



FEDERATION OF NIGERIA

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
DEBATES**

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[Papers and Oral Answers]

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[Oral Answers]

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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
NIGERIA

Tuesday, 19th April, 1960

The House met at 10 a.m.

PRAYERS

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

PAPERS

Mr Speaker : The following papers, already distributed to Members, are deemed to have been laid on the Table :—

(1) Report by the Joint United Kingdom—Nigerian Scientific Committee on the Monitoring of Radio-activity, 1960.

(2) Report of the Co-operative Department, 1956-59.

QUESTIONS

COAL

Displaced Miners

***O.98. Mr F. C. Ogbalu** asked the Minister of Mines and Power, what plans are afoot for the rehabilitation of displaced miners of the Nigerian Coal Corporation.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Mines and Power : The Eastern Regional Government has been approached with a view to finding alternative employment for the displaced miners. Firms engaged in the building of Independence lay-out in Enugu have also been approached to absorb workers and approximately 80 workers have been employed in Ijebu Igbo on a Western Regional Government water works project. The matter is still receiving my attention.

Selling price per ton

***O.99. Mr E. C. Akwivu** asked the Minister of Mines and Power, if he will state the selling prices per ton of coal produced at Enugu in 1955, 1956, 1957, 1959 and 1960 ; and if he will say to what extent the level of prices has been responsible for the decline in the demand for coal.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Mines and Power : The selling price of coal at the pithead over the years in question were as follows :—

January 1955	.. ..	35s-0d per ton
April 1955	.. ..	36s-6d per ton
December 1955	.. ..	46s-0d per ton
September 1956 to 1960		50s-0d per ton

The price of coal was increased by 9s-6d per ton in December 1955 to meet the cost of the such salaries and wages awards. The price was further increased in September 1956 by 5-0d per ton due to the imposition of a royalty by the Federal Government of this amount. The level of prices has been partially responsible for the decline in the demand for coal. A further factor was the inability of the Nigerian Coal Corporation in the early 1950's to meet the demand for coal due to a series of labour troubles. In the middle fifties Ghana Railways and Nigerian Railways decided to dieselize and the Electricity Corporation of Nigeria to go over to fuel oil.

Decline in demand

***O.100. Mr E. C. Akwivu** asked the Minister of Mines and Power, when his Ministry first became aware of the possible general decline in the demand for Enugu coal ; and what efforts have been and are being made to find reasonable alternative uses for the coal.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Mines and Power : At the end of July 1959 it was apparent that the demand for Enugu coal was declining. Considerable efforts are being made by the Coal Corporation and by my Ministry to find alternate uses for coal and, as I have already announced in this House, I am in touch with a Company which has shown interest in the possibility of erecting a steel industry at Enugu.

The hon. Member may be interested to know that the latest reports show that it is possible to make metallurgical coke from Nigerian coal.

Foreign markets

***O.101. Mr E. C. Akwivu** asked the Minister of Mines and Power, if he will enumerate the foreign markets for Enugu coal and their respective annual tonnage purchases during the period 1950-60 ; and what special efforts have been or are being made to regain lost markets or to find new ones.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Mines and Power : Apart from supplying bunkers to occasional shipping at Port Harcourt, the only foreign market between 1950 and 1960 has been Ghana. The following tonnages have been supplied :

				tons
1950-54	..	..	..	Nil
1954-55	..	..	..	31,151
1955-56	..	..	..	87,461
1956-57	..	..	..	67,307
1957-58	..	..	..	106,190
1958-59	..	..	..	94,092
1959-60	..	..	..	52,437
1960-61	..	..	..	30,000

which is part of a contract to supply 36,000 tons for 12 months commencing June 1960.

Enquires have been directed towards supplies for the Italian and South America markets and the Japanese markets have been canvassed. A Marketing Officer has recently been appointed by the Coal Corporation in an effort to develop coal sales to both home and overseas markets and efforts are presently being made to negotiate with the Japanese Consul to export some 240,000 tons per annum to Japan.

MINERALS

Mining of Iron Ore

*O.161. Mr G. O. D. Eneh asked the Minister of Mines and Power, what is the Government's view regarding the mining of iron ore deposits on the Enugu escarpment in view of the recent discovery that Udi coal is good for blast furnace work.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Mines and Power : The Government's view is that the sooner the mining of iron ore deposits near Enugu commences in connection with an iron and steel industry the better. Although metallurgical coke can be made from Enugu coal, the final question remains to be answered from the experiments now going forward as to whether it can be made economically.

Afam Gas

*O.162. Mr O. C. Ememe asked the Minister of Mines and Power, how soon it is proposed to utilise the gas at Afam oilfields to generate power for Port Harcourt and Aba.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Mines and Power : The hon. Member is presumably raising the question of the new Power Station to be built near Afam? Plant with a capacity of 20,000 kilowatts to use natural gas is on order, and it is expected that it will be ready for generating electricity by April 1962.

Compensation for Damage to Land

*O.185. Mr N. A. Ezonbodor asked the Minister of Mines and Power, how many people have been compensated for the damage done to their land by oil companies prospecting for oil in the country ; and what sums have been paid, particularly to people in the Niger Delta area.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Mines and Power : This Question covers a very wide field and a considerable amount of research will have to be undertaken. I therefore propose, and I am sure this will meet the approval of the Honourable Member, in order to give a full reply, to circulate the answer as a written reply.

Mineral Deposits in Katagum Division

*O.186. M. Shekarau Omar asked the Minister of Mines and Power, if he will cause a survey to be made for mineral deposits in Katagum Division.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Mines and Power : I shall look into this matter again but the hon. Member may be interested to know that in the course of a water supply survey in Katagum Division in which the general geology of the area was studied, no mineral deposits were found.

ELECTRICITY

Supply to Azare

*O.187. M. Muhammadu Sagir Umar asked the Minister of Mines and Power, what proposals he has for supplying Azare with electricity.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Mines and Power : Azare is not included in the current New Towns Development Programme, and since the paucity of revenue which can be anticipated would not justify the Capital expenditure which would be involved, it is unlikely to be included in the second phase of this programme unless it is nominated among other towns by the Northern Regional Government for development on the same financial basis as those nominated for development under the current programme.

M. Muhammadu Sagir Umar : Is the Minister of Mines and Power prepared to supply electricity to any other possible and such places where it has been asked for and how soon ?

The Minister of Mines and Power : As soon as we can get the Multi-Purpose Dam built on the Niger, I can assure the hon. Member of the House that I can supply electricity to almost every nook and corner.

Dr P. U. Okeke : I would like the Minister actually to enlighten this House in the interest of the people from Onitsha area what he means by 'near future'.

TRANSPORT

Uzuakoli Level Crossing

***O.102. Mr H. O. Chuku** asked the Minister of Transport and Aviation, why the proposed gates at the level crossing at Nkpa and Lodu in Uzuakoli have not been constructed.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Transport and Aviation : No level crossings at Nkpa and Lodu have yet been authorised.

The sites chosen by the Local Authorities for the level crossings were not acceptable to the Railway, for reasons, of safety, and alternative sites were offered by the Railway. These sites will be considered by the Eastern Regional Level Crossing Committee on 19th April. Gates will be provided after a decision as to the sites has been reached.

Onitsha Aerodrome

*** O.103. Mr F. C. Ogbalu** asked the Minister of Transport and Aviation, when work will commence on the construction of the proposed aerodrome at Onitsha.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Transport and Aviation : While there is provision in the Economic Development Programme for constructing an aerodrome at Onitsha, it is not intended to commence work in the near future. The hon. Member will appreciate that there is an urgent need to improve existing facilities particularly at Enugu and Port Harcourt and I have taken steps to deal with this. Until essential work has been completed the development of new aerodromes which must be closely related to the development of Air Services must take second place. I regret that in these circumstances, I can give no assurance about a date for starting work at Onitsha.

Mr D. N. Abii : Can the Minister be kind enough to tell us why a piece of work should be put down in the Economic Programme when there is no intention for the Minister to start it ?

Railway Extension

***O.104. Mr S. O. Kolade** asked the Minister of Transport and Aviation, whether he is considering the construction of a railway line from Ibadan *via* Oyo to Ilorin.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Transport and Aviation : No, Sir.

The hon. Member's attention is invited to the second part of the reply to question No. O.45 of the 5th of April, 1960, which sets out Government policy with regard to new railway extensions.

Aerodrome at Abeokuta

***O.105. Mr E. B. Serunke** asked the Minister of Transport and Aviation, whether he will consider constructing an aerodrome at Abeokuta.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Transport and Aviation : No, Sir.

Abeokuta is situated less than sixty miles from Lagos Airport and only forty-eight miles from Ibadan Airport, and is connected to both by the Railway and by a first-class motor road. There would not be sufficient demand to operate a scheduled air service to Abeokuta, nor would it be economical to do so. In the circumstances expenditure on constructing an aerodrome at Abeokuta could not be justified.

Railway Station, Ogunsile

***O.106. Mr E. B. Serunke** asked the Minister of Transport and Aviation, when the railway station at Ogunsile on the Lagos-Ibadan railway line will be removed to a more convenient spot near the present one ; and if he will make a statement on the accident which occurred recently at that station.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Transport and Aviation : There is no proposal for the removal of Ogunsile Station to mile 96½ as there is no justification for the removal of the station.

On the 31st of January, 1960, a derailment occurred between Ilugun and Ogunsile. Apart from the locomotive itself, thirteen goods

wagons were seriously derailed, all being thrown completely off the track and severely damaged beyond repair. No lives were lost or injuries sustained.

The Government Inspector of Railway, who was at the scene of the accident within a few hours of its occurrence, found after a detailed examination that the derailment was caused by a buckle in the track due to heat distortion. This is the first accident recorded in Nigeria which is directly attributable to heat buckling of the track, and I am happy to say that Nigeria does not suffer the extreme variations of temperature which are a common cause of distortion in other parts of the world.

The Railway Corporation has taken prompt measures to guard against a repetition both on the Western Relay and on the recently completed Eastern Relay, where full scale checks are now being carried out.

Water Supply at Enugu Aerodrome

*O.163. Mr G. O. D. Eneh asked the Minister of Transport and Aviation, if he will consider the advisability of supplying Enugu Aerodrome with pipe-borne water in order to satisfy the needs of the large number of Federal Officers working there and the general public who use the aerodrome.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Transport and Aviation : Yes, Sir, I will examine the possibilities.

Creek Mail Services

*O.188. Mr N. A. Ezonbodor asked the Minister of Transport and Aviation, what steps he intends taking to ensure that tickets are issued for fares paid by passengers travelling by the Creek Mail services.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Transport and Aviation : The system at present in force is that tickets are issued from a duplicate receipt book and the original is handed to the passenger. Before embarkation at Lagos, tickets are checked by a senior officer and similar checks are also carried out at disembarkation points both at Warri and Forcados. A Purser travels on the mail launch and issues tickets for intermediate ports. I have had no information to lead me to believe

that this system is not working satisfactorily and that any further steps are required.

Diesel Locomotive

*O.189. Mallam Muhammadu Sagir Umar asked the Minister of Transport and Aviation, how many diesel locomotives the Railway Corporation have at present; and what is the price of such a locomotive.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Transport and Aviation : 39, made up of 35 Main line and 4 shunting diesel locomotives.

The cost of a main line diesel locomotive is about £70,000 and that of a shunting diesel engine £33,000.

Lawyers Registered in Nigeria

*O.190. M. Muhammadu Sagir Umar asked the Minister of Transport and Aviation, what is the total number of lawyers registered in Nigeria up to date; how many of them are Nigerians and how many of them are women.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Transport and Aviation : The total number of lawyers registered in Nigeria from 20th April 1886 to 14th April, 1960 is as follows :

(a) Total registered	..	..	881
(b) Number of Nigerians	..	..	703
(c) Number of non-Nigerians			178
(d) Number of Female Lawyers			15

Mr P. E. Ekanem : Is any South African among the total non-Nigerians registered ?

Gambling in Railway Trains

O.191. Alhaji Muhammadu Gauyama asked the Minister of Transport and Aviation if he is aware that gambling called "Wala-Wala" is now very common on railway trains, and whether he will take steps to put an end to this practice.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Transport and Aviation : I am aware that gambling called "Wala-Wala" takes place on railway trains but the number of cases that have come to the notice of the Police is not high. Gambling on trains is prohibited under Bye-laws 49 (1) made under the Railway Corporation Ordinance and

the penalty on conviction is £20. All cases reported or detected are dealt with by the Railway Police. The Railway management has since 1955 issued appropriate instructions on the subject of gambling to all Railway staff. To facilitate the disposal of cases of gambling on trains and on Railway premises proposals to empower Native Courts in the Northern Region to deal with such cases are under consideration.

Dr P. U. Okeke : If it is difficult to stop that gambling called "Wala-Wala", could it not be legalised so that we can collect taxes from them?

LABOUR

Railway Labour Dispute

O.107. Mr P. E. Ekanem asked the Minister of Labour what steps he has taken to resolve the present labour dispute in the Nigerian Railway Corporation which has led to incidents which are now the subject of court action; and whether he is aware that trade unionists are dissatisfied with the inability of Ministers to resolve before now a dispute which so closely affects the interests of workers and the destiny of the trade union movement in this country; and whether he will make a statement.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Labour : I am satisfied that all necessary steps that could be taken to avoid or settle the present Railway dispute have in fact been taken by my Ministry and the Federal Government. As soon as the Ministry of Labour became aware of the trade dispute, a Senior Labour Officer was appointed to act as conciliator. He held several joint meetings with the parties but failed to effect an amicable settlement. The Industrial Relations Commissioner intervened personally, but the parties were still unwilling to compromise, and it was at this stage that the Government appointed a Commission of Enquiry to enquire into the economics, administration and industrial relations of the Corporation.

I am sure it will be appreciated that my Ministry or this hon. House could not justifiably interfere in a matter that is sub-judice.

Industrial Disputes

O.164. Mr A. U. D. Mbah asked the Minister of Labour, if he will state the number of industrial disputes brought to the notice of

his Ministry, the number of strikes involving stoppage of work, and the number of days lost as a result of strike action in each of the years within the period April 1955 to March 1960.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Labour : The total number of trade disputes brought to the notice of my Ministry during the five-year period April 1955 to March 1960 is 556. Of this number, 226 resulted in stoppages of work involving 218,832 workers with a total of 1,168,594 man-days lost.

The following is an analysis of the disputes :—

Year	Total number of Trade stoppages disputes	No. of Trade disputes resulting in stoppages of work	No. of workers involved	Man-days lost
1955-56	84	43	102,223	901,000
1956-57	95	30	54,154	61,300
1957-58	136	49	21,797	63,411
1958-59	125	59	22,502	85,582
1959-60	116	45	18,147	57,301
	556	226	218,832	1,168,594

(NOTICES OF MOTIONS)

Exiles

M. Aminu Kano (Kano East) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to move the Motion standing in my name, which states, That no Nigerian should be banished from his home or place of residence until he has been given full opportunity to defend himself in a court of law, and that all persons who are so banished at present should be freed as from the 1st of October, 1960.

I move this Motion because from 1953 when the Constitution broke down there had been consistent demand by all factions of the Nigerian Community for entrenchment of fundamental human rights in our Constitution which materialised just last year. In this Motion my intention is not to bring to this House specific instances of banishments; because it is not my intention to embarrass any institution or any Regional Government or any Local Authority. (*Hear, hear*). But I would like this House to accept the principle that it is absolutely unjust, it will be absolutely wrong, and morally wrong in Nigeria which is achieving

[M. AMINU KANO]

independence this year to have people who are banished from their own place of residence or from their own home without a chance of defending themselves in a court of law.

My point is that if such persons commit an offence they should be charged and brought before a court of law. If the law says that they should be banished, I have no objection to that. But to have people banished from their own home by the act of a Government or by the act of any Native Authority in this country is undemocratic, and it is against the principles of Nigerian unity. I would like the Government therefore to accept this Motion because not only will it bring harmony to this country but it will also give us a chance to work out a Government which will be for the people and by the people.

If this principle is accepted we should go to the extent of giving pardon as an act of mercy to those people banished from their home who have not had the opportunity to defend themselves in any court of law. I am sure that this act of mercy will characterise our independence on 1st October. In an independent Nigeria we cannot afford any action which will make us to look as if we do not cherish the tenets of democracy.

It is indeed important that this Motion be presented to this House at this time because it is my belief that not only do people suffer from banishment who have not had the chance of defending themselves in a court of law but such people would like to join their own families; they would like to go back to their places of residence, they would like to join the free Nigerian society. I am not against any Authority which finds a person guilty of an offence punishable by banishment. But it is apparent that a person charged for an offence, in order to ensure impartiality, must be brought before the court of law for trial.

We are practising democracy, we are not prepared to accept dictatorship; we must, therefore, give justice to every man in Nigeria. We must lay an example of democratic society in Africa. And, above all, we must match any country which claims to be practising democracy in the Western sense or in any other sense.

Mr Speaker, Sir, the new Nigeria shall not tolerate injustice. The new Nigeria of even today does not want to tolerate injustice. I

would therefore like us to have a platform whereby every man, no matter how much he is grieved, can be given a chance to be heard; and if he cannot defend himself then nobody will question the right of the Government to ostracize him. That is why this Motion is standing and I am asking therefore that this Motion should be treated like a Motion of mercy whereby we are asking for mercy from Government for those people who have now been taken away from their homes and are living somewhere else, even though they live in the same town. This country condemns some of the actions of the present Government to banish people from their own country. We cannot condemn people acting in such manner if we are doing it ourselves.

Sir, just last week some Bishops and Archbishops were banished from South Africa. They have not found rescue in Britain because the Government of South Africa is not only devilish, but it is a Government of barbarians and a Government of savages led by the Prime Minister. That we condemn and we cannot therefore give any chance for anybody to come to this country and say that we too are practising the same type of thing. I would like, therefore, that when we are entering independence we shall enter it with clean hands.

This House, I believe, is a House where we are prepared to build a nation and, to mould a nation for the various peoples of Nigeria, all tribes of Nigeria, and our aim is to mould them into one great and virile nation. The people of Britain whether Scottish, English, Irish and Welsh who have now been welded into one great nation did it because of certain concept which we here in this country cherished, and I believe that it will be an act of justice if we begin to show this solidarity to make Nigeria look more and more on the line of token democracy. I therefore, Mr Speaker, beg to move this Motion "that no Nigerian should be banished from his home or place of residence until he has been given full opportunity to defend himself in a Court of Law", and that Nigerians now facing this difficulty should be freed as from October 1st.

Mr E. C. Akwivu (Orlu East): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to second this Motion. Motions like this become very necessary because we have said several times not only ourselves as individuals, but also through leaders of political as

well as religious thoughts of this country that we are out to establish and maintain a democratic Nigeria—a democratic Nigeria in which people will enjoy liberty in the accepted sense in modern society.

Mr Speaker, Sir, the Motion as has been ably moved is rather narrow and ought not to present any serious difficulty. Mainly that no person should be removed from his home permanently and perhaps even temporarily without due process of the law. Now to evolve all the complexities and the intricacies involved in the usual standard classic expression of Human Rights is certainly to stretch it so far as to obscure the very simple request contained in this Motion.

Now, there are two aspects that may perhaps need emphasis in this Motion. One is that the person should be given full opportunity to defend himself in a Court of Law. It does not say that no man should be removed from his home but that in so doing you must give the man full opportunity to defend himself in a Court of Law.

Mr Speaker, Sir, one of the very fundamentals of this request is that the people of the country, everyone of them must be in a position to know under what circumstances he can be removed from his home. In other words, the law of the land must be clear as to what offence a man should commit to be removed from his home. I think that is the very first thing, and in order to ensure this, our laws relating to personal liberty should be clear, concise and definite. This, of course, means that the law should not be so vague as to lend itself to misuse or manipulation by people in authority, who, perhaps, are not as scrupulous when it comes to others' liberties, as others may like it.

Sir, if a man is removed and you give him full opportunity to defend himself in a Court of Law; now, giving one opportunity implies having first confronted him with the offences he is alleged to have committed and giving him the opportunity to arrange to defend himself. It is no use saying that you have given a man full opportunity to defend himself in a Court of Law if you seize him from his house unexpectedly, lock him up in custody for about a week or two and after all drag him into a court to defend himself. Certainly that is rather unfair. It is very hard on the individual

concerned. It is very necessary that when a person is apprehended, and after the usual judicial interrogation and acquainting him of the charge, you should allow him to defend himself, see that he is aware of the offence, then let him arrange for his defence. In defending himself it is also necessary to give him sufficient opportunity to arrange for those who are in a position to testify as to the veracity of the defence he is going to put up. It equally defeats the idea of giving a man full opportunity to defend himself if he is either in no position to get a witness or the witnesses are so subjected to duress, intimidation and all the like that they cannot even come out to say what they know for fear of their own lives.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I would not like to go too far on this matter, but would like to end by saying that in pursuing this objective it has been said before that the Government is taking or has taken steps to make sure that these things are enforced, but we would like to say that it would be helping a long way and would be very encouraging if the country had as much as possible unified principles of administration of justice. We may have our regional courts, we may have the Customary Courts or whatever other courts there may be, but if we can work out the standard of procedure or standard of manner of prosecution and defence, I think, Mr Speaker, it will help anyone to know when he is being unjustly detained. Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to support.

Question proposed.

The Minister of Internal Affairs (The hon. M. Usman Sarki): Mr Speaker, Sir, in these days that filing of Election Petitions has become the order of the day, I think this Motion is being filed to test the sincerity of this Government. But when I heard the hon. Member's speech I have got to change my mind. (*Hear, hear.*)

I feel I should come in very early in this debate because so much has been said on previous occasions about Fundamental Human Rights. I rise to propose an amendment standing in my name. From line 1, leave out from "That" to end and add:— "This House congratulates the Government on the steps it has taken to entrench Fundamental Human Rights in the Constitution and to ensure that restriction on personal liberty

[MINISTER OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS]

movement and residence of any citizen of Nigeria may only be imposed in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution Orders in Council”.

Sir, it is only a week ago that this House debated the same subject on Fundamental Human Rights, and after a long debate it passed this resolution following an amendment I moved on a Private Member's Motion “that this House being ever mindful of the importance of the constitutional provisions safeguarding fundamental human rights, will lend its full and unqualified support to the Federal Government in its efforts to ensure the observance of these rights throughout the Federation”. One of these Fundamental Human Rights provided in our Constitution is the freedom of movement in Nigeria.

Every Nigerian is entitled to move freely throughout the Federation and to reside in any part of it and no one should be expelled from Nigeria or refused entry into it. Our Constitution also provides that no person should be deprived of his personal liberty except in certain well-defined cases. There has been some misunderstanding as to the true nature of the Fundamental Human Rights.

An hon. Member : As in Bida.

The Minister of Internal Affairs : If you come to Bida as a politician you will be received as a politician.

There are some people who feel that incorporation of the provisions related to these Rights in the Constitution place certain of their actions beyond the scope of the law. Those people should be told that all rights conferred upon any citizen of Nigeria are exercisable only within the limits imposed by the laws of this country and here I refer the hon. Member to section 10, paragraph 2 (a) of the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution Order which states: “Nothing in this paragraph shall invalidate any law that is reasonably justifiable in a democratic society—(a) restricting the movements or residence of any person within Nigeria in the interest of defence, public safety, public order, public morality, or public health”. Our Constitution, however, further provides that a Nigerian who feels that his liberty is in jeopardy has a right to seek redress in the High Court of the Region

from which he comes and he is entitled to fair hearing within a reasonable time by a court or other tribunal established by law and . .

An hon. Member : How many are there in the North ?

The Minister of Internal Affairs : How many are there in the West ?

Even then where the movement or residence of a person is restricted otherwise than by an order of a court that person is entitled to demand that he be tried by a tribunal established by law.

The mover of this motion is one of those who took part in the 1957 Constitutional Conference where it was agreed that provision for these rights should be made in our Constitution. They have now been made and that is why I propose the Amendment that Government should be congratulated on the steps they have taken to do so. I assure the House that in pursuance of the Resolution passed by this House last Tuesday, to which I have referred, this Government is going to ensure the strict observance of these Rights throughout the Federation of Nigeria.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to propose.

The Minister of State (The hon. M. A. O. Olarewaju) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to second the Amendment Motion moved by the Minister of Internal Affairs. In seconding this Amendment, I would like to strike some new points which I hope will not only be useful to the mover of the original Motion but to the whole House in general. Judging from general conduct, Nigerians are mostly responsible citizens compared with other countries all over the world, but then it would be very wrong to say that there are not a few irresponsible and dangerous people all over Nigeria. The mover of the original motion did not realise that if his Motion is passed it will give more room to these irresponsible people to practise their evil.

The question of homes was raised in the original Motion. I would like to say it is very simple to make a home in Nigeria. If a person can only acquire a piece of land about ten to twenty square feet, pick up a tent or hut on it, that place becomes his home. As I am standing before you I now keep three homes. The first is in Omu-Aran, where I was born. The second

is at Ikorin, where I was living before I come down to Lagos, and my present house at Ikoyi where I live now. I am not sure that the mover of the original Motion can tell me in any way why I am not entitled to any of these houses—as my home.

I am sure the mover of the original Motion was having in mind the question of entrenchment of Fundamental Human Rights but I must state here that the articles contained in the Fundamental Human Rights do not in any way kick against our native law and custom. Fundamental Human Rights is not a passport to act of hooliganism (*Interruption*) or a good defence against criminals that make up the higher rank and file of the Action Group. If the original Motion is passed, it would not be difficult for a man in Western Ijaw to go to Kano to acquire a piece of land with the intention to cause trouble in five years' time (*Interruption*). Then he becomes engineer of trouble and makes trouble at Kano, the people or Native Authority have no authority to ask him to go to his native town. Everywhere in the world there are habitual criminals. (*Interruption*). Suppose somebody comes from some part of the North and begins to cause trouble, will you not ask him to go back to the North? I did not expect this type of Motion from my hon. friend, Mallam Aminu Kano, because he is one of the most responsible citizens of Nigeria. This Motion should have come from the Action Group who see nothing good in this Government and always come with destructive criticisms.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to second.

Amendment proposed.

Mr J. S. Tarka (Jemgbar): Mr Speaker, Sir, the Amendment proposed by the Minister of Internal Affairs is not debatable at all. In fact the Minister has proposed no amendment. What he has done is this, he has introduced an entirely different Motion to the original Motion. The Motion as amended has no bearing at all on the original Motion. The Minister, in his Amendment has spoken of freedom of assembly, and freedom of movement throughout the country. He has talked very unlike himself, and I think that the Minister has made this statement only to blindfold the mover of the original Motion. I hope that the mover of the original Motion will not be ridiculed into accepting this

Amendment because it will completely defeat the aims and objects of his own Motion.

It is true that the Fundamental Human Rights clause has been entrenched in the Constitution. I feel that the mover of this Motion had the intention of bringing to the notice of this House certain atrocities which have been committed in various parts of the country with an aim to getting the approval of this House to deplore such atrocities, but unfortunately, he failed to point out exactly what he meant when he moved this Motion, and the Amendment which has been proposed is a deliberate attempt to kill the original Motion and kill its objectives.

It is true that it has been provided for in the Nigeria Constitution under the Nigerian Citizenship Law which says that no Nigerian should be expelled from this country. One would have expected that the Minister of Internal Affairs would rise on the Floor of this House and accept the Motion and then go ahead to recommend to the Government to implement the work demanded by the original Motion. From time to time under the pretext of the security of law, the security of the nation, and the security of health, various bodies in this country have been able to infringe upon the rights of the individual.

It is true, as the Minister has said in his own Amendment, that people who feel aggrieved through the actions of certain bodies could seek redress in the Courts. In this country, the only Courts competent to look into such cases are the various High Courts of the Region and the Federal Territory of Lagos and the Cameroons. But in certain parts of the country one can easily see that there are no such Courts at all. For instance—I do not want to drag any Region into this matter—but for instance, in the Northern Region to-day how many High Courts are there? For the past two months there has been no High Court sitting, say in Makurdi. Suppose my own rights have been infringed where do I go to seek redress? I go and file my case in the High Court and it remains there indefinitely. It is either adjourned indefinitely or it is struck off.

I do not want to mention Courts here. I do not want to question the conduct of Judges here. The only Courts, therefore, which are

[MR TARKA]

commonly available in that part of the country are the Native or Customary Courts. I feel that it is impossible for me to be aggrieved by somebody and at the same time go to that somebody to seek redress. It is for this reason that I said that the Motion as amended has no meaning and has no bearing at all on the original Motion.

For a few years now, say from 1956, the Leader of the Opposition in the Northern Region, Mallam Ibrahim Imam has been agitating for the release of a religious leader in the Northern Region. Quite recently this religious leader was released. I feel that despite the fact that that matter could have been taken up in the High Court, this same High Court acts on laws which have been passed in the Regional Legislature. The first approach to this problem is to bring it to the highest legislature in the country and for the Federal Government to seek the co-operation of the various Regional Governments in order to see to it that the freedom of the individual is not infringed. It is in this way that I see fit vehemently to oppose the Amendment.

Alhaji Bello Dandago (Gwarzo East) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Motion as amended. (*Hear, hear*). The Motion as it stood, or rather the hon. Mover of the Motion as it stood is just seven years too late in raising this matter. In a country where we live by the rule of law it is only to be expected that our Fundamental Human Rights should be fundamentally entrenched in our Constitution. That is not a question of 'I hope' but in a country where our Fundamental Human Rights have been entrenched in our Constitution, I can see no justification whatsoever or no reason for bringing to the House a Motion of this nature. If I were an Alkali, you know what the position would be.

Mr Speaker, Sir, bearing in mind what the mover of the Motion was saying, it might solve the cases in those sub-continent countries in Asia or India. Examples are not identical when people are removed from their places to protective custody. There is nothing wrong with protective custody. The mover of the Motion might have in mind some chiefs who are no longer in their former domain.

An hon. Member : Why ?

Alhaji Bello Dandago : You do not read history. We have a lot of them. (*Interruption*). I wonder why you people cannot reason. Nigeria is not peculiar in this case : there is always a king of a particular country who is no longer a king of that country— (*Interruption*). I would not be surprised, there are people whose way of thinking is up-side-down. These people will not understand.

The original mover of the Motion will be afraid of his own shadow unless he is conscious of the law which, I submit, is covered by Fundamental Human Rights. (*Interruption*).

Mr Speaker, Sir, after all, common sense is the basis of common law. We do not have to go to court for every simple thing ; or because somebody's wife is late in preparing his food so he takes her to court. We do not go to court on general subjects of privacy.

Sir, I support the Motion as amended.

Mr J. A. Assadugu (Numan) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the original Motion and to oppose the Amendment. In supporting the original Motion I beg to say that the Minister of Internal Affairs just brings the Amendment unnecessarily. The Minister of Internal Affairs, as I am saying, Mr Speaker, has brought in an Amendment which is unnecessary.

The mover of this original Motion has a certain feeling, and he knows quite well what is happening from where he comes.

An hon. Member : Where ?

Mr Assadugu : He comes from the North, and he has a certain feeling. Going through the Amendment from the Minister of Internal Affairs and not taking into consideration the fact that his Amendment is a collective responsibility of the Government one would have safely concluded that the Minister himself has a deliberate intention to oppose this Motion entirely, because the Minister of Internal Affairs himself said that if one visits Bida as a politician he will be received as a politician. Well, may I ask ; "Is it a work of a politician when one visits his place ?" (*Interruption*). Sir, the mover of this Motion has named this Motion as the "*Masses Motion*". We should continue pressing that the Government must consider this Motion so that it will pass as it is written.

An hon. Member : Come here !

Mr Assadugu : I am not coming to Government so that you can realise actually what is happening in the North. Whenever a Motion of this kind is moved by somebody from the Government Bench the Government are inclined to blame the Action Group on this side. Instead of you blaming the mover you are always inclined to blame the Action Group on this side.

I am now appealing to you all to pass unanimously this Motion as originally moved.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to support the original Motion.

Mr N. D. Ukah (Owerri North-East) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I wish to speak on the Amendment. First, let us examine the Motion itself. The Motion says that no Nigerian should be banished from his home or place of residence until he has been given full opportunity to defend himself and that, of course, in a court of law.

An hon. Member : Not Customary Court.

Mr Ukah : Not in a Customary Court nor an Alkali Court either. The second part of the Motion is that all persons who are so banished at present should be freed as from the 1st of October, 1960. The Motion, as it is, is very nice. The Government, on the other hand, goes to expand it. Now the Government says that instead this House should congratulate the Government on the steps it has taken to entrench Fundamental Human Rights in the Constitution, and to ensure that restriction on personal liberty, movement and residence of any citizen of Nigeria may only be imposed in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution Orders in Council.

Now, there is scarcely any difference between the Motion and the Amendment, rather the Amendment is more expanded to include more points of interests to the liberty of the individual than the original Motion. But one may argue that the Amendment itself is an indirect way of stopping the application of the Fundamental Human Rights which we hear has been entrenched in our Constitution. We may say why is it that despite the fact that Fundamental Human Rights have been entrenched in the Constitution, we still see things happen in Nigeria as if we were in South Africa.

An hon. Member : Particularly in the Western Region.

Mr Ukah : I cannot say the Regions concerned, but they know themselves. These things happen as if Nigeria is a part of South Africa. We talk of the apartheid policy of South Africa particularly the recent law which prohibits free movement in one's own country. The South African Government passed a law that the African must get a pass or a ticket in order to move from one part of the country to another. But banishment is worse than the pass law because in the case of banishment one is to leave one's home, one's relatives, close acquaintances and friends and remain far from them throughout one's life.

Well, the whole idea of what the original Motion and the Amendment stand for is to see that nobody is banished from his home. And the only difference I see between the Amendment and the original Motion is while the original Motion speaks of banishment alone, the Amendment goes farther than that because people can be victimised, oppressed, and deprived of life or liberty in ways other than banishment. And I think the Government has magnanimously enough put in other factors. (Applause).

You may not banish me but you may prevent me from going to the market ; you may prevent my children from going to school ; you may prevent the Moslem or the Christian from worshipping in his own way. All these are restrictions on human liberty. It is not merely when you banish somebody that you deprive him of liberty. So, what I think here is that while we think of October 1st as the day when we all shall be free and while we congratulate the mover of the Original Motion on bringing in this idea, we strongly hope that even from now we should work towards full liberty and full liberty means the liberty of the whole people. There is sometimes a conflict in the idea of freedom—you may say you are fighting for freedom, another man says he is fighting for freedom too, but you must know that the freedom of the individual is only restricted by the freedom of other members of the public.

There may be a case when a person has to be deprived of his liberty. I was looking forward to see whether in the Amendment there was no provision for a full trial under the law.

[Mr UKAH]

In fact, I was particularly interested to see whether a full opportunity would according to the Constitution, be given to a man to defend himself before he is banished. That is covered by the law. You will be tried; you will be given an opportunity to defend yourself and you will not simply be banished like the Alafin of Oyo in the Western Region. (*Several hon. Members: Shame, shame!*)

So I think it is really a very important issue, in fact, an issue on which depends the future progress and greatness of Nigeria. In this regard, we should stand by what is right without minding personal affiliations and selfish motives. We should realise that this country will be judged by the outside world, by the amount of liberty which we put into practice but not merely that Fundamental Human Rights have been entrenched in our Constitution. We should realise here that the purposes of the entrenchment of these Fundamental Human Rights are for public order, public security and public morality. How do we encourage public order when during elections we see parties like the Action Group fielding hordes of hooligans, giving them drinks that make them highly intoxicated. (*Several hon. Members: Shame! Shame!*)

Mr Speaker: A point of Order, Mr Ekanem?

Mr P. E. Ekanem (Enyong South): Mr Speaker, Sir, the hon. Member is irrelevant.

Mr Speaker: No, I do not think I have any cause to say that.

Mr Ukah: Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. I am sure that the Members of the Action Group will realise that we are speaking on a very relevant issue and, of course, you see now that they are getting uneasy because we are pointing to their irregularities as far as the Constitution is concerned.

We talk of public security. I am coming now to public security. How could a man be secure when if you go to the Western Region and buy land, the Action Group will directly or indirectly deprive you of the land. Where is the security? We talk of public security. Now, we talk of public morality when day in day out, on Sundays and weekdays, we see even youngsters going to the pubs drinking and dancing till daybreak.

Mr Ekanem: Freedom!

Mr Ukah: Mr Ekanem of the Action Group calls it freedom. Remember that that is not true freedom. A few minutes ago, I said that there would be trouble after independence on the interpretation of freedom. Freedom is not licentiousness... (*Interruptions*).

Mr Akin Olugbade (Egba South): Mr Speaker, Sir, I would like to refer you to Order 28, section 4. The speaker has been very equivocal, supporting the Motion and the Amendment. I read the Order—"On an Amendment proposing to leave out words or to insert words, debate shall be confined to the omission or insertion of such words". We want to know where the speaker is going—whether he is supporting the Motion or the Amendment.

Mr Speaker: This is not a point of Order; it is a point of debate. If the hon. Gentleman makes his argument clear, I am sure he will answer the question himself.

Mr Ukah: That is another shame on the Action Group and you will realise, Mr Speaker, that if the hon. Member had listened carefully to me, he would have known very clearly that I am very strongly in support of the Amendment. I am not supporting the Amendment merely because I am a Member of the Government side, I am supporting it because the Amendment itself embraces the Motion and all that goes to make freedom worthwhile. (*Hear, hear*). All that I will request the Government to do is to see that we do not talk merely of the question of Fundamental Human Rights being entrenched in the Constitution but that we do not get Nigerians suffering in the hands of other Nigerians, or being shot to death, or being dragged to courts, or being deprived of their property or lives, or being banished, and yet we say that Fundamental Human Rights have been entrenched in our Constitution. If the entrenchment will prevent the practical application of these laws, by all means remove these Rights from the trench and raise them up a little where we can apply them. There will be no question of saying that Fundamental Human Rights have been entrenched, have been entrenched, have been entrenched *ad nauseam* without its full application. I hope that when

in practice we carry out the provisions of the Fundamental Human Rights, a very great number of Nigerians, in fact a maximum number of Nigerians, will benefit from all types of Government programmes, and when this is done, I think we shall have achieved the supreme aim of Government which is the welfare of the governed.

Mr Speaker, I support the Amendment.

M. Mohammed Muhtari, Sarkin Bai (Dambatta): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to support wholeheartedly the proposed Amendment to this Motion. I know perfectly well that the Action Group members in this House whose calculated aim and chief ambition is to bring crisis to this new Government, are extremely glad about the original Motion. I should like to assure the Action Group that no amount of techniques, no amount of propaganda can ruin this harmonious relationship that exists between the N.P.C. and the N.C.N.C. (*Applause.*)

Mr Speaker, I am grateful to the Federal Government for providing an Amendment to this Motion because, in my own humble opinion, no responsible Government in all the democratic countries of the world can dare adopt the original Motion as it stands, as it will definitely result in the infringement of law and order. People talk of democracy but at the same time seem to forget that democracy, in its technical term, is altogether confusing. It stands for anything one can imagine and it entails certain problems yet to be resolved. It is my humble opinion that the first duty of any responsible Government is to keep peace and maintain law and order. (*Applause.*)

Going through the contents of the Motion, one would not but come to the conclusion that it is referring to fundamental human rights in disguise, particularly freedom of movement. I should, therefore, like to seize this opportunity on behalf of my Party, the Northern People's Congress, to say that fundamental human rights existed in the Northern Region long before the coming into this country of the British people. People lived in harmony and listened to one another's views, respected their traditional leaders and, above all, law and order were not tampered with. For that reason, my Party, the Northern People's Congress, the Party in power in the Northern Region, has upheld this tradition and is doing

all in its power to see that everybody in the Region lives in peace and harmony. But my Party will never tolerate hooligans. We shall never allow those timid and discontented elements who, through corrupt and secret channels, have secured financial aid from outside this country, to overthrow traditional leaders and constituted authority. We are determined to see that this threat does not in any way deny traditional leaders the very political rights of ruling their people.

The Mover of the Motion, my Friend Aminu Kano, the Member for Kano East and incidentally the leader of his party, has unfortunately forgotten that in any society there must be discipline. In a political organisation there is discipline: some members are expelled, others are suspended—how much more a Government whose responsibility is the welfare of millions of people?

The Northern Regional Government does not banish people from their own places of residence for political reasons. They do so on fundamental grounds and when it is absolutely necessary and in the best interests of peace and security. On the other hand, it is in the Western Region that people are banished from their homes and places of residence for purely political reasons. The Action Group Government of the Western Region deposed the late Alafin of Oyo and banished him from Oyo in spite of the fact that the Commission of Inquiry did not find him guilty. Every attempt by people, both in Nigeria and abroad, to get this Government to release this man failed. Is this not an infringement of the law? Obnoxious laws are made in the Western Region to punish political opponents.

The Western Regional Government took advantage of the Customary Law to warn Dr Nnamdi Azikiwe to retrace his steps, otherwise, according to an official letter, he would be arrested. Is this not an infringement of fundamental human rights? (*Shame, shame*) The former Leader of Government Business in the Western Region and now the Leader of the Opposition in this Parliament, intentionally refused to receive five District Heads on an educational tour of the Region, and he gave his Secretary orders not to see them but to tell them that he had just returned from Oyo with the Governor and could not see them. I challenge the hon. Member to deny it. (*Applause.*) Is

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this not an infringement of fundamental human rights? And these people have the audacity to come to the Floor of this House to attack other people! (*Applause.*)

Whereupon the Minister of Education rose in his place and claimed to move, That the Question be now put.

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

Question, That the words proposed to be left out be left out, put accordingly and agreed to.

Question, That those words be there inserted, put and agreed to.

Main Question, as amended, put and agreed to.

Resolved, That this House congratulate the Government on the steps it has taken to entrench Fundamental Human Rights in the Constitution and to ensure that restriction on personal liberty, movement and residence of any citizen of Nigeria may only be imposed in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution Orders in Council.

Unemployment in Nigeria

Mr F. U. Mbakogu (Awka South): Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move the Motion standing in my name on the Order Paper, That this House, realising the low level of employment and the low standard of living among the people, calls upon the Government to take steps towards solving unemployment problems.

Mr Speaker, unemployment is a social and economic catastrophe hovering and looming over our heads. The Motion is a straightforward and real way of finding an answer, a lasting and real answer, to the problems of under- and unemployment. I therefore appeal to this House to receive this Motion with unanimous support.

Unemployment is to-day rampant in the country. Throughout the Federation of Nigeria (*Interruption*). The Federal Territory of Lagos is not a part of Western Nigeria. There is no part of the world where there is no sign of under- or un-employment.

Unemployment problems can be reduced into two main causes—remote causes and proximate or immediate causes. Remote causes may be due to shortage of land. This is particularly true of Eastern Nigeria where the land is not only small in size, but also lacks

fertilization. Unemployment may also be due to the laziness of the people. This is particularly true of all parts of Nigeria, particularly the Northern and the Western parts of Nigeria. It may also be due to lack of the spirit of enterprise. I will also say that this is not true of the Eastern part of Nigeria; it may be seen particularly in some parts of Western and Northern Nigeria.

We also have a lack of men with skill, whether administrative or technical or educational. We also have, added to all this, a wrong educational system. The educational system in Nigeria to-day is not what the original pioneers in education meant it to be. They meant education to be a preparation for life so that a child would be educated in such a way that the child would be socially desirable, socially useful, socially productive to the community of which he is a member. We educate without any thought of vocation and the result is that when the children come out of school they have nothing to do except to get into clerical jobs. But even the people who get into clerical jobs are limited in number, at least in some parts of the country. Therefore, the unpleasant problem in Nigeria to-day is that of unskilled labour.

Lack of employment opportunities in backward areas, of which Nigeria is one, is the result of the unskilled nature of the labour force. Under-employment or unemployment of unskilled labour are both features of the economies of backward countries because of lack or shortage of, co-operant factors of production which may be land, capital, technical, administrative or entrepreneurial skill. Unemployment and under-employment of skilled labour tend to be more serious with progress in economic growth. The existence is more felt in Nigeria to-day because we are undoubtedly making a lot of economic progress.

I said also that unemployment may be due to proximate or immediate causes. There are a number of immediate causes of unemployment in Nigeria to-day. We have extravagance in spending in Government Departments and Corporations. This has been said over and over again in this hon. House and anybody in the street in Nigeria to-day knows about the case. Secondly, there are wasteful economic measures by Government Departments and Corporations. There is no gainsaying the fact that the expatriate officers in the country are

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top-heavy; there are so many of them with huge salaries. A high salary structure for the people on top is one of the causes of unemployment, because there is not much left when they absorb so much with which to cater for the people in the underwoods. Also there is redundancy of expatriate officers throughout the Departments of Government—Assistant Secretaries, Senior Assistant Secretaries, and the rest of them.

We were discussing the other day the Ministry of Education and one could see there were over ten Advisers—Technical, Secondary School, Primary School, High Commission on Education, and the rest of them. These things absorb most of the revenue for the country and there is nothing left with which to cater for the people who would receive £60, £70 or £100 per annum to keep them alive.

Added to all this redundancy and overlapping and top-heaviness, there is the new system of retrenchment of people already in the service. You have retrenchment of unskilled labour by Regional and Federal Governments and Corporations. You have the Railway Corporation, the Coal and Tin industries to-day whose retrenchment policy has often been expressed to the dissatisfaction of the whole nation. If we have to remedy all these things, we must create alternative industries in these places, particularly the coal industry, tin industry and the railway industry, particularly in those places where you have retrenched workers, say at Jos. You have to build an industry there to absorb the men of the locality, and the same thing with the coal miners at Enugu. These retrenched workers have been driven out to look to vagrancy, robbery and organised burglary as a means of their livelihood. They now form the riff-raff and misfits of society, the cankerworms that eat into the fabric of our society. This ugly thing should be quickly remedied by the Federal Government.

I now go further to propose remedial measures to our unemployment problems. I said earlier that one of the causes of our problems in unemployment is bad educational system. I need not mention here the educational system of the Western Regional Government which is the Opposition party here. I am not interested in that, whether it is 6 years or 8 years. But even if it is 8 years or 6 years, the policy is bad in that the educational

system does not train people for a vocation to get into after finishing their 6-year or 8-year period. I would like our educational system to be so reorientated that it would really be what the pioneers in education wanted it to be—preparation for life.

Now, this can be achieved by means of intensive and extensive technical and vocational training. These vocational and technical training institutions are very few in Nigeria and I would like, instead of giving any grants to secondary schools or building more secondary schools (enough of which we have already had in Nigeria) we should divert the money to build technical and vocational training centres throughout the Federation, at least one in each Province. Our educational trend should not only be towards scientific, technical and occupational bias.

Now the remedy is not only in education. It is also to be found in industrialisation. We have a lot of natural resources and raw materials for industries which are yet to be exploited. We must, therefore, make full use of our industrialisation to increase employment opportunities because industries unlock the door to economic activities, growth and employment, and therefore raise the revenue of the country and the standard of living of our people.

Industrial activities should, therefore, be aimed at creating ways and conditions of full employment. I know that it is not easy to maintain a full standard of employment but we should try to approximate to that. Elimination of unemployment is the only way to overcome poverty. So many people to-day are poor, extremely poor, and we should pay attention not so much to making the rich richer but to making the poor better.

Now our industrial policy should aim at creating a wide range of economic activities and functions co-operating many people. There are now some people who have taken to highway robbery, burglary and vagrancy. We should aim at reforming our able bodied people who have taken to robbery, vagrancy and burglary.

I have to say also that land is very important in Nigeria, We have abundant land, for example in parts of Nigeria, particularly in the West

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and North, we have extensive and rich lands. These lands should be utilised to the best advantage to the country. Now there are abundant natural resources and if we follow from this abundant and extensive area of land, we must realise the importance of land and make investments on land. We must also aim at productive land utilisation for the greatest asset in Nigeria is this land, and yet this has been the most neglected source of our economic development.

Land, therefore, ought to be the most primary way of averting unemployment. We must stimulate our agricultural programmes and industrial programmes. We should aim at producing and utilising raw materials in this country; the production of this raw material would give employment to a lot of people and the use of these raw materials in development industries should give employment to far more people and would at the same time make for better use of our land now lying waste.

Our people should be given necessary facilities to establish plantation methods of farming. We must embark on scientific farming. At present we leave our primitive farmers to continue their primitive method of farming. Government should therefore introduce scientific methods of farming in this country so far nothing practically has been done in this direction.

Now, also as a remedial measure is the question of wages. Wages should be an instrument of economic planning. The wage structure—we can say we have no wage structure in Nigeria—we should have a minimum wage. When we have a minimum wage, we can know when to add to and when to subtract from the existing wage. In other words, there is need for the realisation that even the raising of General Labour wage is a wrong economic policy. Raising the general labour wages is a wrong economic policy. What we should do is to look at the whole wages structure and know what to do, whether to increase some classes or not and not that all classes of wages should be increased at the same time. And in this respect I must condemn the Mbanefo Salary Report, where it increased by £300 the amount of wages for a man on the top—the superscale officer. It is understandable if salaries of say £50 or £60 are increased by as much as 25 per cent but

why add £300 to a person on £2,000?

These people started from the scratch, the very scratch...

Mr Speaker: Order, order! I do not know if the hon. Gentleman is nearly concluding his speech otherwise I must ask for a short break and suspend the sitting. I think I had better suspend the sitting until about 12 o'clock.

Sitting suspended 11.45 a.m.

Sitting Resumed: 12.02 p.m.

Mr Speaker: Order, order. Mr Mbakogu has had eighteen minutes.

Mr Mbakogu: I just want to wind up, Mr Speaker. I was speaking in condemnation of the Mbanefo Salary Report as far as it concerned salaries of officers in the superscale posts. I was saying that the salaries of these people made it impossible for the Government to employ more workers at a lower rate with the resources available to the Government. They could not do otherwise. So I am appealing to the Government to see that the salaries of officers in the superscale posts are reduced.

One thing clear from the Report is that the salary, pension, allowances and compensation of expatriate civil servants will automatically increase. Not only that, I would suggest that immediately after self-government the salaries of indigenous officers should be drastically reduced. These expatriate civil servants have come, they will soon go, but Nigerians in the Civil Service will remain to drain the country of its little revenue. Therefore, I recommend a cut of about 25 per cent in the salaries of indigenous civil servants in the superscale. They have been on too high salary than is commensurate with the productivity of the country and the capital available for use in Government Departments. So I am saying that the salaries of the civil servants in superscale posts are too high, and those in the lower strata should be increased by over 10 per cent.

Also, I should make mention of the disposal of unnecessary, surplus, replaceable and dispensable officers. Their positions should be filled by Nigerians who could accept a lower rate of salary. I mentioned dispensable because there are some of them who cannot be dispensed with, their services are still very

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important and we have not got Nigerians to do the job. They must be retained. But those of them who can be dispensed with should be dispensed with immediately, particularly those of them who deal with things that are not technical, for example education. We have got so many educationists in the country. There are so many teachers in King's College, for example, who have been there for several years and have even acted as Vice-Principal. They have been left out and so many expatriates have been appointed in the Ministry of Education as Advisers. What they are advising I do not know. I do not know how far they advise the Regional Governments because the Regional Governments have got their own Advisers. Is it this small circle of schools in Lagos that they go to advise ?

There are so many Advisers on Primary Schools. The result is that they take salaries more than enough to maintain Technical Institutes and Trade Centres and so many other institutions that cater for development of skill. So I am appealing to the Government to go a long way to reject the Salary Report and if possible bring it to the House for a full-fledged debate so that Government will be guided by the feelings of the House.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move.

Mr G. O. D. Eneh (Agbaja and Ngwo): Mr Speaker, Sir, in seconding this Motion I like to lay emphasis on two aspects of the Motion which the mover wants to explain very thoroughly, and these two aspects are the low standard of living and unemployment problems. I feel that in examining these two items we must first of all take cognisance of our national income and know whether the money we have is sufficient to go round or not. The national wealth of England shared between the inhabitants approximates to about £350 per head, whereas in Nigeria it is between £25 and £30 per head. It goes without saying that Government must find a way of raising our revenue per head of the population.

This brings me to what the Government should do. I do not agree with people who say that Government policy on salaries is so bad that that is responsible for unemployment. I would rather say that the money of the country is too small and the only way is to find a means of raising money in the country.

One of these is the question of loans abroad and the establishment of industries with the money loaned from abroad. There are two ways in which Nigeria can get her economy on a sound footing, by industry and agriculture, and the Federal Government is faced with one of these because agriculture is a Regional subject. It is only on industry that the Federal Government comes in, so it is necessary for the Government to face industry squarely.

Last time during the debate on the Loans Ordinance, I heard Members arguing that the Federal Government should not get loans from overseas. That was very wrong. I myself expect that the Government should get loans of £300 million if possible to establish gigantic industries in the country. If you are talking in terms of loans you must first of all regard loans as something that should be gauged by the populace of Nigeria.

£300 million is only about £10 per head of the population. Egypt is borrowing about £300 million. Why does not Nigeria follow Egypt which has a population of about 10 million? They are looking for loans for their dam, and the loan is in the neighbourhood of £300 million.

The only thing we want is the establishment of major industries, secondary industries and very small industries in Nigeria. And this is the only thing that the Federal Government can do in order to raise the standard of living of the indigenous inhabitants. Take the iron and steel industry project by the Federal Government. This industry can employ at least up to 10,000 people. The iron ore deposit at the Enugu escarpment is in the neighbourhood of about 50 million tons, and the coal deposits 150 million tons. What about the iron ore deposits in the Northern Region, 60 million tons there! Well, why not make a very gigantic iron industry which would be capable of absorbing at least 20,000 people immediately?

Let us turn to the paper we are using in this country. The material for the production of paper is in very great abundance in the country; the bamboo from the whole of the Eastern Region abounds. And we should use our bamboo to produce paper. The quantity of paper used by the Federal Government as well as the Regional Governments, the mercantile establishments, is so big that,

[MR ENEH]

if we establish a paper industry in Nigeria, it will pay for itself in a very short time.

What about the ordinary salt? Before we admitted the British we were producing salt in this country. But what is happening to-day, Sir? Nobody is producing our common salt. Formally we were producing table salt locally. Why should we depend on the importation of common salt instead of producing our own common salt?

The only way is to let the Government float a loan to establish an iron industry, and a paper industry.

What about our beer? Sugar is there for the production of beer; the sugar cane is there for the production of gin, whiskey, anything you like. Sugar cane abounds in certain areas Zaria and the Niger Delta and that alone is sufficient to supply the whole of the Federation with the beer which we consume as camels consume water. And the gin, Sir. The beer itself can be turned into gin, whiskey, and brandy, with the essence that may be needed that might be imported from overseas, and these can be produced here. Why is it that a country like Scotland is able to produce whiskey which is valued at about £15 million annually! Why should we not do that? Use our sugar to produce whiskey, gin—all of you would like it—instead of sending our money overseas to Scotland and Scandinavian countries. Why not get down to brass tacks.

As you look around you find the ordinary zink used in the building of our houses, the ordinary nails, the ordinary washers. These things can be produced here, and this Motion calls on this Government to establish industries on a large scale.

Coming to agriculture, the Federal Government has to give the technical know-how about agriculture.

As for unemployment. If you listen to the wireless or if you read the local papers, you find that the Cameroon Development Corporation has dismissed about 500 Nigerians. What about the coal industry? 2,900 miners were displaced and without the intervention of the Minister of Mines and Power—about 2,500 could have been retrenched. And then, without the intervention of the Minister of Transport and Aviation, about a thousand people would have been displaced in the Railways. What about the thousand people

who were made to lose their jobs in the Western Region by the Action Group Government only because there were no vacancies for their own men and so they had to give other people the boot! If there were no unemployment most of these people would not have been affected.

I would like to say one thing, and that is that many of our people are unemployable. That is a difficulty we have in the country. Local people do look for jobs anyhow. If someone is fully qualified to be employed he can be employed at any moment.

And this brings me to the point that there must be technical establishments for the training of personnel for our industries, for the mercantile establishments, and so on. It is all very well to say that we have young men who have completed their primary school education but most of these young boys are not employable. The only way out is to establish training institutions, vocational centres for them to train so that they become employable. Mr Speaker, Sir, with these few remarks I beg to second.

Question Proposed.

The Minister of Labour and Welfare (The hon. J. M. Johnson): Mr Speaker, Sir, the Government is already well aware of its responsibilities in the field of employment, and as an indication of Government's intention we accept this Motion (*Several hon. Members: Hear, hear.*)

Government has already embarked upon a policy of stimulating investment through various development projects. This can be adequately demonstrated by reference to the various public works we have in hand and to the development of new industries in different parts of the Federation. The only difference with the way in which Government is pursuing its economic policy in relation to employment is that here in the Federation we are not interested in buying up private firms like G.L. Gaiser and Arab Brothers... (*interruptions*).

Government will encourage private enterprise to thrive in this country and will do its best to encourage Nigerians to establish their own industries. We shall aid them financially and morally, and we are pursuing this policy relentlessly. But I can see rigours ahead. There is a tendency for workers to move from rural to urban areas in search of employment. This type of worker is not necessarily the unemployable type.

This type of workers is not necessarily the unemployed type but people who would like to come to big cities hoping that they will find their own *Eldorado* there. It is against this type of migration that I would warn Members in this House to encourage their people, especially those who are not gainfully employed in some works in urban areas, to stay at home and try to do farming especially when they know very well that if they come to these big towns there is no employment for them. They will only swell the army of unemployed people, and that is not a duty for the Government alone. Both Members of the Government and the Opposition should do their best to discourage such emigration. If we can keep those who are gainfully employed in agriculture, keep them to do the work at home, you will be doing a yeoman service to this country; and as regards the disparity in wages that has just been mentioned, you will agree with me that this is not my own wicket. I leave that to the right persons to deal with.

It is easy for anybody to theorise on the solution of unemployment. It is another thing for them to be able to tackle it effectively. Today, Members would frown at any possibility of increased taxation, but at the same time everybody wants developments all over the country and a small section of this House would do everything to make it impossible for Government to get an overseas loan; but that small section is vociferous when it comes to asking for improved standards in their different localities. I think it is time that we faced facts. If you want development in this country you should be prepared to pay for it. (*Hear, hear*). If you do not want overseas loans you should be prepared to work hard and get the money from one source, and that source will be to get it from taxes—direct or indirect. You cannot eat your cake and have it. I agree that this Government has got a lot to do to encourage employment in this country. My Ministry is doing its best to see that employment is tackled in a way that will be pleasing to all of you, particularly....

An hon. Member : How, how ?

The Minister of Labour : If the Gentleman wants to know how, I shall tell him. Already I hold bi-yearly meetings with my opposite numbers in the other Regions. All Ministers holding the portfolio of Labour meet every six months and as a result of this meeting we have

been able to achieve uniform policies in the matter of labour (*Hear, hear*). So that we have all seen the effect of unholy competition especially in a particular region. Somebody has mentioned 6s-8d and 5s a day. I think, at the time I was representing a constituency in the Western Region I saw what happened in the matter of 5s a day that the Government promised workers. It is painful to say but I must tell you that this money was promised to workers on the eve of an election and what happened was this. (*Interruption*). It is all right, do not be afraid of the shadow even though you have shadows in front. The whole people receiving 5s a day were under 2,000 in the whole of the Western Region. Jobs which were being tackled by Government Departments were given to contractors and in awarding these contracts the Western Region made it plain that money to be paid to labourers would not be more than 3s-6d a day. So they sacked over fifty per cent of their employees and gave these jobs to contractors who were paying these workers 3s-6d a day. I know it will be a painful admission for some of you but the truth must be spoken. (*Interruption*).

Mr Speaker : Order, order. There is far too much interruption coming from my left just at the moment.

The Minister of Labour : I am sure that my colleagues in the Regions will welcome very much this timely Motion. If the Motion at least has not served much, it has encouraged me and I am sure it has encouraged my colleagues to work harder to solve the problems of unemployment.

Unemployment is not peculiar to Nigeria alone, even the richest country in the world, the United States of America, is still faced with unemployment problems but we are not going to look at that side of things, we are going to tackle this problem of unemployment and try to find a solution before too long. I am asking for your co-operation. I do not say that the Government has done enough or that it cannot improve its standards. We live to learn; we shall go from strength to strength and try to serve this country.

This is a Motion that is easy for any Government to push aside but I always welcome Motions that will help the workers of this country and because of this I ask Members to strongly support the Motion so ably moved and I thank you for bringing this timely Motion.

[MINISTER OF LABOUR]

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to support.

Mr M. C. K. Obi (Afenmai East): Mr Speaker, Sir, everybody in Nigeria to-day is aware of the fact that there exists this big problem of unemployment, but unfortunately let me say that until this present moment the Government has not made provisions to ease or solve the problem.

Now, there are several causes for this as has been said already by many Members. Among these causes are: (1) Lack of industries. I agree that now all over the country there is a marked exodus of people to towns like Lagos, Onitsha and other big places. We have failed to ask ourselves why do people like to go to these places. It is because they believe that in such places they will be employed, they will have something to do. But I believe that if such industries are established in good places almost everywhere in the Federation there will be a tendency for people to stay in their own localities and work for the progress of the nation as a whole.

Now, there is another point too and that point is this. People are not interested in agriculture.

Some people argue that agriculture is a regional subject. Although that is so, I think the Federal Government should do something to make people in this country interested in agriculture. For example the subject is not well taught in the schools and people have a very wrong impression about education. People go to school in order to do clerical business or some other type of work apart from agriculture. I think that if this is well taught in schools people will realise that after leaving school they might either be farmers or do some other technical job apart from pen-pushing. I think people should be made to be interested in agriculture.

Also, there is discrimination amongst Regional Governments. About a year or two ago a host of people were terminated from their appointments in the North as a result of not belonging to that Region. (*Interruption*). At any rate, it will interest Members to know that all these people were given places in the West as soon as the Northern Regional Government terminated their employment.

Nigeria should not discriminate among people who are Nigerians! Now we see what is happening in South Africa. How do you think the rest of the world will look at us as people who are interested in what is going on there if we are not interested in our fellow Nigerians? We ask people to go back to their own Regions because they do not belong! I think if we ceased to practise such things, this problem of unemployment would be solved to a greater degree.

Unemployment is the result of lack of industries. If industries are established in Nigeria I think this problem will be solved. For example, Nigeria is regarded as an agricultural country. Why not make it an industrial country? If we can make Nigeria an industrial country,—Nigeria is rich; nature is very kind to her; she is rich in minerals as well as agricultural products—if such things can be utilised to the advantage of all of us in this country I think this problem will be solved. This should be given greater attention by the Government.

I would like to say that it is not only when we get loans from abroad that we can solve this problem. As I have said, we are rich enough, and I would like this House to realise that the greatness of the nation does not depend only upon the bottom of an ink-well; that is producing people who can read and write alone. I would like you to know that it also depends upon the soil. You can get minerals from the soil, you can produce food stuffs, and you can have things like cotton, rubber, groundnuts, and palm produce, which we export. If we could think and devise ways and means whereby these things could be used here in Nigeria for the production of other things which now are returned to us as imports, this problem would be solved.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to support.

Mallam Saidu Zango (Zaria Central): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to support this timely and welcome Motion, which is straight forward and non-controversial. I am very glad that the Government has accepted the Motion.

When last I addressed this House, I made mention in my speech of some towns in this Federation; they were Zaria, Enugu and Jos I even called these areas 'danger spots' and called the attention of the Government to the

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fact that the population in these areas is greatly diminishing due to lack of employment. If you go to Sabongari in Zaria you will find many Houses vacant and rooms to let. Also, housebreakers are increasing every day due to lack of a source of employment.

I still maintain that the Government should do everything possible to establish more industries throughout the Federation, especially in those areas which I have mentioned.

I have mentioned these towns because of retrenchment of coal workers in Enugu, miners in Jos, and the removal of locomotive engines at Zaria. I was informed also that it is the intention of the Government to remove the Railway motors at Zaria down to Lagos. If this is true, Mr Speaker, surely the situation will become worse in this area.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to support.

Mr S. D. Lar (Lowland East): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to support this Motion. I think it is a Motion which is non-controversial as somebody has said already. I think this problem is mostly felt in the Northern Region. There are many people nowadays who are going about in the streets without any employment, and I think the Government should take steps to put this right.

Somebody was saying that perhaps this is due to Regionalisation. I say that is not so, because we already in the Northern Region have the system of Northernisation. When you go to the North you see there is a sub-division and there is a political division. Those who are from the Middle Belt will not gain employment. Just now I have received three letters from friends in my constituency saying that they were told to go to Chief Awolowo for a job simply because the people there rejected the N.P.C. candidate. I do not think that is a good attitude for the Government to have.

Let us turn to the political side of it. Whether you are Action Group, N.E.P.U. or N.C.N.C. you are still Nigerian, and you should still be able to get jobs. I do not see any reason why they should be told to go and see Awolowo for a job. I think that is very bad, indeed, if the N.P.C. Government can do this. The most tragic part of this is that two or three people at home were expelled from their jobs because they were not N.P.C.—(Loud interruptions). They soon got jobs here because they are not N.P.C.

If we are dismissed because we are not N.C.N.C.—(Interruptions). I have got the letter here if you like I can read it to you—some of you here are attacking the Action Group because you say they are discriminating and intimidating, but the worst part is in the Northern Region. Just imagine during the Elections, I was contested against by the son of an Emir, and this is what the Emir said: "You just sit down somewhere. . . .". "If you do not vote for my child I will just take it up with the District Head, and you will lose your job." That is what is going on in the Northern Region. The Federal Government should take some steps to rectify that.

When schoolchildren from our farms go to look for employment in Kaduna they are asked if they are from the Plateau and then, if they are from my constituency, Lowland East, they are told to go away as there is no N.P.C. Member there. They go on checking until they find someone from a place where the Member was elected from the N.P.C. I am suggesting that we should do something about this otherwise the problem of unemployment in Nigeria will get worse. And it will still continue unless we employ people indiscriminately whether they are N.P.C., Action Group, or N.C.N.C., if they are qualified and can do the job.

Mr D. O. Enefolo (Igalala South): Mr Speaker, Sir, in supporting this Motion I would like to say that the last speaker is from the lowland division and because of that he is so low and so mean at heart. (Applause). The very fact that he is a teacher in the Northern Region shows that there is employment in that Region.

Coming to the Motion, Mr Speaker, I would like to thank the Minister in charge of labour for his assurance and his encouraging words but I would like to say that he and his other Ministers should try and correlate his Ministry with that of Education. The problem of employment in Nigeria is mostly due to the fact that many children leaving primary schools find it difficult to get something to do. Although education is a preparation for life, education is life itself; it grows, it is a living thing and it will be very bad for a child to leave school after seven years or ten years according to the Western Region and then go

[MR ENEFOLA]

out into life without knowing what exactly to do; but there are several children who after finishing their education know not what really to do or were not told what was expected of them in life.

It is a fact and it is true that many of them will not go back to the land and if at all they go back to the land it will not be the land of their own society because they have already understood that those who passed out from their schools have got white collar jobs. So when they too leave schools they must get white collar jobs. It is this problem that this hon. House and the Ministry concerned will have to solve; that is, how to get the people from a particular environment after being trained and educated sent back to their society—where they come from. This is a very difficult thing to do.

Another point I would like to mention is that it will help us a lot in this country if there are unemployment bureaux established in the Provinces or if possible in Divisions so that those who have not got employment or those who have just come into the towns could go and register their names as being unemployed and whenever there is employment the Ministry or the officer in charge would call on these people and have appropriate jobs given to them.

There is another point I would like to touch on this question of unemployment and it is about our Civil Service and the civil servants. It is a policy or rather it is a common thing in Nigeria to-day that it is always difficult to get work; not difficult because there are no jobs, there are jobs, but because those who should do the right type of job are left out and those who are not fit for the job are put in their stead. Somebody mentioned from the other side this morning that unless you know how to play your card very well you are not getting a job. This is something we must get out of the heads of those who are in key positions. Anything you do in Nigeria to-day must be paid for. Anything you want must be paid for. If you want employment you have to pay for it. Unless we make all those who are in key posts know that they must help their neighbours, those who are in need, we shall find things very difficult.

Another thing is that there are so many people who are trying to enslave others because of unemployment. I refer especially to the

Western Region. I think the Minister in charge of Labour in the Northern Region would have to take this up with the Minister in charge of Labour in the Western Region. There are so many children who left the Northern Region and are employed in the cocoa farms of these Westerners, and some of these Western Region farmers do not look after these people well. Some of them are under-age; they are not fit for employment yet they employ them.

I have a concrete example. The other day, when I left this House for my home town, I met at Owo many children of my own tribe—Igala—who are being enslaved by these farmers because they drifted to Owo. There are some pilots, and there are agencies who go about the town collecting these under-age people to work on these farms; and, of course, this must be stopped.

So, Mr Speaker, I would like to say that if unemployment should be tackled in Nigeria it would only work well with the Education Department. A child finishing school must know what he is going out into the world for. If a child does well in art, drawing, painting and so on he should be encouraged and given the opportunity to develop his talent to his fullest ability. He must be told either by the teacher or the headmaster, 'you go to so and so school, or a training place'. It may be a private place but the parents should be advised. They should be told what their child is good for in life and then we should provide the opportunity it lacks. If a child is very good in nature study and rural science he should be given the opportunity to enter a place where he will be able to develop his talent to the fullest. Unless we do this in our educational system then we shall fail to find jobs for these young people.

Another thing is that the curriculum of our educational system is still very very bad. We have these education officers who come to Nigeria, some of them just fresh from the university. They do not understand the environment concerned. They give you the syllabus and everything you have to teach without even taking the local condition into consideration. We must ask the teachers and the supervisors to sit with them and draft the curriculum for our school, there is a lot of individualism in this our curriculum business. An officer will come into the province and tell the teachers what to teach, he brings his own policy, his own syllabus and within a short time

he will be taken away from the province and another person will take over with new ideas and new policy. This will not help us at all in achieving our goal.

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

Whereupon the Minister of Mines and Power rose in his place and claimed to move that the question be now put.

Mr Speaker, : I see a lot of Members desirous of speaking but I think the Government has accepted the Motion. There are many Orders on the paper.

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

Original Question accordingly put and agreed to.

RESOLVED: That this House, realising the low level of employment and the low standard of living among the people, calls upon the Government to take steps towards solving unemployment problems.

MESSAGE OF SYMPATHY ON MOROCCAN DISASTER

Mr F. C. Ogbalu (Awka North): Mr Speaker, Sir, I have pleasure in moving, "That this House urges the Government to send messages of sympathy through the appropriate channels to the families and relatives of the victims of the Moroccan disaster on behalf of the people of this country".

A month ago an act of God—a wonderful disaster—happened in North Africa, and that was an earthquake. Over twelve thousand people were heavily disappointed. In fact they lost their lives, lost their property, lost everything, and it was reported that the whole area was turned into a very sympathetic mood. Other countries of the world gave assistance in many ways to help the families and relatives of the people who lost their lives. The United States of America sent helicopters and many other aeroplanes with help for the victims. Many other countries sent messages of sympathy on behalf of their countries.

Now from this country nothing was heard. We should send, on occasions like this, messages of sympathy to such people who are in difficulties. The same thing applies to the happenings in South Africa, when some people

were massacred. We expected that our Government would not wait until this House assembled before messages of sympathy were sent to the people concerned, or before this country showed its reactions to this disaster outside Nigeria.

Well, sending a message of sympathy on the occasion of such disaster has a special significance to us in Nigeria. It has a special significance—let me repeat—because it has been said that if Nigeria is to lead the African nations it must act early enough to show sympathy, to show interest in the affairs of other countries, and not only that, it is really the whole of Africa that seeks the sympathy of his neighbour when he is in great danger or in difficulties. And that is just an opportunity for us to demonstrate the character of our feeling to the other countries of Africa, especially the people in South Africa who have shown great interest in this country.

Those of us who happened to attend the Accra Conference have noted a great deal of interest and goodwill which other countries have for this country. It is up to us, on occasions like this, to demonstrate the fact that we really want to unify the other countries of Africa in a friendly manner. We can do this by giving help if we are able to give it. Possibly we are not able to give anything like financial help, if we are not strong enough, but we ought to give moral support or moral aid by sympathising with the people. In Nigeria it is very important that, at this stage of our progress and development, when Africa is moving forward, we should begin in time to cover the needs and foster the relationship which bind the African States. It would be to the benefit of this nation if our leaders would take it upon themselves to express what would be the feeling of the country, on such occasions, and not to leave it until it is too late.

This Motion is non-controversial and I think that Nigeria will be enhancing its international status in Africa in sending a message of sympathy on behalf of these unfortunate victims of the earthquake. Mr Speaker, I beg to move.

M. Aminu Kano (Kano East): Mr Speaker Sir, I beg to second.

Question proposed.

The Prime Minister (Alhaji the hon. Sir Abubakar Tafawa Balewa): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Motion. All that I will say, Sir, is that we in the Government are of one and the same mind with the hon. Member, and I think the whole House will also accept the Motion. The House will be interested to know that the Federal Government has already sent to the Government of Morocco the sum of £5,000, to help the families of those who suffered during the disaster. (*Applause.*)

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved, That this House urges the Government to send messages of sympathy through the appropriate channels to the families and relatives of the victims of the Moroccan disaster on behalf of the people of this country.

CONTROL OF PRISONS AND LOCK-UPS

M. Albatan Yerima Balla (Adamawa West): Mr Speaker, Sir, I am calling upon this House that after 1st October of this year, all the Prison Department will be transferred from the Local Authority control to the Federal Government. Now all of us here are within the law, nobody is above the law. Anyone can commit some offence and be put into jail. We must democratise our own institutions. Transfer of power will not mean that we are above the law. I am appealing to the Council of Ministers to take serious thought about accepting responsibility of the Prison Department. It has always been the whippings against the opposition. History has told us about the concentration camp in Nazi Germany, when the country had become oppressors of the allied powers—Britain, France and others. Just the same thing happened in Japan the last war, and I beg the Council of Ministers that all these Prison Departments should be transferred with a uniform law and administration.

Sitting suspended : 1 p.m.

Sitting resumed : 4.10 p.m.

Mr S. A. Abasi (Ibadan South): Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to second the Motion. In supporting the Motion I have few remarks to make. In my town, that is Ibadan, an arrangement has been made for the Federal Government to take over the control of the Prisons Department and since then nothing has been heard. There is some discrimination in the Prisons Department at Ibadan.

During the last Federal elections most of our supporters suffered. If there was any fight between supporters of the Action Group and the opponents and it happened to get to the Local Government Police Station or Customary Court the Action Groupers would be released on bail and bail would be disallowed to others and these same people would go about in the town saying: "Have you not heard that we control the prisons and the law courts"? By doing this the opponents got confused.

Therefore, we people of Ibadan will be grateful if the Federal Government takes immediate steps.

Sir, I beg to second.

Question proposed.

The Minister of Internal Affairs (Hon. Mallam Usman Sarki, Sardaunan Bida): Mr Speaker, Sir, a prisoner is a prisoner whether in Government or anywhere. It appears that there are different kinds of people in this House. We have ex-Servicemen, ex-Policemen, ex-Legislators, ex-Ministers and I wonder if there is anybody who will answer "an ex-prisoner". (*Laughter.*)

Many things are desirable but when we come to look at them closely they look impracticable. It is a sheer impossibility to accept the hon. Member's Motion, which is the reason for my rising to oppose it. Every Member in this House knows that our financial position is such that a certain degree of economy has got to be exercised and that the Department's estimates cannot be allowed to rise without running the Government into a deficit.

The funds available for the Prisons Department are barely adequate for staff and to maintain the existing Prisons. Even with the greatest economy the Prisons Department's Estimates have again risen, and even so the staffing is still far below that which is normally required. In addition there are insufficient funds for the various buildings and development projects which are so very desirable for the well-being of the Prisons services and to bring the Federal Prisons up to the modern standard.

It has been impossible to secure funds for a very large number of projects which are urgently required, including one which has so often been mentioned and which is to remove the Broad Street Prisons from the present site, which is so unsuitable under present conditions, and for building it in the area of the new Prisons

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at Kirikiri. It therefore follows that there can be no question, within the next few years at least, of assuming further commitments.

The position in the Western Region is that all the Local Government Prisons have been taken over with the exception of Ibadan and three other small Prisons. The Director of Prisons has recommended that all these should be closed with the exception of Ibadan Prisons which should have to be completely rebuilt and for which no funds are available yet.

In the Eastern Region there are no Local Authority Prisons and even so there are very unsatisfactory conditions arising from the large number of lunatics who have to be housed in the Federal Prisons and we have not yet been able to find funds to deal with these urgent problems.

In the Northern Region there are only three Federal Prisons, at Jos, Kakuri and Kaduna. All the other Prisons and lock-ups are under the administration of the Local Authorities. There are over 70 Prisons and over 200 local authority lock-ups in the North and to take over the whole lot at once would mean one of great financial magnitude, and one would say that under the present circumstances, it cannot be contemplated.

There is one further aspect and that is that there would be a very strong opposition on the part of the Local Authorities that the Federal Government should take over the Prisons. They regard this as their own domestic affair and they want no interference. The Director of Prisons already has power to visit and advise on the running of these Prisons and there has been a good deal of improvement.

One more point on the question of training. Up till now, all the training has been done at Enugu where there is really an excellent training school, but this is unpopular with the staff of the Prisons in the North and the Director has accordingly, at my request, arranged to set up a small training school at Kaduna (*Hear, hear*) where, I hope, many of the junior and senior warders of the Native Authority Prisons will receive training. This is doing the very best that is possible within the limits of the funds available to us.

With regard to the large number of lock-ups these are either Police or Native Authority commitments. They house prisoners for very

short periods and it would be impracticable, as well as quite wrong, to try and take them over.

Mr Speaker, I therefore, beg to oppose the Motion.

Mr J. U. Udenyi (Eryong North): Mr Speaker, Sir, this Motion is gigantic and meaningful. Before I go into this Motion I must first of all ask you to join me in asking the hon. Members here to listen to me attentively so that I will be able to voice out my sentiments freely and unreservedly.

Sir, when we talk of independence, independence is for the inhabitants of the Federation. That is undisputed by anybody here. It is for the inhabitants of the Federation. If that is so every reasonable Member of this House must encourage this Motion, if that man is not here for self aggrandisement. With apology to the Northern elements here I am going to tell you what I saw at Kano when I last went there.

The fate of prisoners at Kano was very lamentable, very, very lamentable Mr Speaker. If we really want everybody to enjoy independence we must support this Motion. I am supporting this Motion because it is just like Independence Motion. When the Leader of the Opposition supported it he supported with all sincerity.

I know the Mover of this Motion is from the Northern Region and I must first of all give him my right hand of fellowship for moving the Motion. In addition the Prime Minister of this Federation is from that area and I am happy that the Prime Minister is going to support this Motion because I know he is a God-fearing fellow; he is a sympathetic listener, a man who acts in a lady-like manner.

Mr Speaker, I do not want to waste time on this Motion because it is very essential. I fully support it.

Mr P. E. Ekanem (Eryong South): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to support this Motion. In doing so, I crave your indulgence to point out my feelings. I say so because I am from the Eastern Region and as has been stated by the hon. Minister who opposed it from the Government Bench that we have no such prisons as Native or Local Authority Prisons

[MR EKANEM]

in the Eastern Region it is new to us. It has been said this morning and quite rightly too, that Fundamental Human Rights have been entrenched in our Constitution. When we are looking at the Motion, it is a Motion recommended to this hon. House.

There are to-day three types of offenders: juvenile offenders, first offenders and habitual offenders. I have been in the North myself, with due respect to the whole of the North, I am not saying this out of politics but I am saying it from the humanitarian point of view, I have been in the North for seven years during which time I had occasion to see Local Government prisoners in the North, in the Prisons and outside it.

Mr Speaker, Sir, there are only two Regions in this country with Native and Local Authority prisons, namely, the Western Region and the Northern Region. We are thinking or talking everyday of freedom. It does not mean to say that it is only those outside the Prison Yard who have to be free. I wish somebody who parades himself as a prison visitor to relate his story not only in the Western Region but also in the Northern Region. You will agree with me, those who have been to the North, that it would be better for somebody to be arrested by a Nigeria Police officer than to be arrested by a 'Danduka', and I wish it was the Police that we are dealing with now.

There is a place in the Eastern Region for the training of Warders. Now it has just been said by the hon. Minister that it is hoped to start a training course but that is a belated transaction altogether. What will happen?

Mr Speaker, Sir, the need for sending a person to prison is not normally to punish him, it is to correct him; if it is not corrective but just to punish him, then away with prisons. The Minister will be able to confirm that in the Native Authority Prison habitual prisoners and first offenders are mixed together and it is difficult therefore for a first offender to get reformed.

To speak of lunatics, if that does not obtain in the Western Region or in the Eastern Region, then the two Regions better buck up to establish in their Regions what we call in the Eastern Region 'Lunatic Asylum'. There is one in Calabar. No matter whether you are a prisoner or you are just an ordinary lunatic, you are sent to that place for treatment. If there is

no Lunatic Asylum, because there are no funds, any money spent to redeem the sufferings of people in the whole Federation of Nigeria is money well spent. If we can remain here, spend money, spend £30,000 to build luxurious houses for Ministers, can we not spend so much to take over the prisons and make the lives of the people who are convicted in these Regions worth living? Could we not spend money in these Regions in order to see that all our prisoners are not mixed together?

Mr Speaker, Sir, coming to Warders, it is an accepted fact that all Warders in the Local Government Prisons from the highest to the lowest are untrained and therefore do not know how to handle criminals. If the Opposer of the Motion opposes it, it is just for the interest of opposing, with due respect, greater respect to the Region he comes from. Otherwise the Motion itself is commendable to this House and any man with sympathy towards his own brother, even though he may not be behind the bar, any man whom God has created that he should not suffer man, any man with clear conscience will be able to support this Motion. Financial commitments, other commitments, increase of anything notwithstanding. I wholeheartedly support.

M. Ibrahim Jalo Waziri (Gombe Central):
Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to oppose this Motion. Nigeria is a vast country and its people possess many differences in language, differences in custom, differences in culture and differences in religion. For these differences, there has been constituted various Judicial Authorities to suit the purpose. There are the Federal, the Regional and the Local and Judicial Authorities.

The control and administration of prisons and lock-ups should naturally be the responsibility of the governing body responsible for the judiciary. In other words the Federal Government should be responsible for the administration of all prisons inhabited by prisoners convicted by Federal Courts, the Regional Governments should be responsible for prisons inhabited by prisoners convicted in Regional courts, likewise the Local Authorities should be responsible for prisons inhabited by prisoners convicted by Local Authority Courts.

An hon. Member: Shame, shame. One Nigeria.

M. Jalo Waziri : Most prisons controlled and administered by Local Authorities in the Northern Region are well looked after and properly cared for. The condition of prisoners are not worse than those in prisons controlled by the Federal Government. While we dislike the idea of cruelty and bad treatment to prisoners in any prison, at the same time, we should be careful not to make prisons attractive living places for offenders and criminals.

I sympathise with the mover of this Motion. His idea is not only unconstitutional but also impracticable and for this reason, I oppose the Motion. (*Applause*).

Mr S. U. Idiong (Ikot-Ekpene North East) :

Mr Speaker, Sir, thank you for giving me a chance to support this Motion. Many Members in this House have been talking about certain institutions that would have been the functions of the Regional Governments. Prisons should be the function of the Federal Government so as to give the Regional Governments the chance of using that particular money voted for that department for agricultural purposes particularly in the Northern Region. The Minister has mentioned that there are about 200 prisons in the Northern Region and these prisons are maintained by the Regional Government, whereas this should have been the function of the Federal Government as it is in the case of the Eastern Region. I understand that there are only about three Prisons remaining in the Western Region. The mover of the Motion was conscious and natural and he has the love of the country as a whole. For this reason, he has moved this Motion asking this hon. House to accept it in good faith and cause Prisons and lock-ups in this country to be a Federal function.

I do support this.

I know what the hon. Minister was after in trying to oppose the Motion. I know that any youth in his constituency who would wish to see that maladministration brought to a standstill in his area, he will use his position as a Minister to see that that youth is detained in the prison without uttering a word. (*Shame, shame!*) So, if it is a Federal subject the officer in charge of the Prison will never detain anybody in Her Majesty's Prison without a warrant. These Ministers from the North definitely use their position in antagonising and detaining people unlawfully.

I strongly support the Motion which is natural and acceptable to the citizens of Nigeria.

Mr V. A. Nwalieji (Nsukka West) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to support this Motion. The country is the same and the inhabitants should be treated in the same way according to an offence committed by a particular person. I do not know what my hon. Friends from the Opposition Bench mean by what they have been saying. Some of them may have to oppose it simply because of Opposition and, that is in their minds.

Several Opposition hon. Members : We support it !

Mr Nwalieji : Prisons and Lock-ups in the country should not be a local affairs ; it should be something general. It is not good that a person committed an offence in one way and he is punished in a different way altogether from the way another person who has committed the same offence in another section of the country is treated. That is completely unfair.

One thing is this. If a person is just in control because of local power or something like that—some people are more locally important than other people—perhaps some have control over such Prisons and Lock-ups, they may use such Prisons and Lock-ups to treat other people who do not always yield to their opinion whether they are right or wrong. With this in view, I support very strongly, without bias, the views of those hon. Members who say that Prisons and Lock-ups should be a Federal concern.

Another thing is this. I remember some time in the past, I am not going to repeat what some other Members have said about the North, the East or the West merely because this Motion was moved by somebody from the North. I do not think that the hon. Mover considers the North as a separate entity from the Federation of Nigeria. I think the hon. Members means that what is good for the goose is good for the gander. In that point of view I think that the treatment given to a person who has committed an offence in the East should be the same as that given to another person who has committed a similar offence in any other Region. There should be no difference, otherwise we do not aim at building up one Nigeria.

[MR NWACIEJI]

Another point is that I was surprised by what I saw in one section of the country some time ago. In that section of the community some people who are local gods use the Customary Courts to torture some other people who are correct in differing from their own views. I strongly opposed to it.

Several hon. Members : Yes, Western Region Customary Courts !

Mr Nwalieji : They will fine you. That person who was treated by those people who call themselves gods in a particular section as I have said was supported by... (*Interruptions*).

Several hon. Members : Yes, Western Region. They are looking at you.

Mr Nwalieji : They will fire you. He was supported by many people who saw that he was being victimised because he failed to surrender himself to the wickedness of some people. With that in view, I am strongly supporting the Motion that the treatment being meted out to any offender in any section of the country should be the same and the way to make it the same is by making the Prisons and Lock-ups a Federal concern.

The Minister of Finance (Chief the hon. F. S. Okotie-Eboh) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I quite understand the position of my hon. Friends on this side and those on the other side of the House. I am sure that the views they are expressing is simply this, that if it were constitutionally possible that the three arms of justice ought to be Federalised. That is the Judiciary, the Prisons, and the Police. I think that is what our hon. Members have at the back of their minds. As a matter of fact that is what some of us from this side would have thought correct. But under our present Constitution it is impossible to do so.

An hon. Member : Then amend the Constitution.

The Minister of Finance : At the moment this Motion is not asking us to amend it. I know that although this Government is composed of the N.P.C. and the N.C.N.C. and is commanding two-thirds majority of this House and that it may be possible to do so but at the moment the Government thinks that it will be premature. You will all agree with me that, constitutionally, before we take a decision of this kind, we must have consultations with

the Leaders of all the Political Parties and take their views into consideration. You will also agree that that is the only democratic way in which a Government of this kind can treat such issues.

In view of the explanations which I have given to hon. Members I hope that they would not like to press the issue but that they will appreciate that we feel that it is necessary in certain circumstances to put these arms of justice under the jurisdiction of the Federal Government. At the same time, however, it will not be possible for us to specifically say. I do hope therefore, that Members who are supporters of the Government will appreciate the reasons why the Government is opposing the Motion and will accept it as such.

Mr S. J. Umoren (Uyo North) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Motion. In doing so, I feel that prisoners are prisoners anywhere in this country; and the aims of sending people to prison is to correct them. We know that in certain Regions certain trades are being taught to prisoners to enable them to adjust themselves to society after their term of imprisonment. I know a majority of hon. Members who are decent people will never go to prison. I feel if the Prisons and Lock-ups become a Federal subject whatever is being done in Lagos Prisons will also be done in Kano, Enugu and Ibadan Prisons, and it should be done in the Prisons in the districts all over. These people, after they have served their terms in the Prisons they will come back into the society and live a reasonable life.

It is unfortunate that many people go to prison and they come back worse than what they were before they went. The fault lies in the treatment they receive in the prison, and if the prisons had been a Federal subject, Sir, I feel that the treatment meted out to prisoners all over the country would have been the same. I know of people who were in Lagos prison, and they have now come back to society to lead useful lives and that is what we like to see in other prisons.

The Local Authorities or Native Authorities will not be able to give prisoners in their domains the type of treatment that is being given in the Federal Prison. We very much regret that certain organisations in this country use the prisons as a tool or instrument of ill-treatment to those who disagree with them.

We do feel that this Motion will go through this House with very little or no opposition. I know that even those who are speaking on the Motion will support because my hon. Friends on the other side of the House know what happens in the Port Harcourt prison. So, Mr Speaker, we on this side of the House support the Motion.

M. Abubakar, Magatakarda Sokoto (Sokoto West Central) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to advise Government to reject this Motion. The mover has not clearly stated his grounds for moving this Motion. In the Northern Region of Nigeria we have Government and N.A. prisons. In the prison you see various types of prisoners convicted by both Magistrates and N.A. *Alkalis*. These prisoners are controlled by both Government and N.A. employers on uniform regulations and policies as laid down by the Government which are implemented in all law courts accordingly.

If the mover of the Motion has seen any defect in the present administration of the prisons he should say so and ask for amendment. I can perceive no idea of taking over the control and administration of all prisons and lock-ups by the Government. Does the mover of the Motion mean that all prisons and lock-ups staff should be paid by the Federal Government, and all convicted people in the prisons and lock-ups awaiting trial should be paid by the Federal Government? What an extra burden! Then he should even say that all the *Alkalis* as well as N.A. Police should be *Governmentised*. Is he trying to raise heaven and earth to find ease and comfort in prison life, or is he moving the Motion to make this life more unpleasant?

Had he said that people under the Prison Department ought to have extensive training his statement would have been welcomed. In view of the fact that all the prisons in the Eastern Region and in the Western Region are maintained by the Government, and in view of the large amount of prisons and lock-ups in the Northern Region maintained by the Native Administration, we appeal to the Federal Government to give special grants to the N.A. in the North for maintenance of these prisons and lock-ups (*Hear, hear*). With these few remarks, I beg to oppose.

Mr S. J. S. Tarka (Jemgbar) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I am not at all surprised that the Minister of Internal Affairs has crept in so early to oppose this Motion. I think that we should be honest with ourselves. The Minister should be bold enough to tell this House why he attaches so much interest to the retention of prisons and lock-ups for the various Native Administrations in the Northern Region. I can tell the reason.

The only reason Sir, is that the Minister's political party, that is the N.P.C., derives its main support from suppression and oppression through various convictions of opposition members. If the Minister supports this Motion, I am sure that he will be dismissed tomorrow morning; because then he will be signing off the main cause of support for the N.P.C. in the Northern Region.

In this House, we have heard several times the various atrocities which the N.A., of which the Minister himself has the honour to be a member, have meted out to the various members of the opposing parties in the Northern Region. It is not for this reason that I want to support this Motion. But it is just this. If you visit the prisoners in the Northern Region to-day you will find that the treatment meted out to them is most appalling.

An hon. Member : Have you ever been there?

Mr Tarka : I have been there more than eight times through victimisation. Sir, when I talk of ill-treatment in prisons I do so from personal experience. I have been to prison more than eight times on political reasons, and I have been able to get out of it on appeal. There is no reason, therefore, why any of my hon. Friends from the other side of the House should call me a habitual prisoner. Sir, in the various prisons and lock-ups what happens is that prisoners are kicked, beaten up, and tied up, the sleeping places are congested, the rooms 12 feet by 12 feet are usually each occupied by 10 to 15 people.

Several hon. Members : Ah!

Mr Tarka : There is no medical attention and most of these prisoners cannot go to a dispensary for treatment. I know of a case where a prisoner, simply because of his political belief was not allowed to go to hospital until he died. He died simply because of lack of

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medical attention. That is in Gboko prison. There are various other things which I do not want to mention here. But one of these is that prisoners are made to do all sorts of disgracefully funny jobs, some prisoners are made to carry night-soil in broad day light, and the whole idea is to disgrace them in public.

I think quite apart from this, most prisoners in the Northern Region to-day are under-fed. I know several prisoners who have died owing to malnutrition. This has been proved by medical officers. This is not only done to prisoners who are serving terms of imprisonment but even prisoners awaiting trial are being ill treated and given the same treatment as those prisoners who have already been tried and convicted. I think this is because the various Native Authorities and the various agencies that run these prisons have not enough money to maintain these prisons.

This has been proved by my hon. Friend who has just spoken. He asked the Federal Government to make special grants to various Native Administrations to maintain these prisons. I am sure that my hon. Friend is quite right, even though I do not support his whole idea, I think that he is quite right because these Native Authorities have not enough of money to run the prisons and the only alternative is for the Federal Government to take over these prisons.

It has been said here that only in the Western Region and Northern Region are prisons being maintained by Native Administrations. I have been made to understand that there is only one prison in the Western Region which is run by a Native Administration and that is Ibadan Prison and this the West Regional Government has tried its best to hand over to the Federal Government, but the Ibadan District Council has continuously resisted it. I think that the various Native Administrations most of whose revenue does not exceed £500,000 per annum cannot maintain these prisons. The best thing is for the Federal Government to make appropriate arrangements to take over these prisons.

Sir, I beg to support.

Whereupon Mr S. A. Lana 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.

Original Question put accordingly and negatived.

INDUSTRIAL COURTS

Mr P. E. Ekanem (Enyong South): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to propose the Motion standing in my name which runs thus: "That this House deplores the number of trade disputes declared in recent years and urges Government to accept the advisability of establishing Industrial Courts in the whole of the Federation where Industrial Disputes will be dealt with as is the practice in the United Kingdom and other countries." I am quite happy that not only the hon. Minister of Labour but also his Permanent Secretary who is an expert in Industrial Relations and Trade Unionism is in this House and is listening to me.

We were given to understand by the Minister in answer to a question that last year there were 320 trade disputes declared in this country and more important still, he enumerated the amount of man-hours lost. I am sure the rate at which trade disputes in this country are occurring is appalling. If the Government is conscientious over the situation, I think the Government should be prepared to accept any reasonable suggestion and anything which might be suggested in order to avert this undesirable state of affairs.

After the First World War, the same situation we have in this country now arose in the United Kingdom because the ex-soldiers were not re-settled. Their pay packets were very low. There was then bound to be labour unrest and in order that the situation might be restored a commission was set up under the chairmanship of Whiteley, hence you have Whiteley Council.

Now, Mr Whiteley made certain recommendations. First, he recommended the setting up of a Council whereby the employer and the employee could sit down together to iron out their differences. He further recommended that in the event of the parties not reaching agreement privately, in order to arrest strikes, a court should be set up where any disputes arising from industrial relations or strain in industrial relations would be ironed out and this court is the final arbiter. Its decisions or findings are final and binding on both sides to the dispute.

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Now we in this country follow the United Kingdom. Even our Parliament is modelled after the pattern in the United Kingdom. Our institutions run on similar lines or nearly similar lines as those of the United Kingdom or in any democratic country. When it comes to industrial relations what do we have in this country? In this country the only thing we have, and my hon. Friend, the Minister of Labour, will agree with me, is this. When there is any dispute arising from trade disputes or demands by Trade Unions for increase in wages or improved conditions of service, the first stage is to approach the employers. The employers in many cases are adamant. The Government is equally guilty of it. I say this because of my 16 years' experience in the Trade Union Movement.

An hon. Member : You are due to go on pension.

Mr Ekanem : No. They have sent me here to protect their interests. The employers are adamant with the result that the Trade Unions will go out and declare trade disputes. They declare trade disputes and if this happens to be in any of the Regions before information gets to the Minister it has become late, with the result that the Minister will advise his Divisional Commissioner when it is late or sits down in Lagos to appoint a Conciliator.

The Conciliator perhaps is not familiar with the situation with the result that the reconciliation fails and the workers will have no alternative than to come out on strike. The Commissioner will then sit down after months and months of delay and appoint what is known as an arbitrator. This arbitrator is not an expert in Trade Unionism or Industrial Relations with the result that he cannot arbitrate properly. Now the workers are forced to go out on strike.

What is the result? What is happening in the railways? If there were industrial courts in this country, the next place to go would have been these industrial courts. There in that court the Government or the employer would be represented by Counsel and the workers would be represented by Counsel, and the work of that court would be to decide the matter from all sides. By this means we should definitely avert most of the strikes and stoppages of work.

I have said that Government may think that by introducing these courts it is spending too much money. It would mean setting up some courts and paying to have lawyers there and so on and so forth; but as I have said when I contributed to a Motion here, any money spent in this country in order to satisfy the wishes of the common people is money well spent. If industrial courts are set up in each Region it would not be necessary for the judges in these courts to be legal practitioners. They could be men who have been long in industry, men who have studied labour relations in this country. They could be men appointed by each side.

Now if you read a pamphlet entitled "The Relations of the Civil Service with Trade Unions" you will see that when every avenue has been explored and no agreement is reached between the employers and the workers the highest place then to go will be to fill a form of relief to be submitted to the Minister of Labour who then in turn communicates it to the Council of Ministers, who then appoint an arbitrator.

If anybody in this House is toying with the affairs of the workers, if anybody in this House will oppose this Motion, he is against the workers of this country.

Now by saying this, I get nothing out of it, but I am trying to appeal to Government to find ways and means of averting strikes, trade disputes, and other evils connected therewith. As I said the other day there are avenues open to trade unions and their leaders in this country to avert the dangers of strikes, and we feel we should add still another one avenue so that we may not have any further strikes in this country.

Now to all of you sitting down there in that corner, the N.C.N.C. corner, and to the Minister of Labour and to his Parliamentary Secretary who has known me for many years, I am saying this, that in sixteen years there has been no strike or trade dispute recorded against me. Some trade unionists may not have been so lucky as myself to know the way to win through. Now whether the Minister of Finance agrees or not, I have got to make a suggestion, and that in good faith, to this Government.

As I have said before, we have modelled all our business in this Parliament on that obtaining in the United Kingdom, and if we think that we can progress by letting down the workers or by opposing anything that comes to this House, by thinking that the workers of this

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country will give us votes to come and sit in this House and oppose anything that will be beneficial to them, I think we are not serving this country.

I know I have thirty minutes, but it is no use waisting time when this Motion has commended itself to this House. With these few remarks, I beg to move.

Mr J. S. Tarka (Jemgbar) : Mr Speaker, Sir, the setting up of Industrial Courts has been established throughout the civilised countries as the best means of bringing lasting peace between the employers and the employees of labour. These Courts, apart from deciding industrial disputes also help to protect industries from breakdowns by recommending take-overs by Government or the award of subsidies from Government. In the Second World War the same position which necessitated the formation of Industrial Courts in England and other Western countries became commonplace in this country.

Industrial disputes have several times arisen, it has been impossible to reach agreement by discussions by both sides to the disputes, labour officers in this country have done their best several times to settle such disputes, and it has even come to the stage of Ministers stepping in to appoint commissions of inquiry. But in most cases these commissions of inquiry have failed to be fruitful and in some of these cases the workers in this country have unfortunately resorted to strike action.

It is well-known the amount of damage that has been done to the economy of this country through strikes resulting in a loss of man hours. Strike action has been used, and is only used as a last resort when a dispute arises between the two rides. I think that the suggestions made by the mover of this Motion that the Federal Government should establish, in co-operation with the Regional Governments, Industrial Courts to help in deciding trade disputes is a v.ry timely one.

Quite recently in the United States of America, there was a steel strike which resulted in the loss of about twenty million dollars to that nation ; but for the presence of Industrial Courts in that country perhaps the loss would have been greater.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I will end by saying that this Motion is above party politics, and I would urge the Minister of Finance to urge his own Members to wholeheartedly support this Motion. I beg to second.

Question proposed.

The Minister of Labour (Hon J. M. Johnson) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I am in sympathy with the hon. Mover of this Motion, but I think he will understand me as I explain my reasons, that the Motion should be strongly opposed.

First, Industrial Courts throughout the world are created in large cities and big countries—it would be wrong as the mover puts it that the decisions of these courts are invariably binding on members of the two sides to the dispute. Nowhere have these decisions been binding on the workers or the employers. If they choose to agree to the findings they will agree. If one side refuses to agree with the decisions of the court it has every right to refuse the decisions. I have just heard the mover say that it is a question of the way you apply it. You have got to follow the pattern laid down by the International Labour Organisations.

There they encourage that the disputes invariably should be settled amicably among the two parties. It is not the function of Government to jump in easily on these disputes. Government only interferes at the last, I mean, when all ends shall have failed between the sides engaged in the dispute. We should encourage collective bargaining, which is the supreme law of International Labour Organisations.

On the point that there were 320 trade disputes, I have to point out that there is no justification why we should have the industrial court for reasons based on this. Not every small dispute would be taken to this court ; but out of these 320 disputes over 315 were settled by the parties concerned, and it will be idle for you to keep a court where you are going to have a president who should not be only an expert but who must be a lawyer.

You must have legal training in order to interpret the ordinance. You have got to keep him permanently. The structure must be nothing other than that of a Supreme Court Judge, and what is going to happen throughout the Federal Territory and the Regions ? One,

can we afford it now? Secondly, is it going to be very useful when workers and employers know very well that the decisions of these courts will be binding on them?

Now, during the past ten years there were a total of 818 trade disputes brought to the notice of the Department of Labour. Of this number 82 were dealt with by formal conciliations, the rest being disposed of by the parties concerned, usually through the informal conciliations by the Labour Officers. Of the 82 cases dealt with by formal conciliations only 12 were referred to Arbitration and two to Boards of Inquiry. The number of cases that could be referred to an industrial court is therefore 1.4 per year. Now, are you saying that because of these cases you will have a permanent court?

The mover obviously has in mind the establishment of industrial court on the lines of United Kingdom system which was introduced by the United Kingdom Industrial Courts Act of 1919. Now prior to 1919 unsettled disputes were referred to *Ad Hoc* arbitration tribunal appointed as and when occasion demanded. The purpose of industrial courts in 1919 was to give prominence to this purely temporary arrangement that trade disputes would be dealt with by mediation, conciliation, arbitration or commissions of inquiry.

In the United Kingdom disputes can be referred to arbitration after conciliation has failed. The consent of both parties must be obtained before referring a dispute to arbitration.

The time is not yet with us to set up a full time permanent industrial court in Nigeria since the essential conditions precedent to the establishment of such highly organised and expensive machinery will not be possible of attainment in Nigeria for some considerable time. To support that, we have not got decent trade unions that will need such a court. I do say this Motion will not be necessary in the next few years until the country is more industrialised. It will be a waste of time and money now to set the pace here, which, of course, the Regions have to follow. It is essential for the majority of workers and employers to be very well organised into unions and associations covering most of the

trades and industries in the country. There should be a very well established voluntary joint machinery organised up to the national level to cover each industry or a very good cross-section thereof through which both sides would attain sufficiently long experience in the art of intricate disputes which are proper for reference to an industrial court to keep a permanent industrial court fully occupied from year to year.

Well, I would like to point out that industrial court is a machinery for settling disputes and not for preventing it, as the mover seems to suggest. Our machinery of settling industrial disputes under the Trade Dispute Arbitration Ordinance is very satisfactory, and I congratulate the mover for bringing this Motion, because I am convinced more than ever before of the interest the Opposition is having in the affairs of the workers of this country, and the more you keep me busy, as I am a very vigilant watch-dog of the workers, the more I shall appreciate it.

I know the good intention in your heart when you brought this Motion, but I am sure that you will see that even though this is necessary it is not yet time to set up an industrial court, and if even we do it here it would be difficult in the Regions, judging from the number of courts they have to set up. You know we are doing our best to see that there is no unhealthy rivalry amongst the Regional Governments and this Government over labour matters, and so I am seeking your co-operation.

I thank you for the Motion, and I am sure that as a reasonable man, a man with a wide experience—16 years experience in the field of trade unionism—you will find it possible to withdraw, and I promise you that whenever we have all survived the next five years, when this is necessary, I shall be too happy to consider this matter. I thank you, but I have to ask that the Motion be opposed on the grounds which you will appreciate.

Sir, I beg to oppose.

Mr J. B. Eboigbodi (Asaba West): Mr Speaker, Sir, I stand to oppose the Motion. Industrial disputes, as I believe, are often caused by dissatisfaction either by the employee or the employer. That being so, persuasive negotiation will be the best way of settling the disputes. By setting up industrial courts as other advanced countries, as my learned

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Friend has said, is fair, but not at present in Nigeria, where we have not sufficient judges to try our cases which usually stand up to six months or even a year. How many Nigerian judges can you boast of at present?

An hon. Member : Very few.

Mr Eboigbodi : Another thing is that it is expensive to go to law. Imagine a hungry and poor worker using up all he has and borrowing more to go to court with his employer.

The other aspect of it that I have to say is that it is a pity to note that under this, Government Education which is the pivot of development of any progressive nation such as ours, is restricted only to the Federal territory. To-day, we all shout of Nigerianisation, to fill all posts with Nigerians. This sounds very well. But can this happen with the present set-up of "divide and rule constitution" which is operating in this country? Education, though it is a non-revenue yielding factor, from it the men that matter, the experts, the professionals, are produced to fill the necessary posts to be Nigerianised. Agriculture, Judiciary, Fisheries, Rates and Taxes the revenue-yielding factors, are also not fully under the Federal Government. The revenue from them could have been used to train up educationally our necessary experts.

Mr S. U. Idiong (Ikot-Ekpene North) : Point of order, Sir. My hon. Friend is irrelevant in his speech.

Mr Speaker : If we can hear a bit more perhaps he will improve.

Mr Eboigbodi : There is no hope for even the next twenty years of getting the necessary Nigerians to fill up the posts that are now being held by Europeans. If we do away with the European experts in our different departments because of Nigerianisation at present, it may mean collapsing our departments for lack of qualified persons and then going outside to look for substitutes. (*Interruptions*).

