country, and this law is confined to the Federal Territory of Lagos alone. I think this piece of law could have been made for the whole country. With the exception of this, I support the Bill.

Mr J. A. G. Ohiani (Igbirra): Mr Speaker, Sir, this is a very good Bill, and the first of its kind to be passed in this House. With regard to this question of age, what I have to say is this, that if you have the intention of keeping a wife for life, I do not see the reason why you should not be patient to see that she is fully matured before you go on performing all sorts of nonsense with her.

Now, Sir, this Bill will check other people also from giving their daughters at a very young age to their husbands, and also it will also check some mischievous people, like some teachers who will say to school-girls, "Carry my books home for me and wait for me in my house." So I am supporting this Bill as it is here, wholeheartedly, and no one should quarrel over it. We are not going to make any loophole for lawyers to argue in court. So, I beg to support.

The Minister of Finance 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)

Clause 1.

Mr Sanni rose.

The Chairman: I very much doubt if Mr Sanni can produce much of relevance to that particular clause.

Mr M. A. Sanni (Oshun South): Mr Chairman, Sir, I just want to point out an outstanding fact in Clause 1., *i.e.*, the Ordinance shall apply to the Federal Territory of Lagos. As we know, Sir, sexual immorality is on the increase. There is no difference between sexual impulse in the Federal territory of Lagos and in other parts of the Federation. I therefore wish that the law should be made to apply to the whole of Nigeria.

The Chairman: I am afraid I cannot help giving the ruling, that in Committee you are limited to what is in the clause, and you can only extend the clause by an amendment. You are late for an amendment now.

Chief J. I. G. Onyia (Asaba): I am still expecting an answer to my question as to whether such a law is not on the concurrent or even on the exclusive list of subjects for the Federal Government, as I understand that Criminal Law is on the exclusive Federal list, and if so, should it not be made to operate beyond the Federal Territory of Lagos.

The Minister of Internal Affairs (Hon. J. M. Johnson): I should like to tell the last speaker that it is residual and so we can only make legislation for the Territory of Lagos. It is strictly residual, Sir, and it is not concurrent.

Clause 1 agreed to.

Clause 2.

Mr H. M. Adaji (North Igala): Mr Chairman, Sir, I am not speaking from experience, but as a stranger who comes to Lagos every now and then I have noticed that many of these offences are committed by the girls themselves, committing themselves to men or boys in the street. When they go to the school and see their comrades wearing certain types of apparel they say, "Oh, they want the same", whereas their parents have not the same means as the parents of the other girl. The next thing is to look for a wealthy boy and then go back and begin to increase their age, "Oh, I am about sixteen years now, and there is nothing wrong, if anything should happen at all there will be no question of anything. I want money to buy this, I want

but spends the money discriminatingly used against a certain section of the community. What will the Federal Government do about that? I have in mind, Sir, about a loan that was given for the development of roads, the £4 million given by the Federal Government for the development of roads in the Western Region. It was given because the Government had taken a decision to spend that money on roads. But this very £4 million was spent exclusively in developing a section of the Region at the expense of an area.

The Minister of Lagos Affairs, Mines and Power (Alhaji the hon. Muhammadu Ribadu) : It is quite irrelevant, Sir. What this Law seeks is to empower the Federal Government to borrow and re-lend money to the Regional Governments and when the money has passed to the Regional Governments, being a responsible Government, it is up to them to decide how to utilise that money; it is not for this House to dictate to the Government of the Regions how they should operate their funds.

Chief Onyia : Mr Speaker, the point I want to make is the point in connection with what I have heard from the Minister of Finance in introducing this a while ago. He was trying to provide a safeguard for the money to be given on loan to any Regional Government. The Regional Government might take a decision by a majority without the votes of the minority discriminated against in the development programme of the Region.

I have cited an instance of a certain amount of money given for the Government of the whole Region it was yet spent exclusively for a section of the Region spent.

Dr E. U. Udoma (Opobo) : The speaker is still talking about the Western Region without mentioning the Eastern Region.

Chief Onyia : Mr Speaker, I am not concerned with the Eastern Region, when I speak of Regional Governments I am concerned with my own Regional Government and I come from the Western Region, so I speak from my experience of the Western Region. If there is anybody who has his own experience about his own Region, when he rises to speak he can speak on that.

I belong to the Western Region and I am speaking for that section of the people, and I represent the section of people who have suffered very much from the loan given for the development of the whole area, but the loan was used exclusively against that section from which I come. That is why I am asking whether there is going to be any sort of safeguard to show that this money, that is given on loan is going to be used without any discrimination in the Region.

The Minister of Finance (Chief the hon. F. S. Okotie-Eboh) : Mr Speaker, Sir, that is a question that should be addressed to the Regional Government concerned.

Mr J. U. Udom (Abak) : Mr Speaker, this is a very important Bill and it is not so small as it appears in the paper here. We are now being called upon to approve the raising in Nigeria of a loan or loans not exceeding £20 million for the purposes in connection with the Economic Programmes and Development Programmes of the Government of the Federation of Nigeria or other Governments in Nigeria.

This is all very well and good and I do not object to this, but there is one thing in this Bill which I am sure will make it highly impossible for every corner of the Federation of Nigeria to enjoy this Bill or this loan. We have here under the provision of this Ordinance, in respect of the amount necessary to the expenses in connection with the raising thereof, the appropriation which we applied to the following purposes for the Economic Programmes of the Federation of Nigeria, as Sessional Paper No. 2 of 1956. I have read through this Sessional Paper and all I can find here is Slum Clearance and associated projects, the Government should arrange.....(*Interruption*). I said "should arrange".....

Mr Speaker : I do not think it is necessary to debate that particular sentence or to read the whole or any large part of the Economic Paper; it can be found by any Member who can read it for himself.

Mr Udom : I shall abide by the Order. The Bill itself refers to the Sessional Paper No. 2 of 1956, that is why I was trying to refer to some projects put out here. I cannot afford to come and remain here as an onlooker; every time we come here we talk of rural areas but no steps are being taken to see that the needs of the rural areas are met. Now that we are

House of Representatives Debates

1583

[*Loan (Internal
Borrowing) Bill :*

14 MARCH 1958

Second Reading]

1584

going to approve this loan of so large an amount of money—the purpose of raising the loan is only as set out in the Sessional Paper here and if you go through this Sessional Paper, you will find that nothing is said of the rural areas—we should see to it that something *is* done for the rural areas.

In that Sessional Paper again, mention is made of another Sessional Paper, that is

No. 8 of 1957, Statement on the Policy Proposed by the Government of the Federation of Nigeria for the Development of Telecommunications within Nigeria. I have gone through this Sessional Paper again in connection with tele-development. . . .

Mr Speaker : Order, order. Sitting suspended until 7 o'clock this evening.

Sitting resumed : 7.00 p.m.

Mr J. U. Udom (Abak) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I was saying in the morning that Clause 3 of this Bill restricts the purpose for which this loan will be appropriated by the Federal Government to the proposals in the Sessional Paper No. 2 of 1956. In that Sessional Paper, Sir Economic Development Programmes are limited to townships. If this is going to be the case, Sir, I feel the rural areas stand very little or no chance at all of being benefited by this loan. In saying this, Sir, I am aware of the Federal Government's subjects. If I am permitted, I would like to come direct home to cite an instance of such amenities which are expected from the Federal Government in the rural areas.

In 1955 the Western Annang Rural District Council office applied to the Federal Government for installation of telephone services in the rural district office.

Mr Speaker : We cannot go into details of what the money is spent on ; we know that the object is to make loans but certainly not the objects on which the loans are going to be spent.

Mr Udom : Thank you, Mr Speaker, I am bound to abide with your ruling. (*Interruption*). I am not out of the way. (*An hon. Member : Slightly*). Slightly, if there is any doubt at all. As I said earlier, this Bill would have been good, Sir, but those of us from the rural areas, particularly those of us who come from the minority groups, who are not represented in the Council of Ministers, Sir, we cannot afford to be here as mere onlookers, singing hallelujah for the privileged few. (*An hon. Member : Who are they?*) On the 5th March, when the Minister of Communications and Aviation was enumerating where he intended to instal telephone and post offices in the country, he was so bold as to announce his intention without including any one town in my province, Sir. I support this Bill in the light of the understanding that.....

M. Maina Waziri (Potiskum) : Point of Order, Sir. This is quite irrelevant.

Mr Speaker : Yes, I think he is rather irrelevant. He was quite out of order in starting and he is not very good yet.

Mr Udom : Mr Speaker, I support this Bill in the light of the understanding that the needs of the people of Abak Division will be benefited by this loan.

Mr S. J. Una (Uyo) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Bill. The purpose of the Bill, as it says, is very good; the intentions are very genuine, and we all know that the development of this country as embodied in the Economic Programme is the concern of everyone of us and we must dedicate ourselves to the cause of the Programme and make the Programme the success it deserves.

My only disappointment, Sir, about this Bill is that it was not introduced when the Economic Programme was conceived. If this had been done years ago, we would now be in a position to look into the seeds of time and find out what would be the probable fate of the Economic Programme and maybe, Sir, the necessity for the extension of the period would have not arisen.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I have no doubt that the loan will be raised within this country for the simple reason that the Federal Government itself is very very trustworthy. It is credit-worthy. In fact, the Federal Government is endowed with all the qualities which will attract the loan to the tune stated in the Bill.

Mr Speaker, we are told also that the sums raised under the provisions of this Bill shall, save in respect of the amount or amounts necessary to defray the expenses in connection with the raising thereof, be appropriated and applied in respect of the following purposes— for lending in accordance with such terms and conditions as may be approved by the Governor-General, to the Government of any Region or to the Government of the Southern Cameroons, if a law has been enacted by the legislature of that Region or of the Southern Cameroons empowering the Government of that Region or the Southern Cameroons to borrow money from the Government of the Federation. Sir, I am repeating this particular provision of the Bill because I have a point to make and I have a request to make. We remember that sometime last year during the Supplementary Budget meeting, an hon. Member of this House and an Economist of very high reputation for that matter, outlined the qualities of a

borrower. He drew a close parallel between the borrowing capacity and the credit-worthiness of individuals and of a nation.

Sir, the lender of any money always takes into consideration the good qualities, good character, responsibility and dependability of the borrower before he gives out his money and so it is with a Government seeking a loan. So it will be with the Government of a Region or the Southern Cameroons seeking this loan from the Government of the Federation. The Government of the Federation, I am sure, will want to satisfy itself that the Government borrowing is a stable one, is a responsible one, is capable and dependable and also is a Government that is not rent with dissension and riot and unrest.

Mr Speaker, Sir, the Federal Government will also want to know, according to the canons enumerated by the hon. Member during the last meeting, whether this Government can produce a balanced budget. I am asking that when this Bill is passed and is being applied, a special dispensation should be given to the Eastern Region. I want to say, Sir, that if we are going to insist on these good qualities expected of all good borrowers, the Eastern Region will not qualify for this loan.

Several hon. Members : Shame, shame.

Mr Una : I support the Bill only if the Governor-General of the Federation will waive all these conditions and will bear in mind that a problem child is always treated differently from the rest of the normal children.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to support.

Mr L. C. Daldry (Special Member): Mr Speaker, Sir, we have heard a good deal of talk in this House and elsewhere about the necessity of raising loans for this country outside Nigeria. The House has also heard quite a good deal about that from me. But it is gratifying to find that here is a Bill suggesting the raising of loans inside Nigeria.

Now, when this Bill was first published in the *Gazette*, somebody said to me, "Surely this is the wrong way round; what Nigeria wants is loans from outside Nigeria and not from within." But that is not the case at all. Our economic development or the money that we need does

not depend solely on help from outside. We have got to help ourselves as well, and the more we help ourselves here the more I think will be the inducement outside for people to help us.

Now, when we see vast loans being raised in the financial centres of London and elsewhere, we sometimes are apt to forget from where the money really comes, and I would like to remind the House that in the main money for loans comes from the savings of the ordinary man and woman in the country. And that brings me to the point of my brief speech which is this, that when the Minister comes to raise development loans I wonder whether we might not give consideration to the force of propaganda in this matter. I suggest that there should be pamphlets and placards all over the country, and the banks and post offices should also be asked to exhibit placards and so on, trying to induce the ordinary man and woman in this country to become investment minded. Now, this country has got a population, we believe, something like thirty-four million and it is quite easy to see that if the ordinary men and women of this country all subscribe £1 to the development loan we should have a very vast sum and that is why this propaganda is so necessary.

I hope the Minister will consider it when the time comes because up to the present there has been very little in the way of internal loans here and the ordinary people do not, I think, fully understand how they can contribute themselves towards the development of this country by subscribing to the Federal loans.

Now it is always a good thing to receive help from outside, but it is as I said before, a very good thing to try and help oneself also, and in regard to the remarks made by the last speaker, it is not for me to say anything about the Regions. But if it is necessary I would like to say once more that I have not the slightest doubt whatever about the credit-worthiness and the capacity of this Federal Government as a borrower.

I have pleasure in supporting.

The Minister of Finance (Chief the hon. F. S. Okotie-Eboh): Mr Speaker, Sir, I do not intend to waste the precious time of the House, and I just want to reply to one or two points already made, but as a matter of fact I am not going to move the closure. I can see no reason

why my hon. Friend, Dr Udoma, should be worrying himself ; perhaps he wants to go to sleep again !

Mr Speaker, Sir, this is a straight forward Bill, as I have said, and it is a great pity that some Members of this House do not realise the importance of this Federal Legislature. It is necessary for us to realise that in this transitional stage Members of this Legislature represent the unity of this country (*Hear, hear*) and therefore one would not expect a responsible Member of this House to seize the opportunity of the second reading of any Bill to attack any Regional Government.

I must say I deplore very vehemently the unwarranted attack by the hon. Member on that side of the House who is supposed to be an academian from whom much has been desired.

It is a great pity that he has shown himself as one that should not be (*An hon. Member : You are wasting time*). I am not wasting time. Mr Speaker, Sir, what I want to say to this House is that the Federal Government is a responsible Government run by responsible people. (*Hear, hear.*) We do not know of any Regional Government in Nigeria and the Southern Cameroons that is not creditworthy. The Eastern Region Government is run by responsible political parties (*Cheers and applause*) and manned by responsible people (*Loud applause*) and it is only a man who belongs in himself, in his own secluded irresponsible entity that would make the type of statement that that gentleman has made. I want to say again, I want to sound a note of warning, that when we discuss national issues I beg of you hon. Gentlemen, to desist from making any statements that would not give us any credit outside Nigeria. (*Hear, hear.*)

M. Maitama Sule (Kano City): The raising of loans in Nigeria as well as outside Nigeria is a necessity at this stage of our development. We all know the history of other countries in the world. The United States of America for example, Great Britain and many other parts of the world had, during the same stage of development in which we find ourselves to-day, to do the same thing. Certainly if we really want to develop this country, we do realise that we have got to raise capital, not only from abroad, but also from within the country. Now there is a great deal of money here in this country. More money than some people expect.

There is a lot of money buried under the floors and under the beds.

There is a lot of money locked in the boxes, a lot of money put in the pots and not brought out to be made use of. (*Hear, hear.*) There is a great deal of money in this country. Hon. Members do not know how much there is.

The Government should try to gain the confidence of the people and make them save their money so that what money we have in this country would be used for the development of this country. I personally know and believe that if Government can try to gain the confidence of the people there is a lot of money that can be saved through the Government, and that money surely will go a long way to the development of this country.

Now, in trying to gain the confidence of the people Government must try, as has already been suggested by somebody who is a better authority than me, I am no authority on this, Government must try to explain to the people how useful it is to save money. So many people are under the impression that their money saved will not be in use and that they will not gain a great deal from that saved money. This is wrong.

It is absolutely necessary that Government must try and educate the masses. Tell them how useful it is to save money, tell them how much they would be helping the country directly or indirectly by saving this money for the Government.

It is only by so doing that they will try to gain the confidence of the people. Then there is also another thing that Government must do to gain the confidence of the people, and that is if they save their money effort must be made in order that some unscrupulous people may not come round and buy, so to speak, the savings of these people. It was the case during the war. So many people bought war savings certificates. These people were ignorant, and as a result of that some people took advantage of the ignorance of these people and bought these savings certificates only to their advantage, and to the disadvantage of the other people. I would like the Government therefore to look into this and with these few remarks, Sir, I beg to support.

Chief T. T. Solaru (Ijebu East): Mr Speaker, Sir, we are very fortunate that this kind of Bill is being presented to the House at

this time. It is not only appropriate but it is timely. I was very happy that although this is not war time, and these are not savings certificates that our Financial Minister has thought it fit to bring a Bill that will enable us to help ourselves, as has been said by the hon. Mr Daldry. Sometime last year or two years ago I gave utterance to a quotation which the then Chief Secretary thought applied to him.

I said that it was said by a wise man that the eyes of a fool are at the ends of the earth, and he thought that I was referring to the Antipodes. Well I am not referring to the Antipodes, although there is no reason why our eyes should not rove there if there are bags of money to be had there.

But in this case, where major loans are concerned, where the resources of the country are inadequate, it would be foolish not to make our eyes rove to the ends of the earth, but where we can garner our own resources it certainly would be foolish to look abroad and not help ourselves at home.

It goes against our African way of life and thought for a man to come to you to ask for help. A man has not enough resources to carry out some scheme that he has in mind, and he comes to you for a loan. When he comes along he is wearing a damask gown, he has a little boy holding maybe yards and yards of cloth behind him, and perhaps he has a drummer or two, and he comes to you to borrow money. Well, what would you say to him? You would say: "If you will curb your little extravagances you may have enough money to do what you want to do." The same thing can be said to us. We go abroad to borrow. But what do we do. We buy motor cars which we do not need, all the expensive luxuries from Europe. Everybody running around for them.

Do you remember what happened during the time of the trade booms? Trade booms, it may be groundnuts or cocoa or what have you. Well, I can tell you some of the things that happened. When the price of cocoa goes up, you try to go to the shops to buy any of the consumer goods. Who buys them. It is not the clerk in the shop or in the office, it is the farmer. He goes round and he says 'How much is that bedstead' You say it is £20. Oh, have you not got anything better than that.

I know people who have bought four or five bedsteads because they do not know what else to do with their money.

Mr Speaker : The hon. Member is going rather wide. Borrowing certainly for purposes of loans yes, but not to go into the details of expenditure.

Chief Solaru : I was only trying to point out the ways which people waste their money because there is nothing into which they can put it. If we can float a loan locally or if there is some company into which the ordinary people can put their money, if the ordinary farmer knows that he can put his money into a Government scheme safely, that is saving for the country's prosperity and it will yield returns far beyond what he can get than if he bought himself a dozen bedsteads.

You will see that the people in this country need a lot more education, more than just mere going to school or providing adult education. It seems to me that one of the ways of doing it, as the hon. Mr Daldry said previously, is by using placards and all that, but I feel, Sir, that it is about time that we made use of our Ministry of Information. Whether it is Health, Agriculture or Education, or whatever it is, it is necessary that our people's minds are prepared. I am quite sure that the response would be quite astonishing.

These are times of emergency, and the methods of the past are not good enough, that is just using people's money without any extra effort being made to explain to them what measures are being taken and why. Those times, I say, Sir, are past. We must bestir ourselves to see that the minds of the people are prepared for any large measure which might be brought forth. This, Sir, is such a measure, and I hope it will be the fore-runner of a number of such measures as will enable the whole of this country to invest their money more widely. It has been pointed out to us that this money is the savings of the people, but if you tell that to the ordinary man he will not believe you. He thinks that that money comes from a Rockefeller, or a Ford, and so on. He does not know that some people put their money into a Savings Bank or Government Bonds, and that such monies that are accumulated are used for development purposes.

Here, Sir, people in this country are wanting development on all sides. This is the chance for them to do something, but we must tell them

about it, and we must see that they understand what is happening.

When we come to the Committee stage we shall be examining some of the clauses and there is no doubt about it that this Bill is very welcome that we should wholeheartedly support.

The Minister of Lagos Affairs, Mines and Power (Alhaji the hon. Muhammadu Ribadu) : I just want to remind the House, Sir, that the purpose of extending our sittings is to enable us to finish the business before the House more quickly. But we can achieve that purpose only if we avoid prolonging Debate unnecessarily. Everybody says that this Bill commends itself to all sides of the House. . . .

Mr Jaja Wachuku : Point of Order, Sir. I think that what the Minister is saying is irrelevant to the loan—the Minister should be relevant to the loan.

Mr Speaker : An appeal by a Minister to make progress on a Government Bill has never been ruled irrelevant in my hearing ! (*Cheers.*)

The Minister of Lagos Affairs, Mines and Power : Mr Speaker, what I am trying to say is this, if the Bill is a good one as everybody has said do we need to prolong the Debate unnecessarily ? (*Several hon. Members : No.*) We want the money in order to finance our Development Scheme. We shall only find this money by raising internal loans. This is not the first time we have done it.

The Minister in moving the Second Reading of the Bill said that we borrowed before from internal resources, up to eleven million pounds. This is not something new that we have just thought of. We have done it before and we shall continue to do it. (*Applause.*)

Reverend E. S. Bens (Brass) : Mr Speaker, I am very grateful for this opportunity, Sir. I would like to say that if the Ministers were more patient with the House, I think more progress would be made. In fact the last Minister's speech I think has wasted nearly ten minutes.

What I want to say is that this Bill is very welcome to all sides of the House and to all sections of the country. I personally, Sir, have been opposed to borrowing from the outside world because I am still not convinced that if you do this on a large scale, that it will help the country at all, and that it will not

mean when we come to have our political freedom, that we shall not find ourselves in heavy debts. Therefore. . . well, the Ministers are shaking their heads.

I would like to say, Sir, that if possible the Nigerian Governments, particularly the Federal Government when trying to find money should try internal borrowing. As the hon. Maitama Sule has said, we have got to raise the money from the local people. Many of our people in the country, do not know that they can put their money into banks, and what happens ? They keep their money in boxes, or bury it under the ground and that is what we are trying to fight. In fact in trying to support this Bill Sir, I would like to point out that in very many places in the country, including my Division, there is not a single Bank, and most people do not know that they can put their money into a Savings Bank.

I would also like to point out that the Eastern Region Government is very credit worthy. I belong to the Eastern Region and I say that it is very credit worthy. We have coal and oil and from the royalties that we obtain from these two commodities the Federal Government is able to give the Eastern Regional Government loans. I do not doubt for a moment, Sir, that the Eastern Regional Government will not pay this loan back. The Eastern Regional Government is well able to pay back any money that is loaned to it. (*Several hon. Members : Sit down, sit down !*) Don't say sit down, sit down, please.

Mr Speaker : I would say do let us try to introduce some new point in the debate, otherwise it is becoming rather repetitive.

Reverend Bens : Mr Speaker, I beg to support this Bill.

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 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.*)

Clause 1 agreed to.

Clause 2.

Dr E. O. Awduche (Onitsha) : Mr Chairman, as the Minister of Lagos Affairs, Mines and Power has said, this is not the first time

we have raised loans in this country. But to-day there are five Governments in this Federation, and whereas previously the former Bill had a maximum of £20 million, it seems now very inadequate to keep our ceiling at £20 million, now that we have five Governments. It will be realised that when the Economic Programme was presented to this House in 1956, the total capital required was £100 million, of which it was found at the time that we should find £50 million, leaving £50 million to be found by borrowing. Of this we have borrowed £11.3 million from the Central Marketing Board, leaving some £38.7 million. This is only for the Federal Government and now this Bill is seeking to provide for a total internal loan of £20 million which, again, is going to be distributed to the five Governments.

I was suggesting that this amount—I do not want to put up a formal Amendment because this is only a beginning: I am just warning—that this is a very small sum to start with and I hope that in due course a supplementary Bill will be put forward to increase this amount of loan. That is all I wish to comment.

Rev. E. S. Bens (Brass): Mr Chairman, while supporting the last speaker in the amount of loan required by the Federal Government, I wish to say, Sir, that the Government should consider the advisability of at least increasing this amount of £20 million to the neighbourhood of £30 million. I would also say, Sir, that the manner of raising the loan should be made plain to us, particularly myself, Sir; I do not know the manner in which this loan is going to be raised. I know Ministers themselves know the manner of raising this loan, and I also know that some of the Ministers would be willing to invest their money, as also some hon. Members would like to do.

I beg for an explanation.

Mr Jaja Wachuku (Aba): On this clause it is just a matter which I want the Minister of Finance to explain. Has he in mind to borrow only from the Marketing Board, or from the ordinary persons? Because, supposing you want to borrow and the people are prepared to give you more than £20 million, will you return the money to those who offered it? I want to say that by limiting it to £20 million like that, it creates a situation where if you are going to get your money from the Central Marketing Board

and also from private persons and it exceeds £20 million, you have no power to take that extra.

Consider whether there is a way of rectifying it in such a way that we have power to take up more money if available.

The Minister of Finance (Chief the hon. F. S. Okotie-Eboh): Mr Chairman, Sir, I am grateful for the points made by Members, but I want to say that if Members had listened to the speech of my hon. Friend, Mr Daldry, they would have known that the raising of loans does not limit itself to Marketing Boards alone. As Members will hear me later on when I am moving the Central Bank Ordinance, you will find that the possibility of raising loans from other sources in Nigeria has been limited because there is no Money Market in Nigeria. If there is a Central Bank and there is a Money Market, you will find that there are so many possibilities in which people like the Rev. Bens can invest their money and then give loans to people or to Governments who want loan. But there is no such thing as Mr Daldry has mentioned and which is very important to all of us. For the Englishman is right when he says that "little drops of water make the mighty ocean". That is applicable in monetary considerations and many people think that those who have money to lend accumulate their wealth by hook or by crook. They forget that if you save shillings you will be able to produce pounds, and if you save hundreds, you may accumulate thousands of pounds and so on and so forth. So I think it is a very good admonition for us to realise that with the coming into existence of a Central Bank and a Money Market in Nigeria, everyone of us can save money and when you put that money into some sort of . . . if you accumulate sufficiently you could put it into stocks and shares and you will get sufficient money for Governments and other people to borrow.

There are people who think that the existence of a bank means that there are limitless resources there. The mere name of a bank to some people means that there is a bottomless pit there. Some people even think that banks shall produce currency notes and give out to people even as people think about saving money to put into banks and then go there to borrow if they are in need; they think that the main purpose of a bank is to borrow all the time (*An hon. Member: How about Ijebu-Ode?*) I do not know about Ijebu-Ode.

Mr Chairman, Sir, all I want to say is that in answer to hon. Jaja Wachuku there is no restrictive measure. At the moment I have told you that we do not really need to borrow except for the amount that I mentioned. But before we exhaust this £20 million there is nothing to stop us from bringing legislation to increase it, as Dr Awduche has said, if necessary.

Clause 2 agreed to.

Clause 3.

M. Sanni O. B. Okin (North Ilorin) : Mr Chairman, I would like to invite the attention of hon. Members to this particular clause. We have already seen the purposes for which this Ordinance is intended. Politicians who are always out to raise the hopes of the people by promising impossibilities should be strongly warned to observe very carefully the correct interpretation of this Ordinance.

Chief J. I. G. Onyia (Asaba) : Mr Chairman, it is said that he who pays the piper, must dictate the tune. But here, Sir, where the Federal Government lends money to Regions for the implementation of their development programmes, it cannot interfere in any misuse or abuse of the loans for the purpose for which they are given. Those who would invest their money in the Federal loans would not want the loans to be used against the development programmes of any section of the territory for political reasons. A safeguard ought to have been provided against this for the Federal Government has regrettably been given a bad score by our Constitution, which has not made the Centre, or the Federal Government, strong enough.

Chief T. T. Solaru (Ijebu East) : Point of order, Sir. The Member is irrelevant, Sir.

The Chairman : He is probably referring to an amendment not written in carefully enough. Chief Onyia. (*Applause*).

Chief Onyia : What I do say, Mr Chairman, is that the loan raised by the people must be used for the people without any form of discrimination in the development programme of anyone of the Territories. That is all I say.

Clauses 3 and 4 agreed to.

Bill to be reported.

Mr Speaker resumed the Chair.

The Minister of Finance (Chief the hon. F. S. Okotie-Eboh) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to report the Bill from Committee without amendment and now move that it be read the third time and passed.

The Minister of Research and Information (Chief the hon. Kolawole Balogun) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to second.

Question proposed.

Mr M. A. O. Olarewaju (South Ilorin) : Mr Speaker, I rise to support the third reading of this Bill. I wish to remind the House that it is always very easy to raise a loan but always hard to repay. As we are all happy tonight to borrow, we must all be happy to repay it. This huge amount that we now intend to borrow is intended for the development of this country. I will therefore warn the Council of Ministers to see that a proportionate amount is used to develop each constituency of the Members in this House.

Sir, I beg to support.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read the third time and passed.

CENTRAL BANK OF NIGERIA BILL

[Order for Second Reading read.]

The Minister of Finance (Chief the hon. F. S. Okotie-Eboh) : Mr Speaker, Sir, with your permission, I would ask that the second reading be deferred till Monday. (*Loud applause.*)

NIGERIAN RAILWAY CORPORATION

(AMENDMENT) 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 further to amend the Nigerian Railway Corporation Ordinance, 1955 be now read a second time.

Sir, as Members are well aware, up to the present moment the Chairman of the Nigerian Railway Corporation has also been the General Manager by virtue of section 10 of the principal Ordinance. But now it is considered desirable for the future that these posts should be held by separate persons and the purpose of this Bill is to make the necessary amendments.

Sir, this Bill has been occasioned by the expiry of Sir Ralf Emerson's appointment as Chairman and General Manager of the Nigerian Railway Corporation. Its purpose is to make Government policy with regard to the two posts effective where the Nigerian Railway is concerned. This Bill follows two others that have made similar provisions. The House will remember that the offices of Chairman and Director-General of the Nigerian Broadcasting Corporation are separate and the same arrangement obtains with regard to the Electricity Corporation.

Sir Ralf Emerson, Mr Speaker, has performed the duties of Chairman and General Manager of the Nigerian Railway Corporation with outstanding success. (*Loud applause.*) But these two offices cannot be combined indefinitely and it is now considered opportune to make a departure. I take this opportunity to congratulate Sir Ralf Emerson (*Loud applause*) the Board of the Nigerian Railway Corporation, as well as the staff of the Corporation for the very excellent job they have made of the Nigerian Railway. (*Hear, hear.*)

Beyond this, the Bill calls for very little comment. As Members are already aware, it will come into operation on a date to be appointed by the Governor-General by notice in the *Gazette*, that is sometime in the middle of this year when Sir Ralf's current period of office expires.

The Bill defines the functions of the General Manager which will be equivalent to those of the Director-General of the Broadcasting Corporation or the General Manager of the Electricity Corporation. His position, that is of the General Manager, will also correspond to that of the two Corporations already mentioned. He will be a member of the Corporation but without a vote. The first General Manager of the Railway Corporation not being the Chairman will be appointed by the Minister just as happened in the case of the Broadcasting Corporation where the appointment was made by the Governor-General in Council. But I think it is fitting that the Minister should inaugurate a departure while the two offices are being separate. But after this, it will be more appropriate, in view of the autonomy of the Corporation, that the Corporation should make further appointments to the office of General Manager.

Under section 61 of the existing Ordinance the Minister may appoint a temporary Chairman. The present Bill provides that he will retain this power. However, the Corporation may have to meet for purely formal purposes, in which event there will be no need to appoint a Chairman specially for such occasions. Under clause 5 of the Bill the Secretary of the Corporation could convene a meeting and a member of the Corporation could preside. The Minister will only designate a temporary Chairman when he considers that the Corporation's interests demand it. This arrangement, if I may mention, has been adopted as one of convenience and one which has been in operation with regard to the Nigerian Ports Authority.

Mr Speaker, as I have already said, the Bill is straightforward and makes for this change which I know is welcome to all sides of the House. The main purpose is to separate the two offices and to specify the powers of the General Manager and also to make the Minister retain his powers of appointing temporary Chairmen and to give the Secretary the power to summon formal, and purely formal, meetings of the Corporation.

Sir, I beg to move.

The Prime Minister (Alhaji the hon. Abubakar Tafawa Balewa): Mr Speaker, Sir, in rising to second the second reading of this Bill, I would like to take the opportunity to pay tribute to Sir Ralf Emerson. (*Loud applause.*)

Sir, this remarkable man came to serve in this country at a time when our Railway was in a shocking state. I had the privilege, Sir, of working with this very remarkable man for some years when I was in the Ministry of Transport. I can remember, Sir, when I first saw him in my office, I asked him about our railway system and whether there could be any improvement which he thought could be made. At that time, Sir, the Nigerian Railway was being criticised not only in Nigeria but also in the United Kingdom and also in the United States. Sir Ralf asked me to have patience until after he has gone round the whole system. On his return, Sir, from the tour of the railway system he told me that we in Nigeria have a very good railway and that the Nigerians operating the Nigerian Railway are as efficient as other railway people anywhere, (*Cheers*) that he thought, Sir, that they could do the job.

In a very short time, Sir, he brought a complete revolution to the Nigerian Railway. (*Applause*). It is very fitting, Sir, for me to pay tribute to the services of this great railwayman. He is a very hard-working man, he is always thinking of nothing but his railways; he is always out on tour again, and he is doing his best for the training of Nigerians to man the Nigerian Railways.

I have worked very, very closely with him, Sir, and I would like on behalf of Nigeria, Sir, to say thank you to him, and we are very, very grateful for his services. I would very much like the House, Sir, to join me in expressing its gratitude to this man who has served us so much. (*Prolonged Cheers*).

Question proposed.

Chief T. T. Solaru (Ijebu East): Mr Speaker, Sir, there is no doubt that when Sir Ralf Emerson came to this country, without saying anything to the deprecation of those who worked before him, for it was not their fault, conditions of our railways, despite his inspiring words, we ourselves knew were chaotic. But when Sir Ralf came, out of chaos he brought order, and one reason why he was able to do that is quite obvious. A man who can inspire confidence will always be able to get the maximum service out of his colleagues. A man who does not spare himself will always find that people will follow his leadership.

Many of us perhaps have not had the opportunity of meeting him, but his activities are well known, how he travels far and wide all over the railways. I am quite sure, Mr Speaker, that in this country we have begun to dream dreams about electrified railway system. Who was the man who helped us to dream these dreams? Sir Ralf Emerson. That is all the more why we are sorry that he should be going so soon. But, really, must he go? If a good man's contract expires, is there no means of renewing the contract? (*Applause*). I am quite sure this is one of those rare occasions when, although we Nigerians cry for Nigerianisation, we know a good thing when we see it. And here is a good man. Must he really go just because his contract has expired?

Several hon. Members : No.

Chief Solaru : Mr Speaker, Sir, nothing can be dearer to our hearts than that the

authorities that be should think of renewing the contract of this man. (*Applause*).

Several hon. Members : Good talk.

Chief Solaru : Mr Speaker, there is only one condition, of course, whereby that suggestion might not work, and that is if the man himself felt that our climate has taken so much out of him that he could stand it no longer. But I am told by those who know Sir Ralf Emerson by sight that he is the very image, the very picture of good health, and that although he works so hard, each time he emerges as fresh as if he has just returned from furlough. Unless under strict doctors' orders, I feel that this gentleman should be asked to remain with us to see us further on our march to progress.

I have never met Sir Ralf, but of course I have seen our railway stations. I knew them for what they were before he came, and I know them for what they are now that he has come. He certainly has left his handiwork behind. That is the terminal there, the railway terminal at Iddo, the Ibadan station, the Offa station, the one in Zaria, all over the country. It is a pity that there is no railway system in my constituency, but if he stops here long enough, and I hope he will, it may be that the railway line will pass through Shagamu, Ijebu Ode on to Benin. But, Sir, if our words can carry, if our gratitude to which we are now giving expression can carry to the right quarters, well, not only will Sir Ralf Emerson look forward to many years of enjoying his knighthood, but I think he ought also to be elevated to the peerage for what he has done. (*Applause*).

Mr Speaker, Sir, I am taking the hint from the Minister of Land, Mines and Power, although he is no longer "Land" now, he is landless now, that when a good Bill comes before the House there is no need to go on praising it. But he will agree that this is one which ought to be praised, and one which ought to be supported, and anything that can be said ought to be said for it because we have said so much in this House about the other kind of expatriate whom we would not like to see in this country. Sir, with these few words, I am still commending to the Minister of Transport and the Cabinet the possibility of having this gentleman's contract renewed. I beg to support.

M. Bello Dandago (South West Central Kano): Mr Speaker, I rise to support the Second Reading of this Bill. Sir, I am an eye witness, and I believe all on this Side are the eye witnesses of the good services rendered to this Federation of Nigeria by Sir Ralf Emerson. The ugly sights of the groundnuts pyramids in my constituency, Kano can only be removed at a record time by the energy of this gentleman, Sir. Mr Speaker, even if Sir Ralf Emerson could complain about climate, I would remind him, Sir, that the question of climate is a thing of old.

Now, Sir, we all remember the old saying "Beware of the Bight of Benin from where few come out though many went in" or something like that. Well, it is now different, and I think I will persuade him to change his mind and to remain with us. I am asking the Government to consider very seriously retaining the services of this good man.

Mr Speaker, I beg to support.

Mr Jaja Wachuku (Aba): Mr Speaker, Sir, I have a special pleasure in supporting the Second Reading of this Bill, because, as my learned and honourable Friend on *that* side will remember, we know the history of the coming of Sir Ralf Emerson to this country, and his recruitment. We know the controversy that that recruitment aroused and how we solved the problem, and we did not make any mistake about it. Our judgment has been proved right. Sir, I support the suggestion that his contract should be renewed. I support the expressions of sentiment by other Members that we have seen the result of the work of a very capable man, and as we have said here before, whenever we see good people we welcome them and we take them to our heart.

I support also the division of labour in having the Chairman as distinct from the General Manager of the Railway Corporation. But, Sir, I would like the Chairman to be a Nigerian; and that, Sir, the contract of the honourable gentleman should be renewed, and he should be appointed as Officer on Special Duty and an African should be made Chairman to understudy him. We would like, while he is here on special duty, the extension of the new Railway Line to be under his guidance, and whoever may be the African appointed as Chairman will have time to learn from his

guiding hand. What will happen to-day if we renew his contract as Chairman or General Manager, and he dies tomorrow? There is nobody.....

Several hon. Members: Go on, go on! He is not going to die.

Mr Wachuku: You may say so, Mr Speaker, I am not saying so.

Several hon. Members: Sit down, sit down.

Mr Wachuku: People do not consider the fact that we must face realities.

Several hon. Members: Sit down, sit down.

Mr Speaker: Order, Order.

Mr Wachuku: Mr Speaker, Sir, people may like to go on sentiment. My views may be unpopular to some who want to be sentimental about it, but we agreed that we want to retain a good man but must we not benefit from his experience by having somebody who will understudy this great man? Somebody who is outstanding in Nigeria and all that? Is it not possible that a man can attend to things to-day and die tomorrow morning? Have we not had instances of that nature? Therefore, Sir, I do not pray for it, but I would like to make the fullest use of a good thing when I have it. People may call me what they like but I am not bothered.

Sir, apart from the tribute which we have paid to Sir Ralf, I would like the Minister to re-consider the question of removing the power of appointment of Chairman from the Minister and transferring it to the Corporation. I would like the Minister to retain the power of appointment. The Corporation may make recommendations to the Minister but the power of appointment should remain with the Minister and not with the Corporation. Now I do not want to go into the details of the Clause, but it is only the temporary appointments and the first Chairman that the Minister may appoint, but after that the Corporation will begin to appoint. I would ask the Minister to reconsider that point and retain the power of appointment.

With these few remarks, Sir, I support the Second Reading.

The Minister of Communications and Aviation (Chief the hon. S. L. Akintola) : I feel that on this occasion, as on other occasions I should give support to the noble sentiments already expressed by the Prime Minister of the Federation and supported by other hon. Members of the House. It is not easy for those who knew what our Railway system was a few years ago, and have lived to witness it to-day, to find words adequate enough to praise Sir Ralf Emerson. (*Hear, hear*).

I do not know what the definition of miracle is.

An hon. Member : You should know.

The Minister of Communications and Aviation : But whether I do or not I am quite in agreement with those who say that what has happened at Iddo-Railway Terminal is nothing short of miraculous. It is not only visible at the terminal here, but also all along our railway system. The rapidity with which even our trains move to-day in contrast to what they used to do years ago is an eloquent testimony to the efficiency of this great man. (*Hear, hear*.)

Judging purely on the basis of his professional efficiency, one can hardly find any fault with Sir Ralf Emerson, but his quality goes beyond mere personal professional efficiency. What about his breadth of vision? What about his personal relationship? What about his implicit confidence in the destiny of Nigeria? (*Hear, hear*.)

The hon. Gentleman who has just spoken referred to the training which Sir Ralf Emerson might give to Nigerians who may be out to understudy him. I happen to know that if anybody who is not an indigenous Nigerian believes in Nigerianisation, that person is Sir Ralf Emerson. (*Hear, hear*.)

I had the privilege of working with him in the Railway Corporation for a few years; and I am not alone, there are other Members of this honourable House who also had the privilege of working with him. Those who know us very well may know that we may possess some other virtues, but one of our vices is that it is not easy for people to please us, especially for an expatriate to please us; but even in spite of this weakness, which we ourselves admit, Sir Ralf Emerson has surpassed our expectations. (*Applause*.)

Now, if I may just reveal one secret: I do not know what happens in other Corporations, but in the Railway Corporation there was an establishment committee which was virtually responsible for all appointments to the Corporation; and I do not remember any occasion on which our recommendation was ever turned down by Sir Ralf Emerson. To-day there is a Deputy General Manager of the Nigerian Railway, who is a Nigerian, and there are many other people holding positions of responsibility in the Railway, under the leadership of Sir Ralf Emerson.

I do not say that we are a hundred per cent satisfied with the pace of Nigerianisation in the Railway, but if we are not satisfied, our dissatisfaction cannot be blamed on Sir Ralf Emerson. If you can give him able men, efficient men, Sir Ralf Emerson is prepared to elevate them to any position whatsoever in the Railway.

Hon. Members will remember years back that cases of pilfering were rampant in the Railway, cases of broaching, cases of ticketless passengers. We hear very little of that these days, but all is due to the leadership given by Sir Ralf Emerson.

I do not want to bore the House but I would end by saying this. There was one man who was a genius but very very small in stature, the midget type of person, and somebody started joking at him, mocking his small stature and this man replied by saying: "Were I so tall to reach the Pole or touch the Heaven with my staff, I was measured by my soul, the soul is the standard of the man." Sir Ralf Emerson is not only big in body, he has a very big soul. (*Applause*.)

Mr T. O. S. Benson (Lagos West) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the previous speaker on this Bill and support the sentiments expressed. One point I would like to make further is that since we all like him so much, we should get hold of Ben Enwonwu to paint him black, so that he will become a Nigerian and the question of extending his contract will no longer be necessary! Mr Speaker, Sir, he is a man of outstanding personality and we all like him very much and while supporting the previous speakers I beg 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 to 3 agreed to.

Clause 4.

Mr Jaja Wachuku (Aba): Sir, I beg to move that in clause 4, line 9, the word "Corporation" be left out and "Minister" substituted and in line 2 of the same clause, the word "Chairman" be left out and the word "Minister" substituted. Mr Chairman, Sir, I have already given a hint that the General Manager is appointed by the Corporation and shall be a person appearing to the Chairman to have had wide experience of railway management. My Amendment, Sir, is that the General Manager shall be appointed by the Minister and shall be a person appearing to the Minister to have had wide experience of railway management.

I think the Amendment is quite simple. In the Corporation you have people appointed by the Board, I think before a Minister makes an appointment he takes advice from different sources, in fact he is in a position to have information from as many quarters as he desires. If this power is given to the Corporation, it will let loose another series of lobbying of members of the Corporation as to who will be appointed and who will not be appointed. But the Minister will be ruled by special advice from people who are in a position to give him expert advice on the ability of the particular person. In recruiting or appointing such a person, he does not need to rely purely on the advice of the members of the Corporation but also from outside sources.

The point is that members of the Corporation will begin a sort of an election campaign and we want to avoid that in a Corporation of this nature. Whilst that is the case, Sir, the next Amendment just follows, because then it will be instead of the Chairman, the Minister who will be the person to take this into consideration.

Amendment proposed in page 2 line 9, to leave out the word "Corporation" and insert the word "Minister" instead thereof.