Mr Speaker : Order, order. At present I can hear nothing—whether irrelevant or not.

Mr Eboigbodi : I say this, Sir, to substantiate, that another cause of labour dispute is by being redundant in our posts, for if one is an expert or professional in one's appointment one can hardly be done away with by one's

employer. Rather, at the time of the peaceful negotiation the employer will for the sake of one's importance and skill concede to give one all one's needs. On the other hand, if one is a labourer or unskilled worker, one's desires are often dismissed by a wave of hand. Therefore, what matters at present is the training of Nigerians to become experts and professionals in their respective professions and not by going to the law as at present.

With these comments, I oppose the Motion.

Mr A. U. D. Mbah (Owerri North) : Sir, I want to contribute to the debate on the Motion. I want to say that the mover of this Motion is moving the Motion with the best of intentions. I do not want him to be misunderstood. As a matter of fact, in this House to-day, if you talk of labour problems or labour leadership, I can claim that I am the voice of the workers. (*Hear, hear*).

An hon. Member : We allow you the claim.

Mr Mbah : I will always agree with my hon. Friend, the mover of this Motion, on important issues affecting the welfare of the workers.

An hon. Member : But he is not a labour man.

Mr Mbah : This House should be able to know the existing machinery we have for settling disputes. Now, we have Whitley Council as we have mentioned earlier but this Whitley Council sometime broke down and as a result we had to brief Mr Carruthers from London. We have to beg the Ministry of Labour in London to send us somebody to resuscitate the Whitley Council in Nigeria before we are able to have what is going to be our Whitley Council. And then, you have Wages Board in the Provinces. We have Consultative Committees.

And in spite of this machinery, you find that we have a lot of industrial disputes in this country. The reason is that some employers of labour have consistently and deliberately refused to recognise the right of organised labour to bargain with employers particularly in private concerns. These private concerns have gone to the extent of interfering with the right of the workers to join or not join a union. The Minister of Labour himself knows very well that the right to join or not to join a union is the right of the worker, guaranteed by

International Convention and covered by the Declaration of Human Rights. Yet these employers are allowed to interfere.

I know of a case now where an employer has issued circulars to certain people not to join a union. Now what is the remedy in the hands of these workers? What do they do and what can they do?

We might say that we have all this machinery; it is quite alright in some organisations or departments or industries that are prepared to encourage the growth of unionism. But what I am saying is that in spite of the existing machinery, we still find it difficult to convince some employers to recognise unions for purposes of bargaining.

Now, take the case of the Airways of the other day. Airways workers went on strike. It is a legitimate thing to do. If you are fed up and if all constitutional avenues have been exploited and they yielded no remedy, you have no other course. I agree and I am saying in this House that strike is to be applied with the greatest care and as a last resort. But in the case of the Airways what happened? The management defied the union, paid a fabulous bonus to people who refused to take part in the strike. And even though the Minister of Labour himself tried as an individual to convince the Airways to take these people back or stop what they were doing, they carried on and demoralised the union. And that was the end of it. These are some of the problems which we are facing in this country.

Now, in the Provinces, whenever there is a dispute, the normal thing, of course, is to get somebody from the Labour Department to intervene. I agree that the Minister of Labour, as I said the other day, is a nice man—he has the interest of the workers at heart. (*Hear, hear*), but at the same time he should be able to strengthen the Labour officers in the Regions. Some of them cannot even stand before big employers—they even go to say “yes, sir” to Managers of big companies. I do not want to mention names.

An hon. Member: Mention names! Mention them!

Mr Mbah: Now, what we are saying is that we appreciate that the Minister has made a point that we have only a few industries in the country. But unions outside, say in the

United Kingdom and America, have advantage over those of us here. In England, apart from all this machinery, you have compulsory arbitration. You can compel both the employer and the employee to meet. We do not have that here. Also, in England, once a union is registered and recognised by Government it is recognised by the employers. In America, it is illegal for an employer to refuse recognition to a registered trade union. We do not have that in this country. In America and England, they have Check-off System through which the employers can agree with the unions to deduct dues from wages. We have not got all these things here so that when we cite instances in America and England, we must also consider the fact that, to a greater extent, we are at a disadvantage. What I really intend to say is this—I do not want to press the issue because the hon. Minister has made a point and I do not know whether the hon. Mover of the Motion is pressing—but we are really in difficulty in this country in that even though we have established machineries employers of labour are making things difficult for us. Government is the largest employer of labour, and Government is a standard-bearer; and since Government is a standard-bearer we expect that the Minister of Labour will exercise his powers whenever there is a deadlock.

Now, we have no labour parties in this country. People are talking of a Labour Party—there is none. The only hope the workers have—and I want you to bear this in mind—is this House, because the choice is either they have closer association with a particular political party or they remain independent of political parties, or they organise themselves into something. But if you want to give the workers the impression that their confidence in the Government is not misplaced, Government should not hesitate to tell employers of labour that it is their policy to encourage the growth of trade unionism in this country; I do not mean by words but by constant practical demonstrations.

Now, since we have this difficulty, I think that is why my friend has thought it wise to present this Motion. I quite agree that Industrial Courts, when established, could really take decisions but, of course, neither the union nor the employer is bound to accept the court's ruling. And you have a remedy

[MR MBAH]

there. If you have agreed to go to an Industrial Court, you have contracted an obligation—a moral obligation—and even though you are not legally bound yet morally you are bound to accept the ruling of that court.

Whether it is appropriate at this time to have a court or not, my point is that the Minister of Labour should find better solutions to all these incessant crises in the labour movement and be able to have a decisive voice on these issues. It is no use after a union has passed through all the processes laid down by law to present its case and an employer would say "Anything can happen; damn the union and damn the machinery laid down", and he gets away with it. That is where we are not happy.

On the question of having industries, it is my personal conviction that it is not enough for Government to talk of encouraging industries, always encouraging and encouraging. I think the Government should be able to initiate the policy of establishing industries themselves and not necessarily saying that they are encouraging, because if you interfere they will say that it is a private concern and that Government cannot interfere, and so this saves the employers.

The Minister of Labour should remember that he is in Lagos. We like him; he is in Lagos, but what about his officers scattered all over Nigeria? I know of a case in my own Union where a Labour Officer was debarred from addressing a meeting because he went to the employers and had some discussions with them, had some coffee with them, and then went to give the workers different advice. When he came to the workers, they told him that they would beat him up. I said "No, he is a representative of the Ministry of Labour; if you have any case against him or the Ministry, of course we can go to Lagos to prove our case." So that, whether the Minister considers it favourable to establish an industrial court or not, our contention is that he must try to get more powers or at least the full co-operation of the Council of Ministers to deal with labour problems. Otherwise, if it continues to go on like this, I am afraid the future is not bright.

If employers should be allowed to interfere with the right of people to organise themselves, if employers should have the right to shun duly

constituted machinery for settling disputes, tell me what is the remedy in the hands of workers? That is why I said that the Mover of this Motion did so with the best of intentions. Whether this Motion is accepted or rejected, I still have to appeal to the Minister to please exercise his powers not only in Lagos but also in the Provinces to ensure that machinery already in existence is fully utilised not only by trade unions but by employers as well.

Sitting suspended : 4.40 p.m.

Sitting resumed : 4.50 p.m.

Mr P. U. Umoh (Abak South East): Mr Speaker, Sir, I am very glad indeed that the hon. Minister of Labour and the other Members on the Government Bench have agreed with those of us on the Opposition Bench that this Motion does not seek to secure any political advantage. It is a Motion which is brought forward with full regard for the national need.

Well, Sir, I cannot see why a demand for Industrial Courts in Nigeria should cause any headache at all. A Member on the Government Bench has said that it is costly. I do not agree; even if it is costly and in the long run it turns out to be something beneficial to the country, there is no reason why these courts should not be established.

At the moment I can envisage for Industrial Courts for this country; one for each Region and one for Lagos. If social necessity does not demand it and if the exact number would be prejudicial to the interest of the economy of the country, we could easily reduce the number.

Well, Sir, the advantages of Industrial Courts are too plain to need any analysis. If we have Industrial Courts in this country, it would be possible for us to have all our industrial disputes settled before they have assumed uncontrollable dimensions. It will make it impossible for trade Union leaders becoming irresponsible in their approach to industrial problems.

Against that background you have intrinsic disadvantages that would be attendant upon the non-existence of Industrial Courts. First, we shall be wasting our money in appointing arbitrators to pronounce decisions which do not amount to anything at all because no party in a dispute is obliged to accept the decision of the arbitrator.

And secondly, Sir, both the feelings of the employers and the employees will have been alienated before the Minister of Labour steps in to appoint an arbitrator. Apart from these, if we reject this Motion and no Industrial Courts are established, then we must be prepared to run the risk of having our own economic and financial system paralysed whenever there is any strike action.

I would like to refer, Sir, to the points made by the hon. Minister of Labour in the course of the debate. He said that Industrial Courts do not pronounce decisions which are binding on any of the parties. Well, Sir, that is so, so far as the law allows the Court not to pronounce binding decisions, but if we adapt our law and make it possible for the decision of the Industrial Court to be binding then that objection by the hon. Minister of Labour cannot really stand.

The second point made by the Minister of Labour was that the status of the Industrial Court Judge must be exactly the same as that of the High Court Judge but there is no obligation on this Government to make an Industrial Court Judge exactly equivalent to the High Court Judge. We could adopt a means between the status of a magistrate and the status of a High Court Judge and then fit in the Industrial Court Judge between them. That would not cost us much.

Another point made by the Minister was that industries and trades in Nigeria are not yet so many and so specialised as to need the establishment of Industrial Courts. With that contention, Sir, I do not agree. The fact is that the problems are there. It does not matter whether we have one trade in Nigeria or whether we have one industry in Nigeria. As long as we continue to be plagued with industrial disputes and the state of our economy continues to be paralysed, there is a great case, a great need, a clamant one, in fact, for the establishment of Industrial Courts.

This Motion, Sir, is dictated by practical necessity and national need and does not originate from any ulterior motives. If you want stability and progress; if you want this Government to enjoy stability and progress, then everything depends upon the peace and contentment on the labour front. We cannot deceive ourselves by saying that we mean to run a stable government while at the same time we continue to dismiss with a wave of the hand

all the problems that crop up on the labour front.

With these few remarks, Mr Speaker, I beg to support.

Mr D. O. Ahamefula (Okigwi South West) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to oppose the Motion. I do so because it is destructive, unnecessary and committal. I disagree that the Mover of this Motion should be thanked at all because the intention behind this Motion is ill-motivated.

Industrial dispute in every part of the world is not a credit and no country likes labour disputes. Nigeria cannot begin by building houses in order to encourage labour disputes.

The Mover of this Motion has started by making references to United Kingdom and so on. Perhaps he does not know that Nigeria at present is very far behind the United Kingdom and other civilised countries of the world and if there is anything at all Nigeria will have to imitate any of these civilised countries, I think they should be the best things in these civilised places and not the worst vices from those areas.

Mr Speaker, this is a Federal Government and this Government represents the Regional Governments, the firms, the private enterprises and so forth. Anything that this Federal Government shall do in the form of resolution or decision it will have to consult these organs that make up the Federal Government.

I believe in Government by consultation. I have never seen any place in Nigeria where cases of industrial disputes have been sent to court and they were not heard as a result of congestion. I do not think therefore that there is any necessity now for anybody trying to urge the House to encourage labour disputes in Nigeria. Tomorrow you will find domestic servants rising against their masters, you will find some messengers rising against their masters in the office and then they will go to court. Whatever course the court might take will reflect as being the decision or the wishes of the Federal Government.

I feel that by making this hon. House to agree to build industrial courts here and there in order to encourage labour dispute is very dangerous and not only that, Sir, Members will all agree with me that here in Nigeria

[MR AHAMEFULA] there are lots of irresponsible labour leaders, and if there is any among them who are Members of this House, they shall desist from speaking for the labour movement because not one of them has been voted here to represent labour. We represent everybody and for you to come here and make noise only to hit the headlines of newspapers that you have come to fight for the interest of the workers, it is nonsense because the workers know who their friends are.

Mr Speaker, I do not want to waste the time of this House but all I want to say is that whatever we do in this House, we must be cautious because there are lots of us in this House who are really here to destroy and not to construct.

Sir, I beg to oppose.

Mr A. E. Efiang-Spatts (Calabar): Mr Speaker, Sir, in supporting this Motion, I really feel that the relationship between the workers and the employers is very much strained. The Government has not taken enough steps to set up industries in this country. We really know this but if we look into companies established, say the Cement Company and other companies in which the Government has interests, but this should not prevent us from supporting the establishment of industrial courts. We realise that very little has been done to heal the wounds of unemployment.

We should not say that it is only when people steal or when they have 1,000 labour disputes that we are going to establish industrial courts. The Government may say there is no need, but prevention is better than cure.

The workers of this country, although hard working, have been persistently suffering from a lot of injustice and patient endurance of injustice is more difficult than hard work. As a matter of fact, the only thing that can help them out of this injustice would be to do something to amend and ameliorate in order to make the ends meet for them. I would say that the time has come for industrial courts to be established in Nigeria. I would also advocate that the Ministry of Labour or the Council of Ministers should try to take the necessary steps and inject those orders necessary for the establishment of these industrial courts so that whenever anybody provokes the liberty of the workers, they can simply go there for redress. When that is definitely

done, I think that the country will be getting out of chaos entirely, and the whole thing will be solved.

I support the Motion and the Minister should accept our advice.

Question put and negatived.

MINISTRY FOR PAN-AFRICAN AFFAIRS

Mr E. C. Akwivu (Orlu South-East): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to move the Motion standing in my name. The Motion seeks to ask for the creation of a Ministry or at least a department charged with responsibility for Pan African Affairs as a matter of urgent necessity. The nearer we have moved towards the independence of Nigeria, the more our responsibility as a country in matters relating to African States, African peoples and African societies becomes much clearer and more obvious as well as more urgent.

Recently serious concerns have been expressed on the Floor of this House as well as outside, as to the part Nigeria is playing in African affairs and those of us who went to Ghana together very recently to take part in the Conference of African peoples there, I am sure, have come home more convinced that it is absolutely necessary that Nigeria should start showing signs of very active interest in the affairs of the countries of Africa.

Now, as has already been said many times over on the Floor of this House, it is true Nigeria is the largest single country in Africa; it is also true that Nigeria can boast of having more natural resources as well as human resources and has possibly the largest single land space as a country in Africa, but we cannot claim by virtue of size only to be the leaders of the countries of Africa. It is necessary that those whom we stand a chance of leading should be able to look up to Nigeria as a senior brother, as an elder brother that is capable of looking after their affairs and is very interested in their well-being.

It is unfortunate that at present there does not appear to exist any section or any department of the Government of Nigeria charged with any responsibility whatsoever for affairs relating to countries outside Nigeria and I think with our coming independence it will be much more urgent.

Last week we passed a Motion here requesting the Government to boycott goods from South Africa as an expression of our objection to the treatment meted out by South

Africans to Africans but Sir, the Motion we have passed, with all due respect, can be described as being of extreme emotional value but of very little practical importance, and that is because we have not been sufficiently informed about how the South Africans live or what the economy of South Africans depends upon.

If we had been well informed on that we probably could have thought of something that could have been much more effective. For example, the Minister of Commerce and Industries told us that we imported goods worth about £2 million from South Africa a year. Now, should we refuse to import goods worth £2 million from South Africa, it might make very little impression on the economy of South Africa and if anything it might even harden them. But if we had a Department that studied more closely the economic environments of South Africa we would have known what steps to take that would have been of greater effect and consequence on South Africa and could have compelled them to change some of their views. For example, South Africa depends for its economy entirely on cheap African labour.

They even have come to the point where they do not even depend on their own African labour because they feel that those people have seen enough to demand higher wages, and so they go out even up to British East Africa and other African countries under Portugal and Belgium to get cheap African labour. It is said that at any given time there are at least 350,000 African labourers working in the gold mines in South Africa and the economy of South Africa is very much dependent on these gold mines. European labour would not go in because it is so uncomfortable inside there, the heat in the mines is as much as 130°F, and the Europeans, if they do go in there at all, would want enormous wages. But Africans are recruited from as far away as Kenya and other parts of Africa down to South Africa. As a matter of fact, one huge company called Wenela is set up in South Africa to go all over Africa scrambling for African labour.

They should not be flown into the Union of South Africa by aeroplane because the law of the land says no African should fly in an aeroplane. So they are let down somewhere outside and let in by train. The result is that these people are kept in labour camps for nine months after which they are sent home and

paid £7. Now, this is the sort of thing we ought to be informed about. If we have a Ministry charged with some of this responsibility, to study the circumstances and economic environments of some of the African countries, we would know where to hit a country and hit her hard when we want certain things done.

And then, Sir, we even have some of the big undertakings in this country with strong South African interest and control. Take for example the Bank of West Africa. I am reliably informed that at the moment the principal controlling interest in the Bank of West Africa is the Standard Bank of South Africa, and yet this bank is one of the banks used by the Governments of this country and yet we are boycotting South African goods. Of what effect will that be? This is the sort of effect we would expect to have. Where we have a Department or a Ministry solely and wholly devoted to the study of African countries, their peoples, their geography and economy, they will always be able to advise our Government on what effective steps can be taken to achieve certain ends and also to be able to project the Nigerian personality amongst peoples of Africa and put them in a position to accept our role as a country that matters in this great continent of ours.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I would not like to belabour the point but I would merely summarise the various points by saying that up to the moment we know very little about African countries. All the geography we know about Africa to-day we have learnt from text books prepared by non-Africans and they have certainly been prepared from certain given points of view. Till to-day, Sir, we have only learnt of the people of the Congo as short dwarfs or pygmies. That impression is still to be corrected, nobody has corrected it. Sometime last year an orchestra from the Congo came here and they played all over the country. Certainly, none of them was abnormally short.

The same thing goes for history. All the history text books which so far have been written relating to Africa have been written by non-Africans who have no stake whatsoever in the affairs of native Africans. We can go on enumerating all sorts of things, but in the end it boils down to this that Nigeria, this great country of ours, is going to be the first great country the world expects to be of leading

[MR AKWIWU]

influence in Africa and it is our absolute responsibility to break from the old tradition, to create a Ministry of African Affairs and teach the world that Africa matters.

Nobody knows anything really about Africa and we have got to start learning it now and start putting it to use.

It may well be argued, Sir, that the functions of this Ministry might conflict with those of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Mr Speaker, Sir, it is a question of where one draws the line, but if one takes into account the fact that really absolutely nothing is known about the past we have got so much to learn whether by way of research or by way of expedition or by way of adventure or by any other means, to inflict the Ministry of Foreign Affairs with these responsibilities will be to impose upon that Ministry such enormous burden that the Ministry if not handled by a capable hand and a clear brain might end up in a serious state of chaos and confusion. So that it is absolutely important that something special should be done to see that our Government is well advised and plays its due part in matters relating to Africa.

The Department of Foreign Affairs will have to look after the affairs of the United Nations, the United States, India, all the countries of the world and each one of them takes a full time. That Ministry will have to be charged with the responsibility for Commonwealth affairs. That again is another full-time job. So that my humble request is this: if the Government cannot bring itself to create a Ministry, let it create a Department, but let it be perfectly clear that we are out to make ourselves masters of a situation such as the world expects of us. That is the essence of my motion.

I have stated in the Motion that it is a matter of urgent necessity. Certainly, it is a matter of urgent necessity, but it is up to the Government in accepting this Motion to say when they want to create this Ministry. I am not asking you to create it here and now, you can create it after independence when perhaps you are in a better position for strategic reasons to say what you think or what you are going to do, but accept it in principle. If you accept it in principle that it is a matter of urgent necessity, then you can say when at your pleasure you will create the Ministry or Department.

Sir, I beg to move.

Dr Kalu Ezera (Bende East): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to second this Motion with great pleasure. There are two major reasons why this Motion is a timely one. First, there is a crying and urgent need for Nigeria to project her personality adequately into the scheme of things relating to the destiny of Africa. Hitherto we had given the ugly impression of being isolationists and of aiding and abetting imperialist designs on the continent of Africa.

Secondly, there is a powerful force sweeping through Africa to-day and that force is the movement of Pan-Africanism. The whole historical future, Sir, of black Africa and indeed of the peace of the world depend on the success or failure of this movement. Nigeria must therefore lend its full support to it if it cannot lead it, and I see no reason why Nigeria cannot lead it.

It therefore behoves our Federal Government to establish a Ministry of African Affairs under the charge of the Prime Minister or the Foreign Secretary as the case may be at the appropriate time in order to keep abreast with the tide of affairs in Africa. The mover of this Motion has ably explained why it is necessary to do so and we have said that the reason is mainly because of Pan-Africanism.

One might ask, what is Pan Africanism? Pan-Africanism is an idea—force that seeks the general liberation of all African peoples. Like all such revolutionary ideas, this noble concept has earned the opposition of imperialist powers and their agents because it seeks not only to liberate African peoples but also to unite all African peoples under a single state.

True, as a philosophy it is regarded as a long-term objective. But to-day it is becoming a metaphysical fact: it is a clarion call made by Africans themselves for the liberation of all African peoples from racial inequality and intolerance. It is, indeed, the most passionate and yet the most constitutional appeal ever made in the history of modern nationalism in Africa.

The Pan-African idea is not a new thing; it has existed and has influenced the outlook of all African nationalists since the early decades of the present century. Initially, its impetus came from the negro American community and from the writings of such

eminent American negroes as Dr W. E. B. De Bois. But later the initiative has passed into African hands. Since then many Pan-African Conferences have been held. The first was held in Paris in 1919 at the time of the Peace Conference under the Presidency of the Senegalese Deputy, Monsieur Blaise Diagne. And I am proud to say that the National President of our own Party, the N.C.N.C., Dr Nnamdi Azikiwe who is otherwise known as 'Zik of Africa' has been in the forefront of Pan-Africanism. Dr Azikiwe has been in the forefront of this battle of Pan-Africanism ever since his arrival on the political scene in this country twenty-three years ago.

Other African leaders are Dr Kwame Nkrumah of Ghana; Jomo Kenyetta of Kenya; Mr Nkubulah of Northern Rhodesia; Julius Nyerere of Tanganyika; Dr Banda of Nyasaland, and others and others. Indeed many of the younger generation of African leaders are explicitly and implicitly Pan-African in their views. This was clearly demonstrated at the recent Pan-African Peoples' Conference held in Accra a week ago at the instance of the Ghanaian Prime Minister, Dr Kwame Nkrumah; a Conference that I was privileged to attend as my party's representative.

I will not hesitate to pay tribute to the Prime Minister of this Federation. (Applause). . . Sir Abubakar Tafawa Balewa who, I think the House will agree, is fastly becoming not only a strong advocate of Nigerian unity but also becoming a Pan-Africanist. I remember very well, around 1948, it was the same Prime Minister who stated that he would lead a *jihad* against the South and push us to the sea if we drove away the British imperialists. But as the irony of history has had it the same Prime Minister who was opposed to unity at that time is now an advocate not only of Nigerian unity but also of Pan-Africanism.

Even the N.P.C. Regional Government sent an impressive delegation to the Accra Conference. Nigeria's influence was felt at that Conference as the hon. Jaja Wachuku and the hon. Dipcharima attended. We told the Conference that Nigeria was arriving and that by 1st October, 1960, Nigeria shall have arrived and will become a power to be reckoned with in the comity of nations. There can be no doubt that a powerful force is sweeping through Africa to-day, a force far greater than the

wind of change which the British Prime Minister had noticed during his recent tour of Africa. No power or counter-force can stop this force generated by the Pan-African idea. It has gripped the minds and fancies of almost all African States.

As I said earlier the objective of Pan-Africanism is neither imperialistic nor communistic. It is simply to liberate Africa from the trammels of racial bigotry, political and economical subjugation and free all Africans from imperialism both black and white.

We can only achieve this noble cause by avoiding the tragic error of Balkanisation which has rendered the Balkans and the Middle East mere pawns on the chessboard of international politics. We do not want to become pawns on the chessboard of international politics. We want to be a power, we want to take part in the playing of the international game.

As Monsieur Cheikh Anta Diop, a well known French-African author has argued; I quote: "Only the existence of independent African States federated around a democratic central government from the Lybian coast of the Mediterranean to the Cape, from the Atlantic to the Indian Ocean will enable Africans to develop fully and make themselves respected". And he concludes, "that independence on anything less than this would mean the creation of relatively weak African States still, in practice, dependent upon external affairs".

Population as a factor in world politics cannot be under-estimated. The great powers are not themselves ignoring the power of population. The U.S.S.R. is 200 million strong; the United States 170 million; the United Kingdom 70 million; China 600 million; India 360 million; Japan 80 million. If these countries who have technological advance in their favour find the need for unity, why should we in Africa, with only 200 million population and the most backward technologically and industrially, not find virtue in coming together.

In seconding this Motion, I think we have to recognise the fact that South Africa—or rather the South African Government—is our greatest threat. The *apartheid* policy of the South African Government is a threat to our very existence. I have heard it on high authority

The Minister of Transport and Aviation (Hon. R. A. Njoku): Mr Speaker, Sir, I was very pleased to hear you ask that the Mover should be given the opportunity of explaining what he means. I share that view. The Mover wants the House to agree with him that a sea wall should be built round the Port at Burutu. Well, it is very well known that he has in mind the facilitating of access to the Port, but it may well be that if this Motion is taken literally and a sea wall was constructed there, there would be no accessibility at all. We should be doing the exact opposite.

Perhaps the hon. Mover knows that at the moment the Federal Government has embarked on a very gigantic project at Escravos Bar and that that project of opening up the Escravos is going to cost this country well over £7 million.

And it being 5.45 p.m. Mr Speaker interrupted the business pursuant to Standing Order 4(3).

ADJOURNMENT

*Motion made and Question proposed, That this House do now Adjourn—*The Minister of Education.

Mr Speaker: I beg the House's pardon. It is intended to take the three Motions on the Order Paper in the name of the Minister of Finance.

The Minister of Finance (Chief the hon. F. S. Okotie-Eboh): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to move the Motion standing in my name that, in accordance with subsection 2 of section 7 of the Customs Tariff Ordinance, the Customs Tariff (Duties and Exemptions) Order, 1960, be confirmed. I signify that the Governor-General has given his recommendation for this Resolution in accordance with section 61 (a) of the Standing Orders of this House.

As I stated in my Budget Speech, I have not felt it appropriate to propose general taxation measures. I stated then that what was of great concern to me was that everything possible should be directed towards combating smuggling and tax evasion in all its forms, because I believe that, even at present rates of taxation, the Federal Government should be collecting much more revenue than it is actually collecting.

I also informed this hon. House of the action which had been taken and would be taken in the future to combat smuggling.

The measures imposed by this Order are, therefore, designed to fulfil three purposes—to tax certain items of luxuries, to provide encouragement to local industrial development, and to clarify the intention of certain items of the Customs Tariff.

So far as the changes in the Tariff relating to luxuries are concerned, the main features are, firstly, an increased import duty on the materials used in the local manufacture of perfumery. As Members will be aware, imported perfumes already attract a duty of 75 per cent *ad valorem*. It has been arranged that the duty on denatured spirits should be raised to 10 per cent *ad valorem* and the duty on essential oils and greases to 30 per cent. I am satisfied that the local industry can stand these new rates of duty.

Next, I have taxed film strip and similar projectors except where they are imported for use in educational institutions. Hitherto, these projectors were exempt from duty although cameras attract a duty of 35 per cent. Members will no doubt have noticed that these projectors are becoming very popular with amateur photographers.

The final luxury item to be taxed is outboard motors. They are used both for pleasure purposes and to provide transport on our creeks and rivers, but it would be impossible to distinguish between those to be used for pleasure and the others. Lorries and other commercial vehicles are already liable to duty at 15 per cent *ad valorem* and it is not unreasonable that outboard motors should attract the same rate of duty.

Now let me refer to those changes in the Tariff which are designed to provide protection and fiscal incentives to encourage industrial development. First, we have increased the duty on corrugated sheets and ridgings. The new rates of duty are one penny per square foot, or 10 per cent *ad valorem*, whichever is the higher, in the case of corrugated iron and aluminium sheets and 10 per cent *ad valorem* in the case of all other sheets and ridgings. In addition to providing protection for our new aluminium industry, the new basis of taxation is designed to encourage the use of better quality roofing materials.

The next industry which has been singled out for assistance is the paint industry. The Order provides for exemption from duty of pigments, colouring materials and dyestuffs used in the manufacture of paints. This exemption will, of course, not apply to washing blue, prepared paints or distemper. Paint manufacture is a comparatively simple industry and by exempting pigments, colouring materials and dyestuffs from duty, positive encouragement will be given to the rapid development of a Nigerian paint industry.

I now refer to the next item on the order, which imposes a protective duty of 10 per cent *ad valorem* on the import of ships, barges, boats, launches and lighters not exceeding 250 tons gross weight, other than native canoes. It also reduces from 20 per cent to *nil* the duty on iron and steel in secondary or part-worked form, that is joists, girders, sheets, bars, etc. It is our hope that a basic iron and steel industry will be established in Nigeria in the near future. The purpose of these changes is to encourage the local steel fabrication industry, since by so doing we shall not only be developing the market for locally manufactured iron and steel projects, we shall also be providing increased opportunities for Nigerians to learn those technical skills which must be available when the basic industry comes into being.

The opportunity has also been taken to remove an anomaly whereby although bulldozers and other heavy earth moving equipment are exempt from duty, spare tyres for these machines used to attract a duty of 15 per cent *ad valorem*. These tyres are only suitable for such heavy earth moving equipment and cannot be used on any normal road vehicles.

Finally, I must refer to two minor amendments contained in the order. The first relates to the clarification of the tariff item which exempts pumps, rams and storage tanks from duty. As at present worded, the exemption applies only to pumps, etc., used in connection with water supply, sewerage, drainage or irrigation. Thus pumps and storage tanks used in factories, power stations petroleum production and the like are all strictly dutiable. But this was not the intention and the revised wording clarified the position so that exemption will continue to apply to such items imported for industrial and manufacturing use.

The order also clarifies the meaning of the exemption given to approved drugs and medicinal preparations. As at present worded, the tariff provides that if any medicine should contain more than 90 per cent by volume of alcohol it will not be exempt from duty even though it is an approved medicine. The intention was that tinctures and similar preparations containing alcohol should be exempt from duty if they are an approved medicine. The order makes this clear whilst retaining the duty on portable alcohol either in pure form or diluted only with water.

The overall effect of these various changes is likely to result in an increase in our revenues of about £200,000 per annum initially. But this amount will decrease in future because the largest single component is represented by the protective duty on roofing materials. As the Nigerian industry develops we shall require to import less of these items so that our income from import duties will be correspondingly reduced. But it is our hope that industrial development will so expand our economy that such reductions as these will be more than offset by increased revenues from other sources.

Sir, I beg to move.

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

Question proposed.

Mr Jaja Wachuku (Aba North) : Mr Speaker, Sir, there is only one objection, an item of objection on that order, or rather two items—the marine outboard engine motor and the roofing materials. The roofing materials are essentials to our people and I think this House will support any other thing the Minister says except these items, and if you tell the House that you will delete these two items they will be approved because materials like the roofing materials are very very essential and whoever thinks of taxing these things is in fact taxing the rural people. We intend to improve the houses of our people and not only the thatches as the case may be. I sincerely hope the Minister will reconsider these two items and tax whisky and beer instead.

The Minister of Finance : The trouble is that my hon. Friend will not listen to my speech but was making a noise at the time and so missed my points. I said that it is a protective measure and all the Members in this House

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have been re-echoing this—that we must industrialise the country. Even this was said this morning, and he knows that we are establishing Factories where roofing materials will be produced in this country. If we are to make these factories succeed in this country, we must tax imported zinc sheets so that our industry may grow.

The second point was the outboard engine and I explained this. If you go to the Yacht Club here you will find that so many outboard engines are being used for sailing about. It is now the order of the day. It is even now impossible to differentiate outboard engines from the other ones and, therefore, it is necessary for it to be taxed.

Mr E. C. Akwizu (Orlu South East): Mr Speaker, Sir, the point made by the hon. Minister is well taken; but it would help us to explain this point to the people outside if we were informed of the proportion of the roofing sheets now being used in the country that are produced or being produced in the country at the moment. As we all know, it does not appear that there is any single sheet now in production. There might be the possibility of factories coming into production this year, if that is what we are anticipating may we be assured that the date might be put forward a bit.

Mr B. Ukaegbu (Owerri South East): There is only one point I want to mention in this matter and my hon. friend Mr Jaja Wachuku has mentioned it and that is about roofing sheets. The hon. Minister of Finance has explained it; but we will be reassured if we are informed that from this time to that time this will come into production. There is one other point and I want to mention that the Minister of Finance has been kind enough to have taken away taxes from several items, but it will assist the people of this country if he will ensure that tax relief has to be sent to the people in the town and the country as a whole. If the Government do this we shall be very happy.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved, That, the Customs Tariff (Duties and Exemptions) Order, 1960 (Legal Notice No. 50 of 1960), a copy of which was laid before this House on 9th April, 1960, be confirmed.

CUSTOMS TARIFF

The Minister of Finance (Chief the hon. Festus Okotie-Eboh): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to move the Motion standing in my name, That in accordance, with subsection 2 of section 7 of the Customs Tariff Ordinance, 1958 the Customs Tariff (Duties and Exemptions) (No. 2) Order, 1960 (Legal Notice No. 50 of 1960), a copy of which was laid before this House on 11th April, 1960, be confirmed.

I signify that the Governor-General has given his recommendation for this Resolution in accordance with section 61(a) of the Standing Orders of this House.

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

Question proposed.

Mr A. O. Ogunsanya (Ikeja): The little point I wish to raise on this, Mr Speaker, is the fact that relates to lemonade and other aerated waters, whether flavoured or not, manufactured in Nigeria. I feel that this is an item on which foreign people in this country feel strongly.

The Minister of Finance: On a point of order, Sir, my hon. Friend is speaking on the last Motion which is No. 12 and not No. 11, which I have moved.

Mr Ogunsanya: Legal Notice No. 46 of 1960, that is the one I am speaking on.

Mr Speaker: Order! The Order which the Minister of Finance has moved is Duties and Exemptions (No. 2) Order, 1960, Legal Notice No. 50.

Mr Ogunsanya: Sir, this refers to Legal Notice No. 46 of 1960.

Mr Speaker: Order, order! I wish the hon. Gentleman would listen to me; the order being discussed now is Legal Notice No. 50 of 1960. Does that satisfy him?

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved, That the Customs Tariff (Duties and Exemptions) (No. 2) Order, 1960 (Legal Notice No. 50 of 1960), a copy of which was laid before this House on 11th April, 1960, be confirmed.

House of Representatives Debates

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[Excise Duties]

19 APRIL 1960

[Excise Duties]

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EXCISE DUTIES

The Minister of Finance (Chief the hon. F. S. Okotie-Eboh) : I rise to move the Motion standing in my name, That in accordance with subsection 2 of section 4 of the Excise Tariff Ordinance, the Excise Duties (Amendment) Order, 1960, be confirmed.

I signify that the Governor-General has given his recommendation for this Resolution in accordance with section 61 (a) of the Standing Orders of this House.

The Minister of Education : Sir, I beg to second.

Question proposed.

Mr Ogunsanya rose—

Mr Speaker : I must ask the hon. Gentleman not to rise before I have finished putting the Question. I will give him plenty of time.

Mr Ogunsanya : Mr Speaker, Sir, I repeat precisely what I said before that under section 3 of this Order it is expressly stipulated : "lemonades and other aerated waters, whether flavoured or not, manufactured in Nigeria", that there should be an increase on them of 1s-4d per gallon. I feel strongly about this. The House will have its way, but I wish it recorded, Sir, that this is something which affects very many people in this country who are interested in soft drinks and this is something which has to be encouraged. The religion—

Mr S. J. S. Tarka (Jemgbar) : On a point of order, Mr Speaker, it is now six o'clock—

Mr Speaker : Under paragraph 9 of Standing Order 4 there is no reason for interrupting business. Business on proceedings in pursuance of an Order such as this is exempt from the rule about six o'clock.

Mr Ogunsanya : It is stated clearly in this House that this Order imposes an excise duty of 1s-4d per gallon on all mineral waters and all non-alcoholic aerated beverages manufactured in Nigeria. It does not affect local manufacture of fruit juices and squashes in concentrated form. I am saying this because I realise that the hon. Minister was not himself advised on this. Fruit juices are unaffected, and other beverages like Fanta. But other beverages, particularly those manufactured by several Nigerian firms with which we really have a connection would be affected, and the ultimate tax will go on to the ordinary consumers.

Chief O. B. Akin. Olugbade (Egba South) : Affecting the objection of the last speaker, Sir, quite recently a certain firm in the United States came out here to establish the manufacture of mineral water. They are going to establish in the Eastern Region, in the Northern Region and in the Western Region. (*Interruption.*) I understand, Mr Speaker, they are going to spend about £200,000 in the vicinity of Lagos, £175,000 in the Northern Region and £275,000 in the Eastern Region. I am wondering whether this new increase will not adversely affect the growth of the industry here. Sir, as a matter of fact they have not started yet, they are just going to start; I do not know whether this will help or assist some firms which have been engaged in this kind of industry, or cripple this newcomer to the Nigerian markets.

Mr Jaja Wachuku (Aba North) : My only concern is that the public should become drunkards. If you drive them away from drinking minerals they will drink whisky, gin and beer. It is most amusing that the Minister will agree to the taxing of the humble people in a way to make our nation a nation of teetotallers. Last year, Sir, we had a report that the people consumed about 2,000,000 gallons of beer alone. I am sure if there were two million gallons last year, during the independence celebrations they will consume about four million gallons, and the Minister should have taxed beer so that during the independence celebrations more revenue will come to the Government.

The same thing with whisky; the same thing with gin; the same thing with brandy, and I am asking the Minister to tax all these things. I am sure, Sir, that if he will study statistics of minerals consumed in this country he will find that the quantity of beer, brandy, and whisky and gin,—the revenue to be derived from this particular tax now under consideration will not be half of what you will derive from the other ones I have enumerated. I think this is a simple matter. Then Fanta—we are going to tax Fanta, and Tango. I will ask the Minister to reconsider this particular item, and if he is not prepared to do this, let him include whisky, gin, beer and all.

The Minister of Finance : The trouble with my hon. Friend is that he will not declare his interest before this hon. House. The fact is

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that he does not drink whisky or brandy or gin, but drinks so much of Fanta and Coca-Cola that he has stomach trouble !

Mr S. A. Babatunde (Ilorin Central): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Motion. I am surprised that this thing comes from an angle I did not expect. If it were from the Opposition I would not be surprised, because they do not want the Minister of Finance to make money for Government. They do not want to enforce that, but they want me to set out what they call..(Interruption). They want the

Government to set up industrial courts whereby the Government will use their money until the Government collapses. This will never happen. If the Minister of Finance will not borrow money for the Government, he must impose taxes as he thinks fit, and I know he is a man with a real, definite, practical experience of his job, so I beg to support.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved, That this House do now adjourn.

Adjourned accordingly at ten minutes past six o'clock.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
NIGERIA

Wednesday, 20th April, 1960

The House met at 10 a.m.

PRAYERS

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

PUBLIC SERVICE

Nigerians as Deputy Permanent Secretaries

*O.108. Mr A. Akomolafe asked the Minister of Pensions, how many Nigerians substantively hold posts of Deputy Permanent Secretary or their equivalent; and how many are being trained to hold such posts.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Pensions : Two Nigerians hold the post of Deputy Permanent Secretary and three others hold similar appointments. Five Nigerians holding acting appointments are in training in the post of Deputy Permanent Secretaries or similar Administrative posts.

Mr Speaker : There are so many questions on the Order Paper. I must ask Ministers answering a question, if it amounts to a table of figures, to circulate them in the Official Report; otherwise we shall not get through the Questions to-day.

Strength of Federal Public Service

*O.192. M. Muhammadu Sagir Umar asked the Minister of Pensions, what is the strength of the Federal Public Service; how many are Nigerians, indicating their respective regions of origin, and how many are expatriates.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Pensions : The strength of the Federal Public Service as at 1st March, 1960 was 39,327: of this figure 37,161 Nigerians, 354 other West Africans and 1,812 Overseas Officers.

2. Details are not kept of the region of origin of the majority of staff but for the 4,398 officers in C Scale and above the break-down is as follows :—

Western Region has the highest figure	1,429
Eastern Region	1,092
Northern Region	29
Cameroons	57
West Africans	67
Expatriates	1,724

M. Muhtari Sarkin Bai : Can the Minister say how many among these expatriate officers are South Africans?

Resignation of Expatriate Civil Servants

*O.193. M. Muhammadu Sagir Umar asked the Minister of Pensions, how many expatriate civil servants in the Federal Public Service have resigned their appointments from 1958 to date.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Pensions : (1) The total number of expatriate civil servants who have resigned their appointments since the 1st January, 1958, is fifteen. Twelve of these were officers on short-term contract. Three pensionable expatriate officers resigned during the period in question.

(2) There has of course been a considerable number of normal retirements during the period, both of pensionable and of contract officers. Altogether 101 pensionable expatriate officers have gone on retirement since the 1st January, 1958 and 139 contract officers have retired upon the completion of the contract periods for which they were engaged.

POSTAL SERVICES

Telephone Services for Schools and Hospitals

*O.109. Mr C. A. Odigbo asked the Minister of Communications, whether he is aware that hospitals and schools within a two-mile radius of a telephone exchange in some parts of the country are denied telephone services; and whether he will look into the matter with a view to placing these important institutions on the priority list for the supply of telephones.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Communications : The records of the Ministry of Communications indicate that no application for a telephone from a school or hospital within three miles of a telephone exchange has been refused, and the Ministry deals with such applications, when received, as expeditiously as possible.

Post Office at Uzuakoli

*O.110. Mr H. O. Chuku asked the Minister of Communications, when the construction of the new post office at Uzuakoli will be completed.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Communications : I hope that the new post office at Uzuakoli will come into service about the middle of next month. (*Hear, hear*).

Post Office for Item, etc.

*O.111. Mr H. O. Chuku asked the Minister of Communications whether he will consider building a post office for Item, Igbere, Alayi and Ozu Item clans in Elu-Elu District Council area in view of the long distances from these places to Uzuakoli Post Office.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Communications : The conditions on which the Ministry of Communications will establish a post office, or sub-post office, at any given place are set out in the Statement of the Policy proposed by the Government of the Federation for the Establishment of Post Offices within Nigeria, which the House of Representatives approved as Sessional Paper No. 4 of 1957, and the Sessional Paper explains the manner in which the volume of postal business is calculated. To be eligible for conversion into a sub-post office a postal agency must carry on business at a rate of at least 24,000 units a year; current rates at the Ozu-Item, Alayi, Igbere, and Item agencies are 5,228 units, 6,517 units, 6,188 units, and 10,020 units a year respectively.

Telephone Services Eastern Region

*O.112. Mr H. O. Chuku asked the Minister of Communications, how many District Councils in the Eastern Region have applied for telephones and how many have been supplied with them.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Communications : In the Eastern Region, the Ministry of Communications has installed telephones at the Headquarters of twenty-five District Councils and is engaged in meeting requests for telephones from five others. It can only comply with such requests where there are services provided under the terms of the Statement on the Policy proposed by the Government of the Federation for the Development of Telecommunications within Nigeria, which the House of Representatives approved as Sessional Paper No. 8 of 1957, or where there are services introduced before the beginning of the current economic planning period. Forty-five District Councils

have asked for telephones in parts of the Eastern Region to which the telephone system has not yet been extended.

Telecommunication Services Ekiti Division

*O.113. Mr A. Akomolafe asked the Minister of Communications, if, within the next few months, he will extend telephone services to Iddo-Faboro in Ekiti Division, a town midway between Ado-Ekiti and Ijero which have both been included in the present extension scheme.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Communications : The Federal Government's proposals for extending the Nigerian telephone system during the current economic planning period are set out in the Statement on the Policy proposed by the Government of the Federation for the Development of Telecommunications within Nigeria, which the House of Representatives approved as Sessional Paper No. 8 of 1957. There is no provision in the Sessional Paper for installing an exchange, or call box, at Iddo-Faboro and the Ministry of Communications, I am sorry to say, has no money at the moment for either purpose.

Mr Akomolafe : May I ask then, Mr Speaker, whether what the Parliamentary Secretary means is that there are no plans for extending telephone services to small areas. That is how I understand it and I think it is serious.

*O.114. Mr A. Akomolafe asked the Minister of Communications whether he will consider extending telecommunication services as soon as possible to all the important towns in Ekiti Division which lack those facilities at present.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Communications : The Federal Government's proposals for extending the Nigerian telephone system during the current economic planning period are set out in the Statement on the Policy proposed by the Government of the Federation for the Development of Telecommunications within Nigeria, which the House of Representatives approved as Sessional Paper No. 8 of 1957. The Ministry of Communications has no money at present to go beyond the limits indicated in the Sessional Paper, but will bear the needs of the Ekiti Division in mind when budgeting for the next planning period.

Iwo Post Office

*O.115. Mr T. A. Lamuye asked the Minister of Communications when a telegraph unit will be attached to the post office at Iwo.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Communications : The cost of providing facilities for sending telegrams, other than by telephone, varies with local circumstances : under favourable conditions the necessary equipment can be bought and installed for £2,000 and it costs about £75 a year to maintain, but a service of this nature is uneconomic unless the traffic exceeds 50 telegrams a day and in some cases the requisite level is substantially higher. At present, on an average, four telegrams a day are sent from Iwo, by telephone to Ibadan.

Chief Anthony Enahoro : Is the Parliamentary Secretary seriously suggesting that it is possible to send telegrams by telephone ?

The Parliamentary Secretary : It is possible.

Chief Enahoro : What of the rural areas ? There are no telephones in the rural areas.

24-hour Service for Iwo

*O.116. Mr T. A. Lamuye asked the Minister of Communications, whether he will increase the staff handling the telephone service at Iwo in order to make the service a 24-hour one.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Communications : No, Sir : it is uneconomic to provide service throughout the twenty-four hours at a telephone exchange unless there are at least seventy-five subscribers, and there are only sixteen subscribers at the Iwo exchange.

Telecommunication Services Eastern Region

*O.117. Mr S. U. Idiong asked the Minister of Communications whether he is aware that there is no direct telephone system between Ikot Ekpene and Aba Post Offices, and Oron and Calabar Post Offices and that as a result calls from these important commercial communities are being unduly delayed and whether he will remedy the situation as soon as possible.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Communications : Congestion on the telephone system, which is affecting calls from Ikot Ekpene would have been relieved by now but for the fire last January at the new exchange in Aba and the Ministry of Communications is taking steps to remedy conditions which the fire has produced. I am enquiring into the Honourable Member's suggestion that there is undue delay in telephone calls between Calabar and Oron and will make such arrangements as I can to eliminate inconvenience at either place.

Salaries to Mail Runners

*O.118. Mr S. U. Idiong asked the Minister of Communications, what steps are being taken to ensure that the payment of salaries and wages of all postal agency mail runners in the Federation is made the responsibility of the Federal Government.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Communications : It would cost the Federal Government approximately £35,000 a year to provide every postal agency in the country with two mail services a week by runner, and the Ministry of Communications has no money to introduce new postal services beyond the scope of the Statement of the Policy proposed by the Government of the Federation for the Establishment of Post Offices within Nigeria, which the House of Representatives approved as Sessional Paper No. 4 of 1957. Under the terms of the Sessional Paper the Ministry, in the ordinary way, maintains mail services to post offices and sub-post offices only.

Telecommunication Services in Oyo Province

*O.119. Mr S. O. Kolade asked the Minister of Communications, when the postal agencies at Fiditi, Ilora and Awe in Oyo District will be enlarged.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Communications : The conditions on which the Ministry of Communications will establish a sub-post office at any given place are set out in the Statement of the Policy Proposed by the Government of the Federation for the Establishment of Post Offices within Nigeria, which the House of

Representatives approved as Sessional Paper No. 4 of 1957, and the Sessional Paper explains the manner in which the volume of postal business is calculated. To be eligible for conversion into a sub-post office a postal agency must carry on business at a rate of at least 24,000 units a year; current rates at the Fiditi, Ilora, and Awe agencies are 14,348 units, 12,015 units, and 10,477 units a year respectively.

Telephones at Fiditi and Awe

*O.120. Mr S. O. Kolade asked the Minister of Communications, what plans he has for installing telephone at Fiditi and Awe in Oyo Southern District.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Communications : The Federal Government's proposals for extending the Nigerian telephone system during the current economic planning period are set out in the Statement on the Policy proposed by the Government of the Federation for the Development of Telecommunications within Nigeria, which the House of Representatives approved as Sessional Paper No. 8 of 1957. There is no provision in the Sessional Paper for installing telephones at Fiditi, or at Awe, and the Ministry of Communications, I am sorry to say, has no money for either purpose at the present.

Mr Kolade : May I know why ?

The Parliamentary Secretary : There is no provision in the current economic programme.

Mr D. N. Abii : May I know why the Minister of Communications has no money for the extension of telephones ?

The Parliamentary Secretary : We depend on the money approved by this House for providing telephones.

Postal Agencies at Iware, etc.

*O.121. Mr S. L. Kolade asked the Minister of Communications, what steps he is taking to open postal agencies at Iware, Jobele and Imimi in Oyo Southern District.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Communications : The conditions on which the Ministry of Communications will establish a postal agency at any given place are set out in the Statement of the Policy

proposed by the Government of the Federation for the Establishment of Post Offices within Nigeria which the House of Representatives approved as Sessional Paper No. 4 of 1957.

Mr Speaker : I think it is a waste of time to repeat those facts in answer to a dozen questions. The House by now knows that it is 24,000 units per year and it is really not necessary to say that in answering questions. We shall never get through these Questions.

The Parliamentary Secretary : As far as I can ascertain, the local communities have not asked for agencies to be established at Iware, Jobele, or Imimi.

Orlu Post Office

*O.122. Mr E. C. Akwivu asked the Minister of Communications, how soon it is proposed to start work on the building of a new post office in Orlu township.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Communications : In Annexures 5 and 6 to the Statement of the Policy proposed by the Government of the Federation for the Establishment of Post Offices within Nigeria, which the House of Representatives approved as Sessional Paper No. 4 of 1957, the Honourable Member will find lists of post offices which the Ministry of Communications set out to build or improve during the current economic planning period. The post office at Orlu is not among them, and the Ministry has no money to extend the lists, but will bear the needs of Orlu in mind when budgeting for the next economic planning period.

Orlu Telephone Services

*O.123. Mr E. C. Akwivu asked the Minister of Communications, if he is aware of the deplorably unsatisfactory state of present telephone services at Orlu, and if he will cause work to be started on the improvement of these services as a matter of urgent necessity.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Communications : I assume that the hon. Member is referring to delays in trunk calls to and from Orlu, which would have been largely eliminated by now but for the fire last January in the new telephone

exchange at Aba. The Ministry of Communications is seeking to achieve by other means results which the new exchange would have produced.

Mr Akwiwu : Will the Minister indicate how soon in view of the fact that the situation is now critical ?

Orlu Telephone Services

*O.124. **Mr E. C. Akwiwu** asked the Minister of Communications, under what circumstances the Orlu telephone service will be converted to a 24-hour service ; and what effort has been made to inform the people of Orlu Division of these requirements.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Communications : It is uneconomic to provide service at a telephone exchange throughout the twenty-four hours unless there are at least seventy-five subscribers, and there are only nineteen subscribers at the Orlu exchange. As far as I have been able to ascertain, the local community has not asked the Ministry of Communications for information on the subject.

Mr Akwiwu : Could the Minister tell us how far the telephone exchange at Arondziogu is responsible for this situation ?

Telecommunication Facilities for Ikeduru

*O.165. **Mr A. U. D. Mba** asked the Minister of Communications, when telecommunication facilities will be provided at the new post office at Ikeduru ; whether he will indicate how soon the post office will be opened for postal transactions ; and whether he will provide a post box for use by the public after office hours as is the case in other post offices.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Communications : The new post office at Ikeduru will open within six weeks, and it will have a post box to be used after business hours. By the end of the year it will also have a telephone call box and as soon as the call box is installed it will accept telegrams.

Post Office at Mbaitoli

*O.166. **Mr A. U. D. Mbah** asked the Minister of Communications whether he is aware that the building of a post office equipped

with telegraph and telephone facilities at Mbaitoli in Owerri Division is long overdue ; and whether he will erect such a post office there.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Communications : I will refer the hon. Member to answers given with regard to the establishment of new Post Offices.

Extension of Owerri Post Office

*O.167. **Mr A. U. D. Mbah** asked the Minister of Communications, whether he will consider extending the Owerri Post Office so as to make it adequate for the volume of business normally transacted in a post office of a Provincial Headquarters.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Communications : In Annexures 5 and 6 to the Statement of the Policy proposed by the Government of the Federation for the Establishment of Post Offices within Nigeria, which the House of Representatives approved as Sessional Paper No. 4 of 1957, the hon. Member will find lists of post offices which the Ministry of Communications set out to build or improve during the current economic planning period. The post office at Owerri is not among them and the Ministry has no money to extend the lists, but will bear the needs of Owerri in mind when budgeting for the next planning period.

Telegraph Facilities at Agbani and Udi

*O.168. **Mr G. O. D. Eneh** asked the Minister of Communications when it is proposed to provide telegraph facilities at Agbani and Udi Post Offices, in order to obviate the current practice of sending telegrams from those post offices by telephone.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Communications : The cost of providing facilities for sending telegrams, other than by telephone, varies with local circumstances. Under favourable conditions the necessary equipment can be bought and installed for £2,000 and it costs about £75 a year to maintain. A service of this nature is, however, uneconomic unless the traffic exceeds 50 telegrams a day, and in many cases the requisite level is substantially higher. At present, on an average, five telegrams a day are sent from Agbani, and eleven from Udi.

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[Oral Answers]

20 APRIL 1960

[Oral Answers]

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Telephone Calls at Udi Post Office

*O.169. Mr G. O. D. Eneh asked the Minister of Communications whether he is aware that Udi Post Office uses only one telephone channel instead of three, which makes it impossible to get telephone calls through expeditiously, and whether he will cause the remaining two channels to be brought into use.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Communications : All three channels at the Udi telephone exchange are in use. The exchange serves the post office and telephone call office, the local Divisional headquarters, and the Oji River leper settlement.

Chief A. Enahoro : Is it a fact that there is no money to provide the other two lines ?

Postal Agencies in Udi Division

*O.170. Mr G. O. D. Eneh asked the Minister of Communications, if he would name the postal agencies in Udi Division indicating the volume of business transacted in each during the year 1957-58, 1958-59 and 1959-60.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Communications : The figures for which the Honourable Member has asked would take half an hour to read out, and in these circumstances would be uninformative. I have therefore arranged for them to be published to-morrow in the official record of the House's proceedings.

Volume of Business transacted in Postal Agencies in Udi Division

Agencies	1957-58	1958-59	1959-60
<i>Agbaja Ngwo</i>			
Affa	3,822	2,946	3,300
Egede	3,629	3,345	not yet revised
Eke	8,280	6,823	7,820
9 Mile Corner	8,556	10,791	9,946
<i>Ezeagu</i>			
Aguobu Owa ..	3,560	3,849	not yet revised
Iwoliqhe	7,555	9,001	not yet revised
Mgabo Owa	—	2,669	2,578
Ogwafia Owa ..	3,584	3,393	3,699
Ukana	4,233	4,157	4,778
Umana Obelagu	4,272	4,290	4,284
Umulungbe	2,633	2,410	3,476

Agencies	1957-58	1958-59	1959-60
<i>Ukamu</i>			
Ozalla Cross	Opened		
Roads	1-9-58	—	3,153
Nomah	9,845	8,479	9,683
<i>Enugu Municipality</i>			
Abakpa	6,564	5,480	5,093
Enugu South ..	32,981	58,064	not yet revised
Enugu Town ..	46,157	70,376	not yet revised
Iva Valley	6,041	7,158	6,976
Ogui Urban Area	—	14,016	16,661
Uwani	20,828	15,565	19,316

Telephone Exchange at Aba

*O.171. Mr O. C. Ememe asked the Minister of Communications how soon it is proposed to replace the telephone exchange at Aba which was recently on fire.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Communications : The Ministry of Works and Surveys is re-roofing the telephone exchange at Aba which caught fire last January, so that it may suffer no further damage from the weather. Equipment destroyed will take at least two years to replace.

Radio Telephones

*O.194. M. Sule Abba Bui asked the Minister of Communications why the radio telephones distributed to some parts of Nigeria during the last Federal Elections have been called in by the Ministry; and whether he intends to restore them.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Communications : The Federal Government's proposals for extending the Nigerian telephone system during the current economic planning period are set out in the Statement on the Policy proposed by the Government of the Federation for the Development of Telecommunications within Nigeria, which the House of Representatives approved as Sessional Paper No. 8 of 1957. The telephones to which the Honourable Member refers were outside the scope of the Sessional Paper, having been installed temporarily, for purposes connected with the elections. They were withdrawn because the Ministry of Communications has no money to incorporate them into permanent services.

Mr Speaker : Order! It is now ten thirty; no more questions can be taken under Standing Order. The Clerk will now proceed to read the Order of the Day.

ORDER OF THE DAY**THE APPROPRIATION (1960-61) BILL**

(4th Allotted Day : considered in Committee of Supply). (House in Committee)

HEAD 35—MINISTRY OF FINANCE

Question proposed, That £2,741,540 for Head 35—Ministry of Finance—stand part of the Schedule.

Chief Obafemi Awolowo (Ijebu-Remo) : Mr Chairman, Sir, I am sure that all right-thinking Nigerians must feel greatly alarmed at the smug attitude of the Government to the financial position of the country. The great problem which faces this country, and of course the Government, is the problem of raising revenue to finance our recurrent as well as capital expenditure.

The Minister of Finance has already given indication as to the sources from which revenue could be derived? In the first place, he is going to raise our revenue by tracking down tax evaders, a very laudable project indeed. Secondly, he wants to combat smuggling; thirdly, and that is very well known, he wants to borrow a little more from Nigeria and from abroad, if possible. But in addition, the Minister, without saying so in so many words, has been coming to this hon. House with piecemeal proposals for the imposition of Customs and Excise duties.

May I very briefly comment on the sources which the Minister has in mind for raising revenue. I do not think, Mr Chairman, that much revenue could accrue from combating tax evasion and smuggling. It is going to be a running battle between the Government and these evil doers, a battle which is bound to last a long time. What is more, a number of people that are going to be appointed for the purpose of combating these evil doers may soon find themselves on the other side of the battle line. The danger in this country to-day is that when you appoint two or three persons to track down a thief, you will soon find that there are two or three more thieves to be tracked down. (*Laughter*) I am really astonished that the Minister thinks that much could come from these sources. I have my doubts, and I appeal to the Government really to have doubts as to the fruitfulness of these two sources, that is, tracking down tax evaders and combating smugglers.

A good deal has been said already about borrowing and I do not want to repeat what has been said. But may I make this warning on the subject. The hon. Minister of Finance and other Members of the Government Bench are in the habit of talking about loans without strings. There are no loans and I want this to be seriously borne in mind—without strings. All debtors have certain strings, though invisible, around themselves and the influence of the creditor, though intangible, is always there to make the debtor do his bidding whenever he so desires.

Now I said before that the Minister has been coming with piecemeal proposals for raising revenue. I think that is very unfortunate. I agree that the problem of raising revenue in this country is a very intractable one, but that does not mean that the Minister should not show the foresight that is required of him. He is, by reputation, a successful businessman in his own right, and I think he ought to apply to the management of his Ministry the same prudence which has earned him so much success in his own private business.

It is yet too early to judge the Government with finality but one characteristic is already very obvious, and that is, that the Government appears to be lacking in foresight whilst it appears to be very rich in backsight. (*Laughter*). We are not going to wait, Mr Chairman, until this country gets over the brink and finds itself in a ditch of bankruptcy before we begin to think of how to raise revenue for our use.

A number of items have been brought under Excise or Customs duties imposed on goods that have been described as luxuries. There must have been some different dictionary or economic text-book in the office of the hon. Minister of Finance. The wants of every individual may be classified under three heads : necessities, comfort and luxury. Necessaries, you cannot do without all, but those who have satisfied themselves with only necessities only enjoy a bare existence. Before any man can be described as having a fairly good living, he must not only have necessities but also a little bit of comfort in addition. Of course luxuries we can all dispense with, that is, all depending on your steps in life. I am sure

[CHIEF AWOLOWO]

it cannot be said that a motor-car is a luxury to a business man or to a Minister who has to do a good deal of touring; it is a necessary.

So when the Minister of Finance comes to this House to suggest that mineral waters and locally manufactured sweets are luxuries, I begin to wonder what sort of dictionary is being used in the Ministry of Finance. But, as I said before, it is not an easy problem and I really sympathise with the Minister. The hon. Minister must be courageous enough to come to this hon. House to tell us what his difficulties are and to call upon, not only the Members of the Government Bench, but also the entire Members of this hon. House, to apply their minds to the solution of this great problem.

This year we have only a small balance of less than £2 million; under the present estimates we are going to have a balance of less than £2 million as at 31st March, 1961. There is no prospect that we are going to have a high balance; indeed the chances are that we are going to have much less by 31st March, 1962. We are borrowing the sum of £25 million this year and we are going to borrow about £17 million again next year. What then do we do?

I have been looking at the list of our imports and certain items come readily to mind. It is not easy to do an exhaustive exercise within the time at our disposal; it is not even possible for an individual to do such an exercise. I did suggest before, and I want the Minister to take that suggestion seriously, that a Revenue Commission should be appointed, a Commission consisting of Nigerians, Nigerian Economists, with an expatriate Secretary if a Nigerian Secretary cannot be found, who will look into this question of raising revenue and submit proposals and recommendations to the Minister, who will then bring these proposals and recommendations to this House for consideration. The problem of raising revenue is urgent and must be tackled with that sense of urgency that this country now demands.

Now, Sir, there has been an excise duty on locally manufactured sweets and also a duty on mineral waters. One wonders why the Minister has not considered imposition of Customs duties—Import duties—on items like frozen cheece or frozen meat. From January

to October we spent as much as £214,000 on this item alone. Why is it necessary to import that sort of article into this country; frozen meat? My suggestion is this. It is true that if Customs duty is imposed on this item the effect may be that this particular item of article will no longer be imported into this country and that will be very good for everybody. This will boost the trade in cattle from the Northern Region which will put more money into the pockets of our people; their income will correspondingly rise and they will be in a better position to pay more money into the coffers of the Inland Revenue and it will also help to ease our balance of payments.

There are also other items—corned beef. Then we talk of locally manufactured sweets. But we have here bakery products other than cabin bread which from January to October has cost the country £308,000. Various items such as these amount to something like £8 million in less than one year. Why can the Minister of Finance not look into those items and impose duties on them? As I said before, the worst that can happen will be that these items will no longer be imported into this country and we shall not lose them. It would appear that all the piecemeal tax measures which the Minister has introduced so far are directed against the indigenous Nigerian consumers and I think that is a wrong fiscal measure, an unpatriotic fiscal measure.

So, once again, I hope that the Government will give more and more serious consideration to the suggestions which have been made, namely, that the appointment of a Revenue Commission is of urgent necessity.

Alhaji Damale Kaita (Kaura): Mr Chairman, Sir, thank you very much for giving me the opportunity to pay my tribute to our national, dynamic, progressive and stable Minister of Finance. In doing so, I have the following observations to make.

The setting of the Customs control posts on the frontier at Jibia, Illela and Kwangolon is welcome. But those three proposed control posts are not sufficient and I would like to suggest to the hon. Minister to take immediate action to increase the number of these control posts. I would like to suggest, in addition, that the Minister includes in his project the name of Dankama in Katsina Province. This

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is a traditional trade centre where a lot of illicit trade practices are taking place between Nigerians and the French people. Enormous sums of money are being lost to Nigeria every year from this trade centre. I hope that the hon. Minister will take this suggestion into serious consideration.

This able Minister has very good foresight for the protection of our national revenue. His proposals for the appointment of patrols who should operate inland to check Customs duty and tax evaders is very encouraging. I would like to suggest to the hon. Minister of Finance to post patrols at Birnin Kebbi in Katsina Province. This place is between Kongokon and Jibia. It is a very well known trade route and I am sure that this will be of advantage to the Nigerian revenue.

With these remarks I support the item.

Mr E. C. Akwivu (Orlu South-East): Mr Chairman, Sir, I shall make general comments on some of the provisions contained in the estimates on this Head. Sub-head 1 item 7—Assistant Legal Adviser. The Assistant Legal Adviser is on £890 and the person he is assisting is on £2,040. If this man is going to do the sort of work that Government expects he is far too junior for the job. £890 makes him merely a Legal Messenger. (*Hear, hear*). In the event of the Legal Adviser going on leave I cannot see how a lawyer who is prepared to accept £890 will have the necessary experience and knowledge to cope with the duties he will be called upon to do.

I feel Sir, that if we are to be realistic in this matter, an Assistant Legal Adviser should be a man of not less than three years post-call experience and if possible, if the substantive holder is on £2,040 his next in command should be at least on £1,500 if he is to be a lawyer of any help. We do not want a mediocre and a failure. It is only a man who has completely failed to earn a living at the Bar who will accept a job of £890 if he is good at all. It will do no good expecting a man just being called to the Bar to shoulder the enormous responsibility of that Department.

I think this is a matter that should be looked into. If we look at the Personal Secretary we see that she is on £1,040, the Secretary-Typist

is on £620, Private Secretary £770 and yet professional is to accept the job, do it the whole time and take £890 for assisting a man on £2,040. I think this is a matter that should be reconsidered.

Now, Sir, Sub-head 1, Items 5 and 9. This is Deputy Permanent Secretary and Permanent Secretary. I would not like to go on repeating what has already been said, but I think only last week the Minister of Pensions threw a challenge to this House that some Members here should suggest how the Government should get round the 1954 commitment. My humble suggestion is that the Permanent Secretary and the Deputy Permanent Secretary, if they are expatriates, could now be given the title 'Advisers' and let the substantive holders be Nigerians and in making them Advisers their salaries should remain as they are with all the necessary amenities to which you have committed yourself. But I think we must take some realistic steps towards that end.

Mr Chairman, Sir, of course I do not expect the Minister of Finance to say that they are training some Principal Private Secretaries to do the job of a Permanent Secretary as was said by the Minister of Pensions when he was answering to a question as to what steps are being taken to train up a Nigerian to fill the post of the Secretary to the Prime Minister. The answer was that they were training a Private Secretary to fulfil the job of a Secretary to the Prime Minister which is the topmost grade in the Permanent Secretary level. We do hope that some more realistic approach will be made in this matter. After all the Secretary to the Minister of Finance is virtually the head of the Civil Service and I think something important should be done there.

Again, Sir, we have under Sub-head 1, Item 65 the Principal Accountant; that is a specially training opportunity. Yet I do not know if the Minister is himself satisfied that it is only at the grade of Principal Accountant that we should train. Who is the Accountant-General and where does he come from? The Deputy Accountant-General, who is he, where does he come from? Even the Chief Accountant, who is he, and where does he come from? And even on the Principal Accountant level, there are three of them provided for and yet only one is being trained and there is no indication that even up to three will be trained.

[MR AKWIWU]

So, I think that is a measure which the Minister might well explain to us. Furthermore, we do hope that this man, the only man being trained is actually being trained in the art of being responsible and not merely in the art of being put in a secluded room with one big table and a bunch of newspapers to read. (*Hear, hear*).

Sub-head 33—Passages. That amounts to £850,000. We would like the Minister to take us into a little confidence and explain to us how much of this £850,000 is spent in quarters that are liable to pay some taxes to this country. We know that the Nigerian National Line has bound itself to keep outside the passenger traffic, and I suppose as we hear, most of the Shipping Companies now operating are not strictly Nigerian Companies and the ships are not registered in Nigeria so that their earnings are not subject to Nigerian tax.

We would like the Minister to kindly explain how much of this £850,000 is paid to transport proprietors liable to pay some tax in this country. If none, then some positive steps should be taken to see that those who have the privilege of carrying passengers from Nigeria and earning the whole of this £850,000 at least make some effort to register some of their interests in this country and are good enough to pay back some of this sum by way of tax.

Mr Chairman, Sir, Sub-head 37 deals with Government hospitality, and that is £15,000. Now we cannot quarrel with that. We know that the Government is under some obligations. The Government hospitality is £15,000 and I may, with very great respect make reference to some other figures. His Excellency £3,000, the Prime Minister £1,100, Minister of Finance £800, every Minister £500. Now, as these things are so complicated perhaps the Minister of Finance might give us the advantage of his more intimate knowledge in this matter and particularly when it is considered that some of the Entertainment Allowances not only exceed but either equal or approximate very closely to the salaries of Members here (*Shame, shame*). I do not want the world to be given the impression that Members on the Floor of this House are at their best equal to hospitality.

Sir, in fairness to the prestige and responsibility of this honourable House and the individual Members here, there should be some

evidence to the effect that each Member here is much more valuable than the ordinary generous hospitality of an individual Minister. (*Hear, hear*).

Mr Chairman, Sir, I just want—(*Interruption*) I will leave it to other colleagues to rob in, Sir. But, I might end that remark by saying that we know ourselves that we are worth much more than ordinary hospitality allowance, and I am speaking seriously now. Every Member in this House has some social responsibilities to his constituency both here in Lagos and in our various constituencies. Therefore, that aspect of Members' commitments ought also to be taken into consideration.

Turning now to another point. Children's Separate Domicile Allowance £90,000.

Now we can appreciate some of the views that are responsible for this heavy amount but we hope, particularly in this year when the hon. Minister of Finance has shown in very plain terms his determination to effect economy in the re-current expenditure of the Government Service, that he will find it possible to advise or seek advice as to how this £70,000 can be spent in establishing within this country such educational institutions as could accept these children going to school abroad and for whom we are spending so much. It is £70,000 this year. It may well be much more than that next year. I am quite sure that many parents do not like parting with their children. If we can provide educational institutions of the class we are paying for these children, I think we will not be spending as much as we now do in the future.

The next point I would like to mention is the question of financiers with South African controlling interest. This is a matter which the Minister of Finance might well investigate. My personal information is, I am open to correction, that the controlling interest of one of the big bankers now banking the money of our Government is being held by the Standard Bank of South Africa.

Several hon. Members : What is the name of the Bank ?

Mr Akwivu : It is one of the big Bankers but I know for certain that it is not Barclays' Bank.

The question of export capital. The hon. Minister of Finance dealt at length with the question of capital from abroad. I would like to make one or two points on that. We will do a lot towards discouraging the enormous export of capital or money earned within this country if we can take certain steps quickly. One of them is this. In the question of shipping we can encourage present interests to register either their companies or their ships as much as possible within this country so that they could pay some tax on the revenue earned within the country and if possible we encourage the Nigerian National Line to expand its fleet in a much more ambitious way than in the present meagre and rather sluggish way in which they are expanding. I believe they are now owners of three or four ships only. I do not think this is enough. The Minister might find that it will be of great encouragement if the cargo exported or imported is proportioned out between companies registered in this country and ships registered in this country as against those not registered in this country. That will encourage the growth of indigenous merchant lines and also save export of capital and the attendant adverse effect on balance of payment.

The question of Football Pools. We would like to hear more details. The country must either establish its own or encourage indigenous people to establish these Pools, and unlike those things which are necessary for this country—I do not see that Football Pools themselves are all that necessary—if we cannot have our own, let us make them get themselves incorporated in this country. Let us make the Littlewoods and all the rest of them get themselves incorporated in this country if they want to operate in this country.

Money earned within this country should be invested in the country and not sent abroad because that is, in effect, making available for the economic and commercial development of other countries' savings that would otherwise have been available in this country and, naturally, this affects our balance of payments. The Minister has already given some indication in this direction but we would like the issue followed much more vigorously.

There is the question of insurance companies. We know that in places like the United Kingdom and America, the insurance companies play a very very important part in the financing of industrial and commercial development.

But as far as this country is concerned all insurance companies now operating are not incorporated in this country and all the money they earn is being invested completely abroad. It is a matter of great urgency particularly now that we are about to establish a local money market. It is imperative that if any insurance company has the intention of operating in this country it must be registered in the country and give undertaking that at least 60 per cent of its earnings would be re-invested in the country.

We cannot afford at this stage to have our balance of payments adversely affected by money raised here by insurance companies exported abroad indiscriminately. Also, we cannot afford to let savings that otherwise would have been put to some concrete use in this country be taken abroad. So I think it is absolutely necessary that these great monetary geniuses, if they want to operate in this country, must either register in this country or give undertaking that more than half of their current capital will be invested in this country.

On the question of tax on zinc, the Minister gave a very concrete answer yesterday; but the Minister may now be in a better position to explain to us. What is the quantity of iron sheets being now produced in Nigeria? What effective purpose does it serve to tax the iron sheets imported at the rate we are now doing? I would like to say with respect that at least in the part of the country I come from, iron sheets are no more a luxury. They have become a necessity because bamboo roofs have outlived their usefulness. The amount of maintenance they require by the time a house has lasted for five years is much more than it would have cost to buy a bundle of iron sheets.

Therefore, taxing iron sheets is a matter that should be approached with great caution. It is a matter that is causing some anxiety, and we would like the hon. Minister to give us sufficient explanation for us to take home to convince our people. Since this levy, in Port Harcourt iron sheets are costing about £1-10s extra per bundle and we would like to be in a position to explain to our people so that they may know the truth.

Mr S. O. Ogundipe (Ogbomosho South): Mr Chairman, Sir, I cannot forget to say that I am grateful for the opportunity to speak for the first time this Session. Before I comment on Head 33 and in rising to support this Head, I have to make one or two observations.

MR OGUNDIFE]

The first observation is on the Central Bank. The Central Bank is called "The Central Bank of Nigeria" and it has been founded by the old National Government and opened by his hon. Sir Abubakar Tafawa Balewa, the Prime Minister of Nigeria. Here are the functions of the Bank : (1) to undertake normal banking business for private individuals and institutions ; (2) to seek establishment of conditions which will be more suitable for the implementation of Government policies ; (3) it will assist to attract capital locally and overseas.

These are the functions intended for the Bank and much emphasis has been laid on attracting capital locally, more than overseas. The overseas financiers and bankers are not giving these loans free from interest and not in grants ; they do it to double whatever they have given before it is fully refunded. The interest so raised will be utilised to enhance the overseas Government or private economic policies of that country. So far the Central Bank has been able to raise over £2 million and more, locally without any hardship, therefore, why this raising of £25 million overseas without going to the Central Bank to ask a helping hand as they have done before ?

My second point is about the way advances are being given to Members and officers of this Government. Before, the old National Government gave advances directly from Government funds with 3 per cent interest. The Minister said that the money borrowed for the project carried about double the interest paid by the officers. The advances are, therefore, transferred to other financial agencies. These agencies, I am sure, will charge higher interest than what Government charged. The Minister further said that Government will compensate officers for the additional interest charged. He is going to compensate officers for the additional interest charged. With these hopeless conditions where lies the benefit derived by the Government for shifting advances to other financial agencies ? The burdens are definitely higher and heavier on both the receiver and the Government. This, in my humble opinion, should be reconsidered by the Government.

Finally, I would like to say a word about the independence celebrations of this country though I do not know whether an item has been placed in our Estimates for this purpose.

We all know that the expenses for these celebrations are sure to be heavy on the taxpayers' money. This undoubtedly will be over £100,000. Everybody in Nigeria will agree to any amount spent of the taxpayers' money on these independence celebrations. Independence Day is fast approaching and arrangements are going on for drummers, dancers, entertainment and the hundred and one ways of Nigerian merriment for that memorable day ; that memorable day which we know will come to this country once in a lifetime is a day of glory.

Everybody will be rejoicing and the money of the taxpayers will be used, but now let us think back, and think of these people who still have fears in their minds. On that day to what will you liken them ? To what will we liken these people of the minorities areas ? How do you think they will feel on that day ? They will be like mourners at a marriage ceremony. The expenses of this day will be met from the taxpayers' money and from some of their own money too. Why should the Government not find ways of allaying the fears of these people ?

On these few points, I beg to support.

Mr O. C. Ememe (Aba South) : Mr Chairman, Sir, I wish to seize this opportunity to express my impressions about the Minister of Finance. This is an important branch of our Government and there is no doubt that it is under the capable management of our able Minister. However, there exist certain omissions that need rectification. The first one is that there is a tendency for this Ministry to over-encourage foreign business men by transferring the business that could have gone to indigenous business enterprises to foreign business men. A case in point is the new arrangement to hand over car advances of the Federal Government to the Lombard Company. This is ridiculous when we recall that the Lombard Company is doing this business at a higher interest rate. There is nothing to prevent the company in future from raising the rate of interest. Such a policy of stripping the Government of its economic activities is certainly anti-Socialist and my Party, the N.C.N.C. stands for Socialism.

Still another major transgression of this Ministry is the fifty-fifty Profit Sharing Agreement made with the Shell BP. This type of

Agreement has become a regular feature of all business in the world to-day, but in this agreement one blunder was made. That is the operative date of the agreement. Whereas the company would normally run at a loss for the next fifteen to twenty years our Government has agreed to share its profits fifty-fifty as from last year. This is tantamount to sharing the losses of the company because the agreement stipulates that the exemptions or deductions to be made include royalties.

According to the Petroleum Profit Tax Ordinance, if the Shell BP follows strictly the terms of the agreement, the company would not pay the estimated royalty of over £600,000 this year. In short, the sum would be a loss to the Government, but the Shell BP, in order to create goodwill has undertaken to pay the royalties as if the fifty-fifty Agreement did not exist. This is an indication of short-sightedness on the part of the Ministry. A revision of the Agreement or the Ordinance is therefore imperative.

The third weakness of the Ministry is the loss of revenue allowed by the importation of used clothes from the United States of America. By used clothes I mean *Okrika Wakeup*. Most of the clothes imported from America under this category are not used at all, but surplus clothes from the factories of New York City. The duty on this *Okrika Wakeup* is lower than that on ordinary clothes so the importer escapes the heavy duty on clothes but reduces our revenue by this trick. It is therefore necessary, Mr Chairman, to reduce this type of dumping from American business men by adjusting the duty on *Okrika Wakeup*.

I am confident that the Minister will make amends in order to bring more revenue into the coffers of the Government. It appears that the weight of the economy measures of the Government is now mainly on the Members of this House. The Civil Servants still earn their heavy allowances, such as entertainment allowance, children's allowance, car allowance, and other heavy allowances, but the consolidated allowance for the Members to tour their constituencies is not much more than £150. It is therefore necessary to bring to parity the allowances for Members and Civil Servants.

Mr Chairman, Sir, I beg to support.

M. Mohammed Muhtari, Sarkin Bai :
Mr Chairman, Sir, in rising to support wholeheartedly the expenditure on this Head, I should like to bring one or two points, but before I do that I would like to take this opportunity of paying a very high tribute to the Federal Minister of Finance, Chief the hon. Festus Okotie-Eboh, for his Budget Speech. Never in the history of Nigerian Legislatures, never in the history of the old Colonial Legislative Council has there been such a comprehensive, dynamic and convincing Budget Speech such as the one by the Minister. (*Interruption*). I wish the little Group would listen to me in such a silence as we listened to their leader.

The fact that the Minister got telegrams of congratulation from many countries including the United States of America, makes the Speech more impressive. Furthermore, that is a clear indication that other countries are not only interested in our political advancement but they are interested in our economic progress. It would be a matter of national calamity had the Minister of Finance been defeated during the last Federal Elections, but the people of Warri responded to my appeal. When the life of the old House was coming to an end the Action Group boasted too much and predicted that the Minister would definitely be defeated, and one morning the Action Group organ, "*The Daily Service*", came out with a headline: "RESPONSIBLE BUDGET CHIEF OKOTIE-EBOH'S FINAL BUDGET". Thank God that was not the final Speech, and that was not the beginning of the end but the end of the beginning.

For the second time the Minister has been appointed to look over the finances of our Federation.

I now go to my point, as the Action Groupers have now learnt a lesson. (*Interruption*). Now listen to me ! It is my humble opinion that the Government should employ every method for deriving some revenue from all sources—import duties, income tax, licences, etc. At present a lot of revenue has been wasted as a result of inefficient ways of collecting revenue. Take, for instance, radio licences: thousands of people are evading paying any radio licence. Motor licensing: hundreds of motor owners do not pay and no effective measures are being taken to rid us of evaders. A lot of revenue is being wasted as a result of

[MR OKORONKWO]
some sleep in the markets; some sleep in the streets. Therefore, the Government of this country should take this into consideration in order to bring life more abundant to the millions and not to the few on top, like the Action Group. (*Interruptions*).

To help the workers, the Government should embark on effective price control of food and provisions which are being imported into this country, because no amount of award can satisfy the workers of Nigeria without the Government taking effective steps to control foodstuffs and also provisions that are being imported into Nigeria.

You cannot afford to award 25 per cent or 50 per cent to the workers and tomorrow an alien firm in this country has to increase prices of the commodities and one way or the other snatch the money from the workers. Tomorrow they will come out again with the Trade Unionists and agitate for more increase in wages. The Government of the Federation should do this with the co-operation of the Regional Governments and this would also solve endless demand of wages and increase of wages in Nigeria.

Mr Chairman, Sir, I believe that a poor country like Nigeria which is beginning life anew should not continue in this way.

Several hon. Members: We are not poor. Nigeria is potentially rich.

Mr Okoronkwo: Nigeria cannot afford to indulge in these costly luxuries. I disagree with the Leader of the Opposition when he said that big American cars are not luxuries. . . .

Several Opposition Members: He did not say that—He never said so.

Several hon. Members: He said it! He said it.

Mr Okoronkwo: The Government should appoint a Committee to make recommendations to the Federation to prohibit the importation of some of the luxury goods in Nigeria of which these big American cars form a part. I also ask that the Government should give loans to the traders in this country to establish their own industries and encourage indigenous farmers and traders in Nigeria to establish different industries and absorb more school-leavers.

With these few remarks, I beg to support.

Mr A. F. Odulana (Ijebu South): Mr Chairman, Sir, I do not want to indulge in repeating the good advice that have been given to the Minister of Finance. I am sure he has been taking notes which I think he is going to utilise for the betterment of this country.

Every hon. gentleman here present will realise that there are 11 Heads minus Miscellaneous making a total of 12 Revenue Heads under which this great Federation earns its revenue with 44 Expenditure Heads.

I would like the Minister to take note of this and I liken this to a cistern with twelve pipes to draw in water and at the same time 44 pipes to draw out the same water. Mr Chairman, there is no doubt that the cistern will in course of time be totally empty.

Something must be done really to avert economic trouble. Customs and Excise is under the Ministry of Finance and it would be necessary, therefore, to remind the Minister of the enormous amount of revenue from the Customs and that greater attention should be taken, first and foremost to Nigerianize this particular department and this ought to be effected before long.

For the information of the Minister of Finance the present tariff used in the department was devised by a Nigerian officer and there should be more encouragement to the Nigerian officers there than obtains at present. That is all I have got to say and I hope the Minister will take note of it.

The next department is the Inland Revenue. The proper name.

The Chairman: The hon. Gentleman is going specifically into Heads which are later than the one we are presently discussing. I quite agree a lot of talk about Customs and Excise must come under the Ministry of Finance Head but specific debate dealing with the staff of Customs and Excise and Inland Revenue really should be done on those two Heads which will come later.

Mr Odulana: I am very sorry, Mr Chairman. In that respect I still have to expatiate a little on the Customs Department. Talking generally on Finance, I would suggest to the Minister that the course of getting more money

into the coffers of this country is right on top of his nostrils. I hope legislation will be made in this country to introduce capital allowances. I cannot understand the reduction in company tax from 9s to 8s. At the present time, our system of income tax is faulty and the machinery for collection is weak and not the type to suit local conditions with the result that tax evasion is rampant and a very huge amount of tax is written off as irrecoverable.

Let me now go to the Employment Section of both Firms and Government.

It is understood that this section of the Federal Inland Revenue department has been blamed for not posting suitable clerks to the section and for failing to re-organise it. It was recently, however, after the report on the arrears of taxes in the department was considered by the Government that arrangement was made to put two experienced men in charge. Would it not be very good on the part of the Minister of Finance if at this stage of our entry into independence he should take this suggestion to introduce Pay-As-You-Earn by legislation? No move to this effect appears to have been made in the past.

Mr Chairman, Sir, if by legislation all the trading firms and companies are bound by law to put this scheme in operation, I think it will serve this Federation well. It has been successfully practised in the United Kingdom and at present, in the Eastern Region of Nigeria. (*Hear, hear*). Why can we not now put it into effect in the Federation?

Here is another one, Mr Chairman, what we may call clearance certificate. What I mean by clearance certificate you will all understand, most of you who own cars. When you go to the Lagos Town Council or to the Licensing Authority, they will ask for your Insurance Certificate before they give you the licence. Then, in order to increase revenue any person who is willing to obtain licence, passport, birth certificates, should be asked to produce his tax receipts and when he fails to produce any, he should be sent back to the Inland Revenue for assessment. The policy for taxation in Nigeria calls for rigid control and tightening up.

I will also call the attention of the Minister of Finance to one or two things going on in that department. If you want the Nigerians there to do their work well, you must give them

adequate position due to them and for which they have been trained overseas. There are very many redundant officers in that department. Ordinary executive officers from the British Inland Revenue Department are posted here as experts and some of these clerks from various mercantile firms in the United Kingdom are recruited into our Revenue department in Nigeria as experts likewise, whereas none of these mentioned expatriates were trained for any special course in taxation. I will give the Minister of Finance an example. One expatriate officer was engaged as an expert in this country on special duty after he had retired in the United Kingdom, to look after tax forms—and as Chief Storekeeper; what an expert indeed!

Talking about tax evasion, one can easily make out that this evasion comes from high quarters. As I said before, Nigeria cannot afford the system of carrying on trade, industries, shipping companies, plantation, enormous imports and exports right on our God-given soil and when we talk of assessment of profit we have to go as far as over 4,000 miles to do the assessment. This improper and very bad system should be abolished without delay. As it is said in our country, "a hint to the wise is enough". The Minister of Finance who is known right and left as an experienced person, I hope, will use his experience in this regard to see that tax evasion is minimised in this country, or if possible reduced to nothing.

Everybody ought to pay. When I say this, Mr Chairman, I will direct the Minister, before I sit down, to the numerous contractors and employers of labour in this country. They employ these labourers in thousands for one, two or three weeks or for one, two or three months and lay them off. They pay them money for which they have worked and no tax is paid on this money. If the system of Pay-As-You-Earn is introduced these people will pay tax on the money they earn. When you say you tax annual income, it will be very hard for the Inland Revenue to collect tax on these monthly or weekly earnings. So the Minister should take note of this and see that people who work for one to three weeks or months do pay tax by introducing the system of Pay-As-You-Earn.

Mr Okilo (Brass): Mr Chairman, in a developing country like Nigeria I think it is most dangerous to the economy of this country

[MR OKILO]

to leave the banking business almost entirely in the hands of foreigners. . . (*Hear, hear*) . . . and not only foreigners but unscrupulous and unreliable and untrustworthy local organisations and businessmen.

Well, the Government really deserves our congratulations for establishing the Central Bank to control the monetary system of this country, but that alone is not sufficient. The Government should also make some ventures into establishing commercial banks to help this country, as it is in Ghana and in other parts of the world. The Central Government should not only limit its banking business to the Central Bank which controls the monetary system of the country but should also establish commercial banks in certain parts of the country in order to participate in the commercial activities of the country.

As it is now the major part of the commercial activities of the country is being controlled by certain banks, which are the Bank of West Africa and the Barclays Bank, and now an additional Bank is the British and French Bank. But these are all foreign banks and their major objective is to promote international trade. Worse still, the Federal Government is going to the extent of even patronising these foreign banks by introducing new ones, as in the case of Lombard Bank into this country. The Lombard Bank must go of course (*Cries of 'hear, hear' from several hon. Members.*)

The Minister of Finance (Chief the hon. F. S. Okotie-Eboh) : On a point of information, Sir, there is nothing like Lombard Bank in Nigeria (*Interruptions*).

Mr Okilo : The Lombard Bank must go. What I am trying to say, Sir, is that if the economy of this country must be stabilised the Ministry of Finance must do something more than this.

Let us take the case of the Niger Delta Special Area in this country. Now, this part of the country has become a Special Area not for the calling of the mere name. It is just like what happened when certain parts of the country became depressed in England. What the British Government did was to do something in these Special Areas by trying to set up some industries there. Now, in the whole of the Niger Delta Special Area there is not one Bank and these people are not so poor as the country think them to be. They are really very rich men.

What happens is this. The average man goes a-fishing and collects perhaps about £100 or £200. What he does is to hoard this money, he buries this money in the pot or in the bush and when he dies all the money rusts away instead of being dumped somewhere to develop the country commercially. In the whole Niger Delta Area there is not one single Bank. Also it is not safe for the man from the Rivers area to come all the way from Brass to Port Harcourt to bank his money because perhaps on the way his money might be stolen. Well, these are the dangers confronting us. . . (*Interruption*). The Niger Delta Area is not a swampy area as you may take it. You need to go there and see what the area is. You do know the place. Go to Oloibiri where you see main land from there to Ahoada. The Eastern Government is constructing a road there.

So my appeal is for the establishment of commercial banks by the Federal Government. The Government should not only content itself by establishing the Central Bank. The commercial activities of the country must also be controlled by the Government and thereby stabilise the economy of this country. The Federal Government must do something to establish commercial banks, for that matter in the Niger Delta Special Area, because the Government has been guilty of gross negligence of this part of the country. If this part of the country must be developed and brought up to the standard of the other parts of the country, the Government must do something a little more than this. These are no matters of politics. It is a very very important part of the constitution. Any stranger coming into the country must pass through this part of the country, and the Federal Government must not neglect it and it is this banking policy under this Ministry which is going to help this part of the country. So I am appealing seriously, Sir, that the Federal Government and the Minister in charge to do all they can and use their good offices to develop this part of the country by establishing commercial banks there.

The Chairman : If I call another speaker before the Minister of Finance is due to speak at twenty-minutes to one o'clock, it is understood that the person speaking must sit down at twenty minutes to one o'clock. Mr Okafor.

Mr R. B. K. Okafor (Owerri West) : Mr Chairman, Sir, this is a Head of Expenditure under which every Member would like to speak because it is the economic life-blood of the country.

Sir, I want to start by supporting wholeheartedly that the time has come when we should have a Revenue Commission.... (Cheers)... I do not want the Opposition to clap for me.. (Laughter).. Yes, we on this Side of the House believe that there are certain matters that transcend political boundaries.... (Hear, hear). We are most anxious that steps should be taken to improve the revenue of the country and the only way to do that is to set up a high-powered Revenue Commission to go into all items and find out how we are going to improve the revenue of this country.

I do not really agree with the suggestion made or the allegation of my hon. Friend, Chief Tony Enahoro, that our loans cannot pay their way. I agree that an interest of £750,000 must be paid, but at the same time he should have realised that the money already is paying its way and I do believe that in due course the money realised from the loan will be able to pay its way.

My other point is the question of Lombard Nigeria Limited ! We do not like Lombard. (Loud applause). What is this thing called Lombard ? (Several hon. Members : You tell us). We agree that there is a great need to improve our standard of living but we equally agree that we are not going to start by introducing a foreign company to tap our resources. I know that the people who feel greatly about it are the civil servants ; nothing prevents the Government of the Federation from putting up a finance corporation. A finance corporation financed by the people of this country so that the money will revolve in our own country.

We have in the country already indigenous banks. We have the African Continental Bank, we have the National Bank. What prevents us from asking the civil servants to go there, borrow money and buy their cars ?

Mr Chairman, Sir, I will now come right away to the proper item, and I would like to concern myself particularly with the Accounting Division of the Ministry of Finance.

The other day I asked a question that there is fear among the indigenous officers about expatriate infiltration, and that there is need,

or there is danger, as to the promotion prospects of indigenous officers. The Minister of Finance told me that he was not aware, and that three Africans have been promoted Principal Accountants and two Africans Senior Accountants. On checking through I found out that the Minister was deceived by his officials and that only one African in the Accounting Division of the Ministry is a Principal Accountant and that only three were promoted Senior Accountants as far back as 1958.

This is a very important matter. I was told also that there is no infiltration into the Treasury, but I have since discovered from Government's Sailing List that the Accountant-General has just returned from leave with five expatriate officers.... (Interruptions). I do not know whether some of them are South Africans ! On going through the roll you will find that no new posts have been created for Principal Accountants, and you will find a Treasury Department that has existed since the days of Adam and Eve, a department that has existed since the days of Methuselah, can only produce one man ! And if you ask the Accountant-General why, he will tell you that it will take thirty-three years to train an African to be an Accountant.

This is a very serious situation because those who know the history of the Treasury Department will agree that the Accounting system, the accounting system now in Nigeria, is such that an African can only be an Accountant by actually being an Accountant ; in other words, that the work can only be done by actually doing it. It does not need any professional qualifications at all ; but if it does let us compare Nigerian officers with expatriate officers in the Treasury. I have on record and on good authority that there is one Principal Accountant in the Treasury who has no qualifications at all, his only qualification is that he worked in a grocer's shop. Another Accountant, passed Senior Cambridge in 1953. And we were told that these things would continue. For how long ? This is a very important matter and I feel very strongly about it.

The only thing the Minister of Finance can do is to go right back to his Ministry and make a re-shuffle. Unless this is done the position in the Treasury will continue. The Accountant-General, Mr F. Davidson has

[MR OKAFOR]

grown to be very unpopular and unless he is removed and allowed to go for good, the frustration among his staff will continue indefinitely. Already our boys who were sent to England, and some of them trained in the Nigerian College of Arts and Technology, have returned since about a year now and nobody has promoted them and yet five expatriate officers arrived in this country. Truly, this is a situation we cannot afford in this country.

The Minister of Finance (Chief the hon. F. S. Okotie-Eboh): Mr Chairman, Sir, the other day I was reading a newspaper and one of the birds I had recently taxed, known as a parrot—maybe a human parrot—tried to say on the pages of the local newspaper that if the Government expects the Opposition to assist them in running this Government they will be completely mistaken. When I read it I felt that that individual was not expressing the opinion of the Opposition in this House and this morning I am happy to note that certainly he was completely mistaken and that from the speech of our respected Leader of the Opposition this morning you will agree that the Opposition by its line of argument to-day, has shown to everybody that the Opposition is prepared to run this country with the Government so that we can usher in a new Nigeria of which all of us can be proud.

Some people have said that the Opposition do not understand what is meant by constructive criticism as against destructive criticism, but I am sure that all Members of this House will agree that we have had constructive criticism from the Leader of the Opposition this morning as well as from my hon. friend and colleague, the hon. Chief Enahoro. Some of the points made naturally cannot be true to fact, but it is my duty to explain the true position as it occurs to me.

The hon. the Leader of the Opposition rightly touched on the question of tax evasion and I think that he is perfectly right in saying that one of the things we have to fight for in this country is honesty of purpose; that we have a parable "A thief can never steal what is given to him to keep", and I think he is probably right there that we have great difficulty in controlling our people who are posted for the purpose of protecting our revenue: the Police Department, the Customs Department, the Inland Revenue, and especially the Preventive Stations.

Members will be interested to hear that during the holiday, the day before, I had to go and make a surprise visit to the Idi Iroko Preventive Station. I found first that the station is miles away from our frontier with the French Dahomey and as a result of that smugglers that come in carry their gold from Ghana, go into the bush—sometimes—I do not want to make sarcastic remarks against the officials because not all of them are guilty and my intuition is that some of the people who are put there to look into these things are aware of these matters and just winked over them and allow them to pass unnoticed.

I think that this type of thing ought to stop and I can assure my hon. Friend that it is my duty to see to it that this thing is stopped. I am doing everything possible to see that—we cannot expect one hundred per cent safety of revenue collection in this country—as long as these points are made in this House my hands will be reinforced to take measures that will enable us to have reliable officials that will appreciate that the revenue of this country belongs to them and to our children and that if we whittle them away by the backdoor we will not be doing any credit to our country. (*Hear, hear*).

The second point made by the hon. Leader of the Opposition is about borrowing. I am sure that as a trained economist he did not stress the usual argument that we cannot borrow but he has asked us to be cautious; I can assure him that I am cautious in doing so and the strings (naturally a debtor has to tolerate some strings), but I can assure him that the strings that I can allow are not the type of strings that I used to talk about. No political strings will be attached. When the interest rate is too high I will definitely refuse it and I will simply not go out to raise any loans for projects that will not in themselves repay the loans as well as the interest thereon.

As regards the taxation of luxuries, I must say that for a long time it has been the order of the day to tax just beer, whisky, brandy and gin, but these things I must say, whether you like it or not, have reached the top level now. That is my considered opinion. Whatever happens, we have not developed our illicit gin to the extent that we can offer it to men like Chief Enahoro or Mr Ekanem. They will

not have it. Even if you legalise it, it is poisonous. We will still have to offer whisky and soda to people like Mr Odulana at the Island Club. I do not expect hon. Members will want me to tax whisky so that we will be paying two pounds for a bottle of whisky in Nigeria. That is why I have made the recent tour throughout some parts of the country.

I want to assure hon. Leader of the Opposition that when I tax perfumery it is not because I consider it a sort of luxury as such, but because the people undertaking the business are making huge profits for which they pay no tax. That is my purpose. They make huge profits and they pay no tax on the profits and then nothing is declared properly in the accounts of their Company Tax. So I feel that these people cannot be making money here without paying any sort of tax and I consider that the best way to get hold of them is to use indirect taxation but in any case it will go to the consumer. If Chief Enahoro wants his girl friend to dress with perfumes and put a lot. . . (Laughter).

Chief A. Enahoro (Ishan East): Point of Order, Sir, I would remind the hon. Minister of Finance that I am a respectable married man and further, Sir, that I like him very much but this is one of the points on which I do not follow his example. (Laughter).

The Minister of Finance: You will appreciate that the hon. Chief Enahoro has been my friend for many years and I was copying his example when he was at Warri. (Laughter).

I want to thank the hon. Leader of the Opposition for drawing my attention to things like imported meat for the cold storage and fish and all that. I feel really that there is something in it and I can assure him that I will cause it to be examined accordingly.

As regards the Revenue Commission also, I feel that there is something in it. I can assure the hon. Leader of the Opposition that we have a Planning Section and I am thinking of the National Economic Committee and so on, but the point already made I think is worthy of consideration and I shall examine it. If we shall not call it a Revenue Commission or so I think it is necessary for the Minister of Finance to be advised somehow about how we can improve on the collection of our revenue.

Several hon. Members: Lombard, Lombard.

The Minister of Finance: I shall come to Lombard later.

Well, Sir, if I may go quickly to the points made by my hon. Friend Chief Enahoro, he says that no provision has yet been made for interest on the following Loans:

	£
Commonwealth Assistance Loan	9,000,000
Internal Loans 1960.. ..	11,000,000
	<hr/>
Total	£ 20,000,000

I want to say first and foremost that the financial position is sound because it is laid on a sound foundation. As regards the £11,000,000 local loans, no interest will be payable on this until after six months, the first payment will, therefore, not be due until early in the next financial year. Secondly the revenue estimates are, if anything, conservative. Thirdly the increase in last year's estimated expenditure included £1.35 million for the Mbanefo Award. Provision has been made in the new Estimates for this award. Fourthly Government intends to pursue economic measures and these should reduce the amount of supplementary provision that will be required in this financial year.

Fifthly, present revenue estimates do not provide for the revenue expected from taxation measures which were recently imposed. This should more than cover any amount we shall be required to pay as interest on our share of the Commonwealth Assistance Loan and I am sure that my hon. Friend knows that the £9,000,000 loan is going to be shared between us and the Regional Governments, therefore the interest will not be our whole responsibility. Sixthly, some provision has been included in the present estimates for some of the new overseas offices to be opened after independence but I must, in any case, admit that more money will be needed but there is no cause for alarm. We can always meet it.

As regards the sinking fund. . . .

An hon. Member: Wuruwuru

The Minister of Finance: It is not wuruwuru. Do not impute improper motive. It is not wuruwuru; I am making a serious statement. You see nothing in your head than wuruwuru. (Laughter).

[MINISTER OF FINANCE]

As regards the sinking fund the amount shown in the current estimates is the contribution which will be made from this year's revenue. Contributions were made in previous years and further contributions will continue to be made until the maturity of the loans. The figures shown in the footnote relate to the maturity date of the loans concerned.

These are the points which my hon. Friend has made and I am sure, like a wise man that I know him to be, he will agree that there is no cause for alarm. I am sure I have explained that to a certain degree.

Several hon. Members : Lombard, Lombard.

As regards the Lombard Nigeria Limited, which Members have talked so much about, I want to tell the House that when the Lombard Company first came to Nigeria they applied to me for a banking licence. After examining the application I was not satisfied that it would be to the best interests of this country to grant them a banking licence to compete with our indigenous banks. All of you know that the Lombard Bank Ltd. pay a very high rate of interest in the United Kingdom and as a result of that nearly all the Regional Governments and Corporations in Nigeria have deposited their money with them in London. So when they came here I found that once we allowed that, the indigenous banks would die naturally, and I protected them by refusing a licence up to to-day to open a bank in Nigeria.

The second point is this. The Government took the decision that they can no longer encourage people to buy cars because young men just from school, as soon as they enter the service want to draw an advance to buy a car and you will find that that is not in the best interest of the country. It ruins these young men. They bank too much on credit. *(Interruptions.)*

Surely, Sir, what we want to build in this country is young men who want to leave school and start to work and save some money for a rainy day, to try and get shelter for themselves and take care of their families. But when these young men from school come for an advance to buy a car they will get into unnecessary debt, and the Government thinks

that that is not a good thing for this country. And we feel that the money, over a million pounds, deposited on these car advances should be used for other purposes.

All the banks in Nigeria will bear me out that I made approach to them, indigenous and expatriate, to undertake these loans to people at reasonable interest. They all refused. They told me that they could only give loans for short-term credit and not loans for cars which would take two, three, four or five years to pay back.

In the meantime the Union Dominion Trust and the Lombard Nigeria Limited have been registered companies in this country operating on their own. They are not invited here by Government, they are not subsidiaries of Government, they are registered companies in Nigeria. They are paying tax here and doing their own business. When this proposal was refused by the banks I had to approach them, and they accepted to do these loans. *(Interruptions.)*

Mr Speaker : Order, order !

The Minister of Finance : Members will be happy to hear that I have made a second approach to all the banks to see whether they can accommodate Members and civil servants on these long-term loans for them to buy cars, and Members will be happy to note that at least one expatriate bank has agreed. In order not to create a monopoly I have approached other banks to see whether they will follow suit.

I think we need some sort of economic competition in this country so that banks can give loans to people not only for buying cars but on longer term basis to small businessmen who need assistance for little interest. They will find a great advantage in the line that I have taken and I can assure Members that this will continue. I am sure that before Members come back again they will be able to go to any bank in Nigeria and raise money. They will not be tied to the Lombard Bank or to the Lombard Nigeria Limited, or the Union Dominion Trust. At least one bank has agreed and I am sure that other banks will follow suit.

The hon. Mr Akwivu made several points. As usual he wanted to finalise but would not finalise. He made a point on the salary of the

Assistant Legal Adviser. You will agree that praise, not for myself, but for the co-operation of my colleagues in creating a Legal Department in my Ministry is due. The Government finds that the Ministry of Finance is so important that we must have legal advisers. I had to send my first legal adviser to the Treasury in England to study the system of the Legal Department in the Treasury. I found that the volume of work for my Legal Adviser was so much that he required an assistant and that is why I made the provision. I can assure my hon. Friend that the provision made there is not conclusive. You will find that better lawyers like yourself and not Mr Briggs, will be willing to consider that.

The entertainment allowance that my hon. Friend referred to is the entertainment allowance which is meant for Permanent Secretaries and Under-Secretaries for entertaining officials of their kind that will continue to come into this country. (*Interruptions*). When I was in Sapele I got £800 for my entertainment allowance; £800 is nothing for me to entertain people.

The hon. Mr Akwivu also made some points about South Africa. I do not know of any bank in Nigeria with South African interests and if a bank is licensed I cannot withdraw the licence of the bank because of its South African interests. I do not think we have reached that stage yet.

As regards the insurance company, Members are well aware that the Minister of Commerce and Industry is setting up a Parliamentary Committee to examine it, in which all sides of this House will be represented and I think it is unnecessary to belabour the issue.

My hon. Friend, Mr Odulana made a very good point on the collection of income tax in Lagos as regards the loss that we sustained in the Inland Revenue Department. I want to assure him that when that loss was brought to my attention I felt very disappointed because I knew that there was something cooking there. I do not agree that so much should be lost and the people vanish into thin air when we have got officials there. I had to take the matter to the Council before I was obliged to write it off. But there again I have asked from some experts to come and

examine the whole system and advise me as to how best we can collect this revenue without tears. On the question of P.A.Y.E. which I have already dealt with in my budget speech, P.A.Y.E. will be introduced.

Now, Sir, I think my hon. Friend Damale Kaita raised a point about the frontiers in the Northern Region. I had also made a statement about this in this House that our frontiers need to be strongly guarded especially from the marsh area to the Northern Region and to Calabar. And I think our hon. Friends from the Eastern Region should try to discourage some of the smuggling between Nigeria and Fernando Po instead of encouraging it.

On the whole, Sir, I would like to say that I am grateful to all hon. Members from all sides for the well considered criticism which they have levelled at my Ministry. It will guide my feet. I have never been said to be a perfect man and I am prepared to listen to these types of suggestions, and I want to say that the doors of my office are open to all hon. Members who are not able to speak now. If they draw my attention to any anomaly which I think is reasonable I will certainly take it into consideration.

Whereupon the Minister of Mines and Power (the hon. Mallam Maitama Sule) 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 £2,741,540 for Head 35—Ministry of Finance—stand part of the Schedule, put accordingly and agreed to.

Mr Speaker : It is now 1 o'clock and sitting is suspended until 3 o'clock.

Sitting suspended : 1 p.m.

Sitting resumed : 3.12 p.m.

HEAD 36—CUSTOMS AND EXCISE

Question proposed, That £599,230 for Head 36—Customs and Excise—stand part of the Schedule.

Chief O. Awolowo (Ijebu-Remo): Mr Chairman, I want to call the attention of the hon. the Minister of Finance to a very important phenomenon which is already taking root, in regard to goods entering this country through ports.

One or two pieces of evidence, Mr Chairman, have come into my possession, and they suggest very strongly that there is an international ring to defraud the revenue of this country. This international ring, I believe, has been brought into being by aliens who have businesses in this country. The first piece of evidence that came into my possession, Mr Chairman, suggested very strongly that the ring was confined to aliens other than those from Europe, but recently I have discovered, and I speak with every sense of responsibility in this connection, that some companies—manufacturers on the continent of Europe—are also in these infamous crimes.

Well, what happens in the two cases which I have just mentioned, and which I believe are representative of other cases which have not yet come to light, is this. When one of these alien firms places an order for a quantity of goods, an arrangement is made between that firm and the selling firm on the other side, to prepare two sets of invoices. Now import duties are either specific or *ad valorem*, and the Customs Department, or the Government, takes whichever is higher. In order to defraud the revenue the importer makes sure that the specific duty—that is what is facing—is shown correctly, while the value of the goods is so distributed that the *ad valorem* duty is not as high as what would be chargeable if they were to be specific.

One example is this. If two articles are imported, one is £9 and the other is £1, the importer will then declare the article which cost £1 as £9, and the one that cost £19 as £11. So on the face of the document the exporter from the other side does not lose—he does not stand to lose at all. But on the other document which is never shown to the Customs, you have £19 for Article A and £1 for Article B. The country is losing a lot of money as a result.

The hon. Minister of Finance has made reference to combating smuggling. What has to be combated quickly, and I think the combating of that can be much more effective,

is the defrauding of revenue through false declaration of entry of imported goods into this country through our ports.

Not long ago there was a case in court in which some men were charged with an attempt to blackmail an alien in this country. Certain documents were tendered in that case, but my information is that neither the Customs Department nor the Police pursued that case to its logical conclusion so as to bring the offender to book, even though on the face of the documents tendered it was quite clear that an attempt had been made to blackmail the person concerned, and this man was certainly guilty of frequent defrauding of the revenue of this country.

That is what I wish to bring to the notice of the hon. Minister of Finance and the Government. If we allow this sort of thing to continue we will be losing money which ought to come to the coffers of the Government. Our land borders are very extensive and it is not easy to grab them, but surely we can easily control goods entering into this country through our ports and see to it that documents which are submitted to the Customs are genuine. I must confess that I do not pretend to have any answer or suggestion to meet the situation now, but I think it is important in the interest of the finances of this country that this fact should be brought to the notice of the Government. These things are happening and this ring has been organised by aliens other than Europeans except that as I said before in this single instance from the continent of Europe. I hope that this matter will be taken to heart and steps will be taken to put an effective check on this source of drain on our revenue. (*Applause*).

Mr D. D. U. Okay (Port Harcourt): Mr Chairman, Sir, I have two points to raise under this Head. Firstly, I would like to call the attention of the hon. Minister of Finance to what I would call irregularities in the issue of licences to Customs Agents at Port Harcourt the issue of licences to Customs Agents has been the responsibility of the Board of Customs, but now I am informed that this matter has been transferred to the Port Harcourt Wharf Extension. Many able Customs Clerks who retired some time ago at Port Harcourt, at the moment do prepare entries for their clients in declaring their goods.

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There is one expatriate firm now operating in Lagos and in Port Harcourt known as Vivian Younger and Bond which has taken up this question of preparing all entries alone thereby side-tracking all Africans. I call the attention of the hon. Minister of Finance to take note of this. We must patronise African business and I have seen it advertised in nearly all the newspapers in the country that the operation and clearing of goods at the various Customs Wharves such as Lagos and Port Harcourt are now under the charge of Vivian Younger and Bond. This is not good. I have received a protest letter from Customs Agents in Port Harcourt that I should call the attention of the hon. Minister of Finance to this sort of irregularity.

Another point I would wish to make under this Head is the question of the Membership of the Board of Customs. Looking at the Estimates we have Item 1, Chairman, Group 4—£2,640. I would like the hon. Minister of Finance to tell this hon. House who is the Chairman of the Board of Customs, whether he is an African or an Expatriate Officer. Under the same Head—Sub-head 1, Item (3)—six Official Members. We do not know what their salaries are. We want the hon. Minister of Finance to tell us what their salaries are or whether they do this work without remuneration. I also find under the same Head only one non-official Member at a salary of £840, although this is higher than the salary of a Member of the House of Representatives.

The Minister of Finance (Chief the hon. F. S. Okotie-Eboh) : That is the point you are driving at.

Mr Okay : Not necessarily. I want the hon. Minister of Finance to tell this hon. House whether only one African is in this Board, this non-official Member who receives £840, whether he is an African or an Expatriate Officer. Once that point is clarified, I think we shall be satisfied. Before I take my seat, may I seize this opportunity to congratulate the Minister of Finance that we appreciate all that he is doing but he should also see and do as much as he can in order to increase the revenue of this country.

Sir, I beg to support.

M. Kalia Monguno (Dikwa Central) : Mr Chairman, Sir, the main source of our revenue is derived from Customs and Excise duties. This Department collects 75 per cent of our revenue and it is therefore essential to see that these duties are properly paid. I strongly appeal to the hon. Minister of Finance that we must do our best to increase the prosperity of Nigeria and we can only do that by increasing the value of our exports and decreasing the value of our imports. We can increase the value of our exports by encouraging our farmers to grow more cash crops and reduce the value of our imports by industrialisation.

Secondly, a lot of money is lost in this country as a result of smuggling. Any step taken by the Government against smugglers or unscrupulous businessmen cannot be said to be exaggerated. I therefore suggest that the Government should find ways and means of checking these smugglers and, when they are caught, they should be severely dealt with. These people are surely enemies to the progress of Nigeria. (*Hear, hear*).

Sir, I beg to support.

Mr W. Briggs (Degema) : Mr Chairman, Sir, perhaps the House would have noticed that I am always for economy wherever it is necessary and I think that the multiplicity of offices and officers in the Board of Customs does not augur well for economy. For instance, there are Chief Collector of Customs, Chief Inspector of Customs and Excise, Principal Collectors of Customs and Excise, Chief Inspectors of Customs and Excise, Inspectors and Instructors of Customs and Excise, Senior Collectors of Customs and Excise, Collectors of Customs and Excise and Assistant Collectors of Customs and Excise. I have been a Customs Officer myself and in those days it used to be just the Comptroller of Customs, the Deputy Comptroller, the Assistant Comptroller, Collectors and Assistant Collectors. Even in those days people thought the Department was very expensive and that reduction should be made but all these offices in my humble submission do not make for efficiency. There are too many people and too many cooks, as they say, spoil the broth. So I am suggesting to our "gigantic" Minister of Finance to see to this part of the Customs and Excise and see that some economy is introduced into the Department.

[MR BRIGGS)

I am very sorry, Mr Chairman, we have left the question of outboard engines. I have to say that I have very strong feelings with regard to the import duty on outboard engines. It is true the hon. Minister of Finance said it is used as luxury but as I said before in this House if the Minister of Finance can just leave his office for about a month or two and tour the whole country once I am sure he will be convinced that certain things he regards as luxuries, he will find that they, in fact, are necessary. I come from the creek area and the outboard engine is now the main artery of commerce in the creek. As most people know it used to be a canoe moved by paddlers and in those days these canoes served the people well and all the trade with the creek people was by means of the hand pulling canoes. But these are out of use to-day and if you can go to Port Harcourt, Abonnema, Buguma, Oguta and Okirika you will find that these outboard engines are the indispensable means of both travel and trade.

An hon. Member : What about your campaigns ?

Mr Briggs : We are not a food growing people. All the food we eat is also conveyed by means of these outboard engines. If you go to Port Harcourt you will see streams of people coming from all over the creek to Port Harcourt by means of these out-board engines.

I am suggesting, Mr Chairman, that the duty on outboard engines is a direct assault on the trade of the creek people. So I am saying that although the Minister of Finance has promised me that he was going to try it for one year which is a very good measure, I think if he would try it for six months and make up his mind whether it is absolutely necessary or not and leave it like that. Yet it is a direct assault on the trade of the creek people and I am respectfully asking him to reconsider it.

Mr D. O. Ahamefula (Okigwi South West) : Mr Chairman, Sir, in supporting this Head of expenditure I have very few observations to make.

In the first instance, I have to mention what is known as "indoor overtime" in the Customs and Excise. This item of revenue as we know used to make a lot of money for the Government but according to my information it appears that this is either reduced or taken out entirely.

This item of revenue is run this way. If the G.B.O., for instance, has a consignment of about 2,000 bales of stockfish and perhaps must have bargained to sell these bales of stockfish, they will then ask the Customs officer to see that these bales of stockfish are released in order to enable them to sell them. This then necessitates the idea of making that officer to work overtime and after working that overtime whatever is the normal charge against that firm will go back to increase the revenue of the Government.

I am reliably informed now, Sir, that that item of revenue is either reduced or taken out entirely and I do not see why it should be taken away because those of us who are traders actually know that when a firm has one bale of stockfish they will have to reckon the value of that stockfish from the manufacturer up to the least of expenses that they must have incurred on the bale of stockfish and then they have to fix the selling price on it. There is no reason why any reduction should be made when the actual firm that has imported these goods has calculated the expenses and sold them for an amount that allows for gain.

Another one, Sir, is what we know as amended invoices. This also happens in the Customs and Excise. It is the normal custom of some of these importers when they have about 200 bales of stockfish, perhaps on arrival in Lagos, it is discovered that instead of taking 200 they have 300 and the Department has to charge them for the excess. Later on there is an invoice purported to have been sent from either the importer or otherwise and this second invoice is said to be a rebate on the past and therefore Government will have to pay back whatever money had been collected from these firms. I therefore suggest that this Government should refuse entirely accepting any amended invoice because it is intended to cheat the Government.

The last observation I have to make, Sir, is this question of the tendency of our young boys in the Customs Department to resign. The Minister in charge will have to make a statement as to the cause of these resignations by our young men every now and then from this Department. My information so far says that the reason is that the conditions of the service are not good. There is much rigidity in

promotion. A case has just come to me where an officer after serving for about 5 or 6 years doing the work of perhaps a senior staff officer was called to take an examination in order to promote him to First Class. When he got there he was asked to go back because he had not been in the Department for ten years. I do not think this is encouraging.

When we talk of Nigerianisation in this country we must mean it. It is not a question of saying it and not putting it into practice. After all, if you feel that a member of the staff is not qualified to be promoted to the Senior Service why give him the work of a Senior Service Officer? I, therefore, feel that this must be gone into.

With these few remarks, I beg to support.

The Minister of Finance (Chief the hon. F. S. Okotie-Eboh): Mr Chairman, Sir, once again I would like to express my gratitude to the hon. Leader of the Opposition for striking the nail right on the head as to the point of how companies, some indigenous, some foreign, are defrauding this country. In this connection, Sir, I would like to say that both the Chairman of the Board of Customs and Excise and his officials and myself have been thinking very seriously about that and we have taken some measures which I would like to inform the House. I think also that from the point made by the hon. Leader of the Opposition some of the people who pretend to be friends of Nigeria will learn their lessons and realise that we can no longer tolerate them earning their living here and defrauding us in order to benefit their own homes. (*Hear, hear*). If anything could be done to check this type of people I can assure the House that I will be all for it because they will not do that to their own country.

But the pity of this is that some of our own people who do not at the moment realise what it means to be citizens of Nigeria and what the prosperity of our country will mean, will aid and abet these people to cheat this country. This is very unfortunate indeed but I think that as we handle this matter from time to time we will see that they will realise that these people are not our friends because those who want to defraud us certainly cannot be our friends. Before I took over the Ministry, I want to inform the House that this question of duplication of invoices for the purpose of defrauding in this country has been very rampant and I put my foot down on it that it must stop.

The first measure I took was that before any invoice is accepted by Customs it must be attested by a recognised bank in the country or by a recognised Chamber of Commerce. This law was passed by the whole House and that has been the case from now. But I still agree with the hon. the Leader of the Opposition that despite this measure, something is still going wrong, because after the Chamber of Commerce that I have approved or certain banks in other countries, we still find that they even attest to false invoices and when the Valuation Branch would check to the end, they will find that something is wrong still. Therefore I think that it is a matter to be investigated but I would like to commend the Valuation Branch of the Customs and Excise because they have done very good work in this regard. We hope that as we continue to examine the difficulties in this matter, we shall be able to find a solution.

Another thing I would like to tell the House is what usually was called 'house to house transaction'. That is, companies have got their headquarters in Europe and their warehouses here. The case has been that these people buy there, prepare the invoices themselves, some even prepare them in Lagos, and then they are presented to the Customs and accepted. I have also put a stop to it and I will pursue it still, because it is impossible, no matter how honest a person will be, to avoid abuse. If the supplier of the goods is not going to invoice the goods for these companies, then the people who are really losing are the small businessmen because they buy from people who give them correct invoices. I think that also is a case that should be further pursued.

Then, what I have also done recently to check is the question of agency fees that are charged by agencies and included in the invoices. Up till about two or three months ago, some of the big companies here charge as little as 2½% agency fees on the total value of their invoices for all goods, whereas the Government was charging the small businessmen 4 per cent and sometimes more. So I have also taken up the matter and what we are doing now is that whether you are a big firm or house-to-house transactor or whatever you do, all your invoices shall be charged at 4 per cent agency fees, small or large. I think that these measures are on the right line to stop these people who are defrauding the country.

[MINISTER OF FINANCE]

I will welcome more suggestions either on the Floor of this House or outside the House by any means, and if any sincere Nigerians will even write to me personally giving the names of such companies, we shall investigate them and see that we put a stop to it. (*Hear, hear*).

Mr D. D. U. Okay raised the issue of Customs Agents in Port Harcourt. Well, Messrs Vivian Younger and Bond is a registered company here and we cannot discriminate against any company. We are living in a competitive world and I think that our ex-Customs Officers if they have some initiative can organise themselves and charge less fees, people will patronise them. I do hope that they will start that organisation. We do not give any monopoly to any company to act as Customs Agents by preparing entries for people, but it is the competition that matters and I do hope that our companies or the foreign companies operating here will try to encourage our people whenever they come out with some sort of initiative to form companies or organisations for clearing goods from the Customs. If I find such companies that are really very efficient and honest, I will give them any encouragement that they may require or I may be able to give.

Now, for the information of the hon. Mr Okay, the Chairman of the Board of Customs and Excise was hitherto known as the Comptroller of Customs and he was controlling everything until—I am not suggesting that he was not controlling rightly because I have the greatest confidence in him, he is an able man and quite honest and sincere in all his doings; I say it quite frankly—but I thought it was unnecessary for the revenue collection of this country to be placed in the hand of a sole authority and that was why in the Old House, I brought the legislation to constitute the upper stratum of the Board into the Board in which not only the Comptroller but his Deputy and about one or two of the men in the upper strata in the Department as well as a non-official which I injected from outside to form this Board to examine and take decisions which hitherto were only taken by one man known as the Comptroller of Customs. I think my hon. Friend will agree that this is a more democratic way and that it is something that should commend itself to all of us.

My hon. friend, Mr Briggs, in his usual way has come to exhibit to us only that he was a Customs Officer, but he did not tell us of the evil he perpetrated in that Department. (*Laughter*). I think that all hon. Members of this House will agree with me that the Customs Department is one of the departments that we must all support for quick Nigerianisation to see that young men are encouraged. One hon. Member who spoke last, I am grateful to him because he has actually spoken the truth that one of the difficulties in that Department is that the promotion outlets through are very very limited and so young men who are coming up, as soon as they enter the department and find that it is difficult for them to get promotion, they either make money like Mr Briggs has done to study Law—(*interruptions*)

Mr Briggs : On point of order, I did not go to England as soon as I left the Customs. I was a Newspaper Editor and after that, I went to England to study Law. The hon. Minister of Finance should kindly withdraw. (*Laughter*)

The Minister of Finance : Mr Chairman, Sir, Mr Briggs was very lucky that they did not dismiss him before he went to the Newspaper Office; he ought to have been dismissed. (*Laughter*)

I am not suggesting at all that he made money by any false means. I did not suggest that. What I suggested was that he was lucky to get away in time and not to reach the grade. They would have sacked him without promotion because he would not have got to the top, so he has to go away in time before we made provision to Nigerianise. (*Laughter*)

In short, I am very grateful for the contributions made by hon. Members that this is an important department in which we really want honest people. I am not satisfied especially with the Waterguard Branch of the Customs and Excise. In fact our fellow Nigerians who are asked to watch our frontiers and yet they go there to butter their own bread should be ashamed of themselves. I think it is a serious matter that we should look into.

Question, That £599,230 for Head 36—Customs and Excise—stand part of the Schedule, put and agreed to.

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[Appropriation (1960-61)

20 APRIL 1960

Bill : Committee]

1510

HEAD 37—INLAND REVENUE

£211,720 for Head 37—Inland Revenue—
agreed to.

HEAD 38—MINISTRY OF HEALTH

Question proposed, That £2,434,830 for
Head 38—Ministry of Health—stand part of
the Schedule.

Chief Ayo Rosiji (Egba East) : Mr Chairman, Sir, there is no doubt that the Ministry of Health performs a very important function in Lagos. With the approach of independence it is quite obvious that the most important function which we require the Minister of Health to perform is that of preventive medicine. Now, the biggest problem which faces Lagos to-day about sanitation is the desirability to have essential sewage system. I know that the Government has this in mind for some time but it is a matter of pity to see that the Government has not taken this scheme in hand.

We are spending a lot of money preparing for the independence celebrations. The money which we are spending will be badly spent if all the buildings we are putting up, and all our fountains are surrounded by silt. Lagos is terribly filthy and as it is at present it is not a worthy capital of Nigeria. I would like the Government, if they cannot take this matter up immediately because I know that the estimate for it was at that time 8 million pounds, if they cannot take it up immediately they can start it bit by bit. They can do a section here and then another section there until the whole of Lagos is covered. If that is not done now, what was estimated some two years ago to cost £8 million, the longer it is delayed the higher the cost will be. So I put this to the Government that they should please be courageous enough and tackle this problem immediately. There is no half-way for it, no other solution. If it is not done then I should only be sorry that we shall have a stinking capital for the independence of Nigeria.

Mr A. O. Ogunsanya (Ikeja) : Mr Chairman, Sir, I wish to say a little about what the ex-Minister of Health (now shadow Minister) has just said about the central sewage. This is a point which we have to face in the Lagos Town Council right now. We have to provide thousands of pounds for the conservancy

clearing in the Municipality of Lagos. I quite agree with the hon. Gentleman, Chief Ayo Rosiji, that this is something of extreme priority. In addition to this the Municipality of Lagos is the premier Municipality in this country and it is a place into which several of our visitors for the Independence celebrations will come.

At the moment in the Municipality there is a dearth of Doctors. I was in the General Hospital the other night and I was astonished to find that there was one doctor on duty having to keep up until very late at night—at about 11.30 p.m. I counted the number of patients waiting to be treated and I found that they were exactly 96. This emphasises more the fact that this Ministry requires more vote and I think the Minister of Finance should take note of this with his colleague the Minister of Health.

The Federal Ministry of Health, contrary to what the hon. Ayo Rosiji has just said, is not working for the Municipality of Lagos alone. As a matter of fact the Minister has not been long enough to realise the importance of the Ministry.

If one looks at the classification one finds that a very great part of the vote is spent also on the University College Hospital, almost a million pounds a year. The University College Hospital serves the whole country and it is surprising when one considers that out of the total vote of £40 million about a million pounds is taken over. Now we have the classification on page 120 of the Draft Estimates—Other Charges. The actual vote for the University College Hospital is £901,030. When one looks into the whole amount voted for the Ministry, hon. Members will agree with me that more is required for the Federal Ministry of Health.

Also we need Specialists in the Ministry of Health. A lot has been said about Nigerianising certain outskirts; I do not know, the present Minister has only taken office merely a few months ago. I have no doubt that he will do his best to see that we have opportunities for training some of our doctors to specialise in departments like Anaesthetics and Radiology. The importance of these two departments especially one cannot over-estimate when one remembers that the only Radiologist and Anaesthetist we have in this country are expatriates. The whole thing must be put in full force.

[MR OGUNSANYA]

Reading through some papers of the Ministry of Health I found that it is not so much the fault of the Federal Government; there are opportunities for training already. But our doctors also must come forward to specialise in these fields. The general tenor is, I hope, that in the years to come it will be possible for the Minister of Health to be able to budget for more than at present.

One cannot say much on this without congratulating the Federal Government for the very many bold schemes now being envisaged. There are one or two new Hospitals built at the Mainland and at Campbell Street. This is an exceptional achievement and there is no doubt that if more money is provided by this House more will be done. I can see the hon. Member smiling but I will remind him that this was not started in 1957 when we took him in the National Government. It started from the beginning when the N.C.N.C. and the N.P.C. formed a Coalition Government.

The Minister of Health (The hon. M. Waziri Ibrahim): I beg to move to include the following provision:—

Sub-head 1 . . . 1 Night Sister . . . £822

I signify that the Governor-General has given his recommendation for this provision in accordance with Standing Order 63 (11) of this House.

Sir, I beg to move.

Amendment put and agreed to.

The Minister of Health: I beg to move to increase sub-head 5 by £4,248.

I signify that the Governor-General has given his recommendation for this provision in accordance with Standing Order 63 (11) of this House.

Sir, I beg to move.

Amendment put and agreed to.

The Minister of Health: I beg to move to increase sub-head 6 by £17,500.

I signify that the Governor-General has given his recommendation for this provision in accordance with Standing Order 63 (11) of this House.

Sir, I beg to move.

Amendment put and agreed to.

Question proposed that £2,507,430 for Head 38—Ministry of Health—stand part of the schedule.

The Minister of Health: Mr Chairman, Sir, we have just asked for the sum of £22,570. The whole cause of this proposal relates to one project, and that is the Maternity Hospital which I hope will be opened and will start to function about the end of June.

Hon. Members would have noticed from the estimate the large number of Student Nurses who will under-go training in the hospital. In order to get them qualified for the Midwifery Certificates a high standard of instruction and supervision is needed. When this hospital was planned it was thought that in order to have proper supervision as many as 20 Nursing Sisters will be needed. But because of the need for economy and in order that the hospital may work up to its maximum effort only 12 were asked for. This being the minimum needed to comply with the Medical Council standard for a training school. It was clear, therefore, that the hospital has to keep going for 24 hours of the day and as patients are likely to arrive at inconvenient hours a Night Sister has to be provided.

The increase in Sub-heads 5 and 6 is intended to provide adequate catering for staff and food for the mothers of whom there might eventually be as many as 240 in the hospital. In addition there will be 35 resident Student Midwives and the ordinary staff of Nurses and Doctors will also have to be provided with meal while on duty. They will, of course, pay for this meal, so that the total additional cost of £17,500 I have asked for to cover a period of eight months will be offset by some £3,500 revenue from Doctors and Nurses for meal.

The increase of £4,240 is intended to provide 25 additional orderlies, 12 additional kitchen staff and 4 additional porters and gatemens. I have put the provision in under the Labour Vote, under Sub-head 1 where, of course, some catering staff are already provided. Hon. Members will now see that out of the net increase of £229,570 plus the £22,000 I am now asking for £117,160 goes on to pay the Mbaneto arrears, while the new Maternity Hospital accounts for another £54,000. There are big increases in subventions, but the one for the University Hospital is merely the result of carrying out the policy set out in Sessional Paper No. 9 of 1951.

This salary increase is a terrible thing; £117,160. Something that would have gone very nicely to provide more facilities, instruments; engage more Doctors and train more Nurses. This is a terrible thing. Hon. Members will now see that the amount we have asked for is too far from being sufficient. It is just too insufficient and if you can persuade everybody in this country to have no more increase in salary for the next 10 years it will help Government to provide more services.

An hon. Member: Including the Members?

The Minister of Health: Yes, including Members of this House. The last thing Members of this House should initiate is salary increase. You are to set the example. When you campaigned you all said to the public that you were after the well being of the people you represent. You did not tell them that you wanted to come to this House to ask for increases in salary; and I know you do not intend to; which is a very good thing. (*Hear, hear*).

I am quite sure that if hon. Members do not initiate the question of salary increase, Ministers will never, never think of it.

An hon. Member: Can you reduce the salaries of your Ministers?

The Minister of Health: Now, the question of reducing. I do not think it is far to say that Ministers should reduce, but may I say this that if all the hon. Members are agreeable and if the country can be convinced, if all the workers can be convinced, I am quite sure that we Ministers will agree to go down to £1,200, provided everybody's salary will be reduced in the same proportion. (*Loud Applause*).

Chief A. Rosiji (Egba East): On a point of information, Sir, I think the Minister should give a lead to this country, not that the masses of the people should lead.

The Minister of Health: Mr Chairman, Sir, I thank the hon. Member Chief Rosiji. I quite agree with him, but we Ministers are now leading in not asking for any more increase (*Hear, hear*). Now this is the example we want other workers in this country to follow. Here we are, we do not intend to ask for salary increases; let everybody in this country follow our example.

The Minister of Finance (Chief the hon. F. S. Okotie-Eboh): I am sure that my hon. Friend was speaking for the Ministry of Health! (*Laughter*).

M. Akubaka Isandu (Jos North-West): Mr Chairman, Sir, I am sure you will agree with me that good health is the primary need of every living creature. Therefore, I would like the Government to appoint an independent commission into the medical services of this country because if such a commission can investigate the service it will see what is wrong with it, particularly on the nursing side.

Many complaints have come from the nurses but there has been very little or no attention paid to them. I am here to mention some of these complaints: the poor salary of nurses, poor promotion and redundancy of ranks. Despite the contention of the Minister that there should not be any increase we have to put first things first. I see no reason why there should be such a wide gap between the salaries of pharmacists and nurses.

To me the responsibility of nurses is greater. Whereas the lame excuse given a few days ago is that the pharmacists have a higher academic standard. Most parts of Nigeria, particularly in the Southern parts, we have many nurses who have the same academic qualifications as those pharmacists. May I know what is done for these people in order to attract other young men and women into the Service?

Last time we were talking about bribery and corruption on the Nigeria Police issue. Do you know that the position of the nurses is worse? A doctor or a nurse may ask a poor patient lying on the sick bed and who is going to die to give him some money and that patient has no alternative but to give the money demanded in order to regain his health. A criminal can if he likes refuse to bribe a policeman because he knows he can employ a lawyer to defend him but the poor patient has to give the money in order to save his life because after death there is no appeal.

Therefore something must be done in order to improve the position of these nurses. The Minister concerned should see that some of their complaints and some of the things they want are granted, otherwise, and I know you will agree with me, a nurse can render the good

[M. ISANDU]

work of any expert surgeon or physician useless. This can happen because I have seen it many times. A doctor may perform a good operation and then go away after prescribing medicine for the care of the patient. The nurse can tell the doctor that the medicine prescribed has been given whereas none has been given. Therefore, the Minister concerned should please do something about it.

Some hospitals even delay the pay of the staff. These things must be checked promptly because they are obviously detrimental to the country and help in pushing the nurses to go behind and practise what the doctors themselves do not. I have seen many people suffering because of this, some people walking with one leg because the nurses gave them injection on the wrong side. I learn many of these irregularities are practised here in Lagos. Something must be done about it.

The promotion of nurses is rather too slow and there are too many ranks. There is Junior Staff Nurse, Senior Staff Nurse, Assistant Nursing Sister, Nursing Sister, Matron and Principal Matron. What are all these for? Even then some of the staff nurses remain on the same post for more than ten years despite the good report on their work. It is shameful that now that we are pushing forward to independence, the person in charge of these nurses is an expatriate. The Principal Matron is an expatriate. We have very few African Matrons. The Minister should take active responsibility. He should see that some of these things are handed into our hands.

There is a rumour which is causing a great fear in the minds of male nurses. It has been said that the Government has no more interest in the male nurses. If this is true, I would suggest we vote some amount for the male nurses and let them go before they are too old to do any other work. Some of them are sitting there with no promotion, no prestige; they are just working because they have got nothing else to do and the Minister has not told them whether he wants them or not. This is preventing them to do their work as they should.

May I also suggest to the Government from now until the time we are independent, a lot of medicine is coming into this country. If I am

not mistaken the law states that you should not give or take medicine that you do not know what it is. Sometimes I see some medicine that I do not know and the label is written in a language I do not understand. It is not in English and I cannot speak French. Some of the medicines are Indian and when the customers go to buy them the traders tend to exaggerate the quality and prices. They themselves do not know the use of them. I urge the Government to take steps to stop all this.

May I also suggest to the Government to create more medical facilities in this country? In many places, especially in the Northern Region and particularly my own constituency, many people due to lack of facilities get Juju treatment and they go to herbalists. A herbalist does not know what is a dose of medicine, neither does he know the time of giving medicine. Medicine is a good thing but when you take more than is necessary it is dangerous. The House will agree that this is a very important matter so why can we not make it a Federal Subject? If we cannot do it now when we get independence, I want this subject—Medical Service—to be directly under the Federal Government in order to see that every corner of this country can use this good opportunity.

Finally, Mr Chairman, I want to speak about the shortage of doctors. I have seen it in Lagos as somebody has just said, and I have been seeing it almost wherever I go in the country. You will see a big hospital with only one doctor attending out-patients and in charge of the wards and emergency also. These doctors have very little or no time and that is why some people have gone so far as to criticise the nurses and the doctors. They say they do not take any care of them, but it is only because they have too much to do.

Mr Chairman, Sir, with these few remarks, I beg to Move.

M. Ahmadu Fatika (Zaria North West): Mr Chairman, I rise to speak on this Head which covers about £2.5m for the current year 1960-61. I am not at all opposing the amount to be spent in this Ministry. Whatever is spent for medical services is worthy and well spent. My only grievance is that the Federal Minister of Health devotes its services only to the Federal

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[*Appropriation (1960-61)*]

20 APRIL 1960

Bill : Committee]

1518

Territory. It does not extend its services to the Regions. Everything for medical facilities is for Lagos. This was made quite clear when a certain hon. Member put an oral question to the Minister of Health whether in view of the fact that many patients die annually from cerebral spinal meningitis, the Ministry is taking any steps to give effective treatment to patients suffering from this disease. The answer from the Minister was to the effect that this was just confined to Lagos Territory alone.

I am sure that the Health Department is a concurrent subject but research is a Federal subject and a lot of money is spent on Federal Medical Research. Sir, every year there is an outbreak of cerebral spinal meningitis which causes a lot of loss of life, especially in the Northern Region, where thousands of people die every year due to this horrible disease. I therefore appeal to the Minister to see that the Federal Medical Research Department starts to investigate a special vaccine which may be used to inoculate people against this fatal disease. In fact there are many diseases which the people are inoculated or vaccinated against, and it is said that prevention is better than cure.

With these few remarks, I support the Head.

Chief O. B. Akin Olugbade (Egba South) : Mr Chairman, Sir, I would like to make my contribution to this Head of the Estimates with particular regard to the drugs and medicines which are being supplied by our hospitals. Recently there have been complaints about the quality of the drugs being administered by the Government hospitals in Lagos. They are too watery, that is what most people say. I have heard it from reliable authority, from medical officers who have practised for several years in the United Kingdom; even our own people who have been to the Government hospitals as patients and who have to get their medicines from there, in spite of the fact that they are not medical practitioners they know that the medicines they get there are far inferior in quality to what they can buy in the shops all over the town.

It is common knowledge that many, in fact quite a high percentage of our people who attend the hospital as patients die, and one of the factors responsible for this is the fact that

the medicine being given to them is too poor and at times they do not get the right type of medicines in the hospitals.

Mr Chairman, Sir, in the Estimates at page 119 we have the Vote for Drugs, Medical Equipment and Supplies, including Uniforms, Clothing and Bedding. We request the accountant in the Medical Department to let us know how much is being spent on drugs alone, not just lump it up with uniforms, clothing and bedding.

The point I am driving at is this, under Sub-head 81 we have Investigations into African Drugs and Medicines, and the amount voted is £3,500. Last year the amount voted was only £3,000, but this year there is an increase of only £500. Well we have herbs and other mineral properties which could be used to manufacture medicines in this country. Before the importation of foreign medicines our people had different kinds of medicines for different kinds of ailments.

I observe also that under Sub-head 65 there is a Vote of £50,000 for the West African Council for Medical Research, and just a token amount of £3,500 for Investigation into African Drugs. Well, this estimate wears the usual garb of the old colonial status and I would appeal to the Minister of Health to see that more money is voted for Research into African medicines. This will provide another means for the Minister of Finance to save much of our money from going out of the country. If medicines and drugs can be compounded and can be made in this country, more money will remain in the country.

The other point I would like to dwell very shortly upon concerns the conditions of service of the doctors. I think the conditions of service are not attractive enough. That is why there are complaints that they spend more time on their private practice. That is why it is said that they are at times indifferent to the sufferings of the patients. For instance, a Senior Specialist earns £2,400 a year. If you break it down it amounts to only £6-13s-4d a day, yet he may not get to that point until he has spent ten years of his life studying and perhaps fifteen years of his life working in the service of the Government. He earns only £6-13s-4d a day.

[CHIEF OLUGBADE]

A Medical Superintendent as well, who may work for perhaps twenty years after spending seven years in the United Kingdom or in America or any other University, to qualify will come out and work for 15 years before he is promoted to the post of a Medical Superintendent and he earns £2,040 per annum, which is £5-13s-4d a day. That is not more than what a new recruit in the Bar will get by way of consultation fees alone. I mean £5-13s-4d a day, so I would ask the Minister to help to see to it that doctors are a class by themselves. They are a class and their conditions of service ought to be made attractive, otherwise we shall have no justification in complaining that they do not give sufficient time to the care of patients who go to the hospitals.

Many times most of these doctors have to work round the clock : they work for 24 hours—they are called upon from their beds at odd hours, at three o'clock, at four o'clock or five o'clock in the morning and I would ask that, now that we are marching into independence, we should do all that we can to encourage the doctors, otherwise we shall not have the best quality to serve the nation.

Sitting suspended : 4.32 p.m.

Sitting resumed : 4.50 p.m.

Mr V. A. Nwalieji (Nsukka West) : Mr Chairman, Sir, I am particularly interested in this matter and I am glad now to speak on it.

Since this Session, many Members have been speaking with sincerity on matters affecting rural areas. There is no doubt that the Federal Government is more interested in urban areas than in the suburbs. Questions, Motions and ordinary debates manifesting a deep and sincere interest in rural areas have been non-controversial. I clearly pointed out in my previous speech that speeches should be purposeful and well-intentioned. Since we aim at one Nigeria, we should and must, aim at alleviating human suffering in every section of this country, Nigeria.

Mr Chairman, Sir, the thing the inhabitants of this great country expect now with great interest and pleasure is our independence on the 1st of October, 1960. But will the happiness which will come with the independence end

with the end of the 1st of October, 1960? The happiness will continue to march abreast at any time with the independence. But may I ask whether it will be restricted to some sections of the country alone? If the answer is yes, what is the reason for it? But if the answer is no, what shall the Federal Government do to provide amenities for the entire people of this country—socially, morally, economically and medically?

I am now going to discuss the last word of the above sentence which is in connection with medical facilities. This is a point which must be agreed to by all the Members of this hon. House. Those who see and read the death statistics of this country can bear witness that the number of deaths in this country is alarmingly great. This is so because of inadequate or complete lack of medical attention.

I deplore the way in which the suburbs are forgotten by the Federal Government in matters of medical attention. In Nsukka, one of the largest Divisions in the Eastern Region of Nigeria, there is only one hospital there. This hospital is in the Divisional Headquarters and it is owned by the Catholic Mission. None of the four District Councils there has got a hospital.

Mr Chairman, Sir, I shall not conclude my speech without laying it bare to this hon. House that I happen to come from a part of that Division that is well over 50 miles from the Divisional Headquarters. Imagine now what will be the effect on a person who is suddenly attacked by a severe illness or has a dangerously poisonous snake bite! Before such a person is rushed to a hospital for medical treatment, the worst may have happened. Medical facilities feature very prominently among other things the country needs. I am therefore calling upon the Federal Government to do something to remedy the poor medical situation in the country as soon as possible.

I shall not fail to thank the Federal Government for, and congratulate it on, its various activities and achievements. Long live the Coalition Government! (*Hear, hear*).

M. Ahmadu Ribadu (Adamawa East) : Mr Chairman, Sir, I would like to join in thanking this Ministry. But when it comes to the activities, I find it a bit disturbing that medical facilities are confined to Lagos and

Ibadan. Many principal things are being done by various Departments and the Ministry of Health, which is the most important or rather is needed everywhere throughout the Federation, is only limited to Lagos and Ibadan. It is my humble request to the Minister that a Federal medical unit should be established whereby such a team will serve throughout the Federation.

My second point is that a very good plan has been drawn up for improving medical facilities throughout the Federation. It is my sincere hope that the Minister will put the eradication of meningitis on top priority.

With these, Sir, I beg to support the Head.

Mr S. O. Fajinmi (Iwo West) : Mr Chairman, Sir, I am happy to have this opportunity to say something on health services in the Federation. It is a general and well-known saying that health is wealth. This country is poor in the number of doctors, and to achieve the continued existence of our race, more doctors must be trained in hundreds. One would like to ask the question, how many doctors are in the Federal service? The answer will be, "just a few". Hundreds of patients are found in very few hospitals and they have to sit down for hours on end to receive attention. They must have to wait since they have no money to contact private doctors. The Government must provide more doctors by giving more scholarships to deserving and able students in the Universities. The plan of the Government is seen in the Governor-General's speech, but the country would like the plan to materialise quicker than planned. For example, free medical attention in maternity cases should start at once. Free medical treatment for children under the age of 18 should begin this month. The opening of the 200-bed Maternity Hospital is an urgent necessity. The Mainland Hospital should be opened now. How early shall we eradicate malaria?

I want to make a point on Nurses Preliminary Training School. I notice there is a plan to train only 180 students. I feel that the present need is double the present turn-out. The Minister of Health, I hope, will try to double this intake and bring up a supplementary estimate during the year. So far, nurses who stay in this school have been good and dutiful.

If they will continue like this they will justify their training. Praise should go to the Missionaries who are helping in the Regions.

The role of the Regional Governments should also be praised. But Chest Hospitals and Tuberculosis Clinics can still be started in the Regions by the Federal Government. This is a concurrent matter. Iwo, in the Western Region is a thickly populated area and such a clinic will be of great help to the people there.

I want to say something about sanitation in the Federal Territory. Before the next financial year, we hope the Minister of Health will make the necessary arrangements for the efficient disposal of night-soil in Lagos. The situation is graver than it is thought in that many homes still throw excreta into the gutters of Lagos. It would be a shameful thing for us if our independence visitors should see Lagos like that.

All Members from the North will agree with me that more should be done to eradicate cerebro spinal meningitis affecting several areas of the North. The lives of many people will thereby be saved.

Mr Chairman, Sir, I beg to support.

Mallam Ali Monguno (Kaga-Marghi) : Mr Chairman, Sir, although much has been said I feel that I have just a point or two to make. It seems that this Ministry concentrates more on areas whose inhabitants can afford, one way or the other, medical facilities.

An hon. Member : In Lagos ?

M. Monguno : Yes, in Lagos. I know for certain that directly or otherwise, the Federal Ministry of Health has something to do with Regional Ministries of Health, even if it is in the way of giving them advice. I would like to see the remotest districts in this country given greater attention. Because of difficulties in getting from one place to another the majority of the people of this country cannot afford going to hospitals for medical treatment. Poverty, coupled with sickness—more especially serious illness—would stop the commoner from seeing a doctor.

I would like to make a suggestion—only it is an expensive one—of more tours by specialists, even if it is going to be flying specialists to be able to touch those areas, especially the rural districts, even if it is sparingly. Why can we not afford Mobile Dispensaries or hospitals or maternity clinics when we can afford Mobile cinemas ?

[M. MONGUNO]

I would like the Health Department to be completely Nigerianised before the 1st of October, that is the section of this Ministry which deals with killing of rats, advising on drinking clean water, and the like. I think we have enough of our Nigerian Health Superintendents in this Department to look after this section of the Department. What we want in this Department is more of doctors who actually work in General Hospitals attending to patients. Of this, we want more and we would be only too glad to have more of these still in this country.

I am speaking the minds of most of the Members of this House, Sir, if I say that we are very much in need of doctors; and much as I would like to see Nigerian doctors I would also like to see doctors of any nationality. There should be no discrimination whatsoever in the recruitment of Medical Officers, even if they are from *South Africa* (*Interruptions*).

Several hon. Members : No, no.

M. Monguno : Provided they are employed in the best interests of the country. I believe, Sir, that a South African doctor who is recruited into the Federal Service comes into Nigeria only after he has sacrificed his interest in South Africa and I do know for certain that because we are not friends of South Africa, it does not mean that we would not like the services of anybody from there provided those services rendered to this country are in the best interests of the country.

In the way of scholarship award, I would like to say this. More scholarship awards, not necessarily Regional, but Federal scholarships, should be made for courses in medicine. I would also like to say that private students who study overseas on their own and qualify as doctors, no matter from which country, should not be discriminated against (*Hear, hear*), provided they are qualified. They should be employed and they should also be given the same amenities, they should be allowed to enjoy the same amenities as Government Scholarship holders who finished their courses overseas and return home.

I would like also to say that the Federal Government should encourage private doctors who have the means to set up their own establishment, even if they are not in the Federal Ministry of Health, they should be

given assistance in one way or the other. They should be given loans. They could also be given aids.

May I also say that the conditions of service especially of the junior members of this Ministry needs improvement and if you expect better services to be rendered something must be done to improve their conditions of service because you cannot have both ways. (*An hon. Member : And finally—*).

And finally, yes, I think women are most sympathetic than men. More girls should be encouraged to take up nursing and maternity work especially in the branch of Midwifery, especially still, in the Northern Region.

To conclude, Sir, I would like the post of at least Deputy Permanent Secretary to be Nigerianised before the 1st of October; at least I say so that he can understudy the Permanent Secretary in good time.

With these remarks, I support.

Mr N. E. Elenwa (Ahoada West): Mr Chairman, Sir, a lot has been done as far as the Ministry of Health is concerned and a lot is expected to be done. Let me go straight to how much the Minister has so far done this way. He has been able to build a Maternity Hospital of 200 beds which is almost completed and other medical facilities as far as Lagos is concerned.

I am of the opinion that the Medical Department in the Federation here is almost a dumping ground for unprogressiveness. I have this in mind. Let us take the question of clerical staff of the hospital, most of the clerks have spent about 20 years in the service and yet have nothing like promotion. I wonder how somebody who should be encouraged should remain stagnant in a post and in a rank whereas even life itself is never stagnant.

Let us now come to matrons and sisters. I feel that recruiting more sisters would not help us. Instead of that we should recruit more nurses because I know how much a nurse is worth and how well they fit in in the hospital. Sisters are such people that if you go to the hospital—if I make revelations here it would be very shocking to hear that a sister would leave her house to the hospital only to be drinking tea from morning to two o'clock

she closes, so that in this particular case I am telling you—(Interruptions) (An hon. Member : How do you know, are you a Nurse ?)

Another one is as far as doctors are concerned. We should recruit specialists, more specialists than the ordinary doctors because if you look closely you will see that we have got sufficient doctors to man the hospitals in the Federal Capital here.

Let me come to the underdogs in the hospital mostly the nurses. The hospital institution is like a pyramidal structure and has the nurse as its pivotal base. It is her duty not only to have an intelligent grasp of the series of the services of the doctors, the pathologists, the radiographers and the pharmacists but to procure those services for the patients.

This is one aspect of our numerous and diversified duties and responsibilities. These entail strenuous day-to-day care for the sick and the invalid but includes carrying out highly scientific treatments that go with the modern arduous and painstaking medical and surgical cure in strict compliance with the doctor's prescriptions. On the manner in which she discharges these duties depends the life of the patient. This is a grave and sacred responsibility. She does not stop there. It is required of her to observe and report accurately in technical duties the progress and effect of any treatment.

In case of drugs she must know the accurate dose, action and signs and symptoms indicating adverse reactions in order to help the doctor determine what further steps or measures may be necessary.

In short, her knowledge of therapeutics, *materia medica* and pharmacology, as is required of her, must be above reproach. The nurse, more than any other hospital worker, is exposed to the dangers of infection of Tuberculosis of all sorts, Meningitis, Typhoid, Tetanus, etc., which may result in an untimely death. The code of conduct required of her, is to say the least, one of the highest, and is regulated by the Nursing Council. This influences the type of material recruited into the P.T.S.

Administratively the nurse keeps inventory in the Hospital ward of articles worth over hundreds of pounds, for which she is accountable.

She helps with the training in the wards and supervision of the Probationer Nurses and Ward Attendants working under her; and is responsible for good behaviour of patients in the ward. The nurse starts where the doctor stops. Moreover the shortage of Medical Officers adds more to her responsibilities. For instance, in the theatre she administers Anaesthetics, assists the surgeon on the operating table, and this requires an appreciable knowledge and understanding of the process of the operation. Besides, the least carelessness in preparing the theatre, instruments and other requirements for operation may result in failure or loss of life.

In the O.P.D., the nurse performs minor surgery on behalf of the doctor, who may be overwhelmed with work otherwise. In the wards the nurse is often called upon to put up I.V., that is, intravenous drips and blood transfusion, etc. It will also be noteworthy that nurses' ward report recording signs, symptoms, sleep, etc., of the patient often forms a basis of the data from which the doctor arrives at his diagnosis and follows up the progress of the state of the patient. Last but not the least, mention must be made that the life of the unconscious operated patient is in the nurse's hands until and after recovery of consciousness.

I would like the Minister to say categorically the position of male nurses in Nigeria, whether they are to continue their services and progress along with their female counterpart or to be entirely removed from service instead of keeping them without progress. In the Federation here there are many of them who have been in the service for 15-25 or 30 years without exceeding the post of staff nurse. The fate of locally-trained nurses is appalling. There are locally-trained nurses in Nigeria who have been in the service from 15 to 30 years without getting a senior appointment in spite of the fact that they have a stock of experience in the job.

More trainees should be recruited and in doing so, equal number of male as well as female trainees should be employed. Nigeria started with male nurses and it has no cause to regret the enormous contribution of these pioneer male nurses. If this country wants to make nursing an exclusive career for girls they should make the conditions of male

[MK. ELENWA]

nurses clear. Male nurses are more constant. They do not often go sick, they do not go on maternity leave. Several female nurses and nursing sisters usually go on both annual and maternity leave ranging from 3 to 6 months every other year.

Promotion has been very slow in the nursing profession, particularly with the locally-trained nurses.

Mr Chairman, Sir, I have to thank the Minister of Health for removing the going-overseas mania in our girls only to return to be Nursing Sisters. After all, the training of nurses here and oversea has little or no difference. I have to remark that the rudeness and I-do-not-care minds of our girls in the hospital make it practically impossible to 'feminise' our hospitals.

The Chairman : The hon. Gentleman really is making much too constant reference to his notes. In so far as one reads the speech, it should be done shortly.

Mr Elenwa : In conclusion, Sir, male nurses are efficient, diligent, polite and constant. With these few observations, I beg to support.

The Minister of Health : (Alhaji the hon. Waziri Ibrahim) : Mr Chairman Sir, I think hon. Members have said practically the same thing on the whole, tantamounting to suggestions as to how training should be done as to whether men should be engaged as nurses and so on. I have also noted that hon. Members would like to have the medical services made a Federal subject. Well, this is a Constitutional issue and it can only be changed constitutionally.

The hon. Ayo Rosiji spoke about sewage system for Lagos which he said will cost about £8,000,000. That is true, but then all hon. Members know we have not got the money. He suggested that we should do it bit by bit. Well, that is not possible. If we want a proper sewage scheme, training scheme, you have to do it very well, once and for all and as it will cost about £8,000,000 to give an up-to-date sewage scheme to Lagos, I am afraid there is very little hope of giving one to Lagos in the near future.

It is a fact and we have just got to accept it. You may want to do anything but if you have not got the money what can you do? You just accept the fact that you need it and then you accept the fact that you cannot have it.

The hon. Ogunsony asked for more vote for the Ministry. I quite agree with him—I could not agree more. If I can have three to four more million pounds, surely we shall improve the standard of health services in the Federation much above what it is now, but again, where is the money?

Members have said there should be training of specialists and so on. I now give certain figures which I hope would be of interest to some of the Members. At present we have eight medical officers in the United Kingdom on specialist training, one in Pediatrics, two in Anaesthetics, one in Obstetrics, one in Surgery, another in surgery for ear, nose and throat and one for Diploma in medicine and surgery. Additionally there are three, one in Anaesthetics, one in Obstetrics and one Diploma in Clinical Pathology pursuing preliminary courses at the University College Hospital, Ibadan. That answers the question of training of some specialists.

The hon. Member for Jos North West who I understand is a Nurse by profession, I think talked nonsense all along. (Laughter). He talked a lot of things and honestly I could not pick much from them. He ran over a number of things, poor salary, promotion, differences of salary between Pharmacists and Nurses, bribery and corruption and a lot of confused ideas. Honestly, I do not know exactly what to answer him. I do not accept the fact that doctors or Nurses receive bribes. If they receive tips that is a different matter, I do not know.

Then he talked about medical facilities in the Northern Region which he knows is a Regional subject. If he wants more training in Nursing I am quite prepared to give him.

The hon. M. Ahmadu Fatika spoke about cerebro-spinal-meningitis in the North and said we should investigate and see if it could be prevented by vaccination. Well, it is impossible. I understand that this disease is caused by lack of proper ventilation and so it is a question of health education. I am sure the Northern Regional Government is having the matter under its control and I hope that cases will be minimised in future.

Hon. Olugbade spoke about the quality of drugs imported into the country. He also said that the medicines given to patients in

Government Hospitals are inferior to those bought in local shops. I do not know whether this is right or wrong but I will like to say we do buy some of the medicines locally and definitely we buy the best. I therefore doubt whether the hon. Member was talking the truth. He made a very big allegation that many deaths are due to inferior medicine. I have never heard of that. I do not know if my hon. Friend, Ayo Rosiji, will confirm this.

Reference has been made to the sum of £3,500 allocated to research in African medicine, and the hon. Member said he has been disappointed to see that the West African Council for Medical Research gets much more money. I can assure him that I am very much interested in the development of Nigerian medicine. I wonder if the hon. Member has read a statement in some of the papers concerning a herbal medicine or leaves of certain trees in the Northern Region which cure tooth ache, and I have passed on for investigation the compound of the leaves. It is a very good medicine which can be applied in order to deaden the pain, completely stop the pain and if the patient wants the tooth to be removed you apply the medicine and in about forty-five minutes the tooth comes out without any blood. My own wife has successfully used this medicine, and, provided it is not poisonous or any thing, we shall probably very soon use it in our Dental Centres.

I can assure the hon. Member that I am more than concerned about the development of African medicine and research in that direction is already going on in the Branch of the Nigerian College of Arts, Science and Technology at Ibadan; if any Member is interested I shall be pleased to arrange for him to go and see. I have myself seen how several roots and leaves are being boiled and analysed and I was very much impressed by the progress made there.

The hon. Chief Olugbade also suggested that the sum of £6-13s-4d per day for some doctors is insufficient. I wonder how many hon. Members endorse such a view. When there are people living on three shillings and five shillings a day, somebody thinks that £6-13s-4d a day is insufficient. Mr Chairman, Sir, I have so far found my doctors to be most contented people. None of them has ever complained

to me about insufficiency of salary and I would ask hon. Members not to instigate anybody to start to ask for more wages or salary.

I am very highly impressed by the attitude of my doctors and specialists and I hope that nobody will start to stir trouble by wanting to have cheap popularity to come here and talk for doctors and so on. They have no time for that. They are very reasonable people and I think we should denounce any attempt to make doctors feel discontented. A Medical Superintendent with fifteen years' service getting £6-13s-4d a day is more than adequately paid. I think this is a very serious matter, hon. Members. You must not make people always think in terms of monetary reward. We just cannot go on asking for more money for everything we do. We have all said we are going to sacrifice and why then should anybody come and ask for increased salary and so on? The same hon. Member said that doctors work twenty-four hours a day, round the clock. This is not true. It is a straight-forward lie which I think is below any hon. Member in this House. It is a straightforward lie which I think is below any hon. Member. I would like hon. Members to be really responsible in their criticism. This place is just not a place to come and talk anything; you are judged by the sense you talk.

My friend, Mr Nwaleji I think, talked of many deaths due to lack of medical attention. Probably it is true; we are very much aware of it. But again, it is a hard fact. What can we do? You want to get a thing; you have not got the money or, if you have the money you have so many other requirements. You want to build fine buildings to impress other people; everybody wants to ride in a car; everybody wants to have a radio and television. Well, we have got to say whether having such and such is more important than providing essential medical services to the millions of people who have not. It is only by that we can improve their condition of health. Otherwise, hon. Members can come to this House and talk about *more doctors, more specialists* and so on, and honestly, they should not expect to hear a better answer than, "We have not got the money". How we are going to do it is a matter for all of us to decide.

Again, somebody said, "Double your number of nurses in the Nursing Preliminary School". Again, the question of money! T.B. chest

[MINISTER OF HEALTH]
hospitals should be provided for the Regions ; there is no money. We want efficient disposal of night soil, I cannot agree more ; I am very much concerned about it myself and I hope very soon to look into the possibility of finding a suitable disposal site in the Mainland.

The suggestion has been made that we should recruit doctors and specialists from anywhere by my friend the hon. Member, Ali Monguna. Well I agree that we should employ anyone, but not from South Africa, of course. I do not think that anything good comes out from South Africa at all.

An hon. Member : From France ?

The Minister of Health : Yes, France ; Germany ; Russia ; America.

It has also been said that private students who go to the United Kingdom at their own expense should be encouraged by giving loans and, if possible, by giving them financial aid.

Mr Chairman : Order, order. It is now a quarter-to-six and I am bound to put the Questions to finish the business to be done for to-day.

And it being 5.45 p.m. the Chairman proceeded pursuant to Order (4th April) to put forthwith the Question already proposed from the Chair.

Question, That an increased sum of £2,507,430 for Head 38—Ministry of Health—stand part of the Schedule, put and agreed to.

The Chairman then proceeded to put forthwith the Questions necessary to dispose of the business allotted for this day.

HEAD 39.—MINISTRY OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS

£120,290 for Head 39—Ministry of Internal Affairs—agreed to.

HEAD 40.—PRISONS

£1,171,070 for Head 40—Prisons—agreed to.

Then the Chairman left the Chair to report Progress and ask leave to sit again.

(Mr Speaker resumed the Chair).

Committee report Progress—to sit again tomorrow.

Customs and Excise Management (Amendment) Bill.

Native Liquor (Townships and Certain Areas) (Validation) Bill.

Penal Code (Northern Region) Federal Provisions Bill.

Criminal Procedure (Northern Region) Bill.

Adaptation of Federal Provisions (Northern Region) Bill.

Second Readings deferred till Tuesday next.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Mr N. D. Ukah (Owerri North East) : Mr Speaker, Sir, on the Motion for Adjournment I rise to raise a very important point in connection with education. Hon. Members will agree with me that nothing unites a nation or enhances her prestige more highly than education. If we realise that the greatness of Nigeria really depends on the education of our youths, then in discussing our educational problems we should keep cool, calm and collected and reason as statesmen rather than politicians, for while the politician looks on to the next election the statesman looks on to the next generation.

One of our major problems to-day is the training of an adequate number of technicians to meet the ever increasing needs of a rapidly growing country. It is therefore with gratitude and joy that we have received the news that the Shell and British Petroleum Companies have generously given the sum of half a million pounds specifically for the development of facilities for technical education in Nigeria to mark the country's attainment of Independence on the 1st October, this year. We have been told that the Federal Government intends to use this grant to develop facilities at the Yaba Technical Institute to raise the output of technicians to 200 each year. But may I humbly ask : is this the end of the news ? I hope not.

However, I have also noted that the hon. the Federal Minister of Education, being well aware of the urgent need for technical training has wisely formulated a new, progressive policy of inter-regional secondary and technical institutes. I congratulate him on this bold and democratic plan and I strongly believe that it will be more economical and more beneficial to this country, if instead of putting all our eggs in one basket in

Lagos, the Government uses some part of this big grant to develop facilities in other parts of the Federation especially the far away, populous areas of the North and East. (*Hear hear*).

The time is changing. Indeed the good wind of change is now blowing stronger than ever before. In one hundred and sixty four days hence, Nigeria will become a fully independent sovereign state ready to play her role in the comity of nations. In this short but difficult period of transition, let us as representatives of an emergent nation, carry out bold plans and wipe out the old idea of colonial prestige and protectorate status, that is, of treating Lagos as a colony and the rest of Nigeria as a protectorate, and of overcrowding Lagos with social amenities and starving the teeming millions in the rural areas. It is my intention that the rural areas must always be remembered. They contain the bulk of the population of this country and our policies and actions should now reflect the wishes of a free democratic people, taking cognisance of the importance of Lagos as our federal capital while at the same time giving due consideration to the needs of the people in other parts of the country.

But it may be argued that the doors of the institutions in Lagos are open to students from anywhere in Nigeria. Yes, open in theory but not in practice. For experience shows that students seeking admission are often asked if they attend school in Lagos.

Mr Speaker : Order, order. This has far too much the sound of a prepared speech. That is not what one delivers on the Adjournment. A Member is supposed to raise rather important matters in short context for a Minister to answer there and then. It should not be a prepared speech.

Mr Ukah : Thank you very much, Sir, I am open to correction, but the point I wish to make is that technical institutes in the rural areas should benefit from this grant or from the system of technical education. Therefore I recommend for the consideration of the Minister, Ahiara Technical School which is second only to the Enugu Trade Centre. I also humbly request the Minister of Education to expand the technical facilities and the new programme of educational system to other parts

of the Federation and to develop the facilities now available in the Ahiara Technical School. I beg to request the answer of the Minister.

The Minister of Education : (Hon. Aja Nwachuku) : Mr Speaker, Sir, my hon. Friend Mr Ukah has spoken at length but I have to blend his long speech with brevity. He has raised many salient points and at the same time he has answered them. He says that he has been told that the Federal Government intends to use the generous grant by Shell—B.P. for the development of technical institute at Yaba. That is a fact. This money is not intended for the development of any technical institutes outside Lagos.

Then the second point is his advising the Government not to put its eggs in one basket. It is not the intention of Government whatsoever to do this, and may I say in a few words that technical education, and by that I mean education below professional and technological levels, is a residual subject and as such, is the responsibility of the Regions except in Lagos where the Federal Government is charged with the responsibility for primary and post-primary as well as secondary education.

In the Speech from the Throne reference was made to the Federal Government's intention to acquaint Regional Governments with a view to establishing inter-regional secondary schools and I cannot say at this stage whether these institutions will be completely new ventures or whether they will be developed out of the existing institutions. It is only in the latter alternative that the technical institute at Ahiara, can be considered, and by that I mean, if it is to be developed out of the existing institutions.

Mr Speaker : Does Mr Udo-Inyang wish to begin his subject ?

Mr D. S. Udo-Inyang (Opobo North) : Mr Speaker, Sir, it is my intention to draw the attention of this House to the publication in the front page of the "Sunday Times" of April 17, 1960. It complained very seriously about our youths and children going to public 'pubs' and dance halls.

I strongly appeal to the Government to take a very serious view of this grave situation. Since I read this ugly article I have interviewed some Lagos teachers and parents and have

[MR UDO INYANG]
discovered that the children have been imbued with a false concept of freedom. Our children erroneously interpret freedom to mean indiscipline, licentiousness and general moral laxity.

An hon. Member : Are you a Reverend ?

Mr Udo-Inyang : I have been informed by parents and teachers that there is much pilfering and general dishonest practices among the children in order to get money to go to these public 'pubs', dance halls and public places. Sir, I have discovered the causes of this to be the fact that... (*Interruption*). However, I will call upon the Government to bring about regulations to ban children from going to public places.

The Minister of Internal Affairs (Hon. M. Usman Sarki, Sardaunan Bida) : Mr Speaker, Sir, if the hon. Member does not

want *Kusimilaya*, we are going to do something about it. I should like to say that we are grateful to the hon. Member for drawing the attention of this House to this social evil and I can assure him that we shall take early steps to see what can be done to forbid the entry of these young girls to dance halls and similar places of public entertainment.

Mr Speaker : Does Mr Mbakogu wish to raise his point ?

Mr F. U. Mbakogu (Awka South) : No, Sir.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved, That this House do now adjourn.

Adjourned accordingly at one minute to six o'clock.

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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NIGERIA

Thursday, 21st April, 1960

The House met at 10 a.m.

PRAYERS

(Mr Speaker in the Chair.)

OATHS

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

Alhaji Mustafa Adeleke . . . (Oyo Central)

Mr Speaker : Order, order ! I have to inform the House that I have received from the Electoral Commission the following letter :—

“The Speaker, 20th April, 1960.
House of Representatives,
Lagos.

I write to inform you in accordance with Section 11 (1) of the Federal Legislative Houses (Disputed Seats) Regulations, 1959, that at the conclusion of the trial of an election petition, suit No. I/226/1959, the Acting Chief Justice, Western Region, determined that Simeon Alabi Yerokun was not elected a Member of the House of Representatives and declared that Mustafa Adeleke was duly elected for Oyo Central constituency at the election held on the 12th December, 1959”.

Signed by the Acting Secretary,

PAPERS

Mr Speaker : The following Paper already distributed to Members is deemed to have been laid on the Table :—

Draft Third Supplementary Estimates of the Government of the Federation of Nigeria, 1959-60. (By Ordinance).

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

DEFENCE

No foreign military base

*O.74. **Mr R. B. K. Okafor** asked the Prime Minister, whether he will give an assurance that no land in Nigeria will be given to any Foreign Government to build a Military Base either now, or in the immediate future.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister : Yes, Sir, I do give that assurance.

EXTERNAL SERVICES

Plans for Representation Abroad

*O.125. **Mr E. C. Akwivu** asked the Prime Minister, how many non-Nigerians and how many Nigerians are employed in the External Services of the country in Nigeria and outside Nigeria respectively, and what posts do they hold ; and whether he will make a statement on his plans for the immediate complete Nigerianisation of the country's representation abroad.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister : The following are the figures :—

Office	Nigerians	non-Nigerians
Fernando Po ..	1	—
Ghana	2	—
Jeddah	1	—
Lagos	5	1
London	21	7
New York	4	—
Washington ..	9	—
Khartoum	2	—

2. There are two officers on leave.

3. The figures include seconded officers from the Ministries of Finance, Information and Commerce and Industry.

4. It is the aim of the Federal Government to Nigerianise the External Affairs Service as soon as possible. In fact the 7 non-Nigerian officers in our London Office are all on contract and are locally recruited. The only non-Nigerian officer in Lagos is carrying out purely administrative duties for which trained Nigerian officers cannot yet be spared.

Nigeria's Representation at International Organisations

O.126. **Mr E. C. Akwivu** asked the Prime Minister, if he will make a statement on the plans of the Government for the representation of Nigeria at the United Nations and allied International organisations after the country's attainment of Independence on 1st October, 1960.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister : A Nigeria Office has been established in New York which, among other things, will house the Nigerian Delegation to

the United Nations. Nigerian trained-diplomats from Washington are making, as part of their training, study visits to the U.N.O. offices. In particular H.M. Government has offered facilities for one of our diplomats whereby he has been attached to the British Delegation to the U.N.O. and has made a thorough study of the working of the several committees. Another officer, who has recently completed his attachment to the British High Commission in Canberra, has now been posted to New York to study the working of the British Delegation in the U.N.O. It is hoped that with this number of trained staff who should by September be completely familiar with U.N. work, the way is being paved for the future Nigerian Delegation to the U.N.O. Negotiations are proceeding with the British Government for sponsorship of Nigeria to the U.N.O. and its allied organisations.

Chief A. Enahoro : It is presumed that H.M. Government refers to the British Government. Will the Prime Minister make sure that in the future when he means the British Government he says so because in this House Her Majesty's Government is this Government which is Her Majesty's Government in Nigeria.

Mr Akwivu : May we know whether the Prime Minister is assuring us that on independence the Nigeria Office at the U.N.O. will be opened with a staff of two ?

Mr Speaker : I think that needs notice.

POLICE

Strength of Detachment at Orlu

O.127. Mr E. C. Akwivu asked the Prime Minister, if he will state the strength of the Police detachment at Orlu, and whether he considers it adequate for the size, population and needs of the Division.

The Minister of State : The strength of the police detachment at Orlu is twenty-two all ranks, under the command of an Inspector. I am advised that it is sufficient for immediate needs although the police expansion programme visualises the setting up of additional police stations at Akokwa and Mbidi in due course. When that takes place a police divisional headquarters will be established at Orlu to supervise police activities in the Division.

APARTHEID POLICY

Action Contemplated

O.128. Mr C. A. Odigbo asked the Prime Minister, what positive action is contemplated by the Government to give expression to the grave concern felt in this country over the inhuman and barbaric treatment meted out to native Africans by the Government of South Africa.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister : The hon. Member is referred to the debate of the 5th April in which the intentions of Government were announced. Since that date the necessary instructions have been given to implement the policy of Government.

M. Aminu Kano : I would like to know whether the Prime Minister is going to associate himself with the views expressed by the Prime Minister of India during the Meeting of the Commonwealth Association of Prime Ministers or what is the intention of the Prime Minister on this question of South Africa ?

The Prime Minister : I told the House that I do not expect to be invited to the Commonwealth Prime Ministers' Conference, but I will willingly associate myself with any sanctions on South Africa.

INDEPENDENCE

Amount Earmarked for Celebrations

O.142. Mr H. O. Chuku asked the Prime Minister how much was earmarked for Independence Celebrations; how much of that sum was allotted to each Region, and on what basis was the allotment made.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister : The sum of one million pounds has been provided in the Capital estimates. The Regional Governments have been informed that expenditure up to £100,000 may be incurred on Independence Celebrations in each Region. Further sums will be spent in providing mugs, medallions and flags for school-children throughout Nigeria. These will be allocated on a basis of the numbers attending recognised schools.

Dr Okeke : Is it possible for the Prime Minister to enlighten this House on the progress being made in respect of these preparations in the Regions because things seem to be very

quiet all over the Regions in spite of this money being appropriated.

The Prime Minister : In each Region there is an Independence Celebrations Committee as we have here in Lagos and I have no doubt that the Regional Governments are very actively making preparations for the celebrations. It is very difficult for me, Sir, at this very short notice to inform the House of all the arrangements which are being made in the Regions ; but I hope that there will be an opportunity for me to make explanations on what is going on.

CAPITAL OF NIGERIA

Unsatisfactory Position of Lagos

O.203. Mr E. A. Odo asked the Prime Minister whether is aware that the geographical position of Lagos, the capital of the Federation, is unsatisfactory in view of the fact that it can be easily attacked in time of war.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister : No, Sir. Any city is vulnerable, wherever it may be located, if it should become the target of modern weapons.

Chief Enahoro : Although that is true, Sir, surely the Prime Minister is aware that Lagos is vulnerable by sea, land and air. Cannot we reduce the vulnerability of the Nigerian capital by moving it away from the seashore ?

AFTER INDEPENDENCE

O.204. Mr E. A. Odo asked the Prime Minister, if Lagos will remain the capital of the Federation after Independence.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister : Yes sir.

O.205. Mr E. A. Odo asked the Prime Minister, whether he will consider the desirability of making Kafanchan or Oturkpo the capital of the Federation after Independence.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister : I do not think it desirable for the Federal Capital to be moved to either of these places.

STATUTORY BOARDS

O.206. Mr N. A. Ezonbodor asked the Prime Minister how many Statutory Boards have been established by the Federal Government since 1954 ; and if he will state the names of the members of the Boards both past and present, and their tribes of origin.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister : The following Statutory Boards have been established since the 1st of January, 1954 :—

Nigerian Ports Authority
Nigerian Railway Corporation
Nigerian Broadcasting Corporation
Board of Customs and Excise and
Board of Inland Revenue

I do not intend to give the names and tribal origins of the past and present members of these Boards.

Mr A. Ogunsanya : Mr Speaker, Sir, is the Federal Loans Board not one of such Boards ?

Mr M. A. Omisade : Is it a breach of the official secrets, Sir, to disclose names of members of these boards ?

Number of members of Boards

O.207. M. Shekarau Omar asked the Prime Minister if he will state the number of members on each of the Statutory Boards established by the Federal Government ; and how many are from each of the Regions and from the Federal Territory.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister : I am arranging for this rather detailed information to be obtained and shall have it published in the Official Report very shortly.

DEFENCE

Troops to Sokoto and Argungu Borders

O.209. M. Abubakar Tsofo Mafara asked the Minister of Defence if he will consider the desirability of posting troops to the border at Sokoto and Argungu, in view of the fact that French troops are posted on their side of the border.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister and Minister of Defence : I know of no threat to Nigeria in the border area referred to. The maintenance of Nigeria's security is based on the concept of mobile forces provided with good communications. To disperse forces to scattered locations would be unsound both militarily and economically.

EDUCATION

Assistance to University of Nigeria

*O.129. **Mr F. C. Ogbalu** asked the Minister of Education, what proposals he has for granting financial assistance to the University of Nigeria.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Education: The University of Nigeria is a project of the Government of the Eastern Region. No approach has been made to the Federal Government for financial or other assistance and, accordingly, the matter has not been considered by the Federal Government.

Chief A. Enahoro (Ishan East): Will the Federal Government consider taking serious steps to prevent the Government of the Eastern Region from using this name, because it gives a completely false impression of what this University is?

Dr B. U. Nzeribe (Orlu West): Would the Minister of Education consider awarding scholarships this year to the University at Nsukka?

Mr Speaker: I should be given notice of that.

Encouraging authorship, etc.

*O.130. **Mr F. C. Ogbalu** asked the Minister of Education, whether he will consider encouraging authorship among Nigerians by offering financial assistance towards the cost of publication of finished works; and what he is doing to arouse interest in creative works of art and literature among Nigerians.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Federal Minister of Education: There is, I believe, a ready market for most works of quality by Nigerian authors, and publishers can be found for them. In these cases there is no call for Government financial assistance. Certain works of an academic nature, however, have, in spite of their high quality, a limited sale, and in such cases the Federal Government is prepared to consider giving financial assistance and has, in fact, done so in the past. The Nigerian Magazine of the Ministry of Information and the educational publications of our Ministry welcome contributions from Nigerian authors.

As regards arousing interest in creative works of art and literature the House will be aware that a Nigerian artist has been appointed Art Adviser in our Ministry. One of his functions is to visit schools and institutions to encourage interest in Nigerian art. Art has a place in all school syllabuses and children are encouraged to develop their creative faculties in writing and other forms of art. At the Technical Institute and at the Nigerian College there are Art departments. The displays of traditional art in the Museums of the Department of Antiquities are in themselves a potent source of inspiration to potential artists.

Apart from what is done in my Ministry, much is being done by the Ministry of Information. That Ministry runs an Exhibition Centre in Lagos where exhibitions of all sorts are held. Under that Ministry, too, there is the Nigerian Council for the Advancement of Art and Culture. That Council is required to concern itself with all aspects of persuasion, revival, development and encouragement of arts and crafts, music and traditional culture. A subvention has been made available to the Council for the purpose of fulfilling its terms of reference.

Mr S. D. Lar (Lowland East): How many authors are there, that are Nigerians?

Mr Speaker: I should have to have notice of that.

Faculty of Law in University College

*O.131. **Mr F. C. Ogbalu** asked the Minister of Education what proposals he has for the immediate establishment of a Faculty of Law in the University College, Ibadan.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Education: The Report of the Committee on the Future of the Nigerian Legal Profession was published towards the end of last year. The Committee recommended, *inter alia*, that advantage should be taken of the existing facilities at the University College, Ibadan, and that in the first place a Faculty of Law should be established there. The proposal is now being considered by the University Authorities and when their views have been obtained the Government will come to a decision in the matter. The establishment of the Faculty of Law will require substantial expenditure. A considerable staff of Legal

Specialists will be required, a large sum of money will have to be expended on a Legal Library and, if the demand for legal training is large, the Faculty will require its own buildings.

Mr D. N. Abii (Owerri East): Mr Speaker, does the Minister not know that there is a demand already, now? Why say if there is a demand?

An hon. Member: That is a comment!

Mr Speaker: It is.

Grade II Teachers' Certificates

* O.173. **Mr P. E. Ekanem** asked the Minister of Education, how many Special "C" teachers have been awarded honorary Grade II Teachers' Certificates from 1954 to 1959; and whether he will make a statement.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Education: Unfortunately I am unable to give the answer for the years 1954-57. The Secretariat fire in 1959 destroyed a number of records among which were those containing the information required. In both 1958 and 1959 six such Honorary certificates were awarded. The Ministry of Education will continue to award Honorary Certificates and no change is contemplated at present. We are satisfied that any teacher who is qualified for such an award is seriously considered. The granting of the certificate is of course not automatic but depends on proved ability and good record.

Mr Ekanem (Enyong South): After how many years is a teacher to be issued with this certificate?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Education: As I said, it does not depend on the numbers of years, but on proved ability and good records.

Northerners Training as Doctors

* O.174. **Mr J. O. Ede** asked the Minister of Education, how many Nigerians of Northern Region origin are at present undergoing training as doctors in overseas Universities and at the University College, Ibadan under Federal Government sponsorship; and how many of them are expected to qualify during the period 1960-62.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Education: There is only one student of Northern origin studying medicine on a Federal Government scholarship. He is expected to return to Nigeria from the United Kingdom this year, after completing his post-registration training.

Plans for Arabic Studies

* O.210. **M. Muhammadu Sagir Umar** asked the Minister of Education, what are his plans for fostering Arabic studies in the Federal Territory.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Education: The hon. Member is presumably referring to the Federal Territory of Lagos. As he will be aware there are no institutions of Higher Education in the Capital city. At the lower levels of education every encouragement is given to muslim secondary schools to include schedule subjects which may form a preparatory basis for further studies in the subject to which the member is referring. Religious instruction is encouraged in Muslim Voluntary Agencies schools. I am confident that the Muslim Voluntary Agencies and the Council of Muslim School Proprietors are taking energetic steps and I have recently asked them to report to me in connection with this matter. When the Minister has learnt their wishes I shall be in a better position to make further plans.

Mr Speaker: May I interpose here. I hope the five or six Members in the back whose seats I have had moved do not mind the change. I can see them much better where they are now sitting.

PRESENTATION OF PUBLIC BILLS

FEDERAL SUPREME COURT BILL

The Minister of Transport and Aviation: *Second reading*—Tuesday next.

HIGH COURT OF LAGOS (AMENDMENT) BILL

The Minister of Transport and Aviation: *Second reading*—Tuesday next.

SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION

(1959-60) (No. 3) BILL

The Minister of Finance: *Second reading*—Tuesday next.

ORDER OF THE DAY

APPROPRIATION (1960-61) BILL

(Fifth allotted Day): Considered in Committee of Supply.

(House in Committee)

HEAD 41.—MINISTRY OF LABOUR

Question proposed, That £469,310 for Head 41—Ministry of Labour—stand part of the Schedule.

Mr D. N. Abii (Owerri East): Mr Chairman, Sir, I wish to support the expenditure on this Head with very serious remarks. My remarks should not be taken as an attack on the Minister of Labour. I think the Minister of Labour ought to know that his duty in this Ministry is not only to settle disputes but also to prevent industrial disputes. In doing so, I would like to divide my speech into three main sections.

Firstly, the Minister of Labour should see that Nigerian labour is fully productive. Our workers should be adequately paid and, above all, we should see to it that employment is full. In respect of his duty, I think that the Minister of Labour is taking too much for granted. The task of adequate payment for labour places a premium on the productivity of labour and I think that this duty is very close to the Minister with a sympathetic emphasis on full employment.

A few days ago the Leader of the Opposition, Chief the hon. Obafemi Awolowo, recommended very seriously the establishment of a Revenue Commission. I am of the opinion that the Minister of Labour, in order to carry out his duty, must co-operate with other Ministries in this Government. These Ministries are the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Economic Development and the Ministry of Commerce and Industry. I feel that one of the greatest duties facing this country to-day is the duty to find out how to solve labour problems. In that respect, I think it is the prime duty of the Minister of Labour to make haste and make a law on how he can consult with these Ministers so as to carry out the duty of solving labour troubles in this country very effectively.

When we were considering the revenue head for the Ministry of Finance, we touched the question of what should be done in order to prevent all these labour problems. Two days

ago a Motion was brought to the Floor of this House demanding full employment. I think that the Minister of Labour has not considered seriously the question of full employment. In that case, may I suggest to the Minister that if there is going to be any possibility of stopping labour quarrels in this country there must be, firstly, the introduction of scientific farming. The Minister of Labour cannot get out of this trouble at all.

The second thing he must do is to introduce real industrialisation into this country. I am connecting the Minister of Labour seriously to the Minister of Commerce and Industry. He cannot do without him. In this case, I am also recommending that the Minister of Labour should have a meeting with the Minister of Economic Development and the Minister of Commerce and Industry to discuss what to do to bring full employment to the country and thereby stop the incessant troubles in the labour movement.

Another point is that when the Minister of Labour is trying to solve these problems there is a necessity for him to get the leaders of the Unions and members of the Unions together. I do not believe that the Minister of Labour can just sit down and wait for crises and then for him to try to settle them. Is that all he will do? If you look down the Heads of the Estimates, you will find no specific aim demanding a kind of fundamental settlement of labour. It is a question of going on suggesting and perhaps being called to suggest and appoint Commissions on Wages and Salaries. I strongly feel that the Minister of Labour, if he wants to make his work effective in this country he has got to take into consideration the question of consulting other Ministries of Government; the question of consulting the labour leaders of this country and principal members of the Union.

Before I end my speech, I wish to say that it is necessary, absolutely necessary, to re-examine the question of our exports. If we get the Minister of Finance into the Committee he will re-examine whether we are making enough efforts. The Minister of Labour has got to get the co-operation of the Minister of Finance and, I think, the Leader of the Opposition on the question of setting up the Revenue Commission. They will re-examine and they will find out that up till now we cannot claim to be exporting anything. When we export our

raw materials we have always restricted our exports to palmoil, palm-kernel, cocoa and groundnuts. When we have these raw materials when will we start making use of them? If you say they exist in large quantities, why did we not start making use of our raw materials by turning them into manufactured goods?

Several hon. Members : Where is the money?

Mr Abii : It is my view that the Minister of Labour cannot carry out his duties until he has got the co-operation of the Minister of Finance, the Minister of Economic Development and the Minister of Commerce and Industry.

With these few remarks, I beg to support.

The Minister of Finance (Chief the hon. F. S. Okotie-Eboh) : Mr Chairman Sir, with your permission and the indulgence of this House—

An hon. Member : No.

The Minister of Finance : I am not replying to the speech. Members should please listen. With your permission Mr Chairman, I would like to make a statement in which I implore the unanimous decision of the House. I have had consultation with the Whips of the different parties and they are in agreement that in view of the various engagements to which hon. Members are committed this afternoon, it would be better for us to accelerate our work this morning and finish the four Heads of the Estimates so that we do not sit in the afternoon. If we all agree to this, we will adjourn.

Several hon. Members : Aye.

Mr Chairman : I think, perhaps, I should make a short statement about this matter. I should not feel myself justified in hustling these Heads if I see there are an appreciable number of Members who wish to contribute to the debates to-day. I accept the general verdict of the House on this and all matters but, I hope, I will be guided by the wishes of Members so far as I can judge.

Mr P. E. Ekanem (Enyong South) : Mr Chairman, Sir, I want to be as brief as possible. We must give praise where praise is due and blame where blame is due. I have to praise the Labour Department for what they have done so far. I say so because of my connection with them. They are doing everything

possible to advise trade union leaders, to advise workers to be humble to their employers but I cannot blame J.M.J. alone.

My blame, first of all, goes to the section within the Ministry called the Labour Exchange. The Labour Exchange is a wasteful section and should be scrapped. I say so because it is meant to be an avenue for employment but proper use has not been made of that avenue by the employers of labour. In other places you do not get employment unless you go to the Labour Exchange but that is not so in this country. If that section is to remain then legislation to make it illegal for anybody to be employed without passing through the Employment Exchange within the Ministry of Labour should be enacted.

Another is the Trade Union section. I appreciate the fact that the Labour Department has arranged, in the past, many week-end schools, courses, and has sponsored some of our Trade Union Leaders and workers to overseas and other countries but that is not enough. We really want able leaders in this country; able trade union leaders not by physic but able by training and education.

I said the other day that we have a number of scholarships now and I would ask kindly that the Labour Department should make use of its Ministry and get some of these scholarships for the trade union leaders in this country and they must be careful that when these people come back they should not be employed as Industrial Relations Officers because in the past when they come back owing to poor conditions outside, the Government absorbed them. So I want to say that if you give out these scholarships, those people who go to train as Industrial Relations Officers should not be absorbed by the Government.

Mr Chairman, Sir, we need more week-end schools for leaders, workers and their employers. The employers in this country know little of industrial relations and there should be courses opened for them.

I wonder how many labour health areas we have in this country. It seems we have only one in the rubber plantation and I think we need more labour health areas. I will bring that by way of question to know how many are in this country.

[MR EKANEM]

It appears we have not been hearing much of our labourers in places outside Nigeria; namely Fernando Po and Gabon. Some years ago they said that the conditions had improved but I think I have a letter—an authority—from there now to say that the position has not improved as it has been said in this country.

Mr Chairman, Sir, as I said we give praise where praise is due and I am quite convinced that the Labour Department has done much and I wish more should be done for the people.

Mr A. Opia (Aboh): Mr Chairman, Sir, in making my contribution to this Head—Item 41—I must put on record my congratulations to the Ministry of Labour for being the first Ministry to have a Nigerian as a Permanent Secretary. (*Hear, hear*). I think that this privilege has not been abused by this Nigerian. We feel that this should serve as an impetus to the rest of the Ministries so that when next we come for our Budget Session we will see that most of them have taken their proper positions.

An hon. Member: All of them!

Mr Opia: I have to deal with the labour problem in Fernando Po. I feel that it is a national disgrace, and on this eve of independence, that this Government still supports the slavery of Nigerians by labour contracts with foreign capitalists in Fernando Po to work for them in their plantations under rain and sun and only to be released at the expiration of the contract period. This situation is horrible and it tantamounts to a most barbarous act on the side of the Government. The mere fact that these slaves are contracted away by Government from their country to a foreign country to do special menial jobs is an act of brutality and they lose their propriety rights as free men in Nigeria. Some of these Nigerians have been taken away to Fernando Po and they died in harness and some have suffered great ordeal. No matter whatever explanation Government might give to this, I feel that I have to make the following suggestions: firstly, Government should abrogate completely the scheme of recruiting human labour to other countries. Secondly, Government should make arrangements, after the expiration of the present batch of slaves at Fernando Po, to rehabilitate them. Thirdly, Government should provide agricultural scheme for them when they return.

I would like the Minister of Labour to make a categorical statement in response to these allegations of slavery contracted by the Nigerian Government and the people of Fernando Po.

I would also like to know from the Minister of Labour what arrangements he is making towards the social development of different organisations in Nigeria, especially for boys and girls to have a common meeting place where they can be able to meet and exchange views and to know themselves.

Several hon. Members: What!!

Mr Opia: Mr Chairman, Sir, I feel really that this—(*Interruption*). Will the Opposition keep quiet and listen to me? Mr Chairman, Sir, I feel strongly that we have had quite a number of charges brought against our Government in connection with our people who have been taken away to Fernando Po. We know that Government has a Labour Department at Fernando Po to cater for the good conditions and improvement of people at Fernando Po but I still feel we would like our Minister to make a categorical statement about this.

Alhaji Bello Dandago (Gwarzo East): Mr Chairman, Sir, it is not my intention to move the closure of this Head, but no praise will be superfluous on this Ministry. This Ministry, I will rightly say, is one of the Ministries which is having as a Permanent Secretary a black man and what is more pleasing is that the Permanent Secretary has proved himself beyond doubt that given the opportunity, we can do everything. (*Loud Applause*).

Chief Anthony Enahoro (Ishan East): Mr Chairman, Sir, I only want to make a short plea for the development of sports. Sports have ceased to be merely a pastime, and you will find that most countries take the development of their sports very seriously.

I think it is a shame that little Ghana can come along here and beat us at football, beat us at tennis and beat us in all sorts of games. Even Egypt came here and beat us; we go to Israel, we lose; we go to Khartoum, we lose. I think it is disgraceful. This Ministry ought to do something.

I do not think it is enough to provide money and expect voluntary organisations to undertake the development of sports. Although, I do not like to refer to the example of Ghana yet they are spending a lot of money on sports.

They are providing coaches in various sports and they are building a Golf-course. I hope, Sir, and I do not say this in jest, that the Government can really take this matter very seriously.

Mr D. M. Gbolagunte (Ibarapa): Mr Chairman, Sir, I rise to support this Head of Estimates on Labour. Yesterday, the Minister of Health appealed to this House to appeal back to the workers to stop agitating for a rise in wages. The rise in wages will continue as long as the Minister of Health continues to do his work.

The Minister of Health is the one responsible for these maternities and other health stations and in these maternities we try to get more children, many more of our children continue to live and as children live, more people will come out into our labour forces. Because we have more people in the labour forces, we expect to have labour disputes and as such we appeal to the Minister of Labour to help to appeal to these labour leaders to stop their disputes. The country, of course, we all know cannot rise without these workers but there is the agitation on which side to join, whether the ICFTU or some other side? This Government has got no commitment to join the Western Bloc or the Eastern Bloc and when we appeal to these workers to stop these disputes, we hope the country will be at rest.

There was a demonstration in front of this House yesterday by certain workers asking for work in the mines or some other places. We hope that the Minister of Labour will try to re-settle all these people who were stopped in the mines in the East. The Western Regional Government can be praised for absorbing at least 80 of these people.

The Social Welfare section of this Ministry should by this time help our Boy Scouts, Brigades and young fellows more than this. The best of our leaders, religiously, socially and politically were one time or the other in these young groups. If these Boy Scouts, Boy Brigades and others are encouraged, we can be sure, we shall have less of labour disputes in this country.

We should encourage our sports more. In a few months from now, our sportsmen will be going to the Olympic Games. We are very happy the Minister has put something

£11,870 in the Estimates for the training of our Olympic sportsmen, and lucky again that we have a man like Bassey who has gone abroad to represent the whole of Nigeria and he represented us very well. (*Hear, hear*). If we expect more of these younger fellows to represent us well, we should give more money to our sports.

We hope the country will be happy that we have established more Trade Centres in the Regions, in Ibadan, in Kaduna, and Enugu; but the country will be happier if more boys could be taken into these Trade Centres. Very few of them are admitted into the Trade Centres and very few of them pass out successfully. If more boys are admitted, then we shall have less of labour disputes in the country as more people will be employed. The white-collar boys will be reduced in number and many boys will come back into these trades to help the country in return.

Mr Chairman, Sir, I beg to support.

The Minister of Labour and Welfare (Mr J. M. Johnson): Mr Chairman, Sir, I thank Members for showing very keen interest in the labour affairs of this country and I assure them that I myself realise that more can be done for this country in the field of labour. I have assured you in this House that I have never at any time paraded myself as a perfect Minister who has got an 'Open Sesame' to solve all problems, but with your criticisms and with your encouragement, I shall continue to do my best to help the lot of the unemployed and make labour conditions very promising for the unemployed in this country.

It is a pity that we have not been able to come here one day and say that unemployment has been eradicated. That is what I would wish more than anybody else to say in this House, but as you know, you all have your own share to contribute in this matter. I heard someone on the Floor of this House appealing to me to industrialise the country. Well, I myself like to appeal to everybody to see that that state of affairs is brought about in this country. As you should know very well, this is not the role of the Ministry of Labour or the Labour Department.

As regards the question of workers being employed in Fernando Po, I assure you that both the Eastern Regional Government and my Ministry are most concerned. We are

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every time looking into the conditions of employment of these men and their families. In all sincerity, I tell you that conditions are not perfect as conditions of workers everywhere in the world to-day cannot be regarded as perfect. I think you all know that workers all over the world are like our dear wives, they always want a bit more, and this we should not always encourage. Whatever happens, I will do my best to see that this Ministry really deserves the congratulations that you have given it to-day and my Permanent Secretary will be very, very much pleased with the way you have mentioned him in the course of this debate.

Thank you very much. If there are any faults in which you feel I am guilty, I readily plead '*Mea maxima culpa*' but I assure you I shall continue to do my best to try and please this House and this great country. (*Loud Applause*).

Mr V. Iketuonye (Onitsha South): Mr Chairman, Sir, I still want to add my words of congratulations to the Minister of Labour for the progress of Nigerianisation. I think that this is a very important point, we all want Nigerian Ministers, we all want Nigerian leaders, I do not see why we should all not insist on having Nigerian Permanent Secretaries. It is not that the European or the expatriate is not loyal but that it is a question of security and also it is the practice all over the world that citizens should be at the head of their Government. It is for these reasons that we are congratulating the Minister of Labour for taking the lead.

We want also to take this occasion to thank our Nigerian labour leaders for their loyalty and patriotism in trying to avoid the temptation of going on strike during the period of election. I think that the decision that they should not go on strike during the period of election is a sign of maturity of the labour movement in Nigeria. I hope that it is the opinion of this honourable House that the labour leaders should not let us down in any trying period. We are a little worried by the various splits which we read in newspapers going on in the labour movement and we are calling the particular attention of the Minister of Labour to do all he can to see that our labour movement is put on a very solid ground, because the labour movement is a very important force for the development of a democratic country.

I would like to call the attention of the hon. Minister of Labour, (and I thank him for his past efforts,) to the place of the Members of the House of Representatives in the arrangement of the independence celebrations. We hope that when arrangements are being made the Members of this House will be given a place or provision which will befit them. We would like the Minister of Labour to assure this House that when arrangements are made Members of this honourable House will not be forgotten.

I mentioned once that we are not satisfied with the way we evolved our National Anthem and I am saying once again that the music is something like a crippling bean. The very first time I heard the music over the radio I thought I could find myself being moved and raised from where I was standing; but unfortunately this was not the case.

Mr W. Briggs (Degema): On point of Order, Mr Chairman, we are discussing the question of labour and I do not think that it has anything to do with the National Anthem.

The Chairman: That is irrelevant, I must admit.

Mr Iketuonye: I give my support also to the opinion expressed by my hon. Friend, Chief Enahoro. We are not satisfied that in spite of our 35 million people each time we meet Ghana in sports we are always defeated. We are, therefore, drawing the particular attention of the hon. Minister of Labour to see to it that our sports are re-organised so that we can confidently meet Ghana and other countries in sports.

Thank you, Mr Chairman.

Whereupon 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, That £469,810 for Head 41—Ministry of Labour—stand part of the Schedule, put and agreed to.

HEAD 42—MINISTRY OF LAGOS AFFAIRS

Question proposed, That £838,180 for Head 42—Ministry of Lagos Affairs—stand part of the Schedule.

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Mr L. J. Dosunmu (Lagos Central): In my observation on the debate on this Head of the current estimates, I would like to congratulate the hon. Minister of Lagos Affairs for successfully passing a large part of his former duties to a younger Minister. I sincerely hope that this will result in very devoted work to the affairs of Lagos particularly to the benefit of the indigenous elements of this great city.

It was observed with some satisfaction that the Lagos Town Council is to receive a substantial grant from the Federal Government and that this is to cover various services rendered by the Government which in former years were not grant-aided by the Government. A reference to the memorandum on page 262 will show that the Federal Government is going to give an amount of £46,200 exclusively to augment the funds of the Lagos Town Council in meeting their obligations on roads, traffic, street lighting, and other services. This does not include substantial grants made by the Federal Government to the Council in respect of their various other services, like Health Services. These total to about £122,000.

It appears that the Federal Government is now prepared to carry out its own obligations as recommended by Sir John Imrie. The ball is now at the feet of the Lagos Town Council. One expects the Lagos Town Council to rise up to expectation. It is in this connection that one would like to be reassured by the hon. Minister that these funds will be devoted by the Council to the purposes for which they are intended. I am saying this because in spite of these substantial grants, new and old, made by the Federal Government, the Lagos Town Council still finds it necessary to impose additional burden on the people of Lagos by the increase of 2s. in the pound in the rates.

If upon those grants that the Federal Government is making to augment the funds of the Lagos Town Council, the Town Council still finds it necessary to impose an additional burden on the rate payers of Lagos, I think it leads to this conclusion that there must be something inherently wrong with the finances of the Lagos Town Council. And it is in this connection that the hon. Minister comes in. We all know that the present Council is a new one; it is not the one that the hon. Minister is used to for

four or five years past. What he used to take for granted with the old Council, he cannot afford to take for granted with this new Council.

Several hon. Members : Why ?

Mr Dosunmu : Because in the old Council efficiency and honesty in discharging their duties... (Interruptions)... could be guaranteed.

That leads me to saying something about the attitude of the hon. Minister to the traditional Chiefs of Lagos. As one of the three, noble sons of Nigeria, the hon. Minister has never disguised his devotion to the *Iga Idunganran*. But what I will ask the Minister is this; he should extend his generosity also to the traditional Chiefs of Lagos. The Oba of Lagos as well as his traditional Chiefs of Lagos are recognised under the Law. The same generosity that the Minister shows to the *Iga Idunganran* should be extended to the chieftaincy houses of Lagos. If the Minister has been kind enough to see that it is necessary to exempt the *Iga Idunganran* from payment of rates, I see no reason why he should not see that the Royal Palace of Lagos's Chiefs are also exempted from paying rates. I have to show the House why that becomes very necessary.

If you look at the estimates, Item 12 of the Head is a provision of £1,000 for subsidy to chiefs. In the first place this is grossly misleading. There is nothing paid to the Lagos chiefs as subsidy, and it is extremely misrepresenting the situation to show in the estimate that there is £1,000 intended as subsidy for Lagos chiefs. I know that the Minister has said that he will be giving consideration to the payment of stipends to the Lagos chiefs, but until he has done so he should give the correct picture to the people of this country. The £1,000 inserted in the estimate is meant for the Oba and not the chiefs of Lagos. We want the Minister to augment that provision so as to include subsidy for the traditional chiefs of Lagos.

Sir, I would like also to make a short reference to the establishment under the Ministry, and in this connection I am only confining myself to the junior staff of the land division of the Ministry. In that establishment one would ask that promotion should be more rapid than it is at present, and also that establishment should be increased in order to cope

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with the increased work that is pressing on these younger men. You may be doing everything possible to help those in the upper segment, but these young officers in the land division are doing a sort of technical work, and I submit, Sir, that they deserve more generous treatment from the Minister.

Now, Sir, I cannot end my short speech without making reference to the membership of the L.E.D.B. It must be admitted that the Minister has the responsibility for appointing members of the L.E.D.B. and he is entitled to take advice from any person. The recent appointment made by the Minister has invoked public criticism. We, therefore, expect that the Minister would not lower the standard of the Board membership by appointing... (*Interruption*). I think I am entitled to tell the Minister that the standard is so high and it should not be lowered by appointing men with no visible mean of livelihood. That is even small. We would expect the Minister to be more selective in appointing the members, and he should avoid making such appointment as would lead to the breaking of the matrimonial home, no matter who gave him the advice. Having said that, Sir, I support the provision for the Minister.

Mr F. U. Mbakogu (Awka South): Mr Chairman, Sir, I would like to refer to the points raised by the last speaker, hon. Dosunmu Member for Lagos Central. He mentioned increase in rate of 2s. (*Interruption*).

The Chairman: Order, order. We cannot possibly do business with all this noise going on.

Mr Mbakogu: I was saying that Mr Dosunmu mentioned increase in rate of 2s. I only sympathise with him. He would have asked the Government to see that their rate is not shifted to the ordinary tenants living in Lagos. The Minister should have been told to see that the increase in rate does not go to the ordinary tenant in Lagos. That is a very good point, but to say that the rate should not be increased is a bad policy because some of us, at least people of my type, have seen that the Lagos people are getting many things for nothing, and the people in the rural areas and in the regions are forgotten.

People in Lagos pay tax of 18s-0d. A person earning about £50 or £100 pays about 18s-0d while his counterpart in the region pays at

least £1-17s-6d. In the Western Region it used to be about £5, but now with the revision brought in by Chief Akintola it is now reduced, if it is so, to £1-17s-6d at least.

Now, I can support the move made by the Lagos Town Council, and I would like the Minister in charge of Lagos Affairs not to mind the point made by the last speaker, Mr Dosunmu.

Now, Sir, about appointment of members to the L.E.D.B. I was surprised that the hon. Member for Lagos asked the Minister in charge Lagos Affairs not to give work to efficient people who have no means of livelihood. I think that is a bad economic policy. We should give anybody who is efficient, who has not got a job and who knows the work attached to the L.E.D.B., work to do. I do not see the reason why we should refuse to give them work.

Again, the speaker has spoken about a substantial sum of money provided for the improvement of social services in Lagos. Well, I wish to ask the Government to advise the council to see that services provided by this grant are carried to every nook and corner in the town. But there are some very bad streets in Lagos, and I do not quarrel with the efficiency of Lagos Town Council and I am not saying that the council is not doing its best. It may be that the streets they are serving are so many, but they should try at least to reach many corners of the town.

Now, I will refer to the Land Division of the Ministry. Many Members here have in the past spoken about allocation of plots at Ikoyi for people. Members have said that Ikoyi is a preserve for expatriates and aliens. Well, I should ask the Government to change this policy and make it more reserved for Nigerians. I think Nigerians should be given the opportunities of having plots at Ikoyi. Attention is being paid most to aliens and expatriates around prominent places and around Victoria Island. Perhaps they may start tomorrow to build military bases there. These important places are not places to be given to aliens and expatriates to build, otherwise we may rise up one day to find that things are not good for us in our own country. I think Nigerians should be given preference over aliens or expatriates in very conspicuous areas around Lagos. The Government has a policy of giving land to Civil

Servants or even granting them some money to buy land to build houses where they would live. The same thing should be extended to Members of the House.

I know Lagos is not my permanent home but I want it to be. I have been in this town for the last five years and I will be here for the next five years and I will continue to be here for another five years after (*Interruption*). I want land to build a house in Lagos. Most of my family is here in Lagos and I feel that many Members hold the same view as I. They should be given preference over others to build houses in Lagos. At Ikoyi Members pay 11s-6d per day. If they are given plots they could build their own houses and when they come to Lagos they will live in these houses and enjoy themselves.

We do not get enough allowances though people talk and make politics out of the allowances paid to us. We should read about other Houses of Parliament and see what Housing Allowances they get. Members of the Ghana Legislature have £240 a year as Housing Allowance. We come here from very far places with our families and sometimes we cannot bring our families because there is no accommodation. We come here to pay 11s-6d a day. Add this up and see what the total will be for one month. And a person like Chief Enahoro, who does not attend this House more than ten times a month, will want us to be here for a whole year. (*Interruption*). I am appealing to the Minister in charge of Lagos to see that the land allocation policy is approached with caution so that much preference is not given to aliens. We may not see the danger in it now but when we become independent we will see that we have done a lot against the interest of the nation.

Sir, I beg to support.

Mr A. O. Ogunsanya (Ikeja): I rise to reply to what the hon. Dosunmu has said about the activities of the Lagos Town Council. He has tried to deceive this hon. House (*Interruption*). The hon. Dosunmu made a number of points which will be expected from any one who was a Front Bencher among the *Ba ko dayas*.

Reference was made to the Imrie Report. Surely the hon. Gentleman was for six or seven years a member of the Lagos Town Council. He knows very well that at the Constitutional Conference of 1957, certain decisions were taken to increase the functions of the Lagos Town Council. These functions are just being provided for now in the current Estimates. This is principally that the Lagos Town Council has taken over the running of Primary and some Secondary schools. This is being provided for now by the Minister of Lagos Affairs and it does not matter what any one says we who are the elected Members for the city in the Lagos Town Council have the utmost confidence in the Minister for Lagos Affairs. The Minister is God-sent to us. He is sympathetic, a father, and he is dynamic and has in him all the qualities of an able Minister.

When a learned friend and an hon. Member like Mr Dosunmu comes to this House and deliberately tries to twist facts one must take it with the utmost seriousness. The hon. Gentleman knows about the Imrie Report. As a matter of fact I sat on the Committee which considered the implications of the Imrie Report along with the hon. Gentleman and he knows very well that the Minister of Lagos Affairs is providing the Lagos Town Council with the money to carry out the recommendations of the Report. I dare the hon. Gentleman to say that the Minister is giving too much money to help in the Local Government work in the municipality of Lagos. Dare he say that? On the other hand, the hon. Gentleman is a poor bird with drooping wings. As his party lost the election on the 29th October as a prelude to the loss of 12th December (*Interruption*) the hon. Gentleman has still not recovered.

Last year his party was in power at the L.T.C. and it had been there for seven years without doing anything for the people of Lagos and they were rejected for their bad work. The result was that when we took over there was a lot of mess. The hon. Gentleman's party was even using some of our senior officials to stultify the L.T.C. run by the N.C.N.C.

Regarding the imposition of 2s-0d about which a lot has been said by the Action Group, I want to remind them that last year they tried to impose an Education levy of 2s-0d on all adult males and females in this municipality

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and would have done but for the Minister, the hon. Ribadu, who saved the people of Lagos from paying this ruthless taxation intended by the Action Group. (*Interruption*). When the Minister refused they went and withdrew all the reserve of the Lagos Town Council and with all the reserve spent there was no money to do anything and we came out quite boldly. The hon. Gentleman had some of his seniors in his party in there. When they met real intelligence in the Chairman of the Lagos Town Council, they were surprised. They kept quiet and they could not even vote against the proposals of the Lagos Town Council.

Now, the hon. Gentleman has made some irresponsible insinuations about appointments to Boards. I would like the hon. Gentleman to remember that up to two years ago, members of a particular political party except one were the only members of the L.E.D.B. The hon. Gentleman himself was a member and he had to run out by force (*Interruption*) when certain other people who belonged to the other set had been taken away by the hon. Gentleman's party to represent certain appointments abroad.

It is unfair for any one to come to the Floor of this House and use it to talk about something in their matrimonial homes. That is a thing for outside.

Something has been said about the *Iga Idunganran* and the Action Group has a very bad record about this. I would like to remind you that any propaganda will not work with the people of Lagos. Our Minister thought it fit to improve the position of the *Iga Idunganran*. If the hon. Gentleman had been a royal Dosunmu—(*Loud Interruptions*). I was one of those who sat on the Committee and the only Action Group Member, because of his hatred for the Oba of Lagos did not turn up, and the Action Group has voted against the rebuilding of the *Iga Idunganran* in the L.T.C. and they have brought the battle here. In spite of that we have been able to get plenty of help in improving the position of the *Iga Idunganran*. We stand by the Oba of Lagos. (*Hear, hear*).

Anyone who is not happy at the fact that the Oba of Lagos has been made Deputy President in the highest Committee of the Council of Leaders in this country should

quit Lagos. (*Hear, hear*.) The hon. Gentleman's party has a very bad record. When we come to this question of money voted to improve the *Iga Idunganran* they need not talk about dishonesty. The hon. Members were shouting when hon. Dosunmu was talking. Tell us something about the bus service. Tell us something about the bus deal. They will not tell you. What happened in the taking over of the Municipal Transport? How much? (*Several hon. Members : Tell us.*)

I want to add to this fact that the hon. Minister will help all of us by making a programme for the taking over of land outside the present Municipality of Lagos. It is the earnest hope of all of us and those of us who believe in the pre-eminence of Lagos know that within the next few months Lagos will be extended. (*Hear, hear*). We beg the hon. Minister to begin to think now of the money which was made available to reclaim certain land around Ajegunle, Mushin, and Ikorodu which will soon become part of the Municipality of Lagos. (*Hear, hear*).

I do hope that all of us, no matter what the Action Group may say will agree with me that we have the utmost confidence in the Ministry and the Minister of Lagos Affairs.

The Minister of Lagos Affairs (Alhaji the hon. Muhammadu Ribadu): Mr Chairman, Sir, after listening to my hon. Friend, Mr Ogunsanya, I have very little to add, for he has practically answered all the points raised by my hon. Friend Mr Dosunmu. But there is one thing I would like to say, and this concerns the question of increase of rates. I do not want Members to bring politics into it at all. The collection of rates is the biggest source of revenue to the Town Council and we all know that a Council, like any other local authority or like any other government for that matter, has its responsibilities towards its people.

The Council has a responsibility for the welfare of the people of Lagos. The only way they can meet all these commitments is by taxing the people. That is the practice all over the world. If people demand more services then they will have to pay for them. You come here and you sit down there and

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you say the streets in Lagos are appalling, and that Lagos is a stinking town, and then you say the labourers of the Town Council are underpaid, and then you turn round and say: "Do not increase rates". This is nonsensical talk. (*Hear, hear*).

Since last year there has been a need for increased rates and my hon. Friend, Mr Ogunsanya, said it. It was the old Council who wanted to do it in a different way, but I advised against it because it was wrong to adopt that attitude. But this Council has now agreed to increase rates. Why? Because the services in Lagos are growing bigger and bigger and faster and faster. Mr Dosunmu himself said that this Council has only been in existence for not more than six months, so whatever shortcomings he outlined in his speech a minute ago must be attributed to the old Council and not to the new Council. In this context he has himself to blame because he was part and parcel of that Council for at least seven years.

One thing I would like to inform the House. Every sensible man in this House can see that in the short period of time of which this Council has been in office things have begun to take shape. (*Hear, hear*). I said sensible people. People who can read, people who can see will see these things, but those who pretend not to see, no matter how much I speak, they will not see. (*Hear, hear*).