The Minister of Transport (Hon. R. A. Njoku): Mr Chairman, Sir, I would like to

explain that the object, as I said already, of the Bill is to take a progressive step towards the separation of the office of Chairman and Manager. This follows also another progressive step to invest Corporations with the authority of appointing their Chief Executive. The General Manager is a servant of the Corporation and the Chief Executive of the Corporation and it is only fitting that the Corporation should have the power to appoint such a General Manager.

It is also stated here that the General Manager must be a person who appears to the Chairman to have wide experience in Railway management. Therefore, the question of lobbying members of the Corporation for appointment is not as wide as my hon. and Learned Friend has put it. Surely, the man who can be appointed, must be a man who appears—that is why we put it that he must appear, not only to the Members but he must appear to the Chairman—to be a man with experience in railway management. Not only that, Sir, as I have already explained in my speech in moving the second reading, this is the policy decision which this Government has taken and implemented in the case of the Broadcasting Corporation, which this House enforced.

I think all sides of this House will agree that it is a progressive step. The Minister will continue to appoint the Chairman of quite a number of Corporations and the Chairman can be a political appointee. But the General Manager is a servant and Chief Executive and I hope my hon. and Learned Friend will not press this Amendment.

I answered the other point incidentally, that is to say that he says that the General Manager should be the man appearing to the Minister to have had wide experience of Railway management. Well, that is consequential, what I have answered is the first point that the appointment ought to be made by the Corporation, since the Chairman is the head of the Corporation it is best that the General Manager should be a person appearing to the Chairman to be a person qualified to be given such an appointment. (*One hon. Member: Who appoints the Chairman?*) The Minister appoints the Chairman and the Minister appoints the first General Manager, the first General Manager would be appointed by the Minister but subsequent ones will be appointed by the Corporation.

Question proposed, That the word proposed to be left out be left out.

Mr Jaja Wachuku (Aba) : I wont press it.

Amendment by leave withdrawn.

Clauses 4 to 6 agreed to.

Bill to be reported.

Mr Speaker resumed the Chair.

Bill reported without amendment.

The Minister of Transport (Hon. R. A. Njoku) : Mr Speaker, I beg to move that the Bill, having passed through the Committee stage without amendment, be now read the third time and passed. Sir, I would like to seize this opportunity, which I omitted during the debate on the Second Reading, to thank the Prime Minister, Chief Solaru, Mallam Dandago, Mr Jaja Wachuku, the Minister of Communications and Aviation, and all the Members of this House for the very worthy tribute which they paid to Sir Ralf Emerson for the very good work he has done. I want to assure them that their suggestions as to the further service to be rendered to this country in the Nigerian Railway by Sir Ralf Emerson is also the wish of this Side of the House. (*Cheers.*) I am quite sure that Sir Ralf has taken to heart all that has been said and since his term of office does not expire until June, we will have time to think about it and we hope that when the House resumes before the next appointment is made we shall report back to you.

The Minister of Lagos Affairs, Mines and Power (Alhaji the hon. Muhammadu Ribadu) : Sir, I beg to second.

Question proposed.

Mr L. S. Fonka (Bamenda) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I am very happy to have the opportunity of joining the chorus to thank Sir Ralf Emerson for the good work he has done in this country. I was really surprised when I got up to speak on the second reading that I was shouted down. I felt that I was shouted down probably because there is not an inch of railway line in the Southern Cameroons. Mr Speaker, Sir, this is one Nigeria and we are marching on with Nigeria. Whatever happens in any part of Nigeria happens for the whole of Nigeria. (*Hear, hear.*) I thought I ought to have been given the opportunity to be heard.

Mr Speaker, Sir, some of us are unfortunate because we have never met this man, Sir Ralf Emerson, and we hope that we are going to meet him in not a very long time to come. What I am saying, Sir, is that since the whole House has appreciated his good work and has

appealed for the renewal of his contract, and some people feel that probably he may be fed up with the climate of this country, I am suggesting that if anything is worrying him in connection with the climate of this country the air-conditioning appliances may be reinforced in his house so that he may stay longer in this country ! Sir, by staying so long in the country he may one day think of extending the railway to the Southern Cameroons.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read the third time and passed.

BANKING BILL

[*Order for Second Reading Read.*]

The Minister of Finance (Chief the hon. Festus Okotie-Eboh) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that a Bill for an Ordinance to provide for the regulation and licensing of the business of banking be now read a second time. Sir, this Bill is based on the comprehensive recommendations contained in the exclusively lucid report submitted to the Government by Mr Loynes, Adviser to the Bank of England, on whom I will have more to say when I move the Bill to provide for a Central Bank.

Sir, we already have legislation passed in 1952 to license and regulate the conduct of the banks, but experience has shown that this legislation is defective to some extent. Because it is defective and because our banking system has grown rapidly since 1952, the Federal Government considered it necessary to introduce the present measure. The object is to promote sound banking practices by laying out certain minimum standards and by providing for more positive action to guide and supervise banking practices.

We must ensure that banks in Nigeria develop along lines most appropriate to our circumstances and with the maximum protection for the public. I must emphasise this last point. It is vital that when our people entrust their money to a bank, they should not lose it by unwise or improper action on that bank's part. We want no repetition of the tragic cases which were caused by the failure of certain banks in earlier years. This desire on our part is not merely because we want to protect individuals from trade losses. That is certainly much in our minds, but we know also that if the banks were to fail this would be a disastrous blow to confidence in banks in this country. It will affect adversely the development of the habits of banking and saving which are so necessary for our prosperity.

House of Representatives Debates

1611

[Banking Bill :
Second Reading]

14 MARCH 1958

Banking Bill :
Second Reading]

1612

In saying there is need for greater precaution than at present, I do not suggest that any bank in Nigeria is in danger of closing its doors. On the contrary, I have great confidence in our banking system. But I am equally sure of the value of safeguards both in relation to the existing banks and for any banks which may be established in the future. It may be objected that even the terms of legislation cannot of itself provide an absolute assurance against loss. The bank management might turn out to be inefficient or worse. But even if it is, the Bill will offer a great prospect of stopping any serious trouble before it has gone too far.

The Bill reproduces mainly most of the features of the 1952 Ordinance though in some cases it makes them more precise or enlarges their scope. There are also several important new provisions so that when appropriate a general standard is given for banks to adjust their affairs to conform with the new requirements.

Members will appreciate that one of the problems of a comprehensive banking Bill is to legislate for banks which differ widely in their size, activities and sense of business. There is a further problem mentioned by Mr Loynes in his report, that we must not be so orthodox as to stop taking any desirable steps solely because they are not normally done by banks in more developed financial systems. Sir, in taking a happy balance between the different factors involved, the Federal Government attaches much importance to the provision for the examination of accounts by qualified banking experts. These experts will be appointed by the Central Bank subject to my approval. There is no intention of setting up a large scale organisation for bank examination. The examiners will carry out their examination under conditions of secrecy and as discreetly as possible.

He would of course, be concerned to see that the Banks were complying with the law, but he would not be there solely like a policeman. It is our hope that he would where necessary give useful guidance to the banks, helping them to improve their efficiency and avoiding pitfalls.

One major advantage of examination in the light described is that it allows personal assessment of these banks' position within the framework of reasonable rules such as the Bill lays down. Without examination it

would be necessary for us to have considered far more strict legislation than that now proposed. Another important provision in the Bill is that it requires the bank to keep holdings of such stock and liquid assets up to amount which the Central Bank would specify by virtue of its powers under the Central Bank of Nigeria Ordinance.

The Bill also places limits on certain types of business. Firstly it limits the proportion of a Bank's own assets which can be loaned to any one person. It is important for the security of a bank's depositors as well as in its own interests that the bank should spread its risks as widely as possible.

Secondly, banks will in future normally be banned from dealing in trade or from investing in real estate and shall be restricted in participating in the share capital of other undertakings. All these restrictions are introduced to protect banks' sovereignty and to ensure that an undue proportion of the assets do not become tied up in a form which will prevent banks turning them into cash for depositors when they desire to withdraw their money. (*Hear, hear*). All this was recommended in the Loynes Report and Government considered that they protect the depositor and the good name of Nigerian banking. (*Hear, hear*).

The Bill allows banks reasonable time to adjust their business to these requirements.

Now, Sir, I should also mention the need for banks to be properly audited. The Bill seeks to define for the first time who may audit a bank's books. He must normally be a member of a recognised professional body. In order to assist those Nigerians who have adequate experience but lack professional qualifications, the Bill will allow such people, with my approval, to act as auditors for the first three years.

Licensing of banks will still be strictly enforced, and it is proposed that the minimum capital required by an expatriate bank similarly licensed should henceforward be £200,000 instead of £100,000. The minimum of capital requirement for banks in Nigeria remains at £4,500.

Sir, the Bill is supplementary to the Central Bank of Nigeria Ordinance. The two amendments together provide what I may call now a charter for the future banking structure of

Nigeria. I ask therefore, for the whole support and approval of all sides of this House, and I hope that Members will agree with me that it is a progressive Bill which will ensure the safety of the depositor in Banks and save Nigeria from future economic disaster.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move.

Hon. Victor Mukete (Minister of State) : Sir, I beg to second.

Question proposed.

Mr L. C. Daldry (Special Member) : Mr Speaker, Sir, from time to time there is a good deal of friendly banter across the Floor of this House in regard to the number of Chiefs who sit here, and I was quite delighted to find the other day, myself described in one of the National papers as a Bank Chief ! That, Sir, must be my excuse for joining in this debate.

Now I have always taken the view that the less Government interferes in business, the better. I am not referring to this Federal Government in particular, but it is largely true to say that Governments as a whole are sometimes inclined to take a theoretical and bureaucratic approach in business matters. There are however, certain businesses of such vital importance to the country and to everyone in it that the manner in which those businesses are conducted justifies the concern of the Government, and their control, in order to protect the people. Now one such business is the business of banking, and for that reason I agree that it is wise to regulate the business of banking by law provided that this is done in a reasonable and sound manner.

The question arises therefore, whether this Bill is a sensible and reasonable Bill. It is first necessary to consider what are the origins of this Bill.

Now this Bill is not the product of some academic theorists immured in an ivory tower. It is not a foundling brain child left on the doorstep of the Minister for him to take in. It is a Bill which has been suggested to Government almost in its entirety by Mr Loynes. Now, we all know that Mr Loynes is an adviser to the finest bank in the world, the Bank of England, so that the Bill bears the hallmark of competence.

It only remains to examine the extent to which the Bill controls by interference the

business of banking, and whether such interference is justified. My opinion is that for the most part this Bill contains nothing which can be described as interference. I think that for the most part this Bill merely gives the force of compulsion and law to procedures and principles which have long been voluntarily imposed on themselves by all sound banks.

Nevertheless, Sir, there are two aspects of this Bill which most certainly do constitute active control by Government.

These aspects are, the first one is the liquidity arrangements and the second is the right of the Government through the Central Bank to examine the books and affairs of each and every bank.

The liquidity required in this Bill is that each Bank shall maintain readily realisable assets to an extent which will be specified from time to time by the Central Bank. Now, every sound bank voluntarily keeps readily realisable assets to ensure its capacity to carry out its basic duty, to pay cash on demand to its customers.

In Britain, as far as I am aware, the banks are not under any obligation to keep a specified amount of liquid assets, but over the centuries, the banks have adopted a convention as regards the proportion of liquid assets to deposits which they maintain. So strong and so old is this convention that if any bank were to publish a balance sheet and show that its proportion of liquid assets to deposits was considerably less than the conventional proportion, that bank would risk a considerable loss in public confidence. It is therefore in my view fully justified that this Bill should insist upon the banks holding liquid assets.

The effect of course in the banks would depend on the proportions which are specified by the Central Bank from time to time. I have no doubt that sensible realistic proportions will be enjoined upon the Commercial Banks, but I must point out that the power of Government as taken through the Central Bank is a power which could be used to restrict very drastically the power of the Commercial Banks to lend.

If the Banks were compelled to keep a very high and unreasonable proportion of liquid assets they would of course have to reduce their lending. At this period in Nigeria, the maximum possible amount of safe lending—I

repeat, safe lending—by the banks, is essential. Therefore I hope that the Government, through the Bank, will use wisely its power to curtail the lending of the commercial banks.

The second aspect of this Bill which constitutes a substantial Government control and might involve the word "interference" is the power of examination of the books and affairs of each and every commercial bank. I want to say here that in my opinion no bank, Nigerian or expatriate, which is running its business on sound lines has any reason whatever to fear the effects of having its books and affairs examined, provided this is done under proper conditions of secrecy. There has been no discrimination. Every Bank will be examined if this Bill is passed into law. Therefore if an examiner is known to be at a certain bank, that cannot result in any loss of confidence in that bank by the public. Every bank is going to be examined.

I am supporting this Bill in its entirety, but I want to sound a note of warning here. The potential danger lies, not in the examination itself, but in the manner in which it is carried out. I see that there is a clause in this Bill—Clause 11, subsection (2)—which purports to provide a safeguard, but at the same time I want to appeal strongly to the Minister who is a businessman and who loathes time-wasting to use all his influence to do three things.

First, to see that the examiner is a fully competent person who understands exactly what he is doing and why he is doing it.

Second, that the examiner is never permitted to build up a big bureaucratic department for himself. The Minister has already given us his word, I think, that that will not be allowed, and I was very glad to hear him say that, because any such big bureaucratic department of Government used for the examination of banks usually wastes the time and the money of both the country and the banks, and could cause endless irritation to the banks by constant asking of questions and calling for statistics and matters of that kind. So I was very glad to hear the Minister say that that would not be allowed.

Thirdly, I am going to ask the Minister to see that these examinations are carried out under conditions of real, and not theoretical secrecy.

I also want to draw the Minister's attention to the fact that it is usual for banks to have their own Inspectors, who are people who report

direct to the Board of Directors, and are quite independent of the executive officials in a bank. Now, Sir, that Government has decided that there will be periodical examinations of banks, I do hope that the periods will not be more frequent than is absolutely necessary.

Mr Speaker, Sir, subject to what I have said I am giving my support to this Bill which I consider is further evidence of this Federal Government's awareness of its responsibility to the public and evidence of the growing stature and soundness of the financial foundations of Nigeria. . . . (Applause.)

Question put and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read a second time and committed to a Committee of the whole House.

Committee upon Monday, next.

REVISED EDITION (LAWS OF THE
FEDERATION AND LAGOS) BILL

Order for Second Reading read.

The Minister of Communications and Aviation (Chief the hon. S. L. Akintola): Mr Speaker, I beg to move that the Bill entitled An Ordinance to provide for the preparation, printing and publication of a revised edition of the laws of the Federation and of the Federal Territory of Lagos, and for purposes connected therewith, be read a second time.

I am sure that this Bill is a non-contentious one. The hon. Members who belong to Lagos have always invited the attention of this House to the difficulties which they have encountered in connection with the state of our laws. We have an old edition of the laws of Nigeria, but since this edition was published over ten years ago, there have been so many amendments and so many new laws made that we can no longer refer to any new edition which will contain the laws as they are at the moment.

Now the position is made still more complicated as a result of the frequent constitutional changes in the country. At the moment our laws may be divided into three different categories. There is a portion of the law which is applicable to the Federation as a whole. The second group may be described as the laws passed by this House but applicable only to the Federal Territory of Lagos. We still have a third group of laws which is applicable to the Regions. Well in looking up their laws, lawyers may find it difficult to know exactly where and what they should consult.

Now realising this difficulty the Federal Government some time ago invited to this country the former Chief Justice of Nigeria, Sir Donald Kingdon who had a lot to do with the preparation of the old edition of the laws of Nigeria. He was invited to the country to assist in preparing a new revised edition. Well, Sir Donald Kingdon has been busy on this work for quite a while and the work has progressed very well ; but we feel that he has got to the point where his powers should be defined and general directives should be given as to the form which this new edition should take.

I believe that some time this month the first portion of the job will be completed and will be handed over to the Printer. Now this first edition referred to is about section 14 of the Bill which I am now presenting to you.

Now if the general directives which are to be given and the powers advanced to the Commissioner are acceptable to this House, it will strengthen the powers of the Commissioner, and I feel that within a very short time we are going to have a new Revised edition which we shall refer to as the Laws of the Federation. But then this edition will be limited in scope, it will be limited only to the laws applicable to the whole of the Federation and the laws applicable to the Federal territory of Lagos.

I understand that the Regions are making arrangements for the preparation of their own laws and as such the present revised edition will not contain Regional laws. Mr Speaker, Sir, realising that this is not a controversial Bill, it is so non-controversial that even my hon. Friend, Mr Akwivu, believes that he has nothing to add to it, he is getting ready to go—I beg to move.

The Minister of Research and Information (Chief the hon. Kolawole Balogun) : I beg to second.

Question proposed.

Mr E. C. Akwivu (Orlu) : Mr Speaker, Sir, indeed any one who would have the chance of endeavouring to pore through the Laws of Nigeria, knows that the time has come when something should be done. The rate at which our laws are amended is very alarming. It is to be hoped, Sir, that this revision will be broadened in certain respects and that it would at least surpass the old one in clarity and consistency. It is a tiresome thing to find that no sooner you handle any copy of the

Laws of Nigeria than you find that the one you have is out of date. There are too many amendments ; amendments upon amendments. We do hope, Sir, that when the new one will be put forward due consideration will be given to that aspect.

Secondly, Sir, it is noted that volumes of Laws of Nigeria as well as our Law Reports are so limited. These laws are of no use ; they do not serve the purpose for which they are intended if you only print sufficient copies to go round the fast buyers. We find for example, Sir, that many people want the index to the present Laws of Nigeria, but they could not get them because very few copies were printed and they were taken up by those who have paid for them and the majority of them distributed to various government offices. We do hope, Sir, that they will be printed in large quantities and if I may with your leave, add this, Sir, we also hope that when the Law Reports are printed they will be printed in sufficiently large quantities to go round, particularly to Members of this House.

And finally, Sir, it may well be that as a result of constitutional changes we are finding ourselves in a Nigeria not only with Laws of Nigeria, but Laws of Nigerians. We would only pray the Minister to see to it that on application to the Government Printer here one could get the laws of the various Governments of Nigeria, particularly when it is considered that this is the Nigeria of Nigerians.

Mr T. O. S. Benson (Lagos West) : Mr Speaker, while supporting the last speaker, I will make only one point, and that is that the Commissioner, apart from revising the Laws of Nigeria, should also undertake to compile a list of decided cases. Because when these laws are made it is for the lawyers to interpret them, and I would suggest that this should not be confined to the Federal Laws alone, but also decided cases of the Regions of Nigeria. It is therefore important that we have volumes of important decided cases available.

Chief J. S. Olayeye (Okitipupa) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I am not a lawyer, I am a layman. But I feel that there seems to be some confusion in making our Laws of Nigeria. Here you have the Laws of Nigeria ; you have the Laws of Western Nigeria ; you have the Laws of Eastern Nigeria, Northern Nigeria and the Cameroons. We are all Nigerians, and I want all our politicians to come together to unify all

House of Representatives Debates

1619

[Revised Edition (Laws)
Bill: Second Reading]

14 MARCH 1958

[Revised Edition (Laws)
Bill: Committee]

1620

these petty and ecomplicated laws under the Federation: one law for all the Regions, Cameroons and Lagos.

For instance, if a man is convicted in the Western Region where *Court of Instance* is, he might wish to appeal to the Federal Court. I come from the Western Region; a law passed in the Western Region if you come to Lagos it may not be effective.

Mr Speaker: I am afraid this revision of the Laws of Nigeria is not going to contain the statutes of the Western Region. It is only the Federation and Lagos.

Chief Olayeye: Thank you, Mr Speaker. But I am pointing out where we are placed by all these laws.

The Minister of Finance (Chief the hon. F. S. Okotie-Eboh): The hon. Member must not argue.

Chief Olaleye: I will do something about it! Here you have the Chief Justice of the Federation. If an offence is committed in the Western Region, for instance, they may appeal to the Federation. The majority of the Members have no original idea of this Bill. So I would say to the Prime Minister who is responsible for the Bill or any other Minister responsible for it, to try to see that copies of the law books should be supplied to each Member. When Bills come for amendment we change from one thing to another, and without Members having copies of the original laws we do not know what we are changing, we know nothing about the original implication. I do not want to waste the time of the House. I wish to conclude by saying that this should be taken seriously into account and the Minister should see that something is done to change

the position.

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)

The Chairman: I will take the clauses in groups, if the Committee will allow.

Clauses 1 to 3 agreed to.

Clause 4.

The Minister of Communications and Aviation (Chief the hon. S. L. Akintola): Mr Chairman, I beg to move that Clause 4 be amended, that is, line 3, by inserting after the first "of" the words "all those ordinances or".

Amendment proposed.

Question put and agreed to.

Clause as amended agreed to.

Clauses 5-14 agreed to.

Schedule agreed to.

Bill as amended to be reported.

Mr Speaker resumed the Chair.

Bill reported with an amendment, read the third time and passed.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion made and Question proposed, That this House do now adjourn—(The Minister of Transport).

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved, That this House do now adjourn.

Adjourned accordingly at 9.15 p.m. until 9 a.m. on Saturday the 15th of March.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
NIGERIA

Saturday, 15th March, 1958

The House met at 9.00 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 upon the Table: Report of the Fortieth Session of the International Labour Conference held in Geneva, 5th-28th June, 1957, Sessional Paper No. 4 of 1958.

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

Mr Speaker : I have to lay on the Table a Report from the Business Committee as follows: "Your Committee have met and agreed, pursuant to Standing Order 55A that one day should be allotted to the Second Reading and other stages of the Bill entitled "The Supplementary Appropriation 1956-57 Ordinance 1958."

Now, I have to make an apology to the House. The Order which was made yesterday for the continuation of the Debate on the Second Reading of the Supplementary Appropriation Bill has got left out from the Order Paper. It is a little hard when the House sits as late as we have done the last two nights, but it is my mistake, and I do apologise to the House that the mistake should have occurred. The First Order of the Day, coming immediately after that line "Orders of the Day and Notices of Motions" should be "Supplementary Appropriation 1956-57, Adjourned Debate on Second Reading, 14th March," and I do apologise for the mistake.

Question, That this House doth agree with the Committee in the said Report, put and agreed to.

Ordered, That one day should be allotted for the Second Reading and other stages of the Bill entitled "The Supplementary Appropriation (1956-57) Ordinance, 1958".

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Hon. Zana Bukar Dipcharima (Minister of State) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I have the following Business Statement to make: On Monday the 17th, the House, on its completion of Government Business will adjourn *sine die*.

An hon. Member : When are we coming back ?

ORDERS OF THE DAY

SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION, 1956-57 BILL

Order read for resuming Adjourned Debate on Question (14th March), That the Bill be now read a Second Time.

Question again proposed.

Dr E. U. Udoma (Opobo) : Mr Speaker, the only point I would like to raise on the second reading of the Supplementary Appropriation Bill, is in regard to slowness. Sir, in September last year we had a meeting of this House and yet that Supplementary Bill was not brought before the House and, incidentally, the expenditure which had been incurred was since 1956-57. It is rather astonishing that it was not possible for Government to produce that Bill when we had the meeting last September.

Sir, I have noticed in some of the items that there are items like "Expenditure on Elections" and I am just wondering which election is that. Whether it is the 1954 Election that they have just discovered they have spent some money on, or a bye-election of some sort and when it was held, because there is no indication as to when such elections were held.

As I said, the only point about it is that I think the Government has been extremely slow in producing this Bill and that is one of the reasons, Sir, Government is always losing money, because it will never make its own account in time. It takes years to produce what is called "Annual Report," Annual Report for 1956-57 might not be produced until probably 1959-60 and by the time you come to read what has happened in 1955-56, you have lost trail of the events. Sir, I wish Government would always try to push forward this question of accounts, so as to be able to track down any questions of misappropriation in time. Sometimes it is very late before the Auditor completes his work and the fact becomes known. That is the only point, Sir, I wish to make in supporting the second reading of this Bill.

The Minister of Finance (Chief the hon. F. S. Okotie-Eboh) : Sir, I am very grateful to the last speaker for the point which he has made, it only shows that he is alive to his responsibilities. The more he comes here

to give such views the better for him than to be going around the Courts trying to do his professional duties.

Mr Speaker, Sir, the point that he has made, as I say, is well taken and my hon. Friend will appreciate now why Government has introduced the system of self-accounting for the different departments. He will agree that if that system goes through, it will be quicker for the Accountant-General to compute the accounts. At the moment, you will appreciate the fact that to enable the Accountant-General to collect all the different accounts that have not been centralised in the different Departments, is not a little job at all. I wish to say that, in accordance with the Audit Ordinance approved by this House, September is still within the period in which the accounts would be put together and put before us. However, the point is well taken and I think that in future, when the self-accounting system has been introduced properly into all the Departments, it may be possible to get the accounts together earlier than previously.

M. Sanni O. B. Okin (North Ilorin) : Mr Speaker, I have to support what hon. Dr Udoma said and according to the statement made by the Minister of Finance, that is not the only remedy. The main cause of accounting difficulty will not be solved by the self-accounting system alone. I suggest that the best way of sorting out all these irregularities, is by sending circulars to the Heads of Departments to warn them, very strongly, to use or to spend the vote for the purpose it is intended. As far as my experience goes, I know definitely that some vote controllers are not always careful. Sometimes they just make use of the vote for purposes for which they are not intended, more especially during the months of January, February and March.

If a circular is sent to the Heads of Departments or the vote controllers, that they should be very, very careful and in some of the cases Heads of Departments are asked to refund when the amount is not spent, I think this will be the only remedy. I strongly suggest that the Minister of Finance should send out circulars to all the Heads of Departments to be very careful in spending the money.

Chief T. T. Solaru (Ijebu East) : Mr Speaker, Sir, the Minister of Finance has very kindly said that he would make a note of these points. One of the obstacles in the way

of early presentation of accounts, according to what we learn from the Government Auditor, was that in times past most of the Departments were very short staffed. Where accounts have been in arrears for two, three, four or five years, I do not think that a self-accounting system would eliminate the difficulty. Something will have to be done to bring this arrear of work up-to-date before your self-accounting system can start to work.

If there are still vacancies that are not filled or posts of Accountants which are still left unfilled, it certainly will continue to contribute to the delay of the presentation of accounts. In some of the Papers laid on the Table and the Reports, you find that some of them are for 1954. In 1958, to be dealing with Reports of 1954 seems a little obscure. You do not remember what has happened, you have lost interest, you want to go forward, you cannot connect the link, what has happened between 1955-57 we do not know yet. I think shortage of staff is one of the headaches of Departments, especially where trained Accountants are concerned.

Chief J. I. G. Onyia (Asaba) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I noted in this Supplementary Appropriation Bill, under Head 22A, Nigerianisation Office, the creation of the Nigerianisation Office was recommended by the Standing Committee on Finance during the course of the year. There is nothing wrong in so doing and in spending our money in the Nigerianisation Office but I wish to sound a note of warning in the way in which we can always hurry the Nigerianisation Office service.

Any appointment that is going to be made for which an African is not available, must be made only with the understanding that there is an African already in training to take up such a post. The Minister should advise the Nigerianisation Office to always consult the Heads of Departments to be sure that the Heads of Departments do not unduly employ expatriates—I am not against expatriates but I am talking of Nigerianisation of the Civil Service—he must be sure that before employing an expatriate, there is no African qualified to take up that post or that an African is already in training preparatory to taking the post. The Nigerianisation Office should be given such power to give a certificate to enable the Head of Department to make the appointment on that clear understanding.

The Minister of Finance (Chief the hon. F. S. Okotie-Eboh): Mr Speaker, Sir, in reply to hon. Sanni Okin, I only have to say that up till now I am satisfied that the Heads of Departments are spending money with great care and within the bounds of reason. I have no evidence that they spend money just anyhow from January to March. If the hon. Member could substantiate the allegation, I should be willing to investigate.

As a matter of fact, Mr Speaker, Sir, the hon. Sanni Okin was a member of the old Finance Committee as well as the hon. Mr Jaja Wachuku and you have approved this account. It is no use your coming here now to say something else.

Mr O. B. Sanni Okin (Ilorin North): In the old Finance Committee, I think the hon. Member will bear me out, I warned the Chairman that action should be taken as early as possible. If something had been done I think such a thing would not have happened.

The Minister of Finance: Mr Speaker, Sir, at least I have not been warned. In reply to Chief Solaru, I wish to say again that I am grateful to him for his constructive suggestion. But we are all aware no doubt that we have a shortage of accountants and I think the hon. Member will remember when I said that Government is looking into it positively, that we have students in training in Accountancy in the Nigerian College of Arts, Science and Technology and we are encouraging commercial colleges to train Accountants, and scholarships will be awarded to train more Accountants. I think that will answer Chief Onyia that Nigerianisation is progressing. As a matter of fact, until we can find qualified people that are trained we do not think we can do more than we are doing in Nigerianisation and I think Chief Solaru struck the right chord when he said that we should train Accountants. My point is that Accountants will be trained and Government will encourage commercial schools either by way of scholarships to see that more Accountants are trained so that we can expedite our accounting system.

Chief J. I. G. Onyia (Asaba): Are you willing to recruit students from secondary schools on the recommendation of the Principals?

The Minister of Finance: Mr Speaker, Sir, I am not a recruiting officer.

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 Supply, pursuant to Standing Order 63 (4).

Bill immediately considered in Committee.

(In the Committee)

The Chairman: Under Standing Order 64, the clauses and preamble are postponed. The Schedule.

HEAD 21—THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL
£6,687 for Head 21—*The Governor-General—agreed to.*

HEAD 22—CHIEF SECRETARY'S OFFICE
£7,104 for Head 22—*Chief Secretary's Office—agreed to.*

HEAD 22A—NIGERIANISATION OFFICE
Question proposed, That £1,879 for Head 22A—Nigerianisation Office—stand part of the Schedule.

Chief J. I. G. Onyia (Asaba): Mr Chairman, I wish to drive home what I have said before. The pace of Nigerianisation is still too slow. I am quite certain we are not doing enough. Expatriates still continue to be brought in on contract for such posts as Executive Officers and Higher Executive Officers for which Nigerians have been acting or have acted. . . .

The Chairman: We are debating the slowness of Nigerianisation in 1956-57, not in this particular year.

Question put and agreed to.

HEAD 23—EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
Question proposed, That £19,175 for Head 23—External Affairs—stand part of the Schedule.

Mr Jaja Wachuku (Aba): Mr Chairman, Sir, I would like to know from the Minister of Finance what has happened to the office at Victoria Street in London now that we have got the new Nigeria Office. The students office we have at 41 Victoria Street, London, what has happened to it? Do we still retain it? I notice here, 33A, Accommodation for Director of Students repaired, and 33B, New Office Expenses. I do not know what that refers to. Remember we had two places, one for the Commissioner by Rubens Hotel and the other one for the students in Victoria Street in London. Now we have the new office taking over all that. What has happened to that building in Victoria Street? I would like to know.

The Minister of Finance (Chief the hon. Festus Okotie-Eboh): Mr Chairman, Sir, I am afraid I will want notice of that question. Hon. Jaja Wachuku has just recently returned from

London. Maybe he went to Victoria Street there. If you care to go to Victoria Street in Lagos you will find a better office for yourself.

Mr J. A. Effiong (Enyong) : Mr Chairman, it is reported that all is not well in the Nigeria Office in Washington, according to the Report of the Director of Federal Audit. It says that £10,000 cannot be accounted for and we are called upon to write off £10,000. I would like the Minister to explain.

The Minister of Finance : Mr Chairman, Sir, I am afraid the hon. Member is out of order. There is no mention of Washington in the report there. Mr Chairman, Sir, we have no office in Washington. We have a Liaison officer there. . . .

Mr Jaja Wachuku (Aba) : On a point of Order, Mr Chairman, is the Washington office not part of External Affairs? In the last Estimates we have just passed here that comes under External Affairs.

The Minister of Finance : Mr Chairman, with respect to the hon. Gentleman we are debating the excesses and the excesses have nothing to do with any office in Washington. Show me the place where you find any excess in expenditure in any office in Washington. We are not debating External Affairs as such. I hope hon. Members will know what they are talking about. You have said enough on External Affairs during the Committee stage. What we are debating here now is excesses in expenditure on External Affairs and in the paper in front of you there is nothing about excess in expenditure in the Washington Office. It is in what you see there, hon. Dosunmu, slum clearance.

Chief T. T. Solaru (Ijebu East) : Mr Chairman, Sir, we can picture the embarrassment of the Minister of Finance, and in fact we are prepared to let him off provided that he will own up, because the external affairs office in Washington is part of external affairs. And, Sir, I should have thought that he was old enough in the Ministry to know that, but if he desires information we are giving it.

The fact that money was lost was stated in the report that the hon. Effiong has just made known to us, and that is a very good reason for this to be discussed, while this Supplementary Bill is now under discussion, and so Sir, it says here (with your permission, Sir, I am referring again to the report of the Nigerian Liaison Officer in Washington, U.S.A.)

this report shows that there has been a very considerable lack of control over the expenditure of scholarship funds, and in many cases large advances have been made to students without proper authority. It is said that the matter is still under investigation, but from the information available at the present, it would appear as though the write-off of at least £10,000 will be inevitable.

The Prime Minister (Alhaji the hon. Abubakar Tafawa Balewa) : Mr Chairman, Sir, the confusion arose because the hon. Member asked, or the hon. Member said, that all is not well with the Nigeria Office in Washington, while my friend, Jaja Wachuku was talking about the Nigeria Office in London. And that is why the Minister said we have no Nigeria Office in Washington. We have a Liaison Officer.

The Minister of Finance : Mr Chairman, Sir, my reply to the hon. Chief Solaru is that the answer to the point made is contained in the actual phrase he has used, namely that the matter is under investigation. The matter is still *sub-judice* and it is wrong for you to raise the matter yet. (*Cries of No.*) Yes, it is, it is wrong to raise the matter and to try to anticipate what the Public Accounts Committee is going to do in the broad issue.

Chief T. T. Solaru (Ijebu East) : I am appealing to the Minister, Sir, that he will expedite this matter. This is the proper thing to do in a case of this kind, and I hope, Mr Chairman, Sir, that he will give us a proper answer to the question that has been raised. Money was lost and we are told it will be in the region of £10,000, and I hope he will do something about it. I know that in the words of the report it is under investigation, and we want to know what steps the Government is going to take to see that such a thing is not repeated in the future. Naturally, whether it is proved or not, it is clear that money was lost through improper administration.

The Minister of Finance : My answer to that, Sir, is, that not only in this case, but also I am giving you the assurance that Government is not satisfied with the accounting system generally, and that is why we are introducing this other accounting system in the Department; but I can assure you that we have nothing to hide, and that is why it

is put there. The matter is being investigated and will be looked into by the Public Accounts Committee, but whatever is done in Washington or anywhere else, I can assure you that we are not interested in whittling away Government funds, and proper steps will be taken to see that in the future such accounts are properly kept.

Question put and agreed to.

HEAD 25—DEFENCE

£86,810 for Head 25—Defence—agreed to

HEAD 27—PRISONS

Question proposed, That £45,315 for Head 27—Prisons—stand part of the Schedule.

Dr E. U. Udoma (Opobo) : Mr Chairman, Sir, all I want to raise on this question is the large sum of money being spent on prisons, and I wonder whether it is because the intake in the prison is increasing or whether there have been no proper estimates as to the cost of maintaining the prison, and that is why this large sum had to be spent unauthorised.

Now, under the sub-head, the items are shown as "Rations for Prisoners", "Prison Stores". I do not know whether it was because of a particular influx of prisoners at the time, and if so what was the crime wave at that particular time? Then we come to Approved Schools, and so on.

Sir, I do not know why it has to be necessary for Government to spend this large sum of £45,000 for the maintenance of prisons and prisoners' rations. It is not capital work and surely this expenditure should have been seen long before this money was spent.

The Minister of Finance : Well, Sir, it is a very short answer as I feel the hon. Member has answered this thing himself. The intake has increased at the rate of 1,000 prisoners per annum for some years now, and I think my hon. Friend, Mr Fani-Kayode was right when he suggested that perhaps something should be done to stop so many people being sent to prison, and I think, Sir, Dr Udoma should redouble his efforts in defending his clients so that more of them are not sent to prison. (Laughter.)

Question put and agreed to.

HEAD 29—POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS

£425,475—for Head 29—Posts and Telegraph—agreed to.

HEAD 35—PRINTING AND STATIONERY

Question proposed, That £23,499 for Head 35—Printing and Stationery—stand part of the Schedule.

Mr Jaja Wachuku (Aba) : Mr Chairman, Sir, I notice here that there is a sub-head for printing done elsewhere, that is the printing of Government publications. Now, Sir, why and where was the printing done? Why did not the Government Press deal with it?

And, Sir, why is it that printers are not being trained at the Technical Institute? You have somebody there who is supposed to be a printer. I want to tell the Minister or whoever is in charge of this to investigate that matter, because if the man cannot carry out his job because he is not qualified, and he is supposed to be qualified, then he must go, and I would like the Minister to investigate this. We want people to be trained, and we want printers to be trained, and we want an explanation from the Minister.

The Minister of Finance : I think the hon. Member should have raised this question under the appropriate Head. In any case answering your main point, the Government Printer could not deal with all the printing of all the publications at that particular time, especially after the Constitutional Conference, there was an increase of work, and I do not think there is anything wrong in Government patronising our own printing establishment by giving them jobs to do.

Mr Jaja Wachuku : Where was it done?

The Minister of Finance : I do not know.

The Minister of Communications and Aviation (Chief the hon. S. L. Akintola) : The Nigerian Printing and Publishing Company.

The Minister of Finance : The next question about training, I think the general answer is that every effort is being made to train more printers and I am sure that that matter was exhaustively discussed during the debate on the Head of the Estimates.

Question put and agreed to.

HEAD 44—LANDS

Question proposed, That £58,343 for Head 44—Lands—stand part of the Schedule.

Oba Adetunji Aiyeola (Ijebu Remo): Mr Chairman, I understand from the explanation that the sum of £8,342 has been spent on rent. I understand also, Sir, that it is the custom of Government to hire houses at very exorbitant rates and I think it is about time Government stopped such a practice. It is better for Government to acquire land and put up its own buildings so that we do not have to spend money on hiring houses belonging to private persons.

The Minister of Lagos Affairs, Mines and and Power (Alhaji Muhammadu Ribadu): Mr Chairman, Sir, it is the intention of the Government to build its own offices, but I hope the hon. Member will appreciate that the activities of Government are now expanding, and are expanding very rapidly too. Unless we rent some buildings, we cannot cope with the situation. But what he has just said is a long term policy, and we shall see to it that in future, Government will build enough offices to accommodate its staff.

Question put and agreed to.

HEAD 79—MISCELLANEOUS

Question proposed, That £13,084 for Head 79—Miscellaneous—stand part of the Schedule.

Mr J. G. Adeniran (Ibadan West): Mr Chairman, Sir, this is an ambiguous head of expenditure. It is not at all clear. I cannot understand how the payment of revision of salaries came under Miscellaneous. When salaries are revised and the necessary amounts paid to those who are concerned, I think all this amount should be transferred to the appropriate head of personal emoluments. I see no reason why it should come under Miscellaneous again. And here, Sir, the whole thing is mixed up. So much money is always spent on this Miscellaneous Head, that I think the Minister should better note this in the future.

Mr A. Adeyinka (Ibadan Central): Mr Chairman, Sir, I refer to loss of Government funds. The total loss is already more than £33,131. This is shocking indeed, and I think proper steps must have to be taken to ensure the safety of Government funds. I

would like to know from the Minister what real action has been taken to see that these losses cease to obtain in the service of the Federation.

Is it that the officers themselves are not working very hard? Something must have to be done because this is a very large sum. I know that this Government cannot shoulder and cannot tolerate this state of affairs. Something must be done. Either the Police are not vigilant enough; I want to know from the Minister where these losses have occurred and whether anybody has been brought to book for this type of negligence. I would like to know from the Minister, because this is shocking.

The Minister of Finance (Chief the hon. F. S. Okotie-Eboh): Sir, in reply to Mr Adeyinka, I can only say in answer that I have one hon. Member to thank, and that is the hon. Chief Solaru. I have said that the Members of this House, whenever we are discussing such matters, have to assist me in bringing it home to our own kith and kin that we demand honesty more than anything else.

Yes, people are responsible for these losses, whether we bring them to book or not, whether you want the Police to investigate or not. Certainly people are responsible, and much as we want every other thing to be done, it will be necessary for us, as the representatives or our people, to put our feet down and pin these things down, no matter if it hurts. We are not saying that there are no honest people—many of our kith and kin are honest, definitely, and efficient too. But there are some rotten eggs, and it is our bounden duty to carry it out to them that we do not need these rotten eggs.

Mr Sanni O. B. Okin (North Ilorin): I have observed the reimbursement to Regional Governments of the cost of building Federal buildings. I think this is not the appropriate head to which this supplementary expenditure should be charged. Originally there must be certain capital expenditure from which the cost of the building was made. This should have been charged to that particular Head and not this Head. I suggest to the Minister of Finance that in future he should ensure that amounts are charged to the appropriate heads and sub-heads.

Dr E. U. Udoma (Opobo) : Mr Chairman, I think while agreeing with the hon. Minister of Finance, it is regrettable that he has not given any information to this House as to how this loss occurred and where, in which Department? Is it the Treasury or any other department, or Land? Where? We have not received any information as to where the loss had occurred.

Further, Sir, I would like to thank the Minister of Finance for the way that this Supplementary Estimates have been presented to the House, in that details are given. It is not like the usual Supplementary Bill that used to be presented to this House, just a blank card and you have just to say "Aye" and that is the end of the matter. You do not know what made up the amount, no details given. We are very, very grateful for these details given because they will enable Members of this House to follow intelligently on what items and on what subjects that this sum had to be spent.

But as I said I hope that the Minister would be able to assist this House by giving us some information as to where this loss had occurred.

Mr M. A. Ajasin (Owo South) : Mr Chairman, Sir, I just want to refer to Head 79, Loan to Nigeria Football Association. I think, Mr Chairman that instead of giving a loan to this body there should be an annual grant. We know that this body is doing a lot to promote the football game in this country and many a time they arrange International Matches and it is only necessary that they should be helped.

We have always spoken about the development of the physique of our boys, and it is necessary that in developing this physique the Government should see to it that it renders some assistance to this Association. Because this body is not a trading concern and cannot produce the money. So, instead of giving them a loan I am suggesting that an annual grant should be given in the interest of sport.

Mr A. E. Ukattah (Bende) : Mr Chairman, I was just trying to refer to a point made about losses. Anybody who has served on the Public Accounts Committee can easily see that many things can go wrong in our Departments. I have had an opportunity of serving in that Committee, and found that a lot of things in various departments go wrong, and in some cases they are so complicated that you could

not see exactly what had happened. As for the details of how these losses have occurred, I would refer Members to the report of the Public Accounts Committee.

Chief T. T. Solaru (Ijebu East) : Mr Chairman, Sir, continuing the comment on this loss of Government funds, I have one suggestion to make. In assisting Government Departments to instil a sense of responsibility into the minds of those who work in these Departments, would it not be feasible, Sir, to use placards giving publicity to this kind of thing and saying : "last year we lost so much through the fault of some officers" ? Make use of the Information Services. We can make use of them in all kinds of ways and I am quite sure this is one of them. In one Region when they were trying to stamp out bribery and corruption, I know that you cannot stamp it out on paper, but as soon as you enter, it has some psychological effect asking some people, "Well, this loss, are you concerned? Is it through you?" It may have some effect in making some people more responsible in dealing with accounts.

Sir, I should like to comment on the W.A.S.U. contribution to the cost of purchase of a hostel. I take it that this is the new hostel. There was an old one which was the precursor of this new hostel. Students still use it quite a lot. I wonder what is the attitude of this Government to that hostel, whether we are abandoning it altogether and relegating it to oblivion in spite of the laudable work they have done. I wish, Sir, that you would do something about it and not just leave the place to stagnate. As it is at the moment, it is just an eye-sore and if our students continue to use it despite the fact that there is a new hostel, it must be that the accommodation in the other hostel is not enough. Could you do something about it, Sir?

Mr Jaja Wachuku (Aba) : Mr Chairman, Sir, sub-head 79—loan to Nigerian Football Association. I like to find out from the Minister of Finance what has happened to this stadium. The stadium was to be rebuilt and a body of men who were to be responsible for it was set up. Can the Minister report progress and let us know what is happening? I learnt that they had acquired land on the Mainland and that something was going on. We do not know anything more about it.