The question of the *Iga Idunganran* has been well answered by my hon. Friend, Mr Ogunsanya. Mr Dosunmu asked me to extend my generosity to all White Cap Chiefs or Traditional Chiefs, but that is not possible. We have to have only one Oba in Lagos and that institution must be respected by everybody. If we are going to build palaces for everybody, for every traditional chief in Lagos, then it will be very difficult for us to draw the line.

Mr Dosunmu has also mentioned the question of colossal sums of money being granted by the Federal Government to the Lagos Town Council. I would like to say that this money is not in any way excessive. As a result of long outstanding disputes between the Town Council and the Federal Government,

we asked Sir John Imrie to come here to advise. He came here and gave us his advice, and the money voted in the Estimates for the Town Council is there right now.

Another matter which I would also to mention is the membership of the L.E.D.B. The members I have already appointed on the Board were carefully selected and they are people whom I have confidence in, and they are people who can serve with the interest of the nation at heart. I doubt if there is any member who served on the Board before (including Mr Dosunmu) who may claim to have better means than any of those who have been appointed to the Board recently.

The hon. Mbakogu also referred to the question of allocation of plots in South East Ikoyi. I think he was not well informed. Well, plots have been allocated to Nigerians, but after plots have been developed I wonder if the people (who would live there) would be Nigerians or white expatriates... (*Interruption*). But the original plot had been allocated to Nigerians, and who live there on the land is not my concern! (*Interruption*).

Before I take my seat I would like to thank my hon. Friend, Mr Ogunsanya, very much, and I am going to appeal to the House that it is the responsibility of the House to give me their full co-operation so that we can make Lagos a Capital worthy of Nigeria. If you want to make Lagos like the other Capital cities we see in the world it is absolutely necessary we spend so much money in Lagos. So this is not the only time I shall come to you. I will come again, and I will continue to come again to ask for more money in order to develop Lagos.

£838,180 for Head 42—Ministry of Lagos Affairs—agreed to.

Mr Chairman : Before I sit down I would just point out to the Committee that it is a slight hardship on myself remaining here three hours without a break, but in view of the desire to get progress with the business of the Committee we shall not have a break now. I would just leave one other thought before the Committee that there are many Members who wish to speak on the adjournment to-day. The debate on the Adjournment is debatable, although Members desire to

get away from this House earlier than might be the case. By sitting on Adjournment subject from three to a quarter to four we should make good progress with the Adjournment or even finish with the Business to-day. I leave that thought in the minds of the Committee.

HEAD 43—MINISTRY OF MINES AND POWER

Question proposed, That £468,410 for Head 43—Ministry of Mines and Power—stand part of the Schedule.

Mr G. O. D. Eneh (Abaja and Ngwo): Mr Chairman, Sir, I would like to refer this House to the policy of the Ministry of Mines and Power with regard to the coal miners at Enugu. The situation at the Enugu Collieries is most deplorable. Last year about 2,900 workers were retrenched by this Government, and these people had worked under the Government Collieries from 1915 to 1950. As a result of this, their retiring benefits are to be paid partly by the Federal Government and partly by the Coal Corporation.

Under the Ordinance establishing the Coal industry in 1950 the Coal Corporation is bound to pay benefits to miners with effect from the 1st of April, 1950. My first point is to ask the Minister of Mines and Power what is responsible for the delay in the payment of the retiring benefits to the coal miners who were retrenched last year.

After the intervention of the Premier of the East, and the co-operation of the Prime Minister, as well as the Minister of Mines and Power, an assurance was given to the Eastern Region workers of the coal mines that there would not be any further retrenchment. But unfortunately from a recent Report, which has not been published and which we understand is being examined by the Government there is the recommendation that about 1,700 workers be further retrenched. I am appealing to the Federal Government not to retrench the miners.

We want to find out where to sell our coal. Formerly the Ghana Government were buying their coal from South Africa, but because of recent events we understand that the Ghana Government is to buy coal from Nigeria. Also

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there is a proposal by both the Eastern Government and by the Federal Government to look for avenues through which coal can be sold. I have in mind such places as Japan to which the Eastern Government decided to send a delegation to ask Japan to buy coal from Nigeria instead of from the States.

I am telling the Government not to disband these workers until we have actually examined the possibility of selling our coal to Japan and the possibility of selling our coal to Ghana. Also, we are given the assurance that this Government is proposing an Iron and Steel Industry. Well, what are you going to use for that work? We are going to use coal!

What is the necessity of retrenching these workers when the Government has about three projects: the Iron and Steel Industry, the Ghana Market, and the Japanese Market. I do not see any reason for retrenching these workers. I think that the Government's decision should be changed otherwise there will be great trouble in the Eastern Region if these people are retrenched. I want to say that out of 8,000 people who are working at the mines, 3,000 have gone and 2,000 are about to be sacked. Government should give these people security in their jobs.

Finally, Sir, I hope the Government will stop this retrenchment and allow the workers to work and subsidise the coal industry for that matter.

Mr M. Okilo (Brass): Mr Chairman, Sir, this is just one of the Ministries I am greatly concerned with because I happen to come from Oloibiri, the first oil-field in this country where the Shell-BP has been prospecting for oil in the past few years. Unfortunately, it has been observed that the Federal Government is only interested in the royalties from these areas and I feel the Government should also be interested in the welfare of the poor inhabitants of the land from which the Company prospects for the royalties.

The farms, the economic trees, the crops and villages of these poor inhabitants are being destroyed by this Company. In a division such as Brass where land is as valuable as a rare piece of museum specimen, where land is as valuable as a piece of gold, these people's pieces of land are being taken away from them by this prospecting Company

I would also like to congratulate the Minister on starting a Hydro-carbon Section. Oil is going to be a very important item, I hope, in the future in the revenue of this country, and we therefore cannot afford to treat oil with any

Mines except Ekulu which is a very new mine. 1,700 miners will be retrenched not because Government likes to retrench these miners but because we just cannot help it. What they will do after that is of course what the G-

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and as a result they have no lands to farm on. Despite the fact that these lands are being taken away from them, their farm crops are being destroyed, the economic trees are being cut down with little or no prospect of replacing them, and little or no compensation is being paid to these people.

Now, Sir, what happened at Oloibiri is this. Unfortunately, my father happens to have a land there. An acre of land taken away by this Company he gets—five shillings to ten shillings per acre of land for a year while the Federal Government receives £200,000 for the oil that has been mined in that land. After giving five to ten shillings to these people, nothing again is done. When these people refuse what they are paid, the Company agents go round them and intimidate and compel them to accept values which are in fact, unreasonable. They intimidate them with the threat that by imposition of the Compulsory Land Acquisition Ordinance, they are not entitled to anything; that they are only entitled to whatever the Company agrees to give to them.

These things are being imposed on them not only by the officers of the Company but also by the help of the District Officers who, unfortunately, are Nigerians themselves. These District Officers and most of the officers who go to evaluate these lands are not Valuation Officers who, when evaluating these lands and crops should have regard to the latest prices of market values of these special areas. One or two pounds are paid to the owners of the farms. Economic trees and palm trees destroyed a shilling or two is given for each palm tree destroyed. And now, these poor people are being cheated and exploited by these foreigners who come to this country for oil search, and yet the Federal Government appears unconcerned. These people get nothing practically for their property and the Federal Government is not considerate enough purely for moral reasons to consider these people.

Morally, these people should be considered, at least by the Federal Government to whom £200,000 or half a million pounds has been dished out by this Company. Is it not morally right for the Federal Government to consider giving some one per cent or two per cent of this amount to the inhabitants of these areas

or to the local district councils in the areas? It is definitely against the moral principle of natural justice. The Federal Government should not only interest itself in the royalties but should also interest itself with the welfare of the poor Nigerians who are being exploited by these foreign firms.

I am, therefore, appealing that the Federal Government's Valuation Officers be consulted when crops, farms and other property are being destroyed. They are the only qualified men to give the actual value of land crops. These poor people should not be left at the mercy of these foreigners and these District Officers who are only there to exploit the poor natives.

As I have mentioned time and again, this matter must not be left as it is now. It has been mentioned again that this company has given out about half a million pounds to the Federal Government because oil is being mined from certain areas in this country. I think I will mention again that these people are being cheated; they have not been fully compensated for the losses they are sustaining. The Federal Government does not know about this; they are too domestic perhaps for them to know. The Federal Government has not gone into the matter.

Mr B. Ukaegbu (Owerri South): Point of Order, Sir. I think the hon. Member has made his point and it is unnecessary for him to keep on repeating himself.

The Chairman: It is the will of the House that speeches should not be too long.

Mr Okilo: I am very grateful, Sir. All I am trying to say is that the Federal Government in their contracts and agreements with these prospecting firms in the country should not only be interested in the royalties they receive but should also provide or make some provisions to protect the interests of these indigenous landowners wherever these companies are going to prospect for oil. Valuation officers should be sent or consulted with regarding the valuation or the assessment of the amount of compensation which has to be paid to the owners of these lands.

With these few remarks, I beg to support.

[MINISTER OF MINES AND POWER]

the representatives of the miners. At the present moment the Management and Chairman of the Nigerian Coal Corporation, as well as the General Manager of the Corporation, are holding consultations with the representatives of the Mine Workers Union about this retrenchment.

Now, Sir, this crisis that is facing the coal industry in Nigeria is not—I am glad it has been mentioned by the hon. Chief Ayo Rosiji—confined to Nigeria. The only thing that we can do in order to save our coal industry or in order to make it economically viable is to find other uses of coal, and that is what we are now doing. Let us set up industries.

I entirely agree with the suggestion made by another hon. Member that we should look for markets. To this effect, hon. Members are already aware—and if you have been reading your newspapers you may have read something about that—that I have been in constant consultation with the Japanese Consul here in Lagos and we have been exploring the possibility of trying to get the people in Japan to import at least a quarter of a million tons of our Nigerian coal. I have said that trade is reciprocal. If Japan can send goods to Nigeria worth about £19 million a year, certainly they should be prepared to accept something from us, and their import of our coal at this time when there is crisis facing our coal industry would be an excellent gesture and I believe I will continue to press the Japanese Consul to press upon his countrymen that it is absolutely important that they import our Nigerian Coal to Japan. (*Applause*).

And then, of course, there is the question of oil. I want to seize this opportunity, because I always come to the House with some piece of good news; I want to seize this opportunity again to say that since I last made my speech during the Second Reading of the Appropriation Bill another £1,000,000 has come into the coffers of the Government. (*Applause*). That is, an oil company—a new one—has taken two concessions and the premium paid is £500,000 for each concession. That oil company has taken two concessions which are worth £1,000,000. (*Hear, hear*).

Now, because of the importance of oil—and I am sure that Nigeria is a potentially rich country in oil, and regardless of whatever

amount of oil is being mined elsewhere—I am sure that there will be a market for our oil and there will continue to be market for our Nigerian oil. Now, that is why the Government must engage its mind on getting the experts, the people that know something about the production of oil, and to this effect we are doing everything possible. I am glad that the hon. Chief Ayo Rosiji has seen that and has pointed it out. But much as I would like to get experts I would also like to see that our Nigerians are given the necessary training right from the very beginning so that our own people know the production and are directly concerned with matters affecting this all-important industry in our own country.

Sir, I think the question of Bauchi electricity has got top priority. For your information, the new Railway line that is being extended to Maiduguri will reach Bauchi about the middle of this year. It is only good, it is only economically sensible that having extended this railway line to Bauchi we should supply them with electricity. There is no politics in this case; it is just normal economics. Any elementary students of economics... (*Interruptions*). Unfortunately you are not! (*Interruption*).

Chief Ayo Rosiji (Egba East): I want the hon. Minister to tell me if the railway requires electric light to see its way on the line. (*Interruptions*). At least Bauchi is a village.

The Prime Minister (Alhaji the hon. Sir Abubakar Tafawa Balewa): Mr Chairman, Sir, I protest. (*Laughter*).

The Minister of Mines and Power: Mr Chairman, a big town like Bauchi—at least a bigger town than Ikenne—should be supplied with electricity and I want to say also that it is the policy of the Electricity Corporation to try to supply these big towns in consultation with the Regional Governments. Where a Regional Government feels that there should be an electricity supply in any town, they come into an agreement with the Electricity Corporation and they lend the money to the Corporation and we give the supply. But I can assure the hon. Members that if they could really wait (*Interruptions*)... If we can get this Hydro-electric plant built on the Niger it will answer all these problems and, as I said in an answer to a Supplementary Question at one time—if we can get this multi-purpose dam on the Niger

built, electricity would be supplied to almost every nook and corner of Nigeria subject to funds being available by the grace of God.

Mr E. J. Ogunkanmi (Oshun South East) : Mr Chairman, I am very grateful to you for giving me this opportunity for I have been waiting to speak for some time. In supporting this Head, I must first of all remind the Minister of Mines and Power that many areas are neglected especially in Oshun Division.

An hon Member : What town ?

Mr Ogunkanmi : I am going to mention it. The Minister of Mines and Power some time ago was cracking a joke with me. He said that he was going to electrify me. I am asking him that he should not electrify me but should electrify my area.

A lot of services are being hindered in my area because the people are not supplied with electricity. There are secondary schools in my area, like Gbongan and Aiyebade where science must be taught, but in the absence of electricity these subjects have been omitted.

An hon. Member : Go and complain to the Western Government.

Mr Ogunkanmi : I should ask the Minister of Mines and Power here. There are certain people in my area who could manage to establish factories, but in the absence of electricity these businessmen have to leave the place for Ibadan and other places like Oshogbo where they have the supply of electricity.

I must say something about the retrenched miners and to remind the Minister that if some mines are closed and if he is going to organise iron factories in Nigeria, would this be a licence to re-employ these retrenched miners—1,700 of them? If he can give us an assurance to this, then, perhaps the retrenched miners hanging on at the railways at the moment, (the extension of the railway) would be able to convince themselves that when these factories are organised in Nigeria, they would be re-employed.

The retrenchment of miners is causing a great trouble to the whole of the Federation at the moment. A hungry man is an angry man. If these people are not re-employed, theft and highway robbery will continue to abound in the areas where they have been retrenched.

In Gbongan and Ikire, for instance, these towns are big enough to have electricity supplied to them. We have been agitating through this House years and years ago, but deaf ears have been given to them. In this respect I am asking the Minister of Mines and Power to put these three towns on the list—Gbongan, Ode-omu and Ikire in Oshun Division.

Electricity is an important amenity to us. We need it and we can pay for it. If you supply it to us we can pay for it. We have the money to pay except you do not want to supply it to us.

I must mention something about dispensaries where drugs are kept; some drugs are meant to be kept in refrigerators and this cannot be done in my area since we have not got electricity supply. As soon as we are supplied with electricity, we should be able to help the Minister of Health in that death from diseases in my area would be minimised.

I must remind the Minister once again of the practice at the E.C.N. where they send out bills every month in duplicate; sometimes the people there are lazy or, perhaps, short staffed, but if the Minister will look into this, the whole masses using electricity would be happy.

With these few remarks, I beg to support.

Mr R. O. A. Akinjide (Ibadan South East) : Mr Chairman, Sir, I want to make one point in respect of these petroleum companies who are given different concessions for oil in this country. There is one very important aspect of these companies which I would like the Minister to take into account, and that is, the account of these companies. That is very, very important.

Why I say this is that I have in mind what happened in respect of Persia. We all remember the crisis which arose between the Persian Government and the Anglo-Iranian Oil Company. A book has been written on this matter and called—*Crisis in the Middle East* by Guy Wint and I should be very grateful if the Minister could find this book and read it. It is very, very informative.

Now, what happened was that the oil company was just bungling with its account. It was selling at a tremendous discount to the British Navy, it was selling at more than 50 per cent discount to the British Forces without the

[MR AKINJIDE]

knowledge or consent of the Persian Government. When the Foreign Minister and the Prime Minister of Persia discovered these discrepancies they grew furious and there was trouble which led eventually to the cancellation of the contracts and all the concessions given to this oil company, and the crisis arose.

I would strongly suggest to the Minister in charge of this particular Ministry to do something about how the accounts of this oil companies should be checked and examined.

I am not saying that the present companies are dishonest, I am not saying that they are going to defraud our revenue, but the fact remains that you cannot trust them too much. We should follow the example of Persia.

With these, Mr Chairman, I beg to support.

Mr I. O. Chikelu (Udi Central): Mr Chairman, Sir, I want to say that the people of my constituency and the people of Udi generally are very, very generous to the Ministry of Mines and Power. I say they are generous because a piece of land, 30 feet wide and 30 miles in length has been given free for the purpose of wiring which passes from Oji Power Station to Enugu. Many houses have been demolished on this land and very little compensation taken from the E.C.N.

Another strip of land more than 20 feet wide and 18 miles long from Oji to Enugu for an aerial road-way has been taken up from the people.

In the principle of give and take, I expect that the Federal Government should realize that the people who have given their property up—their land, houses and useful trees—should be given something in the way of electricity supply.

I also hope, as the Minister of Mines and Power has told us here, that immediate steps would be taken in respect of the Steel Industry and the re-employment of the miners who have been displaced from the coal mines. If these are done, that is, the Minister considers giving electric light to the people and finding alternative employment to the miners, the people would be happy and would feel contented even though they have made sacrifices to this important Ministry.

With these few points, Mr Chairman, I support.

Mr A. E. Efiang-Spatts (Calabar): Mr Chairman, Sir, in speaking on this head of the estimates, I have to draw the attention of the Minister to the fact that for over 25 years Calabar—an important town like Calabar—has been going on with about 25 blind lights.

I know that there were to be industrial projects for the manufacture of matches and soap at Calabar, but the project was put off because there was no electricity supply in the areas where the work was to be set up; and so such an important project which could have given jobs to many and thus contribute to the economic progress of the country, failed.

I learn also that there was a plan to generate electricity from the Qua Falls—and I can assure the Minister that the Qua Falls is very similar to the Canadian Falls which I saw with my own eyes and I feel sure that this Qua Falls project, if carried through, could supply electricity to the whole of old Calabar Province and part of Ogoja and other towns around this area.

Pertaining to the question of coal, nearly everybody had been saying that coal could only be used for steel industry but I would say this, that synthetic paints could be extracted from coal, and so many other products. I very well remember that after the 1914 war when the Germans were deprived of all natural resources, they resorted to manufacturing almost everything they had in the form of paints, slates, plates tiles, and so on from coal and I would advise and advocate that the Minister concerned should appeal or send a delegation to Germany to study, not merely as gleaners but as people actually getting the copyrights of the industry so that Nigeria should be industrialised and the coal miners would be restored work and there would be sufficient industry.

When we talk of expatriates going away from our Civil Service, then we talk of industrialisation when there are no industrial chemists. It all boils down to the fact that there must still remain expatriates in Nigeria. We need all the experts to come and give us the technical and industrial knowledge of the whole of what we want so that Nigerians should be neither gleaners nor quack industrialists themselves, if we fail, independence will mean just political independence whilst economic and industrial control will still remain in the hands of the expatriates. And as such I am asking that from coal other industries should be established.

I am asking also that my Constituency be given sufficient light and also other main towns in Nigeria. With these few remarks, I beg to support.

Whereupon the Minister of Education rose in his place and claimed to move, That the Question be now put.

The Chairman : Before I put that Question, I would remind the Committee that it is in their power to continue to sit to-day if they wish. If they wish to get through the business and enable Members to attend to some other affairs, they can.

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

Question, That £468,410 for Head 43—Ministry of Mines and Power—stand part of the Schedule, put accordingly and agreed to.

HEAD 44—MINISTRY OF INFORMATION

Question proposed, That £1,526,160 for Head 44—Ministry of Information—stand part of the Schedule.

Minister of Information (Hon. T. O. S. Benson): Mr Chairman, Sir, before they start the fireworks, I think it is necessary that I should say a few words concerning the Ministry of Information which has a most important role to play in this year of independence and after we have achieved our freedom. It is my intention to make the fullest possible use of all the media at my command to make known throughout Nigeria the activities of the Federal Government and to give the greatest possible measure of publicity to the Federation overseas.

The whole basis of our planning is to project Nigeria in the most efficient and the most effective manner possible, and, with the co-operation of my Colleagues in the Council of Ministers and the support of our dynamic Minister of Finance, who controls the purse-strings, I intend to see to it that Nigeria is brought powerfully and purposefully to the attention of peoples throughout the world.

The Nigerian Broadcasting Corporation is often criticised in this House and there have been allegations of bias. We all know that it is impossible to please all the people all the time, and an organisation such as the N.B.C. is

always liable to criticism, but I wish to assure the House that it is my endeavour, and that of the Board of the Corporation, and of the Director-General to do everything possible to ensure independence and impartiality at all times. It is pleasing to me to know that the Corporation's impartiality and objectivity in the broadcasting of news and political matter both before and during the general election, has been praised from high sources within each of the major political parties.

The N.B.C. claims, I think rightly, that within the finances made available, it has done and is continuing to do all that is humanly possible to carry out its duties of reflecting the National, Regional and Provincial cultures, and has provided programmes of information and entertainment with the general approval of all levels of the community. On the operational side, a high level of efficiency has been achieved and with the improvements which continue to be made, there is no doubt that before independence, the Corporation will have reached the highest international standard. Its administration compares favourably with that of any other public corporation in this country, and we believe that the creative staff it has collected surpasses those of any other indigenous broadcasting system in Africa.

In the light of some of the complaints made during the present session of the House, and particularly, allegations of bias against the News Division of the N.B.C., I have held discussions with the Chairman and the Director-General. They have given me an assurance that if specific complaints are sent to them, they are immediately investigated and the result of the investigation is communicated to the complainant.

I can assure the House that the Board of the N.B.C. is as concerned as I am when allegations of this sort are made, and I wish to make it clear that, if any Member has a specific complaint to make, if he will communicate it either to my Ministry or direct to the N.B.C., the complaint will be investigated.

Reference has also been made to the new system now used by the N.B.C. in compiling its news bulletins, and it has been suggested that too much emphasis is laid on foreign news and too little on Nigerian news. I think it is true to say that since the N.B.C. introduced the new system at the beginning of this year, the

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foreign news content of the bulletins has contributed to a greater knowledge of external affairs among the listening public. However, this new system of presenting the news is an experiment which is constantly under review and further changes may be made in the light of the experience gained and opinions expressed by the public.

Through the vigilance of the Board and its energetic and imaginative training policies, the Corporation's record of Nigerianisation is second to none among the public Corporations. I am glad to say that this position has been reached without the sacrifice of technical or professional standards. I have examined closely the Nigerianisation policy of the Corporation and I am satisfied that it is progressive and sound and that within a comparatively short time many of the senior posts will be filled, and filled creditably, by Nigerians. Taken all in all, I consider the Corporation's record is a good one and that it merits the support and encouragement of this House.

I think I should, at this stage, make reference to a false impression created in this House by the hon. Member for Ilesha Rural when he spoke on April 5 on the Private Member's Motion concerning South Africa. The hon. Akinyemi stated that the Chief Engineer of the Nigerian Broadcasting Corporation, Mr J. Murray, is a South African. This is completely untrue. Mr Murray hails from Scotland. He is not a South African. In view of the very strong feelings aroused by recent events in the Union, I think it is unfortunate that a Member of this House should make such an allegation without first checking his facts. I repeat that the officer concerned is not a South African.

The activities of the Nigerian Broadcasting Corporation in Nigeria are very widespread, but I do not think the scope of these activities is fully appreciated by the public or by Members of this House.

Everyone is aware of course of the National Studios in Lagos and the stations in the three Regional Headquarters, but in addition to these, the Corporation operates a large number of provincial broadcasting stations, each with local medium-wave transmitters, small studio and recording facilities. Nine of these are already in operation at Warri, Onitsha, Calabar, Port Harcourt, Ilorin, Kano, Maiduguri, Sokoto and Zaria; three more at Ijebu-Ode,

Katsina and Jos should be completed by the end of May, followed soon after that date by similar facilities at Abeokuta. The Corporation also provide a Rediffusion Box system in Ilorin and provides a feed for programmes to the Rediffusion Services in all Regions. I am now giving active consideration to the preparation of an orderly plan of further development covering several years.

Commercial Broadcasting which was approved by the previous House, will be brought into operation as soon as possible. I am also examining the possibility of introducing external broadcasting with a powerful transmitter in Lagos which will be heard all over Africa and in many other countries. (*Applause*). Television on a nation-wide basis is also receiving the full consideration of the Government and progress has been made in discussions concerning the introduction of schools' broadcasts. (*Applause*).

In the Ministry itself and in the Divisions of the Ministry the Nigerianisation policy is being pursued with all vigour, and in the course of this financial year additional Nigerians will be appointed to many of the senior posts. As an example, in the Ministry itself, which includes what was formerly known as the Federal Information Service, there are at present only eight expatriate officers, and by this time next year there will be only five, and perhaps fewer than five. The five information posts overseas, comprising four in London and one in Washington, are all filled by Nigerians.

I admit that Nigerianisation has been slow in the Federal Film Unit, but this has been, in great measure, due to delays in the completion of the Firm Laboratory and Studio block, the difficulties of recruiting and the difficulties of finding suitable training schemes. This matter was recently discussed in great detail with the Nigerianisation Officer and as a result of those discussions it is my belief that the situation will very shortly be much improved. Similarly in the Printing Division an imaginative training scheme will greatly improve the situation.

The Federal Government Printer has for long enough been working under extremely difficult and cramped conditions in the present accommodation in Broad Street, but the high quality of the work produced is apparent in the publications seen by the Members of the House.

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In particular, I would like to refer to the very excellent work done in the production of the daily Hansard. New premises for the Federal Government Printer are now in course of erection at Apapa and it is hoped that these premises might be ready for occupation towards the end of this year. The Federal Government Printer will then be in a position to undertake a greater volume of work, and work of a much higher standard, including colour printing, a field in which Nigeria has for too long been forced to rely upon oversea printing facilities. (*Hear, hear*).

The Ministry of Information will be heavily committed in connection with the Independence Celebrations, and in particular, the Nigerian Broadcasting Corporation, the Information and Printing Divisions, are all making special plans for Independence programmes and publications. In respect of publications, the Information Division is working in close collaboration with the Independence Planning Committee, and work is now proceeding on more than two dozen special publications, all of which will be completed before the 1st October.

The contents of the principal publication, which is a brief history of Nigeria, will be most lavishly illustrated, with at least half of the illustrations in full colour. The contents of this publication have been agreed in consultation with the Regional Governments.

The Regional Governments have also been consulted concerning the contents of another major publication "Nigeria in Pictures". It is intended that the brief history of Nigeria shall have an initial print run of half a million copies. These will be placed on sale both in Nigeria and overseas, and a fairly large number will be made available to school children in Nigeria at a subsidised price. *Nigeria Magazine* will also produce a special issue for Independence to which contributions will be made by a number of eminent Nigerian writers.

The Federal Film Unit is now engaged in producing a special pre-Independence film in colour. Here again, consultations have taken place with all the Regional Governments and the shooting script has been based upon the suggestions made in those discussions. This film will be ready for distribution two or three

months before Independence. It will, of course, have a wide distribution outside Nigeria, and will serve to give publicity to Nigeria's emergence as a free and sovereign State. (*Applause*).

My Ministry is, of course, in close and constant touch with the Press of Nigeria, and I wish to make it clear that it is my earnest desire to co-operate with the Press and to give all the help I can in building up sound and responsible organs of public opinion which will be a credit to an independent Nigeria. (*Applause*).

Much is heard from time to time about the freedom of the Press, and I think it is necessary to re-state that the Press of Nigeria is as free as it is in any other part of the world, and indeed, a good deal more free than it is in some countries (*Interruptions*). The Federal Government is anxious to do all it can to enable the Press representatives of this country to get at the facts, and in pursuance of this policy, the Honourable the Prime Minister now holds a monthly informal meeting with senior Press representatives of Nigeria, at which they are permitted to ask him any question on any subject. Two such meetings have so far been held at which there have been very frank discussions, and I am sure I am right in saying that the Press representatives themselves are highly appreciative of this new procedure. I wish to emphasize again that the Government does not object to criticism, it merely asks that newspapers should endeavour to make their criticism constructive.

Finally, may I say I am fully aware of the importance and value to Nigeria of good publicity, and especially of good publicity overseas, and it is my intention to see to it that Nigeria is adequately and efficiently served in this direction. (*Applause*).

Chief Ayo Rosiji (Egba East) : Mr Chairman Sir, I am very pleased to see from the Estimates that the Minister of Information has the full complement in the Film Unit, and I must also congratulate the Ministry on the production so far that has been made by this Unit. Their work is very good and I have no doubt that the pre-Independence film which the Minister spoke about will be of very high standard. Now, I would also like to mention in this connection that this Unit should also make a film of the Independence celebrations itself,

[CHIEF ROSIJ]

not only the Pre-Independence film. I understand that the Minister intends to give a contract to a Company to make a film of the celebrations. May I tell the Minister that we have the highest opinion of this Film Unit and we think that this Unit can produce as good a film as any Company anywhere.

Mr Chairman, Sir, the hon. Minister has spoken very shortly on the allegation of bias in the N.B.C. If we on this side were given to making complaints I think that people would hear nothing other than complaints about bias on the N.B.C.; but we know for certain that people must have their political biases, but we expect them not to take such biases into public offices. Everybody has had complaints about the N.B.C. and I think it is completely childish for people to come to the Floor of this House and keep repeating these biases. There may be something in these complaints and there may not, but I think that unless something very serious happens they should not be matters for the Floor of this House. It tends to give a wrong impression abroad. The Minister may be surprised to know that the statement that was made on the Floor of this House about the N.B.C. reporting Members of the Opposition as Shadow Ministers was portrayed in foreign papers in a way that might show that the Government was intolerant to Opposition.

An hon. Member : That is not so, which paper did you read?

Chief Rosiji : That is the type of wrong impression that is given abroad and I, therefore, suggest that Members would refrain from making such comments on the Floor of this House.

The Minister of Information : That will be muzzling the Opposition.

M. Ali Monguno (Kaga-Marghi) : Mr Chairman, Sir, I do not propose to make a long speech over this issue, but I would like to ask that freedom be given to the press. However, the press must not take advantage of this. It is the duty of this Ministry to check in order to ensure the authenticity in either articles or information. False information would not take us anywhere and we would like to see Nigeria given her place outside as well as inside.

I am not sure what truth there was in the article published in a Nigerian newspaper relating to the refusal of granting passport to students to go to Egypt. I do not also appreciate any effort by any newspaper in this country to paint Nigeria black. So far much and very good work has been done abroad through this Ministry in placing Nigeria as the leading country in Africa (*Hear, hear*), and this is very very commendable indeed; but however I would like the Ministry to check such things, commercial and otherwise deliberately intended for the entertainment of people abroad because in such things you see nothing but one side of Nigeria—the entertaining side. May I suggest that whenever a film relating to Nigeria is made such a film should be fairly representative showing the very best places as well as the worst.

In conclusion, may I pay tribute to the branch of this Ministry in London and also to the British Council both in Nigeria and in London. The latter, the British Council, had done much work abroad. Most of the students abroad would agree with me that the British Council has placed Nigeria high and painted her a very good picture and has given her a good place. Sir, may I conclude.

Mr J. S. Tarka (Jemgbar) : Mr Chairman, Sir, on the verge of independence the Ministry of Information is going to be one of the most important Ministries in this country and it is in this wise that I see it fit to advise the Federal Government to see to it that the various heads of the branches in the Ministry are Nigerianised immediately. The position after Independence will be that the people entrusted with the Information Department may—I am not making any allegation—but may tend to use their own jobs to the detriment of the progress of Nigeria. The present position in that Ministry has prompted me to make this statement.

There is a Film Department for instance in that Department. We have Nigerians who are capable of holding posts in the upper segment but because there is an expatriate official who heads that branch it has been impossible for these young men to get rapid promotions and to occupy their rightful positions. This particular expatriate official—

An hon. Member : Maybe a South African.

Mr Tarka : . . . has been there for some time, I think on contract but unfortunately he has made use of his own position to sit on the heads of the Nigerian officials in that department. As a result certain expatriate officials who were in sympathy with the Nigerianisation policy of the Federal Government had to resign. This particular official has been given responsibilities on several occasions and has failed to fulfil successfully these responsibilities.

I have in mind, Sir, the filming of the football match between the English touring team and the Nigerian team. There was an attempt to film this football match but unfortunately, I think owing to inefficiency, this gentleman was unable to film the football match successfully. As a result people who wanted to read in pictures about this match could not do so. This particular official has been sent abroad, sent over to Ghana to film Ghana Independence and there was a similar plan to the filming of Ghana Independence but what happened actually was that when these films were expected to be seen there was definitely nothing to be seen.

Sitting suspended : 1 p.m.

Sitting resumed : 3.04 p.m.

Mr J. S. Tarka : Mr Chairman, Sir, as I said before, it was unfortunate that we in Nigeria, owing to some misfortune in the Ministry of Information, were not privileged to see the film on the independence of Ghana. Similarly, the same gentleman was sent out to film the recruitment of the Army and on that occasion as well, there was a flop in the development of the film concerned.

An hon. Member : Point of order, Sir, there is no *quorum*.

Several hon. Members : Sit down, sit down.

The Chairman : I think I heard the hon. Member say there was no *quorum*. It is pretty unusual for a Member of the Government to try to defeat his own Government, and in this instance he has failed because Paragraph 18 of Standing Order No. 63 says that on a day on which proceedings have got to be finished in relation to the Appropriation Bill, the proceedings shall not be interrupted under any Standing Order. (*Applause*). I ought perhaps to add that, of course, this should not

be reduced to an absurdity. The House must maintain a *quorum*, roughly that is, it must maintain enough people to do the business in fair order.

Mr Tarka : Similarly, Sir, one of the most important, in fact most historic incidents in the Federation could not be seen by the ordinary man on the cinema outside Lagos, and I refer to the installation of the first Prime Minister of the Federation of Nigeria, simply because a gentleman who was sent to record or film the occasion, and through his inefficiency, failed to produce a useful film. I think there was none at all, he did make the attempt but when it was developed it was found that there was nothing on it at all.

An hon. Member : Terrible waste !

Mr Tarka : This gentleman will be coming back very soon to Nigeria on a third contract and —

An hon. Member : Is he an expatriate?

Mr Tarka : Yes, an expatriate ; instead of wasting public funds to retain the services of inefficient expatriate officials who have no conscience to fulfil their obligation in the interest of this country, rather we should use the funds to train Nigerians to occupy these posts.

The expatriate officials in several Ministries are in the habit of being a stumbling block in the way of the progress of aspiring Nigerians in the various Ministries. I think that the Federal Government owes an important duty to this country to see to it that the various key Ministries, on the eve of independence, are all Nigerianised.

This Ministry, as I said before, is as important as any other Ministry especially on the eve of independence. In the course of the Minister's speech and, with due respect to him, I would like to say that the Minister did make one of his attempts to gag this House as he had attempted to gag the Press. I am not questioning his own right to speak at that stage but I think it would have been more proper for the Minister to wait for Members from all sides of the House to contribute to the debate before he rose to make such a lengthy speech.

The Chairman : I have to protect the Minister there. I have made it clear in previous years, and I make it clear again that a

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Minister, when the Head of his subject comes up in Debate on the Estimates has a perfect right to make a general statement on the work of his Department. Invariably, it is impossible for all the Ministers to speak on the second reading and I always give them the advice that if they choose to wait until their Heads come up, it is perfectly in order to make a general statement then.

Mr Tarka : Thank you very much, Mr Chairman, I do not intend to take the Minister to task. All that I want to do is to give advice that may go to increase the efficiency which exists in several arms of his own Ministry.

Sir, I now come to the producing of local film for commercial purposes. It will be to the best interests of this country if the Ministry of Information encourage this, or encourage private enterprise to make films on a commercial basis. If the Ministry cannot encourage, or if there is no response from the publicity of this issue, I think that Government will be doing a great service to the country by setting up a statutory body that will produce films for commercial purposes. Some of these films will go to advertise Nigeria in the correct light of what we see here—to the outside world.

It has been said very often that the masses in this country who go to the cinema are very interested in Indian films and I see no reason why Nigeria cannot produce films that will compete side by side with Indian films.

Similarly, Sir, I feel that the essential thing to do is to try and stop as much as possible the importation of films that will act adversely on the morality of future Nigerians. What is going on at present is that films, especially American films, are sent into this country that will educate or give the wrong type of education to young Nigerians. I am one of those people who are interested in cinemas. I think it is horrifying to see a picture which will teach our young men how to murder. I refer to films of cowboys and so on.

Another point is that the Minister raised on the Floor of this House the question of political bias in the N.B.C. I do not want to raise this point now, but I want to repeat what was said before by a Member. If we are to come here and mention on the Floor of this House that there exists political bias in the

N.B.C., it will seem to the outside world that we people are not mature enough to rule ourselves.

I say, Sir, that my hon. Friend the Minister of Communications has been to several other countries and knows that there is independence of the broadcasting system in most countries. People make these accusations, and a lot of importance is attached to them. It is dangerous to the progress of a young nation like Nigeria and I feel that it is proper for Members from all sides of this House to see to it that we are being portrayed in the correct light.

Finally, I wish to congratulate the Minister himself on the amount of effort which has been done in the past to improve that department which in the past has been said by this House to be one of the most backward in the way of Nigerianisation. But I think that a lot remains to be done and with the help of the Minister and his advisers I think more will be done to encourage more Nigerians to take their proper place at this stage.

In a country like Ghana, the Ghana Broadcasting Corporation is being run by indigenous staff and I feel that if Ghanaians can run their own broadcasting system and successfully compete with the other countries of the world, I see no reason why Nigeria cannot occupy the same position herself.

Mr Chairman, Sir, I beg to support.

M. Aminu Kano (Kano East) : Mr Speaker, Sir I would like to make some observations in regard to the Ministry of Information, especially the Broadcasting side of it. We are all aware, or are used to the introduction of the news. We have the drums and then we have, "This is the Nigerian Broadcasting Corporation". Now that Nigeria is becoming independent I think it will not impress other nations listening to us to hear, "This is the Nigerian Broadcasting Corporation". I think we should adopt a name like "Radio Nigeria" or "Radio Lagos" which will make other people outside feel that we are independent. As somebody has said, the Nigerian Broadcasting Corporation has a colonial mentality.

I invite the Minister to begin to think as to how we are going to project Nigeria after Independence, when we are calling the world

and not Nigeria alone. Even to the type of news, we must begin to think not only of giving the news in English but in French, to call French West Africa, or in Arabic to call the Middle East, so that they will know that Nigeria has arrived. If we have to tune our radio and listen to propaganda from Egypt, Jordan, Tunis and Iraq, on behalf of the people from Kenya, on behalf of the people of Algeria, why cannot Nigeria now speak in English calling the people of those parts of the world to let them know that this country is among the nations of the world.

I think that the Minister of Information must now begin to think of broadcasting in languages other than English.

The Ministry must know that after Independence there will be plenty of visitors to this country. Tourists will be coming to this country. When they come they will want information as soon as they arrive at Lagos, Kano, Kaduna, Enugu or anywhere in Nigeria. They should be given the chance to go to any bookshop or any book-stall in any part of the city to buy some booklets or maps which will show them where they are and give them information concerning the whole country. I feel that there is very little publicity advertising Nigeria. If I go to Rome or Tel Aviv I am impressed to find that in every bookshop there is plenty to buy—maps, guides to theatres, guides for hotels, guides for taxis and so on.

We have now got to begin to think about our news agency. What is going to be Nigeria's news agency? Are we going to rely on others to tell the world that Nigeria is so and so? Or to tell the outside world what Nigeria is doing. The Ministry must now tell us about plans of establishing a Nigeria News Agency run, of course, by Nigerians and not by foreigners. I think that these things must be done because independence is not the end itself, it is the beginning of a new era. It is a thing which we in Nigeria will project in the way we wish and not in the way some people had wished for years and years.

And to touch the question of film production, there is tremendous influx of foreign films into this country. My friend, Mr Tarka, in the Opposition talked about American films which teach nothing but gangsterism, and some Indian films also which teach us immorality

and inculcate into the minds of the young ones some unhealthy beliefs. I begin to think that the European or the American type of films which show people in their nakedness are against the ethics of Africans even though the film stars may be beautiful. Yet that must be looked into otherwise we shall be swept away by the West or the East while our own conception now is to evolve not only our own personality but to see whether we can merge the Western conception of society with ours and if possible get the best out of them. I feel, Sir, that in trying to produce our film we must get more of African rather than European films.

Finally, we have in the Information Division one Director, one Deputy Director and one Assistant Director. When we have a Director why the other two directors?

Several hon. Members : Not necessary.

M. Aminu Kano : This idea of making civil service top heavy with big men while the African is struggling from the bottom to reach the little top is a waste of money and a waste of time, hence I think that all this duplication of Directors—deputy director, assistant director—should stop.

I think that we must find money not only for publicity from this side but to find the money with which to invite people to publicise us abroad. There is a lot of ignorance about Nigeria. What is wrong if the Minister invites pressmen from Europe, America and from any part of the world to come to Nigeria, go about the country, see what they can and then go back to their respective countries and towns to publicise us? At the same time we have to send our pressmen to the other parts of the world in order to spread information about Nigeria. It must be two-way. Publicity should not be only here but also overseas.

Mr Chairman, Sir, with these few remarks I beg to support.

Mr R. O. A. Akinjide (Ibadan South East) : Mr Chairman, Sir, in any Government the Ministry of Information is very important, and put in proper hands it could be of very formidable force. Its duties are both external and internal. Internally, this Ministry would have to project the work of the Government and enlighten the electorates and the members of the

[MR AKINJIDE]

public as a whole of the progress being made and the future plans of the Government. It should be the duty of this Ministry to project Nigeria's personality and to be the mirror of the Nigerians and their Government.

Now one of the greatest snags in this country and particularly in some aspects of this Ministry is the lack of originality. There have been complaints that we have been attacking the N.B.C. and some of the Members of the staff. Well I have to confess that these attacks were made in good faith. There is nobody who hates the N.B.C. here and there are those N.B.C. boys who are very good and able in their jobs and there are those who cannot divorce their work from their politics. These are the type of people we wish should not be on the N.B.C. They had better been cement mixers.

And as M. Aminu Kano has said there is no reason why the N.B.C. should all the time be copying the B.B.C. and whatever the B.B.C. does the N.B.C. will do. This is because the people who put across the N.B.C. are men from the B.B.C. Our submission is that the B.B.C. is there to serve a different interest while the N.B.C. is here to serve a completely different taste and interest. Those of us who are familiar with the N.B.C. will find that these people resort to so much of foreign news not because there is no local news but because some of the boys just sit down there instead of going out to look for news. They depend mostly on political hands-out and Government releases.

I would urge the Minister to see to it that not only is the N.B.C. original in its presentation of news but it must also be original in its approach to Nigerian affairs and stop copying every now and then whatever the B.B.C. does. I support the view that instead of calling this body the N.B.C. it should be called Radio Nigeria.

Mr Chairman, I would like to say a few words on the Newspaper Ordinance. I think that that particular Ordinance is now hopelessly out-dated, and it should be amended. In 1952 the Defamation Act of England was passed and our law as far as newspapers are concerned is still the same as the newspaper law of England of 80 years ago. The result is that you have a lot of irresponsibility going on and people going out of their way not only to attack personalities but to impute improper motives not only to

Ministers, but also to Members of Corporations. Although I am not a journalist, I have had training in journalism. So I am urging the Minister to introduce an amendment to the Newspaper Ordinance and to bring it in line with the modern thought and particularly with the Defamation Act of England of 1952. I would suggest we bring the newspaper laws in this country in line with those of Greece—yes, those of Greece—because they are modern.

Not only that, Sir, but I would suggest that the Government should establish a daily newspaper. This should not be shocking.

An hon. Member : What about the "Nigeria Review" ?

Mr Akinjide : The "Nigeria Review" is a weekly newspaper ; I am suggesting a daily newspaper ; the reason is that you might say in England that the Government has no daily newspaper, but I would say that in Nigeria a newspaper giving an account of daily happenings in this country would be in keeping with democracy.

Take for instance Ghana—I give an example of Ghana. You have the "Ghana Times" in Ghana, in which the Government has 60 per cent interest. That paper projects the views of the Government, whereas the C.P.P., which is the Government party in power, has its own party newspaper called the "Accra Evening News", which projects the policies and views of the party.

Now, if we take an extreme example, take Russia.

An hon. Member : It is a Communist country.

Mr Akinjide : You may say it is a Communist country, but the fact remains that while the Party has its own paper, which is "Pravda", Government has the paper which is "The Izvestia". (*Interruption*). It might be necessary, though I cannot imagine a time of stress or strain when the Government may have to take over any paper—God forbid that. But in Argentina some time ago the newspaper "La Penza" had to be taken over by the Government because the Government needed an organ of mass information. It was not a Fascist state.

If Government straight away established a daily newspaper, it would be able to project

the views of the Government. There have been columnists in some newspapers who attacked the Government, and attacked Ministers, who have not got the opportunity to reply to them in the columns of their newspapers.

An hon. Member : They should send a written reply.

Mr Akinjide : If they sent a reply, it would not be published. Recently I have taken an interest in some newspapers, and particularly in a column in the "Daily Service". Members who follow that column will see that within the last three or four months there have been some breaches of the Parliamentary privileges of this House, and I hope to bring this up at the opportune time.

Mr Speaker, Sir, there is again the question of the staff of the Information Service and of the N.B.C. There is at the moment, in the Western Region, a Television Service. I understand there is going to be one in the East, there is going to be one in the North, and one in the Federal territory. The question of staffing for these Corporations, and these new bodies, must of course arise. The result will be that there will be competition between the N.B.C. and the various television services, and one will be stealing the staff of the others.

The Minister should straightaway make arrangements whereby people will be trained, and staff recruited so that at the proper time there will be no shortage of staff. Already there is a new inroad into the staff of the N.B.C. They have been enticed by the Western Region Television. People who earn £800 a year only in the N.B.C. are being offered £1,200 on the T.V. in the Western Region.

And again, Mr Speaker, there is the question of films. Films tend to get to this country too late. Films which have been seen in America or England or France six or ten years ago have not even reached this country to-day. The result is that we see films in this country which are seen in the slums of England or America. This is monstrous. If we must be modern, and if we must see these films and must educate our people, we must see these latest films, and not just the rotten ones which cannot sell in America and England, and are just dumped in this country. In this respect, Sir, I think—

The Chairman : The speech, I think, is going outside the bounds of Ministerial responsibility. So far as I know the Government do not run newspapers, and I do not think they import films. We must keep within the bounds of order, especially as the House must remember it is partly bound by a bargain this morning, entered into with the acquiescence of the whole House, that we should get the business finished in reasonable time. So I kept an account of the length of speeches this morning, and it was quite obvious, the intention of the House was to get through the work in reasonable time (the reason we all know), and so I ask the hon. Member to keep clearly within the bounds of order as regards relevance.

Mr Akinjide : I am very grateful to Mr Chairman. I was speaking on the question of films. I say these films, if they must come to this country must be modern ones, not stale ones, and that the Minister of Information should see that films which come to this country are not just the dregs of the unwanted American films.

Mr Chairman, I beg to support.

Mr L. N. Ezeani (Onitsha North) : Mr Chairman, before I go on to speak on Head 44, I want first of all to call the attention of the Government to the poor reception from our broadcasting stations in this country, particularly that of the Eastern Region station, which one can hardly hear 50 miles away from Enugu. As we all know, our broadcasting should not only be for us to hear the general news, it should also be for this country to be projected to the outside world. Hon. Members will agree with me that other stations such as Liberia, Ghana or possibly the B.B.C. are more clearly and conveniently heard in this country than one can hear our own radio in our own country. With the possible exception of Kaduna—other stations are too old, and they require some changes which in my opinion should mark this country as a country marching in a few months' time to an independent sovereign state.

It is embarrassing, Sir, at this time of our marching to independence, when there are only a few months left for us to become an independent state, our broadcasting stations should dominate our own broadcasting service in this country, and I wonder why the standard

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[MR BRIGGS]

compete with private newspapermen in the mobilisation of information I think we are going into a fascist state.

There was a Nigerian Review some years ago and it had a very unhappy ending but it only united us as a person. It only united both the then N.C.N.C. section and the Nigerian Youth Movement section but that was good enough in those days. We now have our own Government and we do not need any Government newspapers again. If a paper like the Nigerian Review comes or the 'Outlook' in Enugu, which again is like a fascist paper—

Several hon. Members : Eh !

Mr Briggs : I am speaking with the fullest sense of responsibility (*Hear, hear*). The *Eastern Outlook* and the *Cameroons Star* are the mouth-piece of the N.C.N.C. in the East. I am praying fervently that the Minister of Information will not consider at all the introduction of any Government newspaper and if there is such I will be one of those who will be in the forefront to fight it to the bitter end.

With these few remarks, I beg to end.

Mr R. B. K. Okafor (Owerri West): Mr Chairman, Sir, I rise to support that part of the speech of hon. Mr Briggs on the administration of the Ministry of Information. It appears that there is no cohesion at all in the Ministry. For example, we have the Overseas Features Editor in the Ministry. We have the Information Officers in England and we have Publications and Information section in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry. I think that for the purposes of good administration all these should be brought under the Ministry of Information and a separate Division created, to accommodate all the sections. And what is more, you will find that in various Ministries our Ministers are developing their own information services. It is very bad and as a result there is a subtle attempt to destroy the existence of the Ministry of Information.

I think that the only way to publish Government activities is to centralise the whole information so that all information would come in and go out from one source. If you go to the Ministry of Information you will find an Editor of Features writing on culture and economy of Nigeria to be published in England; you will find information officers stationed in

England writing about Nigeria in England and we have the Commerce and Industries section writing about Nigeria in England. All these things do not make for very good co-ordination. I think that the only officers who suffer as a result are the workers in the Ministry of Information because Government creates most of these arms and then group them, some of them in Group 4, some in Group 5, give them fantastic salaries, leaving the people who are doing the actual work.

I think, Sir, that the Minister of Information will have to look into this because it appears to me that it militates against the promotion prospects of the staff of the Ministry of Information.

Another point I would like to deal with is what hon. Ezeani has already covered, that is, about the Printing Department. I feel, Sir, there is no point sending our chaps to England when we are not prepared to promote them. At times we are told that they go there merely to broaden their outlook and then come back to continue to enjoy the very salary on which they left. I think that at any time any Department feels that they are not prepared to promote any African, by all means, leave them here, do not send them overseas. There is no point in sending them out and after having learnt how to eat cheese, cakes and everything, you bring them back here to come and eat gari and yam. I think, Sir, that if you are not prepared to promote them, do not send them again. (*Laughter*).

There is another point which I would like to raise. There was a time when Government put up a White-Paper on Information and Publicity. I would like that Government should see to it that the recommendations contained in that White-Paper are implemented. If that is done, I think, it will do good for this country.

Finally, I would like to say something about the N.B.C. I would like to warn that at this stage of our constitutional development, we should take care how we criticise Civil Servants. I know that human beings, being what they are must have their own political leanings but I do know that these political leanings should not be brought into play in their day-to-day activities. But any time, any moment we begin on the Floor of this House to give the impression that this man is either N.P.C. or

Action Group, we shall be destroying their morale and it will bring down the efficiency of that department. I would like to feel that at any moment there is any evidence to show that a particular individual brings into play his political leanings openly we shall get hold of that fellow and dismiss him ; but to generalise is quite wrong and I cannot support it.

Another point is the question of the press. I support hon. Akinjide when he says that the newspaper law should be reviewed. It appears to me that a section of the press in this country is getting most irresponsible. The press, as the fourth estate of the realm plays an important part in the development of any country. The duty of the press is not only to criticise but in criticising, they should also make suggestions. It seems to me that this newspaper called "The Daily Service" . . . (Interruptions).

Mr W. Briggs (Degema) : On a point of Order, Sir. The Minister is not responsible for the "Daily Service". I think it is bad taste to bring in private newspapers or private organisations for that matter for discussion on the Floor of this House.

The Chairman : Yes. It is a very good point. It does not pay to criticise the press at all. There is no Government control of the press and one of the things we cherish in all our countries is the freedom of the press. (Hear, hear).

Mr Okafor : During my speech on the Independence Motion I remember paying tribute to the press. I even went further to name some leading editors of this country who have done their best to develop education and inspire confidence in others, but we must be able right now to appreciate that it does not even pay to single out one or two or three individuals simply because you do not like their faces and destroy them. We need more leaders in our country and much as we accept criticisms they must not be destructive.

Finally, Sir, I want to suggest that there is much of international news, much as I like it, I would like to suggest whether the Minister can afford to divide our news into two. Let us have overseas news and have home news. I am sorry to find that especially those in Lagos, we do not hear anything happening in any part

of Nigeria other than Korea tomorrow, next tomorrow Francisco, and Iraq and so forth. We like to hear them, but at the same time let us know what is happening at Aba, what is happening at Ishan, what is happening at Degema. (Hear, hear).

In conclusion, I think it is time to have our news agency controlled, as M. Aminu Kano has said, by Nigerians. We cannot entirely depend on expatriates and in fact there have been allegations and speculations going on all over the country that a certain firm has been tipped to run our agency. I want to warn on the Floor of this House right away that we cannot tolerate any firm or body to run our news agency. Let us start now to train our people, put them in various strategic positions to write about Nigeria. As a matter of fact there is nobody who can accurately write about Nigeria more than a Nigerian.

I beg to support.

Chief Anthony Enahoro (Ishan East) : May I make four points, Sir, very briefly. The first one is that one must deplore the tardy manner in which the Minister is dealing with external broadcasting. I think, Sir, we all attach very great importance to this matter and although we have received assurances that he is examining it I think that he is moving much too slowly. Sir, the second point I would like to deal with is the question of overseas press representation. I am informed, Sir, that in this Ministry the Minister or his agents recruit newspaper men and without giving them any training whatever send them to overseas posts. I think, Sir, that we all must recognise the importance of these newspaper men in the positions to which they are sent overseas.

I think, Sir, that we all must recognise the importance of these newspaper men in the position to which they are sent overseas. The good name of this country will depend to a large extent on the foreign countries, on the picture which these people can paint to foreigners, and I think that these people must be given some basic training. I know personally of two cases of young men who I would not consider editorial timbre, who have been sent abroad as Information Officers and are expected to carry out the heavy duties which these positions carry.

[CHIEF ENAHORO]

The third point I would like to make is in connection with the hospitality vote of £750. It is too small in this year of independence. It is the duty of this Department to receive overseas newspapermen and many visitors to this country, and I should imagine that one party alone can take £750. I think that notwithstanding the need for economy in other respects that this vote in particular ought to be increased.

The last point I would like to make is, of course, about the attitude of some hon. Members to the Press. I think that this is a very, very important question. It shocked me this morning when a Member across the Floor of this House was speaking. How easily Members who have no knowledge whatever of certain matters become experts the moment they are elected to this House! We have a Member who probably has never read any paper in his life, the moment he swore the oath here he became an expert on all sorts of subjects.

The Press is still the Fourth Estate of the realm. I have worked in the Press; many newspapers say many unkind things about me, I do not mind; I say many unkind things about them too. I think that Members must realise that there is the law; the law is adequate. If it is not adequate, do what you like about that law. But I hate to hear Members getting up and speaking airily of other parts of the world. Most of them have probably never read anything about other parts of the world. So I should suggest very strongly—(Interruptions).

The Chairman : Order !

Chief Enahoro : I would like to commend the view expressed by Mr Briggs. There are certain Members, particularly across the Floor, who appear to think that it would be of some great advantage to the Government if the Government establish a newspaper. There are two groups of people in this country : those who support the Government and those who do not. If the Government establish a newspaper, it is only going to draw support from those people who at present support the Government. Therefore, the newspaper which will suffer in consequence will be the newspaper which is at present supporting this Government. And that is an elementary fact because those who oppose the Government will continue to oppose that Newspaper, I will not accept the newspaper and, therefore, your

Government paper—(Interruptions).

The Chairman : Order, order; really we must not have these interruptions; they are very wearying.

Chief Enahoro : Sir, apart from any practical consideration, it is your own supporters, your own newspaper which will suffer in consequence. My suggestion, therefore is—(Interruptions.)

Mr Chairman, it is in the nature of parliamentary life that people who get up to speak must say things which are unpalatable to others. It is because I do not agree with the views of the Government that I am sitting on this side of the House, otherwise I should be sitting over there. (Applause; shame, shame !)

In conclusion, let me say that there are many Members who assume that because they have been elected, they are the embodiment of nationalism in this country. That is not true. Many of these young men who work on these newspapers have dedicated their lives to the services of this country, even more than many of us who are sitting here to-day. What right have they to assume that because we are here on the Floor of this House as hon. Members, we are much more interested in the fate of Nigeria than they are? They are the people who are devoted to the cause of this country and I suggest that before hon. Members try to prescribe what they should and what they should not do—people who have been trained for their own profession—that they have to take the trouble to learn what it is all about.

The Minister of Information (Hon. T. O. S. Benson) : Mr Chairman, Sir, many of the points raised this afternoon have been covered in my speech this morning, but I shall answer some of the points raised which I have not touched. I would like to make it clear that the Press, being the Fourth Estate of the Realm, it is not the intention of the Government to establish a Government daily newspaper; and it is not the intention of the Government to have a broadcasting service on the basis of the Ghana broadcasting. It is my intention to take over all the Information Divisions in all Ministries so that when we have visitors from abroad we shall be in a position to supply them with all information required.

This morning Mr Tarka raised the point that the film on recruitment for the Army was a flop. That is not true. The film has been

completed and it is now only awaiting the approval of the Military Forces for whom it is made.

Hon. Aminu Kano raised another point on what should be the call sign for Nigeria. I would like him to rest assured that the Board of the Nigerian Broadcasting Corporation has already agreed to use the call sign "Radio Nigeria" in introducing their programmes and news bulletins as from June this year.

The other point raised of news in other languages such as Arabic and French will be given proper consideration when an external broadcasting service is introduced. On the question of censorship, it is, of course, a matter for the Ministry of Internal Affairs, not for the Ministry of Information.

In the Printing Department, I will do my possible best to assist all the Nigerians there. But hon. Members must agree that they must have somebody to teach them what to do, and I do not feel that it is proper on the part of the Government to send away the Government Printer as was suggested by Mr Ekanem—"C.O.R. State".

Mr Chairman, Sir, I wish to assure the House that it is not the intention of the Government to engage a private Company to film the Independence Celebrations. I know that the firm, Victor M. Gover (Nigeria) Limited which was referred to by Mr Briggs has been engaged, as I am made to understand, by the Western Regional Government to film their Independence Celebrations in that region. (*Shame*). I wish to assure the House that the Nigeria Independence Celebrations will be filmed in colour by the Federal Film Unit.

Now, Sir, on the question of bias in the N.B.C. News Section, I have answered that point this morning. I said that if there is any specific allegation brought forward it will be investigated. I do agree with hon. Okafor that it is my duty to protect the boys who are working in the N.B.C.

Mr Briggs raised the issue that there should be no more bondsmen if a man wants to establish newspaper. I think that will be very irresponsible on the part of any person making such suggestion. If there is a case against the newspaper it must fall on the people who are their bondsmen if the judgment creditors cannot get hold of the Editor or proprietor, and I am sure that my Friend Mr Briggs will agree that when he was a newspaper boy he ran away

to England when they were looking for him with warrant for sedition. (*Laughter*).

Whereupon the Minister of State, hon. M. T. Mbu, 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 £1,526,160 for Head 44—Ministry of Information—stand part of the Schedule, put and agreed to.

Then the Chairman left the Chair to report Progress and ask leave to sit again.

(Mr Speaker resumed the Chair)

Committee report Progress—to sit again tomorrow.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion made and Question proposed, That this House do now adjourn—(The Minister of Internal Affairs)

Dr B. U. Nzeribe (Orlu West): Mr Speaker, Sir, I have two very short—(*Interruption*).

Mr Speaker: Has Dr Nzeribe given me notice of his subject so that I can get the person to answer?

Dr Nzeribe: Yes, I did.

Mr Speaker: It is not in my possession. Did the hon. Gentleman send it to me?

Dr Nzeribe: I sent it to you this morning and I informed the Minister in charge of Lagos Affairs. I was told this morning that it was transferred for this evening.

Mr Speaker: If Dr Nzeribe will give me a pure notice on the subject and the Minister agrees to answer I will, of course, call him, but it does not seem to be in my possession at the moment.

Mr E. C. Akwivu (Orlu South-East): Mr Speaker, Sir, I did notify the Prime Minister that I had a matter to raise and when I interviewed the Prime Minister I was assured that somebody from the Council of Ministers would be present to answer.

Mr Speaker: I dare say that applied to a rather earlier time to-day when it was the expectation probably of most Ministers that they would be able to complete their tasks.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved, That this House do now adjourn.

Adjourned accordingly at twenty-seven minutes after four o'clock.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NIGERIA

*Friday, 22nd April, 1960**The House met at 9.00 a.m.*

PRAYERS

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

PRESENTATION OF PUBLIC BILLS

AUDIT (AMENDMENT) : BILL

The Minister of Pensions : *Second Reading*
—Friday next.

ORDER OF THE DAY

APPROPRIATION (1960-61) BILL

(Sixth allotted Day) : Considered in Committee of Supply.

(House in Committee)

HEAD 45.—MINISTRY OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Question proposed, That £224,720 for Head 45.—Ministry of Economic Development stand part of the Schedule.

Chief O. Awolowo (Ijebu Remo) : Mr Chairman, Sir, we have heard a good deal in the course of debate in this House about Government's extended five-year programme. This programme is now to expire in 1962. The Government has been accused of not having any plan but it has replied by pointing to its 1959-62 programme ; but may I say with respect that this 1959-62 programme is nothing more and nothing less than a mere projection for three consecutive years of Government budgetary proposals. Under this programme so much is going to be spent on recurrent expenditure and so much is earmarked for capital expenditure.

In my humble opinion, and if I may be permitted to use a current expression, all that the Government has done amounts to the launching of an unguided missile to an indeterminate and unspecified target. That I am sure will not do for this country. What is more, this plan, according to the Government, this programme—I prefer to call it programme—has been based on the recommendations of the International Bank Mission. The International Bank Mission visited this country in 1953 and it completed its task in this country by

the end of that year. Its report was published in 1954. At that time nobody envisaged that the country would be attaining independence on the 1st of October this year ; as a matter of fact the big tussle then was between certain parties which wanted independence within a given period and another party which did not want independence at any specified period at all. The recommendations which were made, therefore, at a time when we did not envisage the attainment of independence are totally unsuited for a new and free Nigeria.

At Page 5 of his speech the hon. the Minister of Finance, summed up the view of the Government on this subject. He says as follows, if I may quote with your permission Mr Chairman : "Hitherto, at least as far as the Federal Government is concerned, it has not been possible to relate our capital expenditure to specific planning targets although overall the economic programme is based upon the recommendations of the World Bank. We have nevertheless now reached a point when if the growth of the economy is to be maximised our plans must be related to the changing state of the national economy and to the specific targets under the various sectors." This passage in my view imports much more than the Government either fully comprehends or cares to admit, because the passage does make it abundantly clear that at the moment we have no targets. Our programme is not related to any specific targets. It is this lack of targets that forms the foundation of our contention.

The question which we must ask ourselves and to which the hon. Minister of Economic Development and the Government as a whole must apply their minds is this : What sort of system do we want in this country ; what sort of economic system do we want in this country ; do we want an unrestricted capitalist system to grow in this country or are we aiming at a planned and controlled economy ? That is the big question that we must answer and, as I said, which we must all apply our minds.

What is happening at the moment is that the doors, the gates of this country are left quite open to the influx of uncontrolled capitalist system. I do not know to what I could liken what is happening in this country at the moment. Shall we take the case of a farmer who wants a number of people to come and help him plant crops on his farmland ? It

would be disastrous for that farmer during the time of harvest if he were to allow his friends or his labourers to come and plant just what they like on the farmland. What is going to happen is that one labourer will plant about ten heaps of yams, another will plant about two holes of maize and so on and so forth, and at the time of harvest the farmer will get the reverse of what he had expected. But good husbandry dictates that the farmer should first of all determine in his own mind how many heaps of yams he wants planted in his farm, how many acres of maize he wants planted and so on and so forth and it is on that basis that he will invite his friends, his relatives or his labourers to come and help him to work on his farm. He will not leave them unrestricted.

We want foreigners to come into this country to invest and to help us to develop the country, but we do not want them to come indiscriminately. At the moment what is happening is that the development of this country is tied to the self interest of the foreign investors, which interest is not always in accordance with our own national interest whereas the development of this country must be completely tied, absolutely tied, to our own national self interest. That is the big point and if this is going to be so we cannot afford in this 20th century, a *laissez-faire* sort of economic policy such as we are witnessing now. Anybody who gets a brain wave in Germany about starting a particular type of industry only has to apply to the Government of this country, at once he gets Aid to Pioneer Industry Certificate and he starts the industry. Whether that industry is the type that we want just now nobody cares to find out; and as to the siting, he just chooses whatever site he likes. All he needs say is: 'I want Apapa', and he is given a place in Apapa to site his industry.

And if I may digress a little bit we are looking for trouble by not making sure that the siting of our industry is well dispersed throughout the country. We are concentrating labour forces in certain places and the danger in that is that those people, that is the workers, who are always clamouring for this and clamouring for that are within easy reach of one another. Other countries who have passed through the mill do know that there is a lot of danger in allowing labour concentration in certain specific towns. The best policy is to disperse labour.

That does not mean that we do not want Trade Unions to grow. I think Trade Unionism must be sedulously encouraged by any good Government: it is one of the bastions of democracy. We must open our eyes and must not let trouble brewers become concentrated in certain areas.

Now, as I was saying, what is happening at the moment is that people just come into this country to start whatever business they like I am sure that all of us agree that this is not in the best interests of the country. Furthermore, nothing has been done to draw a line between the sort of industries foreigners can engage in and the sort of industries that must be reserved for our own indigenous entrepreneurs. All under-developed countries which have become free, as we are about to be on the 1st October, have had to adopt a sort of method which I am now advocating.

First of all they see to it that those who come into their countries to help in developing those countries are given specific targets, and secondly they are restricted to certain classes of industry only. If I may take an example, our shipping industry, for instance, is in the hands of foreigners, at least the bulk of it is in the hands of foreigners. No self-respecting free nation will ever allow its mercantile marine to be controlled by foreigners. There are a lot of people in this House who speak about our foreign policy and advocate "positive neutrality". Suppose there is a violent disagreement between ourselves and Britain after Independence. What happens then? It is natural for British nationals to want to be on the side of their own country, of their fatherland, and the fact that they are on the side of the fatherland is bound to affect the manner in which they transact business with us.

Suppose Britain did something which angered us, I hope they never do, in the way that South Africa has done. What would we do then? Suppose we decided to impose certain sanctions. Are we going to impound all the ships belonging to Elder Dempster, belonging to a host of other firms, before we proceed with the sanctions?

We speak of starting steel industry in this country. In India, Burma and other places such an industry is not allowed to be in the

[CHIEF AWOLOWO]

hands of foreigners. I know that when the time comes we will say we have no money and therefore the steel industry must be started by some foreign firm, either from Japan or from Germany or some other place. There are certain key industries which the national interest demands should be controlled either by our own indigenous entrepreneurs or by the Government itself entering into the field, if indigenous entrepreneurs are not forthcoming. It is necessary and urgent for the Government to determine what sort of economic system it wants in this country, and I urge that that economic system should be a planned and controlled one. Not an indiscriminate sort of system that we have at the moment.

We must also have targets, a series of targets, which must be arranged in order of priority. We must do first thing first, second thing second and so on and so forth. Furthermore we must also have a group of industries which only the nationals of Nigeria can engage in and if the nationals have not got the money then the Government must provide the money, either by entering into these industries directly, or by giving the money to the nationals so that they can embark on the industries with the money thus provided by the Government.

It is this thing that we have in mind when we say that the Government has not yet made its plan for a new and free Nigeria, and I am sure that now that the points have been fully explained, the hon. Minister of Economic Development and his colleagues will agree that the sort of plan that we have in mind has not yet been formulated. If we want Nigeria to be free in the true sense of the word then this sort of plan ought to be formulated very quickly.

Reference has been made to the existence of the National Economic Council. I know all about the composition of that Council, Mr Chairman, and in my view that Council is not at all equipped to tackle the sort of plan that I have in mind. The National Economic Council is no more and no less than a clearing house for the various programmes of the different Governments of the Federation. They all bring their different programmes to the Council where they are sorted out. The Council is also a forum for resolving possible conflicts and cut-throat competitions between the various Governments of the country.

Above all, the members of the National Economic Council are themselves politicians. The sort of plan we have in mind cannot be formulated by politicians. With respect to politicians—I am a politician myself—it is not a plan that politicians can tackle successfully. It is a job for trained and practising economists. That is why on a previous occasion I suggested the setting up of a high-powered economic commission. Such commissions obtain in other under-developed countries which have gained Independence. It is usually a full-time commission manned by economists who are indigenous to the country concerned.

In other words, my proposal is that the Government should very quickly set up a high powered economic commission consisting of trained Nigerian economists. They may have advisers from abroad. I am not by any means pretending that Nigerian economists are better than the best of British economists. There are many British economists of great repute but there is this element which is lacking in nationals of other countries, and which is present in Nigerian economists or Nigerian politicians and Nigerian civil servants for that matter, and that is the feeling of belonging to this country, the patriotism and the desire to advance the interests of this country at all costs. Whenever there is a conflict between the interests of this country and the interests of other countries the desire of Nigerians is to see that the interest of this country prevails over those of other countries. It requires a superman from another country to resolve in favour of this country any conflict between our interests and the interests of his own fatherland. This Economic Commission will have as its Chairman the Prime Minister.

In other places the Prime Minister would only be an ex-officio Chairman. He does not often preside over the meeting himself. There will be a vice chairman who will be a practising economist and who will take charge of this Commission. The Commission would meet from time to time and in the case of Nigeria its first task would be to formulate details of a planned economy, to set up series of targets and to arrange these targets in order of priority. It will then produce a report for the Government which will be placed on the table of this House for discussion if required. And, furthermore, Mr Chairman it would be the duty of the com-

mission to examine the progress made in the execution of whatever recommendations they made which have been accepted by the Government and to make suggestions for any readjustment which may be desirable from time to time.

We have been told here several times that plans cannot be made rigid. Only a fool would make rigid plans. Even in the building of a house the plan is never made rigid. At a certain stage the builder may turn round and say put a door here, cancel the window on that side and put another window on this side and so on and so forth. No plan is ever rigid, it is subject to re-examination and readjustment from time to time; but it requires full time economist to handle these important assignment.

We have in this country to-day, only goodness knows how many, some people say 35 million, others say 40 million people. I really do not know but it is between 35 and 40 million or even more because the enumeration that was done in 1952 was never done accurately. Our people never want to be counted. There were various forces in operation when the enumeration took place and consequently we have not got an accurate figure of the teeming population of this country.

Now here is the Federal Government serving about forty million people and we are of the hope of becoming the leading nation in Africa. You cannot lead other people by the mere size of your territory or the mere custom of your population. You cannot lead the other countries simply because you are independent, other countries are independent too. Leadership belongs to the man or the nation who has the dough, that is, the money. There was a time when Britain used to lead the other parts of the world. It was a group of tiny island—that is Britain—and yet it led the world. At one time it ruled the whole of India with a population of more than 400 million people simple because it had the money; and to-day the centre of gravity has shifted to the United States of America which now presides over a dollar empire.

Leadership, therefore, I emphasise and re-emphasize belongs to that country which has the money and we will not have the money if we leave the doors of our country open to indiscriminate exploiters. There may be rogues

among them, there may be scoundrels among them, but we want to make sure that the people who come to this country are the right type of people we want to come to help us in the development of our economy. And it is our duty, our prerogative, to tell them precisely what aspect of our economy we want them to develop for us. It is not for them to choose what they want to do. A good deal of people come to this country and want to do mining. They say 'I want to mine this and I want to mine that'.

I am not talking of mineral oil for the time being for this comes under a different class by itself; for mining is what economists called rubber economy. Once the quantity of minerals is taken out of the sub-soil it never goes back. It does not grow again. When once a quantity of tin is taken out of the mines that quantity is gone for ever and nature is not going to replace it the year after. Consequently it is our duty to formulate a comprehensive economic policy in order, among other things, to make sure that no unscrupulous exploiter takes away our wealth before we are ready to develop them for our own use.

Mr Chairman, I beg to support.

Mr D. Senu-Oke (Badagry): Mr Chairman, Sir, I have to thank you for giving me opportunity to speak on this Head of the Estimate. In supporting the Estimate I have to congratulate the Minister for the approach he is making in respect of developing certain projects in this country. But the Minister must embark on bold economic development at this stage of our independence. Sir, I must go straight to the important project which needs the Minister's special attention. In this respect I would like to draw the attention of the Minister to Head 47—Agriculture. I come from a division where there are vast land fertile for agriculture but there is no research and no attempt to educate the farmers of my division, that is Badagry, on the type of crops that could be grown on a particular land. In short there is no research made whereas we have the following officers in the Agricultural Department. There are one Director of Agricultural Research Group 4, one Deputy Director of Agricultural Research, Group 6, five Principal Research Officers, five Senior Specialist Officers, twenty-eight Specialist Officers.

Mr Speaker : Point of Order, Minister of Economic Development.

With these few words, I beg to support.

The Minister of Economic Development (The hon. M. Shehu Shagari) : We are under Head 45 and not 47.

Mr Speaker : I think we must keep to Head 45 and the other Head comes up later this morning.

Mr Senu-Oke : Thank you very much. What are these officers doing, Sir? All that this country wants at the moment are the technical officers who would be doing actual practical field work.

Sir, we have plenty of palm tree farms in my Division which are awaiting development but it is really discouraging that the development of these crops is very backward in my area. The Department is not even showing any signs by which we will realise the existence of development in this country. The development of fishery in my area is very backward too. In my Division too we have plenty of coconuts.

There is a lot of copra and coconut grown in my area, but this has not developed very well at all. We want the Government to embark on a very bold scheme for developing this coconut industry. But in the light of my experience in the Division, the development programme does not touch any single thing in that area. I wish the Government to develop the growth of copra in my Division and bring the standard to the same level as they introduced in Malaya, so that we may be able to do healthy work in the copra industry.

Sir, I hear the French Government recently used a helicopter in spraying chemicals on coconuts and palm trees in their areas. The result is that there is a great difference between the coconuts and copra produced in their territory. I suggest the Government should carry out a similar plan to improve our coconut palm trees in my Division. Also they should improve the growing of our food materials such as cassava, yams and so on. I suggest that the Research Section of the Agricultural Department should conduct a research to prove the suitability of certain areas or divisions that will grow rubber plantations and some other valuable crops, that will be developed to improve the economy of this country. I also appeal to the Government to make a special research into fisheries in my area.

M. Iro Mashi, Iyan Katsina (Marusa-Mashi) : Mr Chairman, Sir, it is gratifying to note that the Government is contemplating a very comprehensive plan in economic expansion as well as taking a bold step to develop the whole of the resources available to Nigeria. In connection with this I would like to draw the attention of the Government to the fact that there seem to be deposits of oil, gold and limestone in the Northern Region, and I think if an effort is made these resources can be explored.

Another matter that I wish to bring to the notice of the Minister of Economic Development is the question of soil erosion in the extreme north of the Northern Region. The desert is encroaching and the land is becoming eroded, and the farmers there are very hard-hit for lack of food. They do much work on the farm and get little yield, and then they have to leave their homes and go elsewhere for occupation. This is becoming more and more serious. The Native Authorities are doing their best to improve the situation, but they have not enough money to do much. So I am appealing to the Minister to co-operate with the Regional Government to take a bold step to rehabilitate the land for farming, and to stop erosion. I also appeal to the Government to fight against the approach of the desert. These are the most effective measures to be taken to improve the economy of the country.

Another point that I want to touch is about research on agriculture. This work on research in agriculture has long been carried out, but one cannot see any remarkable result obtained from it to justify the expenditure on it. But everybody can realise the excellent result obtained from the Medical Department and Veterinary Research. I want to advise the Minister to try to get some experts or specialists on this work of research, from anywhere in the world he can get them, in order that a better result can be obtained to stop wasting the Government's money. Sir, I beg to support.

Mr E. O. Ifezue (Orlu North) : Mr Chairman, Sir, when I was going through this Head I was confronted with multifarious research institutes. I would like to name some of them;

The West African Standing Advisory Committee for Agricultural Research; The West African Institute for Trypanosomiasis Research; The Termite Research Scheme; The West African Timber Borer Research Unit; The Anti-Locust Research Centre; The West African Research Office; The West African Maize Research Unit; The West African Rice Station, Rokupr, Sierra Leone: and so on and so forth.

I am inclined to interpret this situation as a tendency on the part of the retiring British to create posts which cannot be Nigerianised, at least in the immediate future. Can we not do away with all these research institutes, especially so far as they do not, to my mind, yield appreciable results? For instance, the ordinary farmer or fisherman does not know we are conducting research to improve his output—he does not know, he does not feel it, but unless the aim of these researches is to out-compete the farmer or the fisherman in order to make him change his methods, I do not think we are getting anywhere, and I am afraid the research units will not do us any good. But if we must have them, efforts should be made to spread them out to the advantage of the farmer.

Now, Sir, I do not think that Britain conducted so many researches before they mechanised their agriculture; or even America conducted so many researches before they were able to produce the inter-continental ballistic missile. I learn that in the creek area the introduction of the outboard engines spelt the doom of the ordinary dug-out canoes. This is the sort of thing we want. If we introduce such things the farmers will just like to learn from the Government. The point I am trying to drive home is that we want practical results. I notice that it is intended to expand the Economic Division of the Ministry by employing more economists. I hope that these economists will be Nigerians and here I would like to associate myself with the views expressed by the Leader of the Opposition. These economists must be Nigerians but we want them to be practical economists.

(An hon. Member : just like Mr Briggs.) Just like some of us on this side of the House.

I would like the Minister to explain to this House what co-operation there is or there would be between him and his counterparts in

the Regions. I do not know the co-operation and I would like to know. I would also like the Minister to make a statement about the West African Institute for Oil Palm Research established in 1952.

Now, I come to the National Economic Committee. I would like to suggest, and here too I agree with the views of the Leader of the Opposition, that the National Economic Committee must include eminent economists whether they are politicians or teachers or businessmen. I think it would also include financiers. I say this because no one can claim that he has all the answers for economic and industrial development.

There is some talk inside this House and outside the House about the slow progress of economic and social development of this country. The Minister of Finance mentioned in his Budget Speech that a National Exhibition will be mounted to coincide with the independence celebrations. People will come from abroad and people will even come from the hinterland and they will see the exhibition. I am not suggesting that it will be a very poor exhibition but I think that what we are going to see that day will not very much satisfy many people.

The point I want to make is that I would like to associate myself with the views expressed in this House and outside this House that the progress of our economic and social development is very slow. We would like the new Minister of Economic Development, he is a young man with all the youthful vigour in him, to give us hope that this situation will be improved. I feel that as far as siting of industries is concerned we should try to site industries in places or near the places where the raw materials are easily available. There is a tendency to build industries in Lagos because it is the capital of the Federation or Enugu because it is the capital of the Eastern Region or in Kaduna because it is the capital of the Northern Region, but I feel we should remember the rural areas. We get most of these raw materials from them; at least, it would minimise the cost of transport.

Mr Chairman, I beg to support.

Mr D. S. Udo-Inyang (Opobo North): Mr Chairman, Sir, in speaking on this head—Economic Development—I must emphatically

[MR UDO-INYANG]

put it to the Government that this Ministry, more than any other Ministry, requires immediate Nigerianisation. The Economic Development of Nigeria is not in the best interest of the imperial powers since they have come to regard Nigeria and, if I may say so Africa as a whole, as 'No-man's land', just existing for their own exploitation and markets for dumping their surplus goods. They cannot change their outlook overnight. I must then warn the Government that those they regard as expert Permanent Secretaries, Advisers, Executive Officers, *et cetera*, are all dominated by the policy of 'Mercantilism'.

It is our deep conviction that our own country should always, and I repeat should always, gain maximum economic advantage over all other nations. In these circumstances, it is difficult to see how expatriate Permanent Secretaries, Advisers and Executive Officers in these Ministries can serve the best interest of Nigeria, therefore the Government should consider it a matter of urgent necessity to get Nigerian Economists to work in this Ministry. The Minister should form a Committee as already suggested by the hon. Leader of the Opposition or a Board of Nigerian Economists and Businessmen. Even if these Nigerians are not all experts their spirit of patriotism will make them render good services to Nigeria. In the best interest of Nigeria, in making such appointments the Government should consider experience, qualification, integrity and general ability, in fact, it should have nothing to do with party affiliations.

The second point I would like to make is that in order to bring about a specific and enlightened economic development of Nigeria we must wage war against the colonial mentality of our people, particularly in the youths. This means we should enlist the service of the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Information to fashion and operate a powerful propaganda machinery. Firstly, the propaganda should make our people appreciate the dignity of labour. It should make them work hard and be proud of any job whatever which helps them to earn a honest living. Secondly, the purpose must be sure enough to advocate and succeed in advocating wise spending, increased saving and investment. This will in due course make our Minister of Finance really honourable by preventing him from going overseas for loans. Surely—

The Chairman : Order, order. The hon. Gentleman is paying very close attention to his notes. I do get tired of speeches which really are being read. Also the speech he is making is not, so far as I can see, directed to Head 45—Economic Development—and, really, I shall have to stop hon. Members who do not confine their remarks to proper Committee speeches and to the Head under discussion.

Mr Udo-Inyang : The Minister should establish live and infant industries to provide a means of livelihood for our people. The indigenous or infant industries in this country must be protected against competition from foreign firms operating in this country. Dumping of goods which are produced in this country should be stopped, in order to make this country prosperous, and in order to get our people employment we must not let other countries get advantage over our own people. We must not import into this country things which can be made within the country.

The Chairman : This is not really a speech on economic development. It is too vaguely a Second Reading speech on the Budget really.

Mr Udo-Inyang : Sir, we would develop this country economically if we pay close attention to the development of tourist industry. For instance, many visitors would like to visit a country like Nigeria. So that this industry should be sited in historic places because visitors coming from overseas are tired of being concentrated in Lagos, Ibadan and so on. They will like to see some places like Calabar, Itu, Opobo and so on.

An hon. Member : COR State !

Mr Udo-Inyang : This industry must be developed in order to bring foreigners into the country to invest their money to increase our national income.

This country cannot be economically developed if the means of communication is poor. For instance, by closing the Opobo port a death-blow has been dealt on the palm produce of the people there. In order to bring about economic progress all the country's roads and ports must be opened. In the whole of Calabar Province—Opobo, Eket and Calabar ports have been closed so that people have no easy means of evacuating their palm produce. This indeed has been a source of great poverty and misery to the people. In developing this country's economy, means of transport must be improved.

Sir, I beg to support.

Alhaji Abubakar Damale Kaita (Kaura) : Mr Chairman, Sir, I rise to congratulate the Government for setting up an agricultural survey section under the Ministry of Economic Development. The statistical information which this survey will produce will be of vital importance to the economic development plan of this Government. I would like to suggest to the Minister to take immediate steps to Nigerianise the Heads of these teams. The Nigerian language is very important in this work as it is mostly done by direct contact with the ordinary farmers who do not understand foreign languages.

Research work in this agricultural country is very essential but, Sir, here in Nigeria research has been going on for many years and yet our crops and livestock are still subjected to attacks of diseases, and some of the country's wealth is lost through crops and livestock diseases. For example, Sir, a common disease in Northern Nigeria carried by flies is still not yet eradicated although the treatment of this disease is under the supervision of a senior service officer. I would like the Minister to investigate what is happening in most of our research stations.

I am aware that the development of agriculture is the responsibility of the Regional Governments but I would like to suggest that the Federal Government should do something in order to help the Regional Governments to develop agriculture, and in this connection I will suggest to the Federal Government to subsidise some of the agricultural practices which go directly to improve the fertility of the soil such as soil conservation, de-infestation, and the issue of artificial fertilizers.

With these few remarks, I beg to support

The Chairman : May I remark that it is desirable for Members to sit actually on their seats. If I want to call a Member and it is my intention to call and he is not sitting on the right seat I am apt to feel that he is not present. I hope Members will always sit on their own seats.

M. Aminu Kano (Kano East) : I think, Sir, with economic development, we must have some guiding line. First of all, what is the aim and purpose for our economic

development? I think the total result of our economic development shall be to give our people health, education and work. Education, health and work! In giving our people education, health and work, that is, in carrying out our economic development we must take certain things into consideration. For instance, internal cohesion. We cannot successfully carry out any economic development in a big country like Nigeria without political cohesion—the internal strength of a nation. It must go with the people below. Without it and with all the money that we may have, with all the plans we may have we shall find that we have not reached the proper goal. So that propaganda to educate the people below in order to go along with them is important.

The question of the importance of political internal cohesion is that without it very many people would not attempt to invest their money if they know that in a country there is no political cohesion; there is every likelihood of a breakdown in Government or there is a great deal of corruption and nepotism, they will hesitate to invest their money. Secondly, Sir, economic development must take into consideration the attitude of the people to work. For example, if someone wants to ring somewhere in the country on the telephone perhaps the telephone operator is there busy reading papers and he will feel that it is not his duty quickly to connect you with the line. Without conquering the attitude of people to labour our economic development plans may fail. That is, a sense of duty and responsibility.

Another factor, Sir, which should go with economic development is the supreme sacrifices of people. People must sacrifice to pay their taxes, people must invest and at the same time, people must have confidence in their own national enterprises. If we have got our own Banks, invest in these banks so that people will have confidence in the Banks. Many of our people here do not invest in the National Bank or the A.C.B., they would rather go to Barclays, or B.W.A. or British and French Banks because there is a feeling of confidence in these Banks. So, we must put confidence in our own indigenous institutions so that our own people will invest in our own banks rather than in foreign banks.

M. Magaji Musawa : On point of information! I want M. Aminu Kano to explain what he means that people should sacrifice to pay their taxes.

M. Aminu Kano : I think, Sir, that such a question like this should only be directed to the man himself for he is the only man who collects taxes. (*Laughter*).

We must have confidence in our own enterprises and then of course we should have to make sacrifices in paying taxes and in the investment of our own money within our own country. We must also be politically leaders of the country. People who lead the country must give an example, we must avoid ostentation, the show, and the extravagance. We must show an example otherwise it is no use talking about economic development if people of the country see ostentation in high places and at the same time appeals for sacrifices.

In all, when we are building bridges, or roads, or otherwise going to establish fish ponds or to mechanise agriculture or whether we are going to build maternity clinics or whether we are going to re-plan farms in the villages, or whether we are going to introduce improved seeds to the farmers or whether we are going to open hospitals for the blind, we must see that leaders of the country go about side by side with the masses, that is the human side of it.

If you are going to carry out a plan in economic development, and people for whom the plan is to be carried out do not co-operate, you will find that it will be difficult for the success of the plan. If you want to build a house for me and you put a refrigerator and fans and you have not taught me how to use them, I may enter into the house and I may not find it pleasant to use. So, the planner and the people for whom you are planning must work side by side. There is a story of a planner in America or New York of a house he planned and a carpenter was asked to come and do something in the house; he was given the plan and he said that something was wrong with the plan and sent it back to the planner because he was the man building the house. The planner said that there was nothing wrong with the plan and sent it back to the carpenter but the carpenter said that there was something wrong and sent it back again.

Then the planner asked what was wrong with the plan and the carpenter said that there were two bath-rooms and he never knew that there could be two bath-rooms in a house. Therefore, when we are planning something for people, we must co-operate with them otherwise you will find that you build a house not taking into account his own idea of living in a house and of the way he wants to live.

Many Government Servants are provided with Government Quarters. The Government will be proud and say: "Oh! We are building Government Quarters for Government Servants in Kaduna, or in Kano, or in Zaria or in Jos, or in Lagos". You will find that while the man for whom you are building the house comes from an area where polygamy is practised in the country and he comes to find that there is a parlour, or a sitting room and there is only one living room, a store and a bath-room, in the end, you will find that he has to turn a bath-room into a living room. (*Laughter*). What are you then planning about? The planner must not sit down and say, "I am planning a house with air-conditioning and so on while I am not prepared to go into a house with three wives in only one room. I do not want it". You must take into account the people for whom you are planning, that is, co-operation and working side by side.

After all, we want to abolish poverty, we want to establish a country of economic independence whereby people will benefit from their education, health and wealth. I therefore would like the Ministry to have principles while they are embarking upon projects which we all would like to see so that when they are planning, they will co-operate with the people for whom they are planning.

So, Sir, I beg to support.

Dr B. U. Nzeribe (Orlu West) : Mr Chairman, Sir, I first of all want to pay compliments to the Government of the Federation for establishing this very important Ministry of Economic Development. I think that this is a step in the right direction and I do believe that whatever comments we make here will be accepted by Government in good faith because I personally am not really interested in the party line when it comes to the overall

important question of trying to elevate the 35 million people in this country from the present low state of poverty to a higher standard of living.

I also want to pay my compliments to the Leader of the Opposition for the very very constructive statement which he made to-day in his contribution to planning for the economic development of Nigeria. (*Hear, hear.*) I also wish to mention that the Opposition has presented with eloquence what they expect the Government to do. There is one very important statement which I want to make now, and that is to remind the Leader of the Opposition and for that matter all the people who helped in creating this constitution which carved Nigeria into a series of warring camps that it is impossible to speed up that kind of economic development of Nigeria as long as the present regions continue to work and compete against each other.

In economic planning there must be a concentration of power, economic development cannot occur when the power is in shadow. The Federal Government of Nigeria has been reduced to the level of a Local Government Council because it has no power. When a Government has no control over the income-tax of a nation, when a Government has no control over the agriculture which is the backbone of the economy of a nation, when a Government has no control over the economic law governing the country, when a Government has no power or has limited powers over the communications which are the arteries of the contact of the country, how do you think that that Government can be expected to draw up the development plan for the country? How do you think that that Government can be expected to develop a country? How do you think the Government of Nigeria can carry on a detailed economic development of Nigeria on a budget of £40 million? Is that not ridiculous? India, for example is budgeting on £400 million for economic development. How do you expect this Government to draw up a progressive and well defined programme for the economic development of this country on a budget of £40 million. This is a classical example of good politics which turns out to be bad economics.

The makers of the Constitution are responsible for the backwardness of this country in terms of economics. Unless these people are prepared to bury the hatchet and come together as true lovers of this country, and bury their party hatred and party differences, it is impossible for us to envisage the type of development which is expected to give us a detailed, step by step, economic development of the country.

I shall now try to present a diagnosis of the nature of the economic problems of Nigeria. Our problem in this country is that of poverty. To use a homely tautology, Nigeria is poor because Nigeria is poor. It is a vicious circle where poverty creates poverty. With poor food we have poor health; we have poor health therefore we have poor performance in work; we have poor performance in work therefore we have poor tools; we have poor tools therefore we have poor production; we have poor production therefore we have poor health, and the vicious circle continues without end. (*Hear, hear.*)

It is, therefore, necessary that there must be a mechanism for breaking the chain of the vicious circle. It is the Government in any under-developed country that is looked upon as the prime mover. It is the Government that must spark the plug because individuals or corporations or local councils or village councils are incapable of breaking the backbone of the problem. That is why we really regret the part played by the makers of the Constitution of Nigeria. Whether these people are Nigerians themselves or whether they are aliens, they must be ready as lovers of Nigeria to give account to the coming generation for what they have done to land Nigeria into this worried condition.

With regard to the condition of Nigeria to-day, I want to characterise in very bold strokes a number of our leading economic problems. First, we have the problem of increasing demand by the majority of the people of Nigeria for a higher standard of life in face of declining production, and especially, in the field of agriculture. Now the image is this, that in Nigeria to-day the level of expectation of the masses of the people is so high and the level of realisation is so low that the gap between these levels is a gap of frustration.

[DR NZERIBE]

Into this gap anything from subversion to communism, and the actual revolt may step in at any time. We cannot, therefore, expect the Government to be stable unless this gap between the level of the realisation of the people and the level of expectation is bridged. The only way to bridge this gap is, of course, by increased production. The answer to the problem, therefore, is that we must do everything within our power to increase our production because production is the core and the keynote of everything we have to do.

Now, Sir, we have the problem of increasing population in the face of stagnant mechanism of production. Whether the census figures are correct or not, there are analyses to indicate that the population of Nigeria is growing at the rate of not less than 15 per thousand, that is, 1.5 per cent every year. If this analysis is correct it means that in the next 40 years or so, the population of Nigeria will double itself. One very striking characteristic of the growth of the population of Nigeria is that the increase is in the number of children and women; not in the number of people who are able and willing to work. This poses a very big problem in that the number of people who are born in Nigeria are not really the people who are able to produce anything; they are definitely dependent on the working population.

I come now to the question of unemployment. The problem of unemployment in Nigeria is a difficult one not only to the rural areas but also to the urban areas. Any Government that does not think seriously of this problem of unemployment, whether the unemployment is endemic as it is in some parts of Nigeria, or frictional as it is now in Enugu where some people have been dislocated, or technological as it happens from time to time in other places, is considered by the masses as unstable.

Unemployment and stability of Government and economics can never exist side by side. These young boys outside here who shout *Zeek ! Awo ! Aminu !* and so on are the potential enemies of this country. These boys are shouting because they think that as soon as independence comes Aminu Kano, Awolowo, Azikiwe, Sardauna and Balewa will simply usher in a new millennium. They are going

to be disappointed tomorrow and they are going to make themselves enemies of this country unless a bold economic measure is taken by the Government of this country to assure that these young people are going to be given that opportunity for them to be able to live up to the level expected of Nigerians.

Now, Sir, we have the problem of built-in attitude; built-in social and economic attitude; built-in method of work; built-in attachment to the family; built-in institutions as regards to land tenure, and built-in weakness in rural leadership—these are the major problems of economic development. This problem cannot be attacked piecemeal. An approach to them must be a frontal attack. The Governments of the Regions and the Government of the Federation are not even capable of tackling these problems unless the leaders of this country are prepared to bury the hatchet and come together and draw up a non-partisan, a non-sectarian, a non-selfish blueprint which will embrace the various Regions, the various economic groups, the various individuals who have got to work with all for our economic development.

People here last year suggested that indigent economists should be brought into the field. That is not the place for this criticism. Have you not heard in the past three months that one of the most eminent economists in Nigeria has been transferred or has resigned his service and he is now in Addis-Ababa? How many times has this Federation lost several people who are potential prominent economists? How do you expect Nigeria to produce eminent economists overnight? Our economists must be nurtured. They must be given opportunity to practise. They must be boosted. They must be advertised. They must be presented to the world as efficient economists. How can you bring a boy from the University and expect him to be an eminent economist? He must be given the opportunity at least to demonstrate his mettle from time to time.

This Government is losing economists. They go to the regions or go to the Universities to lecture. They are supposed to be brought here and every chance given to them to demonstrate their mettle.

Rumours are circulating that a biologist has been masquerading as an economist in one of the offices here in Lagos for the past six or seven years. I think this is scandalous, not only to this country but also to the outside world who are expected to come to Nigeria and see what is worthy of Nigeria. (*Interruption*).

I cannot conclude this short speech without saying something about the urgency and sequence of events necessary in economic development. The hon. Leader of Opposition last time mentioned that emphasis must be laid on agriculture. This could be a dangerous statement. The big difference between the Colonial type of mentality in economic development and the new approach to economic development is that the Colonial approach said, "Nigeria as a colony develop agriculturally, and we in the mother country, we industrialise. Then we come together and trade". But how the benefit of this partnership was shared was never certain. So, in Nigeria to-day when we think of agriculture first, we are simply trying to set a sequence of events. First, agriculture. What kind of agriculture? More yams, more cassava, more maize? No. (*Interruption*).

The problem of food and nutrition in Nigeria to-day is a problem of unbalanced diet. Therefore, when we speak of more yams more cassava and more gari we are laying the emphasis in the wrong place. The changes required in agriculture are qualitative changes and not quantitative changes. Qualitative changes are more eggs, more milk, more groundnuts, more vegetables and more meat; not more cassava, more Eba and not more Ewa. (*Hear, hear*).

Mr Chairman, Sir, we have to be careful that when we speak of agriculture we must be able to lay down a sequence of events. First, what kind of agriculture and when. Secondly, what kind of industry and when. In the course of time I hope to try to develop this thesis and explain or expand on why we speak of more agriculture. Why we must have more agriculture now, what kind we require now and when we talk later on of industry, what kind of industry?

With this few remarks I beg to support.

The Chairman : Order, order. I do hope that the rest of this morning we may get some short speeches directed solely to criticism

on the Ministry concerned. The last speech was really a Second reading speech.

There will be a short break now after which it is my intention to call Mr B. Ajayi. Sitting suspended until a quarter to eleven o'clock.

Sitting suspended : 11.35 a.m.

Sitting resumed : 11.50 a.m.

Mr B. A. Ajayi (Ekiti South East): Mr Chairman, Sir, I rise to comment on Head 45 and in doing so shall restrict myself to a few points.

The last speaker said that there is competition in the Regions with the Federal Government in respect of industry and as a result of this it has been extremely difficult for the Government to formulate a policy on industrial development or economic development. It is yet for him to prove his case. Even if he were right that would be the very reason why it is essential for this Government to have a concrete five years proposal. It will then be necessary for this Government to get the economic development policy of each Regional Government, study all of them, co-ordinate them, and then formulate a policy.

This side of the House is not at all happy about the planlessness of this Government in so far as economic development is concerned. The Leader of the Opposition has made the point abundantly clear this morning and I am very happy about the change of heart from the speakers on the other side of this House. The economic prosperity of this country will be shared irrespective of our political leanings. If, as a result of very good economic planning, the country is prosperous, we shall all share the benefit, and if on the other hand, there is a miscalculation, and there is unemployment and general depression, we shall all share the result, irrespective of our political leanings. On this particular question, I shall want every one of us to realise the sincerity of this side of the House and the concern of this side of the House about the way the Government handles such a fundamental aspect of our national life.

Mr Chairman, Sir, I know I have to restrict myself as all Members have to restrict themselves to this Head; but I would like to make one other important point, and that is that

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this country is in its primary stage of industrialisation and this is the stage when we should be extremely cautious about the encouragement of foreign investments. Some Members of the House said that of course we do it in the Western Region. If we do that in the Western Region, I want you to realise this fact, that in the Western Region the programme for five years has been drawn up by experts and the economic position of the Western Region is sound and stable and so it does not behove you to compare the Federal Government with the Regional Government in this respect and comparisons in this respect are odious.

All the same I wish you to realise the sincerity of this side in respect of our economic development programme. This country being in its primary stages of industrialisation, we should still try to increase the national income with the minimum expenditure and because we are predominantly agricultural, it is but reasonable that Government should tie down industry to agriculture. Everybody has said that we should establish some basic industries. We can, but in collaboration with the Regional Governments; we must be most careful about the type of basic industries we establish at this time of our national status.

There is a lot of economic wastage in the country, and although agriculture is not within the purview of this Ministry we can still intensify our efforts in the section on local research, and the results derived in that direction can be disseminated to the Regions; the Regional Governments, and the country as a whole will benefit by it. There is a lot of wastage, for example, yam. Yam in the country cannot last the whole year. What if we convert yam into yam flour and tin it—this normally will open a channel for a tinned industry—and the flour can be sent round all over the country? Or cocoa which is the main product of a particular Region: why not try as much as possible to do something about chocolate which the people will consume locally?

During the speech of the Minister of Finance he mentioned the competition with groundnuts in America. Can we not make our local margarine and from the residue make cake and then feed our cattle—that will normally make our cattle fatter—and manures from the cattle will

enrich the soil much more? I think we should think along these lines and it is very necessary for the Government to co-operate in this respect.

Well, as far as the Estimates are concerned, I find a section there known as "Section A—Personal Emoluments". There we have a Permanent Secretary to the Ministry of Economic Development, and also a Deputy Permanent Secretary. This definitely shows us it is all for the expatriates, and this being a new Ministry, a very important Ministry, it is necessary to have Nigerians, because this is a Ministry which really touches our hearts and the people who can best help us in such circumstances are our own people. At the same time I feel these are superfluous (a Permanent Secretary and then a Deputy Permanent Secretary) for this section of the Economic Development which is regarded as too small.

The Opposition Leader this morning has wisely suggested that we have an Economic Adviser. If the Government would not take his respected view at least I suggest it should bear in mind the post of an Economic Adviser under Economic Division and rule off Deputy Permanent Secretary; the Adviser should be responsible at least for the formulation of the economic development policy of this Ministry. It is essential we should have a policy that stands. Experts must formulate the policy.

Somebody has said that in this country we have no economists. There are: we just need to advertise and if we advertise we shall find people with very good qualifications. Mr Chairman, Sir, I would rather suggest that the post of a Deputy Permanent Secretary is superfluous, and it might be necessary to appoint an Economic Adviser to take charge of the Economic Division and then he works hand in hand with the Permanent Secretary. He either advises the Minister of Economic Development or the Permanent Secretary or he correlates their ideas which he hands over to the Minister of Economic Planning.

I also find jumbled together the Research and Administrative Division. I do not know how very compatible these two Divisions are, and it shows nothing but woolliness and lack of understanding of the very principle. Why should we lump our Research and Administrative Divisions together? Research is com-

pletely different from administration and explanation is required from the Minister of Economic Development in respect of this point.

The last point is in respect of Section B known as Miscellaneous. I am only happy that the Government is still very active about Research. We find Government subsidising the world-wide Research Organisations, but I feel like making some observations in this respect. We have world-wide Organisations—*(Interruption as the Minister of Information arrived with fellow Party Leaders, having won the election petition case against him.)*

Several hon. Members : *Shame, shame, shame !*

Mr Ajayi : Mr Chairman, Sir, I wonder whether there is no difference between ringing the bell and wringing one's hands. *(Interruption).*

The Chairman : There is very little time left.

Mr Ajayi : Mr Chairman, Sir, I am saying that there is a great difference between ringing the bell and wringing one's hands, and we shall know which is more effective.

Here on this item the Government is working rather progressively, and contribution has been made towards world's organisation for research. But I feel that the rice research station in Sierra Leone was set up at a time when rice production in Nigeria was very low and we imported most of our rice from Burma ; we have reached a stage when we should try and have our own research station where we can use our local brains to solve our local problems. Government has been very parasitic when we have not been on our own in depending so much on outsiders, we have to take our own initiative. I had been hoping that by now we should have been able to start a research of our own and solve our problems within Nigeria ; now when we are almost virtually at the threshold of Independence, this is very necessary.

I would refer the attention of the House to Sub-head 46—Anti-Locust Research Centres Subvention. That is quite all right in itself, and a right step in the right direction.

An hon. Member : Why ?

Mr Ajayi : I think my Friend will quite realise that he is not the Chairman of this Committee, and he is trying to usurp the right which is not his.

I would like to invite the attention of the House to Sub-head 53—Locust Control. I do not know what really the Government is trying to do about Locust Control. It is not the intention of the country to control locusts ; we should destroy them. Locusts are scavengers, but we must realise that they do more harm than good, and it is time that Government should realise that although so many people are involved in the process of controlling locusts it is better to destroy them and be relieved of the menace of locusts rather than fearing that unemployment will hit so many who hang on locust control.

Mr Chairman, Sir, as I said I would wish the Minister of Economic Development to be more objective and more efficient in the discharge of his duties. I would like far more co-operation between his Ministry and the other Ministries of the Government, and with these few remarks I beg to take my seat.

The Minister of Economic Development (The Hon. Mallam Shehu Shagari) : Mr Chairman, Sir, I am very pleased and feel very proud to speak at this moment of triumph when justice has prevailed. *(Applause).* This Government is based upon justice and it has been proved.

I am very grateful to the hon Members for what they have said concerning my Ministry and the interest they have shown concerning my Ministry and, in particular, the Leader of the Opposition who, this time, has given us very constructive criticisms and I must congratulate him very much for that. The Opposition, Sir, is a bit lucky in that they have only a single dim light in the dark shadow of their Shadow Cabinet. He is the only man who speaks constructively. *(Interruptions).*

Mr Chairman, Sir, I have listened attentively to the Leader of the Opposition and it has been the constant cry, especially by the Opposition Members, that this Government has no economic policy and no plan. This criticism, I think, has been fully met by the speeches in this House and in the papers laid before it. My hon. Colleague, the Minister of Finance, has fully explained the Government's economic and financial policies and our plan is before you

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in the Fourth Progress Report of the Economic Programme. We shall have an opportunity to discuss in detail this plan when we come to the Capital Estimates. But I understand the Leader of the Opposition is not satisfied with our plan by calling it "a plan without a target". Now, there could be no plan whatsoever without a target. (*Interruptions*). If you will just listen to me.

I have replied adequately during the speeches on the Second Reading of the Appropriation Bill on the points which the hon. the Leader of the Opposition made concerning our Five-year Programme which was extended to a Seven-year Programme and I need not say anymore.

An hon. Member : Say more !

The Minister of Economic Development : Well, you can read your *Hansard*. My main concern now is to deal with the preparation of our new plan in 1962.

An hon. Member : We want one now !

The Minister of Economic Development : We cannot make one now and throw our own overboard because you want a new one. (*Interruptions*).

I have already given an explanation of the Federal Government's intention in the planning field, this is an appropriate time for me to shed some further light. The Federal Government's planning has to be carried out at a number of different levels and all these have to be collated and harmonised if a satisfactory plan is to result. First, the fundamental objective must be defined—that we have achieved in agreement with all Governments. It has been repeated many times in this House and there is no need for me to repeat it. Next, there must be agreement between all the Governments of the Federation.

Now, the Opposition must remember that this is a Federation and we have got to consult all the Regional Governments concerned. Unless this is done, we shall have a series of different plans ; one not related to the other and each working against the other, which we cannot afford. We must remember that we have got three different Regional Governments and the Federal Government and we have to collate and harmonise our plan so that it will suit the country.

Sir, the National Economic Council is an instrument by which agreement on planning target could be reached. I am surprised that the Leader of the Opposition was not satisfied with the National Economic Council which he helped to formulate.

An hon. Member : He said it was inadequate.