Chief J. I. G. Onyia (Asaba) : Mr Chairman, the time has come when at least the elders should unite together in this country, and Legislators in particular, to condemn defrauding and all such losses. It is very disheartening to find that the new generation is under the tendency to grow rich over-night, and they are doing away with anything called honesty. If only they can grow rich over-night they do not mind defrauding their employers. Most of us who worked before did not do so, hence we earned our pension. But Civil Servants nowadays feel that any amount of money that comes into their hand must go into their own pockets. They want to put up a building the next day; they want a car to ride now. Our children are deteriorating a great deal and if that is the way our youngmen our youths, are going to grow, I am afraid what this nation will suffer in future. It is time to condemn it unanimously.

The Minister of Finance (Chief the hon. F. S. Okotie-Eboh) : Mr Chairman, I have just a few points to reply to. The point raised by Dr Udoma has been replied to by hon. Ukattah, that the details required are stated in the pamphlet already circularised to Members.

As regards Chief Solaru's point, I am sure my hon. Colleague, the Minister of Information, will take the point. (*Interruption*) I am sure he is doing very good work. I have confidence in his ability to tackle the point made by my hon. Friend.

The point made by my hon. Friend, Mr Jaja Wachuku, on the stadium—a report by the Consulting Architect is with the Government and Government is still studying it. I cannot commit the Government this way or that way on it.

As regards the point made by hon. Ajasin, I think that hon. S. L. Akintola had interpolated correctly.

The Football Association. I am a great enthusiast of football, as hon. Members know very well, for most of us worked a great deal on football in Sapele.

The Minister of Communications and Aviation (Chief the hon. S. L. Akintola) : In your days.

The Minister of Finance : Yes, in my days. I cannot play now.

An hon. Member : Why ?

The Minister of Finance : Because I belong to the old brigade. In any case, it is a very good thing to assist Football Associations in this country. Certainly we would like to do it. But Government will not just give money away because a sort of play is developed. But I am not here to say that Government will be so kind as just to give £10,000 away because football is being encouraged by the Association.

An hon. Member : Why ?

The Minister of Finance : If Members want to know why, they can go and watch a very enthusiastic match and they will see the amount of money that is being collected at the gate. I do not think that they are running short of money at all.

Question put and agreed to.

HEAD 83.—CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE
DEVELOPMENT FUND

£1,158,726 for Head 83—Contributions to the
Development Fund—agreed to.

HEAD 85—INLAND WATERWAYS

*Question proposed, That £22,104 for Head
85—Inland Waterways—stand part of the
Schedule.*

Mr J. G. Adeniran (Ibadan West) : Mr Chairman, Sir, this sum was not provided as stated here. I think that we are not concerned with Inland Waterways in the Eastern Region. If that is the case—I have not got the details here, and I am sorry I cannot definitely say—but I think some benefits will come in from Oshun, Ogun and many other rivers in the West if we have hydrologists to investigate into their Courses. And if this amount includes some preparation for the training of hydrologists in the country, I support it, but if that has not been done, I will appeal to the Minister concerned to see that all this provision on Inland Waterways is spent in the right direction and to make arrangements for the training of hydrologists.

Question put and agreed to.

Again it is only right that if an officer is appointed on the understanding that he will be eligible to contribute to this Scheme, then he should be allowed to do so if he wishes.

Lastly, section 6 applies the provisions of this Bill to contract employees of the institutions mentioned in this Schedule.

Mr Speaker, I trust this Bill is non-contentious and that the House will agree to pass it into law.

The Minister of Research and Information (Chief the hon. Kolawole Balogun): 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 6 agreed to.

Question proposed That this be the Schedule to the Bill.

Mr J. A. O. Akande (Egba North): Mr Chairman, the Government promised at the last Budget Session to give us in advance certain Ordinances which would be coming up before this House, but up till now nothing has been done, and we have been asked to pass certain Bills and Ordinances which we know nothing about. I think in future Government should give us extracts of these Ordinances so that Members can be able to contribute to the discussions as to whether or not an Ordinance has to be amended or approved.

The Chairman: The Minister has just explained, I think. The Minister's explanation dealt with that.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill to be reported.

(Mr Speaker resumed the Chair.)

Bill reported without amendment, read the third time and passed.

Dr E. U. Udoma (Opobo): Mr Speaker, I wish to congratulate the Minister for bringing this Bill before the House with a great speed. This is a standard which must be maintained. We would like to emphasise that, and there should be no discrimination about it, Sir.

I think the Minister is aware of the fact that our pensioners are now crying in the streets because of the treatment they have received at the hands of the Government. No doubt the Minister will say "Oh it was this House that passed it", but, Sir, if even this House passes any Bill in error, which we do not admit, is it not right and proper when the mistake is discovered that a new Bill should be introduced to remedy this mistake? Why even when the Government knows that there is an error, an obvious apparent error, due to misunderstanding, why is the Minister of Finance not doing something to correct that error in regard to African pensioners.

I hope, Sir, that by next meeting, and with the same speed that you have done this one which refers to officers in various institutions, that we will do the same to our kith and kin in this country. (*Hear, hear*).

Mr Speaker: And the genius speaks quite out of order!

INCOME TAX (AMENDMENT) BILL

Order for Second Reading read.

The Minister of Finance (Chief the hon. F. S. Okotie-Eboh): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to move that a Bill entitled an Ordinance further to amend the Income Tax Ordinance be read a second time.

Hon. Members will recall that in my Budget Speech I referred to the fact that the House would be called upon to approve a Bill under which certain changes will be made in the Income Tax Ordinance. I said that these would include a reduction in the rate of company tax from 9s to 8s in the £, the indefinite carry-forward of losses and certain changes in the capital allowances. Income tax legislation, Sir, is notoriously complex and the clauses in this Bill are no exception. But I will do my best to explain as simply as I can the various changes which the present Bill seeks to introduce.

In general terms it seeks to ensure that Members of the Nigerian military forces will in future be liable to Nigerian tax, to correct anomalies regarding contributions to pension and provident funds, to clarify the present provisions of the law relating to the deduction of losses from income, to reduce the rate of company tax and to make adjustments to the rate of capital allowances for buildings.

Clause 2 proposes two amendments to section 9 of the Ordinance. The first amendment provides that as from the 1st April, 1958, the emoluments of Members of the Nigerian military forces will become liable to Nigerian tax. They are at present liable only to U.K. tax since they are paid by H.M.G. in the U.K. This change is, of course, necessary in view of the assumption by the Federal Government of full responsibility for the armed forces of the country on that date.

The second amendment under section 9 is designed to enable the Governor-General in Council to exempt from tax not only the whole but also any part of the income of a person or any class of persons. As the law stands, the Governor-General in Council may only grant complete exemption from tax but it is desirable that he should have the power to grant partial exemption... I will give an instance—it might well be desirable to exempt from tax certain allowances whilst retaining the liability to tax on the remainder of a person's income. The foreign service allowance payable to Nigerian diplomatic civil servants in the U.K. and elsewhere overseas is a case in point.

Clause 3 of the Bill proposes three amendments to section 10(1) (h) of the Ordinance. This section provides for deductions from income in respect of contributions to pension or provident funds, and for capital payment from such funds. The first of these three amendments provides that the limit of 25 per cent of remuneration, which is the maximum deduction from taxable income allowed, shall refer only to regular contributions. As the law stands, this limit could be held to apply to any contribution, whereas the initial contribution on the first establishment of a fund may well exceed 25 per cent of one year's salary if it includes a substantial back-payment in respect of an employee's service before the fund was formally established.

The second amendment under this clause is designed to relieve hardship arising from the Income Tax Amendment No. 2 Ordinance, 1955. The 1955 Ordinance provided that capital sums withdrawn from a provident fund would be exempt from tax in full only if contributions had been made to the fund in respect of the employee concerned continuously for five years. The statutory corporations in particular have only recently set up provident funds by making lump-sum payments to the funds in respect of their employees' service

prior to the date of setting up the fund. As I have already stated, under the existing law an employee cannot obtain full exemption from tax unless he continues to serve continuously for five years from the date of the first payment into the fund. The intention was to place employees contributing to a provident fund in exactly the same position as Government contract officers whose gratuity is exempt from tax if the officer has served continuously for five years. The present amendment will remove this anomaly by making the test for full exemption whether or not the employee concerned has served continuously for five years including, in the case of employees transferred from Government service to a statutory corporation, any previous Government service without a break. Thus, the test will be continuous service rather than continuous payments into a provident fund.

The third amendment under this clause is designed to ensure that any benefit which may accrue to an employer from a provident fund, as for example the recovery of contributions paid to the fund in respect of a dismissed employee, will be regarded as income liable to tax. This is fair and reasonable since original payments into the fund will have been allowed as deductions from taxable income.

Clauses 4 and 5 taken together seek to remove doubt about the provisions of the Ordinance which afford relief for losses. In the case of a person or company starting a business, the tax assessment for the first year is based on the income actually earned in that year. The tax assessment for the second year is based upon the income for the first complete 12 months' operations and in the third and subsequent years upon the income of the previous year. Under section 18(8) of the Ordinance, the apportionment of profits as between years of assessment may be done upon a proportionate basis. Thus, if a company started trading on the 1st October and made £10,000 profit in its first 12 months, £5,000 would be attributable to the first year of assessment, *i.e.*, up to the 31st March next following. Losses may be apportioned on the same basis. Profits and losses may also be aggregated together to arrive at a net figure for the year. However, section 20(2) (b) also permits losses to be deducted from other income or set against future income from the same source. There is thus room for argument that losses could legally be taken into

account twice, once in accordance with section 18 and again in accordance with section 20. The purpose of this amendment, therefore, is to remove this possibility by providing that the losses taken into account in arriving at net income for a year under section 18 cannot also be off-set against other income or future profits under section 20.

Clause 5 also provides for the indefinite carry-forward of losses incurred by a business where the Commissioner is satisfied that the losses have been made. Under the present Ordinance a business may carry-forward losses against future profits for a maximum period of 10 years. It is, of course, rare that a business would need to carry-forward losses for more than 10 years but I think honourable Members will agree that it is only equitable that this should be possible if it becomes necessary.

Clauses 6 and 7 reflect the changes in the rate of company tax and in the capital allowances which I announced in my Budget Speech. It is Government's aim to channel as much investment as possible into industrial development rather than into purely commercial development. It is for this reason that we have made a deliberate distinction in the allowances in respect of capital expenditure on buildings for industrial purposes and capital expenditure on buildings for purely commercial purposes. Nevertheless, as Members will note, we have drawn the definition of industrial buildings very widely. We have included not only factories, workshops and mills, etc., but also hotels, public warehouses, public utilities, plantation and mining buildings, together with offices and dwellings which are necessary for these industrial operations. Sir, we have also included premises in which banking is carried on for we are concerned that banking facilities should be extended to all parts of the Federation. This policy is fully in accordance with the statement on overseas investment which was subscribed to by all the Governments of the Federation. The whole tenor of this statement was to direct investment towards the need for industrial development whilst not excluding entirely purely commercial development. In particular that statement drew attention to the extreme shortage of high-class hotel accommodation. Hence we have included hotels in the category eligible for the more favourable capital allowances. By these changes in the

allowances we hope to have provided a positive fiscal incentive in the right direction.

As hon. Members will be aware, our capital allowances do not exempt profits from tax, they merely defer tax liability to future years. They are a form of accelerated depreciation the result of which is to provide an interest-free loan to the taxpayer by deferring, to the extent of the allowances due, his liability to pay tax for a period of years. These allowances, and especially the initial allowances, are particularly valuable at times such as this when new money is difficult and expensive to obtain. For precisely the same reason they are that much more expensive for Government to give. When the present allowances were introduced in 1952, interest rates were only a fraction of the rates prevailing to-day.

I must stress that the changes in the rate of tax and in the capital allowances hang together. As I mentioned in my Budget Speech, the cost of the reduction in tax from 9s to 8s will be about £600,000 per year. This is a continuing concession which will apply year after year unless, of course, the rates of tax are changed again. One result of the changes in capital allowances, and it is a most important one from the point of view of Government revenues, is to stagger the impact of this concession over a period of years. By reducing the initial and annual allowances payable in respect of commercial buildings we shall bring forward tax payments, albeit at the reduced rate of 8s, in respect of those businesses which, if the allowances had continued unchanged, would have been deferred to future years. Although we wish to take the most positive steps to attract investment we could not afford an immediate reduction in revenues of £600,000 next year.

These are the principal reasons for the changes which Government has made and which are set out in this Bill. At the same time these changes will go a long way to minimise the distortions of commercial activities practised by certain firms which are solely designed to make the maximum use of the existing rates of allowances. I could cite a case of one particular firm whose normal commercial operations do not require a great deal of building but who have consistently ploughed back their not inconsiderable trading

profits into the construction of buildings for letting. They are then able to reduce their year by year liability to tax on their normal trading profits by off-setting the generous capital allowances at present available on the buildings. They have now reached the stage where their buildings cost 50 per cent more than the total machinery employed in their main activities. I am sure that Members would agree that with this example it is necessary for Government to be alert and check such fraudulent practices.

Thus, the changes in capital allowances will both tend to channel available funds into industrial rather than commercial investment and will spread the impact on Federal revenues of the reduction in tax over the next few years. I think it is also relevant that the capital allowances which we are prepared to allow in respect of commercial buildings are still very much more generous than those given in some other countries. In the United Kingdom, for instance, I understand that no capital allowances are given on commercial buildings. In Sierra Leone and the Gambia I understand that no initial allowances are given but annual allowances run at the rate of 10 per cent in the first year and 2 per cent in subsequent years. Nevertheless, I undertake to keep under review not only the changes which we have now made but also the whole of our income tax legislation. If further changes should appear desirable in the future, Government will certainly give them the most serious consideration. I should, perhaps, add that no change is contemplated in this Bill in the rates of capital allowances applicable to plant, machinery, mining or plantation expenditure.

Clauses 8 and 9 of the Bill contain the usual retrospective and saving provisions in respect of those clauses where this is appropriate. There is, of course, no question of making the changes in company taxation retrospective.

Sir, I beg to move.

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

Question proposed.

Mr F. U. Mbakogu (Awka) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I can only support this Bill in part. Now, Sir, there are ugly features in the Bill, particularly with reference to income tax reduction. I had expected steps which would introduce

checks and balances in the growth of commerce in this country. I expected something which would break monopoly and oligopoly in trade. I had expected something that would break expatriate concentration and integration in trade. Otherwise it would appear that those who are well established and old, those who are placed on advantageous circumstances, will continue to grow so far while those who have been so disadvantageously placed will continue to be in that precarious position. And to effect this breakdown of expatriate monopoly I would have expected that the Bill will introduce such features as preferential tax system on company tax. That is to say firms that are old and well established will pay more taxes than new firms. But our need in the country to-day is not only that we have not companies, but our people have not learnt how to form companies or trade associations.

Well, sometimes some four or five years ago there was a rush to the formation of companies in this country, but that progress was halted because of some practices, cheats brought by some people who wanted to become rich all overnight. And that has cast some fear in the minds of people, so that before the people start now to form trade associations they should be encouraged by the Government by giving them preferential treatment for if the expatriates continue at the rate they are growing it will appear one day that we are nowhere economically. Those things that we think are our own are not really our own.

We were discussing the Housing Scheme, the Slum Clearance, the other day, and we were told that most of the lands here are being bought by the expatriates under the guise of Nigerians. Well, a signboard may bear the name of Mr so so and so, that he is buying the land while actually it is an expatriate who is buying the land. I expected preferential treatment between old established firms and the new ones and I want to see steps introduced to check the agency system of formation of companies. Recently, what happens is that expatriate firms after forming their companies in England or somewhere they come here to form agencies. What is the effect of this? Taxes on profits are paid in their mother country, while they give their agencies here about £300 or £400 and they will pay tax on that £300 or £400. The whole tax is paid to their mother country government and

nothing to this country, so I feel that the Minister should take steps to save us from this agency system of companies. They are not really agencies. Sometimes one hears of Elder Dempster Lines Agencies. They are companies, but they want to evade tax in the country and so they call it agency. The taxes on profits are paid into their mother country government and not to this country.

Again, I should have expected the removal of the arrangement by which Nigerian shipping companies pay their tax to the Nigerian Government while those of the U.K. shipping companies pay to the U.K. Government. Well, the point is that we have no shipping companies. England has got many shipping companies, almost monopolising the whole trade, and if there is any attempt to start shipping industry here, they will not mind going to buy off the officers of the young Nigerian shipping industry with the result that there will be no people to run our own shipping lines and they will continue to monopolise the shipping industry. I would have expected the Minister to introduce checks to see that these shipping companies will pay their income tax to this country and not to the U.K. Government as is the case at present.

Again, I wholeheartedly support any steps taken by the Minister of Finance to check tax evasion. He has already struck warnings in his budget speech and here again he has introduced real steps that will help to halt this calamity. I will only give him this consolation by quoting a famous writer who said, "But this faint spoor suffices for an alert mind ; so that thou thyself mayst come at all the rest. For just as hounds, when once they have found the true track, well often search out with their nostrils the lair of the mountain-roaming quarry, hidden though it be with foliage, even so mayst thou, in such things as these, see for thyself one thing after another, work thyself into the secret hiding places and then drag out the truth."

Mr E. C. Howard (Special Member) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I have already spoken on this subject in the second reading of the Appropriation Bill. There are one or two points which I would like to touch on again to refresh the memory of the Minister and hon. Members. The reduction in the standard rate of company tax is, I think, recognised in almost every direction, except perhaps by the hon. Member on my right, as a step which can only help to

promote the development of Nigeria both from the point of view of capitalisation and normal commercial development ; and I am sure it is welcome. My only point is, Sir, that it is a very great pity that the Minister and the Government have found it necessary to detract from that great step forward by what I am convinced is a retrograde step. I say it is a retrograde step because the changes that are proposed in the initial allowances, to my mind, can only have one effect and that is not the effect that the Minister desires.

He says that the alterations are proposed for two purposes. Firstly, to divert investments to industrial investments rather than purely commercial investments. Secondly, to prevent the abuse of the present privileges by people engaged on certain aspects of commerce.

Now, firstly, Sir, with regard to the diversion of capital, capital for investment in industrial enterprises must come from one of three sources ; one from Nigerian Governments or quasi-Government organisations, secondly from overseas and thirdly from investments by people already engaged or established in business in this country. So far practically all investment in industrialisation has been achieved by a combination of two or possibly three of those sources and in many cases the fostering of a new industry has been achieved only by the participation of the established businesses.

We have heard from all sides that it is the wish of the country and of the Ministers and of the Government generally that that should continue. In view of the world-wide recession of trade which appears to be developing, capital from outside will be harder and harder to obtain. Therefore it seems reasonable to suppose that the main sources of capital must come from Government and quasi-Government organisations and by the people in established business.

The proposed changes will be discouraging to commerce and will not tend to make them more anxious to co-operate in the way the Minister hopes. Surely, there will still be need for commercial expansion in addition to industrial expansion, particularly in those areas not fully developed. The maximum benefit from Government investments in the Development Programmes cannot be obtained

unless commerce develops in step with those programmes. As an example, I would like to quote the railway extension in Bornu. Surely, it will be necessary for commerce to provide hotels, shops and warehouses in order to assist in bringing commerce to the railway so that it can be used. They cannot all be done by local interests. If some sections of commerce, Sir, have been abusing the benefits which Government provided in the past, as my hon. Friend, Mr Daldry, said, surely they can be dealt with under the existing regulations, and if there is none then surely regulation could be evolved to prevent them from carrying on those abuses. Surely, Sir, it is not necessary to kill the cricket that is hiding underneath the pavement by jumping on the pavement.

The changes that are proposed will not bring substantial financial benefits to Nigeria in the long run. But because it may cause disappointment to that section of commerce to which Government must look for close co-operation in establishing industry, they may well defeat the object for which they have been introduced. It is for those reasons, Sir, that I am most disappointed that the Minister has not been able to review the proposals.

Mr Speaker : There will be a short break now and we will resume the debate at 11 o'clock.

Sitting suspended : 10.50 a.m.

Sitting resumed 11.00

Mr E. C. Ealey (Special Member) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I should like to congratulate the hon. Minister of Finance on his courageous proposal to reduce company tax by 1s in the £. This is very much appreciated by all companies in Nigeria. Any reduction in company taxation will possibly help to attract new capital to Nigeria, but probably we should not overlook the fact that outside investors may still be looking towards countries which have an even lower income tax than 8s in the £.

The hon. Minister has told us in his Budget Speech and to-day, that there is a price to be paid for this reduction in company tax. It is that initial building allowances are to be reduced, and in some cases taken away completely.

As an industrialist, I am very happy to note that the initial allowance on industrial buildings is only to be reduced by 5 per cent, but since

I am an industrialist I feel that I can with perfect freedom speak on behalf of commerce since I have no axe to grind.

It is a pity, Sir, that commerce and industry should be separated in this way, and that Government should attempt to discriminate between them. I am therefore, Sir, most disappointed that it is proposed to take away the initial allowance on commercial buildings. We have heard much in this Budget Session about the beautification of Lagos and Nigeria, and we should freely admit that many fine buildings have been erected in Nigeria by commercial interests. In point of fact, Sir, commercial buildings are often more pleasing than industrial buildings. I firmly believe, Sir, that the decisions to build these fine commercial buildings were influenced by the previous initial allowance of 25 per cent.

Now, Sir, at a most inopportune time these allowances are to be taken away, just at a time when trade in Nigeria is certainly not buoyant, and some people are talking about the non-profitability of trade. A time, too, Sir, when every commercial interest and industrial interest is examining its own annual budget and finding that these estimates show that revenue is just about holding its own and expenditure has risen to a very high level.

Therefore, Sir, at this time, every item of expenditure, whether of a revenue nature, or a capital nature will be carefully scrutinised.

I fear, Sir, that by taking away initial allowances on commercial buildings at this time, Nigeria may lose many of the buildings she might otherwise have. May I at this point, Sir, ask the hon. Minister if it is intended to change the annual allowances on existing buildings from 10 per cent to 5 per cent? If this is so, it will involve the tax authorities in an immense amount of work without any long term advantage to the revenue.

The proposed annual allowance of 5 per cent on the residue of the qualifying expenditure on commercial buildings is small, and may not encourage large building programmes. I have worked out figures based on this 5 per cent to see how long it would take to write down, for tax purposes, a commercial building of £100,000. It would take, Sir, if my calculations are correct (and I think they are) 135 years to write such a building down to £100, and 225 years to write it down to £1.

That seems to me to be a small inducement to invest in large fine buildings. The discrimination between commercial buildings and industrial buildings, Sir, is well-intentioned. But any discrimination is surely a bad thing. Furthermore, Sir, it will necessitate arbitrary decisions and arbitrary definitions on almost every building erected after this Bill is passed.

I believe, Sir, that the law of income tax is the law of the letter, and not the law of equity, and this wide difference between the treatment of industrial and commercial buildings may well encourage tax-avoiding devices by certain types of tax payers. We certainly do not want to employ an army of Building Inspectors to see that industrial buildings, apparently within the meaning of the Ordinance, do not mysteriously turn into commercial buildings after the first year. The previous straightforward allowance on all buildings avoided these risks and, like all straightforward laws, was easy to administer.

Returning to commercial buildings I am sure that the hon. Minister realises it would not benefit Nigeria if future commercial building programmes were curtailed or buildings of a lower standard were erected. I know that he realises that every good commercial building is an asset and an advertisement to Nigeria, and a direct encouragement to other investors.

Finally, I should like to underline the point made by Mr Howard, that if there are any abuses by certain classes of taxpayers, great thought should be taken to deal with these by regulations and not by penalising reputable and far-sighted commercial investors in this country.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I support this Bill.

The Minister of Lagos Affairs, Mines and Power (Alhaji the hon. Muhammadu Ribadu) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I just want to say a word on this matter. Sir, this Government, like any other Government, is a partner without capital, because taxation is the only source of revenue with which the Government should finance its services. (*Hear, hear*).

Government will make concessions at times, but it has to be cautious and not to overdo it so that it would not render itself in bankruptcy. Legitimate claims have been made, and are still being made in this House, for better roads, for more roads, more hospitals, improvement to hospitals electricity, education and several things.

And for all this, Sir, since we have not got a fairy godmother to produce money for us, we have to stick to our one source, and that only one source, is taxation.

Mr Speaker, Sir, it is a declared policy of this Government to encourage foreign capital, and we shall do everything possible to encourage this. But we are no small boys, we know what we are doing. We have had contacts with foreign investors in England, in Germany, in America, indeed in every part of the world.

Well, Sir, some people say we are discouraging foreign investors by withdrawing certain allowances. With due respect, Sir, I entirely disagree with them. These people should realise that the Government itself has certain responsibilities and without the fulfilment of these responsibilities no foreign investor could come to this country. If Mr Daldry were to come here tomorrow and be told that if he wants to go to the hospital he would have to build his own hospital and staff it before he could go there and get medicine, certainly he will consider packing and go the way he came from. (*Applause*). The same applies to Mr Turton-Hart, Sir. They always come to this House to say: "New bridge for outlet to Lagos." Well, you never can build a bridge without the money. Are we going to print bank notes, or are we going to establish our own mint just to produce the money in order to pay for these services? I think these people have to be grateful to the Government.

Not very long ago the Government reduced Company tax from nine shillings to eight shillings. What else shall we do for these people for them to be grateful to the Government? Simply because we say that in certain kinds of building we are going to reduce the percentage of allowance, what is wrong in that? When such a man quotes as an example that if you built a house costing £100,000 it would take you 200 years to recover your money, I am still to see in this country a building worth £100,000. The only buildings we have and which are very expensive are the Ministers' houses which cost £30,000 a piece (*Laughter*).

The Minister of Finance : I protest (*Laughter*).

The Minister of Lagos Affairs, Mines and Power : Well, some people protested and they called the houses all sorts of names. It is very

very surprising again to hear that there is a commercial concern going to build a house which will cost more than the Ministers' houses. The only expensive building you can expect in this category, may perhaps cost £10,000 and if you allowed an annual 5 per cent write off in order to depreciate it, it will take you twenty years to recover the capital. Well a building of this nature will no doubt last for up to 30 or 40 years, and therefore after the building has been depreciated for 20 years, it begins to yield its own profit.

Mr Speaker, Sir, naturally nobody wants to pay tax. I myself do not want to pay tax. (*Laughter*). Now, Sir, I pay about £500 income tax. But I have to do it because I want to drive on tarred roads from Lagos to Kano and from Kano to Maiduguri and from Jos to Yola. Unless I contribute to such expenses, all these amenities will be quite impossible.

Sir, much as we would like to help the foreign investor, we would like them to appreciate the concessions granted to them by the Government. (*Loud applause*).

Mr M. A. O. Olarewaju (South Ilorin) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the second reading of this Bill. I congratulate highly the Minister of Finance who introduced this Bill. After careful reading of the clauses contained in the Bill, one will wish to ask the Minister of Finance what necessitated the reduction in the rate for companies from 9s to 8s when only yesterday a Bill for raising a loan for £20 million was passed in this House. It would have been more appreciated if a reduction of this nature was made on flat rate or direct taxation paid by the people of the Federation. It would also be made unlawful for any political party to mention reduction in tax during election campaigns as is done by certain politicians in this country. This always results in confusion to the public in believing that they will have to pay less tax and it always results in tax evasion.

Mr Speaker, Sir, we shall always find it difficult if we put all our hopes on raising money from taxation. Insist on vigorous industrialisation; it is the only answer to raising more money. We Members of this House should set an example for others by paying our taxes in time. It will be a very bad thing to charge an hon. Member for tax evasion.

Sir, I support the Bill.

Chief J. I. G. Onyia (Asaba) : Mr Speaker, I rise to support this Bill wholeheartedly. It shows very clearly that our Ministers are alert to the problem confronting this country. We are confronted with economic warfare and the Ministers are alert to that fact and I congratulate our Ministers and the Minister of Finance.

We do not discourage any company at all by the provisions of this Bill. But we do know that no company can exist in any country without industry and if we give encouragement to industry to spring up side by side with the company, that is a good thing for the company. And comparing commercial buildings with the industrial buildings, industrial buildings may look ugly, I agree, but within these ugly buildings we have the money for the commercial activities. We know that it is very difficult to deal with certain sections of the people during tax assessment. We know that floating population is hard to tax and more so it is difficult to deal with the company.

Company has its own way of evading tax. Everyone of us knows how difficult it is to deal with the small companies springing up. They can always hide their activities and hide their capital and they try to use the money they have in one way or the other. No dishonest man admits in this world that he is dishonest, and no tax evader admits that he evades tax until he is caught and fined in the Court.

Well, I see nothing at all whatsoever in this Bill that is intended to discourage foreign investors. As the Minister of Lagos Affairs, Mines and Power has said, we cannot get all that we ask for in this House without money and the money cannot come without paying taxes. Let us agree and let all the Governments co-operate with us in raising the revenue of the country.

Sir, I support this Bill.

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 1-6 agreed to.

Clause 7.

Mr E. C. Howard (Special Member) : I beg to move the Amendment standing in my name, to leave out "Nil" and insert "15" in line 39, subsection 3. The object of asking for the removal of the word "Nil" and the insertion of "15" was done for one and one purpose only.

In view of the remarks of the hon. Minister of Lagos Affairs, Mines and Power, I feel I must say a little more as the position seems to have become confused because, if I may say so, some red herrings have been drawn across the trail. The only reason for my moving this amendment is because I firmly believe that the changes proposed are not in the best interest of the country since they discriminate between different sections of commerce. I quite appreciate and fully agree that commerce should pay its fair share of taxation. But I am also firmly of the opinion that to apply different rates to different sections of commerce is not the way to develop Nigeria and will not achieve the best results for the country.

I fully understand the arguments put forward by the Minister but I also feel sure he appreciates the reasons for my own views.

Sir, I beg to move.

Amendment proposed in page 4, line 39, to leave out the word "Nil" and insert "15" instead thereof.

The Minister of Finance : Much as I respect the Mover of this Amendment I regret that I have no alternative than to oppose it. I have given my reasons in my speech and I think the Mover will accept the point I made that we will keep the whole thing in view within the next year, that if there is any reason or any hardship that we find that the companies have suffered, certainly the Government will not be rigid. But speaking for myself I do not intend, during my tenure of office, to leave avenues of collecting taxation and penalise the ordinary man in the street for no just cause. I therefore feel that the measures that I have taken are such that will enable the Government to earn more money without hurting anybody. (*Hear, hear*).

Chief T. T. Solaru (Ijebu East) : This is rather more a point of explanation to Members of this House. There is no doubt that a lot has gone between the Minister and the Member concerned but there is one thing we would like to know, Sir. I want to mention a type of alien who took advantage or, rather, abused the privilege offered in the reduction of these

commercial buildings. This alien went so far as to build houses and tenements and a block of buildings and let them out.

Now there is no doubt that that kind of thing is most undesirable. But Sir, I think perhaps in your future legislation, you might think of bringing in some regulations or some other way of preventing that kind of thing in order that those who are really genuine commercial people will not be penalised; because if we do not do that, it means that we are penalising those who are really trading legally. I do hope Sir, that, even though the Minister has said that he is going to oppose, that he will think about adjusting his regulations, so as to sift out the chaff and not the grain and more than that, because those who are helping us ought to be helped but those who are not helping us, we are not going to do anything about them.

It has just come to our notice that these things are going on, that this type of aliens are doing all types of things to evade tax. We are looking forward to a bold measure put forward here to stop that kind of thing but in the process we do not want our friends to be too much hurt.

Mr A. Adeyinka (Ibadan Central) : Mr Speaker Sir, I just want to make a point on this matter. I will advise the Mover to withdraw this Amendment because this Government cannot because an honest few spare the dishonest ones who form a majority in this type of dishonest business. But if the Mover does not withdraw it, well I will oppose the amendment.

The Minister of Finance : I do not quite understand the point made by Chief T. T. Solaru but if I may explain how I understand it, it is for him to accept or reject it. I think the suggestion is that instead of taking such measures against such people, apart from these measures that we have taken, that Government should try to find out what should be done or what kind of legislation should be brought about to affect those people who are engaged in some kind of business, make profit in that business, but instead of paying tax on that they take the bulk of the profit to put up buildings which they do not require for the purpose of their business. And yet they evade payment of tax, and sublet the houses or let the houses to other people; that this type of people should be considered

House of Representatives Debates

1659 [Income Tax (Amendment) Bill : 15 MARCH 1958

Committee]

1660

apart from business houses, not to build houses for their own purposes. Is that what you mean ?

Chief T. T. Solaru : I am really trying to make that point and I take the opportunity to add, surely the Minister has the power of disallowing such things, now that it has been brought to your notice, such people who practise under-hand dealing. When they apply for this kind of thing, well surely you can say 'No', because it does not mean because it is in the law, everybody must get it. They must qualify for it. If they cannot prove that this building is for their own commercial purposes, you can tell them "I do not allow it". And if they are arguing about it, they can take whatever action which is open to them, but for people who are genuine, then you can exercise your power of allowance.

In this matter, the only purpose why this has been brought forward, anybody can understand ; if the thing is reduced from twenty-five per cent to nil, it seems to me very drastic but I think that is the measure that you are taking. But surely you will not so drastically penalise honest people because of the other disgruntled few.

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Dr the hon. K. O. Mbadiwe) : I cannot help but speak on an amendment which affects commerce and industry. You will agree, Sir, that no measure called tax measure is ever popular. Years ago this was so, and it will be so in the future. But I do not want the Mover of this Motion to keep on keeping his hands on his cheek as if everything is gone. No. Knowing that the Minister of Finance is a person who will not allow the commercial enterprise of this country to go to the dogs, and knowing that the Minister of Commerce and Industry is also there to watch the interests of commerce, and the Minister has given you this, let the thing work, let us put it into motion. If it is bad, we will know ; commerce and industry will never suffer. What more can the Minister say ? So, take off your hand from off your cheek (*Applause*) and know that we are watchdogs of commerce. If there is anything which will awake the commercial enterprise of this country, we will not hesitate to know it.

I want to take this opportunity to pay tribute to the commercial firms who laid the foundations for the new industries that we may

be anticipating to-day. Years ago, when the land was barren, when the coastline had no adorning buildings and when the Akassa ports and Bonny ports and Degema were beginning to feel the pinch of the slave trade of those days, there were men who defied this inhuman and iniquitous slave trade and put stations for palm oil and produce, for cocoa, to be moved across the seas. How can we, at this late hour, forget ? We can never forget that. Go away from this House with the feeling that we want to build a commercial enterprise, that will strengthen this country, but we will also strengthen those who strengthened this country when there was nobody to strengthen it.

The measure of the Minister of Finance is an honest endeavour and calculating for 32 million people. No one wants him to be so mathematical, so exact, so scientific for 32 million people. No. Let the measure work. Let us give it time. If it affects us, Commerce and Finance will get their heads together. I wish you to withdraw this. (*Applause*).

Mr Howard : Mr Chairman, Sir, in view of the statement of the Minister of Finance and in order not to take up the time of the House, Sir, I would like to withdraw my amendment.

Amendment by leave withdrawn.

Clause agreed to.

The Chairman : I expect the hon. Member does not want to move the next amendment.

Mr Howard : I do not, Sir.

Clauses 8 and 9 agreed to.

Bill to be reported.

Mr Speaker resumed the Chair.

Bill reported without amendment.

The Minister of Finance : Sir, I beg to move, That the Bill be now read the third time.

The Minister of Transport : Sir, I beg to second.

Question proposed.

Chief T. T. Solaru (Ijebu East) : Mr Speaker, Sir, we are glad to hear the assurance that the Minister of Commerce and Industry has given to our Friend. We hope,

Sir, that the assurance does not apply to those who are the rats that carry away the grain from our granaries. I had expected him to threaten with dire consequences anybody who mars the commercial life of this country. I looked in vain for that note of authority and warning to scare people who are the transgressors. Perhaps he is reserving it for another time.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read the third time and passed.

Mr Speaker : Now it is a quarter to twelve. I beg the House to pardon me; we passed a Motion the other day that Government Business would go on from nine to twelve on Saturday. The Clerk will read the next order.

MAGISTRATES' COURT (LAGOS)
(AMENDMENT) BILL

Order for Second Reading read.

The Minister of Communications and Aviation (Chief the hon. S. L. Akintola) : Mr Speaker, Sir, this is a very short and non-contentious Bill, and the main purpose of this Bill is to remove an apparent irregularity in the sentences passed in the Magistrates Courts. Now, if an accused person is tried jointly for two or more offences, a Magistrate can award punishment, or maximum punishment in respect of only one of them, but this is applicable only to Magistrates, Grade III. It is not applicable to the other class of Magistrates, and it is felt that this power, which is restricted in the case of Magistrates, Grade III should also be restricted in the case of other magistrates.

In other words, if an accused person is guilty of two offences, charged together, if the maximum penalty for the first offence is three years and the maximum for the second one is two years, a magistrate Grade III can only award sentence for three years and no more. He cannot award sentences to run consecutively. But that does not apply to Magistrates, Grade 1. Magistrates Grade I may be able to award sentences to run consecutively. Well, we feel that this anomaly should be removed and that the maximum sentence that could be awarded should be the maximum applicable to one of these offences. That is the intention of this Bill. Sir, I beg to move.

The Minister of Research and Information (Chief the hon. Kolawole Balogun) : 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.

Clause 1 and 2 agreed to.

Bill to be reported.

Mr Speaker resumed the Chair.

Bill reported without amendment.

The Minister of Communications and Aviation : Sir, I beg to move, That the Bill be now read the third time.

The Minister of Lagos Affairs, Mines and Power : Sir, I beg to second.

Question proposed.

Mr T. O. S. Benson (Lagos West) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I feel that this Bill is a very good Bill and I hope that before the next Session, the Minister will bring before this House either a Bill or a good proposal for the increase of the pay of our Magistrates in Lagos here.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read the third time and passed.

REGIONAL COURTS

(FEDERAL JURISDICTION) BILL

Order for Second Reading read.

The Minister of Communications and Aviation (Chief the hon. S. L. Akintola) : I beg to move that a Bill entitled An Ordinance to provide for the jurisdiction of Regional Courts in matters which are within the Legislative competence of the Federation, and, to the extent that that Jurisdiction deals with Matrimonial Causes, to provide for the law that is to be administered by the High Court of a Region in respect thereof, and to provide for the appointment of Queen's Proctor, be read a second time.

Now the main purpose of this Bill is to confer jurisdiction on the Regional Courts according to the Constitution. All matrimonial matters are within the exclusive jurisdiction of the Federal Courts, but the Constitution lays it down that jurisdiction in respect of this exclusive matter may be given by this Legislature to Regional

Legislatures ; and the purpose of this is to give that jurisdiction to the Regional Courts and also to lay down the procedure that the Regional Courts will follow in this matter.

That is the essence of this Bill which I have pleasure in presenting to you.

I beg to move.

Hon. Zana Bukar Dipcharima (Minister of State) : Sir, I beg to second.

Question proposed.

Rev. E. S. Bens (Brass) : Mr Speaker, I need to speak on this Bill. I am not opposed to these matrimonial matters that are at present existing in the country, but Sir, I am opposed to the principle or the intention of this Ordinance. Particularly to Clause 2. Clause 2 says, or the interpretation of the Ordinance says that a marriage means a marriage other than a marriage under Moslem law or other customary law. Mr Speaker, Sir, if I am a Christian and I am married under the proper Ordinance, and a pagan or a Moslem were to come after my wife, and adultery is proved, the interpretation of this Law will certainly set that man free. . . .

Several hon. Members : No, no, no.

Rev. S. Bens : This is the point. What I am saying is that there should be no law that is discriminating. There should be no law showing discrimination. There should be only one law given for Nigerian citizens regardless of wherever a person might come from, or whatever his faith or creed.

Mr Speaker, I speak to the Second Reading of this Bill.

The Minister of Communications and Aviation (Chief the hon. S. L. Akintola) : I am quite sure that if Rev. Bens will pay appropriate fees to Mr Udochi, he will explain this matter to him !

Question put and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read a second time and committed to a Committee of the whole House.

Bill immediately considered in Committee.

(In the Committee)

Clauses 1-8 agreed to.

Preamble agreed to.

Bill to be reported.

Mr Speaker resumed the Chair.

Bill reported without amendment, read the third time and passed.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion made and Question proposed That this House do now adjourn. (The Minister of Finance).

Mr G. O. Ebea (Ishan) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to support this Motion for Adjournment, and at the same time to bring to the notice of this House that the Federal Minister of Health does not seem to give the necessary encouragement to Nigerian Private Medical Practitioners in carrying out their profession in this country. I have a case to mention in support of this accusation.

In my Constituency, Ishan Division, where medical facilities are limited, we have a son of the soil, Dr Okogie, who runs a hospital, Zuma Memorial Hospital single-handed. In 1956, when he wanted to visit America on study-leave, he advertised for a Doctor to replace him. A qualified American Doctor offered himself for the post but the Federal Government refused to allow the man to come out to Nigeria because Zuma Memorial Hospital was a private hospital, and also because the applicant had an American medical degree. In reply to Dr Okogie's protest against this sort of oppressive treatment given him, he was told by the Government that persons holding American medical degrees were not eligible for full registration in Nigeria but they are, however, eligible for temporary licences to practise under the auspices of a Mission or for admission to the temporary register if they were to be employed in a Government Service or in the service of a Local Government body.

It must be noted, Sir, that most of the Mission Hospitals we have to-day in this country are run and owned by whites and they are on that score covered. The Zuma Memorial Hospital which is discriminated against, treats both whites and blacks, Civil Servants and non-Civil Servants, when they are sick.

If the Minister is backed by the law to discourage Nigerian enterprise, I would humbly advise the Minister to bring a Bill to this House to amend that part of the law.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to support,

and he, if he feels that it is necessary to get the women together, can do something about it. It is not always necessary that we refer these things to Government, and that Government should go out and do it. What are the Members who are paid to represent the people, what are they doing about it?

M. Maitama Sule (Kano City): Does the Minister think that this excuse of the Government towards these local industries will help them and encourage them to go on and do something?

Mr Jaja Wachuku (Aba): Will the Minister tell this House what steps have been taken by his Department to advise the people on the need for registration of their trade marks?

An hon. Member: They are tax-payers.

Mr Speaker: Order, order. Dr Udoma and Mr Ubani-Ukoma are not present, so that concludes questions.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

The Minister of Finance (Chief the hon. F. S. Okotie-Eboh): Mr Speaker, as recorded in Column 989 of Hansard, my hon. Friend, Mr Jaja Wachuku, on the 6th of March, 1958, made the following statement—

“Sir, the Minister referred to the question of honesty and the like. We do not infer that the Nigerian who should be recruited to this post is dishonest, but it should not be assumed that dishonesty is confined to Nigerians alone. I would like the Minister to explain whether there was not an instance where the sum of £10,000 was supposed to be ordered to be written off by an expatriate officer in the Customs Department, a sum of money that would have accrued to the revenue of this country. What were the circumstance under which that should be written off? I would like the Minister to investigate whether there was an instance of that kind or not. And also, Sir, is it not correct that there are cases where expatriate officers arrive in this country, officers are ordered not to examine their baggages at the airport or sea terminal?”

Mr Speaker, Sir, Mr Wachuku made two allegations, firstly that £10,000 was supposed to have been written off in dishonest circumstances on the order of an expatriate officer in the Customs Department, and secondly that

there were cases when officers were ordered not to examine the baggage of expatriate officers arriving in this country. These are serious allegations which clearly required investigation. I accordingly, therefore, caused the hon. Mr Jaja Wachuku to be asked if he could supply me with details of these incidents so that I might have them investigated.

I regret to inform the House that I have not received any supporting details from my hon. Friend. In the meantime the publication of these allegations has caused considerable distress amongst expatriate officers in the Customs Department who take a pride in their reputation. I wish to take this opportunity therefore, to say publicly that I have no knowledge of any such incidents which would substantiate hon. Mr Wachuku's allegations, and that I do not believe them to be true.

Mr Jaja Wachuku rose.....

Mr Speaker: The hon. Member knows it is not possible for a debate to arise on a question of explanation. (*Hear, hear.*)

Mr Wachuku: Why did the Minister make a statement?

NOTICES OF MOTIONS

Hon. Zanna Bukar Dipcharima (Minister of State): Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the Order of 13th March should be amended as follows: In paragraph 2A, after “12 midnight” insert “or until the conclusion of Government Business”. Sir, I beg to move. (*Hear, hear.*)

The Minister of Finance: Sir, I beg to second.