The Minister of Economic Development : He said it was inadequate. Yes, I agree that that is what he said but what I want to point out is that our Government, being a Federal Government, consisting of various Regional Governments, has got to take into account the views of each Government and that is the importance of our having the National Economic Council which the Leader of the Opposition complains consists of politicians. Yes, it consists of politicians but experts cannot force the Regional Governments to agree with their plans and that is why politicians come in. If we ask experts to prepare these things by themselves, it is the Opposition themselves who will come and say that they have not been consulted, particularly people from the Western Region.

Now, I will tell you what I am going to do. I am extending the Economic Section of my Ministry so as to ensure that a framework is submitted in the National Economic Council in a sufficient time for the Federal Government to make a plan to begin in the year 1962. Obviously, this framework must take resources into account but I am sure we can leave the development of financial resources to the expert hands of our Minister of Finance. We also have to take into account our resources and means of training man-power. If you will just listen, Chief Rosiji. (*Interruptions*).

Chief Ayo Rosiji (Egba East) : The hon. Minister has asked me to listen. He is aware of the Fundamental Human Rights in this country. One of those things is that I cannot be compelled to listen to nonsense.

The Chairman : The hon. Chief knows that that is not a point of Order.

The Minister of Economic Development : The hon. Shadow Minister has been talking nonsense all the time he has been a Shadow

Minister. If the Opposition would only listen, I will tell them the work which we are doing in my Ministry.

Planning is not an easy thing at all and in order to plan, we have to try and work out how much traffic we want on our roads, railways and rivers and airways; what they are likely to take; how much postage we have to handle and what telephone and telegraph facilities we require. All these have got to be planned. Each of these matters is a study in itself but each of them is connected with the other. It is very clear that we cannot do it overnight, as the Opposition would like us to do.

Mr Chairman, Sir, the hon. Leader of the Opposition also complained about—(Prolonged interruptions.)

The Chairman : Order, order. We must listen in quiet, otherwise the object of all of us will be defeated, which is to get some more debate before the time elapses.

The Minister of Economic Development : The Opposition raised points which they want to be replied to and they are not ready to listen. If they do not want a reply they can go out. (Interruptions.)

Mr Chairman, I want the Opposition to behave please and if they will just listen, I will answer the constructive criticism made by the Leader of the Opposition.

An hon. Member : We do not want your praise.

The Minister of Economic Development : I thought that they would emulate what their leader has been trying to show them and that is to behave as grown-ups. (Interruptions.) The Opposition should behave as grown-ups. (Interruptions.)

The Chairman : Order, order. The Minister is, at the moment, the least offender. The Minister of Economic Development. (Applause.)

The Minister of Economic Development : Mr Chairman, Sir, the hon. Leader of the Opposition has complained about concentration of industries in certain areas. I want to inform him that it is not possible to scatter industries helter-skelter in the country without due regard to the economic potentialities of the

places and the communications as well as transport. That is why it is necessary for us to plan beforehand in order to be able to ascertain which are the best places to locate our industries. (Applause.) The Leader of the Opposition was saying that we concentrate our industries at Apapa, forgetting about the parts of Ikeja which—(Interruption.)

An hon. Member : He did not mention Ikeja.

The Minister of Economic Development : He did not mention Ikeja. We intend to take over Ikeja in a short time. (Applause.)

There is another thing. I quite agree with the view that Nigeria has got to assert herself after independence and lead the African countries as she is supposed to do. But the Leader of the Opposition has said that leadership by anybody requires money. I agree that money does a lot of things, but it does not do everything. That is the belief of the Action Group whose ideology is to do everything with money—and they have failed. (Applause.) You have failed woefully. (Interruptions.)

Mr Chairman, Sir, hon. Members would be interested to hear of the arrangements in my own Ministry (Applause) of which they have been complaining. My Ministry is divided into three sections: we have the Research Section, the Technical Assistance Section, and the Economic Planning Section. The House will be interested to know that we are expanding the Economic Planning Section of the Ministry in order to cope with the demand of the time and suggestions made by hon. Members. Further, the Government intends to appoint, as soon as possible, an Economic Adviser to the Government, and this Economic Adviser is going to be in the Prime Minister's Office and will have direct access to the Prime Minister and all the Ministers in the Federal Government. This Economic Adviser will deal with all our economic planning sections and the economic planning section of my Ministry will help in the day-to-day work, trying to assist us to formulate the general policy for carrying out our economic programme coming up for 1962.

Now, Sir, several Members have spoken about the Research side of my Ministry. The hon. Members should understand that according to the Constitution my Ministry is only concerned with the affairs of Research in

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Agriculture, and the development of agriculture as well as extension work is a Regional subject. Many Members spoke on things which are entirely Regional and they have to understand that the Ministry in the Federation is concerned only with the research aspects of agriculture as well as forestry and fisheries.

The hon. Mallam Iro Mashi has talked of the soil erosion and the danger of encroachment of the desert in the Northern Region. I think, Sir, that is a matter which is in the minds of my Government and also the Government of the Region. We are doing all we can to help the farmers to improve the productivity of the soil, and we are doing that through research and publication of the results of the research and extending them to the Regional Agricultural Departments, so that they will reach the ordinary peasant farmer.

I am very grateful to Dr Nzeribe for his very constructive talk concerning economic planning and also the need to increase the productivity of the soil of the country. He also talked of the increasing population and the need to increase production in order to meet this increasing population. I can assure him that my Ministry is doing all it can to help in this connection.

There is an hon. Member of the N.C.N.C. who saw no use at all in having any research organisations. Now, I do not think any Member of the House agrees with that suggestion. Research is the most important aspect of economy and without research we have no hope of improving our standards of living, and that is why in fact I think we need more and more money for research work, research in all things agricultural as well as forestry and fisheries research.

I think I have covered enough to allow the Members to know what we are really aiming at and I hope they will not listen to the rubbish which is being spoken on the other Side by people who do not know.

Prince T. A. Lamuye (Iwo East): It is rather unfortunate that the Minister has replied to points on which I was preparing to speak. At any event, I am very grateful to the Chairman for giving me this opportunity. It is well-known that sound economy and economic planning are not only of paramount importance to any emergent country or life-wire of any

subsistent nation but of profound necessity to the growing world. (*Hear, hear*). In this connection, Mr Chairman, I would not be doing justice to my conscience if I say that all is well with our economic and industrial development and planning in Nigeria, but rather, Sir, I will say that our economic planning. . . . (*Interruptions*).

But, Sir, I shall not concern myself with the shortcomings of the Ministry of Economic Development but rather I shall confine myself to what Nigeria requires to project an effective and progressive economic planning. At present we have several organs of economic planning in Nigeria. In the Western Region there is a Ministry of Economic Planning, supported by an Economic Planning Committee, with the assistance of two African leading economists. Sir, this Committee, I would remark in the absence of political bias, is doing well. In the Eastern Region we have an Economic Division in the Ministry of Finance, headed by our industrial son and economist, Dr Okigbo, Ph.D. At present, Sir, I learn that a Ministry of Economic Development is being initiated by the Eastern Region Government which would be headed by the very man—Dr Okigbo. In the Northern Region there exists an Economic Division in the Ministry of Finance headed by an expatriate who holds B.Sc. (Economics). In the Federation we have the young Ministry of Economic Development and we have the National Economic Council and the Joint Planning Committee.

In this respect, let us examine the Ministry of Economic Development in the Federation, that is, the Federal Economic Development. In doing so, I would pay tribute to our able and indefatigable Minister of Economic Development, (*hear, hear*). But if I go into the Ministry—I am not despising the Ministry as such—but in the interest of Nigerian economy, I must point out this: Nigeria needs two things; one of the things has been mentioned by the Leader of the Opposition. We must wipe out all these officials, the senior officials in the Federal Ministry of Economic Development because they are not economists. The Permanent Secretary there has B.Sc. in Botany. The senior official that heads the Economic Division of the Ministry is neither a degree man nor an economist, likewise the deputy Permanent Secretary.

Mr Chairman, how shall we have sound economic planning when the officials in the Ministry of Economic Development are not economists? I would advise that these officials should be replaced as early as possible and in the event of there being no Nigerians in the Ministry that are qualified to take the posts, the Minister must make a national call and I am sure very able hands in the country will respond to the call and we shall have efficient Nigerians to man the Ministry.

I would like to say something about the economic planning organs in the country. I do not say that these organs have failed woefully but I would say that those organs could not champion the economic stability and oneness of an independent Nigeria.

The hon. Leader of the Opposition has just said that an independent Nigeria will need a national economic commission. I strongly advocate this—I advocate the immediate setting up of this Commission. . . .

The Chairman : Order ! Order ! It is now a quarter to twelve and I am bound to interrupt the debate and put the questions necessary to finish to-day's business.

And it being 11.45 a.m., the Chairman proceeded, pursuant to Order (4th April), to put forthwith the Question already proposed from the Chair.

Question, That £224,720 for Head 45—Ministry of Economic Development—stand part of the Schedule, put and agreed to.

The Chairman then proceeded to put forthwith the Questions necessary to dispose of the Business allotted for this day.

HEAD 46—STATISTICS

£156,480 for Head 46—Statistics—agreed to.

HEAD 47—AGRICULTURE (RESEARCH)

£222,240 for Head 47—Agriculture (Research)—agreed to.

HEAD 48—FISHERIES SERVICE

£52,810 for Head 48—Fisheries Service—agreed to.

HEAD 49—FORESTRY (RESEARCH)

£91,040 for Head 49—Forestry (Research)—agreed to.

HEAD 50—VETERINARY (RESEARCH)

£214,640 for Head 50—Veterinary (Research)—agreed to.

Then the Chairman left the Chair to report Progress and ask leave to sit again.

(Mr Speaker resumed the Chair)

Committee report Progress—to sit again tomorrow.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion made and Question proposed, That this House do now adjourn : (Minister of Mines and Power).

Mr Speaker : There are notices from very many Members, the first I have here is Mr Ogunkanmi to the Minister of Communications, who, I think, is not present and he cannot receive the notice. I am afraid that is out. Mr Ahamefula, is the Minister of Internal Affairs here? I understand the Minister is not yet prepared to answer. Mr Larr—that is to the Prime Minister. I am afraid he is not here. Mr Akwivu, I am afraid the Prime Minister again has not found it possible to be present. Which Minister do you like to answer you?

Mr E. C. Akwivu (Orlu South-East) : The Minister of Transport and Aviation.

The Minister of Transport and Aviation (Hon. R. A. Njoku) : The hon. Member is advised to raise the matter on the Motion for Adjournment tomorrow.

An hon. Member : When the Minister will be away.

Mr Speaker : I can only remind Members that it is their duty to arrange to give me notice and to give the Minister notice and to get the Minister's agreement. Any Member who gets that has my agreement. Mr Ukaegbu, that is the Prime Minister again, I am afraid. I am afraid the House knows the rules about raising subjects on Adjournment. I have stated them and have even re-stated them. I am afraid there is no notice of Motion on Adjournment to-day arising.

Chief Anthony Enahoro (Ishan East) : The difficulty confronting Private Members is not that notice is not given to the Ministers but that they seem reluctant to answer these questions. This is the third occasion on which Mr Akwivuh as mentioned his question—(interruption).

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Mr Speaker : Order, Chief Enahoro has been called by me.

Chief Enahoro : I want to stress again that this is an opportunity for Private Members to raise subjects of public importance and unless the Cabinet are going to co-operate, they will be depriving the whole of the country of using this measure to bring them to question in this House. They must co-operate Sir, and when notice is given, it is their duty to answer these questions.

The Minister of Transport (Hon. R. A. Njoku) : I want to assure the House that when Ministers get due notice they are always prepared to answer but it is the responsibility of all the Members concerned to give due notice. The main importance of that is that some information which the Minister may not readily have personally will have to be obtained from the departments or Ministries and you want the Minister to be able to give you accurate information. There is no point answering just off-the-cuff if you are not satisfied.

Chief Enahoro mentioned Akwivu. Well, I was just coming in and Mr Akwivu was talking to the Minister of Labour who said he will be out of town tomorrow and if the matter were raised tomorrow, he would like me to answer. That was when I was coming in. You do not expect me to come here and—(Loud interruptions).

I want to repeat the assurance that if Members give us sufficient notice, we shall only be too willing to answer to their liking.

Mr Speaker : I do not know what Mr Akwivu has to say.

Mr E. C. Akwivu (Orlu South-East) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I only want to say something on a point of personal explanation. When the Minister responsible for this subject matter was talking this morning, he did indicate that the Minister of Transport should answer if the matter is raised tomorrow, Well, I was not really aware of the fact that the Speaker might be calling on that matter again this morning, otherwise I would have pressed the Minister to see if he could arrange for an answer this morning. My understanding was that the matter should be raised again tomorrow and it was my intention to contact the Speaker and notify him accordingly.

Mr Speaker : I hope it will be raised tomorrow.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved, That this House do now adjourn.

Adjourned accordingly at seven minutes to twelve o' clock.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
NIGERIA

Saturday, 23rd April, 1960

The House met at 9.00 a.m.

PRAYERS

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

PAPERS

Mr Speaker : Order, order. The following Papers which have been published in the Supplement to the *Official Gazette* No. 21 of 14th April, 1960, copies of which have already been distributed to Members, are deemed to have been laid on the Table :—

(1) The Excise Duties (Amendment)—(No. 2) Order, 1960 (Legal Notice No. 53 of 1960).

(2) The Customs Tariff (Duties and Exemptions) (No. 3) Order, 1960 (Legal Notice No. 54).

REPORT FROM SPECIAL COMMITTEES

Mr Speaker : I have to inform the House that Mr Mbakogu reports from the Business Committee that, in accordance with Standing Order 55A (1) (c), they have decided that the following Private Members' Motions be placed on the Order Paper for Tuesday, 26th April, in the order shown :—

(1) Market Stalls in Lagos (No. 42).

(2) Price of Motor Vehicles (No. 100).

(3) National Industrial Planning Board (No. 70).

(4) Northern/Eastern Regional Boundary (No. 88).

(5) Agreements with Foreign Governments (No. 64).

(6) Educational Policy (No. 74).

(7) Nigerianisation of the Federal Public Service (No. 67).

(8) Jurisdiction of the Niger Delta Development Board (No. 97).

(9) National Minimum Wage (No. 35).

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL
OF MINISTERS

The Minister of Finance : Mr Speaker, Sir, I want to start by apologising to the Opposition because I spoke to the Leader of the

Opposition on the advisability of having night sitting on Tuesday but after I had spoken to him, on close examination of our business and with the desire of Members to leave at the end of the month, I have added in the Statement I am making now, two other night sittings, making three in all, and as Members will see if we go over our work quickly we might be able to adjourn finally on the 30th of this month.

Sir, Monday April the 25th—Committee of Supply, Eighth Day.

Tuesday, April 26th—Private Members' Motions ; thereafter there will be late sitting in the evening after we have completed all Private Members' Motions. In the late sitting we shall debate the Bill to amend the Federal Supreme Court Ordinance, General Provisions Ordinance, 1955, Bill to amend High Court of Lagos Ordinance, 1955, Native Liquor (Townships and Certain Areas) Validation Bill, Bill to amend the Customs and Excise (Management) Ordinance.

On Wednesday, April 27th—Committee of Supply, Ninth Day ; Late Sitting ; W.A.C.R.I. (Nigerian Status) Amendment Bill, A Bill to amend the Savings Bank Ordinance, a Bill to amend the Audit Ordinance.

Thursday, April 28th—Committee of Supply, Tenth Day ; then Late Sitting again ; Final Supplementary Appropriation Bill 1957-58, Final Supplementary Appropriation Bill 1958-59, First Supplementary Appropriation Bill 1959-60, Widows' and Orphans' Pensions (Amendment) Ordinance.

On Friday, April 29th—Second and Third Readings of the following Bills : Penal Code (Northern Region) Federal Provisions Bill, Criminal Procedure (Northern Region) Bill, Adaptation of Federal Provisions (Northern Region) Bill.

Saturday, April 30th—Introduction of the new Speaker of the House of Representatives. The new Speaker of the House of Representatives will be formally introduced to the House on Saturday, April 30th, and I am sure hon. Akomolafe and his gang of critics will be here. Finally, Bills not completed on Friday the 29th will be completed and I am sure that the hon. Akomolafe can then have his cocktails.

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Zana the hon. Bukar Dipcharima): Mr Speaker, Sir, in accordance with the undertaking which I gave the House during the debate on the 5th April on the Motion by Mr Opia, I have appointed a committee consisting of the following Members of the House to enquire into the Motor Vehicle Insurance.

The Chairman of the committee will be the hon. J. C. Obande : Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister. Members are the hon. Sarkinbai ; the hon. V. E. Eze ; and the hon. Chief Ayo Rosiji.

You will notice that it is a very important committee and the Members reflect the nature and seriousness of the business we have in hand.

The terms of reference of the committee are as follows :

(1) *to enquire into the premiums at present charged for the insurance of motor vehicles in Nigeria, both for third party and for comprehensive cover, with a view to ascertaining the extent to which rates have increased since 1950 to compare them with rates currently charged in other countries and to ascertain whether they are proportionate to the actual current costs of meeting claims in Nigeria;*

(2) *to enquire into the practicability of introducing governmental control for motor vehicle insurance premiums ;*

(3) *to enquire whether the rights of the insured against the insurance companies in cases of accident, loss or damage to insured vehicles are adequately protected ; and*

(4) *to make recommendations.*

A secretary to the committee will be appointed from the staff of my Ministry.

ORDER OF THE DAY

APPROPRIATION (1960-61) BILL

(Seventh allotted Day): Considered in Committee of Supply.

(House in Committee)

HEAD 51—MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

Question proposed, That £608,070 for Head 51—Ministry of Commerce and Industry—stand part of the Schedule.

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Zana the hon. Bukar Dipcharima): Mr Chairman, Sir, I am rising to give an account of my Ministry during the past year not in order to forestall any criticism but in order to invite it because I realise that the commerce and industry of this country is the life-blood of our nation and therefore it is the duty of all Members to lend their support and give me the constructive criticism we need in order that our country should be secure. (*Applause*).

Let me start with the Marketing Boards. Exports and the selling arrangements continue to be made on behalf of all the Boards by the Nigeria Produce Marketing Company. But, on the 1st October, 1959, Foncha's Cameroons established its own Department of Marketing and Inspection ; that is following the footsteps already taken by the Western Regional Government when they set up a similar organisation on 1st April, 1950. But it is encouraging and perhaps very nice to know that both the Eastern and Northern Regional Governments, as always imbued with the noble vision of keeping the country united on all such matters, have continued using the Federal Departments for Marketing and Exports as the effective organisation for their Marketing Boards.

Now we are fortunate enough in having the Leader of the Opposition—who is head of the part in power in the Western Region—here with us. Perhaps he will appreciate the more the necessity of keeping the country's trade and economic development above party politics. (*Applause*). I need hardly mention that wherever the N.P.C. or the N.C.N.C. Governments are in power, be they in the Regions or in the centre, we shall do our utmost best to take politics out of our trade.

I am at present busily engaged in consultation with my colleagues in the Regional Governments as what we may have to do to effect any further improvements in the organisation of the Nigerian Produce Marketing Company. This Company, I feel, must be made to be an effective instrument of the Governments of the Federation to further our hopes in getting the best prices for our commodities and also for helping us to set up Nigerian enterprises and Nigerian businessmen, and I hope that a satisfactory agreement will be reached and the country will be better for it.

In the field of commerce, however, despite our efforts in improving the quality in produce and increasing the quantity and variety of our exports, I regret to say that the prices we get for our principal exports continue to decline. In spite of that, it may be interesting for Members to know that the provisional figures of shipments for the Marketing Board's produce in 1959 indicate a new record of £1.3 million.

Various reasons are given for this unhappy state of affairs in our commercial dealings with the outside world. For example, they tell us that cheap American lard and soya beans being exported to Britain terribly adversely affect our trade with the United Kingdom. We have made strong representations to the United Kingdom and raised the matter with the officials in the State Department in Washington when I was there last time. I am glad to say that both the United Kingdom and the United States are sympathetic to our problems and perhaps we shall get a better deal in the future. We shall ever continue to pursue this matter energetically through the appropriate international channels, especially after Independence has been achieved.

The European Common Market remains a serious problem for the future of our exports. The latest information on the level of tariffs agreed by the Six in respect of commodities forming the substantial part of our exports is, to say the least, discouraging, particularly for our trade in cocoa and oil things. The ultimate effect of their development policy in the associated overseas territories must be to make the Community virtually independent of supplies from third countries.

Apologists of the Common Market point to the fact that the tariff reductions so far made by the Six have been extended to all members of GATT.

There is no disguising the fact however that the Common Market aims to develop the European Economic Committee itself and its associated overseas territories at the expense of primary producers like ourselves. Not only will we ensure that the interests of such countries are kept in the forefront in every discussion of the European Common Market but I intend to examine the possibility of joining other primary producing countries in forming a counter bloc.

The great industrial countries cannot do without our raw materials. We could, therefore, strike a better bargain if we the producers are to adopt a common front towards them. It is a pity and sad reflection of the state of affairs in the world to-day that while the industrial countries are progressing by leaps and bounds, we the primary producing countries of the world suffer humiliation in financial matters.

An hon. Member : We cannot have it any more !

The Minister of Commerce and Industry : And we cannot have it any more. (*Hear, hear.*)

Now that it has been proved beyond any shadow of doubt that we cannot unduly rely on the so-called traditional markets, it is up to us to find new markets for our produce. This I intend to do and I hope to use the following methods : first, I shall send a strong delegation to all parts of the world, led by distinguished politicians or acute well-known and reliable businessmen. I shall welcome trade delegations from other countries.

During the independence exhibition, we hope to portray Nigeria's potentialities to our visitors, we intend to make publications showing the people what we in Nigeria can produce and by other methods which hon. Members will suggest no doubt we shall be able to put Nigeria squarely on the map and we shall all be the better for it. Nobody here in this House can play politics with our economy, this is far above everything, the very future existence and independence of our country depends upon our economic stability.

In following the Government's basic aim of expanding Nigeria's share of the world's trade our policy will then be to promote multilateral trade over as wide an area as possible thereby enabling us to sell our goods in the most favourable market and to buy our imports from the cheapest source available. We shall continue to honour our existing international trade obligations : after independence we hope to join the GATT since its principles offer the best chance for a steady and orderly expansion of world trade.

I must however appeal to all hon. Members to use their good influence to get our people to form big companies and corporations in

[MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY]

order that they may hold their own against big foreign firms and combines. The days of individual enterprises are nearly over; the giant firms and big combines have come to stay and my Government will help any body of people desirous of forming company with advice and guidance including even financial help in the form of loans in appropriate cases.

These new companies however should reflect the federal nature of our country by drawing their membership and capital from all the various regions of the Federation. If we become really united and interlocked in our financial dealings much of the stings and bitterness occasionally generated by the political extremists will be greatly reduced and Nigeria will be the stronger and happier for it.

Our traders must not only interest themselves in business but it is equally important that they should play their full part in the industrial development of our country. I shall do my best to bring about inter-regional co-operation in this field as well. For example a big rubber company, say, established in the West should have capital invested by the Northern, Eastern and/or Western Region or their respective production boards. The expansion of cotton industry in the North can be financed with the capital raised throughout the whole Federation. Let us build our own country with the fruits of our own labour and our own savings. The iron and steel industry to be established in the East and Lokoja area of the North should be the concern of all of us especially as our coal is now proved to be of coking quality.

In the industrial field we have a number of industries which have started production during the year while other existing industries have expanded their output.

Production of mineral oil is encouraging and there are strong possibilities of having our refineries in due course. Our industrialisation will be given new impetus when cheap electrical power becomes available as a result of the multiple of dams across the Niger in a few years time. Better communications including road, rail and river as well as improved facilities throughout the country will enable us to market our own material and finished products more profitably than hitherto.

I am convinced that with the political stability in the country which we of the Government give you—the N.C.N.C. and the N.P.C.

give you stability—and if I may add, the goodwill and the feeling of sense of duty which the Leader of Opposition seems to have brought to this House, the future of Nigeria is indeed very bright.

Within ten years of independence I assure you, Gentlemen, Nigeria will transform herself beyond recognition in the fields of both commerce and industry.

During the year six new industries were declared to be pioneer and a further sixteen are under consideration. Fourteen companies were awarded pioneer certificates and two more were approved subject to the registration of the companies concerned. Under the Industrial Development (Import Relief) Ordinance, relief has been authorised for twelve industries and so far nearly £110,000 has been refunded. Help has also been given to some industries by modifications of the Import Tariff. Already seventy-nine firms in different industries have been listed under the approved manufacturers' scheme.

The Federal Loans Board has already invested over £150,000 in twenty-nine industries, and loans to a total value of £116,000 are awaiting approval. Provision has been made in the capital budget for £139,000 to supplement the votes which are now almost fully committed. During the year, the Board considered 153 applications and recommended loans 50 industrialists. I will take this opportunity to repeat that the Ordinance under which the Federal Loans Board is constituted provide specifically for the promotion of industrial development not only in and around Lagos but also in respect of projects of major industry throughout the Federation.

The Federal Government is most anxious that these facts should be widely known and that industrialists in the regions with sound schemes for which they require loans from £10,000 and upwards, and can offer sound security should consider applying to the Federal Loans Board. There may well be schemes which could be financed by a joint loan from the Federal and the Regional Development or Finance Corporation. In principle the Government will welcome participation on this kind of basis.

The Development Loans Fund for industry have received 141 enquiries for loans from

all over the country which have been followed up by 31 completed applications.

Finally, Sir, may I refer to Nigerianisation in my Ministry. This is receiving my serious attention. Within the last twelve months, 18 Nigerian officers from my Ministry have been sponsored for overseas training courses in administration, commercial and industrial management. Of the total senior staff, numbering 153, 83 are Nigerians compared with 58 a year ago.

The head of the industrial section of my Ministry is about to leave us and I shall take the opportunity to get this post filled by the most suitable person I can manage to get.

I maintain that this Ministry of Commerce and Industry is a key Ministry and the question of its establishment is a matter of great importance to all of us. I am pleased to say that I am confident that Nigerians will take full advantage of the increased opportunities for technical assistance now available to them so as to fill all the higher posts in the Ministry very soon. Already my Deputy Permanent Secretary is a Nigerian of proved capability.

In conclusion, I must say that it is not enough for us to win political independence, we must also be economically free. This we can do if we are prepared to pay the same price we have paid for our political freedom. For this we need less talk and more and more hard work, less wishful thinking but more daring enterprise, and a deep sense of mission, less extravagance but more determination to save and invest. We cannot afford to do otherwise. Others have succeeded under more difficult conditions than our own, and I am certain that we too shall succeed in this noble venture.

Mr Chairman, Sir, before I sit down I wish to include the following provision under sub-head 109, under Head 51 after sub-head 108, Loss of Government Funds, on page 190 of the Estimates, and insert the sum of £3,000. I signify that the Governor-General has given his recommendation for this provision in accordance with Standing Order 63 (11) of this House. This proposed amendment is to provide a sum of £3,000 for the training of hotel and catering workers during the Independence Celebrations. The scheme itself, which will admit sponsored trainees of the

Regional Governments, provides for a six months' training course for hotel and catering workers who are expected to serve our distinguished guests in October this year. To organise and run the scheme successfully we are inviting two I.N.O. experts who have had a lot of experience in work of this nature.

The sum of £3,000 for which this amendment is being proposed will cover part of the expenditure incurred in extending the invitation to these experts and other ancillary allowances. It also includes other necessary expenditure involved in the purchase of provisions and equipment for practical instructions during the course. I am sure that hon. Members will wish to give their blessing to our scheme which is necessary to raise the standard of catering in general throughout the country.

Sir, I beg to move.

Amendment proposed to include Sub-head 109, Training of Hotel and Catering workers, £3,000.

Amendment put and agreed to.

Mr J. S. Tarka (Jemgbar): Mr Chairman, Sir, the Minister for Commerce and Industry has rightly pointed out the importance of this to the economy of the nation. It is true, as he has just mentioned, that this Ministry is one of the live-wires of the economy of the country. It is a Ministry which if carefully handled will ease unemployment throughout the country and improve the existing financial position of the Federation.

This Ministry and all that goes with it is about party politics. We on this side of the House, without necessarily abdicating our own decision will continue to give our support to the Federal Government on measures which we all know are above party politics. The Minister, in the course of his speech, mentioned the question of the Southern Cameroons and the Western Regional Government having established separate bodies. I think that despite the fact they are not holding a brief for these Regional Governments, I must point out that the decision to establish these separate bodies was not a decision merely taken by those Regional Governments, but it was a decision taken at the resumed Constitutional Conference. I must say that everybody who was at the Constitutional Conference was a party to that decision. It is therefore not

[MR TARKA]

very wise, I am sorry to say, of the Minister to try to make politics out of the decision to establish these two bodies by the Regional Governments.

It is the responsibility of the Federal Government to try, as far as possible, to unify the industrial progress and industrial advancement of the country through occasional consultations with the Regional Governments.

The Minister has mentioned continued falling prices of our own commodities. We buy from various foreign markets and some of the countries concerned tend to buy very little from Nigeria. It is up to the Federal Government now to do its very best to encourage those countries to buy more from Nigeria. This can be achieved in various ways. Before Independence I suggest that the Minister from time to time should lead trade delegations to those countries and try to point out the necessity to buy more from Nigeria, so that our trade balance will be favourable. The Minister has already mentioned this, and I say this in order to support what he has already said. On the other hand after Independence the Federal Government could set up Trade Attaches in the various embassies throughout the world. They could also hold industrial exhibitions in countries where we have not been able to situate embassies so that Nigeria's trade-worthiness can be justly advertised throughout the world.

The Minister himself, as one of the foremost and best nationalists in the Northern Region, has failed in one way, for throughout his stay in office his own Ministry has failed to take up the outlook which exists in the Minister himself.

In one way, Sir, the Minister has mentioned Nigerianisation in his own Ministry. Everybody who is aware of the situation in that Ministry would be woefully disappointed to hear that up till now there are only eighty-three Nigerians being trained abroad to take their rightful positions in that Ministry. We would like to see not only the Deputy Permanent Secretary in that Ministry as a Nigerian, but we would like to see the Permanent Secretary, the Principal Adviser, the Principal Industrial Adviser and more Nigerians holding most if not all the key positions in that Ministry.

The Ministry as I have pointed out before is a Ministry where if care is not taken a lot of loss would be incurred by this country. If we still allow the colonial mentality which exists to continue in a key Ministry like that then I would say goodluck and goodbye to the type of markets which we envisage for this country in future. There are in that Ministry certain people who would like to see Nigerians at the bottom rung of the ladder; and these people can rightly be described as negrophobists. They would like to see Nigerians continue as their under-dogs for ever.

There is a position which was previously known as Principal Publication Officer; that post was vacated for some time by the substantive holder, there was enough opportunity for a Nigerian to take up the appointment but simply because the Secretary of the Senior Civil Servants Union, Expatriate Branch, had to be an official in that Ministry, Nigeria has the misfortune once again to have an expatriate officer to fill that post. Furthermore, the post had its name altered and the post had been elevated to that of Chief Industrial Adviser.

There is one thing which is happening in the various Ministries of this Government. I think it may be through ignorance or it may be a sort of inferiority complex but there are certain Ministers within this Government who would prefer seeing expatriates as their own Permanent Secretaries to having Nigerian Permanent Secretaries. There is general belief among these Ministers that the Nigerians are not ready to bow down for them every minute of the day and say 'yes sir' to the Ministers and it is believed by some of these Ministers that the expatriate officer is more than ready to bow for them and to work for them as long as they like. As a result they would prefer to push down these African officials and have in their places expatriate officials who would say *ranka de-de* to them every minute of the day.

I think this is an alarming position. I am not referring to any particular Minister but this is a general fact.

Several hon. Members : Fire on ! Good talk.

Mr Tarka : I am sure that the Minister of Commerce and Industry himself would not

like to have an expatriate officer as his own Permanent Secretary and he has already assured this House that he would see to it in the very near future that all the key posts are occupied by Nigerians.

I do not want to dwell too long on this question but I would sound another note of warning and it is this that if this position of affairs continues we shall find that as time goes on it will be to the disadvantage of the country to keep these expatriate officials for ever; because after independence we shall find that there may be some expatriate officials who would be ready to negotiate trade and industries rather to the interests of their own countries than to the interests of Nigeria. Hence I am suggesting that the Federal Government should take up with more vigour and more vigilance the question of Nigerianisation in this all-important Ministry.

Several hon. Members : Good advice.

Mr Tarka : The good record of any Ministry depends entirely on the type of Permanent Secretary which the Ministry concerned has at its head and it also depends on the type of Advisers and the type of advice the Minister concerned receives. It is in this wise that I continue to suggest that these key positions of Industrial Adviser, Permanent Secretaries, Trade Advisers and so on should be Nigerianised immediately.

But it is said that industrial revolution in European countries was not very much felt in Nigeria. I think I can rightly say and I am open to correction that this is our own little industrial revolution in its infancy; and it needs careful hands to extend this industrial revolution in order to have it felt in all the parts of the country.

Sir, I would make some more of these suggestions even for the sake of economic measures, for it is better to have a Nigerian official than to have an expatriate official.

Industry, Sir, should be spread all over the country. The position which obtains at present is that most of these industries are congested in centres like Lagos, Port Harcourt, Enugu, Kaduna, Ibadan, Kano and the principal cities, and as a result you find that there is a wave of unemployment in most of the provincial towns. I think that when an industrialist

comes to this country and applies for a licence to establish a particular industry the Federal Government should take into consideration the need of the labour forces of that particular industry in a particular area and advise (and I think that most industrialists will be willing to accept this advice)—these industrialists to establish the industries concerned in the areas where the forces will be locally consumed. I think that this, apart from uplifting the standard of living, will help to ease the labour unrest and unemployment in the various Provinces.

Foreign industry must not be allowed to compete so vehemently with Nigeria's own industry. The Federal Government should at this juncture do its very best to encourage indigenous industries. This can be done by stopping or by refusing to grant licences to certain industrial concerns which come from abroad, in the way of the particular type of industries which can be carried out by local industrialists. The Federal Government can go further to help subsidise the existing local industries, and the Federal Government, as far as possible, can help to establish certain industries and have Nigerians as shareholders in these industries.

If a Nigerian establishes a particular industry and is unable to carry it through and the Federal Government sees that there is need for that particular industry in this country, then it is up to the Government either to encourage, through loans or otherwise, the firm establishment of that particular industry. It is in this way that Nigerian industrialists can stand on their own without necessarily depending on foreign industries.

What is obtaining at present is that certain industrialists come to this country, they acquire Nigerians into their industries as Directors and various Board Members, but it can be found that these Nigerians have little or no capital in the industrial concerns. But the Federal Government is blindfolded by the fact that Nigerian names are associated with these industries and so they record them as Nigerian-owned industries. The Federal Government should investigate and see whether it is true that some of them are either directly or indirectly owned by the Nigerians.

Furthermore, Sir, there are industries such as boat-building. Certain Regional Governments have boat-building industries, but I

[MR TARKA]

think that the Federal Government can establish boat-building yards in the river areas of the type that has been established at Opobo. The Federal Government can also establish meat industries. (*Interruption*).

The Chairman : Members must not interrupt the proceedings in Committee.

Mr Tarka : The Federal Government can establish meat labour and fish planning industries. We have our own trains, and if these industries are established, particularly in the northermost part of Nigeria where there is plenty of cattle, it is better than wasting time and being unmerciful to these animals that are being transported to the South. The establishment of these industries will help to bring good quality and cheap meat to the South. This can be established with the co-operation of the Railway Corporation. The Federal Government can instal big refrigerators in our trains and convey this meat in good condition.

In conclusion, Sir, I wish to ask the Federal Government to establish consultative bodies which should include businessmen of all standards. I mean true businessmen, people from all walks of life who are interested in the industrial progress of this country, to advise the Federal Government from time to time as to how best to spread industries in this country in order to effectively industrialise the whole country.

Sir, I beg to support.

The Chairman : I am sorry to criticise, but I try to call the Members of the Opposition who represent Shadow Ministers in a Head being discussed now, but I cannot afford the time to have such long speeches when there is only now practically half an hour left for this Head.

Mr J. K. de-Omomadia (Urhobo East) : Mr Chairman, Sir, it was most unfortunate that during the Debate on the Budget Speech I did not catch the eye of the Speaker. To day I am very happy that I have now caught the eye of the Chairman. I must say this, Sir, that my parliamentary appetite has almost run down during the Budget Speech—(*Interruption*).

Several hon. Members : Sit down !

Mr de-Omomadia : I am happy to say, Sir, that the Ministry of Commerce and Industry has been of immense assistance to Nigerian businessmen in this country by way of connecting the buyer with the seller. It has also protected financial interests of both the buyer and the seller, and settled similar disputes between them all over the sterling area.

But, Sir, this is not all that is expected of this Ministry. I know that the Government will entertain some fears about giving our money to the businessmen when the position of the Nigerian businessman in this country is unprotected.

The Chairman : The acoustics are very bad at that end of the Chamber. Will the hon. Gentleman address himself to the microphone as far as he can, and speak up and briefly.

Mr de-Omomadia : Mr Chairman, Sir, in this country since there are some raw materials which could be used for the manufacture of steel... (*Interruption*).

The Chairman : Order, order ! The hon. Gentleman is still not complying with my advice. Will he please look at me, and speak up.

Mr de-Omomadia : Mr Chairman, we have the raw materials which could be used for the manufacture of steel. Government should look into the possibility of promoting such industries. Five months from now we shall have our independence. Any nation striving to have her own Army, to have her own Navy and her own Air Force must first of all think of how to maintain them. What can we do with our Army, our Navy and our Air Force which cannot be supported by a Steel industry to manufacture their equipment? (*Hear, hear*).

The Chairman : Order, order. The hon. Gentleman is now being irrelevant. I think he had really better confine his remarks to a very short space.

Several hon. Members : Fire on, fire on.

Mr de-Omomadia : There are other industries such as the nail industry and industries for the manufacture of agricultural implements which will be useful to this country. We will be proud to have these things made in this country. I do not know our future plans for the country but I think

in establishing these industries we should think about a steel industry as of urgent necessity to safeguard our position in the scheme of things. I think the Minister can find the money for such an industry which is a necessity to the country by withdrawing some of our investments from overseas. We have the raw materials and all we need is the technical experts. At Enugu we have iron-ore in tons and I understand that there is ore in large quantities at Udi in the East and Ahaja in the North which are available for this purpose. I hope the Government will realise the necessity and will give consideration to the production of steel in this country, and such industries will help as well to solve the present unemployment problem in Nigeria.

The other day an hon. Member from Aba South during the Debate on the Estimates for the Ministry of Finance, raised the question of second-hand clothing—'Okrika Wake Up' as he called it—and, demanded an adjustment in the rate of import duty on this clothing. I will not concern myself with the question of import duties on these goods but the point I would like to raise here is to appeal to the Minister of Commerce and Industries to prohibit the importation of such clothing into this country. It is very shameful. If you buy them to-day in course of a few days they are torn and I do not see any economy in buying them. We will pay rather higher for new clothes locally manufactured than pay less for these worn-out rags which are dumped into this country. We cannot allow these second-hand clothes in our country and, I think, it is a very big disgrace to us. I realise that some people are making huge sums of money out of this clothing but still it is a disgrace to our country. There is no economy in it and the Minister should do something to prohibit the importation of these goods into Nigeria.

Mr Chairman, another point I would like the Minister to look into with great interest is our rubber and timber trades. The Government realises huge sums of money annually by way of export duties from these commodities while the Nigerian businessmen engaged in the trade are left to ruin. I am referring to the fluctuating position of the prices of these commodities. They are subject to weekly or

periodical fluctuations in the United Kingdom and only because the prices are always dictated by the buyer.

I wish to say that many Nigerian businessmen have been ruined by the perilous process of non-stability of prices of these commodities by the Government. The expatriate firms in this country are always constant in the trade and I cannot say why many Nigerian businessmen are always drawn out of it. I feel that it is high time Government took special interest to place these commodities under the Marketing Board or a Special Board to control the prices in order to save the Nigerian businessmen from this grave calamity.

Mr P. E. Ekanem (Enyong South): Point of Order, Mr Chairman. The hon. Member is reading his speech.

The Chairman: A point is made on the reading of speeches. I quite agree there is no time to read speeches this morning. I think the hon. Member must really end his speech now unless he has something which is not written.

Mr de-Omomadia: Mr Chairman, in conclusion, I would like to say this, that the Minister is already aware of the present attitude of some expatriate firms in this country who engage themselves in the retail trade in competition with the petty retail traders of this country. I think this is a very grave and serious matter in which the Federal Minister of Commerce and Industries should interest himself, and I wonder why the Minister should say that matters of internal trade should be confined to inter-Regional trade. This is a practice which is going on in all the Regions of the Federation and, no doubt, in Lagos. The chain of the distribution which is from the manufacturer to the wholesaler, from the wholesaler to the retailer and from the retailer to the consumer—

The Chairman: Order. order. I am very sorry, I must ask the hon. Gentleman to resume his seat. He has really done nothing but read his speech and reading inaudibly. I must ask him to resume his seat.

M. Abba Yola (Wudil): I am grateful Mr Chairman for giving me this opportunity. I rise—(Interruptions).

Several hon. Members: Fire on, fire on.

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The Chairman : I can hear noise both from my right and from my left. I will ask the Committee to keep silent. I will deal with other points myself.

M. Yola : I rise to support the Head. In supporting the Head, Mr Chairman, I am appealing to the Minister concerned to give an assurance to this House that his Ministry will establish factories throughout this country, more especially in the Northern Region and Kano in particular in order to help the poor farmers and the other countless giants, healthy and jobless people who are likely to be forced into hooliganism, robbery, stealing, pick-pockets and causing disturbance throughout the country. There are thousands and thousands of people in this country, most of whom are illiterate and have no jobs to do except gambling and wandering. There are too many hooligans here in Lagos; most of them are educated but remain jobless. Although it is not clear in this House yet all the hooliganism here in Lagos emanates from the Action Group because they lost the last election—(Interruption).

The Chairman : Do not let us waste time on just noise.

M. Yola : They do not want to bring peace to this country—(Interruption).

An hon. Member : Point of Order.

The Chairman : Do not let us waste time. I can probably guess what the hon. Gentleman is getting up to say but I will call M. Abba Yola.

M. Yola : Sir, there is nothing to stop their hooliganism unless the Government establishes factories throughout the country to help these jobless people. It is the duty of this House, through this Ministry, to see that such practices are stopped entirely as early as possible otherwise people will suffer greatly since the more the jobless, the more the disturbance in the country and there will be no rest to the Government at all.

Most of the leaders of the Action Group are not political leaders, they are leaders of hooligans. They are hooligans' leaders.

Several hon. Members : Shame, shame !

The Chairman : Order, Order. I have one bit of advice for the Committee. If any section of the House persists in making such

noise that I cannot hear the speaker I will count it as the time they would otherwise take in making any speech themselves. We must listen in silence to the speech. We have to take what comes. I will deal with points of Order.

Mr W. Briggs (Degema) : I hope speakers also will refrain from attacking political parties and be relevant to the issue on point; if not they call for it.

The Chairman : It will probably be quicker to let the speech be made. I will try to protect the House against any great abuse. Mallam Abba Yola, it is on Commerce and Industry.

M. Yola : In continuation, Sir, most of the Action Group political leaders are not leaders of political parties but leaders of hooligans—(Interruption).

The Chairman : That will not do. Order, Order. Unless the hon. Member has something to say about Commerce and Industry I will ask him to finish his remarks.

M. Yola : Thank you, Sir, and with these few remarks I support the Head. (Hear, hear).

Mr P. B. Olatunde (Ilorin South) : Mr Chairman, Sir, I rise to contribute to the debate on the Head for Commerce and Industry. This Ministry is very, very important for it serves as the life blood of the country. Therefore, very careful consideration must be given to this particular Head. Many of us from the rural areas have been complaining of Government neglecting our areas in the Development Plan and the Ministers concerned always say, 'no money, no money!' When we, therefore, come to this particular Head from where we can get money we try to pay particular attention to the ways and means of getting money.

I only want to confine myself to the Trade Division of the Ministry and particularly the Commerce Branch. If you look at this Branch of the Ministry you will find—Chief Commercial Officer, Principal Commercial Officer, Senior Commercial Officer, and Commercial Officer. Definitely, this is duplication of offices. Why not from Commercial Officer to Principal Commercial Officer? Or what is the difference between the Senior and Principal Commercial Officer since most of the duties of the Branch are done by the Commercial Officers.

A Commercial Officer has responsibility for provision of information regarding current market conditions in Nigeria; provision of information in regard to the capacity and financial standing of business both in Nigeria and abroad; provision of trade advisory service to assist importers and exporters in establishing contacts with overseas firms; the investigation of complaints from overseas against Nigerian merchants and from local traders against their business contacts abroad, in an endeavour to effect a satisfactory settlement between the parties concerned; the securing from overseas of adequate quantities of goods—

An hon. Member : Point of Order. The hon. Member is reading.

The Chairman : It is perhaps not the first time my attention has been drawn to that. When I cannot bear it any longer I will deal with it.

Mr Olatunde :—the securing from overseas of adequate quantities of goods in short supply, the procurement of which necessitates Government intervention and sponsorship and their equitable distribution throughout Nigeria; import control and export control; registration of business names. A commercial officer carries out full-dress administrative functions. He has to be keen and alert in serving the most difficult class of people—the businessmen with their traditional wit. Being almost always exposed to official corruption, he is also bound to build up the great resistance to insulate himself and as the business community looks up to him for guidance and prompt assistance, he should be made reasonably contented by adequate remuneration.

I was informed that the Commercial Officer had consistently been down-graded, having been thrown from Scale A to B and now to Scale C. This obviously is demoralising for an officer who is expected to play such a vital part in the execution of the Federation's much expanded and still expanding Commerce.

Frankly speaking, Mr Chairman, Government ought to do something to encourage this class of officer, in order to put in more efficient and honest service. On many occasions I have approached many of these officers and I can say with much emphasis that many of them are sincerely working for the progress of the country, though there may be some who are working only to fill their pockets.

Government should try to help and encourage the Nigerian merchants and petty traders, because the more they import or export goods the more they will be able to pay duties. All the manufacturers' and suppliers' representatives in Nigeria who are.....

The Chairman : I must ask Mr Olatunde to confine his reading to a very few words.

Mr Olatunde : All the manufacturers' and the Suppliers' representatives in Nigeria who are competing with our local traders in retailing goods should be sent back to their respective homes.

With these few remarks, Mr Chairman, I beg to support.

Mr D. D. Okay (Port Harcourt) : Mr Chairman, Sir, I wish to handle very briefly three points in this Ministry. No. 1 is in connection with the Federal Loans Board which was established in 1956, No. 2 is Aids to African Businessmen and No. 3, Lack of Government encouragement to African Local Industries in Nigeria. (*Hear, hear*). I will handle them serially.

With regard to Federal Loans Board which was established in 1956, I find that all the applicants who have been given loans are people within the Federal Territory of Lagos. There are many established houses, many businessmen outside the Federal Territory of Lagos who have applied to the Federal Loans Board for the purpose of getting the loans but up till now, not even one man from the provinces has benefited from this establishment and I would wish the hon. Minister to make a statement and say why people in the provinces do not get these loans. (*Hear, hear*).

(2) is Aids to African Businessmen. Some-time ago, members in this House will see a report from that Committee "Committee on Aids to African Businessmen", which was set up by hon. the Minister of Commerce and Industry. We would like to know whether this Committee is moribund or is still functioning and what is the outcome of all the recommendations embodied in the Committee's Report. We want to know.

(3) Sir, I said 'Lack of Government encouragement to African Local industries in Nigeria'. I am from Port Harcourt, and it is an industrial

[MR OKAY]

city and Port Harcourt also is a centre of trade. We in Port Harcourt do not feel that Government is doing enough to encourage the growth of industries in Nigeria, particularly in Port Harcourt. I challenge the hon. Minister of Commerce and Industry to say and tell this hon. House whether he has encouraged any African business enterprise at Port Harcourt. We would want to be encouraged. There are many local industries at Port Harcourt, many businessmen. All these enterprises ought to be encouraged and they need the Government aid. So, I would like the hon. Minister to make a statement in this regard.

Another point, Sir, I would like to handle very briefly is in regard to the memorandum submitted by the Eastern Stockfish Association. It was handed over to the hon. the Minister of Commerce and Industry early this month. I am well acquainted with the information about stockfish in Nigeria. The business of stockfish is a trade between two principal parties, Iceland and Norway as the exporting countries and Nigeria as a consuming country.

Now, the expatriate Firms in Nigeria have their representatives in Iceland and in Norway and whenever the trade of stockfish fluctuates either in Norway or in Iceland, their representatives there buy these goods cheaper and ship to them, whereas the African industries, I should say the African firms in Nigeria who have no representatives in these countries, always get these stockfish at a higher rate and immediately the goods arrive in this country, they are sold at a loss. When goods are sold at a loss, we will not like it ; it means loss of capital on one hand and the profits go to the manufacturers in Iceland and Norway. I would like the Minister of Commerce and Industry to make a statement on what he intends or his Ministry intends to do in regard to this matter. (*Loud Applause*).

Sir, I beg to support.

M. Ahmadu Fatika (Zaria North West) : Mr Chairman, Sir, I rise to speak on this important Ministry. It is important as it is the life of the economy of this country.

Sir, during the old House, many Members spoke about the establishment of industries throughout this country and, yes, I was an old Member. I was among those who spoke on

this matter, as industry is very essential in the economic life of any country, especially here in Nigeria where the question of unemployment is increasing rapidly yearly throughout the Federation.

Mr Chairman, I am very surprised by the answer given to me by the Minister of Commerce and Industry, in establishing sugar Industry in Zaria. I am sure the Minister was informed. Sir, Zaria Province has the largest area of sugar canes not only in the Northern Region, but in the whole Federation and there are several acres of marshy places throughout this province, therefore, I appeal to the Minister to see that another sugar industry is proposed at Zaria as early as possible. I am sure that it is the intention of this hon. House that Nigeria should produce sugar in great quantity, not only for local consumption, but also for export.

My second point is in regard to prices of cotton and groundnut which are very poor at present. This will definitely retard the progress in raising the standard of living of our people in the Northern Region. This is especially so for the year 1959-60 when the yield of cotton and groundnut was very poor. I would like, therefore, to appeal to the hon. Minister to use his good offices to find good prices for these commodities throughout the world.

My other point is in regard to ginger which is grown mostly in the Northern Region, particularly in Southern Zaria. Unfortunately for the people in this area whose main cash crop is ginger, last year's price was very poor, both in and outside Nigeria. This brought poor living standard to the people themselves. I would suggest to the Minister to find good price for this commodity in world market, and also to establish an industry at Kacia where ginger can be used.

My next point is the Federal Loans Board which is under the jurisdiction of this Ministry. Since the establishment of this Loans Board very few people—all in Lagos—have had the privilege of getting loans. In my opinion, the law binding the loan is too tight. For example, a man applies for this loan to run a hotel, he is asked to produce securities and those to stand

for him as sureties. Besides this, he must own a hotel and give an account of how it is run. What is the use therefore of this item? If I own a hotel, why again should I apply for a loan to build another hotel? This is not prudent. I hope the Minister will do something about it now so that many people will be benefited by this loan.

My last point is in regard to unhealthy competition in the retail trade. This has been criticised every year on the Floor of this hon. House, yet the policy continues to exist even in the worse condition. For this reason many petty traders have abandoned their businesses and have become very poor indeed. I would appeal to the Minister, once again, to appoint an independent Commission of Enquiry to investigate this state of affairs and recommend a definite remedy for the situation. With these few remarks, I beg to support.

Sitting suspended : 10.40 a.m.

Sitting resumed : 10.54 a.m.

The Chairman : Order ! order ! Seeing the Amendments down to this Head, I came to the conclusion that it might be better to have the Amendment moved to reduce the whole of Sub-Head 1 rather than to confine the debate to item 1. I therefore call on Mr Akwiwu to move his Amendment to which, of course, Mr Mbakogu should speak.

Mr E. C. Akwiwu (Orlu South East) : The hon. Minister of Commerce and Industry has made some far-reaching statements on the Floor of this House this morning and I must say that by and large I agree with him in the most fundamental views he expressed on the policy of his Ministry. As there is very little time I will proceed to deal on various subject matters under this Ministry very very briefly.

The Minister made reference to the Nigerian Produce Marketing Company. All I have to say at this stage is that the success of this company should serve as an inspiration for organising marketing companies or marketing commissions or committees or whatever you call them for various other heads of commerce. I will return in some detail to this later in my speech but I would like now to urge the hon. Minister to prevail upon the Nigerian Produce Marketing Company to shew a more progressive policy in favour of Nigerian shipping interests in connection with the allocation of export and import quotas.

There was a lot of outcry sometime ago when the Produce Marketing Company laid down conditions to be fulfilled by Nigerian Shipping interests before they would be entitled to carry any quota of Nigerian produce from Nigeria to countries abroad. We feel sure that those conditions are extremely stringent and discouraging to the growth of indigenous shipping interests. I know for certain that there are people in the world to-day outside Nigeria who are prepared to help indigenous Nigerians build up commercial shipping interests by supplying them ships on very generous hire-purchase terms provided the Marketing Company would give the assurance that the line would be entitled to convey produce from Nigeria to overseas.

I think it is in the best interest of this country, at least for revenue purposes, that indigenous shipping interests should be encouraged and it is also in the best interest of this country that those who wish to profit from ocean traffic in this country should endeavour to make themselves liable to taxation in this country both in respect of their ships as well as their companies. I believe this Government is in a position to dictate terms on which goods are to be imported into this country or exported from this country. If we can take a bold stand on that it would enhance and encourage, not only the revenue of the country but also the growth of indigenous commercial ocean traffic about which Members, particularly in the last House, made very persistent and rather thought-provoking Motions. I hope the hon. Minister will give it his serious consideration.

The hon. Minister made statements about finding new markets. We agree with him entirely. He made a very patriotic statement and he is taking a very patriotic stand on the matter. The question of sending Trade Delegations abroad is something which I personally have advocated on the Floor of this House. Even last January I advocated it. It is little use if permanent officials only are sent. Civil Servants may be experts in Civil Service Administration but they cannot boast of knowing much more about trade than some of us here, much less those outside. I think the Minister has taken a very fine decision and I am certainly looking forward to his carrying out his undertaking. I am sure he will do it for only

[MR AKWIWU]

sion. Orlu Division produces the largest amount of oranges in this country. It should be investigated. Orlu Division is the back-stay of the palm produce trade in the Eastern Region. If soap is to be manufactured Orlu Division should be considered.

Finally, Sir, I would like to commend the suggestion of establishing trade commissions abroad. I am suggesting that trade commissions be established abroad. My reasons are these :

One—Indigenous exporters from this country do not get fair treatment abroad. Take the average timber exporter. You export your timber from this country. Then a person or the firm your timber is exported to in the United Kingdom after some time would write back to say that the timber is not up to quality or something like that. You insist that an arbitration be set up to go into it. The arbitration is set up. The Department of Commerce and Industries is not represented. The Nigerian Commissioner's Office is not represented. The man who exports the timber who is eventually liable is in no way represented. The representation is completely alien. And there are cases when people had complained that their interests had not been fairly protected and they have gone to the extent of establishing that their rivals had had undue influence over those who were otherwise supposed to be independent and impartial arbitrators.

Sir, I think that we should have trade commissioners wherever we have big trading interests.

Secondly—Our trade commissioners should be able to act or organise what would in effect be a confirming house for Nigerian business people. As there have been complaints by the stock-fish traders the confirming houses at present are filled with people on which we have no claim whatsoever. Now, if a purchaser from this country places an indent with, say, a stock-fish exporter in Iceland he is bound to pay his commission of one shilling in the pound or five per cent, and he must also pay all other charges before the indent gets into Nigeria. Now his expatriate competitor with wider organisation dealing in terms of greater quantity and greater value is in a position to get greater discount. He might even have his own consigning house, so that if an indigenous man buys for 50s and pays 2s-5s extra, the expatriate, by virtue of his personal organisation

might be paying only sixpence when the indigenous man is paying 2s-6d, and the result is that right from the start our people are at a disadvantage, and due to the fact that they cannot import a very large quantity at a time they do not qualify for some special rebate. So that one of the functions that a trade commissioner would fulfil for Nigerian business people would be to make sure that the trading terms are even and that people would buy on fairly the same terms.

Mr Chairman, Sir, I think I have spoken at length. I would end up by saying that the Minister should find a way of educating our people to do honest commerce.

A lot of cement being sold in this country to-day is done to cheat the average man. A lot of complaints have been made to Commercial Officers in the country and to the Police to no effect. A lot of cement being sold is sand. Our people have evolved a system of opening cement bags and filling them with rubbish or reducing the weight and selling it as such. So, it is a point on which I think the Minister should think seriously.

I am quite aware that Members are grumbling, but this is a very serious point. There is a lot of adulteration and fraud going on in our business to-day and it is for this Government to investigate it and make sure that our people are not unduly defrauded.

Amendment proposed.

Alhaji Aliyu Bissalla (Abuja): In support of this Amendment I am sure it is one of the needs of each one of us here and of every good citizen of Nigeria to see that most of our indigenous industries are developed and the foreign ones encouraged, as the Minister has just mentioned speaking in these days when the temperature of unemployment is rising. . . .

The Chairman: I am sorry to interrupt you. I am told the Reporters cannot hear you. I wonder if the adjustment of the microphones is being worked to best advantage because I can hear very well here.

M. Aliyu Bissalla: I would like the Minister to use his good office to see that many of these pottery training centres are established in the Federation so as to cater for the need of the masses. This will reduce unemployment and encourage our younger people coming out from the schools. Also this would engage more people who are now lingering idly.

With these few remarks, I beg to support.

Mr F. U. Mbakogu (Awka South): Mr Chairman, Sir, I would like to be guided as to the extent of my remarks because I had given notice of an Amendment to reduce Item 1 of sub-head 1. In that case I could have made my remarks on Head 52—Marketing and Exports. And now I am asked to make my remarks under Sub-head 1 of Head 52.

Sir, I am just trying to review the retail trade. Members here will recall that in 1955 I moved a very important motion which was supported by all the sides of the House on retail trade restriction. The old motion, in spite of the support given to it in the House, was not passed because the then Chief Secretary, who was the then Chief Minister, did not want it to go through and so it was not passed. Well, I do not know what prevents our people, now that the Council of Ministers is made up of only Nigerians, from making it possible to restrict expatriate firms and aliens from practising retail trade.

If one goes through Victoria Street, one will see a lot of these people from Asia—Lebanese and Arabs—with their shops there. They do not deal on wholesale which has been left to them but on retail trade. They compete with Lagos market women there over retail trade and even they have no standard prices for their goods. They just price with Africans—“will you give me this for so much? No, take it at so much”. That is very bad. Well, I have a feeling that when these people were coming into Nigeria, they signed an undertaking that they would not engage in trade which can better be done by Africans. How is it now that when they came they went to trade in cloth—ordinary measuring of cloth to housewives? And some of them in the North trade in *gari* and measure oil and groundnuts to housewives.

I feel the time has come when our Ministers, particularly the Minister of Commerce and Industry, who comes from the Northern Region where this practice is most rampant, the time has come when he should make a statement on this and promise to prohibit these aliens or expatriate firms from embarking on retail trade which can better be done by Africans.

There is nobody who does not know the extent to which these people embark on these illicit practices. They are not allowed by law or by the undertaking they entered into with the Government when they were coming into the country to deal in retail trade. I wonder what is left to Africans to do in trade. At this particular time, trade is generally bad, and it has been so for the last two years. I kindly ask the Minister of Commerce and Industry kindly to see to it that the aliens or expatriates are forbidden in this country to deal in retail trade.

Secondly, I am very happy that the Minister of Commerce and Industry has mentioned that he has a policy or that he is alert to the industrial problems. Nigeria is an under-developed country and what is required to accelerate the pace of economic progress is industrialisation. We want industrialisation—extensive and intensive industrialisation and we cannot do that until we plan.

But I do not know what will happen next Tuesday about a Motion for an Industrial Planning Board. I want the Minister and the Council of Ministers to think seriously about that Motion so that they will approve it.

We cannot just establish industries here and there—there is sugar at Zaria; there are oranges at Orlu; and there is this at that place and we hope to establish industries because such things exist there. There are a lot of things we take into consideration. I am not against the setting up of industries anywhere but I am saying that we should have an Industrial Planning Board which should comprise experts, not merely from the Ministry of Commerce and Industry; they can come from anywhere. We would not mind paying anybody £5,000 or £10,000 provided we get what we want.

We should have a comprehensive policy on industrialisation to make use of available raw materials in which this country abounds. We have a lot of things. What of our coconuts? Coconuts are exported for what? For soap or for what? Let us find the use and apply it in Nigeria. Our oil continues to go to the export markets overseas and they use it not for their meals but for industrialisation. Let us make use of our palm oil and palm kernels for industrial purposes in this country.

[CHIEF OKUNOWO]

somebody to settle down in a hotel and be going from Balogun Street to Martin Street and so on to meet our customers, I think it is not something to be encouraged.

Now, coming to retail trade—this morning I think I have got to pay a very great tribute to people like the U.A.C., John Holt, P.Z., G.B.O., and so on (*Interruptions*) because at the moment they are no longer engaging in retail trade. They are now busily engaged in technical goods and so on. But the enemies of the Nigerian business people are those Syrians along Victoria Road. The Minister of Finance must see to it whether they are paying adequate duties for those goods they are selling along this road. We cannot compete with them. If we get the goods from the same source, why should they be able to under-sell us? It is now time for the Minister to check up on their invoices. Evidence is not wanting. When these people import goods to this country, they produce false invoices.

I remember a certain case when the duty on a certain article was 33½ per cent, and one found these people selling far cheaper than ourselves. If they are from the same source, why the difference in the cost of the goods? I would like the Government to take very fine care to check up what these people are doing. They are our enemies. We have got Nigerians who are in a position to handle this trade, but unfortunately the ways and means these people are getting their goods needs the wisdom of God to understand.

I remember some days ago that there was a Committee on Aid to Nigerian Businessmen. I do not think that we should allow politics to go into it because that Committee sat and made certain recommendations and I would like to see the recommendations implemented. One of the things troubling the Nigerian businessman is lack of sufficient capital and I think that the time has come when our Government should be able to do something and give financial support to our businessmen.

I put in a question which up till the moment has not been answered. Is there any reason why our Government should not be able to consider the contract existing between this country and the Crown Agents? We have all these big companies in this country. They are able to import all these plants and machinery into this country and they have the engineers to

look after them; but we still go up to the Crown Agents. Why go to the Crown Agents for cement? So many of our people there can import cement into this country and once they do they will come to you in good condition.

Why going to the Crown Agents for stationery? We are in a position to import stationery into this country. I think the time has come for the Government to look into that aspect, instead of giving them to the Crown Agents to do. The Crown Agents are not paying tax to this country. We are the people paying tax, and any profit we make on imports is taxable, so that I think our Government has to go and look into it and see that the question of importing plants and materials which we can get from the U.A.C. and other companies is not left with the Crown Agents.

If you import from the Crown Agents, you have got to go to the Crown Agents if a nut is missing, whereas you can get replacement locally. So, I think our Government should look into that again.

The Minister of Commerce and Industry in my opinion is supposed to be the adviser to the Government on anything relating to commerce. Why should the Ministry of Works get a caterpillar or any other thing like that from the U.S.A. when you can get it at a cheaper price from other countries? The money of this country is thereby being lost and I think it should be stopped.

With these few remarks, I beg to support.

The Chairman : Mallam Jalo Waziri for one minute?

M. Ibrahim Jalo Waziri (Gombe Central) : Mr Chairman, I rise to pay tribute to the Minister of Commerce and Industry for the work being done by his Ministry. I must say that during the past year much progress has been made. The only point I wish to raise on the Floor of this House is that the establishment of small industries should be left to the indigenous people, industries such as distillation of mineral waters, pottery, leather work, furniture making and other lesser things should be left exclusively to the indigenous people.

Sir, the £139,000 which is used for giving loans to the people of this country should be fairly and equally distributed all over the Federation.

The Chairman : It is my duty now to put the questions necessary to dispose of the morning's Business.

And it being 11.45 a.m., the Chairman proceeded, pursuant to Order (4th April), to put forthwith the Question already proposed from the chair.

Question, That an increased sum of £611,070 for Head 51—Ministry of Commerce and Industry—stand part of the Schedule, put and agreed to.

The Chairman then proceeded to put forthwith the Questions necessary to dispose of the Business allotted for this day.

HEAD 52.—MARKETING AND EXPORTS

£471,220 for Head 52—Marketing and Exports—agreed to.

HEAD 53.—MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT AND AVIATION

£920,330 for Head 53—Ministry of Transport and Aviation—agreed to.

HEAD 54.—INLAND WATERWAYS

£653,920 for Head 54—Inland Waterways—agreed to.

HEAD 55.—COASTAL AGENCY

£127,490 for Head 55—Coastal Agency—agreed to.

HEAD 56.—ADMINISTRATOR-GENERAL

£42,300 for Head 56—Administrator-General—agreed to.

Then the Chairman left the Chair to report Progress and ask leave to sit again.

(Mr Speaker resumed the Chair)

Committee report Progress—to sit again upon Monday.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion made and Question proposed, That this House do now adjourn : (The Minister of Lagos Affairs).

The Minister of Finance (Chief the hon. F. S. Okotie-Eboh) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I am sure that hon. Members who listened to the radio comments on the proceedings of this House would have been grieved when they heard that our popular commentator, Mr Horatio Agedah, was involved in an accident

and that being so he was not able to report fully last night, but thank God that he was able to return to his duty. I am not saying this to flatter him and I think I will be speaking your minds to say that he is doing good service to the country. All our constituents will like to know what is going on in the House and I believe that the report he has put forth so far has been very fair and representative of what Members said in this House. I therefore think that I speak your minds and that you agree with me that we send our sympathy to him and wish him speedy recovery.

Mr E. C. Akwivu (Orlu South East) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I had indicated earlier in the week that it was my intention to raise on the Floor of this House the question of the Government affording this House the opportunity of knowing and perhaps being able to debate the Independence celebration arrangements.

I do not think it refers to the Minister of Transport as such but as he is now in a position to go into it, I have to say that my point was that all the time arrangements have been made or are being made for independence celebrations—most of the announcements have taken Members of this House by surprise and we feel that we ought to be afforded the opportunity of knowing and being in a position to express our views on the arrangements being made for Nigerian independence celebrations and that is the main thing, Sir, that I feel that ought to be done.

For example, Sir, the National Anthem and its tune—all were announced and some sections of the community and some sections of the Press subjected it to controversy.

Again, Sir, the question of the National Flag—the same thing happened, and we do not know what arrangements are being made and we are not in a position to express views on these things, and if it is the intention of the Government to wait until we come for the August meeting, it might well be too late for us to express any views that might be taken into account.

If it is the case that the suggestions or proposals must have to go to Buckingham Palace for confirmation, I do not feel, Sir, that after it has been submitted to Buckingham Palace for confirmation we are really not in a position to make any comment or any suggestion that

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
NIGERIA

Monday, 25th April, 1960

The House met at 10 a.m.

PRAYERS

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

COMMERCE

Encouragement to Indigenous
Businessmen

O.133. Mr A. Adedamola asked the Minister of Commerce and Industry what steps he has taken to encourage indigenous businessmen both in the towns and in rural areas.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Commerce and Industry : So far as industrialisation is concerned, I invite the hon. Member's attention to my reply to Questions Nos. O.9 and O.44.

As regards commerce, measures taken by the Ministry to encourage indigenous businessmen include :—

- (i) the progressive removal of licensing restrictions ;
- (ii) the provision of a trade advisory service ;
- (iii) arranging introductions between Nigerian merchants and overseas firms ;
- (iv) encouraging the formation and healthy growth of trade associations ;
- (v) checking trade malpractices and so enhancing the good name of Nigerian traders overseas ; and
- (vi) protecting indigenous merchants from excessive competition from aliens by controlling immigration.

In the field of commerce, the hon. Member is of course aware that trade within the Regions is a Regional responsibility and that the Federal Ministry is primarily concerned with inter-regional and overseas trade. Subject to this, the policy of the Ministry is aimed at encouraging indigenous businessmen—both traders and industrialists—throughout Nigeria. Full particulars of the Ministry's activities are published regularly in its Annual Report.

Mr Speaker : Supplementary question, Mr Adedamola.

Mr Adedamola : Will the Minister tell us whether the Federal activities in this respect are contemplated only in Lagos or will they extend to the towns on a Federal scale ?

Mr Speaker : That is a slightly different question.

Price of Cement

O.135. Mr E. C. Akwivu asked the Minister of Commerce and Industry if he will account for the comparatively high selling price of cement produced at Nkalagu as compared with that of Portland cement which is imported.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Commerce and Industry : Subject to the overall policy of the Board of Directors, price fixing in a commercial organisation is a function of management and the price of Nigercem is fixed by the management to take into account both production costs at Nkalagu and also the premium quality of the product. Demand for Nigercem is in excess of present capacity to satisfy it. This clearly shows that consumers and distributors recognise the quality of the product and that the price structure, which provides for rebates for quantity, is satisfactory.

The undistributed profits of the company are ploughed back into the enterprise for its improvement and expansion. The hon. Member is aware that after only two years' operation the Nkalagu factory is already in process of doubling its capacity. A bigger output may well reduce the cost of production and thus enable Nigercem to become still more competitive.

Importation of Cement

O.136. Mr E. C. Akwivu asked the Minister of Commerce and Industry if he will state the annual tonnage of Portland cement imported into Nigeria for the past four years.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Commerce and Industry : The information requested is as follows :

1956	..	..	488,572 tons
1957	..	..	510,237 tons
1958	..	..	477,119 tons
1959	..	..	530,808 tons

Capital Depreciation at Nkalagu Cement Factory

O.137. Mr E. C. Akwivu asked the Minister of Commerce and Industry if he will state over what length of time capital equipment employed in the Nkalagu Cement Factory is to be written off; and if he will say how favourably it compares with the practice in foreign cement factories.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Commerce and Industry: The number of years over which capital equipment at the Nkalagu Factory of the Nigerian Cement Factory Limited is written off varies according to the type of equipment. The following gives an indication of practice at Nkalagu and cement works elsewhere:—

Nkalagu: Heavy plant including foundation—20 years

Elsewhere or United Kingdom: 20 years.

Buildings, including roofing and sidewalls but not foundation for plant: 25 years.
In U.K.: 40 years

Tropical and semi-tropical countries: 25 years.

Quarry plant, excavators, etc.: Six to seven years.

Period varies according to the hardness of the material, etc., from five years for very hard limestone to ten years or more for chalk and other soft material.

Vehicles and dumpers, including Euclids: Three to four years.

Elsewhere: Four to five years.

Mr Akwivu: There is one aspect of the question that is not yet answered, and that is the last portion of it.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Commerce and Industry: Depreciation rates at Nkalagu are generally in line with practice elsewhere.

Industry in Benue Province

O.176. Mr J. O. Ede asked the Minister of Commerce and Industry when it is proposed to set up an industry in Benue Province in order to enhance the commercial position of that Province.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Commerce and Industry: Sir, I propose to give a single answer to questions Nos. 132, 176 and 178. The answer is in each case to refer the questioner to the reply which I gave on the 11th April to Question No. O.77. For the reasons then given, the Federal Government has no plans to establish industry in Oshun Division, in Benue Province or in Owerri.

Nigerian-Japanese Trade

O.177. Mr A. U. D. Mbah asked the Minister of Commerce and Industry whether there is an adverse balance of trade between Nigeria and Japan; and if so, what efforts he is making to persuade Japan to buy more Nigerian goods and, in particular, Nigerian coal.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Commerce and Industry: Yes, Sir. For a number of years now attention has been focussed on the unsatisfactory balance of this country's trade with Japan and when the Minister was in Tokyo last October he made a special point of impressing on the Japanese authorities the need to bring about a more equal balance in the trade between their country and ours. Japanese businessmen and officials visiting Nigeria are themselves aware of the need to redress the balance of trade and are constantly contemplating purchase of some of our produce. The cumulative result of these efforts has been the welcome rise in the export figures to Japan from £8,000 in 1956 to £2.3 million last year. The Minister of Mines and Power has already informed the House that he is actively pursuing the possibility of exporting Nigerian coal to Japan. My Ministry will give him all the assistance he may require in this effort.

Mr Speaker: Mr Mbah is aware that Question O.178 was answered?

Mr A. U. D. Mbah (Owerri North): I am not aware, Mr Speaker. Owerri was mentioned but I do not know in what connection. Members will agree that the reading was not audible enough.

Mr Speaker: Question O.178 was answered together with O.176. I heard that and I am sorry if the hon. Member did not hear it himself. We are now on O.179.

Value of Japanese Imports to Nigeria

O.179. Mr A. U. D. Mbah asked the Minister of Commerce and Industry if he will state the value of goods imported into this country from Japan in each of the years within the period 1952 to 1959 inclusive, indicating the value of Nigerian exports to Japan during the same period.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Commerce and Industry : Sir, I am arranging for the figures requested by the hon. Member to be circulated in the Official Report.

The details are as follows :—

Year	Imports £'000	Exports £'000
1952	11,345	*
1953	5,576	3
1954	9,352	—
1955	16,653	*
1956	20,223	8
1957	17,602	26
1958	19,433	1,029
1959	18,826	2,311

* Negligible

Production of Artificial Fertilisers in Nigeria

O.211. Alhaji Damale Kaita asked the Minister of Commerce and Industry, whether he has any plans to establish factories in Nigeria for the production of artificial fertilisers.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Commerce and Industry : The hon. Member is referred to answer I gave on the 11th April to Question No. O77.

Export of Nigerian Produce

O.212. M. Muhammadu Sagir Umar asked the Minister of Commerce and Industry what quantities of cocoa, palm oil, palm kernels, groundnuts, cotton and timber were produced and exported during the period 1st April, 1959 to 29th February, 1960.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Commerce and Industry : Mr Speaker, Sir, as the reply to this question is somewhat lengthy and contains a number of figures, I propose, with your permission, to circulate it in the Official Report for to-day.

The details are as follows :—

Reliable production figures are not available for the commodities referred to. The following quantities of Marketing Board produce were graded for export during the period from the 1st April, 1959, to the 29th February, 1960 :—

	Tons
Cocoa	149,035
Palm Oil	180,881
Palm kernels	380,225
Groundnuts	426,163
Seed cotton	83,566

For cocoa, palm kernels and seed cotton these grading figures correspond closely to the actual production figures, but large quantities of palm oil and groundnuts are consumed within Nigeria without being graded.

Exports by the Nigerian Produce Marketing Company Limited during the same period were as follows :—

	Tons
Cocoa	109,299
Palm oil	161,085
Palm kernels	387,279
Groundnuts	436,861
Cotton lint	46,483
Cotton seed	37,491

Production figures for timber are not available and export figures are available only up to the 31st December, 1959. Exports from the 1st April to the 31st December, 1959, were as follows :—

	Cubic feet
Logs	14,489,051
Sawn timber	1,722,220

Total 16,211,271

Tourists in Nigeria

O.213. M. Muhammadu Sagir Umar asked the Minister of Commerce and Industry how many tourists visited Nigeria in 1959; from what countries did they come; what were their missions; how many of them were sponsored by their own Governments, and how many of them came on private business.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Commerce and Industry : Mr Speaker, Sir, as the reply to this question is somewhat lengthy and contains a number of figures, I propose with your permission to circulate it in the Official Report for to-day.

The details are as follows:—

The Ministry of Commerce and Industry does not as yet maintain records of tourists who visit Nigeria. The Office of Statistics has, however, provided the following information regarding the numbers of persons who arrived in Nigeria during 1959 on short visits:—

Numbers of Persons arriving in Nigeria on Short Visits in 1959

1. Employee of Government ..	161
2. Employee of business	7,073
3. Employee of other organisation ..	321
4. Self-employed	184
5. Member of family (of types 1-4)	1,301
6. In transit	804
7. On holiday	351
8. "Other" reasons	1,577*
Total	11,772

Note: * Of these, 1,141 came from adjacent West African territories.

Of the eight reasons given above, those most likely to embrace the true "tourist" are Nos. 7 and 8, although those giving reason 8 when arriving from adjacent territories should be excluded. Thus the tourists would not have exceeded 787 in 1959.

When analysed by Country of Departure the results shown in the following table are produced:—

Adults on Short Visits to Nigeria during 1959

Country of embarkation	Number on holiday or with "Other Reasons"	Total
United Kingdom ..	277	2,496
Other Western Europe	191	1,335
South Africa	29	255
Lebanon	11	100
U.S.A.	28	149
West Africa	186*	7,022
Other countries	65	415
Total	787	11,772

Note: * Only those recorded "On holiday".

Import of Motor Vehicles

O.214. M. Muhammadu Sagir Umar asked the Minister of Commerce and Industry how many motor vehicles were imported in each of the years from 1950 to 1959 inclusive.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Commerce and Industry: Mr Speaker, Sir, I propose, with your permission, to circulate the reply to this question in to-day's Official Report.

The details are as follows:

	Private cars and taxes	Commercial vehicles (including chasses with engines)	Total
1950	2,154	2,973	5,127
1951	3,311	2,757	6,068
1952	3,457	5,392	8,849
1953	3,338	4,460	7,798
1954	3,868	3,766	7,634
1955	6,680	5,578	12,258
1956	7,025	8,082	15,107
1957	7,654	4,884	12,538
1958	8,228	6,857	15,085
1959	9,973	6,148	16,121
Total	55,688	50,897	106,585

Improvement of Ferry Facilities

O.84. M. Usman Borkono asked the Minister of Works and Surveys whether he has any plans for improving ferry facilities at Numan and Jimeta in order to speed up crossing.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Works and Surveys: No, Sir. I am advised that the power-operated pontoons at present in use are in good condition and able to cope satisfactorily with all the traffic crossing at these ferries.

ROADS

Umuahia-Mamfe Road to Trunk Road A

O.138. Mr H. O. Chuku asked the Minister of Works and Surveys whether he will consider converting to a trunk road A the road from Umuahia to Mamfe via Uzuakoli, Ohafia and

Arochuku in view of its economic importance to the country and of the fact that it is being used by the Police Preventive Squad which checks smugglers from Fernando Po.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Works and Surveys : The view of the Federal Government, which has on various occasions been made known to this House and to Regional Governments, is that the classification of a road as a trunk A road must rest primarily upon its value as a link in the basic inter-regional or international road system of the country.

In the present case, Mamfe is already linked to the Eastern Region by trunk road A 11 to Enugu and trunk road A 7 to Calabar. I do not think a third trunk A road could be justified.

I would also remind the hon. Member that with the funds likely to be available the Federal Government will have difficulty in developing the existing trunk A network to a standard capable of dealing with the constantly increasing traffic which it is called upon to bear. In such circumstances, the Federal Government must give first priority to the roads for which it is already responsible.

Road Widening

O.139. Mr Adedamola asked the Minister of Works and Surveys when it is proposed to widen the five-mile stretch of trunk road A via Abeokuta from mile 63 immediately after Lafenwa Bridge to mile 68.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Works and Surveys : There are no plans for widening the stretch of road through Abeokuta referred to by the hon. Member. He will be aware that the road passes through a built-up area at this point and a very considerable expense would be involved in securing the necessary land if it were decided to widen the road.

At the present stage of development of the country's trunk road 'A' network the Government considers it preferable to devote the money that is available to extending the surfaced mileage rather than to local improvements which are not absolutely essential.

The Minister will be prepared to give consideration to this widening in connection with the post-1962 road programme.

Extending Trunk Roads 'A'

O.140. Mr A. Adedamola asked the Minister of Works and Surveys whether he will consider extending the mileage of trunk roads 'A' in the country by up-grading certain trunk roads 'B'.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Works and Surveys : The question raised by the hon. Member was discussed by representatives of all Governments in the National Economic Council last year.

The policy of the Federal Government then and now is to base the classification of roads as trunk 'A' roads primarily upon their value as inter-regional or international links in the country's road system. The most important of these inter-regional and international roads are incorporated in the existing trunk 'A' system and the development and maintenance of this network is making a heavy call upon the financial resources of the Federal Government which, as the hon. Member is aware, are stretched to the limit.

No additions to the trunk 'A' system can be contemplated during the current planning period. Subject to the finance available, however, the Federal Government will be prepared to consider proposals for the widening of its responsibility for main roads after 1962. It would not be proper for me to go further at the moment than to repeat this general undertaking of which the National Economic Council has taken note.

Bridge at Uya Oron

O.141. Mr P. E. Ekanem asked the Minister of Works and Surveys if he is aware that the bridge at Uya Oron on the Aba-Oron road is inadequate and dilapidated and has consequently become a death-trap; and whether he will take immediate steps to replace it with a stronger and wider bridge.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Works and Surveys : I am aware that the bridge at Uya Oron is below the proper standard, along with a number of other bridges on the Aba-Oron road.

This bridge has been surveyed and drawings are being prepared for a replacement. I regret that more urgent bridging works required elsewhere on trunk roads 'A' will

absorb all the funds available for this type of work during the current planning period. I can assure the hon. Member, however, that I shall give consideration to providing funds for the replacement of this and other defective bridges on the Aba-Oron road in the post-1962 planning period. It will be more economical to deal with them as part of a single programme.

Aliade-Makurdi Road

O.180. Mr J. O. Ede asked the Minister of Works and Surveys whether he is aware that the 34-mile stretch of road from Aliade to Makurdi on the Makurdi-Oturkpo trunk road A is still left untarred; and whether he will cause that section of the road to be tarred without further delay.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Works and Surveys: The tarring of the stretch of road between Aliade and Makurdi is not provided for in the current Economic Programme. I am aware, however, of the increased traffic which is likely to result over this stretch of road in the future and I shall see that the provision of funds for bituminous surfacing is given priority consideration in planning road works after 1962.

Funtua-Gusau Road

O.217. Alhaji Damale Kaita asked the Minister of Works and Surveys if he will make a statement on the progress of the work now being done on the Funtua-Gusau road, in view of the fact that the work was commenced over two years ago.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Works and Surveys: The position regarding reconstruction of the Funtua-Gusau road is that Consulting Engineers have been employed by my Ministry to prepare plans and specifications. Work has only just begun by direct labour on the section from Chafe to Funtua. The hon. Member is therefore under a misapprehension in thinking that work began over two years ago.

As regards the section from Chafe to Gusau, it is hoped that funds will be available early in the next Economic Programme period. The reason for this is that the money allocated has been switched to cover part of the instalments which will be due to the contractor who will

carry out the major improvements to trunk road A1 between Tegna and Daura on deferred payment terms. Because of shortage of funds, savings have had to be found from within the Highways and Bridges Programme to cover the instalments falling due up to March 1962.

Idiade-Jos Road

O.218. Mr V. T. Shisha asked the Minister of Works and Surveys what plans he has to complete the tarring of the Idiade-Jos road.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Works and Surveys: I presume that the hon. Member is referring to the Aliade-Jos section of trunk road A 3. There are no plans in the present Economic Programme for completing the tarring of this section of road which is, I am informed, not in a bad condition. I am aware of the increasing volume of traffic using trunk road A 3 and I shall give consideration to the provision of funds for completing the tarring after 1962.

Ajassepo-Omu-Aran Road

O.219 Mr P. B. Olatunde asked the Minister of Works and Surveys why the section between Ajassepo and Omu-Aran on the Ilorin-Kabba trunk road A has not been tarred.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Works and Surveys: The hon. Member will appreciate that shortage of funds has compelled the Ministry to give priority to certain sections of road for tarring and that the surfacing of other sections has consequently had to be deferred. Priorities have been based on a technical appraisal known as the Highway Sufficiency Rating Survey. The section of road between Ajassepo and Omu-Aran on trunk road A. 13 was not accorded a high priority in this survey and the project falls to be considered in connection with the post-1962 Highways and Bridges Programme.

Mr Speaker: I am afraid this is the end of Question time.

PRESENTATION OF PUBLIC BILLS

WIDOWS' AND ORPHANS' PENSIONS (AMENDMENT): BILL

The Minister of Pensions: *Second Reading*
—Thursday next.

Mr Speaker : Might I respectfully suggest to the Government that it would be wiser in some ways to put it down for either tomorrow or Wednesday. If by any chance it could be taken on Wednesday then putting it down for Thursday would prevent it. So then let us say tomorrow.

The Minister of Pensions : Yes. *Second Reading*—Tomorrow.

ORDER OF THE DAY

APPROPRIATION (1960-61) BILL

(Eighth allotted Day) : Considered in Committee of Supply.

(House in Committee)

HEAD 57.—MINISTRY OF WORKS AND SURVEYS

Question proposed, That £5,948,900 for Head 57—Ministry of Works and Surveys—stand part of the Schedule.

Mr S. D. Lar (Lowland East) : Mr Chairman, Sir, this is an important Ministry in the Federal Government and we from this Bench want this hon. House to know that we do not criticize for criticism's sake and we do not talk for talking's sake. I am, therefore, appealing to you all this morning that we on this Bench are always for the interest of the nation. (*Hear, hear*).

Mr Chairman, Sir, the Federal Government policy as far as this Ministry is concerned is as vague as it is bad. The Government has got into the habit of doing most of its work on contract rather than the more beneficial method of direct labour which helps in easing unemployment. Expensive contracts are awarded and big bonuses are also given to expatriate firms or building contractors who are given preference over Nigerians. It is possible that this contract deal is the result of the deplorable attitude to the indigenous contractors.

These foreign contractors pay less than the approved rate and since Nigerian labourers cannot obtain jobs elsewhere, they have to accept that rule or be stopped.

Here, Sir, I want to make further suggestions : (1) the Government should investigate the methods of awarding contracts by Tender

Boards ; (2) a legislation should be made to force contractors to pay the same wages as those paid by the Federal Government.

The question of Nigerianisation : I feel that this Ministry which provides an essential service should be vigorously Nigerianised. The present position is that most of the key posts are held by expatriates, with a Director who is accepted by Nigeria on the advice of the Colonial Office after he has been sacked by the Ghana Government soon after Independence. Since the Director of Public Works was sacked by Ghana on the attainment of Independence, this Government should do similar thing and place a Nigerian there to understudy him so as to replace him soon after October 1st, 1960. (*Hear, hear*).

The nation's economy depends on good roads but the Federal Government road programme is very slow and bad, and a lot of money is being wasted in the processes of resurfacing and tarring. Government should start expensive concrete tarring rather than the mere bricklayer-tarring which requires repairs after every six months. A lot of emphasis has been laid on the Shagamu-Ijebu-Ode-Benin road. This is a mere political stunt. The fact is that this wasteful venture has been completed from Shagamu to Ijebu-Ode and it will be more reasonable, therefore, to call it Ijebu-Ode to Benin road and not Shagamu-Ijebu-Ode-Benin road. Well, I think the Federal Government is just saying this so as to make capital out of it because this is the area of the Opposition Leader and the constant mention of it would attract the people there to feel that the Federal Government is doing something for the. (*Several Opposition Members : Shame, shame*). I think the Government should leave out that name. I think over £3,000,000 has been wasted on this road and another £4,000,000 worth of loan contract has been entered into with a foreign firm. This is a special contract deal which should be deplored by this hon. House.

Mr Chairman, Sir, the present roads are very, very narrow and Government should consider tarring such roads as Ilede, Popo, Takum, Yola and Makurdi—(*Interruptions*). Not only in the Middle Belt : Lafia, Jos and Kaduna. I think this will help in more rapid evacuation of groundnuts, cotton and soya beans to the sea ports and improve trade between the Northern, Eastern and Western Regions when the Niger Bridge is completed.

Mr Chairman, Sir, on the side of building the Government is building and purchasing massive buildings at the expense of the hungry masses. The purchase of the Mosaic Building at Tinubu Square leaves a big black blot on the record of the Federal Government. The actual cost of that building is £175,000 and I think that is very bad indeed. We are trying to save the nation from this very bad Government (*Interruptions.*) And you are not willing to learn from it.

Mr Chairman, Sir, if the Government can no longer make effective use of the P.W.D. I think then that department should fold up. The Government should make a decision to acquire all the implements and property of the Army Engineering Corps. To bring my speech to a close, Sir, the P.W.D. should now stop buying implements from the U.S.A. and the U.K. and through the Crown Agents, since these implements can be purchased at half the price internally.

M. Ibrahim Jalo Waziri (Gombe Central) : Mr Chairman, Sir, I think I share the view with most hon. Members of this House that the Minister of Works is doing very good work for this country. The staff of his Ministry are undoubtedly praiseworthy and I congratulate him for that. However, the Minister may be aware of the appalling condition of the Bauchi-Gombe section of the Trunk A.17 road. The road becomes worse and worse every day as a result of the increase in the volume of traffic. The Provincial Engineer has been doing all he can for the improvement and maintenance of this road. Such improvement and maintenance is not enough to be able to cope with the increasing heavy traffic. In the rainy season, this road is muddy and dangerous. The bridges and culverts are narrow and need strengthening and widening. In short, there is an urgent need for the tarring of this road.

As the tarring of this road is not included in the current economic programme, I humbly request the Minister, reasonable as he is, not only to include the project in the next Economic Programme but also give it reasonable priority.

Mr S. Nnaji (Udi East) : Mr Chairman, Sir, while rising to give my support I would like to make my observations. I have got to congratulate the hon. Minister of Works in relation to the expansion of the Onitsha-Enugu trunk A road, and the bituminous

surfacing done on the Aba-Port Harcourt Road. At the same time I should like to point out to the Minister the need to extend the expansion to favour the Federal trunk A road Enugu to Ogoja. This road is too narrow and the worst part is the narrow bridge situated at the corner at about mile 17 from Enugu township. This point has resulted in several motor accidents and loss of souls. The situation of this road is in fact risk-taking and I therefore appeal to the Minister to see that something is done to remedy this odd situation.

As we all know Enugu is the capital of Eastern Nigeria and Ogoja stands as the chief source of food supply to the inhabitants of this regional capital. Bituminous surfacing of this road should be highly welcomed.

Enugu-Awgu-Oji Road : I have considered it wise to request the Minister of Works and Surveys for a possibility to convert this road to Trunk A. This road has a link with Trunk A road from Oji to Okigwi. It is a short-cut road when travelling from Port Harcourt to Enugu. It handles heavy traffic between the two big centres.

Now, Awgu Division is also another source of food supply to the people in Enugu Township. The Eastern Regional Government has expressed its good intention to tar the Trunk B road from Udi to Agbani and if that of Awgu-Enugu is converted to Trunk A it shall be highly admired by the East Regional Government as a big help.

I have to make a point again about surveyors. The surveyors are always looked upon by this country to prove their worth. I refer more to the Geological Surveyors. They should now buckle up and fish out the hidden wealth in our soil which cannot possibly be seen with our naked eyes. Such discoveries shall then promote the progress of this blessed country by establishing several industries as already promised by our hon. Minister of Mines and Power. This will help to solve the problem of unemployment in this country.

I was impressed, of course, by the speech made by our hon. Minister of Mines and Power about the fate of 1,700 coal miners at Enugu. I would like to suggest that those involved should be given concrete assurance for re-engagement as soon as the iron and steel industry is ready. Priority should accordingly be given to those concerned. Although we

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believe in free movement and speeches, I have my fears whether such liberty will continue to exist in the Eastern Region if quick arrangement is not made to absorb the idle hands increased by way of retrenchment.

Mr Chairman, I have to make bold to say that this Coalition Government is comprised of God-fearing people who are realistic in their plans and proposals. Certainly, work well begun is half done. This able Government has set the ball rolling and with the hope to follow suit with other progressive countries. We on this side of the House have implicit confidence in the Prime Minister and in the Council of Ministers. We believe in democracy and I say that democracy will continue to flourish, unlike the Action Group and the Government of the Western Region. (*Shame, shame*).

Mr Chairman, I beg to support.

Chief E. O. Okunowo (Ijebu Central) : Mr Chairman, Sir, arising out of this Head and Item, I would like to appeal to the Minister of Works to see that all engineers within his Ministry are properly encouraged, because no nation is ever built without engineers. He should always see to it and increase the scholarship awards because we are yearning for self-government and we cannot go forward without our engineers. As I said before, I would like to appeal to our Minister of Works to see that the surveyors and engineers within his Ministry are properly encouraged.

I am not supporting the idea that the Ministry should not buy houses but I would like to say that we pay nothing but the correct market value. There is no wisdom in hiring houses and paying exorbitant rents but there is plenty of wisdom in the Government buying their own property that will be theirs for ever. But for the Government to be paying these rents I am not in favour. I would also ask the Minister to ensure that they do not buy anything above the correct market value.

Speaking about the Ijebu-Ode-Benin Road, I think the Minister of Works has already tested it and he knows that people in my own constituency, Ijebu, will never dance to his tune. So that if he has chosen to use that as a sort of propaganda I think he has failed.

Mr Chairman, Sir, I think that the Minister of Works will be saving himself and his Ministry a lot of embarrassment by incurring heavy expenditure before taking the Opposition into consideration. There is no wisdom in using the House as a rubber stamp. For the Minister to have incurred an expenditure of over £10 million and then jump up on this House asking for that amount to be passed is intolerable. I think that in a case where there is any expenditure to be incurred it will be advisable for the Government to carry with them the Members of the Opposition so that when they come to the House there will be less to be said since everything would have been done above board. With these few remarks, I beg to support.

Mr D. O. Enefolo (Igala South) : I have been trying to say something about Kabba Province since all these days, Sir, but I have not been chanced.

Several hon. Members : You are chanced now.

Mr Enefolo : Before I say anything on this Head I would like first of all to thank the Minister of Works and Surveys for the progressive plans he has made and for the good work done in the past and I hope that the Minister and his staff would continue with this good work. I would like to invite the Minister of Works or his Parliamentary Secretary to visit Igala Division in Kabba Province. I would like to say that Kabba Province is in a unique position in the country, which is the heart of the country.

Several hon. Members : Tell them.

Mr Enefolo : In particular Igala Division is in the centre of Nigeria, it is in the middle of the three Regions and as such I would very much like the Government or whoever is in charge to try and pay special attention to Igala Division. We have been subjected to various troubles in the past owing to the non-provision of good roads and lack of adequate means of communication. For instance, thieves broke into our Treasury and made away with about £24,000 but because of poor roads and poor communications we could not get them in time; and also during the last election we were subjected to a great injury or attack from the Action Group.

Several hon. Members : Shame, shame.

Mr Enefola : They came purposely to create trouble in Igala Division and it took about four hours before we could get to the headquarters at Idah to tell them what was happening. How much more the world or the country as a whole? Sir, I say very much that special attention should be paid to Igala and the improvement of the roads therein. The more the roads are made the better for the people of that Division, because it will facilitate communications and will help us to get to where we want in time.

Igala Division is the largest Division in Kabba Province and I trust it is a first class emirate and as a result it needs to have good roads and good means of communications. Much has been done for which we thank the Government but we still wish that a lot more remains to be done.

Going to Igala Division to-day there is not even five miles of tarred road despite the fact that from Idah to Enugu is only one hundred miles. The Eastern Regional Government had tarred their own portion between Idah and Nsukka which is about 50 miles but the rest has not been tarred till to-day. I would very much like the Minister to see to it that this piece of road is tarred and furthermore that he changes it from trunk 'B' to trunk 'A' road.

Another thing Mr Chairman, Sir, is about the Egabada ferry which is situated between Idah and Onitsha road. It will help a lot if this ferry could be bridged.

Some Opposition Members: In what Region is this?

Mr Enefola : I do not know, it is in Nigeria and we are for one Nigeria. It is about Igala that I am talking and Igala is in Nigeria. Mr Chairman, Sir, we shall be very grateful if that piece of road between Idah and Nsukka could be given the greatest attention. Another road is the Shintaku/Ankpa road. This is already a Federal Government road but it has not been tarred up to the present time. Work on the road is even slow and we shall be grateful if the work could be speeded up to that this piece of road between Idah and Shintaku embankment and Oturkpo could be tarred.

The Shintaku/Ankpa road through to Tiko will help us a lot in the transportation of cotton which is the main product of this part of the country and also palm kernel.

We have a saw-mill at Lafia and with these heavy trucks carrying heavy logs if these roads are not properly looked after it will become difficult for the continued transportation of these loads in the very near future (*Applause*).

I would also like to touch the survey work of the Division which is now becoming absolutely necessary. If the survey is done it will help in settling the land dispute that occurs intermittently. The land bordering Idah is waterlogged, and it is a very big land. It is difficult for people to travel in this place. We have got survey work going on on this piece of land for quite a long time yet there is no improvement on this piece of land. I have never seen any Minister or senior official of both the Federal Government or the Northern Region Government touring part of this Region to see what the land looks like. The land is good for the growing of rice, and sugarcane plantation would flourish very well. Because of poor means of communication it is very difficult to get to this place.

And then Mr Chairman, I would like to tell this Government to try and put a ferry between Lokoja and Bagana in Benue River. Because of the difficulty experienced in travelling from Idah or any part of Kabba Division to Kaduna we have to go right through Makurdi and then to Lafia or Keffi and then to Kaduna. But if there is a ferry across the Benue between Lokoja and Bagana it will help most of the Members here especially those who are from the Northern Region to travel from this place to their homes instead of travelling right round Ilorin to Kaduna, especially Members from Benue and Adamawa Provinces because it cuts short the journey between Igala and Kaduna.

Mr Chairman, Sir, in conclusion I would like to say that we shall be grateful if the Minister of Works will try to speed up the work on Members' residences in Victoria Beach so that before August, when we come here, we can come with our wives. (*Applause*). It is actually very hard on some of us to stay in Lagos for two or three weeks without our wives. (*Applause*). As for me, it is difficult

[MR ENEFOLA]

for me to go to a restaurant for food and pay 12s-6d for a dinner, and be satisfied. They call it high life, but I do not like that high life. I would like my wife to be with me and give me the best food I want, of the type of food I want. (*Applause*).

Mr P. O. Eleke (Okigwi South East): I begin by congratulating the Minister of Works and Surveys for the good work he has so far done and the noble plans he has made for the future.

Mr Chairman, Sir, for the past few weeks we have been here you have heard from every Member expressing concern over the economic and the industrial development of this country. We have been asking the Government to establish industries all over the Federation. I assure you, Mr Chairman, that none of these industries could do without good communications, particularly road communications. For this reason I suggest that more care should be taken over the existing Trunk Roads A. Some of them are narrow, crooked and rough, particularly in the Eastern Region. Some of the bridges along the roads cannot be described as bridges in the real sense of that word. They are very narrow sag and dangerous.

Secondly, Mr Chairman, Sir, the number of Trunk Roads A for which the Federal Government is responsible is too small when compared with the number of roads charged with the Regional Governments. I therefore ask that more roads should be taken over from the Regions by the Federal Government. This will enable the Regional Government to extend more roads to the rural areas. Here I have two important roads in mind. One runs from Umuahia through Obowo to Owerri, the second runs from Okigwi through Ehime to Aba.

Finally, I have to say that we have heard much in this Federal Legislature about the bridging of the River Niger. We have read much about it in the newspapers and we have said enough here about the bridging of that important river. What we want now is action. I think the time has come when a beginning should be made. After all, the importance of that long-contemplated bridge cannot be over-emphasised. Mr Chairman, Sir, I beg to support.

Mr L. J. Dosunmu (Lagos Central): My contribution, Sir, on this Head, will be to re-state the pressing demand for a second bridge for Lagos. Now, Sir, some two or three years ago the Minister came to the Floor of this House and said "plans are in hand for the erection of a second bridge", and we took him seriously. You will all remember, Sir, that was the time that Chief Akintola raised the matter that the present Carter Bridge is weak.

It is amazing that the Minister appears not to tackle the matter with the seriousness it deserves. If he is contemplating a change of mind, let him be frank and say so. I listened with disgust to the reply he made to the demand here on the Floor of this House, and I submit with all respect that it is unacceptable. It is very idle to say that the whole trouble is not on the bridge but on the approaches to the bridge. We know the contrary. The Chamber of Commerce knows the contrary is the case.

If the Minister, for lack of funds, wants to save his face by saying that he is not going ahead with the plan for the erection of the second bridge... (*Interruption*) from all considerations the second bridge for Lagos is imperative. Look at the economic side of the matter, and in this connection, Sir, I am referring the hon. Minister to the article contained in the journal of the Lagos Chamber of Commerce. It was a very educative article, and it shows the imminent danger that this country faces in the economic field by the reluctance or the sluggishness of the Minister in erecting a second bridge.

It is stated there that this country—and it cannot be contradicted—that this country is losing to the tune of £450,000 per annum by the Minister's failure to erect a second bridge. I am going to call attention to an authoritative source and I will read it. The Minister himself cannot deny this. It is there, from the Lagos Chamber of Commerce Quarterly Review, a reputable journal. "The normal delay during this peak period is approximately half an hour, and it is estimated that the total cost in terms of wasted time is about £450,000 per annum. This is only one peak hour. If we take in the other peak period delays we arrive at something in the region of £1 250,000 as the annual cost of wasted time". Except we are not going to take this—(*Interruption*).

The Chairman : The Parliamentary Secretaries on the Bench are forgetting their usual silence.

Mr Dosunmu : It is our duty to call the attention of the Minister when he is failing in his duties. I know that he will be the last person not to appreciate the danger that this country is facing by not erecting this second bridge as early as possible.

His excuse may be lack of funds ; we will examine that excuse in its proper perspective, but what I want him to do at the moment is to reaffirm that the second bridge will be erected without further delay.

What if tomorrow by an act of God this present bridge collapses? What is going to happen, Mr Minister? Nobody knew that this bridge was rickety as it was until Chief Akintola came to this House and pointed it out. Nobody knew that this bridge was as dangerous as it was until Chief Akintola came to this House and pointed it out. (*Applause.*) And but for the action of the Minister in immediately getting the bridge repaired anything could have happened to that bridge. Suppose it had collapsed?

If the bridge collapses how are the people on the Mainland going to cross to the other side? The collapse of that bridge means the ruin of the economy of this country, because all the goods that come into Lagos and are intended for the rural areas pass through this bridge. Members of this House, especially those from rural constituencies are cutting their nose to spite their face except they agree with me that this second bridge is very important.

Seriously speaking, I appreciate that the Minister is tackling the matter with seriousness but where I disagree with him is that he should tell this House whether he is going to do it or not. There is no gainsaying the fact that this second bridge is imperative. It is important. It must be done. If it means going outside to borrow money as this Government is known to do, we will welcome it because as I said the live-wire of the economy of this country depends on the existence of a second bridge.

Some two or three years ago the Minister invited some people from a certain laboratory in England, I think it was the Road Research

Laboratory. They came all the way from England to examine the question of congestion in Lagos. They submitted a report. This House has not been favoured with that report. The problem still remains. The Minister has not done anything about it. It is not good as he said they are going to side-track the problem by making all sorts of roads along the approaches to the bridge. But I submit that he is running away from the real problem. The answer to the problem is the erection of a second and perhaps a third bridge.

For security reason alone, apart from the economics of it a second bridge is very necessary and if the Minister is going to divert some of the money that are being sent into the drains for the purpose of erecting a second bridge, I humbly submit that such step will be worth taking.

Mr Chairman, I beg to support.

Alhaji Mohamed-Munir, Mutawallin Kano (Rano) : Mr Chairman, Sir, I am grateful for the opportunity given me to speak on this Head. The encomium being showered by this hon. House on the Minister of Works is too much. I will express my own satisfaction on the work of his Ministry by saying that the work being done by the Minister by widening our culverts and bridges is very satisfactory ; but there is one danger on road works. His maintenance gangs are still being allowed to extract laterite not far from the road and later on in a few years' time, the rains will encroach on the road. I should ask the Minister of Works to send out circulars to all his maintenance gangs that laterite must not be extracted from the roadside because this is very dangerous.

Another point I would like to tell the Minister is that road transport is becoming the live-wire of our trade and that road transport is competing very highly with the Railway. Unless the Minister can bring all the roads up to standard and see that they are tarred properly this country will lose its trade. It is very essential that we should have all our roads tarred and in addition, we should also like to have the roads brought up to standard. I will also like the Minister to know that the road from Lagos to Kano has not been completed and the work has been stopped at Birnin Gwari and it is

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very necessary that that road should be completed immediately so that we can have a complete road from Kano to Lagos.

Another point is that the Minister has failed to tar the road from Kano to Zaria. This road is very important and when it is tarred it is going to save the Government from paying unnecessary mileage and transport allowances now being claimed by some hon. Members. It is very necessary that these roads should be tarred as early as possible. I should not, of course, forget the completion of the road from mile 37 at Dambarta to the boundary. That road is very important. The Minister is doing a very good work but I will like to point out to him that his work is still window dressing. He is doing the work outside leaving his own home undone. We want him to use his dynamic power to see that the roads that connect Kano are properly tarred. I quite agree that Nigeria is one, but it is very necessary that the work should be done where it is necessary.

Chief Ayo Rosiji rose—

Alhaji Mohamed-Munir : I am not yielding, I am not yielding.

Several hon. Members : Fire on, fire on.

Alhaji Mohamed-Munir : I am asking the Minister to see that all the roads in his province are brought up to standard.

With these remarks Mr Chairman, I beg to support.

The Minister of Works and Surveys : (Alhaji the hon. Muhammadu Inuwa Wada) : Mr Chairman,—(Interruptions).

Several hon. Members : No, no.

The Chairman : Order, order. I am the only person in the Committee who knows that we are in Committee. If people are entitled to speak more than once the Minister invariably does. The Minister will give an interim reply and then another.

The Minister of Works and Surveys : Mr Chairman, Sir, I want to assure Members that I have no intention of bringing the debate to a close. It is because I have noticed that

very many Members are interested in my Ministry that I intend to give, with your approval, an interim reply so that I do not forget the various criticisms, very often constructive, Members have made.

Mr Chairman, I want to start with Mr Lar and here I want to lodge my protest with the hon. the Leader of the Opposition for appointing such a man as his Shadow Minister of Works. (*Several hon. Members : Shame, shame*). I would like the hon. Leader of the Opposition to think again. Mr Lar spoke about the various works given out on contract by the Federal Government instead of giving them to direct labour. I sympathise with his complete ignorance. It is absolutely impossible for all the work we have to be done by direct labour. We want to finish our work as quickly as possible so that we can make use of them. If they are buildings people occupy them and if they are roads traffic starts to use them. Somebody said it sometime ago and I think we should all be ashamed. Direct labour work very often takes longer time than work given out on contract. (*Several hon. Members : No, no.*) You may say 'No' but I know, especially Chief Rosiji, when he was with us he lodged a very serious complaint about how slow direct labour people are.

Secondly, Mr Lar also spoke about the award of contracts. Award of contracts is something very simple which is laid down and a set principle is being followed. Before any work is given out it is advertised and contractors within the appropriate categories apply to tender for the work. Tender documents are given out, the contractors fill the tender documents and send them to the Tenders Board. Some Members of this hon. House are on the Tender Board.

Several hon. Members : No !

The Minister of Works and Surveys : I say some. If you do not know there are.

Chief Ayo Rosiji (Egba East) : That is not true !

The Minister of Works and Surveys : I should not very much like to be dragged into this sort of argument with Chief Rosiji because

his leader is here ; the leader has been most co-operative with the Government and I should not very much like to embarrass him but Chief Rosiji is no doubt thinking of his experience elsewhere.

Mr Chairman, Sir, talking very seriously, Mr Lar made a very bad accusation on the Director of the Federal Public Works. He said that the Director was sacked from Ghana. This is very, very far from the truth. We are very fortunate to have such a man as Mr Wyn Pugh to be heading the Federal Ministry of Works (*Hear, hear*). He is an engineer of exceptional ability and he is also of the rare type. He is not only a very good civil engineer, he is also a very good administrator. Since he assumed the leadership of the Works Division of the Ministry things have been working very, very smoothly. He retired from service in Ghana and it was with great difficulty we were able to get him here in Nigeria. He was given offers in other parts of the world and I remember we had to ask for the help of the Colonial Office to step in, the Colonial Secretary, and particularly our friend who was then the Permanent Secretary in the Colonial Office, Sir John Macpherson. We asked him to step in personally and use his good offices to secure Mr Wyn Pugh for us. (*Hear hear*). I want hon. Members not to make any accusation against officials who cannot get the opportunity to come and defend themselves, especially those officials who are giving us very valuable service.

Mr Chairman, then Mr Lar spoke of the Shagamu-Ijebu Ode-Benin road. He was trying to say that we called it Shagamu-Ijebu Ode-Benin road because it passes through the constituency of the Leader of the Opposition. This is not so. We have been calling this road Shagamu-Ijebu Ode-Benin Road ever since we thought of reconstructing it, and besides Trunk A roads go by numbers—A1, A2, A3 etc. The road from Lagos passing through Shagamu-Ibadan unto the North is A1 but this one we call it A.6 and A.6 starts from Shagamu-roundabout passing through Ijebu Ode and on to Benin. Therefore, there is all the reason in the world for us to call this road Shagamu-Ijebu-Ode-Benin Road.

An hon. Member : Why are you wasting your time ?

The Minister of Works and Surveys : No, I must correct him. He made a horrible mistake by saying or rather he gave the impression that a contract has already been awarded to a contractor for £4 million. This is wrong. We have not awarded the contract. We are simply now negotiating with the selected contractor. He may be thinking of the £4 million mentioned at our press conference and the £4 million is not for this one road but it is for the two-road projects. This particular one and A1. So much for him.

Then, Sir, I want to thank various hon. Members who have congratulated my Ministry for the various works we have done. The hon. Jalo Waziri spoke of the road Bauchi-Gombe-Numan. I am quite aware of the bad condition of this road. In fact, a senior engineer from my Ministry has been on this road and he is bringing a report and I want to assure the hon. Member that when we come to plan the next Economic Programme this road will get due priority. (*Hear, hear*).

Mr Nnaji spoke of the road from Enugu to Ogoja but I want to tell him that my responsibility only stops at Iyahe and from Iyahe to Ogoja is a regional road. Mr Nnaji and other hon. Members spoke about the Federal Government taking over some regional roads. Well, this is a favourite subject which has been mentioned every now and then. I want Members to realise that the amount of money at my disposal is just enough to maintain the present Trunk A roads we have. It is no use spreading the money too much without any result. We should make good use of it. My Parliamentary Secretary said, in answer to a question in this House, "it was agreed at a meeting of the National Economic Council that the Federal Government would consider taking over some regional roads during the next planning period".

Then Chief Okunowo spoke about encouraging engineers and surveyors by giving them scholarships. Well, I want to assure him that is exactly what we are doing now.

Mr Enefolo spoke very well but unfortunately more than half of his speech was devoted to regional subjects. Many of the roads were regional. For example, the Idah-Nsukka, road is a regional road. The question of ferries is

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also regional. The road which is under my Ministry is the Shintako to Amkpa and I want to tell the hon. Member that we are not unaware of the position of this road.

He spoke of Members' flats on the Victoria Island. I want to assure Members that we are doing all in our power to get the flats ready before October, before you come for the Independence meeting.

Mr Eleke spoke about the Federal Government taking over the regional roads. I have already dealt with this.

Now I come to my Friend Mr Dosunmu. Mr Dosunmu, as usual was constructive here and he was giving the feelings not only of himself but I know of the people of Lagos and anybody who comes into Lagos. The question of a second bridge is an important one and the Federal Government is not idle about it. Just now my engineers are preparing the design for a second bridge.

What happened was that when the question was first raised in the old House I gave an undertaking that the Federal Government would build a second bridge. Consulting engineers came out and they surveyed a place where we were to build the bridge and I mentioned it in this House. They first suggested that we should build the bridge alongside the present Carter Bridge but later on we ourselves with the help of Traffic experts found if we built a new bridge alongside the present Carter Bridge it would not solve the traffic problem. So we decided to have it built farther away. Well, I want to warn Members here. As some of you know, the question of building a bridge the size of the one we have in mind is not a thing we can accomplish within a short time. It is bound to take some time. So I cannot give you any assurance that the bridge will be finished before independence. What we are doing, Sir, is we are improving the approaches to the Carter Bridge.

Here, I must disagree with my Friend. However learned the Lagos Chamber of Commerce are, the Federal Ministry of Works, Works Division, is the Government's adviser on roads and our considered opinion is and it is supported by experts, that Carter Bridge can take double the traffic it is now taking.

If we can improve the approaches and that is what we are doing more traffic will flow. My responsibility is on the northern side of the bridge and the Minister for Lagos Affairs is making arrangements for the Town Council also to improve the southern approaches and our hope is that before October both ends will be improved so that there will be some relief in the congestion of traffic.

Mr Dosunmu also spoke of loss of money due to traffic hold-ups, etc. Well, I should say this is the prize of civilisation and development. In all modern big cities this happens. It happens in London, it happens in Paris, it happens in New York—all modern big cities do have traffic hold-up. If you say 'no' it means you have not been there.

My good friend and colleague from Kano, the hon. Alhaji Muhammadu Muniru spoke of Trunk A 1 from Zaria to Kano and Danbatta to Daura. Well, I want to assure him that this is part of our programme of re-surfacing Trunk Road A and when the contract is given out, we shall consider asking the contractor to start the work from the two ends of the road so that your request will be satisfied.

Mr Speaker : Order, order. I must give a short break now after which it is my intention to call the Chief Whip of the N.C.N.C., Mr Abii, if he is then here.

Sitting suspended : 11.35 a.m.

Sitting resumed : 11.55 a.m.

Mr D. N. Abii (Owerri East) : When a man deserved praise, it can never be too much. The Minister of Works and Surveys is a very energetic person and this Parliament knows very well that he deserves all the praise we give him in this House.

But I wish to refer to a statement made by an hon. Member of the Opposition when he was emphasising the need for a second bridge from Lagos. I quite agree with him that there is a great need. If we want to relieve the traffic hold-up and the over-population of Lagos there must be a second bridge. But I humbly submit that one of the most important things that will help this over-population and the traffic hold-ups is the extension of the Lagos boundary to at least thirty miles. (*Several hon. Members : Hear, hear.*)

Another point I want to observe is the news that has reached us that an ex-Minister of the former Government was living in a house and that after he had left the Government and joined another Government in the Regions that house is still occupied by his family. I would like to know whether this man bought the house or whether the Minister of Works gave this house to the family of (*loud interruptions*). We have it on good information that the Government renovated this house to the tune of not less than £17,000. We would like to know the cost at which it has been sold and, if it has not been sold, why should the family of a former Minister still occupy it?

Another point I want to raise is on a question which has been given to the Minister of Works and Surveys, off and on, in the former Government and, I think, in the present Government, and that is the question of the two narrow bridges connecting Owerri in the Trunk 'A' road: from Owerri to Aba and then to Port Harcourt. The two bridges are so narrow that within a month you get two or three lorries falling into the river. The narrowness of these two bridges has formed a death-trap for the public, as the Minister well knows. And I would like to get a categorical statement from him as to whether he is not going to expand these bridges.

Another point raised is the Owerri to Aba—(*Interruptions*).

An hon. Member : Owerrinta ?

Mr Abii : No ! Owerrinta is not the one I am referring to. I am referring to the immediate bridge when you come into Owerri town—there is a bridge immediately you come in—(*loud interruptions*).

Mr Chairman, Sir, the P.W.D. in this country has been called the 'Public Waste Department'. I think this Ministry deserves that name due to the fact that the Works Division has not been tackling its own duty properly. If you refer to the Audit Report of 1958-59, Items 52 and 64 and then Items 53 and 58, you will find that this Works Division of this Ministry has been conspiring with officers of this Ministry to defraud this Government—(*Interruptions*). The Minister is not at the head of this fraud squad. I sincerely say that the Minister should examine the Works Super-

visors whom they call, I think, Inspectors of Works; the contractors whom they employ in what they call direct labour; and the man who estimates the stores of the Federal Government. All these three plus the man at the head, the storekeeper, I charge them with conspiracy to defraud the Government.

The information is to the effect that they give a round estimate for a piece of work to be done. Take, for example, if a piece of work will take one hundred bags of cement they give a round estimate of two hundred or three hundred bags of cement. They contract the contractor who will come and carry away this cement, three hundred instead of one hundred, and when they reach where they are going they dump down one hundred bags for the work and do away with the two hundred bags (*Several hon. Members : Shame, shame*).

I want the Minister to institute an investigation into this Works Division of his Ministry. I do not believe that the loss of stores is due to people coming to steal stores but I believe that it is due to the fact that the people conspire together and do away with Government property. One of the reasons is that the Storekeeper is a very old man whom they think does not need any money. If you refer to the vote on the Estimates, you will find that he receives a very meagre salary and when you keep a hungry man to look after food, I do not know what you expect him to do. This is exactly what is happening. The stores are put in charge of people whom they think should not need money but who in fact need money and what they do is to conspire, give out the stores and do away with them. What comes to the Government next is a request to write off the loss and then they dilly-dally the whole matter, dilly-dally for a whole year and what happens is that the Minister gets the amount written off and that is why the Department has been called "Public Waste Department".

An hon. Member this morning was saying that direct labour costs less than giving work to contractors. I think he is not right; if we take into consideration the salaries paid to these people who are not doing any work but conspiring to steal, if we take into consideration the cost of the losses of these stores, you will find that it is useless to still go on with this direct labour. It is absolutely useless; unless

[MR ABII]
we are ready to do away with this fraud-mentality of the people there will be no good in giving jobs out to direct labour. I will certainly say this—give it immediately to contractors and let them do the work. This will make it possible for the Minister to reduce the needs of supervisors and expatriate officers in this Ministry. Since they are not able to do anything to the benefit of the Ministry, why not reduce the number of them ?

Somebody made a remark in regard to contractors and how the work is given out. I think this is not exactly to our information, whether the work is given directly or indirectly, but what we have is this, that many indigenous contractors have applied to be registered as contractors and are not registered ; that those who are registered apply to be given work and they are not given any work ; the expatriate firms get more of the work that the Minister gives out. I will, therefore, suggest that preference should be given to indigenous contractors.

I quite appreciate that there are certain major works which necessarily will demand a big expatriate firm. I appreciate that, but apart from such work I will humbly suggest to the Minister to make it a point to give preference to indigenous contractors so that when they claim, the money will remain in this country ; only money paid to expatriate firms will get out of this country and that does not help us.

Mr J. A. Yacim (Igala North West) : Mr Chairman, Sir, I rise to support this Head 57. In expressing these few views of mine I have to say that since my arrival in this hon. House I have watched the debate of the Members and have come to realise that sometimes it pays that charity ends at home, but what we should say is that when you begin charity at home, expand your charity elsewhere. Why I say this is because the Minister of Works has done as much as he can to help Lagos but he has no eyes to see what is happening outside Lagos unless he tours.

I therefore appeal to the Minister that after the meeting of this House he should set up a committee to tell him their needs and their difficulties. We are here to tell him actually but it is not always possible that one who prefers a topic to another topic will be chosen

to talk. There are so many items that we have passed and on which I had wanted to throw in my views but since that opportunity is gone and knowing that I will be ruled out of order if I speak on them now, I am suggesting to the Minister to set a time for us hon. Members to tell him our needs.

Now, Sir, what I have found about the Ministry of Works in my own area is what someone has talked about already this morning. That is the question of direct Labour. I support the last speaker that direct labour is a way of wasting public funds. Take, for instance, the Trunk A road mentioned this morning, that is in Takun Embarkment. That road since it has been given out under direct labour, there is no drop of work done on any part of the road. The people continue to root out the trees along the roadside, everywhere you go you see them rooting out the trees and when you ask, they tell you that the work is in hand. Sir, we want such work not to be in hand but to be carried out. That is why we do not blame the Minister. He has given out the work to such so-called supervisors and they are supervising the trees falling down along the side of the road.

I must associate myself with all the Ministers here in one particular point, that is, they are not ready to receive what we call deceit, which is sometimes suggested by some parts of this House.

An hon. Member : Which part ?

Mr Yacim : The Action Group. I am telling you if you want to hear from me that if you are not ready to deceive our Government you should not criticise our able Ministers when they give their work to foreigners. Quite recently in the *Daily Times* of the 14th April it said you gave your work, your roads to contractors from Israel, Israel who never even sent a delegate when Nigeria was in a primitive state.

You try to forget your own ungratefulness for the expatriate officers who have been long here and sent you to school, simply because you have got someone who has just been in America studying law or something like that and when he returns requests the Prime Minister to send away your faithful expatriates.

Mr Chairman, Sir, we are fortunate in this House that we have got suitable people in the right posts, that is our able Ministers, and these Ministers actually receive people who say that they are doing nothing, and despite that they are doing something very good in the Ministries.

I appeal to the Minister of Works that before the 1st October, as he has promised, he should try to supervise the contractors consigned to the work on Victoria Island. Not only to complete the houses of the Members but to provide servants' quarters.

Finally, I would tell this House that I was born in a country where A.G. people try to waste their time and energy and cannot win a victory. I would advise you that each time you come to criticise the able work done by the Ministers you should listen to the useful suggestions made by the hon. Members and try to learn from them. Most of you have only been here for the past five months.

Mr P. E. Ekanem (Enyong South) : A point of Order, Sir. The hon. Gentleman is irrelevant.

The Chairman : The hon. Gentleman is addressing too many remarks to a party, the Action Group, and perhaps too few remarks to myself, the Chairman. But in any case he will probably be concluding his speech shortly.

Mr Yacim : Mr Chairman, Sir, in Igala Division, as I have said, direct labour is more wasteful than contract labour. I now wish to say something about my own area. There are many people registered as Federal contractors in my Division and even some other places in Igala Province, and not one single one of them has been given a Federal contract for the past two to three years. I would like the Minister to give close attention to these people in far away places. What happens is that before we receive newspapers from Lagos giving notice of these contracts the work has been given to somebody in Lagos. This is due to bad communications.

Most of the roads are not tarred and mail which is sent from Lagos goes to Oshogbo, Benin and Agenebode before coming to Igala. I would like the Minister to help as much as he can and see to it that this road is improved. He should also remember that Lokoja, where we have the boundary with Igala, is a country which will never be forgotten in Nigeria. I say

this because most of those people in the Western Region and the Northern Region have been helped out because Lokoja was the first headquarters in the Northern Region.

Finally, I should like the Minister to give serious consideration to the Shintaku trunk A road and see to it that it should not be given to direct labour but to contract labour. With these few remarks, I beg to support.

Mr E. D. Akinbowale (Ijebu North) : Mr Chairman, Sir, since this morning most speakers have been showering praises on the Minister of Works and Surveys. But as far as I am concerned, and this side for that matter, we are not here to shower encomiums on the Minister of Works and Surveys. All we have to do is give advice and make suggestions. If the Minister takes this advice things will move on well in his Ministry.

The Minister of Works and Surveys is a Federal Minister and therefore he is, for all the Federation, taking care of roads and buildings and bridges. But in the whole Federation most of these things are not taken care of. For instance, bridges all over the Federation are not good. Roads all over the Federation are not good. But whether we believe it or not the Minister is more concerned with buildings in the Federal headquarters, that is buildings in Lagos. The Minister is responsible for buildings all over the Federation not just in Lagos.

We all agree that this Ministry is noted for one thing, that is bad work, and therefore it is named the Public Waste Department. In the whole Ministry we know that there is bad organisation, we know that there is waste of public money, we know that there is always unnecessary delay in the execution of work, and that brings us to this conclusion : if this Ministry is to work well great attention should be paid to all these points. The points are that when work is given out a job card is issued and that any officer responsible for that should see to it that the work is properly executed ; not that when work is given out much time is wasted in carrying out the order ; overhead charges will not be too heavy on the bill and that there is no unnecessary delay in executing the work.

For instance, now if a building is given out and if it were by a contractor, the contractor will do it well and in time so that he might get

[MR AKINBOWALE]

his money and save his own face, but if given to the P.W.D. people from the first to the tenth day of the month there will be no work done but, mark you, inspection is going on all the time. The Chief will come there to see what is going to be done, his next in rank will come to do the same thing, yet the labourers will not work ; they are idlers and the Minister himself will have no time to visit the place.

If you go through the Estimates for this Ministry it will be found that we have several divisions—Administrative Division, Works Division and Surveys Division. All who do travel will agree with me that when you go out you see the Surveyors of this Ministry always whiling away time in the bush only to earn their night allowances. In the Works Division you will see that when any work is going to be done the major part of the bill will go to the overhead charges of the supervisory people. In any way, I had this experience in the Northern Region and I also had this experience in both the Eastern and the Western Regions. If this Ministry should justify its establishment in this country, the Minister should see to it that all people working in that Ministry face their work ; that they do not waste time and thereby do not waste our money and the brains of the people.

An hon. Member : Too much of sick leave.

Mr Akinbowale : Now I turn to the office : in the office many people are there to-day suffering for nothing because they are not in the good books of the heads of certain sections. The result is that people who have been sent out for training perhaps as engineers or as other high officers would come back to be disappointed ; they will never be recommended for promotion and they will never be given that job for which they have been trained so they remain there languishing until the end of life. All these things should be looked into so that we may come here and shower praises and not curses on the Minister and his Ministry and the country will benefit by it to our satisfaction. With these few remarks, Mr Chairman, I beg to support.

Mr J. U. Odey (Ogoja East) : Looking through the Estimates it will be seen that the vote for the Ministry of Works and Surveys is the highest but nevertheless I do not think it is

enough. Of all the amenities that the Government can give to the tax-payers the one that really benefits the most neglected of the tax-payers is the provision of roads. Roads help tax-payers to get their products to the open markets and a good deal of the poverty of the country is the result of the lack of good roads. If surplus products cannot find their way to the open market then production is discouraged.

Several hon. Members : Good talk.

Mr Odey : If people cannot be encouraged to produce more than they need for their own use and have a wide market the standard of life of the people and the country's economy will be poor. To encourage production, therefore, the Government has to embark on a move vigorous road policy than hitherto. That policy should be to check all sorts of wastage on road work and devote to the provision and the development of roads whatever savings that are made from all sources ; secondly, to have as its target, the Government target, the addition to the present list of trunk 'A' roads, those roads that link provincial headquarters, retaining to the Regional Governments those roads that link Divisional and District headquarters. Districts Councils will then take over those roads that connect important towns in some of the local council areas.

I do not think, Mr Chairman, that roads other than those which link villages should be committed to voluntary communal labour.

I cannot finally, Sir, close my remarks without reference to that short stretch of road less than one hundred miles long which if added to the Federal Government list would make the road not only inter-regional but even international. It is the stretch of road from a point 42 miles from Abakaliki on the Enugu-Mamfe road to Gboko in the Northern Region. It would be inter-regional because it connects the South-eastern part of the Eastern Region with the Northern Region. It would also be international in the sense that the Southern Cameroons which it would link with both the Eastern and Northern Regions is heading for separate nationhood. Realising, therefore, the importance of this short piece of road, I would entreat the Federal Government to take it over.

With these few remarks, Mr Chairman, I beg to support.

M. Abubakar M. Sokoto (Sokoto West Central): Mr Chairman, Sir, I rise to support the approval of the Estimates under this Head; and on behalf of my people to pay tribute to the hon. Minister of Works in response to their appeal which Sokoto Members have made to improve the Sokoto Sokoto-Illela road. We thank him very much for the considerable work which is now taking place there. We should thank him more if he speeds up the tarring of the road between Funtua and Gusau. This piece of work has long been overdue. We beseech the Government to see to it that the Sokoto-Jega road is immediately improved, and to build a good bridge at Jega, the construction of which has become a riddle. This trunk A road is as important as any other and, I am sure, it is more important than any road if its kind as far as traffic is concerned.

Finally, I think that the only solution to road problems is to see that all the important areas are tarred throughout the country. However beautifully a road has been made or repaired, it will in a moment go to its worst condition as long as heavy lorries go and come over it. So I advise the Minister to see that when this piece of road is repaired it should be immediately tarred before further repairs are made. By doing this, in a few years, the whole road will be tarred. One step and then another and the longest walk is ended.

Chief O. B. Akin-Olugbade (Egba South): Mr Chairman, Sir, the Ministry of Works and Surveys is definitely one of the most important Ministries. Recently the Minister of Finance expressed jubilation in his Budget speech over the prospect of raising several million pounds loans for the economic and development programmes of the Federation. Much of this money would be expended in the construction of rail roads, motor roads, bridges, harbours and so on.

It is the practice of this Government to award or give out most of the major works we have to contractors. And who are these contractors? Almost invariably, they are, for the most part, agents of the money lenders from whom our Minister of Finance has been borrowing money. In effect more than 85 per cent of the capital loans will find its way back to the pocket of the foreign money lenders in the form of costs of materials bought from the money lenders and payment to their foreign contractors. And we are left with the burden of

finding money to pay back instalments of principal and interest due. What then is the function of the Ministry of Works?

It does the initial survey, planning and approving designs. It is high time the Ministry of Works shook off the colonial mentality, otherwise the Ministry of Works should be wound up. As far as we can observe, this estimate for the Ministry of Works has not progressed much further than what it was when Lord Lugard amalgamated the North with the South in 1914.

I would further suggest this for the consideration of the hon. Minister of Works. We want the scheme of works to be compatible with the yearnings and aspirations of our status as an independent country. He should consider setting up a Building and Development Corporation and provide funds and appoint Nigerians as Members to be advised by the P.W.D. experts and any other experts from any part of the world to handle our building programmes, our roads, our harbours and our bridges.

The second suggestion, Sir—well I make this suggestion because the millionaires we have in this country to-day are expatriates; at the best they appoint one or two yes-men as directors and give them £200 or £300 per annum to the detriment of the interests of this great nation. We must find a way out of this difficulty.

The other suggestion I would like to make is that the hon. Minister should consider lifting the Ministry of Works from the status of a mere tool in the hands of these millionaire contractors. They go away with the lion share of the money we raise as loans from their shareholders and that is not in the best interest of this nation.

I would also suggest that the hon. Minister should encourage our honest Nigerian contractors. We cannot wait until we have angels to do this work for us. Even we in this House are far from being angels ourselves. I would ask him to encourage them by giving financial advances to Nigerian contractors whom he knows would handle the funds efficiently and honestly and execute the job for which the money is advanced.

In civilised countries, in places like United Kingdom and America, I know that foreign contractors do win tenders but that is after very keen competition by the indigenous contractors in those countries.

An hon. Member : Are you a contractor ?

Chief Akin Olugbade : I am not. I am a practising barrister. (*Hear, hear*).

One other point I would like to dwell upon is the question of payment. In these estimates, we have a sum of £30,000 to be paid to Crown Agents as commission. Well, in the whole of the Estimates, £130,000 is to be paid to the Crown Agents as commission for purchases of stores from the United Kingdom.

During my recent visit to the United Kingdom, I was privileged to meet several manufacturers who complained very bitterly about the tardy way in which orders from Nigeria are being handled by the Crown Agents. It is high time we devised some means whereby we can place our orders through the local representatives of the firms who are here in this country. We shall pay less commission, if necessary at all, and the cost of the materials we order would be much less than we pay at the moment. One cannot understand why we should be paying nearly £200,000 to the Crown Agents simply for doing the same job that any ordinary average businessman could do. I further suggest that the hon. Minister could set up a sort of agency to represent the interest of this country and look for stores anywhere in the world and avoid paying nearly £½ million as commission to the Crown Agents for doing so little. The manufacturers themselves do not like it.

Well, I understand, Sir, that the reclamation of Victoria Beach is going to cost about £650,000 ; I am not sure

The Minister of Works and Surveys : That is not under my Ministry.

Chief Akin. Olugbade : I am sorry ; I will leave that point.

There is another point I will ask the hon. Minister to note. At mile 33½ from Lagos—that is Ifo, we have Trunk A road passing side by side with the railway line. Well, when that portion of the road was being developed, there was the close-up of the drain, through which water coming down could pass under the rail-road and the motor road, with the result that water collects there every rainy season and becomes a permanent pool, breeding mosquitoes and other insects which

make life very uncomfortable for the people in that area. Incidentally that pool is very near the kola-nut market in Ifo and the hon. Minister has friends and relatives using that market. I am requesting the hon. Minister of Works to see to it that his Ministry constructs a drain through this road. It is only this road which is stopping the water and he should take that job on hand as quickly as possible and save us from mosquitoes, otherwise kola-nuts will be infected.

Mr F. I. Okoronkwo (Aba Urban) : Mr Chairman, Sir, in supporting this Head of the estimates, I know that the Minister of Works is doing much to improve the condition of roads and bridges in this country, but we expect that the roads and bridges in the country should befit the dignity of the nation.

Many Members this morning criticised the Public Works Department and it is really the true intention of everybody to see that the work done by this Department gets the approval of Members of this House. But the contrary is the case. We have the engineers employed by the P.W.D., but these engineers are not doing anything that warrants the heavy salaries that they are being paid. It is because of this that we indulge in employing contractors to construct roads. May I ask whether these engineers were not trained in the same University as those engineers employed by all these contracting companies in the country ? If they were trained in the same University, why is it that these engineers do not put up very good work for which the Federal Government is paying them heavily ?

Now, coming to my area, that is my Constituency—Aba. From Aba to Owerri or from Aba to Onitsha, there is a bridge which got damaged over three years ago. I am sure that every Member that comes from Calabar, Aba Division, Opobo and the rest of other places will agree that this bridge is long overdue for repair. The construction of the bridge is very slow.

An hon. Member : What bridge ?

Mr Okoronkwo : Owerrinta Bridge. And also, I think that the Minister of Works should see that the work is completed before the Independence Celebrations. The Calabar-Oron-Aba Road requires widening because this road has claimed many lives in Nigeria. It is

very poorly maintained and I should like the Minister to do something to rectify the situation.

Another road that requires the attention of the Minister is the road leading from Aba to Opobo. It requires widening and the oil bean trees along the road should be cleared because Aba is one of the most central cities in the Eastern Region, in Nigeria to-day. From Umuahia to Aba is 40 miles; from Port Harcourt to Aba is 40 miles; from Uyo to Aba is a little over 40 miles; and from Ogoni to Aba is 40 miles, and so Aba is a very big centre of trade in the area. The Minister should see to it that the road leading to Aba is properly maintained.

Mr Chairman, I turn now to the award of contracts. Some of the contractors in Nigeria are doing very good work. For instance, the contractors that did the road from Awgu-Aba-Port Harcourt have done very good work that everybody must commend; and I am appealing to the Minister to see that the contractors who are doing the contracts in the Federation of Nigeria are those contractors that can give us really good work and not those who will simply apply and when the contract is given to them they would not make proper use of the money paid to them by the Government; they simply want to make profit and leave the road in a poor condition. I am therefore appealing to the Minister of Works to see that indigenous contractors are encouraged. By encouraging them it means giving them that type of work that they can do and, if necessary, to give them financial aid in order to purchase heavy tools from overseas to compete with these foreign contractors. If they are not helped, they will not be able to learn to do the work properly.

Mr Chairman, I should also appeal to the Minister of Works to see to it that the value of contracts given to some of these contractors is insured; because recently fire destroyed £200,000 building of the Aba Telephone Exchange. Now, I am not sure that the value of that contract was insured. If it was insured, I think the contractors concerned should have started rebuilding the Post Office and I am suggesting that in future before any contract is awarded the Minister should see to it that the value of the contract is insured.

With these few remarks, Mr Chairman, I beg to support.

Mallam Yakubu Allanana (Akwenka): Mr Chairman, Sir, I rise to support this Head—Ministry of Works and Surveys—for which a sum of £5,948,900 has been voted. Our able Minister of Works, Alhaji Muhammadu Inua Wada two weeks ago gave Members of this House details of the work done by his Ministry.

Mr Chairman, it is easy to accept this Head without hesitation because if we look all around, the Federal roads are well kept, from Lagos to Ibadan to Ilorin and Benin City. Also many roads in the Northern Region are being extended. In this Ministry I have only one point to make. I would advise the Minister to pay more attention to some roads in the Northern Region, particularly Trunk 'A' roads.

An hon. Member: Who wrote the speech for you?

M. Allanana: You wrote it for me!

I hope the Minister will consider very well to start tarring the road from Lafia to Jos, because this road is, in fact, always very bad during the rainy season, and people travelling from there suffer a great deal of damage to vehicles, property and loss of human lives. So the Federal Government should endeavour to start tarring this road as quickly as possible in order to ease the suffering and loss of human lives from this road.

Mr Chairman, with these few remarks, I beg to support.

Mr W. Briggs (Degema): Mr Chairman, Sir, I should like very briefly to comment on the serious lapse in the Public Works Department. I am glad that hon. Members have raised this question before, but I do not think it is too much to repeat it often and often again. The store of the P.W.D. seems to be leaking and I hope the hon. Minister of Works and Surveys will see to it that we do not lose such items as 5,000 bags of cement and that kind of scandalous thing that we see in the Auditor's Report.

I would like to mention the improvement of the road from Owerri to Port Harcourt. I am sure hon. Members from the East will agree with me that that Owerri Road is even busier in many respects than the Aba Road. I think so. I would like to see that road taken over by the Federal Government.

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One further point is about bringing the rural areas into the main stream of Nigerian trade and business. I am referring in this case to the Abonnema-Degema bridge. I spoke to the Minister of Works and Surveys and he felt that was a Regional subject. That is a great pity because it will tend to bring most of the rural areas into the main stream of commerce and industry in the country. Most of these rural areas are completely cut off, and yet we have a tremendous consumer market in those areas. You should bring these places into the main stream of our commerce and industry because they provide, as I say, the consumer market. If you go to those places you will see them needing even the barest traces of civilisation. I think, if these people who are at present cut away from the main stream of Nigeria's commerce and industry are brought in, it will help also to meet the balance of payment.

I should also mention the almost 22-mile road from Port Harcourt to Degema—the Isioba road. I am sure if the Member from Elemenwa or Ahoada is here, he will agree with me that that road is overdue for improvement. It is a very important road. The Rivers Province is cut away. The only portions that are joined to Port Harcourt which is a large centre of trade in the Region are Ahoada and Ogoni. The main parts of the Rivers Province are cut away. They do not participate at all in the trade and industry of the country, and that accounts for their extreme poverty. I am therefore asking the Minister of Works and Surveys to see to it that this bridge is reconstructed and the quicker that is done the better.

With these few remarks, I beg to support.

Mr U. O. Ayeni (Afenmai North West) : Mr Chairman, Sir, since there is no more time, I will just touch on a few of the points I have in my notes.

The Survey Division of the Ministry supplies schools with maps. I have to say that these maps are very inadequate and some of them are out-of-date. There are certain maps from which one simply cannot make out one road from the other. Besides I would like this Ministry to think of advising certain commercial agents, particularly the "Daju Map Syndicate". This Syndicate produces maps which are often bad. If you happen to

look at the map of Nigeria produced by this particular Syndicate you will know that it is a waste of money to buy any of them. But in the rural areas we cannot help it because that is the one we are likely to get to buy. I therefore ask the Ministry to see that this particular Syndicate and the others produce appropriate maps needed by school teachers.

I am surprised that so much has been voted again for the so-called Shagamu-Benin road—about £10,000 is going to be spent. I think that whatever money is going to be spent to construct this road is, to my mind, a luxury. There is already a network of roads connecting Ijebu area and so forth. If we have to make this road it will be to the detriment of places like Ilesha, Akure and so forth. Everybody will agree that the construction of the Ijebu-Ode-Lagos road is to the detriment of Abeokuta—people do not think of Abeokuta these days when going to Lagos. Moreover, this Shagamu road passes through a dense forest. The normal thing is to construct roads to meet villages or big towns and rural areas, but in this particular one we are constructing it to meet animals. There is no likelihood that this particular road is going to be of any commercial importance.

Last time I asked a question about the possibility of converting certain roads in the rural areas into trunk roads A, particularly the road which connects my Division with the Eastern Region. We supply the people of the Eastern Region with a lot of food and they supply us with a lot of imported goods. We can only do this during the dry season because the little road that connects us is just a dry-season road. We want an all-season road to connect the East with the West through my Division. But I was told that it is the duty of the Regional Government. But as far as we are concerned, in my Division we are unfortunately placed with the Regional Government and there is no hope that the Regional Government will ever do anything. Therefore I am appealing to the Minister of Works to think of the possibility of converting that 21-mile road from Ifon to Sabo-Gida to connect Agbor to the Eastern Region. If we can do that, I think it will help commerce in that area.

We produce a lot of cocoa in many places and we have a lot of groundnuts, but we are unable to evacuate them to the outside world, and as a

result there is no incentive to the farmers to hold large plots, rather they concentrate on very small holdings. This is what is responsible for the emigration of people from rural areas to Lagos to come and look for jobs. If you produce something and there is nobody to buy them from you, the tendency is for you to go to those areas where you think you can get something.

That is why I do not think that the appeal of the Minister of Labour that we should tell people in the rural areas to stay at home actually impresses me. Are they going to stay at home to starve? If you do not give them what they want, they must have to come out to the big towns.

I think the Ministry will be alive to its responsibilities because if we want to expand the economy of this country, the improvement of our means of communications becomes imperative—not communications through the big towns only, but communications around the rural areas, particularly the agricultural areas of this country.

Besides, one has little to say about this—it is unfortunate that most of our Ministers have not been to these rural areas. They need to go and see the bad condition of our bridges some of which are in a state of collapse. The Minister should really undertake an extensive tour of these rural areas and see the possibility of connecting them with all-weather roads.

Sir, I beg to support.

The Chairman : I call on Mr Are to begin his speech : it is nearly 1 o'clock.

Alhaji K. O. S. Are (Ibadan North West) : I am very very grateful to you, Mr Chairman, for giving me this opportunity to speak on this important Head. Everybody can well realise that this Head is one of the important ones that are mainly concerned with the improvement of our country. But, in the first place, I would like to mention especially about Lagos. Everybody can well realise that the difficulties we have within the areas of Ebute Metta and Lagos are so much that we always experience hardship resulting from traffic hold-up almost all the time. Anybody who has an appointment must leave his house about two hours before time, otherwise he will have to be disappointed. I appeal to my

Minister to see that something is done by way of making more roads both in the Lagos Island and on the Mainland.

I now come to my own place, Ibadan. A lot of the roads in Ibadan and the rural areas are very very bad. I appeal to the Minister to kindly see that something is done towards the improvement of these roads. (*Interruption*).

The Chairman : It is now 1 o'clock and sitting is suspended under the Standing Orders until 3 o'clock.

Sitting suspended : 1.00 p.m.

Sitting resumed : 3.05 p.m.

Alhaji Are : To continue my speech, the point I would like to make is that I would like to associate myself with the views expressed by some Members of this hon. House. Before anything else everybody must as well realise that roads must be taken into consideration. The roads all over the Region are not very good.

Several hon. Members : Which Region?

Alhaji Are : Western Region. But in my own particular area, Ibadan, which even is the seat of the Western Regional Government they refuse to give us any amenity because they know very well that Ibadan people refuse to toe the line of the Action Group. The only places that are developed in Ibadan are their Headquarters and some part of Lebanon Street where you have the commercial area. The only place that is developed in my own place in Ibadan is the headquarters or the Secretariat and some part in Lebanon Street.

I also want to mention that the Federal Government is capable enough to see to the well-being of Ibadan, as far as improvement of road and other amenities like building of Post Offices are concerned because we have not got sufficient Post Offices by which we can get easy means of communication. I am appealing to the Minister to kindly take a serious view of this matter because it is in the keen interest of my people in Ibadan. In our rural areas, I can mention, during the last Federal Elections, one would take to his heels to trek at least between 20 and 30 miles because there was no means of transport in many places where we get our foodstuff. We used to have something which we called market place. In this particular market, there is no

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Mr D. N. Abii (Owerri East) : What of the Audit Report ?

The Minister of Works and Surveys : You have referred to the Audit Report, Mr Abii, and several hon. Members have also referred to the Audit Report. It is in connection with losses in the Stores, especially losses in the cement stores. These losses, I want to tell hon. Members, were not found by the Auditors. The losses were discovered as a result of instruction from the Ministry to check the stores and to bring very many desired reforms into it. The check was made and although the losses found were tremendous, to the value of £24,000, I want hon. Members to realise that the losses were not for one single year. They were accumulated losses spread over a number of years. A Departmental Board of Inquiry was set up. I am not trying to protect anybody nor am I trying to say that the losses were good. The losses were bad enough and should not have occurred. The Inquiry was held, various causes were found and now we have submitted the Report to the Public Service Commission. My Ministry and all other Ministries for that matter cannot discipline civil servants. It is up to the Public Service Commission to decide what appropriate action to take.

As a result of these losses we employed a firm of independent Accountants to go into the whole accounting system of not only the Stores Department but the whole Ministry. These Accountants have now finished with the Stores. They have given us their recommendations most of which we have now put into practice. One other thing I want to assure hon. Members about is this. I have done what I hope will, if not reduce to nil will reduce to the merest minimum the possibility of incurring any losses in future. The Stores are now being run down. All perishable stores and all stores that we can find locally or through local suppliers, my idea is to run them down completely and place our orders through local suppliers.

I see no reason therefore why we should stock cement for the use of the Federal Government for one whole year. What we are going to do when we have finished our present stock is to invite tenders from the various suppliers and firms in Nigeria to give us quotations on how

they can supply the Federal Government with cement for the whole year, and these will be the same for other stores we are keeping.

Mr W. Briggs (Degema) : What of Nkalagu Cement Factory ?

The Minister of Works and Surveys : They will of course be open to tender, but for your information, Mr Briggs, Nkalagu cement, because of the distance of Nkalagu from here, may be a great deal dearer than imported cement.

Then, Mr Chairman, it is Mr Abii again who spoke of some officers deliberately inflating Estimates in order to defraud the Federal Government. I must say I am not aware of this, and here, talking seriously again, I must implore hon. Members that unless they can prove their allegations they should not come on the Floor of the House and accuse civil servants who have not got the privilege of being here to reply.

Mr Abii, Mr Chairman, and several other hon. Members also spoke of registration of contractors and the award of contracts. Mr Abii alleged that some people applied to be registered as contractors and the applications were turned down. It is natural that some applications should certainly be turned down. What happens is this. If somebody feels he likes to become a contractor, he writes a letter to the Secretary of the Federal Registration Board who sends him a form and the form contains a certain questionnaire. For example, there are questions to show the ability of the applicant to undertake work to the value he is applying, questions to show the experience of the applicant, questions to show what plant and equipment the applicant has, questions to show the financial standing of the applicant and the experienced or expert staff he has, and above all he should also give a list of projects he has undertaken.

These projects are inspected, if in Lagos by the Works Division of my Ministry, if in the Regions by the Provincial or Divisional Engineers; and the Registration Board acts on the report of these inspections. Well, naturally if the applicant does not fulfil the required conditions his application may not be approved, but I want to assure hon. Members that any applicant who satisfies the conditions is always registered. Besides, anybody has a

right to petition to me and I always go into the petition sympathetically. (*Several hon. Members : Hear, hear*). Anybody who feels his application has been rejected unjustly has a right to petition to me.

The question of indigenous contractors. It was in the old House that I explained certain categories of contracts. Contracts up to the value of £20,000 have been exclusively reserved for Nigerians; no expatriate is allowed to tender in this category. Then for contracts of £20,000 up to a maximum of £100,000, everybody in the appropriate categories is entitled to tender, but if an indigenous contractor tenders within a small degree or, say, slightly higher than an expatriate contractor, we give preference to the Nigerian contractor. (*Applause*). It is only for bigger contracts, contracts of £100,000 and above that we allow open competition.

We advertise all our tenders in the *Gazette*. If a contractor is really serious and he wants to tender for Federal Government contracts he must make arrangements to be getting the *Gazette* regularly where he will see our advertisements.

Mr Yacim spoke of various projects in Igala Division. I quite agree, Igala is a very big Division and, at the same time, a very important one also. But one thing I am afraid I cannot agree with him is where he said contractors in Igala do not get Federal Government contracts. I do not think we have contractors registered in Igala Division. If they have, there cannot be more than two or three; they may be local contractors. What happens is unless a contractor is registered with the Federal Government he cannot tender for Federal contracts.

Mr Akinbowale spoke about bridges all over Nigeria and he condemned them wholesale. I am afraid I do not know from what part of Nigeria Mr Akinbowale comes otherwise I would give an example of a bridge in that particular area. Somebody came to my rescue after he had spoken and congratulated me on my bridge strengthening and widening programme. Well, Sir, you have received your answer.

Mr Akinbowale also said—and really, Sir, I do not think he was serious—that “surveyors only go to bush and while away their time there in order to qualify for an allowance.”

Well, Sir, the work of a surveyor is spent mostly out in the country and he works during the day. What do you expect him to do at night? If we do anything to surveyors we must thank them and congratulate them. They lead a very difficult life: most of their life they stay out of town, away from all amenities and, very often, under tents, sometimes even sleeping under the sky.

From my hon. friend, Mallam Abubakar Sokoto, I am pleased to learn that the work on the Sokoto-Ilela road is progressing satisfactorily and that the people of Sokoto are pleased with the progress. He later spoke on the Sokoto-Jega road and the bridge at Jega. Here I am pleased to say to him that a contract for construction of this bridge at Jega will soon go out. Then he spoke of bituminous surface of all roads. This is my target. This is what I want to do, but I have not got the money. If I can get the money I will surface all the roads.

Then Chief Akin-Olugbade, who is not here now, and I think another hon. Member, spoke of giving financial advances or financial aid to contractors. Well I am afraid that this will lead the Federal Government into a real problem. You cannot treat one section of the population at the expense of another. Contractors are only one section of Nigeria, there are other businessmen, traders, *et cetera*. If we give financial aid to contractors there will be no reason why we should not give financial aid to fishermen for example.

Also, we are making things as easy as possible for contractors. They are paid progressively according to how much work they have done. Therefore, any Government contractor should not really complain very much because before he starts to work he must have some capital of some sort, and the periodical payments we make, according to how much work he has done, should be enough to keep him in business.

Mr Okoronko spoke about widening various bridges and roads. Well this is exactly what I had in mind and I hope to do it provided I can get the necessary fund. Mallam Yakubu Allanana spoke of Trunk Road A 3, especially between Lafia and Jos. Well I know this will be within the next Economic Programme which we hope to start sometime after 1962. My friend, Mr Briggs, I have, I hope, answered when I spoke about the Stores.

M. Abdullahi, Magajin Musawa (Musawa) Mr Chairman, in supporting this Head may I have the opportunity to congratulate the President of the Senate? In doing so, Sir, with your permission I am calling the attention of this hon. House to the fact that it is now time that we Legislators and all the reasonable citizens should co-operate and work in peace and harmony. In doing so I say again that it is now time for the Regional legislators and the Federal legislators to co-operate without any differences of tribe, religion or race. Without toleration the Government would be torn down at any time.

It is now time for the Prime Minister to do his best to do away with the old system of Government and to recognise the Legislators of this Federal House. We want to understand ourselves. Principally we are the head of the state but locally when we go back to our constituencies the legislator from the Federal House is nothing. I appeal to the Prime Minister that we, the legislators of this House, should be recognised.

In theory Nigeria is a democratic country but in fact we are led by a dictator. I am greatly concerned to say that thousands of people in Nigeria are afraid of what will happen after Independence. I am not an Action Grouper, I am N.P.C. I was born N.P.C. and I will die N.P.C. I am speaking from my own personal opinion and not speaking for the Action Group.

Let me give you one example, Mr Chairman. I remember at the last meeting the Members of the Senate were invited to this House to hear the Speech from the Throne. I remember one Member who said that it was disgraceful that the members of the Senate should come to this House to hear the Speech from the Throne. That is wrong; Members of the Senate are not politicians, they are nominated from various Regions, the Western Region, Eastern Region. I must be honest, members of the Western Region and Eastern Region were appointed under the Constitutional Law, but our Members from the Northern Region are representatives of our parties who have been defeated by Action Group Members.

Mr Chairman, Sir, before I take my seat, I appeal strongly to the hon. the Prime Minister that if we want to achieve our independence in

peace and in good Government it is now time for the hon. Prime Minister to do his very best, to take necessary action and to look after the common people who are under him. Let me give you an example: Nigeria has a population of about 35 million people whereas the Members of the Legislature are not up to one thousand as compared with Great Britain. Mr Chairman, Sir, thank you very much for the opportunity given me.

The Minister of Finance (Chief the hon. F. S. Okotie-Eboh): Mr Chairman, Sir, I rise to speak on this occasion not to give replies to questions or points raised on this Head of the Estimate which is under our respected Prime Minister but I rise to speak now as the Leader of this House. (*Applause*).

Mr W. Briggs (Degema): *rose*—

The Chairman: The Minister does not wish to withdraw.

The Minister of Finance: I would like to say that since I have been privileged and honoured to have been appointed as the Leader of this House by the Prime Minister I have carefully watched the attitude of the hon. Members in this House, their code of conduct and behaviour in the House, their alertness to their responsibilities, their contributions to the debates and I am satisfied, Sir, that the teeming millions of this country can rightly be proud of those who compose this Federal Legislature. (*prolonged applause*).

Sir, I am sure that in saying this we must associate the fatherly guidance of our respected Speaker who has directed this House for many years now. The Legislature, I am sure, has learnt a lot from the Speaker and it will be difficult for us to forget his valuable services not only to this Legislature but the whole of the country for many years to come—(*Interruptions*). Examples are better than precepts. Sir, this now brings me to the point made by my hon. Friend Chief Ayo Rosiji in a matter in which I think he is not competent to speak about. The salaries of the Members of the Legislature in my view is not the principal concern of my hon. Friend and I am definitely sure that all reasonable people in this country would say that the attack which he has levied against Members of the House to-day is uncalled for, unnecessary, inopportune and it does not show any signs of responsibility.

Several hon. Members : *Shame, shame.*

The Minister of Finance : I am sure that the Members of the public in Nigeria would not like to see the Members that represent them to be indebted to people and I want to say that if there is any reason why Members should agitate for more salaries it is because during the last election the Action Group has thrown them into debt. (*Applause*).

I want to say that if this Government finds that it is necessary to increase the salaries of the Members of this House we will do it with the confidence that we truly represent this country and no attack from Mr Ayo Rosiji either here or on the pages of his newspaper will stay the hands of the Government from doing what is right and just. (*Applause*).

Sir, I want to cite an example or two of this type of hypocritical act of playing to the gallery and trying to show to the people of this country that the Members of the Action Group are the only people that think about the future of this country. It is nothing short of the 'holier than thou' attitude. Sir, in the life of the old Legislature when we decided to give Members the small allowance—Consolidated Allowance—to enable Members to tour their constituencies, the very Leader of Opposition, who is now the Premier of the Western Region opposed it vehemently on the floor of this House; but as the Minister of Finance, I am in a position to say that as soon as it was passed by the Legislature, Members of the Action Group were the first—

Several hon. Members : *Ole, Ole, Shame, shame.*

The Minister of Finance : Sir, similarly, when the Ministerial quarters were built there was no noise except by the Action Group that the N.P.C. and the N.C.N.C. Government were building palatial buildings of £30,000 and so on and so forth; but I want to say that when the Action Group Ministers were appointed to the National Government the first thing that Chief Rosiji did was to come to my house to examine it, whether it was properly designed and in fact he came with an architect and in view of this the design was changed and as a result the new quarters built cost more than our own. I challenge him to say that he did not come to my house with three Nigerian

architects to look at the design and to alter it afterwards. Let him answer. (*Interruption*). Yes, collective responsibility.

An hon. Member : Point of Order.

The Chairman : A point of Order must be raised and listened to and even answered in silence. I wish I can catch the Member who interrupts after I have directed the House not to be interrupted.

Chief A. Rosiji : I am sorry to say that the hon. Minister of Finance has misled this House deliberately. I never lived in any Ministerial quarters.

The Minister of Finance : Mr Chairman, Sir, hon. Members will bear me out that I did not say that he lived in the new Ministerial quarters; what I said was that when the new houses were to be built, you came with three P.W.D. architects to redesign the houses and make it much better for you and hon. Members will bear me out that I did not say that he lived in the new ministerial quarters. What I said was that when the new houses were to be built he came with three P.W.D. architects to design the house and make it better for him and that would cost more money. That is what I said! That was when Chief Rosiji thought that he and the people like him would be returning as Ministers to occupy the houses.

Mr W. Briggs (Degema) : I would like to tell the Minister of Finance that I have never stood for election during the last legislature, neither did I contemplate standing for election.

The Minister of Finance : Mr Chairman, Sir, I am surprised. I did not know that the hon. Mr Briggs was a nominated Member; I thought he stood election. (*Interruption*.) Sir, finally I want to repeat that it is not the Government's intention to be acolytes and to be misled by any propaganda against hon. Members in this House, or against any act of Government or any request of the Members of this House. If Government considers it necessary and the hon. Prime Minister thinks it is necessary to do so, I can assure you that we will be doing so, bearing in mind that it is the rightful thing to do and that Members here have laboured to come here and they are contributing to this country, especially when we are entering independence. It is sufficient to merit consideration. (*Applause*)

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[MR AJIBOLA]

Members of this House are given the opportunity of going to parliaments in other parts of the world so that by so doing we can gain more from what is going on in other parts of the world.

For instance, last year Federal legislators from Western Germany came to visit us here and when they arrived letters were written to Members of this House to go and entertain them, and it would be a good idea if during this session of the House we too paid such a visit to the people. Therefore this is the important point I have in mind.

An hon Member : I hope you do not visit the Italian Parliament.

Mr Ajibola : I would like the Prime Minister and the Leader of the House to put this into consideration. We do not want two or three Members to go on these tours, but a reasonable number from all sections of this House, and we hope by that we shall gain a great deal.

Thank you, Mr Chairman.

The Prime Minister (Alhaji the hon. Sir Abubakar Tafawa Balewa) : Mr Chairman, Sir, I just want to reply to the last speaker. I think it is very important that hon. Members of this House should get the chance of going round to see the Parliaments of other countries of the world. I told the House some time ago, at the beginning of this meeting, that it is my intention that delegations from the House of Representatives should go round some African countries in order to see what they are doing and in order to tell them what we are in Nigeria. (*Hear, hear*). It is a very good suggestion which definitely will be implemented. The hon. Member should not be unhappy because the amount voted is the same as last year's. We can always come to the House and ask for more money. (*Hear, hear*).

Alhaji Mohammed-Munir, Mutawallin Kano (Rano) : Mr Chairman, Sir, in supporting the expenditure on Head 85, Legislature, I should like to congratulate Dr the hon. Nnamdi Azikiwe (*Several hon. Members : Zeek, Zeek*), for his new position as the President of the Senate. (*Hear, hear*). Mr Chairman, Sir, whatever the catalysm of the Action

Group might be they will not be able to terrify the coalition Government of the N.C.N.C. and the N.P.C. (*Hear, hear*). They will neither terrify nor mortify it. Whatever they may do they will discover in the long run that they are playing a losing game. (*Hear, hear*). They will find their intentions and themselves to be hoisted with their own petard.

I am sure that I will get the support of all sides of this House in making a vote of thanks to our beloved Speaker in the person of Sir Frederic Metcalfe for his untiring effort in conducting the business of this Legislature with efficiency, impartiality and dignity since the life of the dissolved House. His personality and decorum when he enters the chambers to deliver the morning prayers before the commencement of business leaves no room for doubt that he is the Speaker at every inch. As he is judicious he is respected by every Member of this House and his orders are always obeyed.

Mr W. Briggs (Degema) : Eh !

Alhaji Mohammed-Munir : Who doubts it; any Action Group Member in doubt of this? I am confident that the Members of this House will not hesitate if I say to him 'thank you' whilst at the same time wishing him and his wife continued good health, long life and prosperity. Certainly the memory of Sir Frederic Metcalfe shall remain ever green in the hearts of all Members who know him.

Although I filed no Amendment I should like to comment on one or two things in this Legislature. Firstly, this deals with the question of the salary of the Clerk of the Parliaments who receives only £2,400 whereas a Permanent Secretary receives £2,640. I know very well that comparison is sometimes odious but in this respect as the Clerk of the Parliaments has onerous duties to perform during the sittings of the Parliaments his position should not be less than that of a Permanent Secretary. (*Hear, hear*).

Secondly, it is gratifying to see a Library Officer has now been appointed to the Library of this Legislature. In order to get this library functioning properly I am suggesting that a Library Committee be appointed from

the Members of this House consisting of Members with literary tastes. The committee will help the Library Officer in selecting new books to be ordered. Apart from the standard books of reference that I have in mind are the books of law, economics, accountancy, etc., which are subject to revision from time to time so that at any time Members can have the opportunity of referring to books which are up-to-date.

With these few words I support the Head.

Mr C. A. Odigbo (Bende West): Mr Chairman, Sir, I rise to support this Head and in doing so I wish to say a few things. Firstly, I think it is very clear to all of us that the purpose for which membership of this House was increased was to make it possible for wider discussions to be held on the subjects before this House; so that as much as possible various aspects that affect any question will be obtained. But that purpose appears to be completely vitiated by the fact that the Standing Orders have as yet not been revised so that it will be possible for Members to have shorter periods for their speeches and enable as many as possible to speak to a question. As things are at the moment only very few people can speak to a question and because of lack of time we just pass on.

I want to suggest that the Committee for revising the Standing Orders should be made to work as much as they find it possible to bring the Standing Orders up-to-date because we Members have not been really very happy that it has not been possible for us to contribute as much as possible to the debate during this Session. We do hope that before the next Session that correction would have been made.

I wish also to say something about the site of this Parliament which I understand has been decided to be at the Bar Beach. I must say that Government must have made that decision on very good expert advice but one is bound to consider whether such a decision is necessarily to the best interest of our security. The Victoria Island is the most vulnerable point in Nigeria and one would have thought that in deciding a site for the Legislature, that could have been taken into consideration. As a matter of fact, we have so much land around Lagos here, in Yaba and Surulere that it would have been possible for the Legislature

to be sited in one of these places. After all, the National Stadium is somewhere there in Surulere area and I think that such a place would have been a better place than Victoria Island. Possibly the aesthetic value of Victoria Island must be responsible for this state of affairs but in fact, another thing that could have been considered would be the standard of foundation that is likely to be obtained for the building of the size of our Legislature. I do hope that expert advice has justified using this newly reclaimed area for the building of such a large building. Well, I do hope Government will really reconsider the matter if this is still not very late but if it is, we do hope that we shall not suffer losses on account of this position.

I want to say something about the supply of *Gazettes* to Members of this House. I must say that up to the moment, I have not received *Gazettes* from the Northern Region. I do not know whether it is the same experience with other Members but I thought it should be possible since the life of this Legislature for Members to have received all the *Gazettes* from all the Regions. Another point about this supply of *Gazettes* is this that when we are at home, we normally get our *Gazettes* sent down to Lagos from the Regional Headquarters and then they are re-directed to our homes and I think that is a mere waste of time and money. I do not see why it should not be possible to have an understanding between the people here and the Regional headquarters so that during the time the House is not in Session, *Gazettes* are sent direct from the Regional headquarters to Members. This will save a lot of man-power and I think it will mean some savings to the nation as a whole.

I also wish to say something about the inconvenience which we Members really endure in Lagos here. Well, we appreciate the fact that it was not possible for quarters to be provided now for this enlarged House, but we do hope that this matter will be speeded up because as somebody mentioned in the morning, it is in fact distressing that we have to come here and stay for about a month and in some very inconvenient places, I think it is really to be expected that when Members come here, they should feel at home. In that case, they will be prepared to co-operate with

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Government to stay for as long as the Government will want them to stay here. I do hope that before the Independence Celebrations when Members will very much like to come here with their families to take part in the Celebrations that the new quarters which Government is proposing to put up would be ready.

Mr Chairman, Sir, I wish also to say that we Members of this House are in fact very much gratified with the services which the Speaker and Members of the staff of the Legislature have been rendering since this House started. As a matter of fact, some of us have been very much surprised at the efficiency with which the staff of this Legislature have carried out their duties. We are in fact very much satisfied. It is one evidence of the fact that we are really ready for independence. We do hope, as the last speaker has said, that something would be done to look into the conditions of service of these people. In fact, it is observed that some of them do work much longer hours than one would expect. I do not know whether compensation is being paid for this but if not, I think the condition of service of the workers of the Legislature should be looked into so as to make them as attractive and as remunerative as possible.

Mr Chairman, with these few remarks, I beg to support.

Chief the hon. E. O. Okunowo (Ijebu Central): I thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak on this very important Head and Item. It is very surprising that I have not seen any motion calling for reduction of £10 under this Head and item and this, if I am permitted to say, I would like to rename this Head and item as what I may call "Physician, heal thyself". "Physician heal thyself" in this sense that this is the Head and Item that is dealing with salaries of Members of the House and I would have liked to see people criticising. Rather than that, I must thank the Minister of Finance for the tribute that he paid to all the Members of the House. It is what is befitting of his position as the Leader of the Government. In doing so—(Interruptions) I think it is on this Head and Item that we Members will be able to examine

ourselves as to whether we have been performing our duties in the way that are expected by the people who sent us to this House. Now, it is most annoying at times to find the way that some Members of this House comfort themselves. Well, I think we should be able to advise ourselves about the way and manner that we should be able to behave whenever we come to this House.

When we are voting the sum of about £309,000 for the salaries of Members of this House, some Members have not taken the trouble to find out the needs and cares of their people before they come to the House. Instead of talking on something important they go on talking about helicopter and about this or that thing just to create fun. I do not think this is the purpose for which they have been sent to the House. Indeed some Members of this House do not really work for the money paid to them. We should be able to come to the point and give some suggestions that will be of some benefits to the country. I think we should use the time for helping people by talking about how to improve their condition of living. If we all can follow the examples laid down by the Prime Minister of the Federation I think we can work successfully to the best interest of the Federation as a whole.

In this connection we must not lose sight of those sons of Nigeria who have helped this country to achieve the present political standard. We must remember, as far as 1933, the people who have served this country without demanding a penny. They did this privately. They are not hon. Members in the House alone but also outside the House. I think it is the attitude of some hon. Members of this House that makes some people call us mushroom hon. Members. I would like to appeal to the hon. Members of this House that we must work hard and give the electorate value for their money. What I am saying is a clear case and I would tell the House that I am talking generally and I am also trying to defend the interests of those outside the House.

Alhaji Bello Dandago (Gwarzo East): Mr Chairman, Sir, I only want to say that best friends can one day part with each other. So the departure of Sir Frederic Metcalfe some time in June is a thing which we will never in life forget. The history of this

Legislature started with the Governor-General who was the President ; later came Mr Fellowes who took up this Legislature and tried all he could to put us through. Of course, some others followed. The effort of Sir Frederic Metcalfe whose mature experience in the House of Commons has benefited this Legislature very very greatly. In Sir Frederic we see a Britisher to the core—a typical Britisher. His dynamic personality has enabled him to rule a House of this nature because it is a very large House with very green Members, especially on this side of the House.

Distance does not break affection. Although before very long we will lose the services, the actual practical services of Sir Frederic it is a pleasure for me to say that in the shoes of Sir Frederic we have somebody who has the necessary intelligence and the quick brain to absorb all that he has learnt. He has a wonderful sense of humour, the sense of humour which matters very much. So I can see that the future of this Legislature is bright. We have learnt enough from Sir Frederic Metcalfe. We thank him very much. I hope that when he leaves us he will lead a happy and long life.

Whereupon 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, That £497,200 for Head 58—Legislature—stand part of the Schedule, put and agreed to.

HEAD 59.—JUDICIAL

Question proposed, That £139,110 for Head 59—Judicial—stand part of the Schedule.

Mr A. A. Ajibola (Egbado South) : Mr Chairman, Sir, I rise to make some observations about Head 59 which deals with the Judiciary. In doing so, I would like to suggest to the Prime Minister that we have what we can call a Judicial Service Commission to look after our Judiciary in the Federal Territory. At present our Magistrates are more or less under the Federal Public Service Commission ; they are being treated as Civil Servants. I am sure that this will have some bad effect upon the administration of justice in this country. We

want an independent Judiciary in this country. And if we want an independent Judiciary it will be good if our Magistrates are not under the Public Service Commission.

A majority of cases in this country are being tried in the Magistrate Courts. Very few cases go to the higher courts. If those sitting on the real Bench are not free as they ought to be there cannot be the kind of justice that is necessary in any democracy.

Mr Chairman, another point which I would like to bring out, if we want to have an independent Judiciary in this country, free from fear, and free from corruption, is that the salary of Magistrates should be raised and be made attractive. I would suggest further that the salaries of Magistrates should be higher than those of ordinary Civil Servants. It is needless to say that Magistrates are professionals and they deal with something very delicate. They must be put in a position whereby they cannot be tempted. If their salary is not reasonable enough the public alone is going to suffer. It is not the small amount which may be put on top of the salary of these Magistrates that will run the Government into debt, rather the country will be in a better position for it.

Another observation I want to make, Sir, is that the Registrars of these Magistrate Courts should also be considered. They do a lot of heavy work that their salary should be fair and reasonable. At present I do not know which of the Ministers is responsible for dealing with the matter concerning the judiciary, but I would like the Prime Minister to put all those points into consideration, and to see that in years to come the judiciary of this country is in a better place.

Thank you, Mr Chairman.

Mr F. I. Okoronkwo (Aba Urban) : Mr Chairman, Sir, I have to congratulate the men in charge of this Department because in the country to-day a lot of improvement is being made in the Judiciary Department. In Nigeria it seems to be impossible, especially in the Federal Government, to produce Permanent Secretaries, but in the Judiciary we have been able to produce Justices and Chief Justices. That shows that a lot of progress has been made in this particular field, and we should

[MR OKORONKWO]

appeal to all other Departments in the Federation or the Minister in charge to see that immediate steps are taken to copy the Judiciary Department.

Nigeria is now marching towards her independence, and it will be improper to allow some part of the Federation to continue with an archaic system of administering justice in Nigeria.

Now, Mr Chairman, Sir, I am of the opinion that when we talk of doing justice to some individuals there is some part of the country to-day where many people are being punished unnecessarily. Therefore, we feel very strongly that the Judiciary should be Federalised in Nigeria, instead of leaving it in the hand of one particular political party to suppress its political opponents (*Hear, hear*). It would pay Nigeria a great deal to federalise Judiciary, and in doing so it will help to minimise the question of crying from this part of the region or the other where some political powers use the instrument of Judiciary to oppress their opponents. I am saying that because it would be a shameful thing to Nigeria as a whole that after 13 years when there was a cry in Nigeria of undemocratic system of judiciary, to-day at the eve of independence we are still crying of suppression in some parts of the regions. Particularly in the Western Region.

(Mr Speaker resumed the Chair)

Mr Okoronkwo : We have the leaders of various parties that control at least the three Regional Governments here, and the Leader of Opposition is in this House. The first Vice-President of N.P.C. is the Prime Minister of the Federation, and the second Vice-President of N.C.N.C. is also here in the House as a Minister; and the Minister of Finance is also the National Treasurer of N.C.N.C. I see no reason why we should be happy to sit in this House and should not co-operate to make Judiciary a federal subject in order to bring happiness to a great number of people in Nigeria. We should not allow some of our men to be suppressed and be imprisoned unnecessarily because they disagree with the views of their political opponents. I have to mention that after 13 years of Nigerian agitation against British rule and against an undemocratic system of judiciary such methods still exist in some parts of Nigeria to-day.

Mr Chairman, Sir, I have to quote the statement made by one of the leading politicians in this country in 1947 whilst they were presenting the views of this country to the then Colonial Secretary, Arthur Creech Jones. Now, this is what Mrs Ransome Kuti said: "There was no objection to Income Tax properly assessed, but the Authorities made arbitrary assessment based on people's way of living". Now, this was what this woman said, and yet in the country to-day the same arbitrary taxation or assessment exists in some parts of the country in order to victimize the opponents.

Several hon. Members : Where is that ?

Mr Okoronkwo : In the Western Region. Their Customary Courts Judges use this method to suppress their opponents.

Secondly, Mr Chairman, I have another quotation to make from the same minute. This is what the present Minister of Commerce and Industry stated in 1947. He said: "The position in the North needed particular scrutiny. Emirs and most of their staff were generally illiterate and there was no democracy of any kind. Administrative officers tended to leave things to the Emirs instead of ensuring that there was democracy".

Now this was the statement made as far back as 1947 when Nigerians were complaining of undemocratic system of administering justice in Nigeria. To-day, we should not march into Independence with the same conditions existing. It will be improper for the people of Nigeria to see that after thirteen years of agitation the inhabitants still live in the hands of oppressors and that they are being oppressed. I should like this to be noted that is why I am suggesting that as soon as possible after Independence, Nigeria should try to amend the Constitution and bring the Judiciary under the Federal Government.

Mr Chairman, Sir, I beg to support.

M. Ibrahim Jalo Waziri (Gombe Central) : Mr Chairman, Sir, if there is any place in this country where high integrity and justice is to be expected it is in the Federal Judiciary. While it is true that the people of Nigeria have full confidence in the Federal Supreme Court and the High Court, care must be taken to see that justice is not too expensive or too delayed. People giving evidence must not be kept waiting for an unbearably long time before their

cases are completed otherwise they will always be reluctant to come forward and give evidence. I am not saying that this is the practice but I am merely stressing the importance of the fast despatch of cases in the Federal Judiciary.

Sir, I beg to support.

Chief E. O. Okunowo (Ijebu Central): Mr Chairman, Sir, I wish to support this Head and Item with very few observations. I think that salaries, beginning from the Chief Justice of the Federation, should be increased.

The Chairman: Order, order! The pay of the Chief Justice and the other Judges is not for discussion on this Head. They are now voted out of the Consolidated Fund and are not voted in this Committee. Therefore, we cannot discuss them.

Chief Okunowo: Secondly, I think the method or the system by which cases are going in this country is too slow. There are some cases that have been in the courts for over six months, or nine months, or even a year. Litigants keep going up and down. I think the Government should be able to increase the number of Magistrates. I appeal to the Prime Minister under whose Ministry, I think, this Head and Item fall to look into that aspect.

Mr C. Chiedozie (Enugu): Mr Chairman, I wish to say that we wish the Judiciary to be a Federal subject on these grounds. From the experience of what we have seen in the Western Region when Alhaji Adekoge Adelabu was alive, but for the impartiality of the Judiciary, the man would have gone to prison. If the Judiciary is federalised it will give every one liberty not only in the Western Region but throughout the country.

We suggest that a Motion should be tabled in this House to amend the Constitution to make the Judiciary a Federal subject.

Another important fact is that a lot of cases in the Magistrate's Courts are being delayed unduly because of the dearth of Magistrates. Therefore every effort should be made to provide an adequate number of Magistrates.

Another point is that the buildings and courts for the Magistrates are not attractive in this country. Some of the houses appear to be houses belonging to ordinary people converted into courts to try cases. This is not attractive to the public, not to say to the outside world.

After Independence the Government should make every effort to see that the Magistrates' Courts carry dignity and respect for the administration of law.

Finally, on this side of the Bench, we have a very high regard for the Government for the way in which it tries to respect and preserve the principles of justice. This N.C.N.C./N.P.C. Government has excelled itself in trying to pay regard to law and order. Since they came to power there has been no question of attack or probe into the administration of justice.

Sir, I beg to support.

The Minister of Transport and Aviation (Hon. R. A. Njoku): Mr Chairman, Sir, I would like to say just a few words in reply to some of the points made by hon. Members.

Hon. Ajibola referred to the appointment of Magistrates. He says that he would like that to be undertaken by the Judicial Service Commission. I would like to remind him that a decision to this effect was taken as far back as 1957 and that the appointment of Magistrates is in the hands of—in the case of the Regions, the Governor and in the case of the Federal territory, the Governor-General—on the recommendation of the Judicial Service Commission.

Mr Okoronkwo and Mr Chiedozie referred to the desirability of unifying once more the administration of justice in this country. Hon. Members will remember that that was the case when Nigeria was enjoying a unitary government but when regionalisation set in and Nigeria became a federation, a decision was taken that each Region should have its own High Court and Magistrates Courts. Fortunately there is a stabilising and unifying factor in the judicial system in this country and that is the Supreme Court of the Federation. Most of the important cases that are tried in the Regional courts can always come by way of appeal to the Federal Supreme Court. That is a decision which has been taken by the leaders of this country and, as far as I know, the Regional courts are working satisfactorily.

This is a matter which deals with the amendment of the Constitution and at the moment we are dealing with the Judiciary in the Federal territory, the Judiciary for which the Federal Government is responsible.

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[MINISTER OF TRANSPORT]

Chief Okunowo referred to the question of the speedy disposal of cases. I would like to assure this hon. House that nobody is more concerned about the disposal of cases in a speedy way than the members of the Judiciary. They are more anxious to have the cases disposed of but quite often the delay is due to, in civil cases, litigants not being ready with their witnesses or in filing their pleadings and so on, and in the case of criminal cases, it is usually due to witnesses not being ready or the prosecution not being ready with witnesses or . . .

An hon. Member : You mean the Police not being ready.

The Minister of Transport and Aviation : Or the Police not being ready at times due to the party or the people who lodged the complaints not being ready. Also, quite often it is found necessary to allow sufficient time to the legal practitioners to consult their clients, but I assure hon. Members that the delay is not due to the judiciary. In many cases the delay is due to the circumstances and I am quite sure that members of the Judiciary will always do their best to speed up cases both civil and criminal.

Generally, Sir, I am very pleased to see that Members of this House appreciate the very good work and the importance of the work which is being done in this country by the Judiciary. After all the most important mainstay of a country is its judicial system and there is no doubt that in this country, as the last speaker has said, Mr Chiedozie, the Judiciary are doing very important work indeed and this Government will always do its best to make their conditions of service as attractive as possible.

The Chairman : I do not know how much the Committee desire to get on to the other Heads? I will call on one more speaker.

Mr M. B. Afanideh (Ikot-Ekpene South) : Mr Chairman, Sir, this is a very important department in the country, and I feel I must agree with the various Members who have spoken that it should be made a Federal subject. It is very important that it should be done and that, as soon as independence is obtained, the Constitution should be changed so as to make this possible.

It is very easy for the Members of the different parties to come here to criticise their parties, perhaps when they are in Opposition. I wish to let them understand that when some Members of the N.C.N.C. come to criticise Members of the Action Group or the Government of the Western Region, it is the same thing, or perhaps worse, that is happening in the East. (*Cries of "Shame, shame"*).

I want to let the Members here present understand that personally the N.C.N.C. Members in our area made it impossible for me to win, but God wished me to succeed and I have succeeded. They have brought in their lawyer and twenty-four of my members were arrested simply because they opposed him and unfortunately we come here to say democratic words. I want to let you understand that the members were prevented from voting which is their civil right—

The Chairman : Who were they prevented by? Surely not the Judiciary!

Mr Afanideh : Whatever is the case, I think that when they were arrested and brought to Court we went in to bail them but unfortunately the Magistrates refused, and they were not allowed to vote. Therefore, I think it will be very good, in order to save us from any unnecessary talking, that this should be made a Federal subject.

With these few points, I beg to support.

Whereupon the Minister of Works and Surveys (Alhaji the hon. Muhammadu Inuwa Wada) 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 £139,110 for Head 59—Judiciary—stand part of the Schedule, put and agreed to.

HEAD 60—LEGAL

Question proposed, That £64,140 for Head 60—Legal—stand part of the Schedule.

Mr A. A. Ajibola (Egbado South) : Mr Chairman, Sir, I rise to make a short observation about the Legal Department of the Federation. In the first place I am very happy that the present Solicitor-General of the Federation is a Nigerian; but I have a question to put to the Prime Minister and that is,

when shall we have the Attorney-General of the Federation sitting in this House? The reason why I am saying this is that if we had the Attorney-General here in this House we should have an opportunity to criticise the Department more effectively.

Since last year I have made some observations about certain things which ought to have been done by that Department and which are still left undone. The Legal Department of the Federation, which should be leading in all respects the other legal departments in the Regions, is not up to standard. The legal department is not up to standard. If we go to the Regions we shall see that a great improvement has been made in the laws that have been passed in the Regions and that is due to the activity of the Legal Department. But when you come to the Federal Territory, the great city which is the capital of the Federation, we find that most of the laws introduced into this Federal Territory are obsolete and redundant. They are inadequate, and we are shocked.

I will give you examples. We are shocked that such should be the situation in the Federal Capital. For instance, go to all the three Regions of the country, either Northern or Eastern or Western Regions, and you will see that their Fatal Accidents Law has been amended and brought up-to-date and it is on the same basis as that of Great Britain, but when we come to the Federal Territory, we are still being controlled by the old law of 1846. That is number one.

It is the responsibility of the Legal Department to advise the Federal Government as to what should be done. Again, Sir, I will come to Property Law. In the Regions we will see that the Property Law relating to individuals has been greatly improved, but when we come to Lagos we are still being controlled by the Conveyancing Act of 1881, while in the other Regions the Law has been brought up-to-date. That is another point. That is another reason why I have got up to say that the Legal Department of the Federal Territory is not worthy of the name.

Again, when we look at the Law of Defamation in the other Regions we find that it has been greatly developed. You may like to practise in the Regions but come to the Federal Territory and you will find the same old

obsolete laws. No improvement! We want the Attorney-General to be active. We want the Legal Department to be active. We want the Legal Department of this Federal Territory to be leading the other Regions and not the reverse, that the Regions are leading us, as they are doing at present. If you look into the law of Defamation, the law pertaining to Infants, the law pertaining to the Sale of Goods, the law pertaining to Trusts, we are still in the nineteenth century when we come to Lagos, but when you move some few miles away and you get to the Western Region, you find yourself in another atmosphere completely.

We, therefore, who are studying the law of this country and those of us who are reading it everyday feel that our Attorney-General and Solicitor-General of the Legal Department, in particular, of the Federal Territory, have not been doing their work satisfactorily.

Further, Sir, what many members of the Bar have noticed about the Legal Department is the persecution of members of the Bar. Instead of the Legal Department alerting to do their duties and help the country, all that the Legal Department is busy with is to be writing letters to the members of the Bar (to lawyers): "Make a comment, I was made to understand that you did not appear in Court on so, so, so date to defend a certain client. Make your defence". That is all the Legal Department been doing for the past twelve months. (*Interruption*). Thus, the work which they should have done they have left it undone, and I repeat the question again, Sir. For the past twelve months how many cases have been prosecuted by the Attorney-General? Is that the case in Great Britain for the Attorney-General just to sit down for twelve months doing nothing? And I repeat the question. How many cases have been prosecuted by the Solicitor-General? —(*Interruption*).

Lastly, Sir, before I take my seat I would wish that before we meet here again the law of the Federal Territory should be amended and brought up to standard of that in the other Federal Territories in the world. The last point which I want to talk about is the salary of Crown Counsel. I would like the salary of the Crown Counsel to be raised so that these young men at the Bar may like to go to the Legal Department.

An hon. Member : Do you like to become one ?

Mr Ajibola : At present, Sir, the salary is very poor. Some Members have asked whether I wish to join. I have no ambition for that purpose. As a politician you know that I cannot go to the Legal Department. I would like those young men who like to go to the Legal Department to be encouraged. With these few remarks, Sir, I have to take my seat.

Mr A. O. Ogunsanya (Ikeja) : Chairman, Sir, while not associating myself with the views expressed by my Learned Friend, I dare say that this honourable House might wish to take a decision for more codification of the Laws of Nigeria. It is not true to say that the law administered in the Federal Territory of Lagos is out of date. It is true to say that in the Western Region the Law of Defamation has been codified. The Law of Defamation administered in the Federal Territory is fundamentally the same as the position in English Law up to the time 1900 and is based on the Common Law of England and on cases decided in our own country.

It is wrong to say that without codification any law administered in a country is bound to be out of date. No. Our system is based on the English Law, unlike France where the sum total of their civil, criminal and administrative law are all codified—everything is in the book—and my Learned Friend, as a lawyer, has lost the advantage of our own system where there is more flexibility. There was a case the other day in court where there was a futile argument by a well-known person as to whether or not the case in point is one in which the Common Law should be excluded.

Now, this is one of the qualities of the legal profession. I dare say that in almost everything one takes up in the practice of law in the Federal Territory one finds a wealth of knowledge, although, of course, I might agree with my Learned Friend in one thing only. The one single thing is that the Laws of Nigeria have been in revision for some time. But that does not make the law out of date. If any lawyer actively in practice continues to amend his laws as those amendments pass through the House of Representatives, the law book in his Chambers will never be out of date.

On the other hand if it is done in a slovenly manner the law in one's Chambers may be totally out of date, and even a young Magistrate may rule one out of order for talking very bad law in the courts.

Now there is something else. When one talks about the Legal Department, to my mind, it seems to be on all fours with the Judicial Department. One finds that one has a most uneasy feeling that those on top in the Judicial and the Legal Departments do not take to heart the desires of the underdogs. One finds in the lower grades in the Legal Department, 8 Second and Third-class Clerks, Head 60, Item 16, 1 Clerical Assistant. I do not know whether it is bad manners on the part of those of us who are lawyers, but there is always the tendency to forget those who work from day to day and very well indeed.

Now, if one takes the present salary of the Solicitor-General of the Federation, it is up to the salary of a Permanent Secretary ; but if one looks further down it becomes almost impossible to relate this to other non-professional Departments.

Now, there is a dire need for law reporting in the whole country, particularly in the Federal Territory, to be more speedily done. We have now the Nigerian Law Reports, and the reporting of cases decided in the High Court of the Federal Territory of Lagos is not done as swiftly as it should have been.

I mentioned before the point about the Laws of Nigeria. The present series were last brought up-to-date in the volumes amended from time time since the year 1948. I think the authorities appointed someone to put the laws up-to-date. That is to put them in a single volume rather than the old volumes being amended and so on and so forth, to be brought up-to-date.

As I said before there is no prospect of promotion for the ordinary clerks who are Nigerians, the Assistant Chief Clerks, the Clerical Assistants, in the Legal Department, just on all fours with the Judicial Department is very very far from being promising.

Now, the question of setting—(Interruption)

The Chairman : I hope the hon. Gentleman will give the Minister time to answer.

Mr Ogunsanya : With these few remarks I beg to support.

The Minister of Transport and Aviation (Hon. R. A. Njoku): Mr Chairman, Sir, I would like to reply to the hon. Ajibola who spoke about the time when the Attorney-General will be sitting in this House by referring him to the decision which has already been taken at the last Constitutional Conference regarding the post of Attorney-General. As in the Regions, when this country becomes independent naturally we shall have the Attorney-General sitting here with us again.

When Mr Ajibola said that the work in the Legal Department is not up to the standard I do not think he meant what he said. Later on in his speech he told us exactly why he said the things that he said. The work is very much up to the standard and we are very pleased with the work which has been done in the Legal Department. What he probably wanted to say was that as there are so many amendments to our laws, and as a practising lawyer, he has got to have a lot of books and go through *Gazettes* and so on before he knows the present state of the law. This is being remedied by the Law Revision Commission. Very soon the laws will be brought up-to-date again as they were done up to 1948, and thus making things easier for the lawyers. That is what Mr Ajibola is really complaining about.

As a matter of fact, I was very pleased to hear Mr Ajibola say that the Legal Department is doing all it can to see that lawyers maintain the dignity and the discipline of the profession. That is a very good thing indeed. I am very pleased to hear that the Attorney-General and his staff are keeping lawyers on their toes to make sure that they give their clients the best service for the fees which they pay.

Now, Sir, as the hon. Ogunsanya has answered the other point made by the hon. Gentleman, Mr Ajibola, and I do not intend to go in detail into those points which have been made. In the past there has been so much work to do. You know the Federal laws are far more voluminous—we have more laws than the Regions. If you take up the laws and compare them you will find that the Regions started quite recently and their laws are few, and it may well be that you will find them more up-to-date because they only started to legislate in the course of the last few years. But the Federal Government which took over from the

old Nigerian Unitary Government has been piling up laws upon laws and no doubt the Legal Department is battling to bring these laws up-to-date.

I can assure the hon. Gentleman that in a short time when the Law Revision is completed his main complaint will disappear. And I am very happy, as I said before, to hear that the Legal Department is doing its best to see that the lawyers, the people who are practising the law, are doing so in the best tradition of their profession. (*Hear, hear*).

Question, That £64,140 for Head 60—Legal—stand part of the Schedule, put and agreed to.

HEAD 61.—PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

Question proposed, That £62,740 for Head 61—Public Service Commission—stand part of the Schedule.

The Chairman : Hon. Members must remember that all salaries of the Chairman and members of the Public Service Commission are now paid out of the Consolidated Funds and cannot, therefore, be discussed. None of their actions can be discussed. We have got to keep off the Chairman and the members.

Mr F. U. Mbakogu (Awka South): Mr Chairman, Sir, I have just one point to make. I understand that a Verbatim Reporter here was promoted to Reporter grade One while there were some other Africans who were senior.

The Chairman : Order. That is just what I said cannot be challenged here. It is an action by the Chairman and members of the Federal Public Service Commission. Their salaries are paid from the Consolidated Funds and they are exempted from criticism, fortunately or not. The House is now in Committee. I am bound in any way now to put the Question because it is a quarter to six and I am bound to complete the proceedings set down for to-day.

Question, That £62,740 for Head 61—Public Service Commission—stand part of the Schedule, put and agreed to.

HEAD 62.—AUDIT

£78,350 for Head 62—Audit—agreed to.

HEAD 63.—ELECTORAL COMMISSION

£39,420 for Head 63—Electoral Commission—agreed to.

HEAD 64—CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE
DEVELOPMENT FUND

£6,335,400 for Head 64—Contributions to the
Development Fund—agreed to.

*The Chairman then proceeded to put forthwith
the Questions necessary to bring the Proceedings
in Committee to a conclusion.*

*Question, That the Schedule, as amended, be
the Schedule to the Bill, put and agreed to.*

Postponed Clause 1 agreed to.

Clause 2.

The Chairman : Clause 2 needs an amend-
ment consequential on what we have done,
increasing the sum in Committee. The sum
now instead of £46,604,360 should be
£46,629,930.

Amendment put and agreed to.

Clause 2 as amended agreed to.

Clause 3.

The Chairman : The same amendment
occurs in Clause 3, instead of £46,604,360 it
should now be £46,629,930.

Amendment put and agreed to.

Clause 3, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 4 agreed to.

Title amended.

Bill to be reported.

(Mr Speaker resumed the Chair).

*Bill reported with amendments, read the third
time and passed.*

The Minister of Finance (Chief the hon.
F. S. Okotie-Eboh) : I have to inform the House
that the Senate have amended the Government
Promissory Notes Bill. The two Amendments
are non-controversial and have been accepted by
the Government. They all deal with a single
point easily intelligible to Bankers and I
recommend the House to accept them.

Sir, I therefore move that the Senate Amend-
ments be considered forthwith.

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

Question proposed.

Question put and agreed to.

*Resolved, That the Senate Amendments be
considered forthwith.*

The Minister of Finance : Sir, I beg to
move, therefore, that this House doth agree
with the Senate in the said Amendments.
The said Amendments are page C. 76, Clause 7
line 24, leave out from "is" to end of subsection
and insert "transferable, and, if transferable, the
extent to which and the manner in which it
may be transferred". And page C. 76, line
27, leave out "negotiable" and insert "trans-
ferable".

Sir, in this Promissory Note Bill which you
passed in this House, the Government used
the word "negotiable" instead of "transferable".
It all means the same thing. But in the Senate
this morning, the Senators wanted to show you
that they are not just there for nothing, but
that they have some powers which make them
to be on top as an Upper House, and so a
Banker Senator introduced an Amendment to
show that it is not enough for Government to
stop negotiation of a Promissory Note but it is
better for the Government to secure its
imposition to stop it from being transferred.
So instead of "negotiable" we substitute the
word "transferable". Sir, I think that
Members understand now.

*Question, That this House does agree with the
Senate in the said Amendment, put and agreed to.*

EXCISE DUTIES (AMENDMENT) (No. 2)

ORDER, 1960

The Minister of Finance (Chief the hon.
F. S. Okotie-Eboh) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise
to move the Motion standing in my name,
That in accordance with subsection (2) of
section 4 of the Excise Tariff Order, the Excise
Duties (Amendment) (No. 2) Order be
confirmed.

I signify that the Governor-General has
given his recommendation for this Resolution
in accordance with section 61(a) of the
Standing Orders of this House.

Sir, this is another Motion which deals with
the taxation of a luxury—locally manufactured
sweets. I know there are at least three firms
engaged in the manufacture of sweets in a big
way. The present production is about 7 tons
a day and this can rapidly increase. By way
of comparison, last year we imported some
2,100 tons of sweets, that is the equivalent of
about 6 tons a day. The average value of
imported sweets last year was just under 2s

per lb. but there is an import duty of 50 per cent *ad valorem* on them. This makes the average value some 2s-10½d per lb. when duty is paid. Comparable sweets are being produced in Nigeria at an ex-factory price of almost 1s per lb. less than this. Clearly there is some scope for taxation of the local product, and I have decided that there should be an Excise Duty of 4d per lb. on local sweets. This will still provide a very considerable protection for the Nigerian manufacturers. 4d per lb. is not a great sum, in practice it will raise the price of a quarter-pound packet of sweets by 1d.

Clearly it has been impossible for me to make enquiries all over Nigeria into the structure of the industry before imposing the tax. The Board of Customs and Excise are at present carrying out detailed investigations with a view to ensuring effective revenue control of this new tax.

In the light of our knowledge so far I do not think it would be wise to balk on revenue from this source exceeding some £75,000 per annum. The actual yield may in the event prove to be much greater, but a lot will depend upon the success which attends the plans for expansion of the firms engaged in the industry.

The last Fiscal Commission recommended that whenever the Federal Government imposed a new duty, it should be able to allocate some or all of the proceeds to Regional Governments, and I have already taken up this question with the Regional Governments.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move.

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

Question proposed.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved, That Excise Duties (Amendment) (No. 2) Order, 1960 (Legal Notice No. 53 of 1960) be confirmed.

CUSTOMS TARIFF (DUTIES AND EXEMPTIONS) (No. 3) ORDER, 1960

The Minister of Finance (Chief the hon. F. S. Okotie-Eboh): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to move the Motion standing in my name. That, in accordance with subsection (2) of section 7 of the Customs Tariff Ordinance, the Customs Tariff (Duties and Exemptions) (No. 3) Order, 1960, be confirmed.

I signify that the Governor-General has given his recommendation for this Resolution in accordance with section 61 (a) of the Standing Orders of this House.

This Order provides for the imposition of export duties on animals, birds, reptiles and reptile skins.

I have for some time been concerned at the despoliation of our wild life which takes place without any benefit to the revenues of Nigeria from the export of animals and birds. The species most commonly exported are parrots—I am not talking of the “Daily Service” parrot now (*Laughter*), I will soon pass that one!—leopards, snakes and monkeys. In 1959, some 15,000 animals and birds of all descriptions were exported. Their declared value was only some £30,000. I am quite certain that the value of these exports is grossly underestimated. I understand that whereas a parrot may be bought in Nigeria for about £3, it would sell for at least £15 in Europe. Even prices of £25 to £40 are not unknown for some parrots which are proficient in talking.—Not on the pages of the paper!

An hon. Member : *Aiyekoto* !

The Minister of Finance : The duty is, therefore, imposed on all live animals, birds or reptiles taken out of Nigeria—not within Nigeria! It is virtually impossible to assess the value of these exports, so specific duties of £3 per animal, reptile or grey parrot and of £1 for all other types of birds have been fixed.

It is quite impossible to estimate the revenue which will accrue from this source. Until we have had some experience of the duty, it would be unwise to assume a revenue of more than £10,000 per annum. As Members are aware, the Constitution Order provides that the proceeds of all export duties on produce, hides and skins should be allocated in full to the Region of origin. The Constitution Order is silent concerning the proceeds of export duties on live animals and birds, and I have already taken up this question with the Regional Governments.

Reptile skins are also exported in considerable quantities—over 100 tons with a value exceeding £150,000 in 1959. A duty with a similar incidence to that on undressed goat and sheep skins has been fixed—1s per lb., or about 7 per cent. This should produce a duty at some £12,000 per annum.

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[MINISTER OF FINANCE]

Sir, I beg to move.

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

Question proposed.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved, That Customs Tariff (Duties and Exemptions) (No. 3) Order, 1960 (Legal Notice No. 54 of 1960) be confirmed.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion made and Question proposed, That this House do now adjourn: (The Minister of Works and Surveys).

Mr H. O. Chuku (Bende Central): Mr Speaker, Sir, I have seen the Minister concerned and he has informed me that he is not prepared to take the Notices.

Mr D. O. Ahamefula (Okigwi South West): Mr Speaker, Sir, I might be correct to say that the only reason (*Interruption*).

Mr Speaker: Which Minister?

Mr Ahamefula: I think the Minister is there—the Minister of Internal Affairs. I told him and he consented.

Mr Speaker: Either let Mr Ahamefula speak or signify his intention to speak.

Mr Ahamefula: Mr Speaker, Sir, the point I want to make is this. According to the information I have received, there is a lot of discrimination against Easterners and Northerners in Lagos here in employment as Warders and Cadet Inspectors. This information has reached several quarters and I feel it is most unfair. The Federal Government, as far as I

know, has to cater for prisons in Nigeria and I do not see the reason why people from these two Regions should be discriminated against in being employed as Warders or Cadet Inspectors.

The Minister of Internal Affairs (Hon. Mallam Usman Sarki, Sardaunan Bida): Mr Speaker, Sir, before I go to the question I would give the hon. Member the history of the employment of Warders. There are altogether 2,009 Warders employed by the Prisons Department. Of these, 349 come from the North, 966 from the East, 650 from the Western Region and Lagos, and 44 from the Southern Cameroons.

I share the hon. Member's anxiety lest there be discrimination in the employment of Warders. It will, however, be seen that the allegation regarding the employment of Easterners is not correct.

The Prisons Department is a Federal Institution and it is also the policy of the Department to try and spread recruitment as widely as possible over the whole country, bearing in mind the increasing population in each Region. There are more Warders in the Eastern Region because there are more prisons in that Region. The present population in the Regions is as follows:

North	1,986
East	7,300
West and Lagos .. .	4,315
Southern Cameroons .. .	936

The figures that I have quoted above are. . . (*Interruption.*)

And it being 6 p.m., Mr Speaker adjourned the House without Question put, pursuant to Standing Order 4 (10).

Adjourned accordingly at six o'clock.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NIGERIA

Tuesday, 26th April, 1960

The House met at 10 a.m.

PRAYERS

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS
TRANSPORT

Aerodrome at Owerri

O.251. Mr R. B. K. Okafor asked the Minister of Transport and Aviation, whether he is aware that an expert report recommended the building of an aerodrome at Owerri, and if so, what action is being taken to carry out this recommendation.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Transport and Aviation : No, Sir. There is no record of an expert having recommended to the Federal Government that an aerodrome should be built at Owerri. It is possible that the hon. Member may have in mind the fact that a private aerodrome has been built at Owerri for use of the aircraft at present engaged in the oil exploitation activities of the Shell B.P. Oil Company.

Funds available for the development of Civil Aviation during the current Economic Programme are already committed and it is not possible for the Federal Government to consider new projects at this stage. I am, however, aware of the desire of the Owerri people to have an aerodrome which is available for public use and Owerri, along with other places in the Eastern Region, will be considered when the next Economic Programme is drawn up.

Transportation of Cattle

***O.252. Mallam Umaru Galkogo** asked the Minister of Transport and Aviation, why the Railway authorities have stopped the transportation of cattle from Minna to the Eastern and Western Regions.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Transport and Aviation : The Railway Corporation stopped the movement of cattle from Minna in 1950 as no cattle were being offered for railings.

I am informed that the reason for this was that the Local Authority and the people of Minna raised objections on the ground that the presence of cattle in the township constituted a danger to public health.

Aerodrome at Minna

***O.253. M. Garba, Turakin Paiko** asked the Minister of Transport and Aviation, if he will re-open the aerodrome at Minna in view of the fact that it is the headquarters of Niger Province.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Transport and Aviation : The aerodrome at Minna is not closed, and is used frequently by small aircraft.

M. Garba : I am sorry, Mr Speaker. The Minister might be unaware it has been closed because passengers are not being transported from that aerodrome to any other place.

LABOUR

Unemployment Relief

O.231. Mr W. O. Briggs asked the Minister of Labour, how many Nigerians are unemployed in each of the Regions, and what steps he is taking to give them unemployment relief.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Labour : According to the records kept by the Employment Exchanges, there was a total of 13,206 persons registered as unemployed at the end of last February. The distribution of this total among the Employment Exchanges in Lagos and the Regions is as follows :—

<i>Federal Territory</i>	
Lagos	7,526
<i>Northern Region</i>	
Jos	1,193
Kano Civic Centre	679
Kano City Exchange	141
Kaduna	680
<i>Eastern Region</i>	
Enugu	1,149
<i>Western Region</i>	
Ibadan	1,273
Abeokuta	216
Sapele	127
Benin	138
Akure	74
Total	13,206

It will no doubt be appreciated that registration of unemployed persons is not compulsory and that, even so, many of those who register for employment do so in order to obtain more

remunerative jobs. The Government is well aware that the vast majority of the people of Nigeria are self-employed in agriculture, petty trading or other gainful occupations. There is no justification, at present, for the setting-up of an unemployment benefit scheme such as exists in some of the highly industrialised countries.

Mr Briggs : May I ask if the figure of 1,149 at Enugu is only for Enugu or for the whole of the Eastern Region ?

National Minimum Wage

***O.254. Mr A. U. D. Mbah** asked the Minister of Labour, if he will take immediate steps to introduce, in consultation with the Regional Governments, a national minimum wage for workers.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Labour : The answer to this question is NO. Government is of the opinion that the present unequal economic circumstances of the country do not justify the introduction of a national minimum wage for workers. Here again, I would invite hon. Members' attention to the hon. Minister of Pension's reply of the 12th April to the motion on National Wage Structure where he pointed out that the introduction of a national minimum wage would tend to destroy the principle of collective bargaining which has been accepted by both Government and industry.

Registered Trade Unions, etc.

***O.255. Mr A. U. D. Mbah** asked the Minister of Labour whether he will consider the advisability of initiating legislation which will effect automatic recognition of registered Trade Unions; compulsory arbitration in cases of irreconcilable deadlock, and the introduction of Industrial Courts in Nigeria as is the case in the United Kingdom.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Labour : I have dealt with the question of automatic recognition of registered trade unions by employers in my contribution to the debate on the budget and the hon. Member's attention is invited to my statement on the matter as recorded on page 923 of Volume I of the Official Report of this Session of the House.

It is not my intention, in present circumstances, to introduce legislation which will compel unwilling parties to a trade dispute to go to arbitration. The hon. Member will be aware that even in the United Kingdom where compulsory arbitration was introduced during the war as an emergency measure, it was found necessary to remove, as from 1st March, 1959, this element of compulsion from the field of industrial relations in the United Kingdom.

As regards the request for the introduction of Industrial Courts in Nigeria I would refer the hon. Member to the record of debate on a motion on the same subject, which I opposed for the reasons recorded in pages 1420-1422 of Volume I of the Official Report of this Session of the House.

Mallam Ali N. Kaura : Will the Minister of Labour consider the advisability of attaching a Legal Department to his office since he is always in difficulty about this Industrial legislation ?

ELECTRICITY

Oji River Power Station

***O.144. Mr E. C. Akwivu** asked the Minister of Mines and Power, if he will state the capacity of Oji Power Station; how many towns are supplied with electricity from it; and if he will make a statement on the feasibility of supplying electricity to Orlu Division from there.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Mines and Power : Oji River Power Station comprises two 5,000 kw set, and another 10,000 kw set is under construction and is scheduled for commission this year.

In addition, a second 10,000 kw set is on order, and will be in commission by the end of 1962.

The townships of Onitsha and Enugu as well as the Nkalagu Cement Factory are presently supplied from the Oji Station, and current extension work on the 66 kw transmission line will ensure a supply to Nsukka in the very near future.

The Orlu area is included in the current list of towns for electrification, being considered by the Eastern Regional Government. Until the Regional Government's decision is known, I am unable to comment further on this aspect of the Question.

No Supply to Degema Division

***O.232. Mr W. O. Briggs** asked the Minister of Mines and Power, why no town in Degema Division has been supplied with electricity; and whether there are any plans to supply electricity to Bonny, Okrika, Buguma, Abonnema and Bakana in that Division.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Mines and Power : The cost of development in the Degema Division would be extremely high, and in view of the paucity of revenue which can be anticipated, none of the townships you nominate have been included in the Electricity Corporation of Nigeria's development plans.

However, you are advised that Buguma, Abonnema, Degema and Okrika are included in the Eastern Townships Electrification Programme which is at present being considered by the Eastern Regional Government.

MINERALS

Oil Royalties

***O.233. Mr W. O. Briggs** asked the Minister of Mines and Power, whether he is aware that the places where mineral oil is obtained in the Eastern Region do not benefit from the royalties paid by the company mining the oil, and whether he will take necessary steps to ensure that a percentage of the proceeds is paid directly to the local people and, in particular, whether he will consider revising, in consultation with the Regional Governments the allocation of royalties on oil so that a moiety of the proceeds may be applied for the development of the locality from which oil is obtained.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Mines and Power : The hon. Member does not appear to realise that the entire property in and control of oil minerals and mineral oils is vested in the Crown by virtue of section 3 of the Minerals Ordinance. In the circumstances it is impossible to direct that a percentage of the proceeds is paid directly to the local people.

Nor am I prepared to consider, in consultation with the Regional Governments the allocation of royalties on oil. The revised Fiscal arrangements of 1959 between the Federal Government and all the Regional Governments provide for a division of royalty payments and the hon. Member should know that in the case of oil won in the Eastern

Region a sum equivalent to 59.3 per cent of the total royalties goes to that Region. It is not my function to tell the Region how to dispose of the royalties it receives.

Hon. Jaja Wachuku : Is the Minister aware of the fact that the people in this area including Afam in my division pay tax and therefore they should be entitled to a share in the development money accrued from the oil resources?

The Minister of Mines and Power : The question of share or no share as to the royalty given to the Eastern Region is the entire responsibility of the Eastern Regional Government, not my concern.

Mr Jaja Wachuku : Will the Minister then use his good influences to make the Eastern Regional Government consider this particular request?

The Minister of Mines and Power : I am not prepared to interfere with the Regional Government's responsibility.

Mr S. Nnaji : Is the Minister aware that the people's way of living is disturbed wherever oil is found?

The Minister of Mines and Power : I am not aware.

ELECTRICITY

Supply to Oturkpo

***O.256. Mr J. O. Ede** asked the Minister of Mines and Power, whether he will explore the possibility of supplying Oturkpo with electricity.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Mines and Power : The township of Oturkpo was surveyed for electricity some two years ago, and it was found that the small revenue which could be anticipated would not justify the Capital Cost of establishing and operating an Electricity Undertaking.

It would, however, be possible to consider the inclusion of Oturkpo in phase two of the New Towns Development Programme providing the Northern Regional Government were prepared to finance the project and underwrite the operating losses.

Gold Mining at Minna

***O.257. M. Garba, Turakin Paiko** asked the Minister of Mines and Power, why gold mining has been stopped at Minna in Niger Province.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Mines and Power : The hon. Member is under a misapprehension. Gold mining has not been stopped at Minna in Niger Province. If it has stopped it must be presumed that no person or company thinks it a profitable undertaking now. The area is open for applications for gold mining. Whether gold exists in payable quantities is a matter for the applicants.

PRESENTATION OF PUBLIC BILLS

WEST AFRICAN COCOA RESEARCH
INSTITUTE (NIGERIAN STATUS) BILL

The Minister of Pensions : Second Reading—Wednesday, 27th April.

NOTICE OF MOTION

Business of the House

The Minister of Transport and Aviation (hon. R. A. Njoku) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to move that, at this day's Sitting, proceedings on Government Business shall be exempted from the provisions of Standing Order 4 (Sittings of the House), provided that at 6.30 p.m. Mr Speaker shall suspend the sitting until 9 p.m.

I think, Sir, Members are already aware that this is being arranged to speed up the proceedings in this House and that it has already been announced by the Leader of the House that there will be late sitting in order to deal with two or three Government Bills. That is the purpose of moving this Motion to suspend the Standing Order. Sir, I beg to move.

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

Question proposed.

Chief A. Enahoro (Ishan East) : First of all, may I ask if it is the Government's intention that proceedings on Private Members' business will cease at six o'clock and if so would it not be preferable since we are going to be here for the night anyway for you to permit this Private Members' business to be concluded before we start public business.

The Minister of Transport and Aviation (Hon. R. A. Njoku) : Mr Speaker, Sir, the Standing Orders provide for the sitting of the House on Private Members Day, that is to say Private Members' motions will be dealt with until the usual time of interruption at a quarter to six o'clock. It is up to the House

to be able to deal with the motions in such a way as to take all those that appear in the Order Paper.

Mr E. C. Akwivu (Orlu South East) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I think in the past when we have had these extended sittings Business of the House had been interrupted at a quarter to six o'clock and the House rose at six o'clock to come back at nine o'clock. Now this question of carrying on till six thirty, I thought might have been some typographical error and I hope the Minister will correct it, otherwise at 5.45 p.m. when the business is interrupted one cannot readily see what we will be doing till six thirty.

Mr Speaker : I suppose we will be doing the business of the day.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved, That, at this day's Sitting, proceedings on Government Business shall be exempted from the provisions of Standing Order 4 (Sittings of the House), provided that at 6.30 p.m. Mr Speaker shall suspend the sitting until 9 p.m.

NOTICES OF MOTIONS AND ORDERS OF THE DAY

Market Stalls in Lagos

Mr L. J. Dosunmu (Lagos Central) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to move the Motion standing in my name to the effect "that this House deplores the failure of the Lagos Town Council to provide the market women of Lagos with adequate market spaces or stalls and therefore calls on the Federal Government to intervene forthwith and rectify the situation." In this motion, Sir, I intend to draw a distinction between two kinds of markets that the Lagos Town Council is responsible for. Broadly, they can be divided into food and meat markets and the textile markets.

Mr Speaker, Sir, my motion is primarily concerned with textile and general goods markets. The food one, it is true, is to some extent satisfactory but occasionally you have the long waiting list of applicants to be accommodated in these food and meat markets also. But as I said the burden of my speech will be devoted to textile and general goods markets.

Mr Speaker, Sir, it is an open secret that the market accommodation or the spaces or stalls for market women of Lagos are inadequate and I think the Minister himself will be the last person to dispute that fact. Now, an attempt is being made to draw a distinction between the past Town Council, the present Town Council, past participle Town Council and so on. If I may say so, Sir, that is ignorance. The Lagos Town Council is a corporate body, it never dies. The Lagos Town Council of the future or the present or the past continues to have its responsibilities to the ratepayers of this municipality. (*Hear, hear*).

So if the Minister thought he could score a point by drawing a distinction between the Town Council that came into being barely four months ago and the one that was in existence six or seven years ago I think that is a very poor distinction indeed. The problem is this: Has the Lagos Town Council an obligation to the market women of Lagos or not? Has it fulfilled that obligation or not? Those are the two questions that this Government has to answer.

Now, Sir, I said it is beyond dispute that there are not adequate market stalls for market women. That is sufficiently borne out in the latest Inquiry into the market question by Mr Rapson and although the Government did not accept the gentleman's conclusions the facts as found by him are incontrovertible and the Government cannot hide those facts.

Now, what did the gentleman say upon the evidence that was led before him regarding the inadequacy of market stalls in Lagos? I refer to page 10, paragraph 14, of that Report and this is the conclusion of Mr Rapson regarding the inadequacy of market stalls: "Many of the market women testify that for a number of years they have been arrested very frequently, brought before Magistrate Courts, and fined for trading in unauthorised places without being in possession of market wares' permits. The question of new market stalls and frequent arrests of market women was discussed by the Market Committee and by the Council on several occasions between 1954 and 1957 and on the 5th of November, 1957 the Council received and approved and adopted certain resolutions of the Committee".

The point that I am making, Sir, is that as far back as 1954 it had become apparent that market spaces and stalls in Lagos are inadequate for textile traders.

An hon. Member : Who was in power then?

Mr Dosunmu : The Action Group, I admit, but this Report shows that the Action Group Council had not been tardy over the matter. They had been discussing the matter on several occasions. In order to silence you, I will tell you what is the stumbling block. Mr Rapson, intelligent as he is, drew the matter to its logical conclusion—(*Interruptions*).