Question proposed.

Mr Jaja Wachuku (Aba): Mr Speaker, Sir, the funny thing about this amendment is that, I think, Government has discovered that they would be running into great difficulty if the former Order stood, because they do not know what turns the Debate is going to take, and it may well be that the Debate will not be completed by midnight. Now the Minister has asked the Government to say “or until business is concluded.” But there is one thing I want to point out, Sir, which appears to deprive hon. Members of their rights. Ministers failed to reserve answers to certain questions here, and they made a statement that Members would have an opportunity during the debates at the Members' Private business, that would be tomorrow, Tuesday.

Now, Sir, knowing that they had promised that they would answer certain questions that have arisen, they brought a Motion here. Unfortunately, I did not come in time, Mr Speaker, Sir, to remind them of their promises before. Now they have got into difficulty over the thing and they are trying to amend it. I would ask, Sir, that the amendment should include Private Members' day, that is Tuesday, so that Members will have an opportunity to call on the Ministers to answer a lot of promises they made.

Several hon. Members : No, no, no.

Mr Speaker : I would draw the hon. Member's attention to the fact that that result is achieved, not by this Motion, but by the next one which is not yet moved.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved, That the Order of 13th March be amended as follows—

In paragraph 2 (a), after "12 midnight" insert "or until the conclusion of Government Business."

ADJOURNMENT (*Sine die*)

Hon. Zana Bukar Dipcharima (Minister of State) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that this House, at its rising this day, do adjourn *sine die*. (*Hear, hear*).

Hon. Victor Mukete (Minister of State) : Sir, I beg to second.

Question proposed.

Mr S. J. Una (Uyo) : Mr Speaker, Sir, further to what my hon. Friend Mr Jaja Wachuku said, I wish to oppose this Motion, on the grounds that the Minister of Lagos Affairs, Mines and Power, and I think, the Minister of Finance himself, gave us an undertaking, in no unmistakable terms that an opportunity would be given to Members to iron out certain differences which they have with the Ministers, on Tuesday, and to-day the Minister of State comes here and asks that the House should adjourn *sine die*; and I am asking this House to reject that Motion.

Several hon. Members : No, no, no.

Mr D. N. Abii (Owerri) : Mr Speaker, Sir, it is unfortunate that the hon. Member who is opposing this Motion simply will not come to this House in time! He comes whenever he likes, and now he has a day extra for himself! We have had enough reason to say "that this House, after its business to-day should rise."

I support the Motion that the House will rise to-day, and we can get away to our homes. (*Loud cheers*).

Mr H. M. Adaji (North Igalala) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Motion as moved by the Minister of State. As my hon. Friend, Mr Abii said, some people, when the House is booked to start or to open on such and such a day, some people will remain in their houses enjoying all the amenities, forgetting their national duties until such times as the question of adjournment is mooted, and then they come here and say they have amendments, speeches, motions, and all the rest of it. Are we to remain for your sake?

Several hon. Members : No, no, no.

Mr Adaji : Those of us who have Motions, good Motions, which are helpful to this country, came in time and booked them, and we have dealt with some. We are not going to wait for your interests. I support.

Mr A. Adeyinka (Ibadan Central) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I realise that Members are tired and they want to go away, but I would like Government to give us certain assurances that they realise that tomorrow is Private Members' Day, and we have been denied the use of that day by the Motion of Adjournment *sine die* to-day. This threatens our case that a meeting should have been called at least once in a quarter in order that Private Motions and other business can be efficiently dealt with.

We have decided that we are going to-day, that we will adjourn to-day. We don't want to quarrel about that. I want to go too, but Government must realise that they have cheated us by not allowing our Private Motions which are supposed to be taken on Tuesdays. They must try to fix meetings as often as possible for us to come back and deal with the business of the House.

Mr L. A. Ning (Wum) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I have to express one thing. I know that we Cameroonians for certain Motions and Questions that we put up, are going home blank. The Ministers will not give us answers; the Ministers promised us that we should wait because the Motion on that particular question was coming up and that they were going to give us satisfactory answers, and it has not come up, Sir. It has been announced by the Government that after Government Business to-day, the House will adjourn *sine die*. I wonder whether it will bring Motions, I hope they are

Government Business because we are bringing voices of the people and we want to take back an answer to them. Especially the question of Postal Services in the Southern Cameroons; we made so many questions and we put up so many Motions which will elapse now, we are very unsatisfied.

We are not satisfied, Sir, unless the Minister is ready to make a statement and give us answers for what we ask. I have to oppose this adjournment.

The Minister of Transport (Hon. R. A. Njoku): Mr Speaker, Sir, I would like to point out that the Business Committee, of which the hon. Jaja Wachuku is Chairman, has not selected any Motions for tomorrow.

Mr Jaja Wachuku (Aba): A point of order, Sir, I want to say that these Motions have been selected.

Mr Speaker: That is not a point of order.

The Minister of Transport: I am quite sure that Members do not know what Motions, if the House were to continue tomorrow, would come up; we do not know what Motions are coming up, therefore, it is reasonable to presume that the Business Committee did not anticipate the House sitting tomorrow.

Mr Wachuku: A point of order, Sir. I remember the Report of the Standing Orders Committee was made here.

Mr Speaker: That is not a point of order. A point of order must be some breach of either procedure or Standing Orders.

The Minister of Transport: Mr Speaker, Sir, as I was saying, I just wanted to point that out, the Government is not afraid of debating any Motions but the Government cannot keep Members indefinitely in this place and when the main business of the House is completed, it is up to Government to see that the Business of the House is wound up. In any case, I remember the hon. Jaja Wachuku and Dr Udoma saying that when we come here for the Budget Session, we should not inundate ourselves with Motions and Bills and so on. You have said that. Having pointed that out, Sir, that if the Business Committee has not selected the Motions and informed the Members of the Motions that are coming up tomorrow, we all anticipate rising if the business is completed to-day.

Mr. Jaja Wachuku (Aba): Mr Speaker, Sir, I think the Minister is just trying to bamboozle us but I am afraid the Minister has not succeeded. The simple truth of this matter is this, the Minister says the Business Committee has not selected Motions. Unfortunately, the Minister is not a Member of the Business Committee and if he were he would know that that is not correct. Then the Minister made another statement saying that we said we should not mix up the Budget Session with other Business. That has been said before, Sir, and in spite of that at this meeting, the Government brought the Budget and also brought up other business as well. In other words, am I to understand that the Minister, on the part of the Government, is asking Members to bring up their business only one day in the week? We said, "Do not mix up the Budget Session with other business" and we suggested that we should have at least three meetings in the year, but I do not think it is the intention of the Government to come here and say "We will deal with these matters and after this meeting we will give consideration to your proposal."

This meeting is still going on, we have a "mixed grill"; some of them do not want to change over. What I am saying, Sir, is that the whole of this House is 50 and I think at least 50 Members will stay behind to do their Private Members Motions. If the Minister thinks that some can go, then they can go but I am sure that we will be able to command a number of 50 to debate on the Private Members Motions. There are several Motions coming forward, roads, Cameroons, Post Offices, etc. The Minister knows Standing Orders and knows what is happening. One day will not disturb the Government of this Federation; it is so well founded that it cannot be disrupted by one day. Therefore, I am asking, Sir, that the Government should not deprive Members of this single day.

The Minister of Lagos Affairs, Mines and Power (Alhaji the hon. Muhammadu Ribadu): Mr Speaker, Sir, I think it is the usual practice when Government have business to do to ask the Speaker to summon the House and when the business of the Government is fully transacted, that is the close of the business of the House. This House does not meet in order to debate Private Members Motions. We hope that by the end of the day to-day, the

Government's Business will be finished and, therefore, the House will have no alternative other than to rise *sine die*.

Mr T. O. S. Benson (Lagos West): Mr Speaker, Sir, this Motion is quite clear that at the finish of Government Business, the House will adjourn *sine die*. If there are Members who wish to be here tomorrow, they can put hon. Wachuku on the Chair and debate their Private Members Motions. I move that the Question be now put.

Mr Speaker withheld his assent and declined then to put that Question.

Chief T. T. Solaru (Ijebu East): Mr Speaker, thank you, Sir. In the Adjournment here the Amendment made in the Order, says "At its rising this day" and yet it is amended "After twelve midnight" insert "until the conclusion of Government Business". Just a minute, Sir, it means then that if the Government Business fails to conclude at midnight, then it won't be "this day", we will be adjourning tomorrow.

Mr Speaker: A very long practice at Westminster runs contrary to that view, "this day" means a sitting beginning this day but it may end 48 hours later.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved: That this House, at its rising this day, do adjourn *sine die*.

THE CENTRAL BANK OF NIGERIA BILL

Order for Second Reading read.

The Minister of Finance (Chief the hon. Festus Okotie-Eboh): Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that a Bill for an Ordinance to provide for the establishment, constitution and functions of a Central Bank of Nigeria be read a second time.

Sir, the Central Bank will be a cornerstone of the financial structure which we hope and intend to build in an independent Nigeria. . . . (Cheers). . . . I am sure that the Bill will be welcomed by all sections of the House. The creation of a Central Bank has been under active consideration by this Government and by the previous Government. The matter involved so many vital considerations that we had to seek the best possible advice on the objectives to be attained and on the problems to be overcome. As Members are aware, we were fortunate enough to obtain the most valuable services of Mr J. B. Loynes, an Adviser to the Bank of

England. The Bill now before you is based largely on the recommendations in the Report he submitted to the Government and which Members will have read.

I am happy to say that Mr Loynes is present in this House to-day, and I am sure you will all wish me to thank him for the work he has done and for the advice he has given. . . . (Cheers). . . . But Mr Loynes is not our only distinguished visitor. We welcome also most cordially Mr C. F. Cobbold, the Governor of the Bank of England and thank him for making the long journey to visit us on this historic occasion. . . . (Loud cheers). . . . His presence in the Distinguished Strangers' Gallery marks two very significant facts: first, the importance with which the outside world regards our decision to establish our national currency managed by our own Central Bank; and secondly the friendly interest which the Bank of England shows in the progress of another Central Bank in the Commonwealth. We hope that Mr Cobbold will carry away with him when he leaves Nigeria an impression of the determination with which we are tackling the problems facing us on our road to Independence. The Bank of England is the oldest of all Central Banks founded as long ago as 1694: the Central Bank of Nigeria will for a long time have the distinction of being the youngest. But they will talk to each other as equals. . . .

Mr Jaja Wachuku (Aba): Are you sure?

The Minister of Finance: I am sure. Sir, the main objects of the Central Bank are set out in paragraph 4 of the Bill. They deserve close study. First and foremost is the responsibility for the issue of currency in Nigeria. Up to now we have used in this country, as in other parts of West Africa, the currency of the West African Currency Board.

I should like at this point to pay tribute to the Board for the service which it has given and for the confidence in which its currency has been held. But it is now our intention to issue our own notes and coins and ultimately to make them the only lawful money of the country. Of course, for a time the Board's currency will have to go on circulating side by side with the new money; and nobody need fear that the Board's notes and coins will lose their value while they are being replaced.

We intend not only to create a Nigerian currency issued and managed by Nigeria's own Central Bank, but to make sure that this

currency commands at least the same measure of respect and confidence at home and abroad as that of the West African Currency Board. The Bill provides that the Nigerian pound shall be at par with the pound sterling and the Central Bank will be required at all times to issue and redeem the national notes and coin against sterling on the basis of this parity. To ensure its ability to do so, the Central Bank will maintain at all times substantial balances and other assets abroad as backing for the national currency.

Sir, with the coming of Independence, it is right that we should issue our own currency. It is also right that we should create a Central Bank which will not only look after the currency and assist us to shoulder other duties of independent countries, such as membership of the International Monetary Fund, but will be able to assist our financial development and help to preserve stable economic conditions in the country. The Central Bank will have greater powers and be far more flexible in its operations than any Currency Board could be. Hence we must be careful and wise in our financial policies. As Mr Loynes said in his Report the taking of responsibility for our own Money has its opportunities and its dangers. We firmly intend to take the opportunities and set our faces against the dangers.

The form of the Bill itself gives a practical assurance of the stability and convertibility of the new currency to the people of Nigeria, to traders at home and abroad, to banks and international financial institutions and to the foreign investor. Those of our foreign friends who have investments in Nigeria or who trade with us, and those who are thinking of investing here, need fear nothing from the issue of a Nigerian currency.

Sir, the House will fully understand why I dwell on this matter of the soundness and good name of our future currency. It is not only Nigeria's standing abroad which is at stake, but also the well-being of everyone in the country. It is true to say that every man, woman and child who holds even the smallest unit of the national currency will have a stake in the Central Bank. This is a trust that must never be forgotten.

I will now turn to some of the other tasks which we expect the Central Bank to undertake. It is, as its name implies, a bank, and will do

banking business; but in common with Central Banks in other countries, it will limit its customers to Governments, official institutions, banks and the like. It will not compete with the other banks for commercial business. It will become, as rapidly as possible, the principal banker of the Federal Government and will do all manner of banking and foreign exchange transactions for the Government. Apart from ordinary banking business, the Central Bank will issue and manage Federal Government loans to be floated in Nigeria. It will also carry out, as the agent of Government, other important financial tasks (such as banking examination, exchange control, etc.).

The Bill proposes that the Central Bank should be allowed to act as banker to Corporations of the Federal Government and to Regional Governments and their corporations. How far it will do these things will depend on the circumstances of each case and the wishes of both parties. The Bank will also be permitted to open accounts for financial institutions abroad with which it will expect, as the Central Bank of independent Nigeria, to have relations.

Finally, Sir, the Central Bank, like other institutions of its kind, will be a banker to the other banks in Nigeria. We expect it, through the services which it will provide, to strengthen the banking system of the country and in the long run, in co-operation with the other banks, to make the banking habit more widespread among the people of this great country.

It is also intended that the Central Bank should have an influence for good on the other banks by requiring all of them to hold at least a minimum amount of sound and liquid assets at all times. The Central Bank will have power to vary this amount for all banks when money conditions in Nigeria change from time to time. A Bill is already before the House covering this point as well as further measures to safeguard the public and preserve good banking standard.

The Central Bank will make advances to the Federal Government to cover strictly temporary current needs. It will also sponsor the issue of Government Treasury Bills, which we expect to see play their part in tapping funds available for investment. Of course, Treasury Bills are a form of borrowing for short and not long-term purposes. But they will be useful to Government and at the same time help in the

gradual development of a money market. Banks in all countries must keep a good part of their resources in the form of investments which are fully liquid and can be turned back into cash at a moment's notice. In Nigeria such investments hardly exist to-day so that the banks here must seek them abroad. We hope through the Central Bank in time to remedy this position.

We hope also to see the emergence of a Government loans market in Nigeria. Our plans to raise the standard of living of the country make it essential that Government should be able to issue loans and to encourage the investment habit in Nigeria. But here I must sound a note of warning. The Central Bank cannot make a market by buying or undertaking to buy all Government loans which are on offer. If it did so this would mean inflation because the Central Bank would have to create money on a large scale. To turn the note printing press in this way would not create real resources for development. Such resources can only come from genuine savings. The Central Bank will, however, be able to make strictly limited purchases and sales of Government stocks and this, by priming the pump, will help to develop a proper stock market for local investors. The development of stock market facilities will in turn encourage investment in local loans.

In connection with what I have just said I draw the attention of the House to the powers given in section 29 (1) (i) of this Bill for the Central Bank to take an active interest in the affairs of any corporation sponsored or approved by the Federal Government for promoting a money or capital market or for improving the machinery for financing economic development.

The great responsibilities of the proposed Central Bank, above all its responsibility to safeguard the national money, require the Government to recognise two essential conditions. The first is that the Central Bank must keep itself liquid at all times and hold only first-class assets. The second is that, as a national institution, its management must be above sectional politics. The Bill before you seeks to safeguard both these points and it is the Government's intention that they should be safeguarded by all possible means.

The cost of the whole project will not be small. There is a complete new currency,

both notes and coin, to be manufactured. The Bank will need a suitable building which will be paid for out of the £750,000 of paid-up capital with which the Bank will start. We intend to go ahead with the preparation with all possible speed. Important decisions on the notes and coins have already been taken and contracts will be placed shortly. As regards the building, preliminary plans have already been completed and indeed Members will have seen the drawing in the foyer of the House. It is a solid and attractive architectural work.

Much will remain to be done in the way of engaging staff and completing the organisation of the Bank. As regards staff, we intend that this should be of the highest quality, whether recruited overseas or locally. (*Hear, hear*).

I am particularly glad that I am authorised to tell the House that Mr F. P. Fenton, an Adviser to the Bank of England, is to be invited to become the first Governor of the Central Bank of Nigeria. (*Applause*.) I would add that I also have good reasons to believe that Mr Fenton will accept this appointment. I am sure that all Members of the House will join with me in saying how glad we are that the youngest Central Bank in the world will be guided in its formative years by a Governor who has become an expert at his job in the service of the oldest Central Bank in the world. (*Applause*).

Mr Speaker, Sir, it is my privilege to introduce into this House a Bill which marks a stage in our financial progress and which will have far-reaching effects on the future well-being of this great country. I am confident that the Central Bank here proposed corresponds with the needs and aspirations of our country.

I would like to place on record, my appreciation of the assistance, support and encouragement given to me by the Prime Minister in progressing so speedily with all the work which had to be done to enable me to present this Bill at this meeting of the House. We all hope that the Prime Minister will open the new Central Bank building and introduce the new Nigerian notes and at least token coinage not later than the middle of next year. I must also pay tribute to the hard work put in by officials of my Ministry. The preparation of this Bill has involved much consultation and patient research, and my officials have responded

loyally to my direction that this Bill should be prepared at very short notice in time for this meeting of the House.

I would also like particularly to express my thanks to the Law officers who undertook the heavy work of preparing this and other Bills at very short notice and have so triumphantly carried out Government's wishes.

I am sure, you hon. Members of this House will be proud to enact this Bill. I trust you will all be spared to witness the opening of the Bank and to return here again after your elections in 1960, to enjoy the fruits of your labours.

Sir, I beg to move.

The Minister of Lagos Affairs, Mines and Power (Alhaji the hon. Muhammadu Ribadu): Mr Speaker, Sir, maturity is a stage which comes by the gradual but continuous process of development and the climax of this process is self-determination. In the case of a country and its people this stage marks the transfer of power and emergence into nationhood. There are several things associated with nationhood and one of the most important and indispensable is the possession of a national currency and a state bank. Before saying something about responsibility in this direction, I would like to seize this opportunity because I think it is a fitting occasion to express our gratitude to the British Government and British officers for the part they have played in bringing us to this stage of self-sufficiency. (*Hear, hear.*)

To the one we are greatly indebted for her motherly care at all times, and to the other we acknowledge a devotion second to none, and financial prudence which has assured us a stable economy and sound credit worthiness at all times. We treasure this great heritage and we shall do all in our power to uphold its best traditions.

The founding of a Central Bank requires a great deal of work and expert knowledge and we have completed the fundamentals and are ready to inaugurate the scheme which is in itself a fitting testimony to all who have contributed to make it possible. The gentleman who drafted this Bill which will for many years provide us with guiding code in Central Banking is no less a personality than Mr Loynes. Mr Loynes's fame as an adviser to the world renowned Bank of England has preceded him to all corners of the world and

we have now added to our great estimation of him, the opportunity of meeting him in person. In following his advice there is no doubt about the fact that we are taking a leaf from the highest authority on the subject. The Governor of the Bank designate is Mr Fentin who is himself an equally international figure.

Sir, we have much cause to congratulate ourselves on our good fortune in being able to associate with our Central Bank venture such men as these, and by the grace of God our own Central Bank will achieve world recognition and enjoy the confidence of other State Banks. . . . (*Applause.*)

The founding of a State Bank is an appropriate occasion to remind ourselves that in taking this decision we have indeed taken a great responsibility and henceforth the worth of our country and our currency will depend entirely upon the wisdom or otherwise of the financial policy we pursue. Those who imagine that the establishment of a Central Bank is a signal for the pursuit of a cheap money policy are completely mistaken. We shall not use the Bank as a money-printing and cash-coining department. We are determined that in the fulfilment of its role as a Central Bank and Bankers Bank the Bank will play an important role in bringing stability to our economy. We must remember that the value of our currency will depend on what it will buy or its purchasing power. This must compare favourably with other currencies otherwise our money will always be acceptable at a discount in terms of other money.

Everybody in the country has a duty to perform in this respect. We must all work hard and increase our productivity so that for each unit of cost the production will be high. This will increase the purchasing power of our currency and help to stabilise our economy. The alternative to this is inflation. Too many currency notes will be chasing too few produced goods and with a weakened economy comes unemployment and other economic evils. Our country is blessed with an abundance of natural resources, agricultural and otherwise, and when fully exploited by efficient methods and efficient labour we should all be able to enjoy a life more abundant. . . . (*Hear, hear.*)

Mr Speaker, Sir, I refer again to the point of this Central Bank being a banker to the banks and say that it will provide a clearing house for inter-bank indebtedness arising from customers' cheque settlements. The Central Bank will be in a position to give advice to other banks and to assist them within reasonable limits in times of difficulty. It is hoped that through its influence we shall be able to evolve our own code of sound banking practice, and to harmonize the relationship between the various banks whilst at the same time stimulating competition based on the highest recognised banking ethics.

Sir, as banker to the Government of the Federation, the Central Bank will reflect Government's financial policy and I have no doubt that it will receive the co-operation of all the commercial banks. The Bank will provide facilities for temporary investments such as other Central Banks do by the issue of Treasury Bills as and when necessary, and at other times when large schemes are contemplated it will also be the medium for raising money for investment in Government schemes through the issue of securities which carry the backing of the Government of the Federation. It is hoped that all Nigerians will find a useful source of investment in patronising their own Government's securities and thus help to make our economic independence a reality.

As controller of the currency the Bank will do all within its power to "liberalize credit." We must however remember that notes issued for circulation must be backed by securities and other valuable assets. Some countries have gold and other precious minerals as securities; others have the Government's pledge based on the assurance of royalties from some valuable natural asset like rich oil-fields; and others even on the determination and confidence of hard-working citizens. It is not out of place to remind ourselves that in the last resort all Government spending must be paid for out of hard work and not merely by the printing more currency notes. We cannot have good things and refuse to pay taxes for them. We will now have to make demands on Government in accordance with our willingness to pay taxes. We cannot have more money in circulation than the total productivity of the people of the country, and it is out of this that we get

something as savings and for running the country. Given the goodwill and determination of everybody we shall succeed in having a sound economy and we shall take our place side by side with other respected nations who pay their way.... (*Applause*)....

Mr Speaker, I associate myself with the Minister of Finance in commending this Bill to the House and I am sure the House will accept it wholeheartedly..... (*Applause*)....

Question proposed.

Mr L. C. Daldry (Special Member): Mr Speaker, Sir, no person can truly be said to manage his own affairs until he controls his own financial matters. This is equally true of a nation. The essence of this Bill is the control of Nigeria's financial matters by Nigeria. It marks therefore a most significant step forward by Nigeria towards complete and independent management of her own affairs and I want to say at once that I am supporting this Bill.

The Bill follows very closely the recommendations of an Adviser to the Bank of England, Mr J. B. Loynes, in his report of the 22nd August, 1957. It will not, I think, be out of place here for me to pay two tributes, first to this Federal Government for its wisdom in seeking the advice of the Bank of England and, secondly, to echo the tributes already paid to Mr Loynes whose sound, clear and I think altogether admirable report is deserving of the highest praise (*Applause*).

Through Mr Loynes, there has been brought to Nigeria the wisdom and experience gained over the centuries by the Bank of England. The Bank is known affectionately all over the world as the "old lady of Threadneedle Street," this being the street in London where the bank is located, and if this Bill is passed into Law, I am sure that the old lady will be very proud indeed to know that this young country has paid her the graceful compliment of following in her footsteps.

Now, in order to attempt to appreciate fully the responsibilities which we as legislators are taking to-day in passing this Bill into law, we should, I think, realise as has already been said, that the new bank will be an entirely different type of bank from those banks which we have known in this country up to the present time, and it is very important, I think, to realise that among the ideas behind this

Bill is the idea that this Central Bank will be of assistance to the commercial banks and most certainly will not be in opposition to them nor enter into competition with them. The new Bank will first and foremost be responsible for taking over the issue of currency from the old West African Currency Board and the replacement of the old currency by a currency which will be Nigeria's own. Thus the new Bank will be faced, at the outset, with a formidable task. In this I am sure it will receive the fullest co-operation of the existing banks, without whose help it could hardly, of course, achieve its object.

Now, the old currency which has served Nigeria so well was based on a very simple process which in practice operated through the banks. Whenever West African money was needed by the banks here for their customers, they could obtain West African notes and coins from the agents of the Currency Board here simply by paying an equivalent sum in London to the Currency Board plus a commission fee. If West African Currency accumulated in the banks tills here to an extent in excess of requirements, the banks could deposit the surplus here with the Currency Board's agents and the Currency Board in London would pay the bank concerned an equivalent sum in British sterling less a commission fee.

Now, when the banks bought West African Currency in this way and paid for it in British sterling, that British sterling was kept in London and safely invested. In other words, every one pound of West African notes and coin issued here was backed by one pound's worth of British sterling in London. Nothing could be safer or simpler, but of course, this process was a rigid one. It was not possible under this simple process, for Government to use any of the monetary techniques which modern Governments use through their Central Banks in order deliberately to expand or contract the money in circulation and deliberately to expand or contract the capacity of the ordinary banks to lend money. Modern Governments can do these things through a Central Bank.

The techniques employed by a Central Bank are many. Bankers, like doctors and lawyers, are apt to use of necessity a special jargon of their own which tends to spread an aura of mystery over their work. But put into plain

language, I believe the two main monetary techniques or weapons which are used by a Central Bank are not difficult to follow, and I think hon. Members may be expecting me this morning to make some brief reference to them in order to assist some hon. Members in considering this Bill.

Now, as I understand it the first weapon or monetary technique used by a Central Bank is its own re-discount rate. It is usual in developed countries for all interest rates to be linked to the rate of the Central Bank. By simply raising or lowering, therefore, the Central Bank's rate, the Central Bank can influence the rates of lending of all banks all over the country. The Central Bank can, by raising or lowering its rate make the borrowing of money either prohibitive or attractive as the case may be, and thus it can contract or expand the supply of money and credit.

The other main weapon, I understand, is known as "open market operations" and this simply means, as far as I understand, the buying and selling of Government securities by the Central Bank. Now, if a Central Bank sells a lot of securities, these securities are paid for by the public and others with money which accrues to the Central Bank, and thus that money can be drawn out of circulation. The supply of money can thus be reduced. On the other hand, if the Central Bank decides to buy securities, it gives out money in exchange and thus increases the supply of money.

Now, these two techniques or weapons can only be used in a country fully and effectively where there is a developed Money Market. There is no Money Market here at present. There are no securities, no stock exchange, no bill brokers, no discount houses. The operations of the new Central Bank in this respect will, therefore, be limited for the present. Mr Loynes himself admits this when he says in his Report: "It is obvious that present conditions in Nigeria offer little scope for monetary regulation by Central Bank operations." On the face of it, therefore, it would seem that we are putting the cart before the horse. But I believe that there are times when it is necessary to put the cart before the horse, and I think this is one of those times (*Cheers*). It will not, of course, always be the case that there are no securities here, no stock exchange

and all the rest of it. These things will come to Nigeria, and I think that their coming will probably be speeded by this legislation (*Cheers*).

There is, of course, one technique or weapon which the new Bank will have immediately at its disposal. It will have power to compel the ordinary commercial banks to hold a certain proportion of their deposits in specified liquid form and the Central Bank can also vary this proportion at will. The Central Bank could, therefore, compel the commercial banks to hold such a large proportion of liquid assets, that the capacity of the commercial banks to lend could be curtailed. Conversely, of course, the proportion could be lowered to encourage the banks to lend more. But of course, the extent of this is limited by the ordinary caution and business standards of the commercial banks.

My point, Sir, is that the Central Bank will always have far more power to force the banks to lend less than to compel them to lend more. And I think it is my duty to say here this morning that in my opinion, no one should imagine that the mere bringing into being of this Central Bank will of itself usher in an era of more easy borrowing in this country.

I am very glad to see that the new Nigerian pound is to be at parity with the British pound sterling. This at once gives the Nigerian pound a high and definite status in the outside world. But this parity will not be achieved merely by stating in clause 17 that the parity of the Nigerian pound shall be one Nigerian pound to one pound sterling. As I see it, this parity can only be achieved through clause 28 which lays down that the Central Bank must buy sterling in exchange for Nigerian pounds and sell sterling in exchange for Nigerian pounds *on demand* within certain definite limits as regards the rate of exchange, and the whole question of maintaining this parity depends upon the capacity of the Central Bank to continue to buy and sell sterling *on demand* within those rates.

The old Currency Board had no difficulty in doing this for it always held in London one pound sterling for every one pound West African Currency issued here. The new bank will not hold this pound for pound reserve in external assets. The Bill says that for 5 years the new bank must hold an external

reserve of not less than 60 per cent of its notes and coin in circulation. After 5 years the reserve may drop to not less than 40 per cent. Now, in my opinion, there need be no qualms about this, provided the bank is properly managed. And if the bank is properly managed, I expect we shall find that the reserve will for the most part be kept higher than the minimum which is laid down in the Bill. But if the bank is not properly managed, the bank may have difficulty in buying and selling sterling within the rates laid down on demand, and if that happened, the consequences could be disastrous.

My point, Sir, is that in the past Nigeria has not had to worry about the external value of her currency. Now the responsibility will rest on Nigerian shoulders and may largely depend upon the way in which this bank operates.

Mr Speaker, if I am correct in what I have said, it seems clear that whatever monetary techniques or weapons are used by this new bank, either now or in the future, they can have the most far reaching consequences upon the economic and financial future of Nigeria. By passing this Bill into law we place in the hands of the Government an instrument which will not only have power for good but will also have the power to create havoc.

The main theme, Sir, of my speech is simply this, that in supporting this Bill, I express the most deep and earnest hope that this Government and future Governments will ensure that the administration of this Central Bank rests always in really capable and competent hands (*Loud applause*) and that above all, as Mr Loynes has put it, the bank is kept above party politics. (*Hear, hear*). It is absolutely essential, I consider, that the administrators of this bank should be kept absolutely free to give impartial advice to Government on the use of these monetary techniques and weapons in the years to come, impartial advice based solely upon the good of this country and never upon political expediencies. (*Applause*). If this is done, Sir, I believe that this Bill will go down in Nigerian history as another milestone in the orderly march towards full financial responsibility and independence. (*Loud applause*).

Now Sir, as a Central Bank, it is necessary that the bank reflects its nature fully by having on its Board of Directors and its Advisory Council adequate Regional representation. Each region has as much interest in the bank as any other, and the interest of the Regions is immeasurable. Under the circumstances, therefore, every effort should be made to see that the Regions get adequate representation, for as I see it now the provision made for the regional representation is not adequate.

Sir, I have heard experts say—and I am inclined to agree even though I am no expert myself—that Government should interfere as little as possible in business. No wise Government would think otherwise. But events and experience have both shown that it is sometimes necessary, especially at the initial stage of such important undertakings which, if mishandled, may have an adverse effect on the nation, Government should come forward to give a guiding hand until such time when the new enterprise is firmly and properly established.

In this particular respect I would say that we shall have nothing to fear. I would, nevertheless, like to see some Nigerians that have had something to do with money and that are known to have had a good record appointed to the Board of Directors and appointed as members of the Advisory Council, by the Government. Representatives of the Regions' Ministries of Finance are quite all right, but other people not connected with Government finances should as well be considered from the Regions.

The action of the Government Sir, in trying to get the opinions and suggestions of such people are worthy of consideration, certainly their advice in the running of the Bank will be equally worthwhile.

I have noticed Sir, that legislators cannot be members of the Board of Directors nor is anybody who is already a Director in any other Bank. I was, Sir, under a misapprehension before because I thought that the exclusion of legislators was a deliberate way of ousting the accredited representatives of the people from such an important Board. I now realise, however, that it is one of those things that are binding on all legislators consequent upon the revision of the Constitution. According to the Constitution, Members of the Regional and the Federal Legislatures are not entitled to be members of any Board or Council. This Sir,

is our own decision, and we must honour our pledge. It is also a wise decision; it is even wiser in the case of directors of other banks, for since the bank's main responsibility will be to help other banks nobody with vested interests in another bank should be allowed to be a Director, thereby taking advantage of his position to further the interest of his own bank, perhaps at the disadvantage of the others. And if, on the other hand, we wanted to be fair then we would have to appoint a director from each of the banks, this would certainly be without any precedent anywhere in the world. So that one can see that the position should be best left as it is now.

With your permission Mr Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to appeal to the Government once again to try and educate the masses of this country about the evils of counterfeit money. Only quite recently, have I come across some people—and they appear to be intelligent too—who think that there is nothing wrong with the manufacture of counterfeit currency. If the Central Bank will be charged with the responsibility of making and keeping our currency, we must not only ensure that this currency has a high purchasing value but also see that the value does not fall down unnecessarily. To do this, we must discourage this illegal manufacture of illegal money.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I would like to say that the Minister of Finance has been very lucky to be the one person in whose lot it has fallen to present this most important Bill before this honourable House. We too are fortunate to have been destined by God to take part in this most important debate. We hope and pray that we may live to see and benefit from this Central Bank of Nigeria.

Sir, I beg to support.

Mr S. J. Una (Uyo) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I have much pleasure in speaking in support of this Bill. The happening in this House to-day will go down into history in respect of ourselves.

I feel extremely happy knowing that the Bill which will soon receive the blessing of us will give a new complexion to our radical and economic set up, not only in our eyes, but in the eyes of the whole world. Mr Speaker, Sir, the introduction of this Bill at this time makes one feel that our political independence by 1960 is not a mere rumour and the circulation of

Nigerian currency will serve as a necessary and sufficient herald of the speedy approach of that independence.

This Bill is introduced to give powers for the establishment of a Central Bank and this bank will serve as a bank to issue legal tender, and will maintain external reserves in order to safeguard the international value of that currency. This Bill will also promote monetary stability and a sound financial structure in Nigeria.

Mr Speaker, this is a very sacred function, stated in just a few words and we must do our best to safeguard this sacred duty. A monetary system is like a fever. It does not take very much of a course when the season goes right, but it attracts a great deal of attention when something is wrong.

Nothing makes a nation great and respected more than the universality of its language, its industrial and scientific achievements and the stability of its currency. Mr Speaker, by this Bill Nigeria will have its own currency. Believe me to say, Sir, that this new Bill will give Nigeria a new name, a new look, and also an indelible character. Nigeria is going to be great and respected if this our new proposed monetary system is going to be kept right all the time, and the success of this depends very largely on the integrity of the staff of the Central Bank. The national and international reputation of Nigeria and our bank of issue will be assessed from the performances of this our Central Bank. And, Sir, much as we desire rapid Nigerianisation of our services, we must not allow extreme Nigerianisation to blind us to the need for men of God-given integrity (*Applause*) to manage the affairs of an institution like this.

And, Sir, extra care must be taken to ensure that the Central Bank of Nigeria is insulated from the politics of any political party, whether that party is a ruling party or a Government party. It is hoped, Sir, that this Central Bank will also encourage Regional Governments to become customers, so that the bank may eventually administer bills of Regional Public Debts and rediscount Regional Government Treasury Bills. I have noticed that the Bill which we are debating now makes provision for the establishment of an Advisory Committee but it avoids mentioning the Chairman and the functions of such a committee.

Before I conclude, Sir, I would like to associate myself with the other speakers in paying tribute to this great man who has produced this excellent report. We can always rely on people of Mr Loynes's calibre to help us in our onward march towards economic and political independence.

Mr Speaker, I beg to support.

Mr Speaker : We will have a short break now, after which I will call Alhaji Adamu Danguguwa.

Sitting suspended : 11.43 a.m.

Sitting resumed : 11.55 a.m.

Alhaji Adamu Danguguwa (North West Central Kano): Mr Speaker, Sir, it is an honour for any Nigerian to have the opportunity to contribute to a Debate on this Bill. Sir, the idea behind the establishment of a Central Bank has long received the widespread applause of this House, so repeating what has already been said will amount to a waste of time. But, Sir, I would like to put in the following suggestions.

Every care should be taken to ensure that the governing authorities of this Bank must be people of unimpeachable character. I do not mind whether they are Britons, Americans or Nigerians. Another point is that after the Bank has operated successfully in Lagos for a few years, branches should be opened at Kano, Port Harcourt and Ibadan, to be followed later by subsidiary branches at Dawakita-Tofi and Dambarta. These last two towns, Sir, have strategic commercial importance in Kano Province.

It should be a good idea, Sir, if from the onset of this Bank, a highly qualified Intelligence Officer is attached to it, so that he can be scrutinising its day to day activities and report on any likely anomalies before it is too late, thereby preventing the necessity of a Tribunal as is the case with other banks and the importation of various Q.C's.

Sir, I beg to support.

Chief J. I. G. Onyia (Asaba): Mr Speaker, I have noted that it is provided that the Chairman of the Bank shall have the casting vote in the event of a quality of votes but I have found nowhere in this Bill anything defining the fact that the Chairman could have an original vote. I do not know whether the intention is that the Chairman of the Board shall not have or shall have an original vote.

Nigeria, and the small Banks under good securities will be able to get advances for the people. The country requires a lot of money for development in various ways, and if a Central Bank is established, I have no doubt that it will do a lot of good."

Mr Speaker, Sir, that was the voice of the Alake of Abeokuta, and what he was saying then is true to-day. The Central Bank, Sir, will do a lot of good for the people of this country. It will assist the Commercial Banks, it will not be in competition with them, but it will be the tower of strength, the tower of hope for them and for the economic prosperity of this great country.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to support.

M. Muhtari Sarkin Bai (South West Kano) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Second Reading of the Bill now before this hon. House. This is a very welcome Bill, and we are most grateful to the Minister of Finance for introducing this timely Bill.

Sir, it has been one of the greatest inspirations of our life to see that a Bill of this kind is being introduced into this hon. House.

In his speech from the Throne His Excellency, the Governor-General has promised and told us that the Bill to set up a Central Bank in Nigeria would be laid on the Table of this House. Here we are to-day and we are most grateful to the Council of Ministers for compiling it in such a way that is suitable to the best interests of the people of this country.

This country, as is well-known by all, is on the threshold of Independence, and preparations for our Independence will soon start. For instance, Sir, we want our own National Anthem, our own National Flag, and we are hearing now that we are going to have our own National Bank, Sir,—but mark you I do not refer to the existing National Bank, I am the last person to deposit a penny of my money in that Bank, Sir.

Chief T. T. Solaru (Ijebu East) : You are not required to. How many pennies have you got anyway ?

M. Muhtari, Sarkin Bai : I will show you later. We are being asked to approve a Bill to establish a Central Bank in Nigeria and I would say, Sir, that I do not think there has ever been a better idea brought to this House. The people in this country are very grateful for

these proposals, Sir, and even more grateful to Her Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom for its guidance and readiness to teach the people of Nigeria how to take their part in a free world. (*Hear, hear.*) (*Good talk.*)

Sir, I have been through this Bill very carefully and have observed that the provisions in it are quite appropriate and that it contains all the necessary safeguards.

I am also grateful, Sir, to note that a section is provided that no Member of a Legislature, Regional or Federal, will be appointed as a Director of this Bank. This, Sir, is a very very fair decision. After all we should treat people fairly and honestly. Those die-hard politicians who at this time think they should start to enjoy a life more abundant at the expense of the people should think twice. (*Hear, hear.*)

Sir, there is only one section with which I am quarrelling and that is the one which deals with the name of the proposed Bank. I have tabled an Amendment and I hope when we come to it in Committee, I will be able to state my reasons and that hon. Members will be fully convinced and give it their unanimous support. The proposed name of this Bank is the Central Bank of Nigeria. Sir, why Central, why not Bank of Nigeria ? This word "Central", Sir, tends to revise the old Constitution of 1951, which has already been revised. As far as banking is concerned, Sir, I think it is an international affair and as such it should be more international in its outlook.

Sir, I will maintain that the word "Central" is absolutely unnecessary and the proposed Bank should be called the Bank of Nigeria.

The next point, Sir, is that I will say I am grateful to see that this Bank will be entrusted with the Federal Government's banking transactions in Nigeria and abroad. I hope that in the not too far distant future, Regional Governments will follow suit and will open accounts with this Bank. The success, progress and prosperity of any Bank depends solely and entirely on its transactions. After all banking is nothing more than a business.

Sir, I am very strongly appealing to all financiers in this House—like the hon. Mr T. O. S. Benson, who is not here at the moment, I see—anyway I would appeal to all people to invest their money and open accounts with this proposed Bank.

Finally, Sir, I should like to pay tribute to the existing Banks in Nigeria, and in particular to the Bank of British West Africa, for the honest and excellent way in which they are transacting the money of the Northern Regional Government and the Native Authorities in the North.

Mr Speaker, I beg to support.

Mr J. M. Udochi (Afenmai): Mr Speaker, I beg to support the Second Reading of this Bill. When this Bill is passed into law we shall have established a secure foundation for our Independence in the realm of monetary management. Those who are sceptical as to what would happen if this country takes into its own hands the management of its own money, must have been very greatly re-assured when they read the provisions of this Bill. The keynote of the Bill as a whole, Mr Speaker, is that of caution, and caution we are told is the eldest child of wisdom. We move very cautiously, measuring and weighing as it were every step we take, or intend to take. This is very commendable especially in matters dealing with finance.

An example of this cautious policy may be mentioned. The refusal of the Nigerian pound to depart from parity with the pound sterling. I say, Sir, especially at this formative stage of our financial development we need the prestige of sterling to guide us, and it is therefore very wise that we should maintain this parity which has been the policy of the erstwhile West African Currency Board.

Another nice point of policy that has been maintained is our refusal to allow our coinage to succumb to the temptations of the decimal system of notation. That was very wise, Sir, but not only this, we are determined to follow a very sound and stable banking policy. Our Central Bank will maintain a reserve ratio of 60 per cent of the notes and coins in circulation and 35 per cent of the other demand liabilities. Now, Sir, this is I think a very reasonable ratio. In this respect, Sir, we have chosen to follow the per centage reserve system of the Federal Reserve Bank of America, in preference to the fixed fiduciary issue system of the Bank of England and I think our choice is very wise, Sir.

What is more striking and significant is the limitation of the amount of loans that the Federal Government can get from the Central Bank. Not only is the loan limited, but the

period of the duration of the loan is also limited. In this too we have parted company with the Bank of England system.

The British Government is indebted to the Bank of England to the tune of over £11 million and the Bank uses that as one of its backings for its fiduciary issue, but we have chosen a more manageable system. We are wise, yes, in departing in this instance from what obtains in the Bank of England.

I praise this wisdom, Sir, of the limiting of the loans of the Federal Government, because it is our determination to see that our Government pursues a wise loan policy. The ease with which the Government could turn to the Central Bank—which is entirely its own creation—the ease with which the Government could turn to the Central Bank and say: "Look here, I want so much" is limited in the Bill and I think that is a very wise policy. In that, too, I think we are following the policy of the Reichsbank of Germany some years ago, because it had in that way limited the borrowing powers of its own Government.

Sir, there is a great need for a Central Bank in this country. We lament the lack of a Money Market. There could not be a Money Market and all the other auxiliaries like stocks and shares without a Central Bank to direct these things. That is the very reason why we feel that the sooner we put this Bill into operation, the better for the country. Because our lack in monetary and financial affairs shall have been put an end to, the Central Bank will be able to finalise our needs in matters of monetary management.

Sir, I am very happy to hear that the Minister has been able to secure an expert from the Bank of England. Indeed, the Bank of England is the first Central Bank in the world, so all other banks have got to imitate that bank while making provisions to suit local conditions, so that when we are securing an expert from the Bank of England, we are securing an expert from the source of wisdom in Central banking. (*Cheers*). And I congratulate the Minister for that.

Sir, we complain because of lack of joint stock enterprises in this country. Now, our people lack interest in putting their money together and calling themselves together and continuing in enterprise, because there has not been a market in which the stocks of various companies could be sold or bought. With a Central Bank in

appeared in *The Venture*, March issue, Journal of *The Stadium Colonial Bureau* called "Eyelet in Ghana, Experiment in Central Bank." That is very important because that dealt with the analysis of the Central Bank as established in Ghana, the strong points and the weak points. So that we do not, while we are anxious to learn from the Bank of England, to inherit the best traditions of the Bank of England, we do not necessarily become a banklet, an arm of that bank. I will not worry you, Sir, about this article until we come to the Committee Stage.