An hon. Member : Is he intelligent? He is an Action Grouper.

Mr Speaker : Order, order. The Member speaking is being too badly interrupted either for him to keep the thread of his speech or for me to hear.

Mr Dosunmu : I thought I had not introduced any controversy in this matter. If you read your Minister's own amendment he did not say that the position is satisfactory. What he only attempted to do was to draw a distinction between the present Council and the old one, but he did admit, Sir, that the position is grave. The burden of my claim is that since this new Council took over the position has become aggravated. (*Cries of shame, shame by some hon. Members*).

Now, Sir, as I was saying, the Council was alert to its responsibility. On several occasions this matter came up for discussion and attempts were made at getting a solution. Now somebody interrupted and said, "Why did you not do something?" Then I promised him an answer. In paragraph 58 the answer to the question can be found in this Report—which is Rapson's Report. I must quote it because it is the latest report on the question of marketing in Lagos. You may not agree with his conclusions, but the facts found by him were sufficiently supported by evidence. He says "I will now turn. . . ." (*Interruptions from the Government Bench*)—if the Minister will listen carefully to this; he says: "I will now turn to financial considerations which have proved a stumbling-block in the past. I have shown in paragraph 27 that £10,464 has already been collected. Under

[MR DOSUNMU]

Head 81 of the draft 1959-60 Estimates, the Council has proposed that £39,000 should be spent on "filling markets" of this I understand £18,000 is intended for Oko-Awo. I beg to suggest that the Governor-General in Council should approve this item of the draft Estimates. I believe that there are in Central Lagos an additional 2,000 street traders who would be willing to pay £6 for one year's wares permit dues for a site at Oko-Awo".

The point I am making is this : the writer says he "begs" the Governor-General in Council to approve that item of the Estimates. I ask in all seriousness the Minister to say before this House whether he did approve that portion of the draft Estimates.

An hon. Member : This Report can only be directed to the Action Group (*Interruptions*).

Mr Dosunmu : I am glad if you say that it is the Action Group ; only sensible men can be in the Action Group.

The Council addressed itself to the question of providing adequate market accommodation for the market women and went to the extent of providing money. Everybody knew that the Lagos Town Council could not spend money on its own decision, it has to receive the approval of the Minister. If the Minister had approved this item of expenditure which was earmarked for the construction of a new additional market that will accommodate well over 2,000 market women then the problem would not be as grave as it is to-day. So if anybody has been tardy and indolent it is certainly the Minister for failing to approve this item.

As I was saying, the Lagos Town Council was alert to its responsibility and to that extent they made these financial arrangements which, as I said, the Minister did not approve in spite of the recommendations by Mr Rapson. And, incidentally, Mr Rapson was appointed by this same Minister and I am sure that if he was not a reasonable person or a sensible person he would not have appointed him.

I have endeavoured to show you the problem of the market-women. I have also endeavoured to show you that the Lagos Town Council was alert to its responsibility because on several occasions they had addressed themselves to

the problem and went to the extent of finding a solution to it. What solution did the Lagos Town Council proffer? A careful survey was made of all available spaces in Lagos and the conclusion was reached that the only available space that could be used to accommodate well over 4,000 struggling market-women in the centre of Lagos was to build a temporary market at Oko-Awo. So you will see that the Lagos Town Council not only attempted to provide money, they found also an available space to accommodate these women. In spite of these two things, money provided on one hand and land on the other hand, what did the Federal Government do to encourage the situation? Not only did it not approve of the financial provision but they made it difficult for these market-women to move to the Oko-Awo space. That is why it beats me when the Minister has the audacity to put this Amendment as he has done.

Again, I cannot help quoting Rapson on this matter as, as I have said, it is the latest authoritative report on marketing in Lagos. Here again at paragraph 55 of the same Report he says, "I was told . . ."—he was writing of the Lagos Town Council—"I was told . . ."

An hon. Member : By whom?

Mr Dosunmu : By the witness giving evidence before him. "I was told that the Council proposes to build on land yet to be cleared by the Lagos Executive Development Board a new textile market costing in the region of £750,000. It is obvious that some time must elapse before the site is cleared, the money found and the market erected. I was impressed by the very urgent need to establish a new market to accommodate all the street traders in Central Lagos and I consider the proposal to convert Oko-Awo Playground into a temporary market to be very worthwhile". That is the conclusion of a man who conducted enquiries into the market problems in Lagos. What did the Government do to help the situation in view of the findings of Mr Rapson as to the urgent necessity of creating an additional market for these women?

I think the position can be summed up neatly in the words used in paragraph 60 of the Report. We are all looking up to Independence. "The Town Clerk, I am sure, summed up the general opinion when he said that

Independence Day will soon be here and before that day all traders must be removed from the streets of Lagos so that the capital city of free Nigeria will be compared favourably, by the international audience which will assemble for the celebrations, with other capital cities in the world”.

If the Government continues to be as tardy as it is in facing this urgent problem we will only have ourselves to blame when Independence comes on us.

Nobody can controvert the urgency of the matter, the readiness of the Lagos Town Council to provide part of the finances necessary, also the readiness of the Lagos Town Council to make use of the available space that they could lay hands on. All these things were done. In spite of this the Lagos Town Council did not succeed in clinching the problem. It is the Federal Government that is proving to be the stumbling block in the way of the Lagos Town Council achieving results.

As I said, the Minister is trying to draw a distinction between what he calls the old Lagos Town Council and the present Lagos Town Council. I have told you what the old Lagos Town Council has done: they found space; they found money; they appreciated the gravity of the problem and were ready to help these market-women. But with the position of the Government as it is, it was not possible for the Lagos Town Council to conclude the matter and, as I said, the problem remains. What has the present Lagos Town Council done to relieve this situation? Let the Minister have the courage to tell this House that he has found anywhere in the Federal territory that will accommodate these women. That is what we want—I am not concerned. The concern of the market-women is my concern. It is the concern of the Minister as well because I know he too is their customer.

Several hon. Members : In what way? ... He's blushing.

Mr Dosunmu : I am sure he would not like them to suffer. I would be prepared to withdraw this Motion if the Minister can say on the Floor of this House that the urgency of the

matter is such that he is ready to leave at the disposal of the market-women the only open space at Oko-Awo, and if he can find a substitute let him have the courage to say so. But to let the position remain as it is, to leave the market-women struggling there in the arms of the police, molested, kicked up and down, is to turn a deaf ear to what is a very serious problem.

I was asking him what did the new Lagos Town Council do to relieve the situation. You can see what they have done with the old Ereko Market. Many of these women had to pay fines because the Council wanted to juggle with the market, and that is beside the point. We want the Minister to give us a categorical assurance in this House and not leave the matter as blank and vague as he has attempted to do in his Amendment. There is an available space for these market-women. Within the next two or three months before independence, they will be well accommodated elsewhere. If he did that, I am sure he would have helped the market-women.

Mr Speaker, Sir, you will notice that I have not addressed myself to the economics of this matter. It is because I know that the Minister himself has admitted the fact that these women need to be provided for but I cannot close my case without addressing the Speaker in connection with the importance of these market-women in the general economy of this country. Everyday, Members in and out, especially those from the rural areas come to this House and say, “Retail trade is being monopolised by Syrians and Lebanese”. It will continue to be so unless you provide for these market women. They are the people who will oust the Syrian retail traders and unless they have space to do their marketing, retail trade will continue to be in the hands of the Syrians. It is through these market women that goods that are sold in Lagos reach their people in the innermost part of the interior; it is through the activities of these women in Lagos that all their wants are satisfied in the various parts of the Federation, and unless you want to starve not only these women but also the people who are in the farthest part of the Federation and your own people, will you leave the problem unsolved.

[MR DOSUMU]

So I think apart from the politics of the matter it is of the utmost interest to you and everybody in this House to ensure that these retail traders, market retail traders, that carry on their business along the central part of Lagos are not only accommodated but that they are accommodated safely and comfortably and it is satisfying also that this women are prepared to play their own part towards the markets being erected for them. They were ready to pay advance money down for the erection of these markets. The women we prepared to help the Government to find the initial money required for the erection of this market. Surely if all these women have gone to this extent, it will be lazy of the Government not to reciprocate by finding the market stalls and places for them.

As I have said I was amazed that the Minister will bring himself to filing an Amendment like this—say what you like, he is an N.P.C. not an N.C.N.C.—and he appears to want to claim for the new members of the N.C.N.C. glories which they can never work to get. I can assure him, knowing him as I do and knowing the present L.T.C., they will never be able to do anything except the Minister brings his own personal bearing on this matter. They are lackadaisical, they will not work, and except the Minister helps the market women by forcing the L.T.C. to find allocation for these women the matter will remain as it is and until the Action Group took over again you would not see the end of the problem.

Mr Speaker, I beg to move in terms of my Motion.

Mr W. Briggs (Degema): Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to second.

Question proposed.

The Minister of Lagos Affairs (Alhaji the hon. Muhammadu Ribadu): Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move an Amendment standing in my name, namely, in Line 1, to leave out from the second "the" to end and add "previous Lagos Town Council to provide the market women of Lagos with adequate market spaces or stalls but has every confidence that this situation will be rectified by the new dynamic.... (*Applause*)

Mr Speaker: Order, order, I thought I misheard; the word of the Amendment is "by the new Lagos Town Council".

The Minister of Lagos Affairs: rectified by the new Lagos Town Council elected in October 1959."

Mr Speaker, Sir, I cannot tell you how surprised I was to see that my hon. Friend, Mr Dosunmu, the Member for Lagos Central who was himself a member of the Lagos Town Council until six months ago should move this Motion. I was absolutely staggered after listening to what he had to say. Just see how ludicrous it is. The Action Group controlled the Lagos Town Council from 1953 until last October—just for six whole years, mark you. Then they lost the municipal elections and gave way to the N.C.N.C. The new Town Council had little option but to work for the first few months in office on the Estimates prepared by its predecessor and it has only now—with the start of a new financial year—been able to approve its own Estimates and make financial provision to implement its policies and election promises.

In such circumstances, I cannot believe that any sensible person—or one who was at all fair-minded—could possibly blame the present Town Council for any shortcomings there may be in the facilities provided in the markets of Lagos. Instead, of course, the blame must clearly be placed fairly and squarely on the shoulders of the previous Town Council and of its predecessor. So you see, Sir, as will be quite obvious to all other Members of this House, the mover of this Motion has come here to ask this House to deplore the failures of Town Councils controlled by his own party. It really is laughable, or at least it would be laughable if it were not so serious.

In view of what I have said, it would be unnecessary, if the Motion had been clearly worded to move an amendment at all to the first part of the Motion. To put the matter beyond doubt, however, the amendment makes it quite clear that it is the failure of the previous Town Council which this House deplores and it also makes it quite clear that, far from interfering, the Government has every confidence that the new Council will set about its task with vigour and will set the present market situation in Lagos in order.

As hon. Members of this House will appreciate, Sir, the provision of markets is essentially a local government matter and the Lagos Local Government Ordinance, 1959, lays

down among the duties of the Town Council the provision and maintenance of public markets "and all such things as may be necessary for the convenient use of the same". It is not just one of the powers of the Town Council, you see, it is a duty. During the six years of the Action Group-controlled Town Councils I think it is true to say that they did not discharge that duty and that very much more could have been done, and should have been done, to improve market facilities in the town.

Since I assumed responsibility for Lagos municipal affairs, I have been increasingly disturbed by the market situation in Lagos and by the way in which that situation was being handled. It has been argued that proposals were made for improvement and development at Ereko and Oko Awo, but that the Government scotched those proposals. Now, Sir, those of us who were Members of the old House, know the history of that episode only too well. That was a very, very sad affair and the way in which the Town Council set about their business on that occasion was deplorable in the extreme.

Furthermore, the two previous Town Councils consistently refused to accept the fact that they could not carry out much-needed improvements, not only in the markets but in other spheres as well, without obtaining further revenue from the inhabitants of Lagos. We all know that, if we want better services, better markets and improved facilities generally, we must be prepared to pay for them. During their six years in office, the Action Group did not have the courage to take the unpopular move of raising the rates: not one penny did they add and the result was that they were totally unable to discharge their duties. Is it any wonder that they lost the last municipal election?

Now, at last, we have a Town Council which has had the courage to propose an increase in the rates and they have fully explained the need for it. The new Town Council has already taken a number of decisions designed to effect improvements to existing markets and to increase market facilities generally both on Lagos Island and on the Mainland. Very substantial financial provision has been made

for markets in the Town Council Estimates for 1960-61. Obviously this is a Town Council which is prepared to help itself and, in doing so, I can assure the House that it will have the full support and backing of the Federal Government.

As I have said the provision of markets is a statutory duty and the direct responsibility of the Town Council and it does not qualify for any financial assistance in the way of grant-aid from the Government. At the same time, however, the Federal Government has an interest in the health and welfare of the people of Lagos, and since markets are vital to the welfare of us all, indirectly the provision of such facilities as markets must be the concern of the Government. I think that the House will agree with me that it would not be proper for the Federal Government to intervene by assuming any responsibility whatever for the providing of market facilities in Lagos, nor, in view of the ability already shown by the present Town Council, does that seem to be at all necessary. I can assure the House, however, that the Government will give very sympathetic consideration and support to any application for loan money for improving or building markets in Lagos.

Mr Speaker, Sir, in the course of his speech my hon. Friend Mr Dosunmu made references to the Rapson Report, and I think it is absolutely wrong for any Member of this House to make any reference to a report which was absolutely rejected by Government. I know he belongs to the Opposition but this is not an excuse for him to use the report which was totally rejected by Government in the House of Representatives. Again I would like to assure the House, so I say it with all seriousness, I have every confidence in the newly elected Town Council which means business. It is a Council which does not believe in fooling the people. Mr Speaker, Sir, I have the Estimates of the Town Council and in these Estimates you will see that substantial provisions have been made for the improvement of markets in Lagos. Provision has been made in this Estimate for the improvement of markets in Lagos. Hon. Members, I know you all have the welfare of the people of Lagos at heart and I assure you will see changes in the situation of markets in Lagos very soon; and then it will enable you to draw a line between the old Council and new one.

[MINISTER OF LAGOS AFFAIRS]

I do not want to predict but from the way the new Council is run and if the electorates of Lagos would appreciate what are being done for them it will then be a matter of a long time before you can take over control of the Council as suggested by Mr Dosunmu (*Applause*). I hope it will never happen again.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I have explained the situation to the House and I am asking the House to bear me that the situation will shortly be improved both for the people of Lagos in particular and the people of Nigeria in general. With these remarks, Sir, I beg to move.

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Zanna the hon. Bukar Dipcharima): Sir, I beg to second.

Amendment proposed.

M. Ibrahim Jalo Waziri (Gombe Central): Mr Speaker, Sir, no one doubts the integrity, efficiency and capability of the Minister of Lagos Affairs, a person with foresight, one who has indeed the welfare of the people of Lagos at heart.

The Minister has freed Lagos of the mal-administration of the former Action Group-dominated Lagos Town Council. The dissolved Action Group Council was found by Rapson Commission to have undertaken unauthorised illegal practices. They collected money from Lagos market women without giving them receipts saying that they would provide them with market stalls.

Several hon. Members: Shame, shame.

M. Jalo Waziri: They woefully failed to provide the stalls and what they did with the £90,000 they collected nobody knows.

An hon. Member: They have returned it to the women.

M. Jalo Waziri: Now Members of the same party have the audacity to pray the Government to influence the Lagos Town Council to provide the stalls. If the mover of this Motion is able to tell this House what the Action Group-controlled Town Council did with the money they collected then their request for the provision of market stalls to Lagos market women will be justified. However, I am glad that the people of Lagos have

realised the evils of Action Group mal-administration and have refused to vote for them in the new council.

Sir, as the present Town Council is a genuine one and the Lagos market women must have stalls—

An Opposition Member: Who wrote that for you?

M. Jalo Waziri: — also as the Opposition have knelt on their knees praying the Government to provide the stalls I cannot but—

Mr Speaker: Point of Order, Mr Odulana.

Mr A. F. Odulana (Ijebu South): I do not think that this House can afford any longer the question of Members just reading what has been written for them.

Mr Speaker: I hope the hon. Member speaks often and I have never had the complaint of the over-use of his notes.

M. Jalo Waziri: I feel it necessary for this reasonable Government to heed their usual betrayal of the public and help the poor market women. After all the Action Group Party is collapsing because of these practices. I request this Government to provide stalls for the women of Lagos and since I have no objection to the provision, Sir, I beg to support.

Mr S. O. Kolade (Oyo South): Mr Speaker, Sir, I think that the old story rings and rings again and I think that Members will like to know the story. Wherever we have the N.C.N.C. as Members of a Council forming the Government of that Council we should expect nothing but inefficiency, chaos and fraud. (*Applause*).

With reference to the attitude of the N.C.N.C their Government is always followed with Commissions of Inquiry. Take the Enugu Town Council; for instance. Members will agree with me that the functions of the N.C.N.C. wherever they are is the increase of their salaries. This they have done in the Lagos Town Council; you have of course the increase of the salary of the Chairman and the 2s increase in rate. Before voted into power they will propagate the reduction of rates and taxes but the first thing they always do when in control of Councils or Government is to increase taxes and rates. The Ibadan District Council is another vivid example.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I would like to support the hon. Mr Dosunmu who actually pointed out the usefulness of the proposed stalls to the Lagos women. He knows the importance of markets and especially their functions and if these stalls are denied the Lagos women it will seriously affect their trade which will and in turn affect the lives of these women and all of us in particular.

As we are now advancing towards independence, we would like to see very good markets erected in Lagos. These points are now being told so that Members of the new Lagos Town Council may be ready for improvements in these markets and in their stalls. The old Lagos Town Council had provided the spaces for these markets to be built and work was about to be started and the market women realising this got up and started contributing money in order to facilitate and speed up the building of these stalls.

With reference to the Minister of Lagos Affairs, I think he will be able to heed the criticisms levied against him. He is only fighting somehow by making this amendment denouncing the Members of the old Lagos Town Council and trying to praise the present Government which has actually done nothing worthy of public praise. He does not want to disgrace them in public, but people in the country actually know that the Lagos Town Council under the control of the N.C.N.C. is very weak and unstable. I am only saying that if the Minister is not active in improving the market stalls there will be no good markets for Lagos women and they depend on this. That will retard the economy of the country. I know generally that the N.C.N.C. offer (*Interruption*).

With reference to the expenditure of the Lagos Town Council I think it was the Action Group which had placed the present Oba in his post. We remember when he went to the London Constitutional Conference, in the memorandum submitted by the Action Group, the Oba Adele had been placed in his present position. The N.C.N.C. members were against this, but immediately they came to the Lagos Town Council they went here and there in order to woo the Oba.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I am suggesting that something should be done by the Lagos Town Council for Lagos market women.

Mr A. O. Ogunsanya (Ikeja): Mr Speaker, Sir,—(*prolonged interruption*.) As I was saying before, I will leave this House this morning with some high respect and regard for Chief Obafemi Awolowo for backing out of this Motion and leaving the hon. Dosunmu to go on with his 'double Dutch' rather than Chief Awolowo talking about something about which he knows nothing.

Now, in October 1953 the Action Group won the Lagos Town Council election. That party remained in office until October 1959. During the whole of that time the Action Group Council did not provide a single market for the women of Lagos. (*Shame shame*.) I am making my speech and depending for my information on facts and figures (*Interruption*). Mr Speaker, Sir, throughout the whole of that time the Action Group did nothing at all (*Interruption*).

Mr Speaker: Order, order. I understand that the Official Reporters are finding difficulty in hearing the hon. Gentleman: I also because he addresses so many of his remarks to his right-hand side. I would be very grateful if he would speak towards this end of the Chamber, addressing me.

Mr Ogunsanya: The Opposition are always shouting and howling all the time. Even when thier Leader is there they do not behave themselves.

The Motion very badly moved by the hon. Dosunmu is to the effect that the House deplores the failure of the Lagos Town Council to help the market women. That being so I accept his definition that the Town Council is a legal *persona*, and therefore one which never dies. That may be true. By his Motion, the definition made by the Amendment is necessary, and I support the Amendment.

Now, I will refer to extracts from the Minutes of the previous Town Council. As far back as the 10th March, 1954, the N.C.N.C. Councillor of the Lagos Town Council, Councillor E. A. Ladega, moved a Motion in the following terms: "Be it resolved that this Committee recommend to the Council to acquire a suitable site within the island of Lagos from the Lagos Executive Development Board so as to provide for a central market where women traders who are removed by the

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Police and those that are hanging around Victoria Street, Ereko Street, Ijaiye Street, Docemo Street, etc., may set up their wares for sale."

That was an N.C.N.C. Councillor in an Action Group—dominated Council, and that motion as far back as 10th March, 1954, was defeated by the Action Group—(Interruption). As I mentioned, in the year 1958, as a result of protests by N.C.N.C. Councillors, I happened at that time to be the leader of the Opposition in the Lagos Town Council. We brought it home to the Action Group that it was very necessary to provide markets for the women of Lagos. They agreed with us, but as soon as they left the Council Chamber the Action Group ran off to the women and asked them to bring money. Some of the money they took from these women was as much as £9, £10, and even £20. As a result thousands of pounds were collected by the Action Group without authority.

Consequent upon this on the 4th November, 1958, I moved a Motion in the Lagos Town Council to this effect: "That in view of the Financial Instructions of the Lagos Town Council, section 3, paragraph 1, the money collected for the proposed Oko-Awo market, the Action Group market by the Action Group Secretariat, was not collected for the Lagos Town Council, and must be returned to the payees by any officer of the Council holding the money for the time being." The Action Group leader, Chief Obafemi Awolowo, is now here to get the true facts of what his followers actually did in Lagos Town Council, because he is the only honest one among them. The rest of them are crooks—(Interruption).

Mr Speaker : Order, order. This Debate really must take place with less noisy interruption. I keep on losing what the speaker is saying, but when he addresses me I can usually hear him, without interruption. The hon. Member caught my eye that time. I do remind hon. Members that if they stop me hearing by their interruptions they are very much likely to catch my eye as well as my ear.

Mr Ogunsanya : As a result of that the Leader of the Action Group Parliamentary Party in the L.T.C. Council, Councillor M. A. Ogun, moved a Motion in the following terms :

Mr Akin Olugbade : Point of Order. My hon. Friend Mr Ogunsanya used the word crooks ; he said the Leader of the Opposition is the only honest man in the Opposition, the others are all crooks. I call upon him to withdraw that word.

Mr Speaker : Order. Was the word crooks used ? I am sorry I did not hear it. I would have rebuked the speaker if I had. But really the House must learn to listen both to me and to the orators in silence. If I had heard the word used I should certainly have asked for it to be withdrawn, but I did not hear it because of this constant stream of interruptions, which makes me unable to do my duty properly.

Mr Ogunsanya : "The Council approves and ratifies the receipts by the Town Clerk's Department and the Municipal Treasurer's Department of the payments for wares permits by the market women in central Lagos ; all necessary steps be taken immediately to make spaces available at the Oko-Awo Playground for the displaced market women of central Lagos and such other women as the Town Clerk may approve ; and the monies hitherto paid by the market women from central Lagos be treated as payments in advance in respect of wares permits for spaces to be made available at the Oko-Awo Playground site".

In effect they tried to legalise that which is illegal. Now the result of that was the Rapson Commission and you know what the result was. Soon after the Rapson Commission there was a new election and at the new election the N.C.N.C. defeated the Action Group. (Hear, hear). As a result of that election the hon. L. J. Dosunmu ceased to be a member of the Lagos Town Council. (Several hon. Members : Shame, shame).

We inherited the mess and muddles of the Action Group. Even to-day we have to regularise some of the past things the Action Group have done for years. We have the new Native Liquor Ordinance. The House will be astonished that for years now the Action Group-dominated Council have been collecting money in respect of this illegally. If you look at the Objects and Reasons of this new law coming before the House you will find that it extends right to the time when the hon. Gentleman and his friends were rulers of the

L.T.C. when we took over, one of the first things we did was to ask the Federal Government to help us with the loan of a lump sum of £1m. to provide adequate markets for the women of Lagos. (*Hear, hear*).

We realise that before now nothing has been done in this respect and here I have one of the releases advertised in the *Daily Service*, the *Pilot* and the *Daily Times*. This is one of the originals and I am now going to read out the things which the N.C.N.C. promised the electorate as soon as we took office: "The Lagos Town Council is not unaware of its obligations to make Lagos a capital worthy of the Federation and steps are being taken to develop the municipality within the limits of available financial resources".

High on the Council's priority list is the improvement and modernisation of all existing markets. In the 1960-61 Estimates adequate provision has been made for the maintenance of these markets. We do not just say it and leave it there. With these markets and all other important services for the municipality we thought it necessary to put 2s on rates. The reason for that was this—(*Interruptions*). You will not listen.

During the last Municipal Elections the Action Group cancelled all these amenities I am going to mention:

ROADS AND DRAINS: Strengthening Lagos Island Roads—£12,500; Strengthening Mainland Roads—£12,500; Mechanical Finisher—£5,000; Low Loader—£1,100.

STREET LIGHTING: Surulere Housing North—£1,100; Surulere Housing South—£2,000.

In all they cut off £88,800 in the Estimates for the Municipality of Lagos; and in addition to that they spent almost all the reserves of the Town Council in order to avoid putting a penny more on the rates. (*An hon. Member: We know that*). In all they squandered £115,000.

Several hon. Members: Shame, shame.

Mr Ogunsanya: Since taking over as the people's elected representatives we have had to get a cure for the diseases left behind by the Action Group. We have only been in power in the Lagos Town Council since October 1959.

An hon. Member: Are you a member?

Mr Ogunsanya: I am by the Grace of God the Parliamentary Leader of the N.C.N.C. in the Council. (*Hear, hear*). Since October 1959, on point of markets the L.T.C. dominated by the N.C.N.C. has provided the following new markets: 1. Epetedo General Market: This is approximately 23.62 acres of land. We have obtained the necessary approval from the Minister. 2. Ereko Temporary Market: We have declared that a Market. Originally there were 300 people in this illegal market. It was then a market without legal validity. It has just been declared a market by the Market's Ordinance of this Federation.

3. Iyun Road Temporary Market: At our meeting a few days ago, on the 7th April, 1960, we asked for tenders for the building of the 300 market stalls in this market which has been approved; and just a few days ago we advertised for the building of prefabricated market stalls at several places.

4. Iddo Market: Also at Iddo, many Members coming from Ebute-Metta will find at Iddo a lot of eye-sore left behind by the Action Group. The wholesale market at Iddo there were 116 unsanitary market stalls and at the present time 118. We have been able to convert these 118 into new sanitary market stalls. (*Hear, hear*).

On the Mainland of Lagos—you know the Action Group hates the Mainland of Lagos because apart from F Ward they never get in any other ward. At Oju-Elegba Road in Surulere we have established a new market which will cost us about £50,000 and again money has been provided in the 1960-61 Estimates. My hon. Friend Dosunmu is no longer a Member of the Council and he no longer shows any interest in the work of the Council. At 3 p.m. in the afternoon when we have Council meetings he sleeps.

We have also Gbaja Street Market. We have spent quite recently the sum of £18,000 and we have provided for more in the 1960-61 Estimates. At Abule-Ijesha, one of the N.C. N.C. strongholds and which my hon. Friend once called a place with 'Stranger Elements', for years we have requested the A.G. to build a market for the people of Abule-Ijesha, but they said 'No, they are strangers'. At Abule Ijesha near the Technical Institute we have provided new markets costing £5,000.

[MR OGUNSANYA]

At Apapa, we have also provided another market worth £5,000. Now our capital works expenditure for all markets have increased by £108,000. With this any Regional Government will be proud so that when the Minister moved his Amendment I was not surprised. He knows the facts. The Action Group spent all the time collecting money from women in the market illegally.

In spite of their rantings and their inability to understand what we are doing we shall carry on doing our duty to the people of Lagos justly, in all manners within our means, without fear or favour, with affection to the people of Lagos and without any ill-will for anybody.

Chief O. B. Akin. Olugbade (Egba South) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I would like to say something on the Amendment. On the face of it the Amendment admits that the market situation in Lagos is deplorable but it merely seeks to put the blame for the deplorable situation on a previous L.T.C. This Amendment is not only mischievous but it is unnecessary and hypocritical. It is unfortunate that the Federal Government has been actively taking sides with the irresponsible branch of the Lagos N.C.N.C. The question is Who suffers for this deplorable situation ?

An hon. Member : The Action Group.

Chief Olugbade : Of course, the innocent and industrious Yoruba market women—

Several hon. Members : Ah !

Chief Olugbade : The innocent and industrious Yoruba market women, particularly the traders. Over sixty per cent of them are from Ikorodu.

Dr Kalu Ezera (Bende East) : The hon. Member is not speaking on the item.

Mr Speaker : I still do not quite understand what Order the hon. Member is quoting.

Dr Ezera : He has been speaking irrelevantly.

Mr Speaker : I think, generally, it will save more time if I am allowed to be judge of what is irrelevant than hon. Members to interrupt the debate on points of Order which I can really deal with myself.

Chief Olugbade : Mr Speaker, Sir, the situation has been made worse by the Government giving the impression of supporting an

Oba who has forfeited his claims to the confidence and admiration of respectable persons ; to women traders in Lagos.

Mr Speaker : That last remark—I do not understand if it refers to the Deputy President of the Senate. I think the remark ought not to be made. It ought to be withdrawn. We must not, under any circumstance, criticise Members of the Senate.

Mr Olugbade : I did not refer to any official of the Senate. I said an Oba. The Federal Government must be warned not to play politics with the means of livelihood of our women traders. They have been enjoying their freedom ever before the British advent into this country and out of their resources they have been able to help to educate most of the fanatical N.C.N.C. leaders in Lagos. They have been owning property also.

The N.C.N.C. leaders who are controlling the Lagos Town Council with a majority of only two seats have been boasting that they are going to raise a loan of £1 million to provide a market for Lagos women. Where will the money come from? Definitely not from Chief Okotie-Eboh because he has not got the money. He has to go all the way to America, to England, to France, to the United Nations to borrow money.

But the redeemable features of the situation are that the Government has seen that the situation needs rectification and I think the Opposition should be congratulated for bringing this matter up at this Session of the House because if we had not brought this matter up we would not have known the stand of the Federal Government or whether the Federal Government takes the view that the situation needs rectification. After the pressure and the able speech of hon. Dosunmu the Minister has agreed that the Federal Government is going to intervene and improve the situation before October.

My hon. Friend, Mr Ogunsanya, quoted paragraph 121 of the minutes of the Lagos Town Council. But if he were addressing the court he would not stop where he did about the Motion moved by Councillor Ladega. He read the Motion : "Be it resolved that this Committee recommends to the Council to

acquire a suitable site within the island of Lagos from the Lagos Executive Development Board so as to provide for a central market where women traders who are removed by the Police and those that are hanging around Victoria Street, Ereko Street, Ijaye Street, Dosunmu Street and so on may set up their wares for sale."

The next paragraph after that is this, Sir—"Councillor Ladega explained that his chief aim in bringing up the above Motion was to move the Council to find a market space for women textile traders who had been cleared at Victoria Street, Balogun Street and neighbouring places but when he was informed that provision for such a market had already been made in the Central Lagos Clearing Scheme he was satisfied and did not press the issue further".

I am not surprised that Mr Ogunsanya could deliberately deceive this hon. House. I am not surprised that my hon. Friend Mr Ogunsanya is playing politics with the livelihood of the women traders in Lagos. During the Easter Monday I took a trip to Ikorodu and I found the whole town deserted. Most of them had moved up to Lagos and I think he should be more patriotic in seeking the welfare of his own people who form a preponderant number of the textile traders in Lagos.

As a matter of fact, on the face of the Amendment the Government admits the failure and if the hon. Minister had co-operated with the previous L.T.C.—I do not know what he means by 'the previous Lagos Town Council'. Is it the L.T.C. of 1882 or 1900? If he had co-operated with whatever previous L.T.C. that had failed to provide adequate market for the people of Lagos, particularly the women traders, it is his own fault and we request him, as he has shown a change of mind, to press it further to see that the present Lagos Town Council—which has a majority of two and the two are on their usual holidays in Her Majesty's prisons—has a suitable market for Lagos.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to support.

Question, That the words proposed to be left out be left out, put and agreed to.

Question, That the words proposed to be added be added, put and agreed to.

Main Question, as amended, put and agreed to.

Resolved, That this House deplores the failure of the previous Lagos Town Council to provide the market women of Lagos with adequate market spaces or stalls but has every confidence that this situation will be rectified by the new Lagos Town Council elected in October, 1959.

Sitting suspended : 11.41 a.m.

Sitting resumed : 12.06 p.m.

Mr Speaker : Before I call on the next Motion I wish to say to Mr Ezonbodor—who has known me for many years now—that I am very sorry that a mistake has been made in the compilation of the Order Paper for to-day. In the Statement made last Saturday on the Motions to be called, No. 8 was "Jurisdiction of the Niger Delta Development Board" in the name of Mr Ezonbodor. I am sorry, my Department makes wonderfully few mistakes and this is a pure mistake which dropped out somehow on the way to the Printer. It will not prejudice the hon. Member if we dispose of "Nigerianisation of the Federal Public Service" and take instead "Jurisdiction of the Niger Delta Development Board" which was given Notice of last Saturday.

PRICE OF MOTOR VEHICLES

Dr B. U. Nzeribe (Orlu West) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to move the Motion standing in my name on the Order Paper, "That this House calls on the Government to take necessary steps to regulate the prices of motor vehicles and spare parts sold in this country".

This Motion is a very simple one. It deals with a subject which directly concerns me, hon. Members here, and many thousands of people who are not in this hon. House. Above all it seeks to draw the attention of the Government to a subject about which many of us know so little.

I believe, Sir, that if the economy of this country will rise and grow and mature our Government should not tolerate any policy of unbridled *laissez-faire*. Therefore, I hope the Government and hon. Members will discuss this Motion with their warm hearts and truly give it that consideration which I think it deserves.

[DR NZERIBE]

In moving this Motion I have no bitterness against anybody or group of people. This Motion is not motivated by any narrow chauvinism, it is motivated by the duty on our part to save our economy and to portray before the public the need for the Government to take necessary action.

In this Motion I propose to do four things. First, I want to indicate the importance of vehicles in Nigeria to-day; second, I want to indicate that the business in motor vehicles is concentrated in a few hands; third, I want to prove that those few hands are profiteering by selling automobiles at a very highly inflated price, and fourth, I would like to throw to the Government a few recommendations which I think that if adopted will help to remedy the situation.

Cars are no longer a luxury. In Nigeria to-day a car is almost a necessity for a politician, a businessman, and for a layman a car is almost a necessity. For the economic development of Nigeria vehicles are as important as the waterways are important for the economic development of America, England and the Asian countries. Nigeria has no great inlet such as the Baltic or the Adriatic sea in Europe, or the Yangtze in China or the Gulf of Arabia. Roads therefore are major arteries of communications. The International Bank making a survey of Nigeria a few years ago indicated that transportation is the second largest industrial group, comprising about fifteen per cent of the gross domestic product of Nigeria. Road transports alone constitute about thirty per cent of this particular figure. Transportation takes a very great sum of the investment of the savings of the community of Nigeria. I think in my own opinion, investment made in automobiles is second only to investment in real estate. Nearly three per cent of the total imports of Nigeria is cars, lorries and chasses.

In 1946 this country imported a little less than 2,000 automobiles, cars, taxis, chasses and lorries, the total value was something in the neighbourhood of £60,000. In 1947, the number had risen up to over 3,000 automobiles and the total value had increased to nearly half a million pounds. In 1957, we imported about 13,000 automobiles and the value had increased from half a million pounds to ten million pounds. In the first quarter of 1959, the

figure of this country's import was over 4,000 automobiles. If I am correct I think this year Nigeria may import well over 20,000 automobiles. It is significant that approximately 13 firms are in charge of the importation of these vehicles into Nigeria.

Of these 13 firms, three are British, two are French, two are Swiss, one is indigenous Nigerian and I think one is a combination of a Regional capital and Western capital, I am not quite sure. Two are Lebanese. That is out of 13 firms importing automobiles to this country, only one is purely an indigenous Nigerian firm; four of the above firms, that is, the non-indigenous firms control over seventy-two per cent of the total volume of business. Let me repeat, four of the above firms control over seventy-two per cent of the sum total of the business transacted over the past eight years in Nigeria. It is also significant to know that these four firms control over eighty per cent of all the import of commodity brought into this country.

Mr Speaker, Sir, in economic jargon this is what we call *oligopoly*. It is a situation where only a handful of firms control a certain business. It is concentration of economic power in a few hands and when this happens, especially in a place like Nigeria, it is a very dangerous thing and many dangers confront the rest of the economy. There is the possibility of an agreement, formal or informal. In this agreement prices could be fixed; examples of this are not lacking in Nigeria.

From 1934 to 1937 there was a Staple goods agreement; the Stable agreement controlled prices, the members were able to fix prices for themselves because the firms concerned entered into a "Gentleman's Agreement". In this agreement they set prices, they rigged the market and they made very big profits from the masses of the people of this country who are the consumers. From 1937 to the end of the last war, there was again a merchandise agreement among foreign firms in Nigeria. This agreement by foreign firms sought to control prices, they rigged the market, shared it and looted the public. This *oligopoly* could prevent a new entrant into the field. The U.A.C. did this in Nigeria for many years. All of us who have read the economic history of Nigeria would recall the warfare which existed between the U.A.C. and Leventis in Kano over soap manufacture.

Even now in Lagos I suspect that there is among some of the firms dealing with automobiles a creation of artificial scarcity. I suspect that the Mercedes Benz which is now a very popular car in Nigeria is not really scarce. New cars are brought out everyday but if you go to these firms the Managers tell you there is none. When they create a scarcity the prices jump up and the margin of profit increases.

Sometimes one sees what is called destructive under-selling to eliminate competitors. These firms also co-ordinate policies. When they co-ordinate policies the consumer suffers. There is also a practice which must be investigated in this country. That is the practice common in America, common in England and common in Europe of sharing the markets. That is, when the firms in oligopoly agree to import a certain number of cars depending on the figures imported last year or two years ago. In this case, Sir, they create artificial scarcity and therefore jack-up the prices of these commodities.

I want now to indicate in real concrete terms what I have so far expounded in theoretical terms. I want to use the Opel Record Caravan to prove that the firms importing cars in this country make a profit between 25 per cent and 30 per cent. I am fully convinced that from my own investigations on every car we buy in this country the firms make a profit ranging from £200 to £300.

The ex-Works price of an Opel is £585. That is the ex-Works price in Germany. Usually the European motor industries allow a rebate of 25 per cent. to the accredited distributors. This means that the price in Germany should be in the order of £438-15s-0d. The cost of freight from the place of manufacture to Apapa unaccompanied is round about £71-9s-0d. Pre-shipment service, dock charge and marine insurance is in the order of £11-11s-0d. Import duty unaccompanied is in the order of £69-19s-0d. The ex-Lagos price should, therefore, be in the order of £591-14s-0d.

Now, Sir, the price of this vehicle in Lagos is £798 cash down. The profit, therefore, is in the order of £200-6s-0d. That is above 30 per cent on the capital investment. If you assume that we import 20,000 cars in this country and if you assume that the average profit on each

car is £200, it means that these firms are making a profit of over £4 million on the consumers in the Nigerian market every year.

Not only this, these firms are also the insurance agents for the cars they sell. This means that one has to pay an extra of about £70 to £80 to the same firm for acting as insurance agents, and if you buy your car on hire purchase the interest is still more and more. If you go to Lombard you pay well over £1,000 for an automobile which originally cost £438. Take the Impala. The price of the Impala in America is about £900. The freight costs £149 the customs duty is £150 *ad valorem* and the ex-Lagos price is £1,200, but the price in the firms in Nigeria is no less than £1,700. The gap here is unimaginable.

There is no Government, supposed to protect the interests of the consumers, which will sit down and fold its arms and watch this kind of unbridled exploitation of the market.

If you write to these firms they give you an invoice that is artificial and nonsensical. The invoice they give you has nothing to do with the real cost of the automobile at the place of manufacture. The cost price that they give is self-made, and the f.o.b. that they quote is self-made. The firms in Europe give two kinds of f.o.b. quotations. One for Europe and one for Nigeria.

These firms indulge in two kinds of oligopoly. The oligopoly that is vertical and the oligopoly that is horizontal. They sell the cars and they sell the spares. There is a number of African businessmen who deal in what we call "pirate parts" but the influence of these people in the market is so negligible, that they cannot get into the market at all.

I am recommending that this Government should take a very serious view of this situation and ask the Minister concerned to appoint an independent body to probe into the matter. I hope that in appointing this body the Minister concerned will refrain from including in it the firms with vested interests in this particular scandal. It seems to me that the profit margin of 10 per cent or 15 per cent is not bad. I know business in cars and spare parts requires a huge outlay of capital, but it does not warrant a profit margin of 30 per cent.

[DR NZERIBE]

I would ask the Minister concerned to ask the Nigerian Information Office in the United Kingdom and the U.S.A. to give to his Ministry the true facts and figures relating to the actual prices of these cars, and I would ask the Government to help Nigerians who have got the knowledge, experience and integrity to get into this kind of business, financially so as to set up a competition, because in the absence of competition the powers in the hands of these firms continue to be concentrated and this constitutes a danger to the prosperity of the consumers of cars and lorries, etc.

Finally, Sir, I would like to ask the Minister concerned and the Government to lay as a condition for the importation of cars into this country a compulsory assembly plant in Nigeria so that chassis exported to Nigeria would be assembled in factories in Nigeria. This would provide employment for our mechanics and for Nigerians who have got mechanical acumen. Members are, I am sure, satisfied that I have made a very important case and I appeal to the Minister concerned to take a serious view of this. The matter is so serious that I will leave it to the sole judgment of hon. Members.

Cheaper cars would mean more cars, more cars would mean more drivers and more drivers would mean more employment and more vehicles and more lorries would mean cheaper distribution of goods and services in this country.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move.

Mr B. N. Ukaegbu (Owerri South): In seconding this Motion, Mr Speaker, Sir, I want to emphasise some of the points that my hon. Friend has made.

Now, Sir, what this Motion asks for is the price control of motor vehicles sold in this country. I will not forget to mention what has been the traditional attitude of various Governments in this country in refraining from price control of any commodity. The Government has all the time been refraining from undertaking price control. The Government has always been scared stiff to request for price control. In a way, Sir, this attitude on the part of the Government has been chosen because it has been found out during the last war when prices were controlled that more evil was sometimes done than any good that might

have resulted from price control. But the Government will be humble enough to accept the point that it is time that a monopoly was established on any commodity that the Government wakes up to do something about to protect the interest of the common people.

It will, therefore, be our intention in this Motion to prove that there is actually not only oligopoly as my hon. friend has said but there is actually a monopoly in the motor trade in this country; and I am going to show it in this way. Take for instance as the hon. Mover of this Motion has said that there are about thirteen firms engaged in the motor trade in this country and this would seem to mean that there is no monopoly but in a sense oligopoly. One motor company deals exclusively in one type of a motor vehicle and therefore there is a monopoly in the trade of that motor vehicle. And how did they get this? They are very careful when they are taking up the agency of these motor vehicles to insist as one of the conditions of the contract that while accepting to distribute these vehicles to foreign countries that they would be the sole agent in Nigeria of the particular brand of motor vehicle. These foreign companies who manufacture the vehicles have no choice but to give the sole agency of one motor vehicle to one particular firm and in turn that particular motor company have the definite monopoly of that motor vehicle.

I want to cite as an instance, and we are not grudging any particular motor company in this country but we shall say that it is not that we love these motor companies less but we love the people of Nigeria more and, therefore, we are going to mention names and we are doing so with a sense of responsibility.

Take for instance, Sir, the Mercedes Benz cars and vehicles sold by Messrs A. G. Leventis. When these motor vehicles were first introduced into the country they were not very popular. (*Interruption*). These motor vehicles were not very popular I said. They were later advertised and given to the transporters on very little deposits. They required very small deposits from transporters and by so doing they made their vehicles very popular.

The transporters were required to pay as little as 10 per cent deposits and they were given these vehicles and clubs were formed.

Clubs of Drivers were formed and I remember particularly the Mercedes Benz Drivers' Club and these drivers were bribed by these companies in order to insist on driving this particular brand of cars and vehicles and thereby made them more popular. The prices at that time were rather low and reasonable but no sooner than these people had found out that they had popularised their cars and vehicles in this dubious way they raised their costs with the result that a motor vehicle of 5 tons or to be accurate a Mercedes Benz vehicle of 5 tons weight if you want to have it on hire-purchase you will be required to pay £2,000 in the space of ten months.

As a result of an investigation that we have conducted, we found out that if you are buying on hire-purchase the deposit you are required to pay initially almost covers the real cost of the vehicle. Therefore, there is no hire-purchase at all because you have actually paid the cost of the vehicle and that the amount paid afterwards is their own gain and profit. Will the Government sit down and fold their arms in this situation? They should not. That is my advice.

I want also to prove that these prices charged are actually unreasonable bearing in mind the actual out-lay of the motor companies. Allowances have already been made for taxes and the payment of their staff but minus all these allowances they still charge more for their cars and vehicles and therefore make tremendous and unreasonable profits, and who suffers? It is the common people of this country.

If there is real competition the Government would not find it worthwhile to step in or to control the prices; but there is actually not very much competition and that is why the Government should do something. I want to make this very clear and it is the question of spare-parts. There is no hon. Member here who does not own a car or a vehicle and who does not require to replace a spare part in his car. Members have actually been to motor car distributing companies to get spares.

The other day, Sir, I wanted to replace the inner ball bearings of the right wheel of a Ford lorry sold by Messrs Joe Allen and it cost me in their shop seven pounds, but the other day when I wanted that particular spare,

I sent my driver and he got it from an ordinary spare-part dealer in Aba for two pounds five shillings. Some people may say it is second hand or that it is a smuggled property, but I am assuring Members that these dealers get them by direct order which is part of the agreement with the manufacturers as the sole distributors of these kinds of vehicles, and there you see the monopoly we refer to. But these people actually monopolise the spare parts which they take as part of their agreement to distribute these vehicles. Therefore, Sir, it can be seen that these companies are actually profiteering and when any Government as sensible as our own Government, especially as this present Government, has seen that a certain section of the community is profiteering unreasonably on the general public, it is the duty of that Government to step in and act.

Now, there is one other thing I want to say, Sir. This Motion—I do not know the attitude of the Government on it—but I can assume that they cannot find enough courage to step in and control the price of motor vehicles. There is something they can do. If this Motion is rejected by the Government or by the House it will strengthen the hands of these profiteering companies, just like I asked a question last time on the allegations of bribery and corruption in the Nigerian Police, and the hon. Minister in charge of Police said that he was not aware that there was corruption in the Police. I am sure that that one statement, however well considered it might have been, will have strengthened the hands of corrupt police in Nigeria, for instance. Therefore we should be careful of what we say and of what we do here.

If this Motion is rejected either by the House or the Government, these companies will say, "Yes, it is quite all right with the Government supporters", by omission, by not acting, they are supporters in default, and they will go ahead. That is what they will do. Therefore if the Government finds itself unable to control the price I advise them to appoint a Committee to probe into these charges which we have heard made, and to find them either true or not true. If the Government can do this and find these charges true or not, if the charges are not true then the companies will be justified in carrying on their trade as they like, but if the charges are proved to be true, if they are demonstrated to be true, then even

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though the Government takes no action but finds the charges have been demonstrated, these companies will shout, knowing that their secrets have been made public, and I am sure that they will mend their ways.

Mr Speaker, I beg to second.

Question proposed.

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Zanna the hon. Bukar Dipcharima): Mr Speaker, Sir, I am in full support of this Motion. The general principles involved in the question of introducing systems of price control have been debated in this House on numerous occasions; as far back as 1955 a resolution was passed to this effect, that this House requests the Federal Government to continue to keep a constant watch on the prices of goods and, where necessary and practicable, to introduce in co-operation with the Regional Governments, a system of price control in the Federal territory. I have had this resolution constantly before me in my Ministry, but I have not yet got the facts on whether it is now necessary and practicable to introduce price control in respect of motor vehicles and spare parts.

An hon. Member: You were not Minister then!

The Minister of Commerce and Industry: I may not have been the Minister at that time, but my Party the N.C.N.C. were in power, and it is through our efforts that we took on the Action Group of our time to test them, and we found them wanting and rejected them.

But Sir, from the complaints that have reached me from time to time I have considerable sympathy with the Nigerian public in the matter of price of motor vehicles and spare parts. The price level for motor vehicles has gone up steeply in the past few years, and the usual explanation given by the distributors for these increases has been that they are compelled to keep large quantities of spare parts. My Ministry has indeed constantly impressed upon them the necessity of maintaining adequate spares in order to improve their servicing facilities to the public.

It is an indisputable fact that motor distributors in Nigeria have to sink substantial capital into their businesses. The leading motor manufacturers in the United Kingdom,

America and the continent, I am told, insist that their distributors must carry large stocks of spares before they are given the sole agency. Unfortunately, also, there are far more motor manufacturers in Nigeria than reliable agents. Also, as a result of the various muddles, the number of spare parts which must be held in stock is large and it helps to keep a lot of their capital down. Inevitably all these expenses are passed on to the consumer.

I have for the information of Members, recently instituted an enquiry into the profit margins at present being obtained by some motor dealers in Nigeria. Final results are not yet available.

An hon. Member: Why?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry: Because they are investigating and are not yet finished. While I admit that the dealers must be making huge profits, especially in these big American cars, perhaps the margin of profit in the smaller more popular models may not be very great. And the reason why I say this is because, if the profit margin is big, quite a number of Nigerian enterprising businessmen, like the Odutolas, the Briggs and other exponents of life more abundant, would have gone into the business very fast.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I earlier said that I did not think the stage has been reached to impose price control on motor vehicles and spare parts now, without full investigation. Nevertheless, I intend to undertake a full-scale investigation into the price structure and profit margins of a representative selection of distributors operating in Nigeria, with a view to making a detailed statement to this House at its August meeting, when the full facts will be put before the House, and the House will decide, and I shall implement the decision of the House without fear or favour. (*Applause*).

Now, fortunately for us two Regional Governments are interested in this motor business, and I am sure that they will place their knowledge and experience of the case squarely before us so as to give us a correct and proper perspective.

Sir, in view of the explanation I have given and the desirability of looking into all the problems and implications concerning price controls so as to protect the trading interests of the nation as a whole, may I move the

Amendment as follows:—

“That this House calls upon the Government to look into the motor distributing trade in Nigeria with a view to imposing price control for both motor vehicles and spare parts”.

Sir, I beg to move.

Mr Speaker : I am afraid it needs notice. No amendment may be given with less than one day's notice. One day's notice is sufficient—I am afraid one day's notice is necessary for an Amendment to be moved, but you can indicate the form your Amendment would take if you have the time.

The Minister of Commerce and Industry : I am very sorry. It must have been a slip somewhere between my Office and your Office and, I hope, that the Speaker will allow this Motion as amended to pass.

Several hon. Members : No, no.

Mr Speaker : I am afraid, if the mistake is in my Department, the blame lies on myself but—

The Minister of Commerce and Industry : I am sorry, Mr Speaker, it must be mine.

Mr Speaker : Anyway I can only ask if the Minister has made the proper topic of his would-have-been Amendment clear. That is as far as we can go to-day.

The Minister of Commerce and Industry : Well, Mr Speaker, my purpose is this: Business is a delicate matter. I do not want to harm any business because it may affect all of us adversely and I want us to look into the matter carefully. Get the facts correctly and when we have the facts and figures before us, it is up to the House to decide one way or the other. But if we through pettiness or through emotion pass a Motion and in the end if it is the general public which will suffer then we have been failing in our duty. So, I am asking the House to agree that until I submit these facts and figures in our August Meeting, the Motion should not be passed as it stands.

Mr Speaker : With the Minister's statement, will the Mover be content to wait till August and withdraw now. (*Interruptions*).

An hon. Member : Withdraw !

Dr B. U. Nzeribe (Orlu West) : Mr Speaker Sir, I am aware of the facts but even without knowing the facts and figures a certain criteria can be set with the control of prices. For example, in this country refund of real estate is in the order of 12 to 15 per cent and we know what return the money we put in the bank yields and, we know what the interest of Post Office savings are. Even if the Government wants to set up a criterion which should not be taxed by the profits—(*Interruptions*). This can be done but, however, I want to say that I whole-heartedly accept the Amendment moved by my hon. Minister of Commerce and Industry. (*Hear, hear*).

Mr Speaker : There is no Amendment being proposed. What I am asking is whether the hon. Member wishes to withdraw his Motion in view of the Minister's statement. (*Interruptions*).

Dr Nzeribe rose—

Mr Speaker : Will the hon. Member make up his mind ?

Question put and negatived.

NATIONAL INDUSTRIAL PLANNING BOARD

Mr F. U. Mbakogu (Awka South) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg leave to move the Motion standing in my name, “That steps be taken to establish a National Industrial Planning Board to plan and co-ordinate industrial activities of all kinds throughout the Federation in the interests of the Federation as a whole”.

Mr Speaker, Sir, the importance of this Motion cannot be over-estimated. If one remembers carefully the point Members have been making in this hon. House both in the old House and the present one, one can even realise that this Motion is a general expression of the universal will of this hon. House. The Motion speaks for itself. It concerns the national planning of industries. Planning industries on a national and central level. Industrial planning holds the key which unless disturbed leads to economic growth, wealth and

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progress. Industrialisation holds the key to the problems of unemployment for industries create economic activities.

There are a number of reasons why we should have a Board which will plan industries. I do not want this Board to execute industrial activities or policies of Government. It will be a policy-making body and afterwards leave the policy to Government to determine which should be operated and when to operate it; but it will make available to the Government all the facts which will make for the success of the industry. I know for certain that there is a National Economic Council and a General Board or Council on planning. To my mind these are not enough. They have no backbone. They are Councils without power.

In 1956, I moved a Motion in this hon. House for the Government to create a Ministry for Economic Planning. The Government rejected it and asked me to withdraw. I refused saying that my voice might be that of Edmund Burke but I would not mind, generations would see, would judge and see the truth of what I was saying at that time.

I think, perhaps, that my people have seen that I was talking the truth in 1956 because last year, the Western Government created a Ministry for Economic Planning. The Federal Government did not see the truth, the reality in having a Ministry for Economic Planning in 1956. The Western Regional Government saw the fact last year and the Eastern Regional Government now has created an Economic Secretariat. I hope, immediately a Ministry of Economic Planning will follow. This year the Federal Government have created a Ministry for Economic Development. This Ministry for Economic Development is very important but we must know that it cannot execute economic policies. It can only plan so the right name for it is the Ministry of Economic Planning.

We should plan our industries on a national level. We should have a Board which will look at the question of industrialisation from the national level and have the facts before it so that any Regional or Federal or even private sector can have a library of facts concerning industries from which to make a selection.

Mr Speaker : I am bound under Standing Orders to suspend sitting now until 3 o'clock.

Sitting suspended : 1 p.m.

Sitting resumed : 3.15 p.m.

Mr Mbakogu : Mr Speaker, Sir, as I was saying our approach to industrialisation should be by way of planning. There is need for central organisation of our industries and we need to approach the matter in a national way instead of dissipating our energy in Regional methods. Planning is necessary for a young and under-developed country, groping in the darkness of finance, skill and man-power, so as to find a way to make provision for a degree of co-ordination in the formulation and application of the Roman policy which could not be achieved through the Cabinet or through inter-ministerial or inter-governmental consultation such as is being provided by the International Economic Council and the Committee of it which is a joint planning committee.

I feel that planning is so important and we should give the Board the power. We should give that Board an economic planning secretariat which should be composed of economic experts. We should make use of local material in this respect because there must be men in the country to-day. We are young, of course, but we have the brains only we have not got sufficient opportunity. We have for example, Dr Okigbo.

I do not see the reason why the Regions should take initiative from the Federal Government. Why should the Federal Government sleep and the Regions give initiative to it? The East Regional Government has employed Dr Okigbo, but he should have been the man to head the National Economic Planning Secretariat, and draw to him in this office a number of Nigerians such as Dr Aluko to help him plan our industry. Together with them should be experts, industrial experts, drawn from many parts of the world, those who are ready to help us to plan our industry.

Now, this is not a question of calling the Minister in charge of agriculture to come in because he knows nothing about industry. Where he should come in, where politicians should come in should be where there is a question of choice between cotton industry and plantation industry. That is where the Minister will decide. He has the facts, he is given the facts about the cotton industry, textile industry or plantation industry. The

facts are placed before him, he will take into consideration the need of the country and finance, so he will be the person to decide that. He is the man to tell the civil servants what the nation needs according to Mr Harcourt.

He is not ready with the facts, his knowledge is limited but experts in the field of industrialisation and political economy should be there to propose the policy to be followed. The Minister will have an eye on money and the needs of the country. So, I am suggesting that we should have within the Board, the National Industrial Planning Board an Economic Secretariat composed of experts to draw programmes, give facts and figures, such as ways to make it workable and possible, how to make it a success whether it is national industrial planning board or economic council as the case may be. Whichever Government wants to adopt, they should make a selection and hand over to the Board. In such a Board, as the National Economic Council, the politician should come in there. A politician cannot be the be-all and the end-all. He has limited knowledge.

What are the objects of our planning? We must plan to settle problems arising out of conflicting priorities, between one Ministry and another Ministry, between one Region and another Region and between private sector and public sector of our economy. We must plan in order to direct and control the use of our national resources. Some of them are put to uselessness. Some of them are not made use of at all. We must plan in order to stimulate export and keep down import and thereby lower the rate of high propensity to import from outside the country. That will help us to balance our payments. We must plan in order to maintain relationship between agriculture and industry. We do that to ascertain how to make the most use of our agricultural products, so as to use some raw materials for industrial purposes and create a wide range of economic activity.

We must also plan so as to apply the universally accepted economic principle of comparative advantage. There are certain things which we import to-day which should have been better and more economically produced in the country and then we export them to other countries from where we have to import them at present.

The Board should be given wide powers at least to prepare a wide range of industrial development projects for submission to the respective Governments. The Board should have power to undertake studies of all aspects of the economy, to plan the raising of money domestically or overseas, to implement development programmes thereby to consider the establishment of agricultural and industrial banks. If that is not workable they should consider the possibility of establishing a Finance Corporation. We have been saying that we have not got money because our people have not been educated to save money and we have to depend on borrowing from outside. If we have a Finance Corporation that Corporation can devise ways and means of raising money internally and apply the money so raised to industrial purposes.

We must plan mixed enterprises and Government's investment in private industries. Mixed enterprises are those enterprises which can be undertaken both with the co-operation of Government and private entrepreneurs. The Board should have powers to initiate research and consider the possibility of starting new industries. A lot of industries could be started by doing research in order to find out how they could be used for industrial purposes.

For example, sometime in the old House Members talked about refining palm wine and how to keep it long. Undiluted palm wine, for example, is very sweet, there is nobody who would not like to take it. But the question is that if it gets kept long it goes sour and Members have been suggesting ways of doing research in it so that it could be kept for a long time and exported overseas. That is an example of what I mean by doing research in certain new industries. Whenever there is an important material like sugar, research should be done to find out if it will be economically possible to initiate the industry at the location of the raw material or some other place where some advantages occur like power or local skill.

Now, the Board should interest industrialists to start new industries and they should be ready to assist the industrialists by providing them with facts and figures. They should advise new industrialists and give them assistance wherever necessary so as to help them solve their problems because there are always adequate problems facing new industries. It

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may be the problem of finance or administration or skill or labour, and the Board should recommend to the Government what forms of assistance new industries ought to have to help them to make it a success and such a Board should administer industrial estates. In other words, the Board should formulate a policy for creating industrial centres throughout the country. The creation of industrial centres will be based on the recommendations of the expert Committee of the Industrial Planning Board. It will be based on the recommendation of the Economic Planning Committee. If they recommend, the Board will then take the decision to create industrial centres throughout the country and such industrial estates will be administered by the Board.

Well, the Government should be given sufficient advice on categories of industry. For example, certain industries there are which cannot be done with limited resources. There are some industries that require foreign capital. There are also some industries which should be exclusively reserved for Nigerian industrialists. For example, this making of *Fanta*, *Coca Cola*, *Krola*, *Ginger Ale* and the rest of them should be left exclusively for Nigerians. Foreign investors should not be allowed to partake in those things because they require small capital. We should start from simple industries to advanced industries requiring large capital. They should make recommendations for industries which require Government assistance, initiative or partnership.

There are industries which require Government assistance or initiative or partnership. There are certain industries which cannot be a success without the help of Government finance or otherwise. Others there are which can be done together with Government by way of partnership. Some of them are being done, like the Nigerian Airways. Some of them are being done to the advantage of the country.

If the Board is created enough facts will be placed before the Government or the Minister concerned so that he will not commit the country; it will be a communicative body. It will not cost much to find out what is the practice in India, what is the practice in Pakistan, in Turkey or in Ghana, before committing the Government and before bringing it to the House of Representatives to pass—

which the House must be forced to pass otherwise there will be a constitutional crisis. We have been supporting so many things here without being given adequate facts, without having the adequate facts placed before us, and we commit the nation. Take the Airways: when we were asked to approve the way the company was to be, it was the company that suggested the basis; it was not the Government because the Government had not been able to give adequate advice.

For one thing, people that usually advise Government on such things like economic planning in industry are expatriates and not our own men. I believe that there may be good civil servants, but I believe also that with the civil servants who serve the country there are many other things to be taken into consideration; they might have national interests. If he is not a Nigerian his loyalty to the Government he is serving is limited. His loyalty is up to a point, only up to a point. There are many things which may cross the interests of the Government he serves and something might swing him the other way. After all, he comes here and he also wants to go home to his own country.

I am appealing to the Government to take immediate steps to implement the opinions I have been expressing in this Motion to see that a planning board for industry is established so that simple industries which make our imports mount should receive first consideration. There are a number of simple industries here which require small capital for capitalisation: such industries as textiles, making of clothes, shoes and boots, food and building materials; they are in daily, constant and quantitative demand. Our money goes out to overseas markets to make importation for these materials. We should assert our industrial programme based on these simple and straight forward industries. We have abundant rubber. Rubber industries should be implemented immediately. So I am appealing to the Minister of Commerce and Industry to accept this Motion.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move.

Mr F. C. Ogbalu (Awka North): Mr Speaker, Sir, I am pleased to second the Motion. I wish to give a synthetic and an analytical consideration of the subject.

We appreciate the fact that the Federal Government in conjunction with the Regional Governments have done much in order to stimulate the economic activities and economic progress of this country. So I hope the criticisms we make on the Floor of this House will be taken with all friendliness.

I shall begin by surveying the factors with which the Federal Government has been trying to develop our economic system, or trying to do all the time the work which has been now assigned by the nation. Between 1946 and 1956 the Federal Government had what was called a Ten-Year Plan for the Development and Welfare of Nigeria. This Programme was amended by a revised plan which took place in 1951 and 1956 and ended on March 31st, 1956.

The sum total of £50 million was actually devoted to the economic development of the country. This sum of money was distributed among the following sources of development : national communications ; loan capital to statutory corporations ; grants made to the University College, Ibadan ; to the University College Hospital, Ibadan ; and to the Nigerian College of Arts, Science and Technology. This was the first phase of economic development in a planned form undertaken by the Federal Government.

The next one was the Economic Programme of the Government of the Federation of Nigeria, 1955 to 1960 and that was based on the Report of the International Bank Mission which, to quote the White Paper, probably constituted the first attempt at a plan for Nigeria sufficiently broad to pursue not only the services of the Government but also to take into account all the resources which are likely to be available.

The sum of £91,396,000 was spread over the five years roughly as follows : Civil Aviation £1.4 million ; Defence £2.7 million ; Education £3.2 million ; Electricity £7.3 million. Similar provisions were made for industry ; for Lagos Town Planning ; medical health ; natural resources ; research ; posts and telegraphs ; railways ; roads ; and other public works.

The Regions were free to embark upon economic development according to needs and ability. Well, this economic development programme, as I have said, was according to the

recommendations of the International Bank Mission. These recommendations invariably must come to an end in 1960, so whatever suggestions we may make to-day should be taken into consideration in forging a new economic programme for Nigeria.

The International Bank Mission recommended an economic survey responsible to the Council of Ministers with three-fold functions : information and development potentialities of the country as a whole ; receiving development estimates ; and securing services to be rendered to the Council of Ministers. And they recommended Regional Economic Committees and a National Economic Council for the purpose of co-ordination. In other words, the Regional Governments were free to use Economic Committees in foreseeing their own Regional economic programmes while the Federal Government was to use the National Economic Council for co-ordination purposes.

What I have been trying to do is to survey the already known facts in order to make it possible for us to realise the necessity for having an Industrial Planning Board or Corporation if you like to call it that ; we are not worrying about the name to be given to it, whether it will be called an Industrial Board, an Industrial Council or an Industrial Corporation. But the point we want to make is this : we want a body which can in reality give a substantial plan, a concrete plan that will lead this nation towards its economic goal.

Some people might say that the National Economic Council is a body which can plan the industrial development of this country. But I say 'No !' That Council has got too many weaknesses. In the first place it is a consultative body ; a consultative body which has no administrative authority or responsibility and which according to the recommendations and according to the formation of that body has only one or two regular meetings a year. It is obvious that these infrequent meetings provide another reason why this body cannot serve as an Industrial Planning Board. We want a close co-ordination of economic activities of both the Regional and Federal Governments.

It is true that the Regional Governments have got Development Corporations in which they make direct investments in agricultural

[MR OGBALU]

industry, grant loans for agricultural, commercial industrial projects and also encourage pilot operations by technical and managerial advice. Well, it is true that the Federal Government can assist the Regional Governments in this way, but there is an element of conflict arising from inter-regional rivalry. The Western Region might feel, for purposes of political aggrandisement, that the establishment of this industry will enhance its political reputation. The same thing may apply to the Eastern Region or the Northern Region. We are all human beings.

Once one Government embarks on this industry another springs up in the other Regions in order that when finally they appeal to the people, they will have their votes. Well, in a state of non-co-ordination and rivalry like this it ought to be taken for granted and it will be readily be agreed that a central body to co-ordinate the economic activities in this country is a prime necessity, in fact an imperative necessity.

Well, I have shown that the National Economic Council cannot fulfil these functions of economic co-ordination. If an Industrial Board or Industrial Corporation had been established exclusively charged with the promotion of industries, not just one industry or a group of industries, but of industries in a wide field and which can participate as a major or minor shareholder side by side with private banks, private financing agencies and the investing public, such a body could take the responsibility of providing capital, and more important than anything else, the supervising of it, if it is given in the way of loan to private undertakers.

The Federal Government has been doing its best in granting loan assistance to private enterprises but the trouble is that there is no direct supervision over these private enterprises or entrepreneurs so as to ensure that the ultimate purpose of the Federal Government is in reality carried out.

May I just give an illustration; the Ghana Government established the Ghana Industrial Development Corporation but Professor Authus Lewis, formerly of Manchester University found on inquiry that the Industrial Corporation was not supervising loans which it granted to private enterprises.

An hon. Member : We are not going to learn from Ghana.

Mr Ogbalu : That was a mistake. Granting loans without supervising the use to which it is a great waste so that by establishing an Industrial Board, the Federal Government can have a medium, a way, or an agent through which supervision of the organisations to which it has lent its money can be easily carried out. It is an open fact in this country that when some organisers or industrialists are given money they certainly divert the money to some other things which they will easily yield them money without actually going into the business for which they had asked for the loan. I think that is something that the Federal Government should be very careful about. If the company or the organisation had asked for loan or help for this particular business then it should pursue that business because to the Federal Government that business has a priority over the others and that was why the money was loaned.

Another illustration is the Pakistan Industrial Corporation which was established in Pakistan as a co-ordinating agent. It is true it is called corporation. In this country when we mention Corporation some people think it is evil. It is certainly not evil. If we had devoted ourselves to the establishment of a socialist state—and I doubt how many people are really sincere over the establishment of a socialist state—well public enterprises certainly have to be encouraged.

An hon. Member : Are you from Awka ?

Mr Ogbalu : Yes, I am a well-known son of Awka North (*Hear, hear*). In the first place we should be pleased if the Federal Government would tell us whether the policy of the Government is to establish a socialist pattern of society so that we might know where to pilot our ship of state. If certainly we are establishing a socialist pattern of economy then public enterprises certainly should be encouraged. The Government will step into the public sector and help the private sector in order to establish a society that will be fitting to all the Members of the Society or the citizens without a particular group of people being widely separated by a gulf of difference or the ability to accumulate wealth.

Another important Corporation which ought to be taken as an example is the Indian Industrial Development Corporation. That was also established in order to co-ordinate Government activities.

Well, what would be the function of the Industrial Board which we are asking for? The functions of this Industrial Board will be firstly to help in co-ordinating the activities of the Regional Governments. From the sittings of this House some of us are convinced to an appreciable extent that we now know many people have cast away their tribalist wings and are coming to be nationalists taking the problem of building one Nigeria right into their hearts. If that is so, we can now boast of having a better platform to pilot our economic activities without in any way straining the sympathy and favour of the Regional Governments.

I do not in any way suggest that the National Economic Council or the Industrial Board will become antagonistic to the Regional Governments. I am quite sure that with really human approach it will be possible for such industrial board to be able to meet Regional Governments and determine what type of industries can be established under the auspices of the Federal Government.

We know that steel and iron industry is a very costly industry and hardly can any one region afford to establish two or three. But the Federal Government can. Well, such industries are very important. Inter-regional rivalry is not the best cure for economic ill. Take for example I know that if the Eastern Region or the Northern Region plans to establish a motor-car industry, the West will follow at once and establish one not mining whether it is a paying concern or not, and not considering whether the population of Nigeria really warrants the establishment of a motor-car industry. Such things are happening. The cement industry was established at Nkalagu and the next day a cement industry was established in the Western Region. This is an example why in the past Development Programme the Government went blindly here and there in order to catch the votes of the common man.

Several hon. Members : Shame, shame !

Mr Ogbalu : Such an industrial board could be entrusted with the responsibility of supervising small businesses and the giving of loans. This Board we are advocating could also lend money to large-scale enterprises.

A comprehensive survey of the industrial possibilities of this country should be undertaken in order to assess our ability and to make sure that other factors which are responsible for the establishment of industry are fully considered. The protection of infant industries would be the responsibility of such a Board and the avoidance of wasteful inter-regional rivalry. It would also be entrusted with supervising public and private enterprises.

Finally, I wish to make my point that I am stressing to the Government, and that is we are not in any way complaining about the effort which the Government has put into the economic development of this country. We appreciate it and congratulate the Government for the progress so far made. What we want is a central body which can plan for the overall industrial development of this country in conjunction with the Regional Governments.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to second.

Question proposed.

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Zanna the hon. Bukar Dipcharima): Mr Speaker, Sir, after listening carefully to the speeches made by the Mover and the Seconder, I am satisfied that there is no need for the establishment of an Industrial Planning Board.

The function proposed for the Board is already being performed by the National Economic Council. In that Council, the Governments of the Federation have a body which provides, to quote the 1954 Report of the International Bank Mission on whose advice it was set up: "a forum in which the Federation and the Regions might meet to discuss the many economic problems common to each, notwithstanding their separate constitutional functions, and such of their development policies as may have consequences reaching beyond their respective constitutional spheres".

Experience has amply proved that the International Bank was right in attaching great importance to the establishment of a permanent organisation for such consultations;

[MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY]

we all recognise that the National Economic Council has been of the utmost value in co-ordinating the development activities of the several Governments of Nigeria. In other words, it is already performing one of the functions suggested for the proposed Economic Industrial Planning Board, by co-ordinating industrial activities of all kinds throughout the Federation in the interests of the Federation as a whole.

The mover of the Motion envisages that the National Industrial Planning Board should also plan industrial activities. Here again we already have a body to perform this function. In 1958, the National Economic Council set up a Joint Planning Committee, consisting of two officials appointed respectively by the Federal Government and each of the Regional Governments and one official appointed to represent the Cameroons, sitting under the chairmanship of the Governor of the Central Bank. The terms of reference of this Committee, which is responsible to the National Economic Council, include advising the National Economic Council: "in particular by: (1) preparing a statement of fundamental objectives for the guidance of the planning committees of the several governments in the formulation of their development plans for each succeeding period; and (2) examining the plans formulated by the Governments and advising that modifications should be made to them in the light of the fundamental objectives agreed for this purpose, in order that the plans together may form a coherent whole".

In carrying out these functions the Committee has already prepared a statement of fundamental objectives; it has produced the Economic Survey of Nigeria, 1959, which, as hon. Members know, includes a special chapter on industry in the Federation and discusses ways and means by which industrial development can be furthered.

These arrangements are working to the satisfaction of all the Governments of the Federation and I feel there is a danger that the activities of a National Industrial Planning Board such as proposed in the Motion would cut across the functions of the National Economic Council and the Joint Planning Committee without producing any new beneficial result. In view of these explanations I would ask the hon. Mover to withdraw this Motion.

I will, of course, remit to the National Economic Council any suggestions which may arise from this debate showing that the machinery already provided by the National Economic Council and the Joint Planning Committee needs to be modified or improved for the particular purpose of industrial planning. This I will do when the National Economic Council next meets in June.

Mr J. S. Tarka (Jemgbar): Mr Speaker, Sir, I think that the Minister has given an ample reply to the Motion, but I will add one or two words to his, to the Mover of the Motion. The Motion is quite reasonable in a way, in that what is sought by the Motion would result in industrial progress for the whole country. But as the Minister has already pointed out there is a National Economic Council and the establishment of such a Board as sought by the Motion would be a mere duplication. I would rather suggest that the mover of the Motion should have sought the establishment of an Industrial Advisory Board, since such a Board would act as an advisory body to the National Economic Council.

There are one or two things which such a board would warrant. The first one is the determination of the masses in this country to respond to the desirability to establish the industrial institutions sought by the Motion which may be the result of the National Industrial Advisory Board. The second one is the availability of finance and raw materials to meet the requirements of the proposed Board. In the first one I think the answer is definitely nil but in the second one I think that this country has enough raw materials as to warrant the establishment of an advisory board which will from time to time advise the National Economic Council as to the type of industries that should be established in one place in response to the need of the areas concerned. Sir, I beg to oppose the Motion.

Mr N. D. Ukah (Owerri North): I rise to speak on this Motion. I note that the hon. Minister of Commerce and Industry has given us the assurance that the National Economic Council is already doing the work which is envisaged in the Motion but I have something to say, Sir, and it is this: it appears to me that high sounding as this Council is, its objectives

seem to go to the big things and to lose sight of the small things that matter. I think that in economics as well as in ordinary life, if we take care of the pennies, the pounds will take care of themselves. It appears to me that the National Economic Council is concentrating its efforts on big plans some of which are bound to prove Utopian to the people.

I have to say that here in Nigeria our chief problem is poverty. Poverty is a recurring decimal in Nigeria. Now the National Economic Council must have as its prime objective the solution to this problem of poverty. How can we do it? First we have to explore avenues of enriching our people. What are the sources of the revenue of our people? Our products.

Now we know that Nigeria is essentially an agricultural country and I know, though we are looking forward to industrialisation, that Nigeria will remain for a long time an agricultural country. The chief products of this country are primarily palm oil, palm kernel, groundnut and cocoa; and these should be given first preference in our economic planning.

I think, Sir, that all researches should now be directed towards the question of improving these products not only in quality but also in quantity. But I think again, Sir, that close attention should be given to the grading of these products.

We have been hearing the average farmer complaining that he is getting very small price for his palm oil and that he is paying very highly for imported goods, such as kerosene and so many other things such as soap got from his oil. The first thing, I think the National Economic Council should do in solving this problem of poverty as far as it goes is to study the situation. Let us take the question of palm oil for example. Coming to the question of testing, palm oil is being tested—this is a very good move by the Government. It is something good to test our palm oil in order to have high grade oil and in order that Nigeria may have a very good name in Overseas markets. I know that if we allow the overseas people to look down on Nigerian oil because of poor quality the buyers will run away from the purchase of the oil; but I think this idea of testing which is very good in itself is being turned into very bad means, by those who go about to say that they are testing—

An hon. Member : Examiners ?

Mr Ukah : Not examiners, before the examiners there are some people—the agents—who buy the palm oil and palm kernels. They go to the rural villages to the ignorant women to test the oil. The result of the test must always be that the oil has fallen and as such the price must be low. The middle men also suffer when they bring their oil to be tested at the beach. Some of the Produce Inspectors look on to them for something.

We were talking of bribery and corruption but I think that this is where the Industrial Planning Board or Council would have to direct their attention to stop it and then use local products such as oil for our own industry. We know that from oil we get soap, from oil bead is made, and from oil countless other things are made. Now let the Industrial Planning Committee or rather the National Economic Council direct its efforts to the using of these products—our palm oil, palm kernels and groundnut and even cocoa to manufacture things in Nigeria. It is very clear that economic progress must match with political progress otherwise after 1st October, this year, we shall still be looking to overseas' markets for our salvation.

Now, Mr Speaker, I think that one other method of ensuring that the National Economic Council is giving due attention to the needs of the people is to make sure that Government does not merely give grants to industrial enterprises; some industrial enterprises require such big capital that it will be almost impossible for individuals to undertake them at the beginning. The Government has to spearhead such enterprises and then when they have worked to such a successful stage, they can sell them over to private individuals or firms.

It must be remembered that why we are asking for industrialisation is also to provide avenues of employment to the thousands of school children who leave school every year.

Mr Speaker : Order, order, I must remind the House that Members should not read newspapers in their places under Standing Order 27.

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Mr Ukah : Those concerned should take note. Mr Speaker, I am saying that though unemployment exists in all countries of the world, even the most advanced countries cannot say that everybody has got employment. Even in Britain and America there are still people who are unemployed; but the real issue is that we are trying to reduce the unemployment.

But while the Minister has given us his assurance and while he has promised to bring to the notice of the National Economic Council any suggestions arising from this debate which they may find useful, I think that this Government is co-ordinating all the industrial activities throughout the Federation; and I am therefore asking him to consider the little things that matter—how to improve local products and use them in local industries.

The Committee should also see to it that palm oil does not remain too long at the beach for the free fatty acid and water cause deterioration or degeneration in the quality of the oil owing to the undue delay at the beach. And, as a result, these men come back to the villages and say: "we were given very low price at the beach and therefore are going to give you low price too".

I am therefore asking him to examine these little things that matter; how to improve the local industries. For example, pottery in Okigwi, as pottery work is done there; how to improve weaving; how to explore avenues of improving our products and to establish new industries in very densely congested areas, such as Mbaize in Owerri Division.

We agree with the Minister that this Motion should be withdrawn. We are asking the Mover to withdraw it with the understanding that the Minister will give very sympathetic consideration to these problems which we have just made clear to him.

Mr A. E. Efiang-Spatts (Calabar) : I rise to speak on this Motion, though the Mover of the Motion has drifted too far and has lost himself in the forest of data. What really I think he wants should have been a Nigerian Bureau of Industry, where bulletins could be issued, with instructions to industrialists so as to add efficiency to their work. In that direction the Government should have provided three

sets of chemists; one the actual industrial or manufacturing chemist, then the laboratory chemist whose work is to analyse the work of the industrial chemist, on formulae given to them by the industrial chemist; then the pure analyst. That is how industry is done, and as such if these efforts are co-ordinated then there is some sense in industrialising Nigeria by saying that we want Nigerian industry, or Nigeria for Nigerians.

It is needless saying every time that the expatriates in the Civil Service should go. What of the expatriates in the industrial service? We have no industrial chemists, and we are still looking for technical assistants. There must be certain expatriates who are to come, be they Indians, Chinese or even Germans. They must come to teach us real industry.

It is absolutely necessary that our oil should be used for industrial purposes. For example, candles should be manufactured out of our oil. More hydrolysis of the oil by chromate of potassium will harden oil sufficiently to give us a clue to the manufacture of candles, but that is not even done, and there are so many things which could be extracted out of our oil, that are not done.

The next thing is that even our rice has not been improved upon. I fail to know the kind of advice given by the industrial advisers, because it does not take any great effort or assets to change our rice to the European form of rice; that is to say, purified rice of the white kind which will compare favourably with other kinds of imported rice. But up to the present time nothing has been done, and then we still say we have got advisers and industrial chemists. I feel these people might have been mere analysts who could not advise properly in industrialisation.

I feel also that the country wants to manufacture paints. How could they start the manufacture of paints without linseed oil and turpentine ordered from abroad? But we have got the resin in Northern Nigeria. Now this resin is shipped to England or any foreign place after the extraction of turpentine which could be sold for £203 a ton, or even more. The remnant of the resin, called calphony, is sold to manufacturers for the purpose of manufacturing soap and cables, at the rate of

£98 a ton. But resin is got here in Nigeria, and if we should start farming industry, which is agriculture, then we will be able to plant flageeds, Sir, from which we can extract linseed oil. Then with the natural pigments in Nigeria we could manufacture paints.

We have copras of iron from which we can manufacture red oxide paint, and you have other pigments of all kinds. "Snowcem" could be got, because we should be able to get our calcium well calcined, and with the aid of all the materials we should be able to manufacture "Snwocem" without ordering it from abroad.

For example, the cement industry at Nkalagu is not actually a Nigerian industry.

Mr Speaker : Order, order. Would the hon. Gentleman please turn his head this way when talking, because his voice does not reach the Reporters.

Mr Efiog-Spatts : We simply hold the fluid capital share, but industrial shares are not held by Nigerians, and there is not a single Nigerian who could boast that he knows the mixture of the calcium with ferroclate clay, to produce cement. He does not even know the calories of heat with which the cement is produced. Yet still we say it is a Nigerian industry.

The next thing is for us to say the expatriates must go. How can the expatriates go from our industrial field now and leave us in darkness, in a forest, looking for a data of industry? We will lose ourselves. So I would recommend that there should be a Board of Industry set up or a Bureau of Industry, capable of issuing bulletins and advising people as it is done in India and other countries. Even some gleaners will be able to benefit from these bulletins, and will be able to industrialise the country. For example, there should have been a shoe industry in Northern Nigeria. They know how to curry leather and to cure it, but then the cork soles, they do not know how to make them. So we continue to order shoes from abroad because we want shoes with cork soles to protect us from the wet. If we industrialise Nigeria it will be very good for us. Therefore I support the Motion in all the terms of what it stands for.

Mr B. Ukaegbu (Owerri North East) : In speaking in support of this Motion I want to make one comment, and I do so with very deep respect. I do so with deep respect to the hon. the Minister of Commerce and Industry, but I want to say, Sir, that there appears to be a dangerous complex in those that rule.

We respectfully say that we understand they have to pile up the ship of fate, they have to give leadership to the House, but in spite of that, Sir, I say with respect that it would not be taken that the Council of Ministers forms a reservoir of intelligence in this country. We are 312 Members in this House, we have to assist in the government of the country, and we have to assist in the development of the country, so that when an honourable Member has consulted another Member and brought up a reasonable Motion, I do not think it is right for the hon. Minister to come and then give one reason or the other and ask the Mover to withdraw it. I do not think it is right and proper, and I say it with due sense of respect and responsibility.

Now, Sir, I am not playing politics, but I want notice to be taken of it. What the hon. Mr Efiog-Spatts wants is that the Government should recognize the importance of industrialisation in this country, and he wants to see that the importance of industrialisation is recognized. When you take the argument that was formerly being used against our independence, it was that we could not make a stick of matches, we could not make a piece of cloth, we could not do anything, therefore why should we seek Independence?

But now we are proving by our efforts and by signs of unity in the country that we can govern ourselves, we should also prove that economically and industrially we have arrived as a nation. There is no other way we can do this but by showing the outside countries of the world that not only can we make yam, garri, cocoa and groundnuts, but we are also able to manufacture some of these things we buy from abroad. Therefore I am putting it seriously to the Government that it must be a cardinal point in their thinking and in their policy, that industrialisation should play the major part. There is no other way in which it can be done, but by setting up an Industrial Planning Authority.

[MR UKAEGBU]

Some people have said here that the Government has no economic or development plan or programme. I do not believe that. The Government actually has plans and programmes on development but there is something that is lacking and people who have been criticising the Government have not made this point very clear. What we want the Government to do is we want them to think big, we want them to act big. That is exactly what we want. If ordinary people like Ojukwu and some other industrialists in this country can think in terms of spending one million pounds, two million pounds and so forth we want the Government to start thinking from 150 million pounds, 250 million pounds and so on.

The other day the hon. Member for Port Harcourt and myself paid a visit to the Federal Institute for Industrial Research at Oshodi and we found that this institute was capable of doing great things for this country if it was actually conceived on an extensive scale and if it was founded on an extensive scale. The Mover of the Motion and the hon. Mbah who seconded have actually emphasised the importance of industries and I am not going to waste time on that.

The hon. the Minister of Commerce and Industry in rejecting this Motion based his argument on the fact that the National Economic Council is actually performing the function which...

An hon. Member : Then sit down.

Mr Ukaegbu : I am entitled to speak. I am elected to this House. I must speak. The National Economic Council is doing the work which the hon. F. U. Mbakogu would want done by this Industrial Planning Authority.

With due respect to the intelligence of the hon. Minister I will say that I find it very difficult to agree that a Council of politicians and heads of Government Departments with a few economists could do the work of a full-fledged, soundly conceived and well-founded Economic Development Authority in this country. They certainly cannot go it. They need some time. When they meet all they say is that the Western Regional Government is having a Cement Factory; it is going to establish a Pepsi-Cola Factory and then—we do not want competition, we do not want cut-throat competition, etc., but they certainly

cannot go into technical problems, into the financial and managerial problems of industrial development in this country.

This is the work we suppose an Industrial Planning Authority or an Industrial Development Authority should do. If I may mention something that was hinted to the hon. Member for Port Harcourt and myself by the Director of the Federal Institute for Industrial Research. This man told us that the reason why they have not been able to finalise their research is that they are unable now to find a way of peeling cassava roots mechanically. They have not. They have neither the machines nor the people with adequate experience to solve the problem of peeling irregularly shaped roots mechanically, but this man told us that if there was money enough for them to whistle to a place like the Southport Institute of Engineering or the Manchester Institute of Engineering they could get people who are actually experienced in this type of thing to stop this technical problem in a short time; but what they have on their Estimate for Training facilities is only £500. I hope the hon. Minister will reconsider his attitude to this Motion. In reconsidering his decision, he will be doing not only his Ministry but this country immense good.

Now, Sir, what actually I understand the hon. Mover of this Motion to mean is the appointment of an institution or corporation which would plan research into and develop industries in this country. There are two types of industries. We have major industries and secondary industries. Major industries like the Iron and Steel Industry, Cement Industry, etc. This could be undertaken by the Government in collaboration with foreign financial interests and then it should be a policy of the Government like what they did in the case of the Nkalagu Cement Industry. They should sell out their interests in this major industry to the ordinary people by declaring shares or by offering shares to the public.

In secondary industries we have food processing and the manufacture of confectioneries. This could be done by local entrepreneurs who have the ideas but have little money. Now, this Industrial Development Authority, if the hon. Minister should consider it should be set up, is better done in co-operation with European countries as well as in England.

As the hon. Member who seconded this Motion said this Authority should be endowed with something in the neighbourhood of Ten million pounds or Twenty million pounds. That is the type of idea we want the Government to have. They can get this money by borrowing. Who said that we should not borrow? Who said that we should have no foreign loans? Anybody who says that is a hypocrite because the capital has not been accumulated in our country. This capital has been accumulated in other countries. We want these countries to help us develop our productive industries. These productive industries will in their own turn pay us. These loans should leave our country better than it was.

In October when we become independent then we should be able to borrow money from Czechoslovakia or from Germany, America, Japan or even from Russia. These countries are prepared to give us free interest loans. Did hon. Members not remember that America was prepared to loan Egypt £350 million for the Aswan Dam at low interest rate. They can also do it in another way.

Take our agricultural products like groundnuts, palm oil for what it is worth in the United States, then give us money and allow us to use it over the years with very low rate of interest; and if they want our friendship or want us to align with the West they should give us loan at 2½ per cent or 3 per cent interest. If this money is used in endowing an Industrial Development Authority, this authority will give loans to small entrepreneurs. As the hon. F. C. Ogbalu said this Industrial Development Authority should also have Inspectors to inspect the people to whom they have lent money. If this is done, I am sure in course of years we would have developed ourselves industrially and the Government will give the people future happiness.

With these remarks, I beg to support the Motion.

Mr Deputy Speaker : I want to remind hon. Members that you have barely one hour, fifteen minutes to debate five other Motions and I do not know whether the Mover of this Motion wants to press to a division or he intends to withdraw. I would be grateful for an indication.

Mr F. U. Mbakogu (Awka South) : I do not intend to withdraw. I said this in 1956 when I was moving the Motion for the Ministry of Economic Planning.

Mr Deputy Speaker : If the hon. Member has no intention of withdrawing the Motion at this stage there is no need to use this as an excuse for another speech.

Whereupon 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.

Original Question put accordingly and negatived.

NORTHERN-EASTERN REGIONAL BOUNDARY

Mr E. A. Odo (Idoma West) : I rise to move the Motion standing in my name on the Order Paper, "That this House urges the Government to retrace the boundary between the Eastern and Northern Regions and to mark it by fixing permanent beacons there in order to obviate further land disputes between the people of the two Regions living along the border".

Sir, the boundary was surveyed and demarcated on the 30th of September, 1954. The temporary beacons fixed then were removed. The Supplement to *Nigeria Gazette* No. 53, Vol. 41, of the 30th of September, 1954, Part B, L.N. 126 of 1954, which established the boundary is now due for reconsideration and particularly so since quarrels which arise from this boundary dispute result to fighting and hatred.

The Government representatives of both sides and Native Authorities tried to annihilate the trouble but could not. I am glad that hon. Onugu and hon. J. C. Obande, Members of this House, are here to testify the fact that the inhabitants living on the boundary were unaware when the boundary was surveyed and demarcated. Consequently, they could not tell exactly the boundary.

In 1958 a village was discovered and the inhabitants exempted themselves from tax. The D. O. Nsukka and Idoma Division unanimously agreed that the village was situated

[MR ODO)

in the Northern Region. Idoma Native Authority had to populate the village but during the collection of tax the inhabitants refused to pay tax and the Idoma Native Authority being law abiding had to appeal to the Eastern Region Government for help. The Government promised to send the Idoma Native Authority the sum of £80 collected by the people themselves and sent to the Eastern Government but up to date nothing has been done. Mr Onugu, a Member of this House, is aware of this fact.

The secret Odozi-Obodo Society previously headed by the late Nwiboko-Obodo of Abakaliki Division is now making the border very dangerous. A lot of them exempted themselves from paying tax to either of the Regions. They pretend to live in neither of the regions and consequently excuse themselves from public activities such as payment of tax.

As the boundary was not well demarcated the society which moved in from Abakaliki Division found a jolly den on the border—

Mr P. E. Ekanem (Enyong South). Point of Order, Sir. Standing Order No. 25 (1). The Member shall not read his speech.

Mr Deputy Speaker: The Member is referring to his notes.

Mr Odo: The society which moved in from Abakaliki Division has found a jolly den on the border. I am sure the Government is aware of this fearful society which has formed a government of anarchy on the border.

Now Idoma Native Authority sent the Idoma N.A. police detachment to the border to prevent a series of crimes there but it is a great pity that such a small N.A. like the Idoma N.A. should face such a major national trouble instead of the administration of the Division. The ancestral inhabitants on the border formerly lived harmoniously with each other. They intermarried, played together, helping themselves in public welfare and consoled themselves when in agony. But the daily prayer of both parties is for evil to fall on each other. Why should our able Government allow anarchy on the border? It is high time Government eradicated the troubles by retracing the boundary and marking it by fixing permanent beacons, to annihilate the enmity between these two Regions.

I am quite sure that all the hon. Members of this House are lovers of tranquillity and therefore would not hesitate to approve this Motion. Sir, I beg to move.

Mr J. O. Ede (Idoma North): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to second the Motion "that this House urges the Government to retrace the boundary between the Eastern and Northern Regions and to mark it by fixing permanent beacons in order to obviate further land disputes between the people of the two Regions living along the boarder."

Sir, while seconding the Motion the following are the few observations I have to make. Geographically, Idoma Division is bounded on the North by Hausas, on the East by Tiv people and on the South and West by the Ibos. You can see with us that Idoma Division in Benue Province of the Northern Region is situated in a very critical position into which several tribes especially those of the Ibos on the Southern and Western sides are flocking to claim land and in order to confuse the issue they have dislodged and removed the beacons which marked the demarcation. These two Ibo tribes are naturally forceful and pushful in their attempt to satisfy their greed and will not mind cutting down any obstinate person to pieces if he shows any sign of resistance in yielding his piece of land to them.

Now, we appeal to the Government, feeling that it is high time the Government did something about the line of demarcation between the Eastern and Northern Regions in order to annihilate all causes of dispute between the people of the two Regions on the border.

Sir, I want to emphasise the mover of this Motion's remarks about the behaviour of these tribes. For instance, two sections of the Ibo tribe, the Ezzas and the Izzis, plunged into our land and organised a society known as "Odozi Obodo" two years ago. This society which was out mainly for killing, prowled the regions, murdered as many men and women as it could, collected the properties of the victims and eventually established itself as a ruling monarch. These Ibo tribes caused a vehement commotion in the Regions but thanks to the Governments which intervened, apprehended and hanged 75 murders at Jos and Enugu gallows respectively and checked the fatality which was then the order of the day.

Sir, I want to bring to the notice of this hon. House that Idoma people are not in any way hostile. They are peace-loving and hospitable and as such these forceful and pushful Ibos who plunged into Idoma to acquire farm land which they are deprived of in Abakaliki Division, will not have it free if the Government fails to place them in their proper place. We want the Government to do something and to do it right now before it is too late as we feel that more disputes are impending.

On the Eastern border of Idoma Division the inhabitants are the Tiv people. Idoma and Tiv Divisions are twin brothers littered by nature but the Residents and the District Officers in the Province who are nothing but confusionists are out there to create disunity and disharmony between the Tive and Idoma people. This category of Lord Lugard era officers thing that they can still rule the Province by the "Divide and Rule" method. I say "No". These officers instead of allowing the indigenous Idomas and Tivs to retrace their boundary themselves brotherly and amicably went and muddled up the whole thing. Let them keep out of our way and let us put our little knowledge of responsibility to practice.

Finally, Sir, Nigeria is on the threshold of independence and any act of lawlessness which may result in skirmish or in tribal warfare to constitute a disgrace and shame in Nigeria should be obviated by the Government. Sir, I second the Motion.

Question proposed.

The Minister of Works and Surveys (Alhaji the hon. Muhammadu Inuwa Wada): Mr Speaker, Sir, I have listened with great interest to the speeches of the mover and the seconder of this Motion and I must begin by saying that on the Government side, we recognise that this Motion has been introduced with the constructive intention of reducing land disputes between the people living along the boundary between the Northern and Eastern Regions. My information Sir, is the same as that of the hon. Member for Idoma West. There can be no doubt that uncertainty as to the precise location of the boundary has led to disputes and made their settlement more difficult.

I am even informed that on certain secondary roads, bridges have been broken down to prevent people passing to and from across the border. This is not a healthy situation. It is clearly advisable that something should be done to make the position of the boundary obvious to the people living on each side of it. As the mover of the Motion has said, permanent beacons are required. These, I am advised, might be placed at intervals of not more than 100 yards in these areas where disputes are particularly rife. Elsewhere, beaconing at longer intervals might be sufficient. The principle of the Motion is therefore fully acceptable to the Government (*Hear, hear*) but I regret that I must part company with the mover on the method which he proposes for the carrying out of the necessary beaconing works.

I would remind the House, Sir, that the boundary between the Eastern and Northern Regions, as with other inter-Regional boundaries, is already fixed. It is embodied in the constitutional instrument. The boundary is that which existed prior to coming into force of the Federal Constitution on the 1st of October, 1954. It is, however, true to say that the boundaries so defined have been gazetted on the basis of a number of local surveys and that there is in some areas scope for disagreement as to where the boundary lies in a particular locality.

It is the Government's view, Sir, that the settlement of these local uncertainties is properly the concern of the Regional Governments involved and not in the first instance of the Federal Government. Should any major disagreement arise, of course it will be necessary for the Federal Government to step in and give a decision. We must all hope, however, that along the boundary which we are now discussing it will be possible for the Regional Governments concerned to resolve any differences by mutual agreement. When they have done this, it should not be difficult for the Regional Survey organisations to lay down permanent beacons which the Survey Division of my Ministry will then survey very accurately for mapping purposes.

In this connection, Sir, I would remind the House that Item 29 of the Concurrent Legislative List relates to surveys and provides

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constitutional authority for Regional Governments to carry out beaconing of an inter-Regional boundary. It is therefore the contention of the Federal Government, Mr Speaker, that the best way to resolve the very real problem brought up in this motion is for the Federal Government to address the Northern and Eastern Regional Governments, pointing out to them the desirability of their taking early steps by mutual co-operation to locate the boundary precisely and put down permanent beacons to the extent that they consider necessary. Thereafter the mapping of the boundary will be undertaken by the Director of Federal Surveys. There will then be a well defined boundary on the ground and accurate maps recording this position can be made.

I trust, Sir, that on the basis of this proposal and on the explanation I have given the hon. mover of the motion will feel that the problem is being adequately dealt with and that he will in consequence be able to kindly withdraw the motion.

Mr E. A. Odo (Idoma West): Mr Speaker, Sir, in view of the explanation given me by the Government, I am satisfied and I beg to withdraw the motion.

Motion by leave withdrawn.

AGREEMENTS WITH FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS

Mr O. C. Ememe (Aba South): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to move that this House urges the Government not to enter into any trade agreement, commercial arrangement or financial agreement with foreign Governments or firms with foreign interests, without the prior approval of this House.

My motion, Mr Speaker, does not seek to debar the Government from entering into trade treaties or financial agreements with foreign Governments or foreign firms as such, but it requires prior approval before such an agreement is contracted. Where the situation does not permit of prior approval, my motion implies that the agreement so made receive the ratification of this House before it would be binding on this nation.

In short, the objects of this motion are, firstly, that the Government should refrain from signing trade agreements with foreign Governments without first of all obtaining the approval of this House; secondly, that should the Government ever enter into such treaties without prior approval, the agreement must, if it is to be legal, be ratified by this House; thirdly, that prior approval or ratification by the House on commercial treaties is also applicable to financial agreements; fourthly, that foreign or indigenous firms whose controlling share capital is owned by non-Nigerians are also covered by this motion. If the controlling share capital of fifty-one per cent is owned by foreign firms then such a firm must be regarded as predominantly foreign and should be grouped as foreign. What is applicable to foreign firms is applicable to this type of quasi-indigenous firms. The fifth object of this motion is that the Government should overhaul the membership of the National Economic Council and give it more functions so that it would advise the Government on the implications of the proposed trade and financial agreements.

The Government should accept this motion for it is designed to distribute the responsibility for signing such economically vital agreements not only to the Ministry but also to the Legislature. I feel that at this stage of our development our Ministers should be satisfied with the initiating of such trade or financial agreements but they should be insulated from unnecessary distortion by the Opposition and the enemies of the Government.

Mr Speaker, Sir, having surveyed the objects of this motion I must attempt to give some basic reasons that prompted my moving this motion. There are historical events that compel a modern Nigerian to think the way I now do. The British are notorious in treaty-making. During the 1830's, England did not hesitate to make trade treaties with the sovereign city-states of Bonny, Old Calabar, New Calabar in the Niger Delta. In the circumstance of gun-boat politics, it was the kings of these States that observed the terms of the treaties while England found all sorts of reasons to abrogate the treaties. When those our ancestors refused to dance to the tune of the British they got bullets in return. Britain would not keep to the terms of these commercial treaties because she was the stronger nation.

But, Sir, the role of the British in the Anglo-Iranian Oil Treaty shows the British enforcing the terms of the treaty. No doubt an agreement was reached between the British Oil Company and the Government of Iran on the distribution of the profits from the petroleum mined from Iran. The Iranians relied on the British honesty and for years everything went well between them. What happened? It was later discovered that the British oil experts were abusing the trust put on them. They were using technical tricks to deprive Iran of her share of profits. Consequently, the nationalists under Mosadeq in anger nationalised the Company's assets. Suddenly the whole world was made to believe that it was the Iranian nationalists that were to blame for the abrogation of the treaty.

Similar events took place in many other parts of the world to illustrate the fact that trade or commercial agreements are tools of the strong against the weaker nation. History is replete with such trade or financial agreements which are designed to protect primarily the interest of the stronger power.

Secondly, Sir, recent events in Nigeria portray the facts that capitalist powers and their agents have not given up the old idea of using commercial and financial agreements to gain their objectives. A case in point is the Nigerian Shipping Lines Agreement. By some queer device in the Articles of Association, through Clause 67(c) of the Memorandum, the Nigeria Produce Marketing Company, a Government body owning 25 per cent of the share capital of the Shipping Lines, was precluded from appointing a Director to the Lines. But the other partners—Elder Dempster Lines and Palm Lines—were permitted to appoint their own directors to represent them in the Nigerian Shipping Lines. In addition to this discriminating allocation of Nigerian Shipping Lines, the Conference Lines were given an added monopoly over the business in Nigeria since other shipping lines were virtually excluded from carrying Nigerian produce.

The agreement went further to complicate matters by making Mr Ojukwu, the Chairman of the Nigerian Produce Marketing Company,

a director of the Shipping Lines. He was made a director not because he represented the Produce Marketing Company but because he has a nominal share of £1 in the Shipping Line. In effect, the Conference Lines succeeded in reinforcing their monopoly over Nigerian produce.

We all know what controversy arose out of this sort of commercial agreement. The Western Regional Government and Southern Cameroons refused to participate in the Nigeria Produce Marketing Company—(Interruptions).

Sir, another arrangement was entered into by this Government with one British company—the British Overseas Airways Corporation—an arrangement which instead of enhancing competition destroyed competition. The Nigerian Airways Corporation was formed as a partnership between the Government and B.O.A.C. while the B.O.A.C. is still operating. In effect, the new Nigerian Airways became a subsidiary of the British Company. Of course, that was not the original objective, but it turned out to be so.

On the financial side we are not lacking with examples of a similar nature. What of the much-praised fifty-fifty profit-sharing agreement between this Government and Shell-BP? One would expect that such an agreement would be made twenty years hence when Shell-BP would be operating at a profit. But no, Sir, it was made almost twenty years too early—last year. The Government is to share profits with this company now when the company is operating at a loss! Meanwhile, the royalty tax which would yield as much as £600,000 per annum is to be deducted from this type of arrangement. This implies that the company would not be expected to pay the royalty tax again, even though nothing substitutes this huge income for as long as the company operates on a loss or less profit than the royalty.

Behind this appetising fifty-fifty agreement lurks the heavy drain on the country's revenue. To generate more confusion, the Estimate shows that the royalties would be received for this financial year. What really happened, Sir, was that Shell-BP, realizing the embarrassment the absence of the royalty tax would cause the Government, undertook to continue

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[MR EMEME] ... the payment of the royalty as if they had no right to withdraw it. Whether Shell-BP would continue with this type of generous act without deducting it from their future remittances is another question.

If these agreements signed recently by the Government were given wide publicity through the Legislature, I am sure there would have been some Members who would have spotted out their weak points to the best interest of the people of this country.

Mr Speaker, Sir, another basic reason for moving this Motion is that Government should avoid the embarrassing criticism on these vital issues by reducing some under secrecy on matters of public concern. In this modern Nigeria we find that there are many agents of criticism on the Government. There is the Opposition which stops at nothing to shower criticism, usually destructive criticism, on the Government. I think the Government should not play into the hands of the Opposition that is embittered for being incapable of forming the Government (*Interruptions*).

Sir, the press is not in any way passive about the acts of our Ministers. The press can marshal support from the public against the Government: the press can also do the opposite. Our Ministers should take delight in compelling even the Opposition newspapers to shower praise on the Government.

Criticism also does originate from the House and may even spread like mushroom to the public. Because every act of the Government is open to criticism and because destructive criticism harbours in misdeeds which are committed through the wrong perspective. And it is timely that my Motion has come to rescue the Government from future criticism.

Still another basic reason why this Motion is important. So far, Sir, the main source of advice to our Ministers before they enter into these agreements is the Permanent Secretaries. Being Europeans or foreigners, these Permanent Secretaries have double loyalty, to their own country first and Nigeria second. Whatever advice they offer must be a compromise between the interest of their homeland and this country. This is to say the least. In normal circumstances these expatriate civil servants pay lip service to Nigerian interest. Behind all their actions there is the tendency to hold as

supreme the wishes of their own people. Hence, Sir, the advice of expatriate Permanent Secretaries must be hinged with bias. It is therefore wrong for any Minister to rely on their advice. For this reason it is necessary to receive advice from other quarters other than the Permanent Secretaries.

Finally, Mr Speaker, Sir, it is necessary to distribute the burden of responsibility for entering into trade or financial treaties with foreign interests. Let the House share the responsibility, let the public participate. The time has gone when we shall be content with receiving mere reports of Ministerial acts. The era has gone when the role of this House is to say just *Aye* or *No*. We Members wish to have a say in any agreement that affects the interest of our electorate. We are equally concerned as to the Executive on these vital matters. Therefore, the distribution of responsibility does not only favour the Executive but renders the Members of this hon. House more responsible.

Sir, the Leader of the Opposition suggested in his speech on the Floor of this House that the Government should set up a high-powered economic commission which would examine this type of agreement and advise the Government on the appropriate action to take. Sir, it appears that the Leader of the Opposition has forgotten that—(*Interruptions*)—it is regionalism to which he is the author that renders the function of the existing National Economic Council merely a co-ordinating body. If the Action Group, Government of the West, would co-operate with the Federal Government there is no reason why the scope of the Council cannot be widened.

It is no use coming to the Floor of this House and making statements that give false impressions on the real actions of the people concerned. In my view, it is a duplication of function to create a new Economic Commission when the National Economic Council can serve the same purpose. This Government has not got the money for such expensive duplications.