I would like the Minister of Finance to see also an article, "A New Deal In Jamaica" at page 5 of the June issue of that same Journal, because these are younger countries dealing with our country. And the other article, by a Professor of Economics, a Fellow of Balliol College Oxford, one of the highest institutions of learning in England. I would like him to see them because they will be very useful. And then another article, "Nigeria And The Sterling Area" in *The New Commonwealth* of July 22, 1957....

An hon. Member : We are not in the law courts.

Mr Wachuku : I am saying this, Sir, because it will be very valuable to the Minister of Finance, because I am looking at this question as a young institution. We are happy to build it. It may have its failings, it may have its flaws ; we do not want perfection overnight. But I will be failing in my duty if I do not point out these things. There is no need coming here and saying, "Oh we have perfection." We have not got perfection. There are lots of things we need to be moulded as we go on. We grow, the nation grows, and then we can look back to outside developments, and that is why we are happy to-day that we are laying the foundation, that we are starting ; but we must not be contented. Let nobody say, after passing this Bill, that we are satisfied ; it is all right. It is not all right at all because the tendency is for Members to believe that it is all right.

Again, Sir, I would like also to read an article called "Canada and the Younger Sisters" in the issue of the *Economist* of June 3rd, 1957, at page 802. (*Hear, hear.*) Not only that, Sir. I would like the very important article called "Those Sterling Balances" by

Thomas Ballock, Fellow of Balliol College, Oxford, published in *The Venture* volume 5 No. 12 of March 1954. It deals particularly with the sterling balances and while our people are seeking for loans, how our sterling balances were used to lend to Australia, Canada and the other Dominion countries to develop their industries ; and when it comes to the question of asking for the assistance of the other powers to assist, to lend to us, now we find they are not willing to do so, and we have to fall on the United Kingdom all the time. This is a very very important article, and I would like the Minister to look at it, to examine it very very carefully and find what role our Central Bank would play in our economic well-being : whether it would be a question of holding funds and controlling our banks, or whether it has any fundamental role to play with regard to the preservation of our sterling balances.

Now Sir, I said that those Members who have read of the economic phenomenal projects of Germany after it has been dead during the war will be surprised that Western Germany is to compete with the most developed countries fiercely in the world market. How did she do it ? Examine its bank system and how they financed their institutions. We must be cautious I agree. We must be careful, I agree, but we must at the same time be prepared to take a risk. We have no capital. Are we going to sit down and say there is no capital market in this country and therefore the Central Bank should do nothing to create a capital market. I will oppose any measure that suggests that it should only sit down and not create a market. In our laws there, we should have powers to enable it to start to create its markets ; it is absolutely necessary. Otherwise you will only be rubber stamp for the Bank of England.

Now Sir, I do not know how many of us have thought of the significance of the visit of Mr Vaughan Morgan, Minister of State in the Board of Trade in the United Kingdom. The appointment of four Trade Commissioners to this country, four U.K. trade Commissioners, and the visit of the Governor of the Bank of England to our country, I say Sir, is a great honour. It shows definitely that these people have seen something in this country which we have not seen, and the Minister has pronounced publicly that Nigeria is a wealthy country, full of resources, and all that.

House of Representatives Debates

1711

[Central Bank of
Nigeria Bill :

17 MARCH 1958

Second Reading]

1712

It means that they have seen something far, and that is the reason for the question I asked the Minister when he was moving the Second Reading. What scheme has he at this initial stage in training Nigerians to begin now to participate in this bank? There are Nigerians who have their first degree in economics and their second degree doctorate. What attempt is the Government going to make to attract these people now. If possible, send a batch to the Bank of England, another to Canada and others to the United States and to Australia, to study this system so as to come here to play that advisory role you are talking of. You have people who understand the various systems and when the Government requires advice on the present thing, people who are up to date and can give the Cabinet a ready advice, supply answer on this matter, and not depending only on experts in connection with any particular plan. Those we send to Australia, to Canada, United States and to England, they will work for us, then before taking a decision on anything we will get the best possible advice on the matter.

It does not matter what anybody says to-day, charity begins at home. We are Nigerians, it does not matter how much attempt you make to exclude politics from this Bank. You just cannot exclude all politics from this business. I must say here for myself, for myself, that the decision under section 11 to exclude people who are members of this House or Regional Legislature of our country Sir, is a wrong one. Although we have no power to interfere with the decision of the London Conference yet I say it is wrong because even in England you do not exclude all parliamentarians from public boards and all that. One has exactly come to my mind immediately. Lord Citroen is a Chairman of the Coal Board, a member of the House of Lords, and he is a legislator. We have not got the people, there is no deceiving ourselves, we have not got the people to pick and choose.

As for me I consider it a slur to suggest that I cannot be a member of a board or a corporation. We have proved it, in the Electricity Corporation, we do not play politics there. I am not blind to the fact that there are people who go there to play politics; that is true, but then what I am saying is this that it should have been left open to the Government to pick and choose. So when people talk here, some people have ulterior motives. If you exclude

these people, you are excluding men of experience and what is going to happen? This our Central Bank is going to be dominated from the very first beginning by non-Nigerians, or possibly Nigerians without any experience at all in connection with this kind of business, and we say it is all right?

That is why I say Sir, while we were debating this issue, the Second Reading, well I am happy that this institution has come to stay, we must not be blind to this decision which is not to the best interest of this Nation and I will ask the Prime Minister Sir, at the Resumed Conference to raise this matter, if the Regions want to exclude all their politicians and others, that may be all right for them.

Mr Speaker : The hon. Gentleman has only three minutes more, two of which will be after three o'clock.

Mr Wachuku : Well Mr Speaker, Sir, this is the Second Reading, I think I will not take up the time.

Now Sir, I want to say here while we are dealing with this Bill, that Members should not just deal with it purely from sentimental aspects. We must be realistic about it and bring such amendments as will enable the Government to do the right thing and in supporting this Second Reading Sir, I want to express my appreciation of the efforts that have been made to establish this Central Bank and once it is established we hope as we grow, we will modify it in the lines of our experience.

Sir, I beg to support.

Sitting suspended : 1 p.m.

Sitting resumed : 3 o'clock.

Mr Speaker: There may be no other opportunity, and so I draw the attention of hon. Members to the gift of a clock, set in ivory on supports of ivory, with gilded figures, which has been presented to this House, with a message of goodwill, by Yoruba natives of Ejigbo and living in Treichville, Abidjan. (*Applause*).

Members may see this beautiful gift, placed for the time being in front of the Prime Minister's portrait. I will convey to the donors an expression of our gratitude for this fine ornament. (*Loud Applause*).

The Minister of Communications and Aviation (Chief the hon. S. L. Akintola): And may I mention that Ejigbo is in Oshun Division !

Mr F. U. Mbakogu (Awka): Mr Speaker, Sir, I wholeheartedly rise to support the Second Reading of this famous and historic Bill. I find it very expedient to join the chorus of songs of praise showered on the Government, who took the initiative of bringing forward this Bill, and the experts who did the spadework of translating the desire of the people of this country into reality, not only by recommending the establishment of such a bank, but also by agreeing to guide it on to success. It is not only to the Minister of Finance, who moved the Motion, but to every Member of this hon. House who had had the opportunity of being eye witnesses to the bringing forward of this Bill that I give my praise.

Now, leaving aside songs of praise, Mr Speaker, I would direct myself to the point I wish to score on this Bill. I wish to impress on the Government the need for regulating the portions of the Bill so that the Bank might keep itself geared to looking for ways and means of promoting, guiding and protecting the indigenous banks. For the growth of such banks is our growth, their success is our success. So there is nothing which will be far too much done to accelerate the pace of growth of these banks.

In Nigeria we have two standards of banks, giant banks and dwarf banks. The giant banks are those expatriate banks that had the opportunity of growing when there was no competition at all. Only yesterday they came into competition, and Members would like to know that as a result of the troubles of the recent Tribunal, the interest rates of such expatriate banks have risen from 2½ per cent to 3 per cent, just because they are in competition now. Previously there was no competition and they were in a position to do whatever they liked. We should help our commercial banks to grow in an atmosphere of a well-fed commercial enterprise. We should not do anything to hamper it, by bringing about certain restrictions or over-checking.

Well, I think at this initial stage of their existence, they may make mistakes but they will make mistakes only to grow. We are now copying examples from England and the

United States. They made far worse mistakes in their past. We have read of such mistakes in our economic history, but from their mistakes they learned. There were liquidations at a certain stage of banking development in America and England, and everywhere, and people were running away quickly, to get their money from the banks, but after such mistakes there came better organisation and better running of their banks.

Now, to help these indigenous banks I would recommend that the Agency of the Currency Board, which has previously been held by the Bank of British West Africa, should now go to the indigenous Banks. That would help them to live, because they are competing on unequal circumstances with expatriate banks; and this handing over of the agencies to them would be in line with our approaching political turn of independence; so that, at the eve of our independence, such agency system, or such facilities given to banks, should not be held by expatriate companies or banks that have had opportunities to grow in an undisturbed atmosphere.

Now, it is not only in this way that we can help these banks. We should also help them by building up a money market. Many Members have spoken on this, and the building of a money market is something that does a lot of good to the people and the commercial Banks. Now at present our people do not know the importance of saving money and they are prepared to hoard their money underground or in boxes, or spend it in the accumulation of low grade gold trinkets, and they regard the possession of clothes as a mark of wealth. Sir, if we have a money market, this would serve as an encouragement to people not to hoard their money or hide it in boxes, or dump it on clothes. This money could be made available for trading facilities, and that might lead us on to an increase in productivity.

Well I know there are Members here who are surrounded with trinkets and all such ornamental wearings. I am not against such things, but I am saying that we must have an eye on such things and another eye on making money available to the people who stand in need of it to increase the productivity of the country. Money that lies in the ground or in boxes has no use. It has not much value. The more

money moves from one thing to another, well the more it is made available for other goods and services. Therefore, I am urging the Government to introduce this system of a money market which will not only help the people to get credit facilities, it will also help our bankers to invest their surplus funds.

At present the expatriate banks have opportunities of investing their surplus money in the home money markets. Our commercial banks have no such opportunities, and they leave the surplus of their money lying about and that reduces their profitability. That will encourage them, of course, to give loans to unscrupulous businessmen who have no idea of financial morality and will not mind trying to avoid repayment of the loan. Well bankers do that in their ambition to help their fellow-men and because they feel they have no other opportunities of investing their money in money markets. They are not ordinary trading enterprises as such.

I would also in this connection, make the point of a clearing system. We have no clearing system in the country. What happens is that cheques are changed over the counters. There is no clearing house. I think that with the establishment of a central bank, a clearing house will inevitably be created, and that will be to the credit of the commercial banks and people making use of banks, so that the sooner the bank is created, the sooner this clearing house will be created. This will lead to an increase in the trading facilities that can be offered by the banks.

Now I come to the question of liquid assets being demanded of the Commercial banks. Well I feel that there was no mention of certain liquid ratio that is to be reached by such banks ; but I am calling on the Government and the Board of Directors to make the fixing of liquid ratio as flexible as possible. Well if the limit is too high it might discourage commercial banks that are indigenous. They are young, they have not got to such a peak that expatriate banks have got to, and although restrictions through liquid ratio might mean nothing to the expatriate banks that are well developed, it will ruin our commercial banks. I am asking Government to be as flexible as possible in regulating this question of liquid ratio.

Now comes the point of the number of days notice for the variation in the liquid ratio. Now I feel that in England, seven days or

fourteen days might be enough for them to give themselves over to the new changes but in Africa it is not good at all. It is not to the credit of the bank to re-adjust themselves within such a short notice, so I feel that before such changes are announced, the banks should be given three to six months notice to re-adjust themselves.

Now the Central Bank should keep an eye on the prevailing conditions and standards in Nigeria to-day, and not just trust on United Kingdom conditions and standards, because England has seen a lot of centuries of experience and has seen ages of trial and error. Therefore, the standards they have reached now should not be expected of us.

We support Government to take such measures to check the constant losses of money in the banks and of directing the banks to make money deposited with them safe for the users, but this type of thing again is going to be too hard on the commercial banks that belong to our people.

Then, I come to the Exchange Rate for the Central Bank. The West African Currency Board have been charging one-half per cent. and then, for remitting that, the Commercial bank would pay three-eighths per cent making it altogether seven-eighths per cent. I do not know what the position will be now if the Central Bank charges $\frac{3}{4}$ per cent. If you add other charges that will increase it to about $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.

Bank charges in Nigeria or Africa have been very heavy, in fact banking charges in West Africa are the heaviest in the whole of the British Colonies. I do not know how far this change from $\frac{1}{2}$ % to $\frac{3}{4}$ % will add to that. The conclusion of that is that we do not make much use of banks, that might be the argument why banks charge so heavily. I am appealing to the Central Bank to see to it that the exchange rate does not reach $\frac{3}{4}$ %, they should maintain the old standard of $\frac{1}{2}$ %.

I will conclude by saying that what we want is what is good for Nigeria without necessarily adopting measures that are adopted in England. Nigeria is a young country and we need all the help we can get.

Mr Speaker, I beg to support.

✓ **Chief T. T. Solaru** (Ijebu East): Mr Speaker, Sir, there has been such a lot of commendations this morning and I think they are fully justified, first of all the Minister of Finance, the Prime Minister and the Cabinet for bringing in this measure and, of course, the commendation of the gentleman who prepared this Report, Mr Loynes, an admirable Report, quite clear and lucid even for one who is a layman to understand. Then, of course, there are the Legal Draftsmen who translated almost every phrase, every word of this Report into such good legal phraseology.

Sir, having said that, it is also notable the prodigious leap that our country has made from the days of barter and the days of manilla currency to the age of monetary exchange and now into the intricacies of central banking. I am afraid you will find in every part of this country every stage still represented, from the high financier in the capital city to the back woods where people still deal in simple barter which suits them rather than using the legal currency.

But that is not said to the detriment of the Bill being brought in but rather it is indicative of the fact that we have to move forward with the rest of the world. The phenomenal advance in West Africa has given quite grave apprehensions to friend and foe alike. To our friends who are optimistic about our progress, they have apprehensions lest we should not be able to measure up to the pressure that modern civilisation and its machinery puts on us.

You can find hints of it in the speeches of some speakers who were at very great pains to tell us what applies in England should not be applied to us but who choose wrong reasons for so doing. Of course what applies in England could not be applied to us wholesale because conditions here are different; but not necessarily because we want lower standards. I do not think anyone in this House will suggest that we want a lower standard of morality where finances are concerned or of integrity in people who are employed are concerned. In working it out, it might be that some measures which were formulated in circumstances peculiar to Britain might not suit us, and we would be appealing to the Minister to look into this before we have swallowed everything which might not be digestible.

Sir, we have a better start and that might be an answer to our foes who think in a short

time we will stagger and fall. "We in Great Britain," they say "have spent hundreds of years before we got our present banking system and to transport the British banking system into Nigeria where barter and manilla currency almost exist side by side is fool-hardy." What they forget is that we are starting with all the knowledge and the experience of the world behind us. It is the same argument where everything is concerned, we did not have to start where Britain started, we have all their help, all their wealth and all their experience to help us to start. That exactly is what has been done by our Cabinet in asking the expert Mr J. B. Loynes to prepare a Report that might guide us in establishing this and I do not think they could have gone to a better place than they went.

After all, most of the people who are helping us in our march to Independence come from Great Britain and a person can only export what he has at home. Consequently, I am not surprised that this Report is very closely modelled along what happened in Great Britain. I have no doubt that this Report took cognizance of happenings elsewhere in the British Commonwealth and outside it. But naturally the inclination would be to perpetuate, at any rate to foster, what one knows at home has been proved by experience to be worthwhile. That is exactly the reason why when what is best is put before us from other countries, it is up to us to examine it under our own circumstances and to try and make suggestions as to how this coat fits, if I may so use the terms, this coat or jacket and cap of John Bull in a climate where the March winds bite through your clothes, whereas here we swelter under the head of March.

Conditions are so different, not only climatically but also economically. In Great Britain they have any number of banks, banks which are well run, banks which have learned by experience, according to the last speaker, banks that are being run almost as competently as the Bank of England itself. Here in this country, we have banks which are just being established and are fumbling along, some of them have found their way out of the woods already but they still have a lot to learn.

Now a Central Bank with its wide powers—I think the writer of this Report used the words "the arsenal of arbitrary weapons"—

for a Central Bank to be given an arsenal of arbitrary weapons with which it could stifle, if it wishes to do so, existing banks that are struggling along and are not so knowledgeable as to what to do, is a very dangerous thing and something that we ought to look into and see that while we are establishing this giant bank, according to the speaker who has just spoken, we are not strangled out of existence. I say we would have ourselves to blame if we tried to put on the jacket of John Bull. John Bull is a giant and we are a little dwarfish and I think we ought to cut John Bull's cloth and reduce grandpa's cloth to fit the little baby.

However, Sir, let us make a few comments on what has been done and suggested to us, not only in the Report but also in the draft of the Bill. I am glad to note that an Amendment has been moved by the Minister of Finance, stating the capital of £1½ million. Admirable as that is, I would have you remember that departmental banks in this country in the West and in the East perhaps, have started banks with a capital grant of £1 million. Here we are starting a Central Bank for the Federation of Nigeria and we have £1½ million this is going to be a bank of the Federation, a bank of bankers, it is going to do almost everything on £1½ million.

Probably the Minister might think again because it is quite a good thing to readjust your mind. The functions of this bank are so tremendous that I feel a capital of £1½ million might be quite inadequate, although there is nothing, of course, preventing you from increasing the capital a little later on.

Sir, secondly, I should like to speak on administration, but only a few things. The first is the safeguards that we have put in. We have heard a lot about it, the pros and cons about whether to allow politicians as officials or in the Board of Directors or in the Advisory Committee. Well, there are certain things that of course give us room for apprehension. Sir, at this stage in our country, we have so very few qualified people and the few qualified people that we have are always doing one thing or another. The limitations that are put in this Bill excluding even the ordinary humble shareholder who might perhaps buy only one or two £1 shares, that is going to exclude quite a wide class of people, especially people who have any interest in banking at all.

It has been said that there are people who bury money and many more who put their money in banks. It means then that having eliminated such a wide field that could have been qualified by any stretch of the imagination to serve on this Board, what is left? It seems to me that we might have to think very hard about the limit of the people who are to serve on the Advisory Council or on the Board of Directors. We are asking that in the appointment of Directors or Assistant Directors or such high offices in the bank, we would like to see some of our people who have studied high finance to have an opportunity to understudy. I do not care what title you give them provided they are given the opportunity of understudying.

It is all right now, we have got the expatriates, I quite agree; but if five or ten years after the Bank has started we still have not got someone who is qualified to be Assistant Director of this Bank then I tell you we have founded an organisation which will not lead us to the goal we desire, namely, to control our own finances. It is like getting an army of foreign people to fight your battle for you.

It is all right for the time being, but the time will come when interests might clash. We are grateful to our friends who have come to our aid, but it will be our fault if we do not make provision for ourselves so that we could at least study the inner working at the very beginning.

Sir, I go on to say something about the currency. We are very friendly with Chief Onyia on this Side. The amount of cordiality between us is inestimable, and therefore without any consultation on our part or on his part he filed an Amendment purporting to ask the Ministry to consider a decimal currency and I have done the same. You see, I do not know whether it is great minds that think alike or little minds that think alike, but there it is. What we are asking for is that we should consider the adoption of the decimal system. It seems to me that I have not yet seen a country that has changed from the decimal system back to some obsolete or antiquated form as what Mr Udochi asked for. He is the one who advocates lost causes in this House. However it seems to me, Sir, that I have seen no country that has changed from the decimal system to the other system where pounds, shillings and pennies behave quite irrationally.

But in every country, India is the latest, I believe, with its cumbrous system of rupees and annas, they have all changed back to something more sensible. It is the rupee and 100 annas to the rupee and whatever intermediate naye paise you have, whether it is, five or ten or fifty, you can issue your coins or paper money. Well, we understood that kind of coinage very easily when we got there, but when we got the other money we did not know what to do with it. I think it is about time we examined that, Sir.

And now that we have got our pound and the sterling connection is to be retained, we value that sterling connection. As a matter of fact, it is one of the best things that has been done by asking us to retain our connection with the sterling area. But, Sir, in gearing our pound to the pound sterling, what safeguard are we given in case of depreciation of the British pound? Sometimes we have inflation there. It means that every breath of inflation in Great Britain is going to be repeated here. That might be all right at the time when we were still colonials and our economy was closely geared with theirs, but when we want to express our independence it seems to me we should be able to cushion our currency against every breath of inflation from Great Britain. Well, I do not know how it should be done. All I am saying is that if the pound depreciates in Great Britain, we should not let it depreciate in this country. I think something like that ought to be put in.

Sir, then I come to relations with other banks, and I will only say two things here. There is a danger that the powers put in the hands of this giant might stifle our banks. One of them is the prescription and variation of liquid assets to be held by each bank, and the other is the provision asking for information whatsoever within certain days. Now, there is nothing, wrong, I suppose, in giving these powers because after all if this Bank is to set the standard of conduct and integrity it must have some say as to what is done by the other banks. But it is to the manner of operation or application of this provision that I would draw your attention. It is quite easy, Sir, for these powers to be abused and that is why some of us have filed an amendment which we think might at least be a hint or a caution when these powers are to be applied. We do not want to make our Central Bank into some kind of Grand Inquisition and neither do we want to make our Bank officials

Inquisitors or grand snoopers. People always hate those who go about snooping about business which they consider their own business, and I hope, Sir, that those powers will not be abused.

Lastly, Sir, the integrity of whoever are going to be our officials from the Director right down to the ordinary messenger. Well, Sir, here I cannot agree more with the safeguards that this Bank is to be insulated from all kinds of nepotism, be it white or black. Nepotism is one curse in this country. It is one thing to want to help one's kith and kin, one's brother, one's sister, but not at the expense of the prosperity of the country. The people who are going to be employed in this Bank will have to be people of the highest moral calibre, people who are not afflicted with this craze to get rich very quickly. You know the mentality in this country to-day is that if you want money of course the money is there in the bank. The Bank seems to be able to grow the money out of the ground. You may have noticed the number of beggars that circulate the banks everyday and some loafers hoping that some crumbs will fall from the table of the rich into their lap not knowing that every penny is counted and every bag is weighed.

Even so, Sir, those who work in the Bank will have to be people of the very best that we can find in this country and even though there may be brothers and sisters of any high official or the Prime Minister or any Member of this House, Sir, unless he is really qualified in qualification and in character he should not find employment in our Bank. Remember what Mr Loynes tells us. He says it is all right for you to make new coins and float new currency. He says all that would not make for success if you do not have effective and honest management. I think that is in effect what he said, and I cannot agree more, Sir.

I beg to support.

The Minister of Transport rose in his place and claim 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)

Clause 1.

M. Muhtari Sarkin Bai (South West Kano): Mr Chairman, Sir, in view of the satisfactory explanations I had from our financial expert, the hon. Mr Daldry on the other side of the House, and in view of the convincing reasons by the Minister of Finance, as far as this Bill is concerned, I beg to withdraw all the amendments standing in my name. (Applause.)

Clauses 1 and 2 agreed to.

Clause 3.

Mr J. A. O. Akande (Egba North): Mr Chairman, Sir, what I would like to say is that the building of the Central Bank should start right now, so that in a few months' time we shall be called upon to open the Nigerian Central Bank.

Clause 3 agreed to.

Clause 4.

Chief T. T. Solaru (Ijebu East): Mr Chairman, Sir, I rise to move that we insert the word "main" after "as" on Clause 4, page 4, line 26, making it read, "... The principal object of the Bank shall be..." I go on, Sir, "to promote monetary stability and a safe financial structure in Nigeria and to act as main Banker to the Federal Government." The object being to leave room if they wish to use any other bank especially Nigerian Banks, they can do so. Here it may be inferred to mean that they are the sole and only banker. That is all, Sir.

Amendment proposed.

The Minister of Finance (Chief the hon. F. S. Okotie-Eboh): Mr Chairman, Sir, I rise to oppose the amendment. The purpose of this amendment is to enable the present Government to make use of all Commercial banks, and I would draw the attention of my hon. Friend to Clause 33 which has made that provision already. It is therefore unnecessary.

Chief Solaru: It may seem Sir, having put in Clause 32, they have opened the door a little with Clause 32.

The Minister of Finance: Clause 33.

Chief Solaru: I know, Sir, your Clause 33 is your open sesame now, but with regard to Clause 32, why cannot this be amended as I have suggested. I.....

The Minister of Finance: It would make it untidy.

Question, That the word "main" be there inserted put and negatived.

Mr F. U. Mbakogu (Awka): Mr Chairman, I beg to move to add at the end of Clause 4, page 4, line 27, "The Bank shall as well take all such steps or measures as are material for the protection and promotion of indigenous Banking Houses."

Mr Chairman, I feel it is an amendment that can easily find its way through. There is nothing in it except to have the Central Bank reminded of its vigilance and for the promotion and growth of indigenous Banking Houses.

Amendment proposed :

The Minister of Finance: I rise to oppose the amendment. I am sure that hon. Members of this House would not subscribe to such an amendment. It seems to suggest that the Central Bank should finance any commercial bank that is not financially sound, and I am sure that Members will agree that this is not the purpose of this Bank or Bill, and that the Bill is only for the purpose of setting up the Central Bank. All commercial banks should stand on their own feet pure and simple. Sir, I oppose the amendment.

Mr M. A. Sanni (Oshun Central): In view of Clause 39, this amendment is unnecessary, Sir.

Mr Mbakogu: I think the explanation by the Minister lies in a straight line. He is making his explanation as a mathematical purist. The amendment never meant the Government giving out money, or to support the commercial banks with money. No one would expect that from the Government. What the amendment means is just to find ways and means of helping the commercial banks so that they may develop without much restriction and for every guidance to be given, guidance that is necessary for healthy growth.

Chief J. I. G. Onyia (Asaba): I want to know from the Minister why the information under section 33 was not given in clause 4?

Question, That those words be there added, put and negatived.

Clause agreed to.

Clause 5 agreed to.

Clause 6.

The Minister of Finance : Mr Chairman, Sir, I beg to move to leave out in Clause 6, page 4, line 34, leave out sub-section (1) and insert—

“(1) The authorised capital of the Bank shall be One Million Five Hundred Thousand Pounds. There shall be paid up such amount as shall be resolved by the Bank and confirmed by the Minister and this amount shall be subscribed by and paid up at par by the Federal Government upon the establishment of the Bank.”

Mr Chairman, Sir, I move that these words be inserted.

Amendment proposed.

Chief T. T. Solaru (Ijebu East): Mr Chairman, I would have thought that the Finance Minister would have made a short reply to my suggestion, Sir, that this amount is inadequate and that he was thinking of increasing it. Would he want me to move the amendment to his amendment, or to bring in another amendment, or does he approve it or not? I think he ought to give us an indication on this, Sir.

Mr M. A. Sanni (Oshun Central): I think the objection is not well founded, Sir. Sub-section 2 makes the position clear.

The Minister of Finance (Chief the hon. F. S. Okotie-Eboh): The point raised by Chief T. T. Solaru, Sir, is well taken, but, I wish to assure the hon. Members that apart from this there is still going to be a Reserve Account. So this is not the total amount and I do not think that it is going to be useful to build so many castles in the air, starting with such a big amount. I can assure you that the Bank will start on a good footing.

Chief Solaru : Well this is such an answer as we expected, Sir. This is not just an ejaculation. But I would like to say that when we have gone to the trouble of studying the Bill and put forward amendments. (*Interruption*).

Question, That the words to be left out, be left out, put and agreed to.

Question, That those words be there inserted, put and agreed to.

Clause as amended, agreed to.

Clause 7 agreed to.

Clause 8.

The Chairman : Mr Mbakogu, I am sorry. I am afraid that this amendment to clause 8 is inconsistent with the principle already decided on in the Second Reading. You find that principle in clause 11 (1) (b) about no Nigerian in the Public Service is eligible...so it would be inconsistent with what we have already passed on the Second Reading to move this amendment. But you can speak on that the clause stand part of the Bill.

Mr F. U. Mbakogu (Awka): I intended to withdraw “from the public service” and insert “from the existing banks”.

The Chairman : The amendment reads “shall be Nigerians drawn from the Public Service” which is, as I have said, inconsistent with what has already been passed.

Dr. E. O. Awduche : Mr Chairman, I would just like to speak on Clause 8, subsection (2) which gives the number of the Members of the Board of Directors, as seven, the Governor, Deputy Governor and five members. I would like to say that that does not appear to agree with the recommendations of the International Bank Mission which says there should be as many members as possible so as to give Africans an opportunity....

The Minister of Research and Information (Chief the hon. Kolawole Balogun): On a point of order, Sir, I find it difficult to hear the hon. Member.

Dr. Awduche : I am sorry. I said that this number of seven is very very small because it is inconsistent with the recommendations of the Bank Mission which recommended that there should be as many members as possible, so it will be possible to give Africans an opportunity to understudy the financial monetary management of the Board. In fact, if I may quote page 92 of the Report it says: “Education towards self-government will fail if an effort is not made at this stage to acquaint Africans as widely as possible with the principles of sound monetary management...” and this is an opportunity we have to acquire those principles.

I hope the Minister will in due course consider increasing these Board members.

Clause 8 agreed to.

Clauses 9 and 10 agreed to.

Clause 11.

The Chairman : I would like to point out that Mr Mbakogu and Chief Solaru should make their points on this amendment when the hon. Mr Dosunmu has moved his amendment.

Mr L. J. Dosunmu (Lagos East) : Mr Chairman, Sir, my amendment seeks to delete the word "Director" from the list of persons who are disqualified from being Board members for this Central Bank.

Mr Chairman, I think the point has been made during the Second Reading of this Bill that if you allow the provision for this kind of amendment, the result will be that some of our men who can claim to have some knowledge of high finance and banking will be ruled out.

Mr Chairman, I refer to the qualifications required of the Governor and Deputy Governors. They are men who are very knowledgeable in finance and banking, but it is ironic that in respect of an ordinary Board member, the Director, such knowledge is not considered essential. I agree that in the main such expert knowledge of finance, or money, may not be required of the ordinary directors on the Board, but it seems to be placing a premium on the lack of such knowledge by saying that the men should be appointed as directors and not necessarily for such knowledge of finance.

Let us take a practical example. Let us imagine that a man with Mr Daldry's experience is a Nigerian, would you say that because he has an interest, or because he is a Director of a Bank, he will be disqualified from being a member of the Board of Directors for this Central Bank? It will be a pity if you have a man with such a wealth of knowledge who is going to be deprived of serving this country in this capacity, simply because he is connected with a commercial bank of some kind.

I know the answer will be this, because he is connected with a Bank somehow he may not be able to divorce that connection when he is appointed to serve on this Board of Directors. But I submit, Sir, that that is not a very strong reason. If you can have a man with such high qualifications who is a Director in big business, and who is otherwise competent to serve on this Board, surely when the time comes for him to carry out his duties he should be able to do his work objectively. Even where we discover that such a person has abused his position by reason of the fact that he has interest in some banking house, if public opinion is strong

enough against him, he can be removed. As I have said before a man who is qualified to fill such a high post as Director in a big business concern, is surely expected to be able to do his work objectively.

There are some people in the Bank of England, Governors, who have some financial interest in a banking house or financial house of some sort, but unless there is strong evidence to suggest that he is likely to abuse his position, I can see no reason why this man should not be used. More so if we can produce such men in this country.

As some hon. Members suggested this morning, if you are going to put all these restrictions on our men who are fit and proper to be appointed on this Board, the result will be that we are just going to put in third rate, or fifth rate men to do this job.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move the amendment.

Amendment proposed, that the word "Director" be left out of Clause 11, page 6, line 20.

The Minister of Finance (Chief the hon. F. S. Okotie-Eboh) : Mr Chairman, I rise to oppose the amendment and to say that it is very interesting to hear the argument of the hon. Member, Mr Dosunmu, trying to cite an example which is based purely on sentiment.

You will agree with me that in matters of this nature, it is not a good example to be specific. It is nice to cite the hon. Mr Daldry as an example, but that will circumscribe the issue. I would like him to appreciate or direct his mind that this Ordinance is made on a general policy, on a specific policy, that you want to found a Central Bank of Nigeria, which Members have advocated should be divorced of any interest, either of politics or monetary. Are you seriously suggesting that such a Bank is supposed to control other commercial banks? Those commercial banks as we know them are not here for the fun of being here. They are commercial undertakings who want to make profit, and they want to make a profit no matter the integrity of the directors, or of any person or shareholder for that matter, his interest is first and foremost in the profit that his bank will make. Therefore, you cannot put his financial interest against the national interest. Therefore, the interest of the Central Bank is purely national, and that of commercial banks is commercial.

As a lawyer, of course, you may argue one way because the lawyer's mind is always directed to how he will make money from his clients (*laughter*). But, Sir, this is not law; this is national matter versus commercial interests, and I will ask the hon. Member respectfully to realise that this is a national organisation which should be divorced of all interest, if we are going to make a good beginning. It is nice to cite the United Kingdom, but we have been told here by our Economist Mbakogu *alias* Abuaka (*laughter*) about what mistakes other banks have made, and if we are to learn from the mistakes of the forerunners, I think it is only necessary for us as a growing nation to be very very cautious.

In Nigeria, politics has eaten so much into the fabric of everything—even the commercial banks have some politics in them. It is not for me to tell you; we all know about that and I think some hon. Members have already talked about that earlier on; it is not for me to speak on that. But what I want to say is I know the hon. Member usually means well, but I can assure him that it is necessary for us, at this stage, to try as much as possible. Nigeria is large, over 32 million people—are you suggesting that only those people who think of founding a bank just for money making and for that purpose they are the best financiers in this country that would be called upon to be made Directors? I say No. There are so many people who have no interest in banks but may have interest in business; I think we can use them. If experience will teach us in future to include some other men that could divorce their interest from their national responsibility and duty, that matter may be considered by the Board of Governors of the Bank. In the meantime, Sir, I ask you to withdraw your Amendment.

Mr L. C. Daldry (Special Member): Mr Chairman, Sir, despite the remarks made by the Mover of the Amendment, I rise to oppose this Amendment, and to associate myself with the remarks made by the hon. Minister. The Central Bank may be called upon from time to time to take action which will very materially affect the commercial banks of the country, and it would be quite an impossible position for a director of one of the commercial banks to be associated with the Central Bank in such a contingency. I must oppose the Amendment. (*Loud Applause*).

Question, That the word "Director" be left out, put and negatived.

Amendment proposed, in Clause 11, page 6, line 22, to leave out from "Government" to end of line 24.

Mr L. J. Dosunmu (Lagos East): Chairman, Sir... (*An hon. Member: Withdraw*)... This is a very important Amendment. Government is going to give some consideration to this. Sir, if it is very essential to draw a distinction between Financial Adviser to the Government and the Economic Adviser, I think the point is that it is not necessary to jettison the Economic Adviser to the State into the Board of Governors. After all, the whole establishment of the Central Bank is among other things to give financial advice to the Government, and I would suggest that we have the Economic Adviser. What is then the necessity of taking the Economic Adviser—although it is put in as a proviso—what is the necessity of making that Economic Adviser a member of the Board of Governors? After all, if the Central Bank gives financial advice to the Government, it is this Economic Adviser—before Government considers it—who is to accept the advice, Government has to consult with the Economic Adviser who will look at the whole matter having regard to the whole economy. After all, finance is just a branch of political economy.

But if you prejudice the position by making the Economic Adviser of the State a member of the Board of Governors, I think the position is prejudiced to some extent and the other reason which you may not consider (it is perhaps of less importance) is this: we have all agreed that the two officers, the Governor and the Deputy Governor, must of necessity be expatriates. The total membership of the Board is going to be seven. If you make this provision it only means that at most one thing is certain; Members of the Board of Governors must be expatriates. That is certain. Two other members of the Board were taken for granted. I do not think that the Government put in its proviso for fun; it is to prepare the ground ready for injecting the Economic Adviser into the Board of Governors. So that gives us three as against four. Well, I do not know whether even one of four other members of the Board would be an expatriate.

So what is going to be the position? I submit, Sir, that the Economic Adviser, being a civil servant by and large, has to put his services at the disposal of the Government. After all, the Central Bank is a division of the Federal Government and the Economic Adviser is there to give advice to the Government on the whole economy of the country having regard to its finance. So there is no reason why you should make him a Member. Except the hon. Minister of Finance will assure us that he has not secretly a mind to inject this his officer there, I shall press this Amendment, but if he just put him there and it is not his intention to put him as a Member of the Board of Governors, in order to ensure that at least three Members are expatriates, I shall not press the Amendment.

The Minister of Finance (Chief the hon. F. S. Okotie-Eboh): Mr Chairman, Sir, I beg to oppose the Amendment. Here again, Sir, I sympathise with the argument, but I want to say that there is nothing there to compel the Prime Minister to appoint the Economic Adviser as a director. But what the law provides is that if the Prime Minister desires to do so, his hands should not be tied. And taking from your own argument, you will see that the Economic Adviser is connected with the economy of this country, and he is not in my Ministry. He is Adviser to the Prime Minister, and I am sure you can rely on the good judgment of the Prime Minister. The purpose, therefore, is not to tie the hands of the Prime Minister. Suppose the bank is going to be involved with large economic propositions and the Prime Minister feels that his Economic Adviser should be there in order to represent him, I think you will agree with me that his hands should not be tied.

Question, that the words proposed, to be left out be left out, put and negatived.

Amendment proposed in Clause 11, page 6, line 25, to leave out subsection (2) and insert—

“(2) (a) The Governor or Deputy Governor may resign his office on giving at least three months’ notice in writing to the Governor-General of his intention. [(b) Any Director including Assistant Governors may resign after a notice in writing of at least a month to the Governor-General of his intention.”

Mr F. U. Mbakogu (Awka): Mr Chairman, I rise to move the Amendment. I think Mr Chairman, that I should take away “Assistant Governors” there in 2 (b) so that it reads. . . .

“(b) Any Director may resign after a notice in writing of at least a month to the Governor-General of his intention.”

Mr Chairman, the purpose of this Amendment is to safeguard the Central Bank because the services of the experts who will be Governor and Deputy Governor are such that their vacancies cannot be easily filled. We cannot, in one month, secure an expert who will replace them. And one might say: “If one leaves, the other might take his place.” Events may make two of them resign at the same time, though we do not hope they will do that. So I am saying that it should be increased from one month to three months to give the Government a chance of filling their vacancies.

Amendment proposed.

The Minister of Finance (Chief the hon. F. S. Okotie-Eboh): Mr Chairman, Sir, I think that this is a very reasonable Amendment. I have consulted with the Prime Minister and my Colleagues and we feel that the Amendment is in order. Therefore I accept the Amendment. (*Applause*).

Question, That the words proposed to be left out, be left out, put and agreed to.

Question, That those words be there inserted, put and agreed to.

Clause as amended, agreed to.

Clause 12 agreed to.

Clause 13.

Mr F. U. Mbakogu (Awka): Mr Chairman, I think there is no need moving this Amendment because I had wanted to increase the number of Directors from 7 to 9 by putting 2 Assistant Governors, but now that I am not allowed to move it, there is no need increasing the quorum of the Directors.

Clause 13 agreed to.

Clause 14 agreed to.

Clause 15.

Chief T. T. Solaru (Ijebu East): Sir, I beg to move that at the end of clause 15 on page 7, line 25, insert “and one other member of the community from each Region.”

The purpose of this Amendment, Sir, is in fulfilment of the spirit at least of the recommendation of Mr Loynes that it is necessary for the Governor or Deputy Governor to be afforded an opportunity for personal contact with prominent Regional personalities. In the draft of the Legislation, provision was made for one Finance Minister from the Region, and that is interpreted to mean that this prominent person from the Region is the Finance Minister. It seems to me, Sir, that if you really want to associate the difficulties of this Central Bank Board on the Advisory Committee with Regional personalities, it should at least include one other person apart from the Finance Minister. That is the Amendment and I beg to move.

Question proposed, That those words be there inserted.

The Minister of Finance (Chief the hon. F. S. Okotie-Eboh): Mr Chairman, Sir, I beg to oppose the Amendment.

I think that the purpose of the Ministers of Finance from the Regions and the further Minister and the Governor or Deputy Governor of the Bank meeting on this Advisory Committee is to exchange secret information and to discuss things that are secret. To bring somebody from the Region again will expose the whole secrecy to the public. I do not doubt the integrity of such people, but I am sure that the hon. Member will agree with me that when high official policy and secrets are discussed, it is not necessary to bring an outsider into the picture.

Chief T. T. Solaru: If this is how we interpreted the recommendation on page 17 paragraph 45 which I have just read out, "Such a Committee could meet as often as might be thought necessary but from time to time in the Regional Capitals to allow among other things the Governor and the Deputy Governor an opportunity for personal contact with prominent Regional personalities"—if that is how he interpreted it, then I beg to withdraw, Sir.

Amendment by leave withdrawn.

Clause agreed to.

Clause 16.

Chief T. T. Solaru (Ijebu East): Sir, the purpose of this Amendment here is to give effect to the recommendation that this is giving us an opportunity to start afresh, that is to

adopt the decimal system of currency rather than the present one which is fashioned after the practice in Great Britain. Sir, I do not need to go much further than to say that we have all heard the able way in which Chief Onyia made the case for it in the morning, not only on account of its simplicity and the way it agrees with our own ways of counting, but also that in the wider world, not only in the currency but also in the measurement field, the decimal system is very popular and easily manipulated.

Great Britain itself, if experts from that country would confess, are only at a loss as to how now, after having gone for many many years with this system, how now to reform their currency. In the same way as they are unable to take the bull by the horns, it is the same thing in their spelling. The younger country, America, starting afresh, did away with superfluous letters in their language and simplified their spelling and made it more reasonable. But with Great Britain, they were unable to do anything; they are tied down with all the vestiges of the past.

Is there any reason why as a young country, we could not now at this stage, without losing contact with the sterling area, still have our pound and shillings and pence reckoned in tens and hundreds? There is nothing more. All we shall do is, there is a pound; a pound shall be equal to the pound sterling. Now then, how many shillings shall make our pound? Well, 10s shall make a pound: it means that our shillings shall be double theirs in value. And how many pence shall make a shilling? Well, 10 pence shall make a shilling: which means our penny shall be much more valuable than the British penny. And what is wrong in that? If you want further denomination, you could have it in tens and in hundreds. Then 100 pence shall make a pound instead of 240. I do not know by what system of calculation they arrived at 240, except that 12×20 is 240. Everything is artificial. And if it is artificial and difficult, well this one is artificial and easy. If we defer this, we shall in future have gone on for a long, long time having set up the whole system, this banking system for many many years and have to revert back to this at such a great cost and trouble. Why not do it now, why not turn a new page now?

That is the plea Sir.

Amendment proposed in page 7, line 34, to leave out the word "twenty", and insert the word "ten" instead thereof.

Chief J. I. G. Onyia (Asaba): Mr Chairman, I spoke at length on this issue this morning and I think that all who have heard me will agree that there is a necessity at once to do away with twelve pence. It is perpetuating a sort of conservatism and nothing more. It is not decimal, for all nations of the world go by the decimal system. The English themselves have borrowed decimal system from Mecca and Medina, but in this case only in pennies twelve pennies make a shilling and then when you want it in decimal you find that it does not work. It is not wise as I said in the morning when you talk that twenty shillings make a pound, one-twentieth of a pound is point .05 pound, but when you come now to reckon that twelve pence make a shilling, one-twelfth of a shilling, what is it? You go to decimal, point .0833 + 33 recur.

It makes no meaning at all whatsoever. All other nations have seen this and have done away with twelve pence make a shilling, and those who are perpetuating it are not bothering their heads about the difficulties we have even in teaching our children decimals in schools and when they come to concrete matter, we teach them to calculate by ten. When you come even to the British who are perpetuating it, you find all their ways of reckoning are in tens, in hundreds, thousands, tens of thousands, all in decimals, but when they come now to shilling or to penny, they begin to calculate by what is not at all decimal. At one occasion in Nigeria they imported tenths of penny, ten of which make a penny; and so ten pennies can make a shilling. Nobody loses anything when we say this is a penny and the penny is reckoned as a penny, though ten of it make a shilling. Another have the old penny, twelve of which make a shilling meanwhile. Why are we going to perpetuate twelve pennies make a shilling?

I am telling this House as we are starting afresh to start like other countries that have done away with all these awkward figures, done away with a recurring decimal.

Mr Chairman, I beg to support.

The Minister of Finance: Mr Chairman, I beg to oppose the Amendment. If Members will bear with me I will explain why. Mr

Chairman, Sir, it is not a retrograde step at all. What I want to tell hon. Members who feel strongly about it is that it is not a matter in which we should fight ourselves, this is a very simple matter. When I was moving the Second Reading, I talked about having confidence in our currency. It is easy for old school masters and old Ministers with Oxford degrees to talk about decimalisation and all the rest of it; what about others? If tomorrow you introduce the Nigerian currency and the new Central Bank, you go to the market and somebody gives a shilling and that fellow is given ten pence, what is he going to think? He is going to tell you that 'what sort of business is this, is that the new Central Bank you want to open, to pay one shilling and then give him ten pence?'

Mr Chairman, I think that much as I admire the argument of Chief Onyia and my respected friend Chief Solaru, I think this Motion should be noted and be left with the Governor of the Central Bank; as we issue our new money, if the board of governors admit and say 'not this system, we should cancel it', sufficient propaganda will be made in the country and people will see and then we will introduce it, but in the meantime I think it will not be proper for us to introduce it.

Mr S. J. Una (Uyo): Mr Chairman Sir, When I made a little contribution to the debate this morning I said something about the new coin which this new bank is going to introduce in the country and I did not understand the Minister. Well, if that is a competition, it will rather emphasise to the school boys that Nigeria has grown out of the swaddling clothes of British Colonialism and that we are now on our feet for our own currency.

I can understand Chief Onyia, I know what he was up against for the past thirty years when he was a schoolmaster. I know this decimal business gives us school teachers headache and if we can simplify the matter now, I do not see why the Minister should not come to the rescue of the oncoming generations and accept the Motion as proposed by Chief Solaru and Chief Onyia.

Mr Chairman, I beg to support.

Mr A. Adeyinka: Mr Chairman, Sir, I think the Mover of this Motion will agree with the arguments of the Minister. The Minister did not actually reject the views as put forward by the hon. Member, but the Minister said it

cannot be done just immediately now. You must give the Government chance to study your own claim; after all the Government accepted your views but at the moment they say it is not advisable.

I think it is better for the Mover to withdraw the amendment.

The Minister of Research and Information. (Chief the hon. Kolawole Balogun): The only reason why I want to speak to this Motion really is this. From the speech of the Minister of Finance I think there is one big lesson which I think all hon. Members will learn, and not only for this purpose but for some other purposes whenever we want to introduce reform.

There is no doubt that this new system is attractive, I mean people want to have probably what you call the simplest method of doing things but at the same time old habits die very hard, and the thing is to understand the kind of our people. It is all very well that school-children will begin to learn that ten pence make a shilling and ten shillings make a pound, and all that but how many school children spend money? But people who are actually involved with money are the people in the market, the ordinary illiterate person in the market who goes to sell his yam, or his *fofoo* or his beef, and the rest of it. And when we are legislating here those are the people that we really have to bear in mind. That is why the speech of the Minister of Finance has struck me forcibly as a splendid example of the mentality of our people. (*Cheers.*) Mr Chairman, I beg to oppose.

Mr Jaja Wachuku (Aba): Mr Chairman, Sir, I think the tradition that has been established by the Council of Ministers is that when we feel strongly about a thing, to concede to us that it should be followed. The Minister of Finance knows that the traditional system of calculation in this country is in tenths. There is no question about that.

Now the fact, the evidence he brought forward to that argument is that it will be difficult. I want to cite a number of instances. We had cowries. People are used to using cowries from the day of the Congo Empire, 14th century, 15th century, 16th century right up, and yet when the Government wanted to abolish that, all they did was to give sufficient notice, that that was going to be withdrawn. Recently, Sir, the manilla in the Eastern Provinces, people used manilla, rod and all

that, and when it was withdrawn they informed the people and they knew it was a Government measure. They did not hesitate. Also, Sir, the present currency note, West African Currency Notes, there was an older one which was longer. Was it not this same Government of the Federation that told the people that they were withdrawing the old one and substituting the new one? Only a few years ago, and the whole scheme did not collapse.

What I am saying is this; to say that if you tell them that before the bank is completed or opened, that the new system will be in tenths they will be at home, because that is the traditional way of counting. They know "Anini." If we do not make a provision for this thing now, it will mean after passing this law Government will come back for an amendment. You will summon us here because you want to change it from twelve pennies to ten pennies. Do not waste our time. Why not make that amendment now?

What I am saying is this, that the Minister is stubborn. He does not want to yield to anything, and looks like a heady schoolboy. I think there should have been a penalty for that type of thing. He goes out to make a promise, and then suddenly withdraws his promise. We do not know what to make of the Minister of Finance at all. He knows that the case is strong on this point, and he should have yielded, but he does not yield. Sir, I want to appeal to the Prime Minister to tell the Minister of Finance to yield. Now, we are trying to impress on our people that the time has come for us to take our responsibility, and since this method is not only common in Nigeria but common in other countries, let us use tenths and that will agree with our system. I want the Prime Minister to ask the Minister of Finance to accept the amendment. I notice that he is trying to summon reinforcements. I am sure he will not succeed.

Question, That the word "twenty" be left out. put and negatived.

Chief T. T. Solaru (Ijebu East): Mr Chairman, Sir, I hope that the Minister of Finance is listening. Throughout the debate in this House, especially when we come on this Committee stage, the Minister has been very fond of using an argument, or, rather, a reply to tangible questions, questions well thought out, questions over which some of

us have spent nights working. He always says, "So what." I want to say that this cowboy language should not be used to any Member in this House. If he continues to use it, I say, Mr Chairman, that "So what" is not an answer to an argument.

If you are not prepared to do so now say it is inconvenient, the House is at the end and we would like to go away. But another day we will consider the question, that something that is more comfortable for us than to go away with the Minister saying, "I am not yielding, I oppose." Sir, on this matter I am quite sure that you will come back to this House and you will find that it is in the interests of the country, its commercial life, also it is conducive to progress to come back to the decimal system. It is quite indigenous to our country, and I am asking the Minister, and the Prime Minister, and the Cabinet to kindly give these things a thought to see to it that we do have an amendment brought into this House to enable us to enjoy a really independent currency in this country.

Chief J. I. G. Onyia (Asaba) : Mr Chairman, I would like our Ministers to co-operate with us as we do co-operate with them, and we are quite prepared to continue to co-operate with them. If we go back and rack our brains and make certain reasonable suggestions, we want an encouragement. I agree on the compromise but we would like to suggest that encouragement should be given because we had had a long thought over the issue before bringing such an amendment, and it is a very reasonable amendment, it is an amendment that is bound to come in the future if it does not come to-day.

The Chairman : We have decided about the amendment and it has been rejected. It is now a question of whether the Clause stands part.

The Minister of Finance (Chief the hon. F. S. Okotie Eboh) : I want to reply to hon. Chief Solaru in answer, Sir, to the point which he made that they have thought of their amendment. I am not suggesting, Sir, that the Government comes with a Bill here without giving it serious thought. We also dealt with it. I have personally worked on this Bill, as I said, for a long time, and burnt the midnight candle too. And you do not

expect that your purpose of putting in an amendment is to impose it on the Government and expect us to take it hook, line and sinker.

I am talking about my saying "So what" to the hon. Jaja Wachuku. It is not that I said so when I was making any speech, and when you referred to the cowboy way of doing things, I thought that you looked like an Omolanke boy when you were talking.

Clause agreed to.

Clauses 17 and 18 agreed to.

Clause 19.

Mr J. A. O. Akande (Egba North) : Mr Chairman, Sir, what I would like to do is to ask the Government to take proper care of the arrangement of those who will make our coins, in these days when we have people going about imitating and making currency notes of their own. I hope the Government will be very very careful in the appointment of the people who will take care of this important business. We feel it will be very good, now that we are moving nearer to self-government, not to allow the outside world to say that we are not fit to run a central bank.

Clause agreed to.

Clauses 20 and 21 agreed to.

Clause 22.

Mr B. O. Ikeh (Abakaliki) : Mr Chairman, Sir, I would like to say that it is very important that if we would not like our coinage to be tampered with that coins like penny, shilling and half pennies, threepences and sixpences should be made of durable material and, in no case should we have any good gold content in any of the coins because that will surely lead to melting down of the coins and probably smuggling of the coins out of the country, so it is necessary that coins should be made of durable material, and it should not contain gold substance.

Dr E. O. Awduche (Onitsha) : Mr Chairman, Sir, I am suggesting that the Board should consider the advisability of considering notes of five shillings and 2s-6d denomination. I say that, Sir, because it is much cheaper to produce notes than to mint coins, and in the early stages of the Bank's operation it will help to cut down initial expenditure and also it will render currency much more portable and acceptable. Sir, I hope the Board when it starts will take that into consideration.

Chief T. T. Solaru (Ijebu East): Talking about notes, Sir, it has been suggested that the ten shilling note was unpopular, but I think an additional reason for its unpopularity was because it has always been so shabby, it wears out very quickly. I think the material is not good enough, so if you are thinking of breaking down the thing to five shillings and 2s-6d I think they will all be in rags unless they are made of better material. The £1 note wears better than the ten shilling note.

Clause agreed to.

Clause 23.

Mr B. O. Ikeh (Abakaliki): I would like to know the meaning of mutilated or imperfect notes. Does it mean those notes or coins already in circulation, or those turned out by the Bank after issuing are found in circulation to be mutilated or imperfect coins? I feel that if their imperfection originated from the bank of issue, it will be obligatory on the bank to honour the coins and the notes at any time they are produced.

Clause agreed to.

Clauses 24 to 28 agreed to.

Clause 29 :

Mr D. D. U. Okay (Port Harcourt): Clause 29 (i): It is true that this bank will stimulate economic development. But, Sir, is it wise that a bank should invest as much as one-fifth of its total reserves in a single project no matter how important?

Now, Sir, if five Corporations came up to the Bank with good ideas and the Bank decided to give each one-fifth of its reserve, what would be left? The Central Bank would no longer be *liquid*. It would crash.

I think, Sir, we should limit its lending power to ten per cent of its reserves.

Mr L. J. Dosunmu (Lagos East): Mr Chairman, it is not intended that this bank should compete with the commercial banks, as the Minister rightly said. What is the necessity of saying that it can open accounts for other persons with his prior consent? I don't see the desirability of that at all because it means that this bank can open personal accounts for individuals although they try to fool our Members by saying with the prior approval of the Minister. If a thing is not to be

done it should not be done under any circumstances. The duties of the Bank, or the general powers of the Bank, subsections (a), (b) and, perhaps (c), without the latter part, I think, are sufficient. Under no circumstances should this Central Bank open accounts for private individuals, with or without the approval of the Minister.

Clause agreed to.

Clauses 30 to 32 agreed to.

Clause 33 :

Chief T. T. Solaru (Ijebu East): Clause 33 (a) Sir. The Federal Government may maintain accounts in Nigeria with other banks in such cases and on such conditions as may be agreed between the Minister and the Bank. Now this here is a matter that concerns other banks in their relation to the Central Bank and that matter shall be decided between the Minister and the Bank.

Now, of course, we are exhorting our banks to keep away from politics, especially in their dealings with other banks, and here we have the Minister and the banks to decide which bank they shall use. I don't quite know. That leaves room for discrimination, Sir. I know you will say no.

Clause agreed to.

Clauses 34-39 agreed to.

Clause 40 :

Chief T. T. Solaru (Ijebu East): I merely wish to ask the Minister of Finance whether there is such a law in England as that under Clause 40? I desire an answer, Sir. I cannot go on getting up in this House and the Minister just sits down and does not say anything. (*Hear, hear*). I want an answer from the Minister... the sulking Minister.

Clause agreed to.

Clauses 41-44 agreed to.

Clause 45 :

Dr E. O. Awduche (Onitsha): I hope that these annual accounts and the annual reports which are intended to be laid on the Table of the House shall always be brought in on time. They should not be brought in two, three, four years after they have been overdue. So that this House can always keep an eye on the workings of the accounts of the Bank.

Clause agreed to.

House of Representatives Debates

1743

[Central Bank of
Nigeria Bill : Committee

17 MARCH 1958

Banking Bill :
Committee]

1744

Cluses 46-50 agreed to.

Clause 51 :

Dr Awduche : Mr Speaker, I see that there are certain words which are forbidden to be used as the names of banks in the future; the words Central, Federal, Federation, National, Nigeria, Nigerian Reserve or State. Well, I hope it is noted that there are already banks in this country that use these words and that the Minister will ensure that those names are not changed, because the names of these banks have been, or these words have been so associated with those names for so long, that it will affect the goodwill of the bank if they have to change their names. If they change their names it will appear as if they were altogether new banks and if there is any loss of goodwill, Government should be prepared to pay compensation to any of these banks if any change is necessary.

Mr B. O. Ikeh (Abakaliki) : It is laid down in the Constitution that the Law of the Federal Legislature should supersede any other Law. I feel that any name which is going to abuse or is found to contradict this, should be nullified outright.

Mr D. D. U. Okay (Port Harcourt) : Mr Chairman, Sir, this Clause is designed to restrict other banks from choosing the name that they want. Why? Does it mean that the name "National Bank of Nigeria" will have to drop the word "National"? I do not see the reason for this sort of restriction except that the Government does not want names which may give others the impression that other banks are Federal Government Banks. This fear would be resolved if we had chosen a proper name say—Bank of Nigeria. It would become a trade mark, a name of national pride, respected and revered.

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Hon. K. O. Mbadiwe) : The hon. Members if they read the Clause properly, Clause 51 "hereafter," the operative word is "hereafter."

Clause 51 and 52 agreed to.

Bill, as amended to be reported.

(Mr Speaker resumed the Chair).

Bill reported with amendments, read the third time and passed.

Sitting suspended : 4.55 p.m.

Sitting resumed : 5.07 p.m.

BANKING BILL—CONSIDERED IN COMMITTEE

(In the Committee.)

Cluses 1 and 2 agreed to.

Clause 3.

Chief T. T. Solaru (Ijebu West) : Clause 3, Sir. I beg leave to move that the words "in such manner" in Clause 3, page 4, line 33, be left out. It is only in order to save any interpretation that might be put on that phrase "in such manner" that I bring this up. The sentence itself reads : "The Minister may call for such information from the company in such manner as he may think fit." Although quite apparently, Mr Chairman, it would be "in such a manner," but there is no need to put "in such a manner" as he may think fit, since it covers it pretty well.

Question proposed, That the words proposed to be left out, be left out.

The Minister of Finance : Mr Chairman, Sir, I beg to oppose the amendment. I oppose it for this reason, that unless "in such manner" be left in the clause, the Minister will not be in a position to ask for the statement to be tabulated in such form and it is necessary that these figures should be made clear. That is the reason why these words are there.

Chief Solaru : Mr Chairman, Sir. If that is the interpretation that will always be put upon that clause, then I withdraw.

Amendment by leave withdrawn.

Chief Solaru : Mr Chairman, Sir, I beg leave to leave out the words from "licence" to end of line 37. It seems that the Minister need not give any reason for so refusing. Sir, that seems to me to be very high handed. I do not say that the Minister is bound to give every reason, but here it is put down in the law that when he wants to, he need not give any reasons at all. It seems to me that it is a bit hard on the people who are refused, not even to have the consolation of at least the Minister saying : "We are sorry we cannot do it; there are many reasons why, and one of them is so and so." It seems to me the only consolation one can get is the word from the Minister on that point.

Question proposed, That the words proposed to be left out be left out.

The Minister of Finance : My hon. Friend perhaps did not take into consideration that the Minister is not refraining absolutely from giving reasons. He need not, but he can. The thing is that a servant of the Government need not give reasons for every action of the Government. But sometimes the explanation given may cause more harm than not. I hope he will agree that it is good for the Minister to give reasons where it is necessary to do so, and for the Minister not to give reasons if any security or other business makes it necessary not to do so. I ask that the hon. Member will accept my explanation.

Chief Solaru : Mr Chairman, Sir, I think the effective word is whether any security measures may be involved, for example, like the granting of passports when the Prime Minister was not disposed to disclose his reasons for not giving a passport. If that is the interpretation on this clause, then Sir, I withdraw.

Amendment by leave withdrawn.

Clause agreed to.

Clauses 4, to 6 agreed to.

Clause 7.

Mr F. U. Mbakogu (Awka) : Mr Chairman, Sir, I beg leave to move Clause 7, page 5, line 21, leave out from "person" to "Provided" in line 25 and insert—"unless such advance or credit facility or financial guarantee or other liability is adequately secured."

Mr Chairman, I do feel that the provisos contained concerning commercial banks appear to offer a direct invitation in that private banks or commercial banks are liable to operate... (*Interruption*) are liable to operate to a disadvantage. I know for a certainty that the banks which would be hit by this provision are the indigenous banks, and I am appealing to the Minister to remove that proviso and allow them to give more grants of credit, etc., provided that these grants and facilities are adequately secured.

Question propose, That the words proposed to be left out, be left out.

The Minister of Finance : Mr Chairman, Sir, I rise to oppose the amendment. The amendment clearly—for the information of hon. Members—the amendment clearly is to move the prohibition of a bank advancing more than 25 per cent of its paid up and published reserves, and I think that Members

will agree that the purpose of having a bank is not to benefit one individual. If you set up a bank and out of your reserves you advance more than 25 per cent to one single person, it will dig deep into the capital that is left, and what is to stop any person opening a bank and calling it this or that Bank and just benefiting himself, not by personal business or otherwise, but by the back door. The bank need only have one director, and he is advanced more than 25 per cent of the capital of the bank. I hope that hon. Member will see the danger of exposing the Banks to such a privilege.

Mr L. C. Daldry (Special Member) : Mr Chairman, Sir, I rise to oppose this amendment for quite another reason. The Minister will, I am sure, correct me if I am wrong but it seems to me that if this amendment were to go through as stated here, the fact would be that a licensed bank would not be able to give any overdraft to anybody, which was not adequately secured. Well, Sir, cautious as we are, I do not believe we should go as far as that, therefore, I oppose the amendment.

Question put and negatived.

Mr F. U. Mbakogu (Awka) : Mr Chairman, Sir, I beg leave to make amendment, Clause 7, page 6, line 47, leave out "one year" and insert "five years". Mr Chairman, Sir, I feel that one year is too small for banks to liquidate their transactions, transactions which have been previously arranged before the commencement of this Ordinance, and I am appealing to the Minister to raise that from one to five years, so that they may have enough opportunity to clear their transactions and arrangements.

Question proposed, That the words proposed to be left out be left out.

Chief T. T. Solaru (Ijebu East) : Mr Chairman, Sir, I would have liked to support this amendment, but he said five years. I think it is too long. I would have liked to amend this to two years, that seems to be a reasonable time. I think one year is too short.

Mr Adeyinka (Ibadan Central) : Mr Chairman, Sir, I rise to support that five years is too long.

The Chairman : The Committee, I think, should hear from the Minister whether he contemplates any possible change or not. We shall learn then if he opposes or accedes to

leaving out one year, and if those words are left out, it is left to other hon. Members to suggest a period shorter than five years.

The Minister of Finance : Mr Chairman, Sir, it is suggested by the hon. Member, and I am sure it will not be welcomed by every banking firm, it is a suggestion that there is something wrong with such a bank that cannot put its affairs in order within a period of one year. Therefore you want to extend the time limit for that Bank to set its home in order. I said that I have the greatest confidence in all the Banks in this country. I am not suggesting that these Banks are not run on a proper basis. I would not support any Bank that supported this Amendment. I would like to say that our Banks are doing their work well, otherwise they would not be licensed.

I therefore say, Sir, that to extend the time beyond one year would be dangerous and would only give room for any person who wants to be dishonest, to be so. I am happy to say, Sir, that I do not know of any bank in this category however. I think therefore that one year is quite appropriate, and I beg to oppose the Amendment.

Mr L. J. Dosunmu (Lagos East) : Mr Chairman, it is not said that there is anything wrong with the Bank. After all, you yourself listed all these prohibitions from (a)—(f) and before the coming into operation of this Ordinance they were lawfully engaged in this business.

Some of them have invested in other businesses, but you say you do not want them to have any interest again. That is all. Some of them have invested their money into royalties. You want them to dispose of these royalties. Some of them have entered into partnerships in industrial activities, but you want them to confine themselves strictly to banking business. Surely if they are going to do that, realise all their assets, it is only right to give them time. It is not as if they are engaged in unlawful activities—after all, even if they become unlawful now, they only become unlawful from the date on which this law is passed.

Question put and negatived.

Clause agreed to.

Clauses 8-12 agreed to.

Clause 13.

Chief T. T. Solaru (Ijebu East) : I beg to move that in Clause 13, page 9, line 34, after the word "such" the word "reasonable" should be there inserted. That would make this clause read: "Every licensed bank of which an examination has been ordered under section 11 or 12 shall produce to the appointed examiner at such reasonable times as the examiner may specify. . . ."

Sir, the aim of the Amendment is to introduce between the words "such" and "times" the word "reasonable." The basis for this is the fact that in a previous clause it says that these examinations shall not unreasonably hinder the business of the Bank, so that it follows that any examiner, whatever he wants to do, shall do it at such reasonable times as the Governor may specify and not at such times that may be difficult for the Bank to comply with. For instance he may want to carry out these examinations at a certain hour which to the Bank would be impossible, but the examiner may be held up by the bare letter of the law.

If this word "reasonable" is put in, if anybody is brought before a Magistrate or the Minister it would be for them to decide when is a reasonable time.

Amendment proposed in page 9, line 34, after the word "such" to insert the word "reasonable".

Mr L. J. Dosunmu (Lagos East) : Sir, I think that even the report of Mr Loynes reinforces the argument of Chief Solaru. Mr Loynes even went to the extent of suggesting that these examinations should be carried out after office hours. But if you leave it like this the examiner might call for the Bank's books when all the clerks are busy using the ledgers, and if the Bank refuses to supply these books, it might be considered as an offence. But if the word *reasonable* is inserted, it would bring it to the notice of everybody, the Bank and the examiner, that the books should be demanded only at a reasonable time.

The Minister of Finance (Chief the hon. F. S. Okotie-Eboh) : Mr Chairman, Sir, the argument of my hon. Friend, Chief Solaru, is solely made from one point of view. I expect he got me right when he said that the examiner to be appointed is not going to act

as a policeman and whether you put the word "reasonable" in there or not, you must give credit to the Minister to appoint a reasonable man, and you must also give credit to the man that he is going to be reasonable.

If we accept his Amendment, with respect, I want to say that it will only give time to the Manager of the Bank to interpret the word reasonable to suit his purpose. If the examiner wants to ask for the books he might say: "Look, this is an unreasonable time. It is my tea-time and I am not prepared to give them now. Fancy you coming at my tea time." It may be that he is talking to the hon. Mr Dosunmu, or to some of his customers and says "Look, why do you enter my office at such an unreasonable time; I am not prepared to yield ground," and so on.

I think, Sir, that all sorts of interpretations can be put on it. After all, I say that if a Minister appoints an unreasonable man to come and pounce on the time of the Bank, then the Bank can report it to the Minister. Anyway, Sir, I think that would be far-fetched and I appeal to you that we should do better if we left it as such, and leave the reasonableness to the sense of judgment of the examiner. After all, Chief Solaru does not expect us to appoint an unreasonable creature to go into a respectable Bank and check their accounts there. I think the provisions there are good enough and the safeguards are reasonable.

Chief T. T. Solaru (Ijebu East): Mr Chairman, Sir, before the Minister of Finance has a chance to reject or accept this, I would like to remind him that I borrowed the word "reasonable" from the word "unreasonable" that was written into clause 11, subsection (2), where it says "it shall be the duty of the examiner at all times to avoid unreasonable hindrance." You took care to put that word "unreasonable" in there.

The Minister of Finance: The arguments of Chief Solaru only reinforce my argument.

Mr F. U. Mbakogu (Awka): Sir, I support the Amendment. I do not see anything wrong in that. The Minister has admitted that it does not make much difference. I feel that if we insert this word "reasonable" it does not detract the spirit of the Bill. As it stands now, he is leaving it to the whims and caprices of the examiner who can interpret it as he likes.

This reminds me, Sir, of my old school days when an Education Officer stopped his car one mile away and then trekked to the School in order to take the teachers there by surprise doing their work.

Mr D. N. Abii (Owerri): The last speaker has emphasised the need of not putting in this word "reasonable." If there is an examiner he has some purpose, and he has only to call upon the man to prepare books, and he will come and examine and find out what it was. There is no necessity to put in "reasonable or unreasonable" there, giving the man chance to give excuses. I think what the Minister has put down here should stand.

Question, That the word "reasonable" be there inserted put and negatived.

Clause agreed to.

Clauses 14 to 23 agreed to.

Schedules 1 and 2 agreed to.

Bill to be reported.

Mr Speaker resumed the Chair.

Bill reported without amendment, read the third time and passed.

GERMAN ENEMY PROPERTY

The Minister of Finance (Chief the hon. F. S. Okotie-Eboh): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to move the Motion standing in my name on the Order Paper, providing for the distribution among the Government of the Federation, of the proceeds of German enemy property amounting to £1.6 million.

Members will recall that during the last meeting of the House an Ordinance to provide for the collection and realisation of German enemy property and for the distribution of the proceeds thereof was enacted. The Prime Minister stated during the second reading of the Bill, that it was the Government's intention to table a resolution seeking the approval of the House for the distribution of these proceeds in accordance with Clause 7 of the Bill as soon as it became law. But Clause 7 of the Ordinance provided that the proceeds of German enemy property which are not or will not be required for payment to persons who have established claims under the Ordinance shall be disposed of in such a manner as this House may by resolution decide for the benefit of the people

of the Federation. This resolution accordingly seeks the approval of the House for the distribution of £1.6 million as follows:—

The Federation—£835,000.

Northern Region—£231,000 of which amount £53,000 shall be for applications separately to the benefit of the people of the Northern Cameroons.

Eastern Region—£178,000.

Western Region—£178,000.

Southern Cameroons—£178,000.

Members will recall that although a sum of £1,800,000 is expected eventually to be available for distribution among the Governments in the same proportion as in the case of £1.6 million covered by this resolution, it was found advisable to retain the balance in excess of £1.6 million for the time being because of possible claims from the Custodian of German enemy property by persons who were owed money by German enemy nationals. This resolution gives effect to a decision already taken by this House in September last, to make a distribution of the proceeds of German enemy property in accordance with the figures mentioned above. This resolution is non-contentious and will I trust commend itself to the House.

Sir, I beg to move.

The Minister of Works and Surveys
(Alhaji the hon. Muhammadu Inuwa Wada):
I beg to second.

Question proposed.

Mr J. Mboyam (Nkambe): Mr Speaker, Sir, before I make my remarks on this Resolution, I beg your permission to read the relevant paragraph from the International Bank Mission Report, page 71, paragraph 2: "The mission has not taken into consideration funds of the Custodian of Enemy Property totalling £1.6 million, derived from the disposal of enemy assets in Nigeria and the Cameroons. At the time of the Mission's visit, no decision had been taken regarding the disposition of the balance of these funds remaining after the payment of claims. It is to be assumed, however, that this balance will be made available to Nigeria and the Southern Cameroons. As more than half of the Custodian's holdings was derived from the sale of enemy assets in the Cameroons a substantial sum would thus become available for the Southern Cameroons."

I will repeat this last part of the sentence: "A substantial sum would thus become available for the Southern Cameroons." Sir, the answer to my Question No. 79 on the 30th of August, 1955 revealed the sum of £1,104,000 accruing from the realisation of enemy property in the Southern Cameroons. That is why I am pointing this out. My remark during the debate on the Appropriation Bill is that the Southern Cameroons should not be deprived of getting its lion's share.

Mr Speaker, Sir, there is no doubt that the two great World Wars left a deep economic wound in the development of the Southern Cameroons. It is this wound that we have been suffering from and which I am asking the Federal Government to cure. The Southern Cameroons Government is in need of money and here is a unique opportunity for the Federal Government to be most generous to the Southern Cameroons in order, Sir, that the territory should be able to foster its progress in all aspects of life.

Sir, £178,000 as the share of the Southern Cameroons is too small. I am appealing to the Prime Minister and the Council of Ministers to review this distribution of the money and to add more to the share of the Southern Cameroons from the £835,000. The sum of £53,000 allotted for the Northern Cameroons should be increased from the sum reserved and I would advise that the money to be used to develop the remotest parts of the Northern Cameroons.

Finally, Sir, I have to appeal again for the review of the distribution of this money.

Mr A. Adeyinka (Ibadan Central): Mr Speaker, Sir, in rising to support this Motion, I only want to congratulate the Federal Government for giving to the Ex-Servicemen's Organisation in Lagos a part of this money. Now that the sum is being shared among the Regions, I want the Regional Governments to emulate the Federal Government in giving a token sum of the money to the disabled ex-servicemen who laid their lives for the realisation of this money that is being distributed to Regional Governments. They should give part of this money in helping to re-settle those disabled ex-servicemen who, because of the 1914-18 war, are still unemployed up till now, and some of them died as a result of frustration,

Finally, the last amendment under part 3 of the Tariff is designed to clarify the position regarding the duty on possible alcohol which might otherwise be exempted if it could be clear that it was medicinal preparation. Hitherto, there has been some doubt on this point, but we have decided largely to avoid a possible widespread abuse of a concession that potable alcohol should not be exempted from duty even if it is allegedly imported for medicinal purposes.

Sir, I beg to move. (*Applause.*)

The Minister of Research and Information (Chief Kolawole Balogun): Mr Speaker, Sir, in seconding this Motion, I only wish to say that if Members would not speak for long, we might not have to come back at 9 o'clock again.

I beg to second.

Question proposed.

Mr B. O. Ikeh (Abakaliki): Mr Speaker, Sir, I want to get some information. The lowering of duty on the clinker for the manufacture of cement arises from the fact that we cannot manufacture clinker in Nigeria. Does it mean that the material for making clinker for manufacture of cement is not available in Nigeria? If it is available, why import from outside? If we can manufacture clinker in Nigeria, why should the duty be lowered?

The Minister of Trade and Industry: It is an industrial problem and there is no company that is manufacturing clinker in commercial quantity in Nigeria. Nkalagu is consuming all that is manufactured.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved, That in accordance with section 11 of the Customs Ordinance, the Customs (Duties and Exemptions) (Amendment) Order, 1958, be confirmed.

DOCKS (SAFETY OF LABOUR)

The Minister of Labour and Welfare: Mr Speaker Sir, I beg to move the Motion standing in my name as No. 8 on the Order Paper, namely That the Docks (Safety of Labour) Regulations, 1958 (Legal Notice No. 42 of 1958), a copy of which was laid before this House on 12th March, be approved. These regulations which have been made in relation to the powers conferred upon me by sections 54 and 60 of the Factories Ordinance 1955 are being laid before the House in compliance with the requirements of section 72 of that Ordinance.

Sir, I beg to move.

Question proposed.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved: That the Docks (Safety of Labour) Regulations, 1958 (Legal Notice No. 42 of 1958), a copy of which was laid before this House on 12th March, be confirmed.

RAILWAY LOAN (INTERNATIONAL BANK) BILL

Order for Second Reading read.

The Minister of Finance: Mr Speaker Sir, I beg to move the Bill for an Ordinance to provide for the raising of a loan from the International Bank for the reconstruction and development by the Government of the Federation for the benefit of the Nigerian Railway Corporation.

Sir, I beg to move.

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.

(House in Committee)

Clause 1 agreed to.

Clause 2.

The Minister of Finance: Mr Chairman, Sir, I beg to move that in Clause 2, page 2, line 3, at the end to add, "Nigerian Corporation means a body incorporated by an Ordinance enacted or deemed to have been enacted by the Federal legislature," in lieu of what is down on the Order Paper. Sir, I beg to move.

Amendment proposed.

Amendment put and agreed to.

Clause, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 3.

The Minister of Finance: Mr Chairman, Sir, I beg to move in Clause 3, page 2, line 8 to insert at the end the words:

"(2) For the purpose of subsection (1) a loan which is authorised by and made in pursuance thereof—

(a) shall be deemed to be made on the date that any agreement providing therefor is signed, notwithstanding any other date on which the loan or any part thereof may be made available or may be drawn, and

(b) shall be deemed to be in such amount of pounds sterling as is the equivalent, at the rate of exchange in force at the date of such signature, to the amount of the loan as expressed in the currency in which the loan is denominated in or for the purpose of such agreement."

Amendment proposed.

Question, That those words be there inserted, put and agreed to.

Mr Jaja Wachuku (Aba): Mr Chairman, Sir, in Clause 3 we find, clause 3 section 1, "Subject to the provisions of this Ordinance the Governor-General may in such manner and on such terms and subject to such conditions as he thinks fit, and in the name of the Government of the Federation, borrow from the International Bank a sum not exceeding £15 million sterling or its equivalent in other currency."

Sir, did we not understand that the Government was going to borrow £10 million? When did the Minister decide to borrow £15 million? We would like to have an explanation about this particular subject, because the consideration was that the Minister was going to borrow £10 million. When did they decide to commit ourselves to the extent of £15 million?

Clause, as amended, agreed to.

Clauses 4 to 7 agreed to.

Clause 8.

The Minister of Finance: Mr Chairman, Sir, in Clause 8, page 3, line 16, at the end to

add "(2) A Nigerian Corporation shall not, without the consent of the Governor-General, create any lien on any of its assets as security for any loan raised by it outside the Federation unless it is expressly provided that the lien will *ipso facto* equally and rateably secure the payment of the principal of and interest and other charges on any loan made by the International Bank and raised under the authority of this Ordinance.

"(3) In this section—

"lien" includes mortgages, pledges, charges, privileges and priorities of any kind."

Sir, I beg to move.

Question, That those words be there added, put and agreed to.

Clause, as amended, agreed to.

Schedule.

The Minister of Finance: Mr Chairman, Sir, I move that in the Schedule, on page 3, line 20, to leave out from "Corporation," to end of line 22. Sir, I beg to move.

Question, That the words proposed to be left out be left out, put and agreed to.

Schedule, as amended, agreed to.

Bill, as amended, to be reported.

(Mr Speaker resumed the Chair).

Bill reported with amendments, read the third time and passed.

Mr Speaker: We have concluded Government Business and under Standing Orders as amended to-day the House now stands adjourned *sine die*.

Adjourned accordingly at 6.00 p.m., sine die, pursuant to the Resolution of the House this day.

The Minister of Commerce and Industry : Ten firms have approached my Ministry in the last two years about commercial possibilities in the Southern Cameroons ; most of the enquiries have been tentative. One firm propose to erect a chip-board factory. Other projects discussed have been the operation of timber concessions, tea plantations and transport services, the purchase and export of scrap metal and the introduction of a plantation spraying (pest destruction) service. I do not think it would be wise to publish the names of those who have made enquiries but I should be pleased to pass on to the hon. Member for his confidential information any further information he may require.

W.222. Mr L. S. Fonka asked the Minister of Communications and Aviation whether he is aware that the quarters of the Posts and Telegraphs staff in Kumba are deplorable and whether he is also aware that when the new Post Office in Kumba—which is two miles from the former one—is opened there will be quarters on the site for only the Postmaster, while the rest of the staff (at least seven in number) will continue to occupy the present highly unhealthy quarters ; and whether he will consequently take steps to see that adequate and satisfactory quarters are provided without delay at the new Post Office site or near it.

The Minister of Communications and Aviation : No, Sir, but I am aware that when the new Post Office is opened at Kumba there will be accommodation provided for the Postmaster only. This decision is in consonance with Government's policy regarding the housing of all members of the Federal Public Service whereby it has been decided that official quarters are only provided in certain cases, *e.g.*, where it is necessary for an officer to live near to his work.

W.227. Mr J. U. Udom asked the Prime Minister what has caused the delay in building the permanent police quarters for Abak, which are provided for in the Police Building Programme.

The Prime Minister : The building of police quarters at Abak has had to give precedence to other projects of higher priority and importance. Provision of funds for the quarters has however been made in the Supplementary Estimates and it is hoped to start work on them this financial year.

W.229. Mr J. A. G. Ohiani asked the Minister of Communications and Aviation when the V.H.F. equipment at Okene will be put into operation, in view of the fact that the installation is now completed.

The Minister of Communications and Aviation : During the Budget Meeting of the House of Representatives in March 1957, a promise was made to the hon. Member that telephone services from a call office at Okene would be available by the end of July 1957.

I very much regret that for the following reasons the Department of Posts and Telegraphs has not been able to fulfil this promise. There has been delay in the receipt of poles from the United Kingdom and the recent exceptionally heavy rains have caused technical staff to be diverted to carry out urgent maintenance work.

Poles are, however, now available to build the line route from the Post Office to the V.H.F. at Okene and this work will proceed as quickly as possible. The installation of the radio equipment has been completed and service will be available by the end of November 1957.

W.230. Mr N. N. Onugu asked the Minister of Communications and Aviation whether he will consider providing telephone services at the Nsukka Post Office without further delay, in view of the fact that the necessary equipment was installed at the Post Office three years ago.

The Minister of Communications and Aviation : No, Sir. I would like to point out, however, that the hon. Member is not correct in stating that the necessary equipment was installed three years ago. Planning has been completed, equipment is available and installation work is about to commence. Thereafter a full telephone service at Nsukka will be provided as soon as possible.

I would like to add that no equipment other than the tower at the V.H.F. station has yet been installed at Nsukka.

W.231. Mr N. N. Onugu asked the Minister of Communications and Aviation if he will consider restoring the daily mail service to Nsukka Post Office, in view of the volume of business done there.

The Minister of Communications and Aviation : No, Sir. The volume of postal traffic does not justify increasing the frequency to a daily service.

At present the Mail Contract service between Enugu and Nsukka, which was instituted on the 1st of November, 1957, is three times weekly, on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, and from statistics available to me I consider this service to be adequate at the moment.

W.232. Mr F. D. Kpumm asked the Minister of Communications and Aviation when an adequate number of postmen will be employed at the Post Office at Gboko, Wukari and Ibi.

The Minister of Communications and Aviation : The volume of postal traffic received for delivery at Gboko, Wukari and Ibi is extremely light and I do not consider that the introduction of postmen delivery services is yet justified.

Private Box delivery services are available at each of the three offices named.

W.233. Mr J. Mpi asked the Minister of Commerce and Industry what is the total amount of loans made up to date by the Industrial Loans Board.

The Minister of Commerce and Industry : The total amount of loans made up to date by the Federal Loans Board is £28,500.

W.234. Mr P. D. Kpumm asked the Minister of Health if he will state how many temporary Medical Officers have been appointed by the Federal Government during the period 1950-1957, indicating how many of them have been absorbed into the permanent establishment and why the rest have not been absorbed.

The Minister of Health : 27 temporary Medical Officers have been appointed in the Medical Department during the period 1950-57. 18 of these have subsequently been appointed to the permanent establishment.

Of the remaining nine temporary Medical Officers :

(i) One is under consideration for appointment to the permanent establishment.

(ii) One has been absorbed by the Public Service of the Eastern Region.

(iii) Three who are married women are employed on monthly rated terms and are not eligible for appointment to the permanent establishment.

(iv) Four temporary Lady Medical Officers have resigned their appointments and have not sought re-engagement.

W.235. Mr P. D. Kpumm asked the Minister of Health if he will state how many applications from private medical practitioners for appointment to Government service have been rejected during the period 1950-1957; and why the applicants have been refused appointment in spite of the present shortage of medical officers in the Federal Public Service.

The Minister of Health : As the hon. Member is aware, on the 1st of October, 1954 the Nigeria Medical Service became regionalised. During the period 1950-54 only one application from a private medical practitioner for appointment to Government Service was rejected. The application in question was made in 1951 by a medical practitioner in the Eastern Region (who had resigned from the service some time before) and it was rejected because it was considered that re-employment of the person concerned would not be in the interests of Government.

2. During the period 1st October, 1954 until the present time there have been no applications refused from private medical practitioners for appointment to the Federal Government Service.

W.236. Mr P. M. Dokotri asked the Minister of Lagos Affairs, Mines and Power when compensation will be paid to farmers in Vom for land acquired by the Federal Government for the building of the Veterinary Research Institute.

The Minister of Lagos Affairs, Mines and Power : Council has recently agreed that the sum of £34,080-12s-9d, plus the cost of removing the market stores of the Native Authority Market into the area of Kaduna Vom Native Town, should be paid as compensation to the farmers in Vom by means of a Special Warrant.

W.237. Mr N. N. Onugu asked the Minister of Works and Surveys what has caused the delay in tarring that section of Trunk Road A 3 lying between Enugu and the town of Kari in the Northern Region.

Governments for details of extensions to the railway system which might be economically feasible: if in response to this request the Northern Regional Government proposed an extension through Daura to French territory, and if it appeared likely that such an extension would be profitable, I should be prepared to take up with the Corporation the question of embarking on it.

W.249. Chief J. S. Olayeye asked the Minister of Communications and Aviation what has caused the delay in building the proposed Okitipupa type "C" Post Office, for which the necessary survey and plan have been completed.

The Minister of Communications and Aviation: Delay in commencing Okitipupa Post Office project has been caused by site acquisition difficulty.

A site (which is privately owned) has been selected and surveyed, but has not as yet been formally transferred for Federal Government use.

In the meantime, preliminary architectural planning by the Federal Public Works Department is going ahead on the assumption that the selected site will in fact become available.

W.250. Chief J. S. Olayeye asked the Minister of Communications and Aviation when work will commence on the installations of the proposed telephone lines between Idanre and Okitipupa.

The Minister of Communications and Aviation: The trunk telephone service to Idanre and Okitipupa will be provided by means of multichannel V.H.F. radio systems. The equipment is now available for these systems but the Posts and Telegraphs Department has a shortage of the skilled technical staff to supervise its installation and testing. As soon as staff are available the equipment will be installed.

W.251. Mr O. Agwuna asked the Minister of Communications and Aviation when compensation will be paid to the owners of the economic trees cut down by the Posts and Telegraphs Department while installing the telegraph lines between Awka and Nimo.

The Minister of Communications and Aviation: With the exception of only three-quarters of a mile of new pole route this trunk was erected on a pole route which has been on

its present site for some 30 years. Compensation for economic trees destroyed will be paid provided that they are not excluded by the provision of the Building Line Regulation Ordinance, Cap. 24, section 5, and subsidiary legislation. This specifies the distance from the road-centre within which no obstruction must be created.

W.252. Mr O. Agwuna asked the Minister of Lagos Affairs, Mines and Power if he will state what towns in Awka Division it is proposed to provide with electricity between now and 1960.

The Minister of Lagos Affairs, Mines and Power: The Electricity Corporation of Nigeria has no plans at present to extend its electricity supplies in Awka Division.

Written Answer to Oral Question O.300

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 detachment 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: I am advised that the information sought by the hon. Member is as follows:—

		BRASS	
<i>Establishment</i>		<i>Strength</i>	
Sergeant..	.. 1	Sergeant	.. 1
Corporal	.. 1	Corporal	.. —
Lance Corporal..	1	Lance Corporal	1
Constables	.. 12	Constables	.. 12
	—		—
Total	.. 15	Total	.. 14
	—		—

		AHOADA	
<i>Establishment</i>		<i>Strength</i>	
Sub-Inspector ..	1	Sub-Inspector ..	1
Sergeants ..	2	Sergeant ..	1
Corporals ..	2	Corporals ..	2
Lance Corporals	2	Lance Corporal	1
Constables ..	33	Constables ..	32
	—		—
Total	.. 40	Total	.. 37
	—		—

House of Representatives Debates

15

[Written Answers]

18 FEBRUARY 1958

[Written Answers]

16

OGONI			DEGEMA				
<i>Establishment</i>		<i>Strength</i>	<i>Establishment</i>		<i>Strength</i>		
Sub-Inspector ..	1	Sub-Inspector ..	—	Assistant Superintendent of Police	1	Assistant Superintendent of Police	1
Sergeant ..	1	Sergeant ..	1	Sub-Inspector ..	1	Sub-Inspector ..	—
Corporal ..	1	Corporal ..	1	Sergeant ..	1	Sergeant ..	1
Lance Corporal ..	1	Lance Corporal ..	—	Corporal ..	1	Corporal ..	1
Constables ..	9	Constables ..	11	Lance Corporals	2	Lance Corporals	3
	—		—	Constables ..	34	Constables ..	34
	—		—		—		—
Total ..	13	Total ..	13	Total ..	40*	Total ..	40*
	—		—		—		—

*Includes one constable of clerical duty branch.

19th February, 1958

W.12. Mr B. O. Ikeh asked the Minister of Internal Affairs, what proposals he has for building a wall round the Convict Prisons at Abakaliki in order to ensure more effective security.

The Minister of Internal Affairs : It is not proposed to build a wall round Abakaliki Prison at present as the funds provided under the current Economic Programme are already fully committed. The existing barbed wire security fence is considered to be satisfactory for present requirements.

W.14. Mr R. T. Alege asked the Minister of Labour and Welfare what plans he has for establishing an orphanage and training children's nurses.

The Minister of Labour and Welfare : No plans have been formulated for the establishment of an orphanage. The experience of Social Welfare Officers has shown that in the great majority of cases relatives of orphans readily undertake the obligation of their upbringing. In those cases where no relatives exist it has been shown that orphans are best brought up in foster homes. Foster parents are carefully selected by the Social Welfare Officers and the orphans committed to their care are regularly visited. In these homes orphan children are given the opportunity of a normal family upbringing and receive that personal affection and attention which it is not possible to provide in an institution.

I assume from its context that the second part of the question refers to the training of children's nurses to serve in orphanages. It follows from what I have said about the

establishment of orphanages, that there are no plans for the training of staff to serve in them.

W.16. Mr B. O. Ikeh asked the Minister of Works and Surveys why there is delay in tarring the section of Trunk Road A.11 between Abakaliki and Yahe, and when is it proposed for work to start.

The Minister of Works and Surveys : Consulting Engineers have carried out a survey of the Abakaliki-Yahe section of Trunk Road A.11 in order to prepare the contract documents for the necessary reconstruction and tarring. Their initial report has been received and is being studied. It is expected that the contract documents will be ready next October so that work on the project may start next dry season.

W.17. Mr B. O. Ikeh asked the Minister of Works and Surveys whether he will consider converting Trunk Road B from Yahe-Ogoja-Obudu-Gboko to a Trunk Road A in view of the fact that the road is the link between the north-eastern end of Eastern Nigeria and the Northern Region.

The Minister of Works and Surveys : No, Sir. Trunk A.3 already services this purpose. Our resources are already stretched to the limit. Until we have put the roads we are at present responsible for into good order, I cannot consider taking on any additional commitment.

W.19. Mr R. T. Alege asked the Minister of Works and Surveys how much has been spent in building the bridge at Effo and when work will commence on the construction of Owo bridge on Trunk Road A.13 between Isanlu and Kabba.

delayed for several days as a result of the inadequacy of the pontoon services provided for ferrying motor vehicles across the river; and what steps he is taking to improve the situation.

The Minister of Transport : The Inland Waterways Department has at present two ferries at the crossing between Asaba and Onitsha. Recently "Sapo", the larger and faster of them, had to undergo an overhaul, and "Saloma", which remained, is neither large nor powerful enough to cater for the traffic by herself; I am aware that the travelling public was inconvenienced thereby, and regret it. Shortly before "Sapo" became available again, "Saloma" was holed in an accident, and on "Sapo's" return she had to be repaired, but both craft are now operating once more.

"Saloma's" engine is worn out, and a new one should arrive for her from the United Kingdom shortly. Under head 605, sub-head 16 (5) of the draft capital estimates there is provision to buy two ferries larger and more powerful than either "Saloma" or "Sapo", one to reinforce the latter two at the crossing between Onitsha and Asaba, and one for the Sapele crossing.

O.14. Mr J. Mpi asked the Minister of Works and Surveys whether he is aware of the poor condition of the section of Trunk Road 'A' from Benin to Owo, and whether steps will be taken to improve that section of the road.

The Minister of Works and Surveys : The answer is yes to both parts of the hon. Member's question.

O.32. Mr M. A. O. Olarewaju asked the Minister of Works and Surveys when work will start on the construction of the proposed second bridge to link Lagos Island with the Mainland; and what is the estimated cost of the bridge.

The Minister of Works and Surveys : I am not yet in a position to say when the construction of the second bridge to link Lagos Island with the Mainland will be started. The hon. Member will appreciate that this bridge will have an important part to play in the solution of the Lagos traffic problem. It is therefore of great importance to ensure that it is correctly sited. Some preliminary investigatory work has been carried out by a firm of Consulting Engineers who have reported that from an engineering point of view the best site would be alongside the present Carter Bridge. Engineering considerations are only part of the problem and I have therefore delayed decision pending the report of a traffic expert who recently visited this country and discussed Lagos traffic problems with the various organisations concerned. Mr Hillier's report is expected in Nigeria shortly. When it comes I hope it will be possible to make an early decision on the location of the second bridge. Once preliminary designs have been made it will be possible to estimate the cost. For the moment, however, I am unable to say what the bridge would cost.

O.33. Mr M. A. O. Olarewaju asked the Minister of Works and Surveys if he will consider tarring the remaining portion of Trunk Road A 13 between Ilorin and Kabba, in view of the importance of the road to Ilorin and Kabba Provinces.

The Minister of Works and Surveys : I regret that the funds available to me will not be sufficient for this purpose. The hon. Member will appreciate that I must concentrate my resources upon the most heavily trafficked routes. When these have been put into good condition it will be possible to allocate funds for Trunk Road A 13 between Ilorin and Kabba.

1st March, 1958

W.2. Mr J. A. O. Akande asked the Minister of Communications and Aviation how many persons are employed in established posts in the Posts and Telegraphs Department in the Southern Cameroons; what are their grades and for how long has each served in the Department; how many of those who are either 2nd or 1st Class Clerks enjoyed the Lidbury

award for the period of 1954 to 1957, and why the others in similar grades failed to benefit from it.

The Minister of Communications and Aviation : 212 persons are employed in established posts in the Posts and Telegraphs Department in the Southern Cameroons.

Their grades are :—

- 1 Area Controller, Cameroons.
- 1 Area Engineer.
- 1 Senior Technical Officer.
- 1 Technical Officer-in-Training.
- 3 Chief Technicians.
- 5 Technicians, Grade II.
- 64 Technicians.
- 3 Foreman Gangers.
- 22 Gangers.
- 1 Senior, Driver Mechanic.
- 2 Motor Drivers.
- 1 Assistant Postal Controller.
- 2 Postmasters, Grade I.
- 1 Senior Supervisor (Postal).
- 3 Supervisors (Postal).
- 42 Postal Officers and Telegraphists.
- 8 Postal Officers.
- 1 Postman, Grade I
- 2 Postmen, Grade II.
- 3 Mail Porters.
- 1 Store Assistant.
- 1 Senior Supervisor (Telephones).
- 1 Supervisor (Telephones).
- 15 Telephone Operators.
- 3 Telegraphists.
- 11 Telegraph Messengers.
- 3 Wireless Operators.
- 2 First-class Clerks.
- 1 Second-class Clerk.
- 3 Third-class Clerks.
- 1 Typist.
- 1 Office Messenger.
- 1 Watchman.

Of the above staff 84 have served 5 years or less ; 103 have served between 6 and 15 years ; 25 have served 16 years or more.

No 2nd or 1st Class Clerks have at any time benefitted from the Lidbury award which was not applicable to clerical grades.

W.3. Mr J. A. O. Akande asked the Minister of Communications and Aviation how many officers of all grades in the Posts and Telegraphs Department have been transferred to the Southern Cameroons since October 1954.

The Minister of Communications and Aviation : 157 officers have been transferred to the Southern Cameroons since October 1954.

W.4. Mr R. T. Alege asked the Minister of Communications and Aviation when work will start on the proposed land route telephone to Egbe in Kabba Province.

The Minister of Communications and Aviation : It is anticipated that work will start on this project during 1960 and will be completed by the end of that year. It is the policy of the Posts and Telegraphs Department to give priority to the construction of lines serving telephone exchanges. The line to Egbe will only be serving a call office and therefore work will not be started upon it until fairly late in the Department's 1955-60 Development Programme.

W.5. Mr R. T. Alege asked the Minister of Communications and Aviation whether he will consider introducing money order transactions at Mopa Postal Agency, which already provides savings bank facilities, in order to avoid the necessity of travelling thirty miles to the Departmental Post Office at Kabba for such transactions.

The Minister of Communications and Aviation : The postal agency system is intended primarily to furnish reasonable basic postal services to areas where it would be quite impossible for economic reasons to provide full Departmental facilities. Consequently, the more complicated aspects of Departmental Post Office work such as the money order service are confined to sub post offices and Departmental post offices. Exceptionally, where there is a real demand and subject to the special conditions laid down in paragraph 11 of Sessional Paper No. 4 of 1957, Savings Bank facilities are afforded at some postal agencies.

In response to public demand, Savings Bank facilities have been provided at Mopa since the 23rd December, 1957, but the use made of them has been most disappointing, transactions averaging only three per week.

W.7. Mr J. A. Efiang asked the Minister of Communications and Aviation when work will start on the construction of the new post office for Itu.

The Minister of Communications and Aviation : As was advised in House of Representatives' Sessional Paper No. 4 of 1957, construction of a new Post Office at Itu is scheduled for commencement during 1958-60. The Department of Posts and Telegraphs anticipates that construction will probably start during 1958.

W.9. Mr J. A. Efiog asked the Minister of Communications and Aviation whether he will consider providing telephone facilities at Itu/Itam District Council Headquarters.

The Minister of Communications and Aviation : The Department of Posts and Telegraphs is at present engaged upon the re-construction of the overhead trunk telephone routes between Uyo and Itu. When this work is completed, in about June 1958, consideration will be given to the provision of service at Itu/Itam. However, this will be contingent upon the availability of necessary funds, staff and equipment.

W.10. Mr B. O. Ikeh asked the Minister of Communications and Aviation why a daily mail

service is not introduced between Enugu and Abakaliki.

The Minister of Communications and Aviation : The number of mail services afforded to any place depends chiefly upon the amount of traffic. Other considerations such as availability of transport, road conditions, etc., also have a bearing. The Department of Posts and Telegraphs does not at this stage consider that a daily mail service is warranted between Enugu and Abakaliki. However, the Department's mail distribution services are under constant review and the needs of Abakaliki are not being over-looked.

W.11. Mr B. O. Ikeh asked the Minister of Communications and Aviation whether he is aware of the acute shortage of staff at Abakaliki Post Office, and what steps he is taking to remedy the situation.

The Minister of Communications and Aviation : I am aware of the shortage at Abakaliki and arrangements have already been put in hand to remedy the situation.

6th March, 1958

W.23. Mr E. O. Oyedeji asked the Minister of Works and Surveys if he will consider resurfacing and widening the Trunk Road A from Ibadan-Aiyedade-Egbedore-Ife as a matter of urgency, in view of the damage done to it by the recent rains.

The Minister of Works and Surveys : The resurfacing and widening of Trunk Road A.9 from Ibadan to Ife forms part of my programme and I am allocating funds for the purpose. A difficulty has arisen over the supervision of this work. I had hoped the Ministry of Works, Western Region would be able to provide the necessary supervision but I understand that this is not now so. I am now trying to find a way of doing the work.

W.27. Alhaji Bapa Danbappa asked the Minister of Finance if he will state how many officers of Northern origin are serving in the Customs and Excise Department, and in what grades ; and how many Northerners have been dismissed from that Department from 1954 to date.

The Minister of Finance : The following officers of Northern origin are at present serving in the Department of Customs and Excise in the different grades stated :

3 Waterguard Officers, Grade III.

1 Waterguard Officer, Grade II.

1 Assistant Preventive Officer, Third Class.

2 Assistant Preventive Officers, Second Class.

2. Two Waterguard Officers, Grade III of Northern origin have been dismissed since 1954. One was dismissed because he failed to attain the necessary standard during his training course ; and the other was dismissed for improper conduct.

W.28. Mr D. N. Chukwu asked the Minister of Transport when work will commence on the second phase of the Port Harcourt Wharf Extension Scheme.

The Minister of Transport : The contract for extending the Port Harcourt wharf stipulates that the work should be completed on or before the 21st of June, 1960. There is no question of its being carried out in phases.

W.30. Mr D. N. Chukwu asked the Minister of Lagos Affairs, Mines and Power what was the price per ton of Nigerian lead when it was last sold in an overseas market.

The Minister of Lagos Affairs, Mines and Power : A recent price for Nigerian lead ore sold overseas is £66,3.11 per ton. This was in August 1957 when lead prices were higher than they are now.

W.33. Mr D. N. Chukwu asked the Minister of Works and Surveys how many Nigerians are employed as engineers in the Federal Public Works Department.

The Minister of Works and Surveys : Twenty-one Nigerians are employed as engineers in the Federal Public Works Department.

W.34. Mr D. N. Chukwu asked the Minister of Education, how many Nigerians presently hold Federal Government scholarships in engineering.

The Minister of Education : 146, Sir.

W.38. Mr D. N. Chukwu asked the Minister of Education how many Nigerians now hold Government scholarships in geological surveying; and how many have been trained as qualified geologists by the Government.

The Minister of Education : There are 2 Nigerians holding Federal Government Scholarships in Geological Surveying, Sir. No Nigerians have yet been trained as Qualified Geologists by the Federal Government.

***W.47. Mr T. A. Ajayi** asked the Minister of Labour and Welfare whether he is aware of the trade dispute in the Meteorological Department, and if he will make a statement.

The Minister of Labour and Welfare : I am not aware of the existence of any trade dispute in the Meteorological Department. No dispute has been referred to my Ministry within the last twelve months.

W.48 Mr E. O. Imafidon asked the Minister of Internal Affairs whether he will state how many officers of Benin origin are employed in

the Prisons Department, indicating how many of them hold posts in the senior grades in that Department.

The Minister of Internal Affairs : There are 141 members of the Prisons Department who are of Benin origin, including two officers who hold posts in the senior grades. The full list of the posts held by these officers is as follows :—

Superintendent of Prisons.. ..	1
Assistant Superintendent of Prisons	1
Chief Warder, Grade I	1
Chief Warder, Grade II	1
Assistant Chief Warders	2
Senior Warder, Grade I	3
Senior Warder, Grade II	4
Senior Warder, Grade III	7
First-class Warders	15
Second-class Warders	22
Third-class Warders	76
Recruit Warders	6
Second-class Wardress	2
Total	141

W.49. Mr E. O. Imafidon asked the Minister of Works and Surveys what is the cause of the delay in completing the construction and opening of the Ijebu-Ode-Benin road.

The Minister of Works and Surveys : I have ordered the closing down of work on the Ijebu-Ode-Benin road under the cost plus fixed fee contract entered into in 1952. I am now considering with my advisers the most expeditious means of completing the project.

O.57. Mr F. E. Ngale asked the Prime Minister, when the proposed police detachment for Moyuka and Tombel will be established.

The Prime Minister : Provision is included in the Police Estimates for 1958-59 to allow the setting up of an immigration post at Tombel.

The establishment of a police post at Moyuka must wait until places where the need is more urgent, are satisfied.

8th March, 1958

***W.13 Mr J. A. Efiang** asked the Minister of Labour and Welfare, what are the annual expenses incurred by the Federal Government on the recruitment of labour for the Spanish Territory of Fernando Po and how much by way of reimbursement of such expenses accrues to the Government by the Capitation Tax paid the Spanish Government of that Territory in respect of the labourers recruited from Nigeria.

The Minister of Labour and Welfare : The Federal Government Estimates for 1957-58 provide for the expenditure of £9,110 for maintaining the Labour Office and £6,090 for the office of the Vice Consul in Fernando Po; the figure for Calabar Labour Office for the same period is £5,100; making a total of £20,300. These offices are not exclusively devoted to work arising from the labour recruitment. The Calabar office is also responsible for the administration of labour laws and the maintenance of industrial relations in Calabar district. The office of the Vice Consul, Fernando Po, in addition to recruitment, undertakes consular work and, in this capacity, its functions include looking after the interests of all Nigerian citizens in the island irrespective of whether or not they are workers recruited under the terms of the Agreement. It is difficult to determine precisely what proportion of the above expenditure can be charged against each of the above functions, but the greater part of the expenditure is in connection with recruitment. Arising from the recent visit of a Parliamentary delegation to Fernando Po the Federal Government is considering augmenting the staff of the Labour Office in Fernando Po.

Under the agreement between the Government of the Federation and the Government of the Spanish Provinces in the Gulf of Guinea, which came into force on 1st October, 1957, a total of 800 Nigerian workers may be recruited every month for work in Fernando Po, and on the basis of this, the estimated revenue from capitation fees at the rate of £5 per recruited worker over the year is £48,000. The Federal Government receives two-fifths of this amount which is £19,200, while the balance is paid to the Eastern Regional Government.

W.36. Mr D. N. Chukwu asked the Minister of Lagos Affairs, Mines and Power whether, in order to maintain more balanced economy of the Nigerian Coal Corporation, he will consider advising the Corporation to make a reasonable increase in the local selling price of Nigerian Coal.

The Minister of Lagos Affairs, Mines and Power : No Sir.

W.39. Mr D. N. Chukwu asked the Prime Minister, how many police constables passed, while serving in the Force, the Cambridge School Certificate or the General Certificate of Education examinations during the past five years, and what are their ranks in the Police Force.

The Prime Minister : I regret that statistics are not available to show how many police constables have passed the Cambridge School Certificate or the General Certificate of Education examinations during the past five years.

Statistics have been called for from the Regions to show what ranks are held by those who have obtained these certificates, but these statistics will not be available for some time.

I would, however, point out that whilst due regard is paid to the standard of education attained by an individual, promotion must also take into account other qualities, including the ability to pass departmental tests.

W.40. M. Abdullahi Usman, Magajin Musawa asked the Prime Minister whether he will consider stationing a detachment of the Nigeria Police at Katsina in the Northern Region.

The Prime Minister : The stationing of a detachment of the Nigeria Police at Katsina, the headquarters of a Province which, I am informed, is well served by Native Authority Police and advised by an Assistant Superintendent of the Nigeria Police specially posted for the purpose, could only be considered after meeting the needs of places where the establishment of a Nigeria Police post has been shown to be more urgently required.

Financial provision has, however, been included in the 1958-59 Police Estimates for the establishment of Nigeria Police immigration posts at Daura and Jibiya in Katsina Province.

W.46. Mr M. A. O. Olanrewaju asked the Prime Minister, if he will consider posting more Vehicle Inspection Officers to Ilorin Province in order to obviate the delays and hardships being suffered by vehicle owners desirous of licensing their vehicles there.

The Prime Minister : There are twelve vacancies at the moment in the establishment of Vehicle Inspection Officers. Until these vacancies are filled it is not possible to consider the posting of an additional Vehicle Inspection Officer to Ilorin.

W.54. Mr J. A. O. Akande asked the Minister of Commerce and Industry, if he will now consider the establishment of an industry in Abeokuta.

The Minister of Commerce and Industry : I invite the hon. Member's attention to Sessional Paper No. 3 of 1958 entitled "The Role of the Federal Government in Promoting Industrial Development in Nigeria." As explained in paragraph 56, in relation to financial participation in industry, "in considering the location of industrial enterprises only economic factors will be allowed to influence the decision." There is no question of the Federal Government choosing Abeokuta as the site of some unspecified industry.

10th March, 1958

O.65. Mr E. O. Ebea asked the Minister of Commerce and Industry whether he is aware that cassava starch is no longer exported from Nigeria, and if he will make a statement.

The Minister of Commerce and Industry : Yes, Sir, I am so aware. At present, the bulk of the production of cassava starch comes from the Warri/Benin Area and is absorbed by the local market. Production is by village methods and there is no surplus for export.

Soon after the war, when there was a world shortage of starch, some overseas firms enquired

about the possibility of establishing in Nigeria factories for starch production from cassava. Such ventures could not, at that time, be encouraged because it would have been against the public interest to divert cassava from human consumption to the manufacture of starch for export. In 1947, however, controls were relaxed and cassava starch was placed on open general export licence.

The world market for starch is now stable and prices are low. There is thus no longer an incentive for the investment of capital in the industry here.

11th March, 1958

O.96. Mr M. Yarima Saleh asked the Minister of Transport whether he has now received the full report of the Board of Inquiry set up by the Government in connection with the Lalupon train disaster, and if he will make a statement.

The Minister of Transport : I received the report of the Inspector of Railways in the mid-

dle of October, and had copies issued to the newspapers, together with a statement summarising its findings, and announcing that the Government saw no grounds for setting up a commission of inquiry. An account of the report, with extensive quotations, together with the full text of the statement, appeared in the press on the 18th of October.

12th March, 1958

O.125. Mr C. O. Komolafe asked the Minister of Communications and Aviation whether, in view of the increasing population and importance of Imesi-Ile and Ijebu-Jesha in Ilesha Division, and the inadequacy of the services provided by the postal agencies in the two areas, he will consider the advisability of converting the two postal agencies to sub-post offices in the near future.

The Minister of Communications and Aviation : Imesi-Ile Postal Agency was opened in 1949 and transacts only 8,316 units of business. Ijebu-Jesha Postal Agency was opened in 1941 and transacts only 9,076 units of business. In neither case is there any evidence that business is increasing save at a very slow rate.

Neither Agency qualifies for conversion to Sub-Post Office status in the terms of paragraph 13 of Sessional Paper No. 4 of 1957 and as there are no special features about either case, provision of Sub-Post Office facilities cannot be agreed.

Both Agencies have a three per week mail service with Ilesha Post Office and this is considered adequate having regard to the traffic available.

O.126. Mr C. O. Komolafe asked the Minister of Communications and Aviation when the construction of the proposed automatic exchange for Ilesha and Ife will start.

The Minister of Communications and Aviation : Work on the construction of the proposed automatic Telephone Exchange Buildings at Ife and Ilesha are expected to start within the next two months.

Both new buildings should be completed within eight months from date of commencement, and equipment will be installed as soon as the buildings are ready.

O.127. Mr C. O. Komolafe asked the Minister of Communications and Aviation how many new post offices were opened in the Eastern and Western Regions respectively in the financial year 1957-58, and in which towns the post offices were built.

The Minister of Communications and Aviation : Five new Post Offices were opened in the Eastern and Five in the Western Regions during the financial year 1957-58 in the following towns :—

<i>Eastern Region</i>	<i>Western Region</i>
Abraka	Agbani
Awgu	Agodi Branch Office (Ibadan)
Bori Ogoni	Ibadan (Sorting Office)
Okigwe	Ife
Oguta	Totoro (Abeokuta)

O.133. Mr D. C. Enang asked the Minister of Communications and Aviation what arrangements are being made for the building of a Type I post office at Obubra to replace the old one.

The Minister of Communications and Aviation : A new type I Office at Obubra is in the Post Office Construction Programme for the financial year 1958-59.

O.134. Mr D. O. Enang asked the Minister of Communications and Aviation when telephone facilities will be provided in Obubra Division.

The Minister of Communications and Aviation : At present Obubra is served by a telegraph line only.

This line is an earth return telegraph circuit which is unsuitable for the extension of telephone service. The reconstruction of this line is however scheduled in the current programme and will permit the extension of telephone service to Obubra during 1959.

O.135. Mr D. O. Enang asked the Minister of Communications and Aviation whether he will consider increasing the staff at the Obubra Post Office in order to clear the present congestion there.

The Minister of Communications and Aviation : Arrangements have already been made to post an additional officer to Obubra Post Office.

*O.138. Dr E. U. Udoma asked the Minister of Communications and Aviation whether he is aware that the new post office for Opobo has been under construction for almost two years now, and whether he will state why progress has been so slow, indicating how soon the work will be completed.

The Minister of Communications and Aviation : Work on the construction of Opobo Post Office began late in May 1957. The relatively slow progress is mainly due to lack of continuous supervision due to its geographical position. Nevertheless it is expected that the project should be completed by June 1958.

*O.139. Dr E. U. Udoma asked the Minister of Communications and Aviation whether he is aware that the contractor engaged on the building of the post office at Opobo deliberately refuses to employ local labour and makes use, instead, of imported labour, thereby increasing the cost of construction; and whether he will take steps to ensure that where ever the building of a post office is given out on contract, contractors will, as far as possible, utilise local materials and labour in order to avoid a waste of public funds.

The Minister of Communications and Aviation : Whilst it is agreed that it is most desirable contractors should make use of local labour in the erection of Departmental Buildings which, incidentally, they very often do—the prerogative to employ labour rests entirely with the contractors. It is not felt that the Department should, in anyway try to influence this long standing practice.

O.140. Dr E. U. Udoma asked the Minister of Communications and Aviation : how many applicants in each Region are at present on the waiting list for the supply of telephones; when was the oldest application on the list received and when was the most recent one received.

The Minister of Communications and Aviation : The numbers of applicants on the waiting lists in each Region are :—

Lagos Area	1,982
Eastern Region	479
Western Region	1,465
Northern Region	526

The earliest and most recent applicants are—

	Earliest	Most recent as at
Lagos Area	9-11-45	6-3-58
Eastern Region	13-7-53	4-3-58
Western Region	13-7-42	5-3-58
Northern Region	25-2-48	4-3-58

The most senior applicant on the waiting lists is a resident at Abeokuta whose house is in an isolated situation where there is at present no possibility of serving him. It is expected that his area will be developed towards the end of 1958 and he will then be given service.

O.144. Mr A. Adeyinka asked the Minister of Research and Information how many African Research Officers were employed in the Department of Agricultural Research in the past five years : and why there is only one Nigerian Technical Officer in the Department.

The Minister of Research and Information : No African Specialist Officers are employed in the Department of Agricultural Research.

2. There are three Nigerian Technical Officers and one Nigerian Laboratory Technologist in a total establishment of 8, Scale C(T) posts. The qualifications for the post of Technical Officer are based on training and experience. The minimum qualification is a pass degree or Diploma from a recognised Institution. Serving officers of outstanding ability may also be selected as they become available. Two such officers have recently been promoted.

O.145. Mr Adeyinka asked the Minister of Research and Information whether he is aware of the widespread dissatisfaction among the staff of the Agricultural Research Department due to the lack of prospects and encouragement, and whether he will take appropriate action to expedite the Nigerianisation of the Department and to look into the other causes of the Departments.

The Minister of Research and Information : No Sir, I am aware of no widespread dissatisfaction among the staff of the Department of Agricultural Research.

The establishment of the Department is being kept under constant review to ensure that the staff structure is adequate and commensurate with the responsibilities required

to undertake the various research projects as they are conceived and developed. Progress in this direction is at present handicapped by delays in the implementation of the Economic Programme.

Outstanding Officers are being encouraged to take the necessary training to equip them for Specialist research. The records of over forty officers have been scrutinized. Of these six have been selected by the Public Service Commission for University training; two for training courses leading to Technical Officer grade appointments and seven have been entered in the Emergency Science Training Course.

In addition, there are three scholars already attending Universities who have been recommended for Government Scholarships to train for Agricultural research and there are two serving officers undergoing training courses leading to appointments in the C(T) Scale.

***O.86. Mr J. L. Nsima** asked the Minister of Health when it is proposed to establish the Hospital Management Board.

The Minister of Health : The Federal Government does not propose to set up a Hospital Management Board, Sir.

***O.113. Mr R. T. Alege** asked the Minister of Health how many types of infectious diseases were treated at the Infectious Diseases Hospital, Yaba, during the year 1957.

The Minister of Health : During 1957, thirteen infectious diseases were treated at the Infectious Diseases Hospital, Yaba, and they were :—

	Cases
Whooping Cough	18
Diphtheria	1
Malaria	2
Syphilis	2
Smallpox	559
Acute Poliomyelitis	2
Measles	279
Chickenpox	1,066
Mumps	20
Broncho Pneumonia	6
Diarrhoea and Enteritis	1
Impetigo	1
Scabies	1
	1,971
	1,971

***O.114. Mr R. T. Alege** asked the Minister of Health, whether he is aware that the present Lunatic Asylum buildings in Yaba are old, dangerous to health, and inadequate, and what is being done to remedy the situation.

The Minister of Health : I am aware that the present Lunatic Asylum buildings in Yaba are old and inadequate. They could be considered to be dangerous to health in view of the congestion at the Lunatic Asylum. But in spite of this fact, however, the health of the patients is maintained at a fair level.

Two important factors have contributed to this overcrowding. Firstly, the loss of a new hospital at Aro to the Western Region and secondly, the fact that the attractions of Lagos brings many vagrants whose emergency admission makes a difficult problem more intractable.

To remedy the situation the Federal Government has had in mind to build a new Mental Hospital at Oshodi, but in view of the shortage of funds for capital development, this is a long term project which it is hoped will be considered in the period when a new Economic Programme is drawn up. Meanwhile, certain buildings at Oshodi are being used as a convalescent home and 40 patients are in residence, this easing the overcrowding at Yaba.

***O.115. Mr R. T. Alege** asked the Minister of Health what is being done to improve the sanitary conditions of Lagos in view of the fact that the town is described in a recent Government publication as one of capital towns in Africa with the poorest sanitary conditions.

The Minister of Health : Several factors govern the sanitary conditions in Lagos of which the following are of considerable importance :—

(a) The high density of population both as regards number of houses per acre and the number of occupants per house. It must be remembered that Lagos is a capital city with probably one of the greatest concentrations of people in tropical Africa.

(b) The low-lying character of the swamp-encompassed island and part of the Mainland of Lagos, lying as they do within the tropical rain forest belt of the Gulf of Guinea, is in itself a feature in which sanitary control is both expensive and exceptionally difficult.

2. I shall now enumerate the many things that are being done to improve the sanitary conditions of Lagos.

(a) (i) The Lagos Town Council continues the work which was started in the first decade of this century by the Lagos Municipal Board of Health, which was set up for the express purpose of combating the dreadful sanitary conditions which existed at that time. The main bulk of the work and the responsibility of the Council is directed towards this end. Such limitations as exist are due to lack of funds, and the resulting shortage of technical staff, equipment and organisation; the level of efficiency and responsibility of the employees; and the co-operation given by the public.

(ii) The road building, drain construction control of buildings, refuse and sewage disposal, markets, parks and cemetery maintenance services of the Town Engineer's Department, are all directed to improving the sanitary conditions in Lagos. A report upon the main drainage of Lagos has been made to the Federal Government by Messrs Howard Humphrey and Sons of Westminster, a firm of consultant engineers.

It is at present impossible for financial reasons to implement their recommendations regarding the installation of a water sewerage system which would make a tremendous difference to the sanitary conditions of Lagos. Meanwhile more modern methods and greater efficiency in the collection of sewage is being provided by the Town Engineer.

(iii) The work of the Public Health Department in controlling general sanitation, food premises, the keeping of animals, the slaughtering and sale of animals for food, the control of mosquito and other insect infestation, and the control of rodent infestation, are all examples of work being done to improve the sanitary conditions in Lagos. The Personal Health Services of Child Welfare and

Domiciliary Midwifery in which health visitors and midwives visit the homes of mothers and help them in improving domestic and street sanitation also contribute to this project.

(b) The Lagos Executive Development Board has done and is doing a great deal to improve the sanitary conditions in Lagos. Their Apapa Reclamation and Development Scheme, the Central Lagos Slum Clearance and the Suru Lere Low Cost Housing Scheme are all examples of this work. Unfortunately, the rate of increase in the population both by births and immigration from other parts of Nigeria and indeed West Africa and other parts of the world appears to be exceeding the rate at which slums are being cleared and new houses provided. The result is that there is little obvious reduction in the level of over-crowding which exists. However, in point of fact, there has been considerable improvement in the state of health of the population and in their living condition. This can be seen in the gradual but significant reduction in infant mortality and death rate during the past decades.

(c) The work of the Federal Public Works Department in their maintenance of trunk roads and bridges, provision of canteens, adequate sanitary accommodation, etc., in Government buildings and institutions, also improves the sanitary conditions in Lagos. The improvement in water supply and provision of pipe-borne water supply to more and more areas in the township also helps to some extent.

(d) The sanitary control effected by the Port Health Section of the Federal Medical Department in the Wharf and Customs areas in Lagos harbour, and between high and low water mark on the fore-shore, must also be recorded as work done to improve the sanitary conditions in Lagos.

13th March, 1958

W.55. Mr C. O. Komolafe asked the Minister of Education, what allocation, for the purpose of putting up school buildings, has the Government approved for each Secondary

Grammar School run by Voluntary Agencies in the Federal Territory of Lagos; and what percentage of the allocation has been paid to each of the schools since April 1955.

The Minister of Education : The following list gives the amounts approved for the Voluntary Agency Secondary Grammar Schools being, and to be, erected on the Federal Area ; and the percentage paid to date, Sir :—

	£	Per cent paid to 5-3-58
1. Anglican Girls'	24,500	12
2. Ansar-Ud-Deen Boys'	33,000	Nil
3. Our Lady of Apostles Girls'	21,000	28
4. St. Finbarr's Boys'	33,000	11½

The Voluntary Agencies concerned are for—

School 1—Church Missionary Society.

School 2—Ansar-Ud-Deen Society.

Schools 3 and 4—Roman Catholic Mission.

W.58 Mr C. O. Komolafe asked the Minister of Education how many secondary schools now exist in the Federal Territory of Lagos and how many of them provide courses leading to the Higher Schools Certificate or General Certificate of Education, Advanced Level examination in arts and science.

The Minister of Education : Fourteen, Sir. Two of these provide courses leading to Higher Schools Certificate or the General Certificate of Education, Advanced Level.

W.61. Mr H. O. Akpan-Udo asked the Minister of Lagos Affairs, Mines and Power what plans are being made for the supply of electricity to small towns in the Federation.

The Minister of Lagos Affairs, Mines and Power : The Electricity Corporation of Nigeria has selected 29 promising urban areas for the supply of electricity at an estimated capital outlay of £1½ million and an annual running cost of about £400,000 out of which £150,000 will be deficit during the initial stages. I have it in mind to discuss this question with all Regional Governments with regard to the question of capital requirements and underwriting the losses likely to be incurred during the initial stages. I hope, before the next Budget Session, that I shall be able to inform the House of the outcome of my proposed mission and a proposal for future electricity extension.

O.109. Mr C. O. Komolafe asked the Prime Minister how many employees of the former Nigerian Railway Department who refused to transfer to the Nigerian Railway Corporation, lost their jobs as a result ; and whether, in view of the fact that the men were clearly informed that service under the Corporation was voluntary rather than compulsory, and of the fact that they were confirmed officers in the Railway Department, Government will consider rehabilitating them in other Departments.

The Prime Minister : 86. Of this number 40 were found alternative employment in other Government Departments and the remaining 46, who could not be found suitable alternative employment, were called upon to retire from the service and were granted compensation under Regulation 23 of the Pensions Regulations, 1951, for abolition of office.

Every effort has been made to secure alternative employment for these officers but because of their specialisation as Railwaymen it has not been possible in all cases to find such alternative employment.

O.149. Mr D. O. Enang asked the Prime Minister whether he will consider the advisability of establishing a Police Detachment at Ugep in Obubra Division in view of the numerous offences being committed there.

The Prime Minister : Yes, Sir. Provision has been included in the Police Estimates for 1958-59 for the Police Detachment at Ugep which will consist of :—

- 1 Corporal
- 1 Lance-corporal
- 10 Constables.

O.151. Alhaji Musa Hindi asked the Prime Minister how many Nigerian soldiers were taken prisoner during the 1939-45 War, and how many were repatriated to Nigeria at the end of that War.

The Prime Minister : No Nigerian soldiers are recorded as having been taken prisoner during the 1939-45 War.

O.152. Alhaji Musá Hindi asked the Prime Minister why non-commissioned Officers in the Queen's Own Nigeria Regiment up to the rank of Sergeant travel Third-class in trains when proceeding on leave, while Privates in the Police Force travel Second-class.

The Prime Minister : The hon. Member will appreciate that the travel privileges of the Nigeria Police are regulated by Federal General Orders whereas those of the Nigerian Military Forces have been governed, hitherto, by War Office regulations. Future terms of service for Other Ranks of the Nigerian Military Forces are being prepared, but from the 1st April, 1958, non-commissioned Officers above the rank of Corporal will be able to travel Second Class by train when proceeding on leave.

***O.154. Mr L. L. Lakunle** asked the Prime Minister, how many Nigerians hold the posts of Senior Superintendent, Superintendent, Deputy Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent respectively in the Nigeria Police Force.

The Prime Minister : There are at present 77 Nigerian Assistant Superintendents of Police, 13 Nigerian Deputy Superintendents, 4 Nigerian Superintendents, and 4 Nigerian Senior Superintendents making a total of 98.

17th March, 1958

W.1. Alhaji Baba Danbappa asked the Minister of Commerce and Industry, what orders for textiles were placed by Federal Government Departments with local and with overseas manufacturers respectively during the periods 1st April, 1956 to 31st March, 1957, and since 1st April, 1957 ; and why orders were placed with overseas manufacturers when there are textile factories in the country desirous of selling their products to Government Departments.

The Minister of Commerce and Industry : During the period from the 1st April, 1956 to the 31st March, 1957, Federal Government Departments ordered 31,014 yards of cloth (13 per cent of the total) from local textile mills and 174,960 yards (87 per cent) from overseas. During the period from the 1st April, 1957 to the 31st December, 1957, 199,592 yards (57 per cent of the total) were ordered from local mills, compared with 150,950 yards (43 per cent) from overseas.

The marked decrease in the proportion of textiles ordered from abroad in the nine months ended last December is a direct result of the Federal Government's policy of requiring Federal Departments to purchase goods manufactured in Nigeria in preference to similar imported goods, provided that the former compete in quality, price and delivery with the latter.

Cotton drill for uniforms was the first category of goods to be scheduled, in December 1956, for purchase from approved local manufacturers. The textiles which have been ordered from abroad since the new policy has been introduced are of types which were not available, at the time of ordering, from Nigerian mills.

As the range of textile goods manufactured in Nigeria expands, it will be possible further to reduce Federal Government imports.

W.32. Mr D. N. Chukwu asked the Minister of Transport, what is the total acreage of the quarry acquired by the Nigerian Railway Corporation at Ishiago in the Eastern Region ; and what is the estimated life of the present granite quarry at Eziato.

The Minister of Transport : The Railway Corporation has no quarry at Ishiago. Working to a depth of 60 feet, the estimated life of the quarry at Eziato is 50 years, but if it were worked to a depth of 100 feet it would last 50 years longer.

W.44. Mr M. A. O. Olarewaju asked the Prime Minister, if he will state how many officers, including messengers, telephone attendants and cleaners, are employed in the office of the Commissioner for the Federation of Nigeria in the United Kingdom, indicating how many officers of each grade are expatriates and how many are Nigerians.

The Prime Minister : The total staff employed in the Office of the Commissioner for Nigeria in the United Kingdom amounts to 92. The sub-division of this staff is as follows :—

	Estab- lished Staff	Tempo- rary Staff	Total	
	Pension- able	Con- tract		
Nigerian ..	14	3	28	45
Expatriate ..	—	5	42	47
Total ..	14	8	70	92

A table showing the full details of the staff employed is attached.

STAFF

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER FOR NIGERIA IN THE UNITED KINGDOM

Appointment	Nigerian			Expatriate			Total
	Established Pensionable	Established (Contract)	Temporary	Established Pensionable	Established (Contract)	Temporary	
Commissioner ..	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Principal Secretary	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Secretary for Student Affairs	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Economic Secretary	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Principal Information Officer ..	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Senior Assistant Secretary ..	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Deputy Secretary for Student Affairs ..	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Assistant Secretary	5	—	—	—	—	—	5
Commercial Officer	2	—	—	—	—	—	2
Trade Officer ..	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Publicity Officer ..	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Office Manager ..	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Accountant ..	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Executive Officer (A/Cs) ..	1	—	—	—	1	—	2
Asst. Executive Officer ..	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Students Officer ..	—	1	—	—	3	1	5
Liaison Officer (Part-time) ..	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Secretary-Typist	—	—	5	—	—	12	17
Copy-Typist ..	—	—	3	—	—	3	6
Clerks ..	—	—	18	—	—	1	19
Book-keeper/Typist	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Librarian/Receptionist ..	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Receptionist ..	—	—	1	—	—	—	1

Appointment	Nigerian			Expatriate			Total
	Established Pensionable	Established (Contract)	Temporary	Established Pensionable	Established (Contract)	Temporary	
Telephonist ..	—	—	—	—	—	3	3
Messenger ..	—	—	—	—	—	9	9
Lift Attendant ..	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Commissionaire ..	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Boiler Mechanic ..	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Chauffeur ..	—	—	—	—	—	3	3
Tea Waitress (Part-time) ..	—	—	—	—	—	2	2
Total ..	14	3	28	—	5	42	92

W.45. Mr M. A. O. Olarewaju asked the Minister of Commerce and Industry, whether he will consider recommending to the Government the establishment of a cocoa factory in Nigeria.

The Minister of Commerce and Industry : No, Sir. The imports of cocoa and chocolate preparations into Nigeria are insufficient to support even the smallest factory. In 1956 imports of all articles of this kind amounted to only £42,000.

The manufacture of cocoa or chocolate preparations in Nigeria for export abroad would be uneconomical due to costly packing and high freights to the main consuming countries.

W.50. Mr E. O. Imafidon asked the Minister of Transport what action has been taken by the Government to provide a new ferry at Sapele for which financial provision was made in the 1957-58 Estimates.

The Minister of Transport : The Government proposes to buy two new ferries, one for the Onitsha and one for the Sapele crossing. Shortly after the meeting of the House of Representatives last September, when money was voted for this purpose, it transpired that owing to increases in costs the sum available would not be sufficient for craft faster than the "Sapo," which at present runs between Onitsha and Asaba. In these circumstances it has been necessary to invite the House to vote an additional £22,000, under Head 605, sub-head 16 (5) of the estimates for 1958-59, so that the cost of the craft required may be fully met. They will be shipped from the United Kingdom in sections, and, allowing

House of Representatives Debates

47

[Written Answers]

17 MARCH 1958

[Written Answers]

48

for the time which it will take to assemble them in this country, should begin to operate in about twelve months.

W.63. Dr E. U. Udoma asked the Minister of Internal Affairs whether he will state in what Regions the greatest number of persons were detained in prison awaiting trial; and what steps he is taking to prevent deliberate and malicious detention of innocent persons.

The Minister of Internal Affairs : The following numbers of persons were detained in Government Prisons awaiting trial on the 31st January, 1958 :—

Eastern Region	881
Western Region	341
Lagos	240
Northern Region	185
Southern Cameroons	157

I am not aware of any case of deliberate and malicious detention of innocent persons in Government Prisons.

O.170. Dr E. U. Udoma asked the Minister of Commerce and Industry, whether he has any proposals to expand the Commerce and Industries Boatyard at Opopo during the financial year 1958-59, in view of the fact that the excellent work being done in that boatyard deserves encouragement.

The Minister of Commerce and Industry : I am grateful for the hon. Member's appreciation of the work being done by the Federal Boatyard. In the Estimates for 1958-59, the sum of £1,000 has been set aside for additional machinery but no large scale expansion in the Boatyard is envisaged during the period of the Economic Programme 1955-60.

***O.171. Dr E. U. Udoma** asked the Minister of Internal Affairs how many unconvicted persons were detained in prison awaiting trial during the years 1955, 1956 and 1957 in the three Regions of Nigeria and in the Southern Cameroons; for how long, on an average, were they detained before trial; and how many of them were detained on the order of a court of competent jurisdiction.

The Minister of Internal Affairs : The following are particulars of the numbers of unconvicted persons detained in Government

Prisons awaiting trial during the fiscal years 1954-55, 1955-56 and 1956-57 :—

	1954-55	1955-56	1956-57
Northern Region	2,097	2,188	2,997
Eastern Region	6,467	8,729	7,790
Western Region	2,959	4,278	4,197
S. Cameroons	716	1,420	1,057
Lagos	2,173	2,563	2,746
	<u>14,412</u>	<u>19,178</u>	<u>18,787</u>

I regret that statistics from all Government Prisons are not immediately available to indicate the average length of time spent by unconvicted persons in custody between committal and conviction, acquittal or bail. With effect from the 1st April next these particulars will be included in statistical returns from all Government Prisons.

Meanwhile, the following particulars are given of prisoners admitted on remand to Lagos Prison during 1957 :—

Court's decision	Period spent in Prison before bail, acquittal or conviction	Number of Prisoners affected	Total
Bail ..	1 month and under	998	
Bail ..	3 months and under	82	
Bail ..	6 months and under	2	
Bail ..	Over 6 months	—	1,082
Acquitted	1 month and under	444	
Acquitted	3 months and under	166	
Acquitted	6 months and under	6	
Acquitted	Over 6 months	1	617
Sentenced	1 month and under	390	
Sentenced	3 months and under	181	
Sentenced	6 months and under	27	
Sentenced	Over 6 months	5	603
Awaiting trial on 31-12-57	1 month and under	105	
	3 months and under	43	
	6 months and under	3	
	Over 6 months.	3	154
			<u>2,456</u>

All persons admitted to Government Prisons are detained on an Order or Warrant of a competent authority, and no person would be admitted to any Government Prison without such Order or Warrant.

O.172. Dr E. U. Udoma asked the Minister of Internal Affairs how many persons detained in prison were ultimately discharged or discharged and acquitted after due trial; and how many were discharged without trial.

The Minister of Internal Affairs : The following are particulars of the number of unconvicted persons who were discharged from Government Prisons to the custody of the Courts, and who were not subsequently received in prison on conviction or for further remand :—

1954-55	..	..	..	10,008
1955-56	..	..	..	8,837
1956-57	..	..	..	8,919

No information is available in my Ministry regarding the disposal of these persons by the Courts.

During the period in question, no persons were discharged direct from prison without trial or production before the Courts, or by Order of the Courts committing them to prison custody.

O.173. Mr S. W. Ubani-Ukoma asked the Minister of Internal Affairs what improvements have been made in the Prison at Aba since he took office.

The Minister of Internal Affairs : The following improvements have been made to Aba Prison since I took office :—

The construction of :—

- (a) nine Warders' Quarters.
- (b) six single cells for prisoners.
- (c) five association wards, to accommodate 90 prisoners.
- (d) two association wards to accommodate 32 prisoners.
- (e) sanitary annexes in all wards and cells.

Other improvements include :—

- (f) the re-roofing of "A" Ward, and the weaving and mat-making sheds with Galvanised iron sheets.
- (g) the construction of ceilings in the majority of wards.
- (h) repairs to warders' quarters.
- (i) general repairs to the Barracks and prison buildings.

O.174. Mr S. W. Ubani-Ukoma asked the Minister of Internal Affairs how many habitual criminals have been reformed during the past two years and given gainful occupations after

discharge in the Federal Territory of Lagos, the Western, Northern and Eastern Regions and the Southern Cameroons respectively.

The Minister of Internal Affairs : I regret that it is not possible to give the figures of the number of habitual criminals who have been reformed. While some have returned to prison, it cannot be assumed that those who have not returned have necessarily been reformed.

During 1956, a total of 62 prisoners of all classes were found employment by after-care officers of the Prisons Department. The number of prisoners found employment in 1957 was 155. The distribution by Regions was as follows :—

	1955-56	1956-57
Eastern Region ..	20	63
Northern Region ..	9	12
Western Region ..	—	—
Lagos	33	80
Southern Cameroons	—	—
Total	62	155

O.175. Mr S. W. Ubani-Ukoma asked the Minister of Internal Affairs what percentage of all those convicted in 1957 in each of the Regions, the Southern Cameroons and the Federal Territory of Lagos was made up of women ; and what was the most common crime for which the women were convicted.

The Minister of Internal Affairs : I regret that the figures of convicted persons for the calendar year 1957 are not yet available.

In respect of the period from the 1st April, 1956 to the 31st March, 1957, of all persons convicted and admitted to prison, the percentage of women was as follows :—

	per cent
Eastern Region	5.6
Western Region	4.7
Southern Cameroons	3.2
Lagos	1.8
Northern Region	1.3

The most common crime for which women were convicted during the same period was for offences against persons with violence.

House of Representatives Debates

51

[Written Answers]

17 MARCH 1958

[Written Answers]

52

O.176. Mr J. G. Adeniran asked the Minister of Finance, what action is normally taken against Federal Government Officers who lose revenue-earning books such as Local Purchase Order Books and Transport Warrants.

The Minister of Finance : The action taken against any Federal Officer responsible for the loss of books such as Local Purchase Order Books and Transport Warrants depends entirely on the circumstances of the loss.

It is for the Head of Department concerned to decide, after taking all the circumstances of the loss into consideration and if necessary with the advice of the Federal Public Service Commission, whether disciplinary action is warranted, or whether it is necessary for the matter to be referred to the Police.

In certain cases, the final decision may be that of His Excellency acting upon the advice of the Federal Public Service Commission.

Index to House of Representatives Debates

SESSION 1958-59

Comprising Period 18th February-17th March, 1958.

ABBREVIATIONS

1R	= First Reading	3R	= Third Reading	Q	= Question
2R	= Second Reading	Com.	= Committee		

For index to debates on Government Ordinances and Resolutions, see under

PUBLIC BILLS and FINANCIAL RESOLUTIONS

A		<i>Column</i>	<i>Column</i>
ABAAGU, Mr H. O. :			
Makurdi-Gboko telephone lines ..	P 890 Q		
ABDU SULE, M. :			
Appropriation Bill,			
Com. Head 54	1089		
Com. Head 72	1342-1344		
Makurdi new Post Office	P 898 Q		
Oturkpo Post Office staff	P 898 Q		
Oturkpo telephones	P 898 Q		
ABDULKADIRI KOGUNA, M. Wakilin Riyogi :			
Appropriation Bill,			
Com. Head 29	875-876		
Debate on the Address	64-65		
Lagos (Administrative and Executive Functions) Bill	461-462		
ABDULLAHI, M. Magajin Musawa :			
Appropriation Bill	490-492		
Com. Head 68	1182		
Debate on the Address	52-54		
Katsina Police Detachment	P 904 Q		
Medical Service for Members	633		
Rail disaster, message of condolence	353		
Third Party Compensation	692 Q		
ABIL, Mr D. N. :			
Appropriation Bill	537-545		
Com. Head 25	734-736		
Com. Head 28	775-776		
Com. Head 75	1391-1394		
Adjournment <i>sine die</i>	1671-1672		
Business of the House	1418-1419		
Central Bank of Nigeria Bill	1750		
Industrial Development (Import Duties Relief) Ordinance, progress of	P 894 Q		
Lagos (Administrative and Executive Functions) Bill	460		
Mineral Oils (Amendment) Bill	453-454		
Mobile Post Offices	803, 804, 817, 818, 833		
Nigeria-Sudan Railway line	1229 Q		
Onitsha-Asaba ferry revenue	341		
Onitsha-Owerri-Aba-Port Harcourt Trunk Road 'A' bridges	1223 Q		
Pottery Industries	378-379		
Tribute to Police	1314-1316		
Trunk Roads 'A' and 'B'	790-792		
ABUBAKAR GARBA, M. :			
Appropriation Bill	471-473		
Commercial Fish Farms	P 891 Q		
Kaduna P. and T. School	860 Q		
Loan to private industries	1133 Q		
New Roads, mileage of	1221 Q		
Police Force Senior Grades	953 Q		
Survey Department, promotion to Senior Grades	1221 Q		
Trunk 'A' Roads mileage	1222 Q		
Women in Federal Public Service	952 Q		
ABUBAKAR GURUMPAWO, M. :			
Appropriation Bill,			
Com. Head 69	1204-1206		
Trunk Road A 4 (Jadu-Sugu and Serti)	343 Q		
ADAJI, Mr H. M. :			
Adjournment <i>sine die</i>	1672		
Appropriation Bill			
Com. Head 28	777-778		
Com. Head 40	1007-1008		
Criminal Code (Age of Consent) Bill	1576-1577		
Exemption of manufacturing machinery from Cus. oms Duties	834		
Federal Scholarships: Awards to non-Nigerians	338		
Firearms Bill	264		
Military Forces (Amendment) Bill	1559-1560		
Mobile Post Offices	820		
Police (Amendment) Bill	284		
Rail disaster, message of condolence	359		
ADEDIPE, Chief J. O. :			
Debate on the Address	197-198		
National Committee for Independence	1260		
Police (Amendment) Bill	287		
ADENIRAN, Mr J. G. :			
Appropriation Bill,			
Com. Head 30	926, 929		
Com. Head 43	1031		
Capital Expenditure Estimates Head 602	1456-1457		
Criminal Code (Age of Consent) Bill	1575		
Customs Duties (Dumped and Subsidised Goods) Bill	436		
Debate on the Address	77-80		

ALHAJI MOHAMED MUNIR, Mutawallin Kano :

Debate on the Address	148-149
Police (Amendment) Bill	294

ALHAJI the hon. MUHAMMADU INUWA WADA : (See Works, Minister of)**ALHAJI the hon. MUHAMMADU RIBADU : (See Land, Mines and Power, Minister of)****ALHAJI MUSA HINDI :**

Military and police train travel ..	P 910 Q
Nigerian Prisoners of War	P 910 Q

APPROPRIATION (1958-59) BILL (See Public Bills)**ABBA SADIQ, M. :**

Appropriation Bill	
Com. Head 72	1357

AWDUCHE, Dr E. O. :

Appropriation Bill,	
Com. Head 21	693, 694
Com. Head 22	697
Com. Head 29	892-893
Com. Head 34	947-948
Com. Head 45	1045-1050
Com. Head 46	1069-1070, 1072, 1073
Business of the House	14
Central Bank of Nigeria Bill ..	1726, 1740, 1742, 1743
Criminal Code (Age of Consent) Bill	1571-1572
Debate on the Address	109-113
Development, General Revenue Balance	1540
Development of Victoria Island ..	804-807
Industrial Development (Income Tax Relief) Bill	323-324, 330
Minerals (Amendment) Bill	467-468, 469
Rail Disaster, message of condolence	347-349

AYENI, Mr F. N. H.

Appropriation Bill	
Com. Head 39	994, 1003, 1004
Com. Head 70	1213
Capital Expenditure Estimates Head 603	1467
Southern Cameroons roads	372-373

AYIM, Mr G. I. :

Capital Expenditure Estimates Head 602	1454
Commencement of work on capital projects	841, 842

B**BABA DANBAPPA, M. :**

Debate on the Address	87-90
Government orders for textiles ..	P 911 Q
Northerners in Customs and Excise	P 902 Q

BABA DARADARA, M. :

Appropriation Bill	
Com. Head 30	925-926
Com. Head 54	1090-1091
Com. Head 73	1367-1368

BADEMOSI, Mr O. (Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Research and Information) :

Portrait of the Prime Minister	1131
--------------------------------------	------

BALEWA, Alhaji, the hon. Abubakar Tafawa : (See Prime Minister)**BALOGUN, Chief the hon. Kolawole (See Research and Information, Minister of)****BELLO DANDAGO, M. Sarkin Dawaki :**

Appropriation Bill	
Com. Head 28	776
Business of the House	1420
Capital Expenditure Estimates	
Head 605	1510-1511
Nigerian Railway Corporation (Amendment) Bill	1603
Police (Amendment) Bill	287
Rail Disaster, message of condolence	350-351

BENS, The Rev. E. S. :

Appropriation Bill	
Com. Head 29	871-873
Com. Head 34	939-940, 946, 947
Com. Head 59	1126, 1127
Com. Head 66	1136-1138
Com. Head 69	1185-1188
Clothing, importation of secondhand	387-389
Debate on the Address	120-124
Loan (Internal Borrowing) Bill ..	1593-1594, 1595, 1663
Medical School	340
Mineral Oils (Amendment) Bill ..	449-451, 453
Pilots in Ports Authority	339
Police Force establishment	P 896 Q
Regional Courts Bill	1663

BENSON, Mr T. O. S. :

Adjournment <i>sine die</i>	1675
Appropriation Bill,	
Com. Head 21	695
Com. Head 22	701
Com. Head 38	970-971
Com. Head 43	1031
Com. Head 55	1115-1116
Assault on Traffic Policeman	688-689
Broadcasting of Members' speeches	504
Business of the House	1419-1420
Capital Expenditure Estimates	
Head 604	1493-1494
Capital Expenditure Estimates	
Head 605	1525-1526
Central Bank of Nigeria Bill	1689-1691
Development of Victoria Island ..	808
Education (Lagos) (Amendment) Bill	1543-1544
Lagos (Administrative and Executive Functions) Bill	459-460, 464
Magistrates Court (Amendment) Bill	1662
Medical Services for Members	634
National Committee for Independence	1266-1267
Nigerian Railway Corporation (Amendment) Bill	1606
Portrait of the Prime Minister	1131-1132
Revised Edition of the Laws Bill ..	1618
Trunk Roads 'A' and 'B'	803

	Column
BUKAR DIPCHARIMA, Hon. Zanna (Minister of State) :	
Business of the House ..	10-11, 211-212 637, 1085, 1086, 1415, 1621, 1670-1671
Business Committee Report ..	344-345
Committee of Selection ..	.. .. 21

C

CHUKU, Mr H. O. :	
Appropriation Bill,	
Com. Head 22	699-700
Com. Head 38	976-977
Capital Expenditure Estimates Head 602 ..	1445- 1447
Firearms Bill .. .. .	.. .. 259

CHUKWU, Mr D. N. :	
Debate on the Address	149-153
Ishiago Quarry	p. 911 Q
Nigerian gold, price increase	p. 904 Q
Nigerians holding Geological Surveying	
Scholarships	p. 903 Q
Nigerians holding Government Engineering	
Scholarships	p. 903 Q
Nigerian lead price	p. 903 Q
Nigerians in P.W.D.	p. 903 Q
Police Constables' educational status ..	p. 904 Q
Port Harcourt Wharf Extension Scheme ..	p. 902 Q

COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY, MINISTER OF (Hon. K. O. Mbadiwe) :

Appropriation Bill,	592-601
Com. Head 24 .. .. .	.. 726
Com. Head 66	1153-1159
Com. Head 67	1179-1181
Central Bank of Nigeria Bill	1699-1701
Clothing, importation of secondhand ..	390-391
Customs Duties (Dumped and Subsidised	
Goods) Bill	332-334, 436-439, 440, 441, 442
Income Tax (Amendment) Bill	1659-1660
Industrial Development (Income Tax	
Relief) Bill	328-329
Mobile Post Offices	831-832
Pottery Industries	381-383

COMMITTEES :

Nomination of Chairmen .. .. .	.. 93
Reports from	171-173

COMMUNICATIONS AND AVIATION, MINISTER OF (Chief the hon. S. L. Akintola) :

Appropriation Bill,	
Com. Head 28	776-777
Com. Head 29	861-868, 886
Com. Head 30	921-922, 929-932
Com. Head 33	936-937
Com. Head 40 .. .. .	.. 891
Com. Head 77	1401-1403
Broadcasting of Members' speeches ..	.. 504

	Column
Capital Expenditure Estimates Head 603 ..	1463- 1464
Capital Expenditure Estimates Head 604 ..	1492- 1493
Kidnapping and Slave Dealing	412-414
Magistrates Court (Amendment) Bill ..	1661-1662
Ministers Statutory Powers and Duties Bill	
.. .. .	307-309, 315
Nigerian Railway Corporation (Amendment)	
Bill	1605-1606
Portrait of the Prime Minister .. .. .	.. 1130
Regional Courts Bill	1662-1663
Revised Edition of the Laws Bill	1616-1617
Southern Cameroons roads	373-374
Supplementary Appropriation (1956-57)	
Bill .. .. .	.. 1638

CUSTOMS DUTIES (DUMPED AND SUBSIDISED GOODS) BILL (See Public Bills)

D

DADA, Mr E. O. A. :	
Appropriation Bill,	
Com. Head 73	1366-1367
Kidnapping and Slave Dealing	409-410

DALDRY, Mr L. C. :

Appropriation Bill,	51 ^c -516
Banking Bill	1613-1616
Central Bank of Nigeria Bill	1686-1688, 1729, 1746
Loan (Internal Borrowing) Bill	1587-1588

DEEM KPUMM, Mr P. :

Appropriation Bill,	
Com. Head 38	981-982
Com. Head 39	993-994
Capital Expenditure Estimates Head 603 ..	1533
Gboko, Wukari and Ibi postmen	p. 893 Q
Private Medical practitioners	p. 893 Q
Temporary Medical Officers	p. 893 Q

DEVELOPMENT FUND :

General Revenue Balance .. .. .	.. 1540
Marine Renewals Fund .. .. .	.. 1541

DOKOTRI, Mr P. M. :

Central Bank of Nigeria Bill	1727-1728, 1730-1731, 1741, 1747-1748
Criminal Code (Age of Consent) Bill ..	.. 1574
Vom Farmers (compensation)	p. 893 Q

DOSUNMU, Mr L. J. :

Appropriation Bill,	
Com. Head 23	713-714
Com. Head 27 .. .. .	.. 761
Com. Head 33	937-938
Com. Head 43	1025-1026
Com. Head 54	1102-1103
Capital Expenditure Estimates Head 605	
.. .. .	1520-1525
Criminal Code (Age of Consent) Bill ..	1542-1543
Customs Duties (Dumped and Subsidised	
Goods) Bill	432, 433, 442

	Column
IGWE, Mr J. O. :	
Abakaliki Motor Licensing Authority	P. 894 Q
Abakaliki Police quarters	1409 Q
Debate on the Address	203-204
Postal Agencies in Abakaliki Division	P. 894 Q

IKEH, Mr B. O. :	
Abakaliki Post Office staff shortage	P. 902 Q
Abakaliki Prison wall	P. 897 Q
Abakaliki water supply	P. 898Q
Abakaliki/Yahe road tarring	P. 897 Q
Appropriation Bill,	
Com. Head 47	1078-1079
Com. Head 57	1122-1123
Com. Head 70	1212-1213
Central Bank of Nigeria Bill	1740, 1741, 1743
Clothing, importation of secondhand	384-387, 396
Customs (Duties and Exemptions) (Amendment) Bill	1757
Enugu and Abakaliki daily mail service	P. 902 Q
Trunk Road 'B' to Trunk Road 'A' conversion	P. 897 Q

IMAFIDON, Mr E. O. :	
Appropriation Bill	
Com. Head 39	992, 993
Benin officers employed in prisons	P.903Q
Ijebu-Ode-Benin Road construction	P903Q
New ferry at Sapele	P912Q

INTERNAL AFFAIRS, LABOUR AND WELFARE	
Minister of, (Hon. J. M. Johnson) :	
Appropriation Bill	479-490
Criminal Code (Age of Consent) Bill	1568-1569
Docks (Safety of Labour)	1757
Firearms Bill	275-276
Kidnapping and Slave Dealing	406-409
Liquor (Amendment) Bill	1564
Military Forces (Amendment) Bill	1558-1559, 1561-1562

IZAH, Mr J. L. :	
Abagana Post Office	860
Aboh Division police posts	951
Appropriation Bill	
Com. Head 34	941-942
Com. Head 43	1025
Ashaka telegraph line	859Q
Debate on the Address	190-194
Kwale police quarters	951
Kwale Prison	691Q
Lagos-Warri mail service expansion	1230Q
Sapele, Abraka and Kwale mail services	859Q
School of Driving	846-847
Ukwani District Council—telephone facilities	1319Q

J

JALO WAZIRI, M. :	
Appropriation Bill	567
Broadcasting of Members' speeches	503

K

KOMOLAFE, Mr C. O. :	
Appropriation Bill	
Com. Head 22	697-698
Com. Head 23	711

	Column
Com. Head 38	965-967
Com. Head 42	1022
Automatic Exchange for Ilesha-Ife	P906Q
Capital Expenditure Estimates Head 603	1478-1479
Customs Duties (Dumped and Subsidised Goods) Bill	431-432
Establishment of Ministry of Nigerianisation	1287-1288
Lagos Secondary Schools	P910Q
Medical services for Members	634
Mineral Oils (Amendment) Bill	443-444
New Post Offices opened in 1957/58	P906Q
Post Offices in Imesi-Ile-Ijebu-Jesha	P906Q
Pottery Industries	380
Railway Corporation employees, transfer of	P910Q
Secondary grammar schools of Voluntary Agencies	P909Q
Southern Cameroons roads	369-370
Trunk Roads 'A' and 'B'	792-793

KPAGH, Mr Toryila

Appropriation Bill	
Com. Head 72	1335-1336

L

LAGOS AFFAIRS, MINES AND POWER, MINISTER OF, (Alhaji the hon. Muhammadu Ribadu) :

Adjournment <i>sine die</i>	1674-1675
Appropriation Bill	545-551
Com. Head 54	1107-1112
Com. Head 56	1119-1122
Com. Head 57	1123-1124
Capital Expenditure Estimates Head 601	1535
Capital Expenditure Estimates Head 605	1499-1505, 1528, 1529
Central Bank of Nigeria Bill	1681-1684
Electricity Corporation (Amendment) Bill	444-445, 447
Income Tax (Amendment) Bill	1653-1655
Lagos (Administrative and Executive Functions) Bill	457
Loan, (Internal Borrowing) Bill	1581, 1593
Minerals (Amendment) Bill	464-467
Mineral Oils (Amendment) Bill	445-449, 455
Supplementary Appropriation (1956/57) Bill	1631

LAGOS AFFAIRS, MINES AND POWER, PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY TO THE MINISTRY OF : (See Usman, Mr I. S.) :

LAKUNLE, Mr L. L.

Appropriation Bill	659-662
Com. Head 38	973-975
Com. Head 42	1021
Com. Head 55	1114-1115
Com. Head 56	1117-1118

	<i>Column</i>
Development of Victoria Island ..	810
Education (Lagos) (Amendment) Bill ..	1548
Firearms Bill ..	260
Lagos (Administrative & Executive Functions) Bill ..	462-463
Nigerian Census Officers in Police ..	P911Q

LAWAL, Mr L. A. :

Appropriation Bill ..	627-631
Com. Head 46 ..	1075-1076
Dispute at University College ..	1080-1081
National Unity ..	1312-1314

M

MAHAMMADU, A. Bayero, M. :

Appropriation Bill ..	
Com. Head 69 ..	1195

MAITAMA SULE, M. :

Appropriation Bill ..	642-650
Com. Head 22 ..	699, 701
Com. Head 29 ..	904-910
Com. Head 38 ..	979-980
Com. Head 45 ..	1056-1058
Com. Head 54 ..	1105-1107
Com. Head 67 ..	1176-1179
Capital Expenditure Estimates Head 602 ..	1448-1450
Capital Expenditure Estimates Head 603 ..	1464-1465
Central Bank of Nigeria Bill ..	1691-1694
Clothing, importation of secondhand ..	391-394
Customs Duties (Dumped & Subsidised Goods) Bill ..	427-429
Debate on the Address ..	173-181
Establishment of Ministry for Nigerianisation ..	1297-1301
Loan (Internal Borrowing) Bill ..	1589-1590
Minerals Oils (Amendment) Bill ..	455-456
Mobile Post Offices ..	830-831

MARIERE, Chief S. J. :

Appropriation Bill, ..	
Com. Head 38 ..	980-981
Com. Head 40 ..	1013
Com. Head 68 ..	1182-1183
Criminal Code (Age of Consent) Bill ..	1569-1570
Death of Rt. Hon. Walter Elliot ..	789-790
Debate on the Address ..	132-136
Mobile Post Offices ..	829-830
Rail disaster, message of condolence ..	356-357

MASHI, M. Iro, Sarkin Gubas :

Debate on the Address ..	169-170
--------------------------	---------

MBADIWE, The hon. Dr K. O. :

(See Commerce and Industry, Minister of)

MPAKOGU, Mr F. U. :

Appropriation Bill, ..	
Com. Head 25 ..	723-724
Com. Head 40 ..	1004-1007
Com. Head 41 ..	1016-1018
Com. Head 46 ..	1077-1078
Assault on traffic policeman ..	686-687

	<i>Column</i>
Capital Expenditure Estimates Head 604 ..	1487-1488
Capital Expenditure Estimates Head 601 ..	1531-1532
Central Bank of Nigeria Bill ..	1713-1716, 1724, 1732, 1745, 1746, 1749-50
German Enemy Property ..	1753
Income Tax (Amendment) Bill ..	1647-1649
Industrial Development (Income Tax Relief) Bill ..	330,331
Military Forces (Amendment) Bill ..	1562
Mineral Oils (Amendment) Bill ..	455

MBOYAM, Mr J. :

Appropriation Bill, ..	586-592
Com. Head 72 ..	1344-1345
Capital Expenditure Estimates Head 602 ..	1459-1460

Commencement of work on capital projects ..	841
German Enemy Property ..	1751-1752
Nkambe and Wum Police detachments ..	953 Q
Nkambe and Wum Post Offices ..	1320 Q
Southern Cameroons Postal Agencies ..	1319 Q
Southern Cameroons Postal Business ..	1320 Q
Southern Cameroons roads ..	374-375
Takom-Bissaula-Kamine road work ..	1224 Q
Yola-Bamenda road work ..	1223 Q

MPI, Mr J. :

Benin/Owo Trunk Road 'A' ..	P900 Q
Debate on the Address ..	128-130
Federal Government Asylum, promotion of Officers ..	16
Federal Government Industries ..	P899 Q
Industrial Loans Board's loans ..	P893 Q
Pontoon services from Asaba to Onitsha ..	P899 Q
Telephone facilities at Ahoada ..	16

MUHAMMADU BELLO ALKAMAWA, M. :

Appropriation Bill, ..	662-666
Com. Head 25 ..	738-739
Com. Head 72 ..	1332-1334
Capital Expenditure Estimates Head 602 ..	1452-1454
Debate on the Address ..	72-73
Firearms Bill ..	244
Industrial Development (Income Tax Relief) Bill ..	325
Lagos (Administrative and Executive Functions) Bill ..	460

MUHTARI, M. Sarkin Bai :

Appropriation Bill, ..	
Com. Head 23 ..	708
Com. Head 25 ..	748, 749
Com. Head 29 ..	868-870, 892
Com. Head 38 ..	964-965
Com. Head 66 ..	1138-1139
Com. Head 76 ..	1394-1395
Capital Expenditure Estimates Head 605 ..	1526-1527
Central Bank of Nigeria Bill ..	1701-1703
Debate on the Address ..	36-39
Education (Lagos) (Amendment) Bill ..	1544
Firearms Bill ..	240, 277
National Committee for Independence ..	1246-1248
Railway line to French territory ..	P895 Q

Column

OYEDEJI, Mr E. O. :

Debate on the Address	201-203
Electricity for Aiyedade and Egbedore	P. 899 Q
Ibadan-Ife Road re-surfacing	P. 902 Q
Minorities Commission, financing	P. 898 Q
Mobile Post Offices	829
Wheat flour from U.S.A.	P. 890 Q ; P. 899 Q
1957 Constitutional Conference, cost of	P. 898 Q

P

PAPERS LAID (see p. xviii)

POPOOLA, Chief I. S. :

Appropriation Bill	567-569
--------------------	---------

PRIME MINISTER : (Alhaji the hon. Abubakar

Tafawa Balewa)

Appropriation Bill	
Com. Head 23	709-710
Com. Head 24	716, 717
Com. Head 25	749-751
Com. Head 27	761-762
Com. Head 38	960-961
Com. Head 68	1194-1195
Com. Head 76	1395-1396
Assault on traffic policeman	687-688
Business Statement	12-13
Capital Expenditure Estimates, Head 603	1483-1484
Debate on the Address	104-109
Establishment of Ministry for Nigerianisation	1288-1292
Firearms Bill 237-239, 246, 247, 249, 257, 259, 265, 266, 274, 276, 277	17-20
Lawlessness, statement on	1552-1553, 1562
Military Forces (Amendment) Bill	1552-1553, 1562
Ministers Statutory Powers and Duties Bill	301-303, 315, 316
Mystery of two missing men	949-950
National Committee for Independence	1243-1246
National Unity	1314
Nigerian Railway Corporation (Amendment) Bill	1600-1601
Nigerian Railway, Loan for extension of	505
Police (Amendment) Bill	281-282, 297, 298
Police in Northern Region	1218-1220
Proposed Loan for Railway Corporation	1233
Refusal of passport	779-782
Special Constables	418-420
Staff List	1038
Supplementary Appropriation (1956-57) Bill	1628, 1637-1638
Tribute to Police	1316

PUBLIC BILLS :

Appropriation (1958-59) Bill :	
Presented and 1R.	20
2R	212, 471, 455, 637
Com. Head 21	693
Com. Head 22	696
Com. Head 23	701
Com. Head 24	715
Com. Head 25	717
Com. Head 26	752

Column

Com. Head 27	754
Com. Head 28	762
Com. Head 29	860
Com. Head 30	919
Com. Head 31	933
Com. Head 32	935
Com. Head 33	935
Com. Head 34	937
Com. Head 35	948
Com. Head 36	948
Com. Head 37	948
Com. Head 38	955
Com. Head 39	982
Com. Head 40	1004
Com. Head 41	1015
Com. Head 42	1019
Com. Head 43	1025
Com. Head 44	1032
Com. Head 45	1033, 1039
Com. Head 46	1067
Com. Head 47	1078
Com. Head 48	1078
Com. Head 49	1079
Com. Head 50	1079
Com. Head 51	1079
Com. Head 52	1079
Com. Head 53	1079
Com. Head 54	1086
Com. Head 55	1114
Com. Head 56	1117
Com. Head 57	1122
Com. Head 58	1126
Com. Head 59	1126
Com. Head 60	1128
Com. Head 61	1128
Com. Head 62	1128
Com. Head 63	1128
Com. Head 64	1128
Com. Head 65	1128
Com. Head 66	1136
Com. Head 67	1160
Com. Head 68	1182
Com. Head 69	1185
Com. Head 70	1209
Com. Head 71	1217
Com. Head 72	1331
Com. Head 73	1359
Com. Head 74	1377
Com. Head 75	1383
Com. Head 76	1387
Com. Head 77	1396
Com. Head 78	1403
Com. Head 79	1403
Com. Head 80	1404
Com. Head 81	1404
Com. Head 82	1404
3R	1404

Banking Bill :

Presented and 1R.	1136
2R	1610
Com.	1744
3R	1750

Central Bank of Nigeria Bill :

Presented and 1R.	1135
2R	1675
Com.	1722
3R	1743

	<i>Column</i>
Colony Development Board (Provisions for Western Region) Bill :	
Presented and 1R.. .. .	20
2R	234
Com.	237
3R	237
Criminal Code (Age of Consent) Bill :	
Presented and 1R.. .. .	1135
2R	1568
Com.	1575
3R	1577
Customs Duties (Dumped and Subsidised Goods) Bill :	
Presented and 1R.. .. .	20
2R	332, 422
Com.	439
3R	444
Education (Lagos) (Amendment) Bill :	
Presented and 1R.. .. .	693
2R	1535, 1542
Com.	1551
3R	1552
Electricity Corporation of Nigeria (Amendment) Bill :	
Presented and 1R.. .. .	20
2R	444
Com.	447
3R	447
Firearms Bill :	
Presented and 1R.. .. .	20
2R	237
Com.	247
3R	277
Income Tax (Amendment) Bill :	
Presented and 1R.. .. .	1539
2R	1642
Com.	1656
3R	1660
Industrial Development (Income Tax Relief) Bill :	
Presented and 1R.. .. .	20
2R	316
Com.	329
3R	332
Lagos (Administrative and Executive Functions) Bill :	
Presented and 1R.. .. .	20
2R	457
Com.	463
3R	463
Liquor (Amendment) Bill :	
Presented and 1R.. .. .	693
2R	1564
Com.	1566
3R	1566
Loan (Internal Borrowing) Bill :	
Presented and 1R.. .. .	1135
2R	1577
Com.	1594
3R	1598
Magistrates' Court (Lagos) (Amendment) Bill :	
Presented and 1R.. .. .	1539
2R	1661
Com.	1662
3R	1662

	<i>Column</i>
Mineral Oils (Amendment) Bill :	
Presented and 1R.. .. .	20
2R	447
Com.	452
3R	455
Minerals (Amendment) Bill :	
Presented and 1R.. .. .	212
2R	464
Com.	468
3R	470
Ministers Statutory Powers and Duties (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill :	
Presented and 1R.. .. .	21
2R	301
Com.	310
3R	316
Nigeria Military Forces, Royal West African Frontier Force (Amendment) Bill :	
Presented and 1R.. .. .	693
2R	1552
Com.	1559
3R	1562
Nigeria Railway Corporation Bill :	
Presented and 1R.. .. .	1135
2R	1598
Com.	1607
3R	1609
Pensions (Amendment) Bill :	
Presented and 1R.. .. .	693
2R	1566
Com.	1567
3R	1567
Police (Amendment) Bill :	
Presented and 1R.. .. .	21
2R	281
Com.	292
3R	301
Railway Loan (International Bank) Bill :	
Presented and 1R.. .. .	1539
2R	1758
Com.	1758
3R	1760
Regional Courts (Federal Jurisdiction) Bill :	
Presented and 1R.. .. .	1539
2R	1662
Com.	1663
3R	1664
Revised Edition (Laws of the Federation and Lagos) Bill :	
Presented and 1R.. .. .	1136
2R	1616
Com.	1620
3R	1620
Supplementary Appropriation (1956-57) Bill :	
Presented and 1R.. .. .	693
2R	1563, 1622
Com.	1626
3R	1637
Widows' and Orphans' Pensions Bill :	
Presented and 1R.. .. .	1539
2R	1630
Com.	1641
3R	1641

	<i>Column</i>
Ministers Statutory Powers and Duties Bill	309-311
National Committee for Independence	1257-1258
Police (Amendment) Bill	296, 297
UNA, Mr S. J. :	
Adjournment <i>sine die</i>	1671
Capital Expenditure Estimates, Head 605	1516-1517
Capital Expenditure Estimates, Head 601	1530
Central Bank of Nigeria Bill	1694-1696, 1736
Debate on the Address	60-64
Education (Lagos) (Amendment) Bill	1550-1551
Federal scholarships : awards to non-Nigerians	334-335
Firearms Bill	271
Loan (Internal Borrowing) Bill	1586-1587
UDOM, Mr J. U. :	
Abak permanent police quarters	P 892 Q
Appropriation Bill, Com. Head 25	730-731
Com. Head 39	995-997
Com. Head 41	1015-1016
Broadcasting of Members' speeches	502
Capital Expenditure Estimates, Head 602	1438
Criminal Code (Age of Consent) Bill	1570-1571
Debate on the Address	198-201
Firearms Bill	241-242
Loan (Internal Borrowing) Bill	1582-1586
Military Forces (Amendment) Bill	1560
School of Driving	850
UDOMA, Dr E. U. :	
Atimbo River bridge	1225 Q
Appropriation Bill, Com. Head 26	666-673
Com. Head 38	754
Com. Head 39	972-973
Com. Head 66	986-988
Com. Head 66	1139-1142
Broadcasting of Members' speeches	504
Business of the House	11-12
Closure of Opobo port	1232 Q
Criminal Code (Age of Consent) Bill	1570
Detainees ultimately discharged	P 913 Q
Detention of unconvicted persons	P 913 Q
Firearms Bill	249-250, 252, 258, 259, 269, 274, 275
Medical services for Members	635-636
Military Forces (Amendment) Bill	1554-1555
Mineral Oils (Amendment) Bill	456-457
Ministers Statutory Powers and Duties Bill	312-313
National Committee for Independence	1237-1242, 1267, 1268
Opobo Bar bridge	1231 Q
Opobo boatyard extension	P 913 Q
Opobo New Post Office	P 907 Q
Opobo Post Office, labour employed at	P 907 Q
Police (Amendment) Bill	282, 292-294, 298, 299
Prisons, detention in	P 913 Q
Supplementary Appropriation (1956-57) Bill	1622, 1629, 1633
Telephones, applications for	P 907 Q
Trunk Roads, 'A' and 'B'	801-802

	<i>Column</i>
Widows' and Orphans' Pensions (Amendment) Bill	1641-1642
UKATTAH, Mr A. E. :	
Appropriation Bill	603-607
Com. Head 39	994, 995
Com. Head 72	1345-1347
Capital Expenditure Estimates, Head 601	1530-1531
Debate on the Address	57-60
Firearms Bill	276
Lalupon train disaster deaths	1230 Q
Liquor (Amendment) Bill	1565-1566
New buildings at Umuahia-Ibeku	1134 Q
Oloko, Aboro, Ariam and Ibere postal business	1318 Q
Radio beacon at Dibundsha	814
Rail Disaster, message of condolence	346-347
Supplementary Appropriation (1956-57) Bill	1633-1634
USMAN ANGULU AHMED, M. :	
Appropriation Bill, Com. Head 54	1094-1096
Broadcasting of Members' speeches	502
Capital Expenditure Estimates, Head 603	1485
Capital Expenditure Estimates, Head 604	1488-1489
Death of Rt. Hon. Walter Elliot	785-787
Debate on the Address	194-197
Kidnapping and Slave Dealing	415
Medical services for Members	636
USMAN, Mr I. S. (Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Lagos Affairs, Mines and Power) :	
Development of Victoria Island	809, 810
USMANU, MAITAMBARI M. :	
Appropriation Bill, Com. Head 73	1365-1366
W	
WACHUKU, Mr Jaja :	
Aba-Onitsha Road, tree cutting	342 Q
Adjournment <i>sine die</i>	1674
Appropriation Bill, Com. Head 25	674-679
Com. Head 25	721-722, 725, 726, 744-748
Com. Head 26	752-753
Com. Head 26	756-759
Com. Head 28	7-9-774
Com. Head 29	897-904
Com. Head 33	938
Com. Head 38	956-960, 961-962
Com. Head 39	988-991
Com. Head 45	1035-1036
Com. Head 45	1039-1045
Com. Head 54	1098-1102
Com. Head 56	1120-1121
Com. Head 66	1142-1148
Com. Head 68	1188-1194
Com. Head 70	1209-1211

	<i>Column</i>
Com. Head 72	1351-1357
Com. Head 74 .. .. .	.. 1377
Com. Head 76	1387-1391, 1396
Business Committee .. .. .	.. 23
Business of the House .. .. .	.. 13-14, 1416, 1417, 1670,1671
Capital Expenditure Estimates, Head 602	1428, 1429, 1430, 1439, 1440, 1443-1445
Capital Expenditure Estimates, Head 603	1461-1463, 1471-1477
Capital Expenditure Estimates, Head 605	1505-1510, 1513- 1515
Central Bank of Nigeria Bill	1705-1712, 1737-1738
Education (Lagos) (Amendment) Bill	1544-1546
Establishment of Ministry for Nigerianisation	1269-1282
Federal scholarships : awards to non- Nigerians	336, 337
Firearms Bill	249, 256, 257, 258, 266, 267, 270, 271
Loan (Internal Borrowing) Bill	1595-1596
National Committee for Independence	1260-1266
Nigerian Railway Corporation (Amendment) Bill	1603-1604, 1607
Police (Amendment) Bill	283, 284, 294, 295
Private Members' Motions	1234-1236
Railway Loan (International Bank) Bill	1759
Supplementary Appropriation (1956-57) Bill	1626, 1627, 1630, 1634, 1638-1639

WAZIRI, MAINA M. :

Police (Amendment) Bill	296
---------------------------------	-----

**WORKS, Minister of (Alhaji the hon.
Muhammadu Inuwa Wada) :**

Appropriation Bill	
Com. Head 72	1358-1359
Com. Head 73	1370-1376
Com. Head 75	1384-1386

	<i>Column</i>
Business of the House	209-210
Capital Expenditure Estimates, Head 602	1421-1428, 1434, 1440
Commencement of work on Capital Projects	838-839
School of Driving	847-848
Southern Cameroons roads	366-369
Trunk Roads 'A' and 'B'	799-800

Y

YAKUBA WANKA, M. Wazirin Bauchi :

Appropriation Bill	601-603
Com. Head 25	729-730
Com. Head 29	879-880
Trunk Roads 'A' and 'B' .. .. .	.. 794

YARIMA SALEH, M. :

Lalupon train disaster	P 905 Q
--------------------------------	---------

YELLOWWE, Chief N. G. :

Appropriation Bill	
Com. Head 54	1112-1114
Com. Head 70	1216-1217
Assault on traffic policeman .. .. .	.. 688
Capital Expenditure Estimates, Head 603	1484-1485
Debate on the Address	156-161
Kidnapping and Slave Dealing	415-416

Z

ZUBAIRU BAMU, M. :

Appropriation Bill	
Com. Head 72 .. .. .	.. 1348
Capital Expenditure Estimates, Head 604	1489-1490

INDEX TO PAPERS LAID

	<i>Column</i>
Annual Report of the Department of Agricultural Research for the year 1955-56	8
Annual Report of the Antiquities Service for the year 1955-56	421
Annual Report of the Federal Department of Chemistry for the year 1956-57	9
Annual Report of the Department of Commerce and Industries for the year 1954-55	8
Annual Report on Civil Aviation, 1955-56	8
Annual Report of the Federal Administrator-General's Department for the year 1955-56	8
Annual Report of the Federal Fisheries Service for 1956-57	171
Annual Report of the Department of Forest Research for the year 1956-57	421
Annual Report of the Geological Survey Department for the year 1956-57	8
Annual Report of the Department of Labour for the year 1955-56	8
Annual Report of the Department of Marketing and Exports for the year 1956-57	8
Annual Report on the Medical Services of the Federal Territory of Lagos for the year 1956	8
Annual Report on the Nigeria Post Office Savings Bank for the year ended 31st March, 1956	8
Annual Report on the Nigeria Police Force for the year 1954-55	8
Annual Report on the Nigeria Police Force for the year 1955-56	1539
Annual Report on the Treatment of Offenders for the year 1956-57	1539
Annual Report of the Posts and Telegraphs Department for the year 1954-55	8
Annual Report of the Department of Veterinary Research of the Federation of Nigeria for the year 1954-55	8
Annual Report of the Department of Veterinary Research of the Federation of Nigeria for the year 1956-57	171
Docks Safety of Labour Regulations 1958 : Legal Notice No. 42 of 1958	1317
Draft Estimates of the Government of the Federation of Nigeria, 1958-59	9
First Annual Report of the Nigeria Central Marketing Board, 1955 (by Ordinance)	8
First Report from the Public Accounts Committee, House of Representatives, Session 1957-58 (by Standing Order)	8
Loan Development Board of the Federation of Nigeria (by Ordinance)	9
Mining and Mineral Resources in Nigeria, 1957	9
Nigerian Coal Corporation : Seventh Annual Report for the year 1956-57 (by Ordinance)	8
Nigerian Ports Authority : Second Annual Report for the year ended 31st March, 1957 (by Ordinance)	10
Nigerian Railway Corporation : Report and Accounts for the year ended 31st March, 1957 (by Ordinance)	10
Preliminary Report of the Fiscal Commission, December 1957	1221
Progress Report and Accounts of the Federal Public Works Department in 1957-58	1539
Report of the Accountant-General with Financial Statements for the year ended 31st March, 1955	8
Report of the Accountant-General with Financial Statements for the year ended 31st March, 1956	9
Report of the Director of Federal Audit on the Accounts of the Government of the Federation of Nigeria for the year ended 31st March, 1957	9
Report on the Registration of Title to Land in Lagos, 1957	8
Report by the Hon. Kolawole Balogun, M.H.R. on his Mission to the U.S.A. and Canada : Sessional Paper No. 2 of 1958	421
Report by Mr J. B. Loynes on the Establishment of a Nigeria Central Bank, the Introduction of a Nigerian Currency and other associated matters	9
Report of the Parliamentary Delegation to Fernando Po and Rio Muni, 1957	8
Report of the 40th Session of the International Labour Conference held in Geneva 5th to 28th June, 1957 : Sessional Paper No. 4 of 1958	1621
Report of the Visitation to University College, Ibadan, January 1958	421
Role of Federal Government in promoting Industrial Development in Nigeria : Sessional Paper No. 3 of 1958	421
Second Annual Report of the Government Coastal Agent covering the period 1st April, 1956 to 31st March, 1957	8
Second Annual Report of the Nigeria Central Marketing Board, 1956 (by Ordinance)	8
Second Report from the Public Accounts Committee, House of Representatives, Session 1957-58 (by Standing Order)	9
Second Report of the Standing Committee on Finance of the House of Representatives, 1957-58	1221
Second Progress Report on the Economic Programme 1955-60 : Sessional Paper No. 1 of 1958	253
Trade Report for the year 1955	9
University College Hospital, Ibadan : Report for the period June 30th 1954 to December 31st, 1956, with Financial Statements for the year ended March 31st 1956 (by Ordinance)	8
West African Airways Corporation : Report and Statements of Accounts, 1956-57 (by Ordinance)	9

10/11