Nobody is infallible, no Minister can hope to be free from mistakes, the same applies to the Permanent Secretaries. Admitted that these Chief Executive Officers are likely to

drag this nation into a regrettable position by their wrong judgment, it is therefore necessary to seek approval of this hon. House whenever this Government enters into any commercial or financial arrangement with foreign powers.

Therefore, I wish the Government to accept the Motion and to take this simple procedure that this my suggestion will take. Drafts of the would-be agreement would be presented to the modified National Economic Council which would examine the agreement critically and offer its recommendations. The amended and adjusted agreement would then be signed by the Minister of Commerce and Industry or the Minister of Finance who would make it clear to the other signatories that the agreement must undergo ratification. The agreement would then be brought to this House for ratification after which it should become binding.

By this new procedure, all the machinery of the Government and the contributions of the intelligentsias of this country should be marshalled and utilised because the people wish to know as much as possible how they are governed and the arrangements their Government is making towards their welfare, especially in commerce and because they want to participate through their accredited representatives in this House in any Government undertaking. It is therefore necessary that the Federal Government receives the prior approval, or if the approval is not possible, the ratification of this House. Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move.

Dr B. U. Nzeribe (Orlu West): Mr Speaker, Sir, in rising to second this Motion—(An hon. Member: Do you want to suffer a second defeat?)

Mr Speaker: Will the hon. Gentleman speak as loudly as possible please; he is hard to follow.

Dr Nzeribe: In seconding this Motion I want only to make very few observations. The first is what I call a policy of full utilization of the resources at the disposal of the Government and I believe that the starting ground for this is to utilise the resources which the Government has in this House.

Several hon. Members: Agreements, agreements!

Dr Nzeribe: Yes, agreements of course, it is not out of order. The Motion calls for agreement to be placed at the disposal of this House before it is signed and I am saying that the resources of this House should be utilised to the full. I am in order.

Now, Mr Speaker, I am talking of what I call a policy of scientific humility. I think that what is wrong—

Several hon. Members: Sit down, sit down.

Question proposed

The Prime Minister (Alhaji the hon. Sir Abubakar Tafawa Balewa): Mr Speaker, Sir, I can already sense the feeling of the House on this Motion and I am not surprised that the hon. Mover finds it very difficult to speak to the Motion. I am also very surprised to find that the Motion has got a seconder.

First of all I want to read the Motion again so that hon. Members will see what the hon. Member is asking for. It says, "That this House urges the Government not to enter into any trade agreement, commercial arrangement or financial agreement with foreign Governments, or firms with foreign interests, without the prior approval of this House." Sir, all hon. Members will agree that no Government can function with these restrictions and therefore it is not necessary for me to make a long speech but to say that we on the Government Bench very strongly oppose the Motion. (*Hear, hear*).

M. Ali Monguno (Kaga-Marghi): Mr Speaker, Sir, it is rather untimely for the mover to have moved such a Motion. It is fantastic and ridiculous to request in this hon. House that the Government should not conduct any business without summoning this hon. House. It is rather expensive. If for every agreement this House is to be summoned I am sure the hon. Mover will find in his own constituency a feeling that it is an expensive business and his constituency will certainly not approve of it.

It is a waste of time for both the Government and the House and may I therefore point out that we cannot under any circumstance support this Motion or any other similar Motion. Sir, I beg to oppose.

Mr O. C. Ememe (Aba South): In the circumstances—

Several hon. Members: What circumstances?

Mr Ememe: I wish, Mr Speaker, Sir, in the circumstances, and after hearing the Prime Minister make his statement to withdraw the Motion. (*Shame, shame*)

Mr Speaker: It is your pleasure that the Motion be withdrawn.

Motion by leave withdrawn.

EDUCATIONAL POLICY

Mr F. A. M. Amadi (Nsukka Central): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to move the Motion standing in my name on the Order Paper, "that this House views with grave concern the falling standards of education in this country and urges the Government to take appropriate steps to remedy the situation by co-operating with the Regional Governments in formulating a single educational policy for the whole country". I am moving this Motion, Sir with a high sense of seriousness and responsibility—(*Interruptions*).

I believe that the Government and this hon. House will accept this Motion from the spirit with which it is moved. Only the other day an educated man, the Leader of the Opposition admitted that the standard of education in this country is appalling. In order to appreciate the urgency of this Motion, Sir, permit me to review rapidly the historical background to this problem.

The pioneers of Western literary education in this country were the Missionaries. In 1842, the Wesleyan Methodist Missionary Society established a school at Badagry, before the coming of the British—(*Interruptions*.)

Mr Speaker: It is really not possible to hear at this end of the Chamber when there is so much noise coming from the Members surrounding the mover of this Motion.

Mr Amadi: The Church Missionary Society and the United Free Church of Scotland started at Calabar in 1847. After the establishment of the Colony and Protectorate of Nigeria the attitude of the Government was expressed in the first Education Ordinance and it was a very classic one. It simply stated that the Government would promote and

assist education. In 1925, the Advisory Committee on Education for the Colonies made a report and said that "Education should be adapted to the mentality, aptitude, occupations and traditions of the various peoples, conserving as far as possible all healthy elements in the fabric of their society."

Sir, we are all living witnesses of how far the educational policy and practice in Nigeria has been influenced by this declaration. The imperialist, Sir, was more interested in the exploitation of the resources, natural and human, of colonial peoples. Witness Dr Verwoerd's blunt declaration of policy to the South African Senate when he was Minister of Native Affairs: "The school must equip the native to meet the demands which the economic life of South Africa will impose upon him. . . . There is no place for the native in European society above the level of certain forms of labour."

James Duffy, in writing on Portuguese Africa has this to say about their educational policy: "There is no place in this educational policy for African traditions and institutions".

I do not wish to bother hon. Members with further quotations on this point but would leave them to reflect on and digest these and akin declarations of policy. I wish however to draw attention to the phrase "There is no place for the native". The educational policy of the imperialists in Nigeria did no better. It was designed to produce the clergy, clerks and interpreters. It was an education for servitude. That is why to-day we are constantly faced with that too-often repeated retort that we lack qualified men to fill responsible posts. It is not for lack of native intelligence for Dr Walter Miller declares in his book "Success in Nigeria": "We have in Nigeria a group of tribes and peoples probably unequalled in Africa for intelligence. Even among the tribes which appear to be most backward we find that rapid progress is made, more rapid possibly, than among peoples who have long had their minds warped by stereotyped, static codes of conduct."

What we see is a warped and distorted idea of education, an interpretation of education as a word derived from the latin *educio*—which means to lead out, and which has led our youths out into the towns where we are faced

with a diversity of social problems. We must part company with such an educational system which, but for Christianity, is notoriously lacking in ideal; colonially pragmatic in outlook, dangerously materialistic in content and selfishly utilitarian in aim. We must cast overboard an education system that is based on the Salazarian philosophy of faith, toil and family. Such is an education for servitude.

What we want is a sound philosophical approach to education as derived from the Latin *educare*—which means to grow up, to nourish; a liberal system of education that will nourish Nigerian youths and make them grow up; an educational re-orientation that is integral rather than differential. This hon. House owes it as a duty to the coming generations to pass on to them a rich and sound educational policy, and should not for lack of correct basic educational principles propagate and perpetuate an invidious heritage of colonialism. To succeed in this duty, Sir, this hon. House must fight the bane of regionalisation, constitutionally of course.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I submit that the fall in standards has been mainly due to the following causes: regionalisation of education; the unscientific manner in which universal primary education was introduced in the Regions; the absence of a defined educational policy for the whole country; shortage of trained staff; prostitution and commercialisation of the noble profession of teaching; promotion in the profession is based on certification; and teaching is used as a springboard for other jobs.

The expansion in school population became so rapid and overwhelming that any pretender was appointed a teacher. The situation was worsened by the fact that District and County Council Secretaries were constituted as Managers of School. They proceeded to appoint teachers to Council schools just as they appointed road overseers. The financial pinch soon began to be felt by the various Governments.

The West Regional Government arbitrarily raised the registration age to a child's sixth year and reduced the primary school course to cover six years. History, Geography and Civics were done only in the last two years in this new type of Primary School, which in

order to enhance the status of the new Secondary Modern Schools, subjects proper to the primary school course were deferred until a pupil went to these fee-collecting secondary modern schools. This spelt doom because these secondary modern schools were meant to be fee-collecting and standards in a way sank.

Mr Speaker, Sir, permit me to quote from the Report of the Ministry of Education of the West Regional Government page 12. "Needlework but not Domestic Science was included in the curriculum, but the latter subject was left to the new secondary modern schools. Unfortunately instruction in needlework was hampered by parents refusing to meet the cost of materials in a 'free' education scheme. Unqualified teachers were unable to teach needlework satisfactorily, and many mixed schools were without female staff (*Prolonged interruption*). In the same way Rural Science for boys was transferred to the secondary modern school syllabus, and gardening was included in the primary school curriculum". On page 15, one reads: "Inspector's reports revealed low teaching standards in general which might be largely due to a widespread lack of responsibility among primary school teachers about 74 per cent of whom were untrained".

Mr Speaker, Sir, I have made these quotations not as a criticism of the West Regional Government but as a statement of fact. In the East the difficulties raised by the introduction of the Universal Primary Education Scheme is nearly along the same line except that in the East the Primary School course is still eight years but I understand that in the North it is seven years. These facts will come into true perspectives when I come to show how this affects the quality of the education offered. You will find that a majority of teachers spend their time in preparing for external examinations.

Mr Speaker, Sir, why is this so? One reason, Sir, is the lack of security in the teaching profession. Many aspirants see no future in it and they are victims of economic forces.

Mr Speaker : I would ask the hon. Member speaking to raise his voice as well as he can. It is very difficult to hear him over in this corner.

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Mr Amadi: They know that their future and their fortune will be determined by the certificate they hold and that is why they spend so much time reading for other examinations. Promotion depends on certification. The existence of so many Teacher Training Colleges throughout the Federation augurs well for the future of education, but the wastage due to exodus from the profession is alarming. Disparity in salaries and conditions of service are partly responsible. But, Sir, I think that our teacher training institutions should do more than imparting knowledge. The right attitude and approach to our educational problems should permeate the teacher-student work and any wastage should better take place during the period of training.

I submit, Sir, that this Government should give top priority to this problem of formulating a single educational policy that is Nigerian in concept, content and objective. Why must we have four different heads who emphasise their differences, and maybe in opposition, in outlook even in their very names, to wit: Advisers, Chief Inspectors, Director and what-not. Here are heads, each independent of the other, each pursuing a policy unrelated to that pursued by the other, and yet each ostensibly laying the foundation for a common and competitive entrance examination into our proposed inter-Regional Secondary Schools and other Secondary Grammar Schools.

How can we assess this course for admission? How can we expect these four independent heads to produce the same results? The Romans have a saying '*Quot hominis, tot sententia*'. As many men, so many opinions. As long as the heads of education remain independent and isolated from one another so long shall our schools produce divergent and doubtful results.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I appeal to this hon. House to give this Motion its blessing and to the Government to accept it in the spirit in which it is moved. Nigeria on the threshold of independence must set her house in order to grapple with the new situation. We must set our back resolutely on that system of education devised by the imperialists to keep the colonial people in perpetual subjection, that system of education that promotes the imperialistic motto of '*Divide et impera*', that system of education that fails to nourish and make our youths grow up to the full stature of man.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I submit with due deference that the existence and continuation of our educational policies, standards and systems in Nigeria is untenable, unjustifiable, unprogressive, expensive and dissipatory. Close co-ordination through a central advisory body should be accepted as a temporary measure pending such constitutional arrangement as may be necessary to make Education a Federal subject.

The conditions of service of all teachers should be reviewed and altered to attract into and keep in the profession men and women with a high sense of mission.

I, therefore, appeal to this Government in the humblest and strongest terms to approach the Regional Governments with a view to establishing a Federal Advisory Council on Education. At least 75 per cent of the members of this Council should be active, indigenous educationists drawn from the three Regions and the Federal territory. Their first task should be to formulate a policy which will form the basis of primary education for the whole country. Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move.

Mr U. O. Ayeni (Afemai North West): Mr Speaker, Sir, as the time is terribly against us we implore the hon. Minister of Education to move his Amendment, but I would like to give a few suggestions. What the Motion is seeking is that the Government should take appropriate steps to remedy the situation by calling on the Regional Governments in formulating a single education policy for the Federation. We are not asking the Government to abolish the Ministries of Education in other Regions; all we are saying is that there should be a central system of education.

I do not want to take you back into the history of education in this country but I would like to offer my suggestions to the Minister. I am going to do this very briefly. Some of the present educational programmes reflect the needs of missionaries, traders and so on. All that was needed in the past was to train somebody to become a clerk.

The programmes do not at all cover vocational training. All you have to do is to be able to push a pen, and at present we inherit that programme which I think is rather unprogressive. Our present programmes are based on standards developed in the United Kingdom.

These standards are imposed on us without any reference to our social and historical institutions. I do not always agree that what works well in one place works well in another. There are certain conditions which one meets only in a particular country. Therefore our policy must be related to the mentality, the aptitudes, the occupations and traditions of Nigeria.

Now I would also like the Minister to think of the possibility of having a central Inspectorate of Education. Already we have a large number who have been operating throughout the country. With particular reference to the Western Region where I live, you have so many of them, and there are few who know anything about the history of Education of our country. (*Shame*). What I am trying to say is one man can give one kind of advice, and another man who has not gone to a different Teacher Training College will give you another kind of advice. If anybody is going to be in the Inspectorate Branch of the Ministry, whether Federal or Regional, he should be a trained teacher. (*Interruption*).

Finally, whatever policy we have to formulate about education, I would like the Government to take the Nigerian Union of Teachers into full confidence.

Mr Speaker : There remains the Amendment on the Order Paper relating to educational policy.

The Minister of Education (Hon. Aja Nwachuku) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to propose the amendment standing in my name on the Order Paper, namely that the Motion should be amended to read, "That in order to maintain and promote common standards of education throughout the Federation of Nigeria, this House urges the Federal Government to continue to develop means of inter-Regional consultation and collaboration on matters of common concern in the field of education".

The ideal of a single educational policy for the whole country is something with which I am in entire sympathy. I agree too that we should have common standards and that those standards should be set at the highest possible level. Nevertheless, I have been unable to accept the Motion in the way it is tabled by the two hon. Members who have moved it. They have invited the House to express its grave concern with the falling standards of education throughout the Federation. That is altogether too sweeping.

I cannot speak for the Regions, for whose educational systems I have no responsibility, and I do not think it would be appropriate for this House to seek to probe too far into the situation in the Regions, in the absence of any representative of the Regional Governments to explain and define their Governments' policy. My constitutional responsibilities in so far as Education is concerned are confined to the Federal territory of Lagos and to the University College, Ibadan and the Nigerian College of Technology.

I refute the suggestion that standards are falling in the schools of Lagos or in the two institutions of higher education. I have already referred in the House to the steady expansion that has taken place in the University and in the Nigerian College and I am satisfied that standards there, far from declining, are improving constantly. I have, too, already spoken about developments in the primary, secondary, technical and teacher training fields in the Federal territory. The dramatic increase in the numbers to whom we are giving education has not resulted in any decline in standards. Buildings and equipment are incomparably better than anything we had before and the ratio of trained to untrained teachers, while still not satisfactory, also shows an improvement.

Mr Speaker : Order, order. It is now a quarter to six o'clock and I am bound to interrupt the Debate.

ORDER OF THE DAY

FEDERAL SUPREME COURT BILL

Order for second reading read.

The Minister of Transport and Aviation : Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to move that a Bill for an Ordinance to be cited as the Federal Supreme Court Ordinance, 1960, be now read a second time.

Sir, when the Federal Supreme Court was established in 1954, provision was made for it to begin to function by an adaptation of the Federal Supreme Court (Appeals) Ordinance which was formerly the West African Court of Appeal Ordinance. Now this was done under the adaptation powers conferred by the Nigerian Constitution Order in Council, 1954, and was intended as a temporary measure pending the preparation, in due course, of a

[MINISTER OF TRANSPORT]

new Ordinance which would make comprehensive provision for the Federal Supreme Court in the light of the Constitution Orders.

In 1955, Sir, a new Ordinance entitled the Federal Supreme Court General Provisions Ordinance 1955 was enacted to supplement the law then in existence, namely the Federal Supreme Court (Appeals) Ordinance. At the same time the provisions of the Federal Supreme Court (Appeals) Ordinance were expanded by an amending Ordinance. Since then a series of decisions at the Constitutional Conferences has resulted in amendments to the Constitution Order which have affected the jurisdiction, powers and procedure of the Court.

Sir, the provisions of these Ordinances as affected by the constitutional provisions relating to that Court should now be consolidated into one Ordinance, and it is for this purpose that the Bill now before this House has been designed. The opportunity has also been taken to rectify an anomaly in the existing legislation in respect of periods of appeal and to provide for new salaries for the Chief Justice of the Federation and the Federal Justices, in consequence of the general revision of salaries of the Federal Public Service.

The Objects and Reasons of the Bill, Sir, are set out very clearly at the end of the Bill, and it is now unnecessary for me to go into any details or to repeat them. Sir, I beg to move.

The Minister of Education : Sir, I beg to second.

Question proposed.

Mr R. O. A. Akinjide : (Ibadan South East): Mr Speaker, Sir, I should say that this is a very welcome Bill, and that members of the legal profession, both on the Bench and at the Bar, will welcome this Bill. There are far-reaching provisions as far as the practice and procedure of the Federal Supreme Court is concerned. Under the old practice, under the old law, it was not possible for a legal professional to make an application to a single Member of the Federal Supreme Court. You have to wait until the three Members of the Federal Supreme Court are available before any Motion could be brought or any application entertained. But I can see under the present law and particularly

under section 10 of the new law it will be possible either in a criminal or civil matter for a lawyer to bring his application to the Federal Supreme Court to be entertained by a single judge and if the application is refused you can still go on and appeal to the full court of three judges in the Federal Supreme Court.

An hon. Member : Which law ?

Mr Akinjide : The old law. I practice almost every month at the Federal Supreme Court and I think I know very well the practice and procedure in the Federal Supreme Court.

Also there are two other provisions which confer a Regional jurisdiction on the Federal Supreme Court in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution Order in Council. But I have one more remark to make and that is in respect of the rules of procedure of the Federal Supreme Court. What we are using now are mainly the old W.A.C.A. rules and unfortunately most of these rules are not available for sale. The result is that local practitioners have to go to the Chambers of people who have these rules and people who have appeals or people who have applications to make have got to search.

There have been occasions when practitioners in Akure had to come down to Ibadan and those from Ibadan had to come to Lagos only to get these rules from the Chambers of other practitioners or at the Registry. This situation should be remedied by the Minister in charge. I do not see any reason why the new Federal Supreme Court Rules should not be publicised, printed and made available for all practitioners to use.

Also under the new law I see that new responsibilities are given to the Chief Registrar of the Federal Supreme Court. I think this is a speech I could have made yesterday when we were considering the financial provisions for the Legal Department. All the same I think the present salary of the Chief Registrar of the Federal Supreme Court is inadequate having regard to the new responsibilities which are imposed upon him. At the moment the Registrar of the Federal Supreme Court is in Group 6. He earns the same salary as the Chief Registrar of Lagos and the same salary as the Chief Registrar of the Eastern Region, the Northern Region, and the Western Region.

Those of us who practice at the Federal Supreme Court know the responsibility of the Registrar of the Federal Supreme Court. He has to handle appeals from the Southern Cameroons, from the Eastern Region, from the Western Region, from the Northern Region, and from Lagos.

Under the present provision of the law and the Constitutional Order in Council certain actions have to commence from the Federal Supreme Court as the Court of first instance. You cannot compare the duties of the Regional Chief Registrars who handle only appeals from Magistrates' Courts or Customary Courts or matters commenced at short instance from a Regional High Court, to the responsibility of the Chief Registrar of the Federal Supreme Court. The result now is that the office of the Chief Registrar of the Federal Supreme Court is vacant. You cannot get anybody to apply for that job. I understand somebody applied from one of the Regions but he could not take up the job simply because the salary is not commensurate with the duties he has to discharge and, furthermore, if he comes down to Lagos he will be earning the same salary as he is earning in one of the Regions at the moment and even paying more tax. So that it pays him to remain in the Regions rather than to come to Lagos.

So I am humbly suggesting to the Minister in charge to consider increasing the salary of the Chief Registrar of the Federal Supreme Court. The man who is there now is acting.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to support.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read a second time and committed to a committee of the whole House.

Bill immediately considered in committee

(In the Committee)

Clauses 1-16 agreed to.

Clause 17 :

Chief O. B. Akin. Olugbade (Egba South) : Mr Chairman, Sir, "The Supreme Court shall be a Colonial Court of Admiralty within the meaning of the Colonial Courts of Admiralty Act, 1890, and shall have and exercise Admiralty jurisdiction in accordance with the

provisions of the said Act in all matters arising upon the high seas or elsewhere upon any lake, river or other navigable inland waters or otherwise relating to ships or shipping."

I am wondering whether, Mr Chairman, the words "Colonial Court of Admiralty" would be appropriate in this clause. Why "Colonial Court of Admiralty within the meaning of the Colonial Courts of Admiralty Act, 1890" ? Why do you have to call it Colonial Court of Admiralty ?

The Minister of Transport and Aviation (Hon. R. A. Njoku) : Mr Chairman, Sir, as the hon. Member realises some of these Acts of the British Parliament still bind us and we derive the jurisdiction of our Courts from some of these laws until the 30th September, this year. I told you during this Meeting that we are preparing a Maritime Code which would cover all these aspects and when that is promulgated this law, naturally, will be superseded. As the law now stands it is in order.

Chief Olugbade : I am fully aware that the provisions of the Colonial Court of Admiralty Act, 1890 still applies in Nigeria, especially since it was before 1900, but my objection is the word "Colonial" which will not affect the import of the clause. If we take the word "Colonial" from the first line the Supreme Court shall be the Court of Admiralty within the meaning of the Colonial Court of Admiralty Act 1890. I have no objection to the name of the Act but establish a Court of Admiralty, that is my point.

Clause 17 agreed to.

Clauses 18 to 38 agreed to.

Bill to be reported.

(Mr Speaker resumed the Chair).

Bill reported without amendment, read the third time and passed.

HIGH COURT OF LAGOS (AMENDMENT) BILL

Order for second reading read.

The Minister of Transport and Aviation (Hon. R. A. Njoku) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to move that a Bill for an Ordinance to amend the High Court of Lagos Ordinance, 1955, be now read a second time.

[MINISTER OF TRANSPORT]

Sir, this is a very short Bill, and I hope to be brief in moving it. It is complementary to the Bill which has just been passed. Its main object is to amend the High Court Ordinance and to take into account the provisions of the Nigeria Constitution (Amendment) (Order in Council), 1959, in relation to this Court. It does not involve any new alterations of substance other than the provisions for the use of official shorthand writers for the recording of court proceedings.

The other purposes of the Bill are clearly set out in the Objects and Reasons, and need not be repeated.

Sir, I beg to move.

The Minister of State (Hon. M. T. Mbu): Mr Speaker, I beg to second.

Question proposed.

Mr E. C. Akwivu (Orlu South-East): Mr Speaker, Sir, the innovation is a very interesting as well as an encouraging one. But what one might ask is that as we are now going to start using stenographers in recording court proceedings that very care be taken to see that we do not create a new class of judges, because one remembers very vividly that with the Native Courts the writers invariably produce all sorts of reports and find it a very good means of living in supplementing their earnings at the expense of litigants, and I am sure everyone here knows what that means.

Mr Speaker, Sir, we seriously urge it on the Government to make sure that the stenographers or the shorthand writers who will help in taking down court proceedings would be as fair as possible and would be people of the highest integrity and people who would not prostitute that well-intentioned innovation and turn it into some unfortunate and subversive means of defeating justice.

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 5 agreed to.

Bill to be reported.

(Mr Speaker resumed the Chair)

Bill reported, without amendment, read the third time and passed.

NATIVE LIQUOR (TOWNSHIPS AND CERTAIN AREAS) (VALIDATION) BILL

Order for second reading read.

The Minister of Lagos Affairs (Alhaji the hon. Muhammadu Ribadu): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to move that a Bill for an Ordinance to validate all Acts of the Lagos Town Council as a Licensing Authority under and to apply to Lagos the provisions of Native Liquor Townships and certain Areas Ordinances, 15th October, 1950, be now read a second time.

This, Sir, is a short and simple Bill and its sole purpose is to correct an error of oversight which occurred nearly ten years ago. As you are aware, Sir, the Native Liquor (Townships and Certain Areas Ordinance) provides for the control of the manufacture and sale of native liquor in Townships and certain other specified Areas. By native liquor is meant liquor made locally and the palm wine. In fact what is referred to in the Liquor Licensing Ordinance 1959 as Country Liquor.

Now, Sir, when the native liquor came to some certain areas an Ordinance was enacted in 1945 and it was provided that it should apply to all townships and that of course meant it was applicable to Lagos. By virtue of Section 126 of the Lagos Local Government Ordinance of 1950, however, Lagos ceased to be a township within the meaning of the Township Ordinance with effect from the 15th of October of that year and Lagos Town Council automatically ceased to be a licensing authority under the Native Liquor Township and Certain Areas Ordinance from that day. Unfortunately this cessation of the powers of the Lagos Town Council was overlooked at that time with the result that although no order was made re-applying the Ordinance to Lagos the Lagos Town Council continued to carry out the functions of the Licensing Authority and it has continued to do so right up to the present date.

The purpose of this Bill is therefore two-fold—to validate the past acts of the Lagos Town Council in collecting fees for native liquor licensing since the fifteenth of October 1950, and also to apply to Lagos from that date the provisions of the Native Liquor Township and Certain Areas Ordinance. Sir, in fairness to the Lagos Town Council I think I should say that the question of collection of fees

in respect of the issue of licences for the sale of native liquor was raised in correspondence between the Town Council the Central Government and the Government of the Western Region as long ago as 1953, but for some reason which is not clear from the paper now available the matter was shelved at that time and it was never followed up.

Clearly it is necessary to have a Licensing Authority for this type of liquor in Lagos and obviously the most appropriate authority to exercise this function is the Lagos Town Council. I do not think there can be any serious disagreement with that, nor may I say has the exercise of those functions by the Town Council in the past been questioned or challenged. Nevertheless it is, of course, the duty of the Government to ensure that there is a legal sanction for the exercise of powers of this nature. That is why the Bill has been brought before you and I commend it to this hon. House for approval.

Mr Speaker, Sir, as I said the Bill is very very short, simple, non-contentious, straightforward, and I therefore commend it to the House and I hope the House will pass it without any comments. Sir, I beg to move.

The Minister of Works (Alhaji the hon. Inua Wada): Sir, I beg to Second.

Question proposed.

Mr L. J. Dosunmu (Lagos Central): Mr Speaker, Sir, while supporting this Bill, I would like to say one or two things. Firstly, to appreciate the fact that this mistake was, as the Minister rightly pointed out, as far back as 1950, and 1950 according to the law, and it was only in 1953 that attention was drawn to it by the Lagos Town Council through correspondence to the Central Government and also the Western Regional Government.

I entirely agree with the spirit of this Bill, firstly because, if you like to put it that way, it legalises the illegal collections because these collections were made without legal basis, to use the words of the Minister when he was rejecting Rapson. Now he said that the fees in respect of market stalls were collected illegally, no legal basis for it. Here is a case where the Lagos Town Council collected licence fees without legal basis for it. Now what I want to say at this stage is that if the

Minister sees any justification for validating these illegal collections I wonder why he has refused to validate the illegal collection of fees in respect of markets as well. (*Interruptions*). I am only asking him to be honest and consistent with the people of this country.

Sir, I beg to support.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read a Second Time and committed to a committee of the whole House.

Bill immediately considered in Committee.

(In the Committee)

Clauses 1 and 2 agreed to.

Clause 3.

The Minister of Lagos Affairs (Alhaji the hon. Muhammadu Ribadu): Mr Chairman, Sir, I beg to move in Clause 3, page C82, line 24, after "document" insert "and all such entries in books ledgers and other documents". The only purpose of this amendment is to correct a drafting error. This must have been inadvertently omitted by the Legal Draftsman.

Amendment proposed.

Question, That the words proposed to be inserted be there inserted put and agreed to.

Clause 3 as amended agreed to.

Clause 4 agreed to.

Preamble agreed to.

Bill to be reported.

(Mr Speaker resumed the Chair)

Bill reported with an amendment, read the Third Time and passed.

CUSTOMS AND EXCISE MANAGEMENT (AMENDMENT) BILL

The Minister of Finance (Chief the hon. Festus Okotie-Eboh): Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that a Bill entitled "A Bill for An Ordinance to Amend the Customs and Excise Management Ordinance, 1958 (No. 55 of 1958)" be now read a Second Time.

Sir, this is a non-contentious and straightforward Bill brought to this House to regularise certain irregularities in this Bill. I therefore commend it for the approval and acceptance of this hon. House.

Sir, I beg to move.

The Minister of Works and Surveys (Alhaji the hon. Inua Wada): Sir, I beg to cond.

House of Representatives Debates

1883

[Customs and Excise

26 APRIL 1960

Management Bill]

1884

Question proposed.

(Mr Speaker resumed the Chair)

Question put and agreed to.

Bill reported, without amendment, read the Third Time and passed.

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

Bill immediately considered in Committee.

And it being after 6 p.m. Mr Speaker adjourned the House without Question put, pursuant to Standing Order 4 (10).

(In the Committee)

Clauses 1-5 agreed to.

Adjourned accordingly at twenty-two minutes past six o'clock.

Bill to be reported.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NIGERIA

Wednesday, 27th April, 1960
The House met at 10 a.m.

PRAYERS

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

PAPERS

Mr Speaker : The following papers required by Statute to be laid on the Table of the House, of which copies have been delivered to the office of the Clerk, are deemed to have been laid on the Table. Copies of these will be printed and distributed to Members in due course.

(1) Statement of the Guarantee by the Federal Government of a loan made by the Bank of West Africa to the Lagos Executive Development Board.

(2) Statement of the Guarantee by the Federal Government of a Loan made by the United States Development Loan Fund to the Nigerian Ports Authority.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS :
COMMUNICATIONS

Postal agencies in Orlu Division

*O.145. **Mr E. C. Akwivu** asked the Minister of Communications how many postal agencies there are in Orlu Division ; how many of them will, by the end of the present financial year, have attained the necessary minimum qualifications for conversion into sub-post offices ; and if the Government are taking any steps towards converting such of them as are so qualified into sub-post offices.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Communications : There are twenty-three postal agencies in the Orlu Division, and the Ministry of Communications is arranging to convert the one at Nkwerre into a sub-post office. Of the others, the Ama Igbo agency is most nearly eligible to be so converted, but as it is carrying on business at a little more than half the requisite rate it is unlikely to become fully eligible within the next twelve months.

Telephones for Hospitals and Colleges

*O.146. **Mr E. C. Akwivu** asked the Minister of Communications, which of the colleges and hospitals in Orlu Division are

supplied with telephones ; and how soon is it hoped to supply all colleges and hospitals in the Division with telephone.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Communications : None of the educational institutions, or hospitals, in the Orlu Division, is on the telephone, and only one of them has asked for a telephone to be installed ; in that case, the school concerned is so situated in relation to the nearest exchange that the necessary wire would cost approximately £6,000 to lay, and the Ministry of Communications cannot afford the expense, which would be altogether uneconomic.

Mr Akwivu : Will the Minister say whether the newly-burnt out telephone installation at Aba would not have provided the necessary services to this particular one and to the other institutions ?

Applicants for Telephones

*O.149. **Mr S. O. Kolade** asked the Minister of Communications, why certain applicants for telephones at Oyo have not received a supply.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Communications : There have been delays in providing prospective subscribers at Oyo with telephones because of shortages of stores. The shortages in question have been made good, and the required telephones are being installed.

Telephone and Telegraph Facilities

*O.224. **M. Muhammadu Sagir Umar** asked the Minister of Communications, how many towns were provided with telephone and telegraph facilities from 1955 to date ; and how many more towns does he consider will get such facilities between now and 1962.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Communications : Since 1955 the Ministry of Communications has installed 26 telephone exchanges and 29 call boxes ; within the next two years I anticipate that it will instal 17 exchanges and 25 call boxes, and wherever there is an exchange or call box the local post office, sub post office, or postal agency will accept telegrams.

Mr D. N. Abii (Owerri East) : Will the Minister tell us why there are only 26 call offices for the whole country ?

Supply of Postal and Telegraph Facilities

***O.235. Mr W. O. Briggs** asked the Minister of Communications, what steps he is taking to supply better postal and telegraph facilities to Buguma, Bakana, Tombia, Okrika, Bonny, Emelego and Kugbo; and when postal agencies will be established at Abalama, Ifoko, Ke, Kula, Bille, Olu, Ololoma, Fimina and Peterside.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Communications : There is a post office at Bonny, and a sub-post office at Buguma, opened last year, and there will be a sub-post office at Okrika shortly; under the terms of Sessional Paper 4 of 1957, a sub-post office becomes eligible to be converted into a post office when the volume of business at it is not less than 40,000 units a year. Similarly, a postal agency becomes eligible to be converted into a sub-post office when the volume of business at it is not less than 24,000 units a year, and the agencies at Bakana, Tombia, Emelego, and Bille are carrying on business at rates of 11,704 units, 8,681 units, 3,613 units, and 4,615 units a year respectively; in each case, the units have the significance explained in the Sessional Paper already mentioned. I have been unable to discover where Olu is, and there have been no suggestions from the local communities that postal agencies should be established at Kugbo, Abalama, Ifoko, Ke, Kula, Ololoma, Fimina, or Peterside. The Federal Government's plans for extending the telegraph system during the current economic planning period are detailed in Sessional Paper 8 of 1957, and include provision for telephone call offices at Bonny and Okrika; when these are installed, the post office at Bonny and the sub-post office at Okrika will accept telegrams.

Mr Briggs : There is no place called Ololoma but there is a place called Ogoloma and in view of this, is the Minister serious in referring to a place which is not in existence and in what he is saying?

Facilities in the Rivers area

***O.236. Mr U. O. Briggs** asked the Minister of Communications, whether he is aware that letters posted and telegrams despatched from Abonnema or anywhere in the Rivers area take from seven to ten days to reach their

destination in Odual Clan; and whether he will improve at an early date the postal and telegraphic facilities in the Rivers area.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Communications : The Odual Clan is served by the Emelego postal agency, and mails from Abonnema normally reach Emelego in three or four days, by a twice weekly service from Degema. The Ministry of Communications is steadily improving the postal and telegraph systems in the Rivers Province and elsewhere, but, as stated in Sessional Paper 4 of 1957, it is not responsible for mail services to and from postal agencies; nor can it undertake to deliver telegrams at places more than 10 miles from the nearest telegraph office, which in the case of Emelego is at Degema, 40 miles away.

Mr Briggs : Is the Minister aware that mails get to Abonnema by ordinary canoe and not by any Government boat?

Telephones for Members of the House

***O.237. Mr O. C. Ememe** asked the Minister of Communications, what arrangements are made for the immediate supply of telephones to Members of this House applying for them.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Communications : Any member of the House of Representatives who asks to be provided with a telephone, and is willing to pay the prescribed charges, will be supplied with one as quickly as possible, having regard to the situation of the premises in which the telephone is required, and to technical considerations arising in the vicinity.

***O.238. Mr D. K. Aihonsu** asked the Minister of Communications, whether he is aware that there is no post office in the whole of Egbado South, and whether Government will consider building a post office there.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Communications : For a statement of the circumstances in which the Federal Government will consider building post offices during the current economic planning period I refer the hon. Member to Sessional Paper No. 4 of 1957. The Sessional Paper explains how the volume of postal business is calculated in this context, and in Egbado South there are postal agencies at Ajilete, Ado-Odo, and

Igbessa, carrying on business at rates of 6,456 units, 8,862 units, and 8,005 units a year respectively. Before a postal agency can be converted into a sub-post office it must carry on business at a rate of not less than 24,000 units a year, and before a sub-post office can be converted into a post office the volume of business at it must be not less than 40,000 units a year.

Postal Agency at Okuni

*O.260. Mr P. I. Ejukwa asked the Minister of Communications, if he is aware that the postal agency at Okuni in Ilom District is no longer operating and whether he will state what conditions must be fulfilled before the agency is re-opened.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Communications: Yes, Sir; the agency is closed because the safe there is no longer serviceable, having had to be forced open when the agent lost the keys. It will be re-opened as soon as the local community provide a new safe.

Telephone Service at Ikom

*O.261. Mr P. I. Ejukwa asked the Minister of Communications when the telephone service at Ikom will come into operation.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Communications: The telephone exchange at Ikom will come into service as soon as the carrier equipment installed there has been put into working orders; I hope that the latter process will not take long.

Postal Agency at Idi-Eme Market

*O.262. Mr E. B. Sorunke asked the Minister of Communications, if he will explore the possibility of establishing a postal agency or of building a modern post office at Idi-Eme market within the jurisdiction of Imala District Council, and if he will make a statement.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Communications: I refer the hon. Member to Sessional Paper No. 4 of 1957, which explains the terms on which the Ministry of Communications will open post offices and postal agencies. The local community has not suggested that it should provide either at Idi-Eme market.

Conversion of Agencies to Post Offices

*O.263. Mr I. S. Onwuchekwa asked the Minister of Communications, if there is any proposal to convert Obia and Isiokpo Postal Agencies to sub-post offices.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Communications: No, Sir; the volume of business at the Obia postal agency is 15,870 units a year and at the Nkarahia agency in the Isiokpo district it is 13,474 units a year: the means by which these figures are calculated are explained in Sessional Paper No. 4 of 1957, and the Sessional Paper provides that an agency must carry on business at a rate of not less than 24,000 units a year before it can be converted into a sub-post office.

Post Office at Diobu

*O.264. Mr I. S. Onwuchekwa asked the Minister of Communications when a post office with telecommunication facilities will be built at Diobu.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Communications: The postal agency at Diobu is carrying on business at a rate of 12,209 units a year, calculated by the means described in Sessional Paper 4 of 1957, and the same Sessional Paper provides that the volume of business at any agency must be not less than 24,000 units a year before it can be converted into a sub-post office. A telephone will be installed at the Diobu agency next month, and thereafter it will accept telegrams.

Post Office at Umuahia

*O.265. Mr D. O. Ahamefula asked the Minister of Communications, whether he will consider erecting a modern post office building at Umuahia equipped with telecommunication facilities.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Communications: I propose that a new post office, with telephone call boxes and facilities for sending telegrams, shall be built at Umuahia before the end of the current economic planning period.

Postal Agency at Oguta South

*O.266. Mr R. B. K. Okafor asked the Minister of Communications, when the postal

agency at Oguta South will be converted into a departmental post office with a telegraph section to serve the 48,000 people of Oguta Rural District in view of the transfer of the former post office to Oguta Town.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Communications : Under the terms of Sessional Paper 4 of 1957, the Oguta South postal agency will be converted into a sub-post office as soon as the volume of business there reaches the prescribed level of 24,000 units a year, calculated by the means explained in the Sessional Paper; the current volume of business at the agency is 21,291 units a year. For the time being, telegrams accepted at the agency are taken by canoe and runner several times a day to the post office in Oguta Town and telegrams for the district which the agency serves are brought from the post office in the same way.

Post Office in Ohaji District

O.267. Mr R. B. K. Okafor asked the Minister of Communications, whether he is aware that the 65,000 people of Ohaji District in Owerri Division have no fully-fledged post office with telephone facilities, and if so what arrangements are being made to provide them with that amenity.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Communications : In the Ohaji District of the Owerri Division there are postal agencies at Umuakpo and Umuakanne which the Ministry of Communications will convert into sub-post offices as soon as the conditions set out in Sessional Paper 4 of 1957 are fulfilled. The volume of business at the Umuakpo agency, by the standards laid down in the Sessional Paper, is 5,905 units a year, and at the Umuakanne agency it is 8,708 units a year; in the latter case, the figure is 15,292 units a year below the level prescribed for a sub-post office, and the deficiency in the former case is 18,095 units a year. The Federal Government's proposals for extending the telephone system during the current economic planning period are detailed in Sessional Paper No. 8 of 1957, and they include no provision for the Ohaji District.

Telephone facilities at Oguta

O.268. Mr R. B. K. Okafor asked the Minister of Communications, whether he is considering the need for the expansion of

telephone facilities at Oguta in view of the increasing population and the existence of Government offices and commercial firms there.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Communications : Under the terms of Sessional Paper No. 8 of 1957 the Ministry of Communications installed a telephone call office at Oguta two years ago, and it cannot go beyond the scope of the Sessional Paper in question during the current economic planning period.

Services for Tegna-Kagara

O.269. M. Umaru Galkogo asked the Minister of Communications, when he will extend telephone and postal services to Tegna-Kagara.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Communications : The Federal Government set out its proposals for expanding postal services and the telephone system during the current economic planning period in Sessional Paper 4 and Sessional Paper 8 of 1957. To the best of my knowledge, the local community has not asked the Ministry of Communications to establish a postal agency at Tegna-Kagara, and there is no provision in the relevant Sessional Paper for installing telephones there.

M. Gaba, Turakin Paiko (Minna South) : Is the Minister aware that Kagara is the Native Administration Headquarters and that it is necessary that it should have telephone services?

The Minister of Communications (Hon. Olu. Akinfosile) : In fact, we are anxious to give telephone services to headquarters of various local government bodies but I am afraid we will not be able to do this at all times. Hon. Members must accept the position that it will take time to give all the telephone services required by Native Authorities and Local Government Bodies.

Alternative route for Benin-Idah mail van

O.270. Mr J. A. Yacim asked the Minister of Communications, if the present route taken by the mail van from Benin to Idah will be abandoned in view of the delay involved in crossing the River Niger at Agenebode; and whether he will consider the alternative route through Oturkpo.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Communications : No, Sir ; it is impossible under existing conditions to provide a quicker service than the present one : a service through Oturkpo would take twenty-four hours longer.

Postal Agencies for Igala Division

O.271. Mr J. A. Yacim asked the Minister of Communications, if he is aware of the need for more postal agencies in Igala Division ; and whether he will make a statement.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Communications : The conditions on which the Ministry of Communications will open postal agencies are explained in Sessional Paper No. 4 of 1957 ; as far as I am aware, the Ministry has established agencies in the Igala Division wherever these conditions have been fulfilled.

Telephone for Abakaliki Division

O.272. Mr N. Nwangbo asked the Minister of Communications, what plans he has for supplying telephones to the offices of the three District Council Headquarters in Abakaliki Division.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Communications : As a general rule, it is uneconomic to instal telephone more than 3 miles from the nearest exchange ; the headquarters of the District Councils in the Abakaliki Division are at Izzu, Ezzikwo, and Ishielu, and in each case the nearest exchange is at Abakaliki : Izzu is $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles from it, Ezzikwo $13\frac{1}{2}$ miles, and Ishielu $12\frac{1}{2}$ miles.

Mr B. O. Ikeh (Izzu South) : Is the Minister aware that some of these District Offices are not more than 100 yards from the main trunk telephone lines ?

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Tribes in Nigeria

O.208. Mallam Muhammādu Sagir asked the Minister of Economic Development, how many tribes there are in Nigeria, and which is the largest.

Mr Speaker : The Minister says the Question has already been answered, I think on the 20th of April.

HEALTH

Medical Statistics

***O.274. Chief S. J. Mariere** asked the Minister of Health how many cases of paralysis, heart diseases, high blood pressure and tuberculosis have been successfully treated in the last ten years and how many deaths have occurred during the period from each of these diseases.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Health : The recent series of Annual Reports on the Medical Service began in 1955 and it is only since that date that individual figures can be supplied for the Federal Area.

Secondly, paralysis is not in itself a disease but occurs as a symptom, sign or complication of various diseases and no figures are kept for the incidence of paralysis in the different diseases in which it can occur.

The number of cases and deaths from paralysis, heart disease, high blood pressure and tuberculosis is complicated to give orally. I will send a copy of the answer to the Editor of *Hansard* for publication.

General Hospital, Lagos

***O.275. Chief S. J. Mariere** asked the Minister of Health how many in-patients have been admitted to the General Hospital, Lagos in the last three years ; and how many people have been treated there as out-patients in that period.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Health : The number of in-patients admitted to the General Hospital for the years 1957, 1958 and 1959 were respectively 7,634 ; 7,764 ; and 10,116 making in all a total of 25,514.

For the same years the number of out-patients was respectively 99,659 ; 150,863 ; and 150,266, making in all a total of 400,698.

Cases of Appendicitis

***O.276. Chief S. J. Mariere** asked the Minister of Health how many operations for appendicitis were performed in 1955-1959 ; and how many patients died as a result of such operations.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Health: From 1955 to 1959 there were 601 cases of appendicitis recorded in Lagos in 29 of which the patient died.

I am unable to give you the figures for operations. This would entail considerable work in looking through old case records. However, I think I can safely say that none of the patients died as a result of such operations but as a result of the complaint itself.

Dr P. U. Okeke (Onitsha North Central): Supplementary question.

Mr Speaker: No, we must finish. Mr Akwivu.

PUBLIC SERVICE Federal Training Centre

*O.182. **Mr E. C. Akwivu** asked the Minister of Pensions, how many expatriate and indigenous instructors respectively are employed at the Federal Training Centre, Lagos.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Pensions: Three expatriate and 14 indigenous instructors.

Payment of Pensions

*O.222. **M. Shekarau Omar** asked the Minister of Finance, if he is aware that there is delay in the payment of pensions to pensioners; and whether he will take steps to improve the position.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Pensions: My Minister is aware that there have been some delays in the initial payment of a pension or the payment of a gratuity to a retiring officer, but he is not aware of any delays in the month to month payment to pensioners once the award has been calculated and the first payment made.

2. The delays which have been experienced in the initial payment have been due to various causes and steps have been taken to reduce these to a minimum. Also the Pensions Accounting Office now under the control of the Ministry of Finance is likely shortly to be integrated into the Ministry of Pensions, which will further improve the efficiency of the organisation.

Fishery Industry in the Rivers Area

O.239. **Mr W. O. Briggs** asked the Minister of Economic Development, what proposals he has for the development of the Fisheries industry in the Rivers area, and when he proposes to undertake a tour of the area in order to ascertain the needs of the people there, and how he can help them.

The Minister of Economic Development: The Federal Government's responsibility for Fisheries in the Rivers area is limited to research. I intend therefore that the Federal Fisheries Service should, subject to the agreement of Regional Governments, undertake a production and marketing survey of the Niger Delta.

I propose to undertake a tour of the Rivers area as soon as possible after the House rises in order to acquaint myself with the needs of the Delta area.

Mr Speaker: I will just explain to Dr Okeke, we have only just been able to finish Questions of which notice had already been given. Therefore, if I call Members for supplementaries of which they had not given notice, I should have shut out somebody who has given notice. That is the only reason.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

The Minister of Finance (Chief the hon. F. S. Okotie-Eboh): Mr Speaker, Sir, on Saturday I made a Business Statement and in the course of it I informed the House that it is expected that on Saturday we shall elect a new Speaker to this House. It is unfortunate that this is impossible because the House will still be sitting on Monday. In the circumstances I would like to inform the House that at one o'clock in the afternoon on Monday, our respected Speaker will make a statement to you in the House, and in the afternoon of the same day when it is expected that the House will adjourn *sine die*, the new Speaker will be elected. (Applause).

PRESENTATION OF PUBLIC BILLS

SAVINGS BANK (AMENDMENT) BILL.

The Minister of Communications: Second Reading—this day.

NOTICE OF MOTION**BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE**

The Minister of Finance : Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move That, at this day's Sitting, Government Business other than Committee of Supply be exempted from the provisions of Standing Order 4 (Sittings of the House), provided that at 6.30 p.m. Mr Speaker shall suspend the Sitting until 9 p.m.

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

Question proposed.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved : That, at this day's Sitting, Government Business other than Committee of Supply be exempted from the provisions of Standing Order 4 (Sittings of the House), provided that at 6.30 p.m. Mr Speaker shall suspend the Sitting until 9 p.m.

ORDER OF THE DAY**APPROPRIATION (1960-61) BILL**

(Ninth Allotted Day) : Considered in Committee of Supply.

(House in Committee)

HEAD 604—CAPITAL : POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS

The Minister of Finance (Chief the hon. F. S. Okotie-Eboh) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the expenditure from the Development Fund of Three Million, Fifty-Two Thousand, Seven Hundred and Twenty Pounds for the purposes set out in the Draft Estimates of Capital Expenditure 1960-61, under Head 604—Capital : Posts and Telegraphs, be approved.

The Minister of Economic Development (M. Shehu Shagari) : Sir, I beg to second.

Question proposed.

Mr E. C. Akwivu (Orlu South-East) : Mr Chairman, Sir, I think one must start by congratulating the Minister of Communications for having at least exhausted the development fund voted for it under the P. & T. scheme. We noticed when we were considering Heads of Estimates—General that there were frequent complaints from the Ministry that they had exhausted their funds. Now, it is rather unfortunate, Sir, because, I know for certain and I think the Ministry confirmed it that the

Orlu Telephone Exchange was included in the Development Scheme for which we voted £12 million at one time, and considering that under this Head 604, we have got a lot of expenditure still outstanding on Telephone Exchanges, I am feeling that the situation in the Orlu Post Office is now very critical and demands urgent, immediate and sympathetic attention.

Mr Chairman, Sir, now, there is only one single line and one would need to be in the Orlu Post Office to know how humiliated the Telephone Operator at the Orlu Post Office is. He finds it difficult to get in touch with his own colleagues, and to book a telephone call and say it is urgent to Orlu is merely to waste words because there is not question of urgency. There is only one single line and this has got to go through so many intermediaries that he himself is put to such great difficulty, even worse than that of the callers themselves.

Now, Sir, a few days ago, I think it was last week, the Parliamentary Secretary in an answer to my question, said that there were only 19 subscribers at the Orlu Telephone Exchange. Now, that is most unfortunate because I know for certain that people in Orlu are very eager to have telephone services themselves. They apply and they do not get and it is unfortunate that their persistent, numerous and frequent demands do not even reach the authorities in the Ministry. So, when it was said here that there were only 19 subscribers, it was a very serious under-statement.

I might say that the Ministry might on this occasion explain to us under what circumstances a telephone exchange was installed at Arondizuogu. Arondizuogu is in Orlu Division and as far as I know, it does not come within the Development Scheme for the first Five-year period. Under what circumstances was a telephone exchange installed there instead of improving the one at Orlu and extending it from the Orlu station to Arondizuogu if need be? What were the particular circumstances leading to it and how many subscribers? I am sure that if that had been related to the number now credited to the Orlu Post Office, they would have had a lot more. We do urge the Minister, and in accordance with what he said in answer to my question, that something immediate be done to relieve the rather critical situation at the Orlu Telephone Exchange since the one at Aba is burnt out.

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[*Appropriation (1960-61)*]

27 APRIL 1960

Bill : Committee

1900

[MR AKWIWU]

This might well be the occasion to call for some explanation if they had succeeded in getting any information as to what led to the burning out of that £200,000 new Telephone Installation. I am sure with its burning out, a lot of difficulties might be caused but as the Minister himself said, they are busy looking for alternatives and we do hope that it will not take them very long to find the necessary alternatives.

Once more, Sir, I will appeal to the Minister to make sure that the people in Orlu Division are supplied now. Many of them want it, they applied, their applications do not seem to reach the people at the head. If you commission me, I will pack a bundle of them to you tomorrow.

Mr W. Briggs (Degema): Mr Chairman, it is impossible to over-state the need for postal and telegraphic facilities in the Rivers Province. I have always said it in this House that it is the most neglected part of Nigeria. As a matter of fact, I think it is fair to say that we have been completely forgotten and cut out. It was interesting when the Minister of Communications said that there is a Postal Office at Degema. Well, that is an apology and I think that comes out of the fact that Ministers stick themselves to the capital and do not tour enough.

Well, I have to say in this case that the Minister of Communications has done some bit of touring, I think he is some kind of an exception, but I think his tour should be more extensive than merely, for instance in the Eastern Provinces, going to Aba. I think he should go to the rural areas. The Post Office at Degema was built before I was born. It is a very old Post Office, the sides are made of corrugated iron-sheets and the roof also. To call it a Post Office, I think is a mis-use of words.

Then telecommunication to Buguma, Okrika and Bonny is very, very essential. If the hon. Minister of Communications makes a tour of the Rivers Province he will find that most of these towns are comparable with any other town in Nigeria. We call them rural areas because they happen to belong to that part of the country which I think has been completely neglected. But they are full scale towns. Any body who has been to places like Buguma,

Bakana, Bonny and others will bear me out that they are really full scale towns. They have not been supplied with many amenities and facilities that go to make up modern big cities. But I think a telephone service in Buguma, Bakana, Okrika and Bonny will pay its way very much indeed, particularly in the case of Buguma which is the historic headquarters of Kalabari people of the Degema Division.

I hope that everybody will agree with me that it is wrong for places like this to be cut away completely from communication with the rest of the Kalabari people. I am only asking the Minister of Communications to take note of that.

And then the postal facilities for Kugbo, Emelego and many other places. From Abonnema which is a sort of commercial headquarters of the place. The distance from Abonnema to Emelego is the same as that from Abonnema to Port Harcourt. Anybody who has been there will know the extensive area that I am trying to picture. It takes seven hours drive of a speed outboard engine canoe—the outboard canoe that the Minister of Finance is trying to kill in the Rivers area—to travel from Emelego to Kugbo who are of the same clan. I am actually praying that the Minister of Communications will have to think of all these things. It is a pity that it is only in eight places that he contemplates installing either postal or telegraphic facilities or to improve the existing ones. But if we assume that everybody pays his taxes—I think it is more than an assumption that everybody pays his tax—all these people, whether rural or city, deserve this kind of amenity that they have been paying for.

If you go to some of these districts you will doubt whether these people are also part of Nigeria. And yet they are. It is within the principle of neglecting rural areas. I have always said on the Floor of this House that rural areas are part of Nigeria also. We are the backbone of Nigeria. The Minister of Finance should do the same to his case. We want more money from him. In any case I am addressing this to the Minister of Communications to please take it seriously in hand. I beg to support.

M. Ibrahim Jalo Waziri (Gombe Central): I have often spoken on the Floor of this House about the need of telecommunication

facilities for Gombe town. The Government agreed that there was a need for it and that they would include it in the programme. Unfortunately it has been agreed upon for a very long time but the installation has not yet been undertaken.

It would be gratifying if the Government could speed up the project and supply Gombe with telecommunication facilities. Sir, I beg to support this Bill.

Mr A. F. Odulana (Ijebu South): I am representing a Constituency of about 180,000 people and I happen to share the same boundary with the Minister of Communications. But the story behind it is that when you look at Ijebu, you will be disappointed to find that there is only one old Post Office in Ijebu Ode. We do not mind that Post Office being there! But unfortunately you have to walk up to about 150 miles and there is no facility of communication in whatever shape or form that we might call it one that can serve the need of the people.

Here is the Minister of Communications himself. When he goes to his town I do not know how he connects his headquarters. I am sure he cannot do it. I hope charity begins at home. I am putting it to you; I do not mean that you should be partial, but there is the need for at least a Post Office to serve that constituency and partly your own constituency.

Now the hon. Minister of Works, by kind courtesy of the Minister of Finance, has voted some extra £1 million or £2 million for Ijebu-Ode-Benin road, which is usually called Shagamu-Ijebu-Ode-Benin road. As a matter of fact it is Ijebu-Ode Benin road. We are going to spend so much there and there is no postal facility, no telecommunication facility. I think it will be a waste of money. I am therefore, begging the Minister of Communications to put this in his notebook and see to it that amongst other Post Offices that are to be built and telecommunications that are going to be installed, he should think in terms of connecting one between Ijebu Eastern District and Okitipupa.

Mr Chairman, this is my observation. I beg the Minister of Communications to see what he can do before long.

Mr I. O. Chikelu (Udi Central): Mr Chairman, Sir, a good number of people here will continue to argue for the welfare of the people in the rural areas, because many of us here were born and bred in the rural areas. If a few of us are now spending some time in the townships, that will not be a reason for them to forget the rural areas.

I want to say that the people of my constituency—Eziagu Clan in Udi Division and Awkunanaw in Udi Division—have for long qualified for at least three Post Offices. In the reply given by the Minister of Communications last week, Eziagu Clan alone had about seven Postal Agencies and the units of transactions in most of these Postal Agencies qualify them to be made sub-Post Offices. It is a Clan of about 77,000 people.

For a very long time the people were concentrating through the District Council on a request for a Post Office from the Federal Government. In 1955 the hon. Members representing the Division—late Mr F. O. Mbadiwe and Mr G. O. D. Eneh—came back and assured the people that three Post Offices had been approved for Udi Division. Up till now only two have been built, one at Agbani and one at Udi.

Mr Chairman, Sir, if life in the rural areas should be made worthy for human beings, I expect that the Federal Government should give our people a Post Office as soon as possible. I want to say further that the rural people have seen the activities of the Regional Governments, but the Federal Government has not made its activities felt by many of the people of the rural areas because amenities supplied by the Federal Government are very few; such as Trunk 'A' roads, electric lights, post offices and telecommunications. All these have reached only very few places. I would therefore ask the Government to work faster than before and receive the blessing of these people who have paid their taxes very loyally and are expecting from the Federal Government amenities which will make life more abundant for them.

Mr Chairman, Sir, I want to say that in the principle of Sir Roland Hill in 1840, when he introduced the penny post and argued that when necessary things are supplied at cheap

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[Appropriation (1960-61)

27 APRIL 1960

Bill : Committee]

1908

[MR TOBUN]

There is a place in my constituency called Agbowa. There should be a Sub-Post Office there because the distance between Epe and Agbowa in Epe Division is almost 60 miles. There should be a Sub-Post Office or a Postal Agency there.

Thank you, Mr Chairman, I support.

M. Yusufu Ilesha (Borgu): Mr Chairman, Sir, I wish to draw the attention of the hon. Minister of Communications to the fact that, if I am not mistaken, telecommunication facilities have been provided in all Divisional Headquarters except in my own constituency, Bussa. There is no telephone connecting Ilorin to Bussa. I shall be grateful if the Minister could try to link Ilorin to Bussa before independence day, October 1st.

I should also point out to the Minister that what he has done in the Western Region is too much. He is neglecting the Northern Region. I should also be grateful for a post office at Ikuta and if the one at Bussa could be improved.

Sir, I beg to support.

Mr I. S. Onwuchekwa (Ahoada Central): Mr Chairman, Sir, post offices are not one of the luxuries but they are essential service which pay for themselves in the long run. I wonder why, in places like my own Constituency, Ahoada Central, or Ikwerre, to call it its proper name, there is no postal service. It is shocking to note that there is not a single post office, not even a sub-post office in a place like that which has about the largest constituency in this Federation, so much as to make me the humble recipient of the largest number of votes in the last Federal elections, 43,000.

Take the case of Diobu. I know that the Minister himself would be very surprised by the answer given to him this morning that a place like Diobu would not qualify for a post office. An urban area like that with a population of over 80,000, may not even qualify for a good modern post office, that is with telecommunications. One of the areas in that area is Obia having the Shell-BP residential and industrial areas located there, but then what do we see? We see that it is not even qualified for a sub-post office. This is appalling. The reason is that 80 per cent of the inhabitants of the area do not have a post office. They go all the way to the amount of 60 miles to lack of modern amenities at postal agency.

The same thing applies to other areas. Take the case of Ishiokpo for instance. This is a place where we can have others from the suburbs coming to transact their postal business, but a place like that should be able to qualify for a sub-post office. At Elele it was promised for some time that a postal agency would be converted to a sub-post office, but up to the moment, nothing has been done in that direction.

I think, Sir, that the Minister himself should do more investigation, because my Constituency is the area that is very close to Port Harcourt. Diobu is to Port Harcourt as Yaba is to Lagos and it would be very surprising if a place like Diobu should not have a post office and I hope the Minister will take note of this.

With these few remarks, I beg to support.

Mr D. M. Gbolagunte (Ibarapa): Mr Chairman, Sir, when one looks at these estimates one finds that it is this year that the money for telephone subscribers installation is used. Again you find that a lot of the money may have been spent in the Capital here, but if you consider the regional headquarters you will find the Ibadan people suffering for lack of telephone connections. It takes a person two years to get his telephone connected in Ibadan and Ibadan is a Regional headquarter where we have to get at so many people. Heads of departments are there and there are times when Federal Ministers have to be contacted. This £95,830, we hope, will be used in a way that the people in the Regions will be benefited.

Apart from that you find under sub-head 19 a lot of money for construction of sub-post offices and some people have suggested that it is time now to reduce the number of units required for the building of sub-post offices. I refer here to certain places in my Constituency in Ibarapa. For instance where you have postal agencies, Eruwa is forty-seven miles from Ibadan, Igboora is sixty miles, and there is not a single post office between Iseyin and Abeokuta which is about ninety miles. What happens if there is an emergency? The units of transaction in Eruwa are, I am quite sure already more than twenty-four thousand but I wonder why the postal agency there has not been converted to a sub-post office. I hope the Minister of Communications will see to it. I am not sure of the units of transaction in Igboora but I hope he will also look into that.

We find in these estimates an amount of £151,130 has been estimated out of a sum of £195,000 under this sub-head for purchase of sites. The Minister has now told us exactly where these sites to be purchased are. We know we are going to spend £151,130, well I hope it is not going to be spent here in the capital city only. I would advise that some of the money be spent in the Regional post offices.

Again I refer to Ibadan. There are three major post offices in Ibadan, one at the Railway Station, one at Mapo, and the third one at Agodi. The Minister himself is aware that these post offices are over-taxed. A new post office site can be bought for Isale Ijebu on the Ijebu Road. Another one can be bought at Aremo, and there are several other post offices that can be established in Ibadan. At least two sites should be bought in Ibadan out of this £151,130.

Sir, I beg to support.

Dr Kalu Ezera (Bende East): Mr Speaker, Sir, I am very grateful for this opportunity to speak on this Head. I tried very hard to do so when the Budget was on.

My view, Sir, is that one of the greatest obstacles to development is unevenness in development. I think that the rural areas demand quite a lot of attention here and it is with a very heavy heart that I have to say that my own Constituency, Bende East, comprising Ohafia, Abiriba, Abam, and Nkporo, with a population of 100,000, this particular constituency has not a single post office, not even a sub-post office. I have mentioned to the Minister that mails are still carried by head and sometimes by bicycle from a distance of thirty-two miles. I think this is a very horrible situation. The people in that area are a very warlike people and I think Nigeria should be proud of them.

I am very serious about this. When independence comes, Nigeria will have to rely on their warlike prowess. It is the area that has produced Senator Professor Eni Njoku, Hon. Emole, Dr Kalu Ezera, Igwe Kalu Ogbo, and a host of other professional Nigerians. I am urging the Government to increase the vote for the Post and Telegraphs, so that the country will be developed, particu-

larly the rural areas, and I have to say, Sir, that my area would need a sub-post office at least with telegraphic communications.

I mention this aspect of my Constituency's plight because, as I said before, it seems that it is a deliberate act of Government to neglect this area in the question of social amenities generally and telegraph communications particularly. There are telecommunications from Enugu to Umuahia and from Itu to Arochuku, leaving this area with a radius of about forty to seventy miles neglected. There should be a telegraph communication linking Umuahia *via* Ohafia, Abiriba, Abam and Nkporo, to Arochuku where there is already an existing line. Why should they be neglected, are they not part of Nigeria? I think that it is necessary for us to have even development. This particular area deserves priority and I want to beg the Minister of Communications, who is an able Minister, to give it the priority it deserves. I have no doubt that he is going to achieve what the country wants.

I want to take him around with me on a tour of that particular constituency so that he can see for himself, and if necessary make it a sort of Supplementary Budget for a Post Office either in Ohafia, or Abiriba, or Abam, or Nkporo.

These people deserve the sympathy of Government. I think that it is no use trying to neglect an area that pays tax so heavily. I must say that I do not want to resort to unconstitutional methods, otherwise I would even go to the extent of advocating that these people should stop paying their taxes to the Federal Government if attention is not given. I do not want to do that because that is—

An hon. Member : Civil disobedience.

Dr Kalu Ezera : Civil disobedience. I do not want to do so because I know better. But I am urging the Government to look into the situation of Ohafia, Abiriba, Abam and Nkporo as a constituency.

Thank you, Sir.

L. Alhaji Daura (Maska): Mr Chairman, Sir, I rise to support this debate on this Head : Telecommunications. In doing so I want to place for the attention of the Minister of Communications one serious complaint that we have in my area.

The Minister of Communications : They will be receiving our earliest attention and after that we will endeavour to give them some measure of consideration. I do not think that we could do more for the moment. I am sorry if we sound rather disappointing but I do hope that hon. Members will be able to benefit from the services which we have already rendered.

Sitting suspended : 11.40 a.m.

Sitting resumed : 12.04 p.m.

Mr M. C. K. Obi (Afenmai East) : Mr Chairman, Sir, I rise to take this opportunity to congratulate the Posts and Telegraphs Department for seeing to it that letters and telegrams are taken to most parts of the rural areas. I say this because there was a time when in some places in the rural areas people got letters once in a week or once in two weeks but at present they are more regular. So that is an improvement.

Now, the other one is that in some places too people got letters once in every three weeks but they now get them about once in a week. So I congratulate the Posts and Telegraphs Department for this. But, Mr Chairman, I believe that something more can still be done.

This Head we are considering is a Head for the rural areas and I am most surprised to hear the Minister say that the present aim is to develop industrial towns. I disagree with this. I feel that the rural areas should be given attention. Now, letters at times travel faster than telegrams. I believe that one of the reasons is because the Postal Agents and local mail runners are not cared for. The local people pay their local mail runners and the Postal Agents depend solely on the commission from their sales. This is a serious point which I believe the Government should consider and make sure that they take over completely the payment of the salaries of the Postal Agents and the local mail runners. If they do this, the people will be interested, but if they depend on the local Councils and local communities to carry these responsibilities there will be a great set-back in this sphere of job. So I am suggesting that point and I hope the Minister will take note of it.

Now, there is one other point. I feel that local communities do a lot by way of communal labour. Much stress has been laid on the building of Post Offices. I know this is important but most of the rural areas cannot expect to get post offices as early as we would expect them to get them. So I feel that considering the fact that they take it on their initiative to build postal agencies, the Government should encourage them by giving them grants for work they have done. These people work and build the postal agencies, pay the Postal Agents and the mail runners and there is no way these people are encouraged. I think the Government should be able to encourage them by way of grants.

Now, I go to the Sub-Post Office in my own area at Auchi. Auchi is the Divisional headquarters of Afenmai Division and the so-called Sub-Post Office there is not adequate to cope with the amount of business carried on there everyday. So I am appealing to the Minister to consider converting that Sub-Post Office into a full Post Office in view of the great importance of Auchi as the Divisional headquarters.

There is one other point, and that is this. There is one village called Imiegba in my constituency. When the Postal Agent books for requisition, he books through Lokoja in the Northern Region which is a very long way, instead of booking through Auchi which is only about thirteen miles from the place. This point should be considered and arrangements made to make sure that requisition comes to that Postal Agency through Auchi instead of through Lokoja in the Northern Region.

I would also say that the money for this Head is not sufficient, if the Minister will listen to the cries of people in the rural areas, because the rural areas are served more by postal agencies than by Post Offices. So something should be done to encourage people who build Postal Agencies on communal effort by way of grants.

Mr Chairman, I beg to support.

Mr J. A. Yacim (Igalala North West) : I rise to support the Head with a few observations, and these observations are as I had asked first in the Question Paper—the answer given was anyhow satisfactory. But I want the Minister to draw more attention to my speech so that he will come to understand what I am really after by the question.

The reason I propose to ask this question is not just because Igala is in my constituency, but it is also to think of the welfare of the travellers. Take for instance from Lokoja. You have a Trunk A Road across the River Niger to Kpata where you have the first postal agent about three miles away from the River. And from Kpata you have another postal agent at Dekina which is thirty-two miles. From there you have another postal agent at Ayamgba.

But when I am calling these postal agencies it is because they are run by local Councils. When these Councils run these postal agencies as in my Division—and if the Minister is to reply to my question that the postal agencies are being provided in my area—we would ask him to go closer to that area and see whether these postal agencies are being run by the Ministry.

I spoke of Lokoja and drew the attention of the Minister to the welfare of travellers. Well, you have to book a ferry call if one happens to travel from East to West *via* the Trunk A Road through Lokoja; that is if you leave Enugu or Oturkpo, or some people who come from some other parts of the Region travelling to West, or some people travelling from the West to the North, you have to go through Igala Division.

You have there a very large river which is known as the River Niger—by the name which we call this country. If you go to the other side of the River towards Shinctaku and are unfortunate enough to have your car run down by the wayside or a disappointment by certain measures, you will be at Shinctaku without having any means of calling a ferry from Lokoja, and that is just a distance of five miles. What a disgrace!

I therefore appeal to this Ministry that in the approval of this Head, which stands a total of £3,052,720, if it is not sufficient for the Minister to give us the facilities as requested by us he should start right now to prepare his Supplementary Estimates as quoted by a Member who has spoken previously.

In Igala Division—and I must repeat, Igala is a country in the centre of three important Regions: we have boundries in East, North and West—if somebody in Igala wants to talk to Kaduna his own headquarters, he has to pass it

to Agenebode in the Western Region to Benin in the Western Region, to Oshogbo in the Western Region, before it is carried to his own headquarters in Kaduna.

Therefore, this is my intention of calling on the Minister. It is true that it would be easier for us to have direct communication *via* Oturkpo.

I strongly stand before the Members of this hon. House to thank the Minister concerned—*(Interruption)*. I do not stand to criticise why he has not supplied postal agencies. But I have to ask him to come closer to see the suffering that we in such areas receive on this question of communication from our dear brothers. *(Laughter)*.

Mr O. O. Ememe (Aba South): Mr Chairman, Sir, I am very grateful for being called to state the case of my constituency. In Aba South constituency—with Divisional headquarters at Aba—if the exchange which was designed and built at Aba was not burned by carelessness we would not have reason to speak at all because Aba has been earmarked for development. Unfortunately, one of the contractors, or engineers of the contractors—burned this telephone exchange and nothing has been done about it. Also, there is no hope that it will be replaced between now and two years' time.

I want to really find out from the Minister in charge whether it is because there is no money to replace this telephone exchange? Or whether it is because it is impossible to get the parts from England? Or what is really the trouble that it should take as long as two years to replace the telephone exchange?

It is important to us because there are many other towns in my constituency that need telephone connections. A place which harboured the British Consulate in the olden days, Akwuetete, which everyone of you must have known, and another place which is actually bringing most of the revenue you are now enjoying here through oil, which is of course Afam has no postal facilities or telephone connections. All are in my constituency and there are no telephone or postal facilities whatsoever. I want to know why these places are denied these facilities, particularly Afam which is producing about half the amount of oil from

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post offices or sub-post offices. In the first place there is Omoku where through communal labour there has been built a very magnificent post office at the cost of £3,500. This post office, if the Government encourages the town people, should be equipped and taken over completely at no distant date.

Another one, as I said before, is Abua. When the Minister or the Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Communications answered my question the other day, he said Abua has 15,000 units. I still implore the Minister that if we are rigid as far as building these post offices are concerned, it will be difficult, at any rate, in the rural areas to have a sub-post office or for a town to conform to at least 24,000 units according to the prescription.

Another place which has been cut off from the world is Engenni Clan. Engenni Clan actually has no means of communications. Before you cross to the other side from Ahoada to Engenni you have to enter into a boat with Van outboard engine. It takes you almost one day to reach Engenni.

At Okriki, Joinkarama and Akinima the people have been demanding for a long time to have sub-post offices so that they will be linked with other parts of Nigeria.

The last time I visited Okwusi the postmaster there told me that they had about 20,000 units. I am imploring the Minister of Communications that since these people have about 20,000 units he will do all within his power to see that Okwusi has a sub-post office.

Mr J. A. Akinyemi (Ilesha Rural): Mr Chairman, Sir, in modern times and with the great complexity of the society and commerce in this country the provision of telephone communication facilities is no longer a luxury but sheer necessity, and it is in this connection that we have to talk and discuss this matter on the floor of this House.

Mr Chairman, I would like to make special requests for the rural areas, because in the first place many of us come from the rural areas and in the second place it is no longer true that nothing good can come out of Nazareth. Something good has started to come out of Nazareth. Therefore important people can now come from rural areas.

Also, Mr Chairman, Sir, there is always this feeling that people come from rural areas into urban areas and the advice which is given to them is that they should stay at home. How can they stay at home when they lack such important amenities as telephone communication facilities?

Mr Chairman, I would like to put up a special plea for my own area, the Ilesha Rural constituency. I would like to request the Minister of Communications to please speed up the work in the automatic telephone exchange in Ilesha so that the work may be completed, and by October 1st, with the independence celebrations we may be able to make use of that facility. Also, Sir, I would request the Minister to please supply telephone and telegraph facilities at Ipetu-Ijesha. We have a sub-post office in that place and the people there contributed a lot to erect the post office, but all that we want there at the moment is telephone and telegraph connections. We shall be very grateful to the Minister if he will take this matter in hand. It is on the direct line between Ilesha and Akure and the post office itself is just five yards away from the mainline. Therefore it is not going to involve any heavy expenditure of money and time. Therefore I put this special request before the Minister.

Also, Sir, I would like to appeal to the Minister to consider the following places for sub-post offices in my area: Oshu, Esaoko, Ijebu-Ijesha, Ifewara, Iperindo.

M. Sule Abba Bui (Biu North): Mr Chairman, Sir, in supporting this Head, I have some observations to make. Many Members have spoken about towns and villages being neglected. The Government however continues to pay more attention to cities and forget the villages, and I believe that majority of Members in this House come from villages. Sir, I want immediate action taken before the 1st of October, to the effect that all Divisional Headquarters be provided with post offices and District Headquarters to have Postal Agencies.

Now, Sir, I come to the trouble of my own people which is a different problem from those of other Members. In my Constituency, Bui, the Native Authority, a very small Native Authority for that matter employs a clerk to work as a Postal Agent. This Postal Clerk is being paid by the N.A. This same small N.A. employs another Messenger who is stationed at

Damaturu for the collection of telegrams to Biu and still paid by the N.A. It will be surprising to learn that no grant is being paid to Biu Native Authority by this Ministry. (*Shame*).

The Chairman : A point of Order ?

An hon. Member : The speaker does not speak out, he is not audible.

The Chairman : He is trying his best to say something but he is completely drowned by the interruption. I think I can hear him.

M. Abba Biu : Mr Chairman, Sir, all I was saying was that post offices are not sufficient in my own part, and there was only one messenger to do all these jobs—collecting, despatching and yet he is paid by the Biu N.A.

Before concluding, Sir, I would like to read, with your permission, a letter written and forwarded to the Resident, Bornu Province. "In order that the day-to-day business of this and other Government officers, as well as Biu N.A. may continue I recommend that we ignore the normal mail until such time as the Posts and Telegraphs Department restore the service on a reasonably efficient basis. I suggest that all Provincial Heads of Government Departments be advised that if they have mail for Biu, it should be delivered to the Provincial office to be collected there by Government officers who may be coming to Biu on tour. I also suggest that Departmental officers be instructed to call at the Provincial Office for Biu mail before leaving Maiduguri. I am afraid this will cause extra work in the Provincial office, but it is obviously essential that there should be some means of communication between Maiduguri and Biu. At this time of the year there are a fair number of travellers and, if this procedure is adopted I should receive official mail with reasonable despatch.

"This arrangement should work during the dry season. It probably will not once the rains start, because the number of travellers will be considerably reduced. I suggest that serious consideration be given to establishing a mounted messenger service to operate between Biu and Maiduguri during the rains. Two mounted messengers would be enough to establish a weekly service in each direction—I realise that

such a service is about 30 years out of date but, if the Posts and Telegraphs Department either cannot or will not arrange a mail service, it will at least provide a regular delivery of official mail. It would be more expensive than using the normal mail channels. It would be slower than the normal service."

Sir, in conclusion, I think that this particular young Minister of Communication would prepare a new economic programme and approve the nullification of the one prepared and submitted by the former Minister of Communications and Aviation who was not sensible and who lacks understanding and Ministerial procedure.

Several hon. Members : Akintola, Akintola

M. Biu : I think, therefore, that the Minister, the reasonable young Minister would keep in mind the rural areas, Sir, I beg to move that the Question be now put.

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

Question, That £3,052,720 for Head 604—Posts and Telegraphs—stand part of the Schedule, put accordingly and agreed to.

HEAD 602—HIGHWAYS AND BRIDGES

Question proposed, That £3,005,240 for Head 602—Highways and Bridges—stand part of the Schedule.

Mr C. A. Odigbo (Bende West): Mr Chairman, Sir, in supporting this Head, I wish to make the point that the road from Umuahia to Mumfe in Bende Division is a very important one which should be taken over by the Federal Government. That road is very important in that economically it serves a very fertile area of this Federation which is very productive of foodstuff, cocoa and palm produce.

The Chairman : The Minister has drawn my attention to the fact that this is a Regional matter, not a Federal one.

Mr Odigbo : My contention, Mr Chairman, Sir, is that this road which is at the moment a Regional responsibility should be taken over by the Federal Government.

The Chairman : Order, order. The money is for the Federal roads and not the Regional, so we cannot debate a Regional one.

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Mr Odigbo : It is the view of most hon. Members here that the Federal Government should revise its policy on roads. Several major roads of economic importance in this country are allowed to remain undeveloped because they are the responsibility of the Regional Government, and that is not in the best interests of economic development.

The Chairman : The hon. Member is continuing the same argument, is he not? He must either resume his seat or talk about the Federal roads.

Mr Odigbo : Mr Chairman, Sir, I now come to the maintenance of the Trunk 'A' roads. In particular the road between Onitsha and Owerri is so narrow that it is very dangerous to motorists and in fact during the dry season it makes users of that road very dirty, and it is harmful to vehicles. I think that road requires extensive re-surveying, it is so crooked and flanked by such dangerous ditches that it is necessary that Government should take into consideration the lives of people who use that road. It is of such economic importance that in fact nothing short of a very extensive reconstruction of that road will improve it to the satisfaction of those who use it.

Now, Mr Chairman—(Interruption). There are such death-traps called bridges that very often there are a large number of accidents. I refer in particular to the bridges very close to Owerri township. These bridges are so narrow and so rickety that many motorists are in danger of losing their lives on this road. Mr Chairman, Sir, we hope that more money will be voted for preserving the roads which are already developed. Very often roads which have been developed are allowed to get very bad and they then require re-development, but if they are kept in constant repair we should find that money that would have been wasted could be saved.

Mr Chairman, Sir, with these few remarks I beg to support.

M. Abubakar Tsofo Mafata (Sokoto South) : Mr Chairman, Sir—(Interruption).

The Chairman : I cannot hear a syllable. Will the hon. Gentleman speak up, stand up and speak up, and I will hear him then. Loudly!

M. Abubakar Tsofo Mafata : Mr Chairman, Sir, I rise to support the expenditure under this Head. In doing so, Sir, I would like to lay great emphasis on the expansion of Trunk roads A, at such places as Funtua, Gusau, Sokoto, Jega, and also some bridges to be widened on these roads. These roads, Sir, are the trade and economic life of the Sokoto Province, and I appeal to the Minister to see to it that these roads are greatly improved. With these few words I support the Head.

Mr S. D. Lar (Lowland East) : Mr Chairman, Sir, in speaking on this Head I would like to say something that the Government have not been saying now. Whatever programmes may happen in the future, at present we have very narrow roads. Whether the Government agrees with me now or not, it is possible that in future traffic will be heavy, and so I am now appealing to the Minister in charge to see that the present bridges are expanded; otherwise it will be somewhat uneconomic on the part of the Government, because in future it will mean that the present bridges will be broken down. To save that programme it would be better to keep expanding bridges so that when the time comes for the widening of the roads such bridges will not be broken down. Mr Chairman, Sir, with these few words I would like the Government to take the necessary step.

Mr R. N. Muojeke (Awka Central) : Mr Chairman, Sir, I am saying that some of our trunk roads are too narrow to permit the easy transportation of our vehicles which are increasing in number day by day. Also most of our bridges are too narrow, and a bit weak. Some of them collapse under the heavy load of traffic. For example, the bridge on the road between Oturkpo and Makurdi broke almost when I was trying to pass over last week. When we remember that that is one of the most important—(Interruption).

The Chairman : Order, order. Nothing is more calculated to stop me calling people from a particular quarter of the House if while one is speaking the others make a noise. Then the speaker's voice just does not reach me. So I ask his neighbours to keep really quiet.

Mr Muojeke : When we remember that this is a Trunk A road connecting the East with the North we cannot be happy that in this stage of our development such type of road should be left in such a very disgraceful condition. Between Oturkpo and Makurdi that portion that is not tarred is a danger zone to travellers.

Again, I must not forget the fact that for the past two or three years the House here has promised that the Niger Bridge should be built, but up till now nothing has been done. When we remember that the Niger Bridge is the gateway to the East and the West, we see that this is so important that something must be done to get this bridge, at least completed before the independence date. (*Applause, and cries of No, no*). We must not deceive ourselves that we have embarked on the problems of industrialising our country. We must do everything we can to improve the nature and condition of our roads and bridges. Mr Chairman, I beg to move.

Sitting suspended : 1.00 p.m.

Sitting resumed : 3.10 p.m.

Mallam Muhtari, Sarkin Bai (Dambatta) : Mr Chairman, Sir, in rising to support the expenditure on this Head, I would like to say that I am most grateful to note that the Minister of Works and Surveys has at last realised the need for the improvement of the road Trunk A1 from Tegna to Daura.

Mr Chairman, I should like to draw the attention of the Minister to the fact that the section of the road from Dambatta to Daura is no more than a narrow, dusty and bumpy track with narrow bridges all along. I am grateful that the Minister has taken steps to improve this road and that he has given out contract worth £4 million and that he has promised that the work will be undertaken from the other end. I am grateful, and he should see that the work is carried out without any further delay. There are two bridges on this road, the Tomas and the Jeka-rade bridges; these bridges need very very urgent attention. They are very very narrow and I am therefore appealing to the Minister to see that these bridges are widened without any further delay. I beg to support.

H. O. Chuku (Bende Central) : Mr Chairman, Sir, I seize this opportunity to congratulate the Minister of Works and Surveys for the excellent work he has done on the Aba-Umuahia-Okigwi-Oji River road. It is one of the best roads in the whole of the Eastern Region and I am particularly happy that the Minister had made a further provision to the tune of £245,000 to widen and strengthen the bridges along that road. It must be a very good driver who will take the risk of passing through that road in the night because the present bridges along the road are very very narrow and weak, and I am glad the Minister has taken appropriate steps to widen and strengthen the bridges.

Furthermore, there is another bridge between Aba and Owerrinta. That particular bridge was repaired, or built, about three years ago and it collapsed. I do not know whether the Minister is considering the possibility of getting this bridge repaired again before the Independence. And there is another bridge almost within Owerri Township; I think there are two bridges, one before you get into the Township and one immediately after the Township. I think those bridges have really claimed a lot of lives and my hon. Friend from Owerri in person of Abii will bear me out. On the Aba-Port Harcourt Trunk "A" Road, I think the Aba Urban District Council should be prepared—I hope the Council is quite prepared—to build a very big roundabout very close to the market square. But if they do that and the road is then not in a proper condition to take this roundabout, I think it will be a waste of time and money on the part of the local Urban District Council.

So, I think something must be done to see that this road between Aba and Port Harcourt is very well taken care of because if you think of Aba in terms of commerce, Aba is the centre of commerce in the whole of Eastern Region, so that it will not be a waste of time and money on the part of the Government to take care of this road.

And when we talk of industries, Sir, we must realise too that good roads play an important part and also we must realise that the people in the rural areas, who are more or less the sole users of these roads, must be encouraged in a way by widening and strengthening the bridges of those roads that link the rural areas with Lagos and the rest of the country.

[MR CHUKU]

Another road that I would like the Minister to see into is the road between Ibadan and Lagos; it is so bumpy and winding. If something could be done in the way of smoothing the surface of the road and widening it and cutting all the trees along the sides of the road, it would be a good thing, because I feel that by October 1, when Members of this House, and possibly Ministers, will be requested to lodge some of the overseas visitors for the Independence celebrations, each visitor would like to see our up-country and see how people live there and so forth.

Furthermore, it would be rainy season then and these things should be put right in time to make sure that anybody who comes to Nigeria to join us in the celebration of the independence feels comfortable. If the visitor is taken to any of these towns; I mean, if he is invited to go through all these places or if he requests the man with whom he lodges to take him to any place he wants to go and he is told that the road is impassable because it is rainy season and so he cannot go through that road, I think it would be a shame to this Government.

Sir, I would like the Minister who has held this portfolio for some time and has held it ably too, to look into all these complaints and make sure that he takes immediate action to see to it that all our roads and bridges are widened and straightened. With these few remarks, I beg to support.

Alhaji Ahmadu Danbaba (Rabah Wurno) : Mr Chairman, Sir, I rise to support the expenditure under this Head. In doing so, I would like to make few observations.

Without adequate means of transport, all types of development will be impossible. It is, therefore, necessary to have a highways policy which should give due regard to the future development of our country. Roads in particular are regarded as the best means of satisfying one's need, especially in the rural areas where one needs to go from District to District; village to village, door to door. Yet roads are very cheap in both construction and maintenance compared with either rail or air transport. In addition to that, roads are among the best investment that a country can make and pay a very high dividend.

So, Sir, the more we invest on roads the more we get out of roads and therefore, whatever we spend on roads must not be regarded as wastage. Road can be regarded as a means to industrialising the country and in this respect I submit, Sir, that without sufficient roads, no country can be able to tap its resources and plan its industries properly because the transport and distribution of raw materials from one corner to another would be very difficult and slow and would therefore add more to the cost of production.

Lack of sufficient roads may force this country to centralise all its industries in one place or a few places while other countries are now trying to decentralise for well-known reasons. Now, Sir, if one looks at the size of this country and the roads so far declared to be the responsibility of this Federal Government one would come to the conclusion that the roads so far declared are not at all sufficient to cope with the demand of this country. So if the Government wants to meet the needs, the growing needs of this country and tackle the problem properly, one would respectfully suggest to the Government to take over all the Regional Governments' roads and the Regional Governments will in turn take over all the N.A. and local authority roads (*Applause*). That should continue at the interval of every five years.

This would help rural areas to have more amenities which at present are denied them owing to lack of transport facilities. (*Hear, hear*).

Mr P. E. Ekanem (Enyong South) : Especially the minority areas.

Alhaji Danbaba : Among the roads recommended to be taken over, Sir, are Gusau-Sabu Birin road, Isa-Wuruo-Guroyo road, Kaure-Fibiye-Katsina road, B.K.-Argungu-Sokoto road and Rabah-Gauri-Bakure road. These roads are purely Trunk B roads and N.A. roads but are carrying trunk A roads traffic.

Lastly, I would like to appeal to the Minister to improve the condition of Trunk A roads between Funtua and Gusau and Jega to Sokoto. These roads are the trade and economic life of the people of Sokoto province.

With these few remarks, I support.

Mr S. A. Oladapo (Ondo West): Mr Chairman, Sir, the importance of good roads to a vast developing country like Nigeria cannot be too strongly emphasised. To-day, both our rail and river transport system are still in their infancy. We thus have to depend largely on our roads for our internal transport. The whole economy of the country, therefore, still depends very largely on our road system.

In order to develop our economy as speedily as possible, the Government will be expected to work very hard to improve the present standard of our roads and bridges. At present, some parts of our roads—the so-called Trunk A roads are not good. At certain times of the year, some of these roads have got to be closed. The bridges are poor; very poorly built and not strong to carry heavy trucks particularly in the Western Region.

I am not talking of Regional roads. I am talking of Trunk A roads in the Western Region particularly. As a result of this poor state of our roads in some areas, large trucks are restricted from carrying—or rather transporters are restricted from using large trucks with the result that they are confined to the use of small trucks and you know the bigger the loads the transporter carries, the cheaper the freight becomes. When the transporter is restricted to using only small trucks in certain areas, the effect is that the freights are unusually high and in return, who suffers? It is the producer and as we are all looking forward to the development of our economy and as our economy to-day, as I have said before, still depends very largely on our road transport, I hope that the Government would do all it can to improve the present standard of our roads and bridges.

Mr E. B. Sorunke (Egba North): Mr Chairman, Sir, in supporting this Head I should like to make the following contributions. It is not my intention to waste the time of this hon. House. The points I should like to touch is the widening of Trunk A roads passing through Abeokuta to Lagos.

I think at this stage I should like to congratulate the Government for the construction of Lafenwa Bridge. It was the intention of the Government to widen the road immediately after Lafenwa Bridge. I am now appealing to

the Minister in charge of Works to implement the scheme without any further delay. Furthermore, I should like to appeal to the Minister to widen most of the bridges on this road and particularly all the level crossings in this road for it is necessary that they are widened. These level crossings are dangerous to the life of the people.

The other point is about the big trees along this road.

I think it is necessary for the Government or the Minister in charge to see that all these big trees are cut down because big trees along the road are also very dangerous to the lives of people, particularly during the rainy season.

Furthermore, I should like to appeal to the Minister to convert most of the trunk roads 'B' to trunk roads 'A' because these trunk roads 'B' are utterly neglected by the Regional Government in the Western Region because the Action Group Government of the Western Region has woefully failed in its duty. This Federal Government, therefore, will do well by taking over these trunk roads 'B' because these trunk roads 'B' are seen in the rural areas, and the people of the rural areas would like to enjoy amenities provided by the Federal Government, so long as the Western Regional Government has failed them.

I am now appealing to the Minister to please save the people of the rural areas from the awkward position in which they are put by this Government of the Western Region. (*Hear, hear*). Mr Chairman, Sir, with these few remarks I beg to support.

The Minister of Works and Surveys (Alhaji the hon. Muhammadu Inuwa Wada): Mr Chairman, Sir, I rise to reply to some points made by hon. Members in the hope that in doing so I will anticipate several other Members also and the House will be allowed to carry on with other business.

From what I have noticed so far, Members have simply been repeating what was said either during the Speech from the Throne or during the debate in the Committee of Supply. I will, however, take a few points and answer generally.

Several Members spoke on the subject of converting Regional roads into Federal roads with the idea that if the Federal Government

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takes over some of the Regional roads, the Regional Governments will then take over some roads from the Local Government Authorities. This in itself is really very good.

If Members will remember, I mentioned in this House, and my Parliamentary Secretary also spoke on the same subject in answer to a Question, that it is the intention of the Federal Government to take over some Regional roads if necessary arrangements are made and if funds are available. Our hope is that after 1962, during the next Economic Programme we should examine the various Regional roads in the country and, in consultation with the various Ministries of Works in the Regions, try to see which of the roads the Federal Government can take over. (*Hear, hear*). This question will, of course, be subject to the availability of funds.

Mr Odigbo spoke of the Onitsha-Owerri road, and he spoke about reconstructing it. Well, I want to give him one piece of good news: that it is in our Programme at least to reconstruct the stretch of the road between Onitsha and Nnewi—and this is the busiest part of the road. Not only are we going to reconstruct it, but we also hope to widen it.

Then Mr Odigbo and several other Members, including the Opposition spokesman on Works, spoke about strengthening and widening bridges. This, I do not mind repeating to hon. Members, is exactly what the Federal Government has been doing systematically. Whenever we are reconstructing a road, we take the opportunity also to reconstruct the bridges and, where necessary, to widen them.

Mr Muojeke, among many other things, spoke of the piece of road between Oturkpo and Makurdi. We are now tarring all the way from the 9-mile corner near Enugu up to a point called Aliede just beyond Oturkpo. Unfortunately, that is the farthest we can go with the money available to us. But the hope is that during the next Economic Programme we shall finish the rest of the work.

Then Mr Muojeke said something which made the House laugh: he asked me to get ahead and finish the Niger Bridge between now and Independence! That is impossible, Sir. We simply cannot do it. But I want to

assure him that the question of the Niger Bridge is uppermost in my mind. (*Hear, hear*.) There is now a strong team of engineers in my Ministry who are busily engaged on this project and I want to tell you that not a minute will be wasted.

Then my good Friend, M. Muhtari, Sarkin Bai, for obvious reasons spoke of trunk road A1, especially the bit between Dambatta and Daura. Now, Sir, I said earlier on that this project is one which we are going to give to a firm of contractors fairly shortly for bituminous surfacing. The question of starting the work from one end to another, I said earlier I was going to take it up with the contractors to ask them if they can start the work from the two ends. But I want to warn my hon. Friend that two ends may mean they can either start from Tgina and move northwards—that is one thing; or if they do not do that, they can start from Kano and go towards Zaria; or they can start from Kano and go towards Daura.

My Friend, Mr Chuku, I want to thank him for his congratulations and I want to assure him that his favourite roads are not forgotten. I have answered Alhaji Mohammed Argungu also in my reply to the roads the Federal Government wants to take over.

Now, Sir, Mr Oladapo spoke about weak bridges all over the Western Region. He also spoke about restriction on the loads trucks are allowed to carry. My hon. Friend, Mr Oladapo, restriction is put on vehicles not only because they use Federal roads, but also because they use Regional and Local Government roads.

The Federal Trunk A roads in the Western Region, all of them, can carry a gross weight of 15 tons or in other words, they can all carry an axle load of 8 tons. We are restricting the pay load of trucks in that particular area at the request of the Western Ministry of Works and the reason is, they say, that if we allow these heavy trucks to use our own roads, they will also use the regional roads which, unfortunately, have weaker bridges than our own roads. Therefore, if you want to use a heavy truck, you must obtain a permit.

Mr Chairman, Sir, I am sure hon. Members will agree that I have now managed to answer

most of the questions, and, if they do not mind, I beg to move that the question be now put.

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

Original question accordingly put and agreed to.

Resolved : That the expenditure from the Development Fund of three million, five thousand, two hundred and forty pounds for the purposes set out in the Draft Estimates of Capital Expenditure 1960-61, under Head 602—Highways and Bridges—be approved.

HEAD 601—LOANS

The Minister of Finance : Mr Chairman, Sir, I beg to move that the expenditure from the Development Fund of eight million, four hundred and thirty-five thousand, four hundred and twenty pounds for the purposes set out in the Draft Estimates of Capital Expenditure, 1960-61, under Head 601—Loans—be approved.

Question proposed.

Mr B. O. Ikeh (Izi South) : Mr Chairman, Sir, under this Head, a sum of £1½ million is given to the E.C.N. Now, as it was stated in the Budget Speech of the Minister of Finance that E.C.N. will expand its projects now, I would like to draw the Minister's attention to one important point. If the E.C.N. is to be given the chance to expand, it will not be very good to allow certain industrial concerns to compete with the E.C.N.

For instance, I remember, sometime ago, the Lead/Zinc Company in Abakaliki was given the permission to instal its own power on the pretext that they would not like a power supply from Oji Power Station for the fear that whenever the power station at Oji failed, then the mines at Lead/Zinc Mining Area will be filled with water ; but actually, it has been found out that it would cost more to instal a new power at that Lead/Zinc Mining Area, and it would be cheaper to get a power supply from Oji Power Station.

I think it will be uneconomical if the Minister would approve for the Lead/Zinc Mine to have a power of its own. I think they should be helped to get power supply from the Electricity Power Station at Oji. This will help in the expansion and also, it will help to get other towns nearby to be supplied with electricity.

An hon. Member : What has this got to do with Loans ?

Mr Ikeh : That is the amount of money voted to be given to the E.C.N. I am drawing the attention of the Minister to this fact so that the Lead/Zinc Mining Company should be asked to get their supply from the Oji Power Station.

Thank you, Sir,

Mr R. O. A. Akinjide (Ibadan South East) : There is just one point I would like to make. Now, I see that the Western Region or a very large part of the Western Region is now being supplied with electricity from Ijora Power Station. Well, this might be economically sound but I do not think as far as security is concerned that it is sound. In case of war if the Ijora Power Station is burnt, almost half of the Western Region will have been paralysed. I think the Minister will take this into account. It is very very important.

Mr P. O. Eleke (Okigwi South East) : Mr Chairman, Sir, while we are under this Head 601, Loan, I have only one point to raise and that is about the Cameroons Development Corporation. Sir, may I humbly ask to know what has happened to the huge sum of money lent to the Cameroons Development Corporation now that the territory wants to separate itself from Nigeria. Will the Government of the Southern Cameroons refund the money or what ?

As Mr Foncha, the present Premier of the territory is now so ungrateful as to repay Nigeria with bitter ingratitude, I very strongly urge the Government to recall all our money from the Southern Cameroons including all the interests due on the money. (*Hear, hear.*) The Government of Southern Cameroons wants all the Nigerians serving in the—

The Chairman : I cannot hear what the hon. gentleman is saying, I wonder if it is relevant to Head 601 or not. Now, let me hear.

Mr Eleke : Well, with the sum of over £1½ million given to the E.C.N. under this Head, I do hope that the long expected supply of electricity to Okigwi township will now materialise. Sir, Okigwi is just a few miles from Oji Power Station and the extension of electric light from that power station to

[MR ELEKE]

Okigwi would be a very easy one indeed. It would not cost much to effect this much-needed amenity to the people of Okigwi. I very sincerely therefore beg the Minister concerned to do justice to the people of Okigwi.

The Chairman : I must draw attention to the fact that this discussion on the Loan of £1½ million to the E.C.N., does not enable us to talk about individual supplies of electricity here and there. That is simply not relevant to this debate.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved : That the expenditure from the Development Fund of eight million, four hundred and thirty-five thousand, four hundred and twenty pounds for the purposes set out in the Draft Estimates of Capital Expenditure, 1960-61, under Head 601—Loans—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 twenty-three million, nine hundred and eighty-five thousand, three hundred and twenty pounds for the purposes set out in the Draft Estimates of Capital Expenditure, 1960-61, under Head 605—Other Capital Expenditure—be approved.

Question proposed.

The Minister of Finance : Mr Chairman, Sir, I beg to move to increase item (3) of sub-head 13 by £168,000.

Amendment proposed to increase item (3) of sub-head 13 by £168,000.

Amendment put and agreed to.

Resolved : That item (3) of sub-head 13 be increased by £168,000.

The Minister of Finance : Mr Chairman, Sir, I beg to move to reduce item (1) of sub-head 21 by £200,000.

Amendment proposed to reduce item (1) of sub-head 21 by £200,000.

Amendment put and agreed to.

Resolved : That item (1) of sub-head 21 be reduced by £200,000.

Question proposed, That £23,953,320 for Head 605—Other Capital Expenditure—stand part of the Schedule.

Dr P. U. Okeke (Onitsha North Central): Mr Chairman, Sir, I want to make just one remark in just two or three minutes. I have noted, under telecommunications equipment, an item of about £187,000 estimated for the years 1955 to 1962. I only want to make one observation here, that this lot of money which is going to be spent on telecommunications equipment be spent very wisely.

I have heard some allegations that some used equipment were in the past imported from Great Britain to this country. I have been worried by the frequent power failure and other disturbances over our wireless. When a little wind blows or rain falls you often find a lot of telecommunications lines thrown here and there. If Nigerian conditions are very different from other conditions overseas where such failure do not occur very often, we may have to order specially manufactured equipment for Nigerian and African conditions to be sure that we get continued services throughout telecommunication system. Mr Chairman, I beg to support.

Mr W. Briggs (Degema): Mr Chairman, Sir, I would like to begin by reference to sub-head 9, that is, Fisheries. I notice that under item (1) of sub-head 9, £39,000 has been estimated for 1955-1962 and £29,000 is going to be used for this current year. The next one is experimental motor fishing boat £2,000; and Pilot Fish Culture Centre £1,000. Now I would like to point out to the House that we are the principal fishing area. To think that in spite of the fact as I say that we are the principal fishing area this expenditure has not been made in those areas at all!

I really do not know where all this money has been spent before and is going to be spent. I am now suggesting for the consideration of the Minister that fish farming be established in the Rivers area, and also I think he should consider giving some loans to either individual fishermen or groups of fishermen for the purchase of fishing trawlers or drag nets for their industry and to improve the industry there. The fishing industry is at its lowest ebb because of lack of financial support. I am saying this for the consideration of the Minister and I hope that when he goes about for loans he will remember the Rivers Province.

I now come to item 28—Niger Delta Development Board. I see that a sum of £250,000 is estimated for it, out of which I think £49,000 is going to be spent. The Niger Delta Development Board, has since been set up and according to the Constitution, there should be some representatives of this House on the Board. So far there is nobody who has been appointed to represent the people in that Niger Delta Development Board although it has long been set up. I am asking the Minister that the Board should be put on its proper footing and work started.

The people of the Niger Delta are suffering terribly, and I know they have been suffering every time. As I have always said, we are a sort of economic back-wash in the whole country. Nobody thinks of us at all. So I am asking that the Niger Delta Development Board be put on its proper footing and that the work be started right now.

And then I come to item 52, that is Bonny and Degema piers. I notice that £6,700 was estimated for it, out of which £1,080 has already been spent. I come from Degema and I have not seen anything at all which has been done by the Government, and I have been to Bonny quite often. I ask myself how much of the £1,080 has been spent in those areas. Whether it has gone down the drain, or whether it is in the pockets of some people I do not know. In any case I am saying that the estimate of £3,760, as a matter of fact, is chicken feed. I do not know what this small amount is going to do. It is too small, and I am asking that more money be put into it.

Now, Bonny. Most of hon. Members probably must have known that this is a historic town. It is one of the oldest towns in Nigeria, and most of these areas are in the Delta area which are constantly being washed by the sea. There is a great incursion of the sea into the township and if this estimated cost is used wisely I think much of the land will be reclaimed.

Finally, Mr Chairman, I come to my favourite subject. The subject of International Loans. It is my favourite subject and the favourite subject of my hon. Friend, the Minister of Finance. (*Interruptions*)

Sub-head 27—I would like Members to listen. The cost of membership of the International Monetary Fund £980,000. It is going to cost this country £980,000 to be a member of the International Monetary Fund. That is almost a million pounds to be just a Member.

Several hon. Members : And so what ?

Mr Briggs : You say "And so what" ! This is the taxpayers' money and that is what we of Opposition have been talking about all along. (*Interruption*). If the hon. Minister of Finance will listen—

An hon. Member : Sit down, man.

Mr Briggs : I am sure the hon. Member has a bad conscience and he does not want to listen to his misdeeds.

Several hon. Members : Give way and sit down.

Mr Briggs : I am not giving way at all.

Mr Chairman, all I am saying is to call the attention of the House to the fact that ordinary membership is going to cost us £980,000 almost a million pounds. That is just the point that we Members of the Opposition are making all the time. I think, Mr Chairman, our thinking is entering into a groove and I think a kind of groove that resists emancipation, and I think what we should do is to get out of the beaten track and try to evolve an economic system which will be based on our own resources. That is just what we are saying

We go about borrowing, borrowing and borrowing; not only is the borrowing costing us, but the mere being a member of the Monetary Fund is costing us as much as £980,000. Mr Chairman, I beg to support.

M. Inosa Tudun Wada : On a Point of order, Sir.

The Chairman : Does the hon. Tudun Wada want to raise a point ?

M. Tudun Wada : When the Gentleman was speaking he was not addressing the Chair.

Mr M. Okilo (Brass) : Mr Chairman, Sir, on behalf of the people of the Special Area and of the NDC-NPC alliance (*Hear, hear*), I wholeheartedly thank the Government of this country and emergent leaders of this country for accepting the recommendation of the

[MR OKILO]

Minorities Commission for the establishment of the Niger Delta Development Board for the development of Niger Delta Special Area.

I am really grateful indeed. This is going to show the realization of the creed of one Nigeria. The development of this Niger Delta will raise the standard of the people to that of other parts in the country. While I congratulate the Government of this country for this Board I cannot be blind to the fact that there are certain administrative difficulties which are bound to arise as a result of the present constitution of this Board.

The administrative difficulty which I try to envisage is this. This Board is recognised by Her Majesty and received also Her blessings, and gained international recognition, but was placed under the control of three almost equally autonomous Governments—three Governments to control one single Board. It is said that “Two captains never control one ship successfully”, how much less of three captains to control one ship.

An hon. Member : What ship ?

Mr Okilo : The ship of the Niger Delta Development Board. Here is a civil Board, the Board has been completed and now given to three captains. How will this Board be really and properly administered? I do not know which of the captains is going to be the head. It is now known that the life of this Board is a limited one. The Board has been named from October last year, and as a result of these thousands and one authorities being the head in the affairs of this Board, the Board has not been able to function.

We do not know the composition and constitution of this Board. It stands now to reason whether the Governments are serious or not on this Board.

Secondly, the advisory nature of the Board. This Board as I have mentioned is not only known in this country, but even by Her Majesty the Queen who has given Her blessings. All the world have known about this. Why should this Board be advisory in capacity? To advise what? Should the Governments refuse the advice of this Board? What is going to happen? Deadlock, and the activities of the Board become impossible to be executed.

These are matters of common sense which are too obvious for me to point out to the Government of this country, and if the Government is very serious, my humble suggestion, Sir, is that something should be done about this Board and that something is that this Board should have executive powers. That is, it should be able to make its own schemes, something really similar to the composition or constitution of the L.E.D.B., a Board that should be able to carry out its own scheme and plans without subjecting itself to different Authorities.

Finally, Sir, we the people of the Rivers want this Niger Delta Board to alleviate our toil and sufferings, and we look upon it as our state. (*Hear, hear.*)

The question of Chairmanship has also been a very burning question, and which up till the moment nothing has definitely been done about it. We are appealing to the Government of this country that the man to be appointed must be a non-politician. He must be somebody of high integrity and of national reputation in this country. (*Hear, hear.*) At least, we have them. He should be somebody approved by the people of Rivers area and must have the interest of the people at least. So, in consideration of the appointment of this Chairman, Sir, we are appealing to the Government of this country to take these very many factors into consideration.

With these few remarks, I beg to support.

The Minister of Finance (Chief the hon. F. S. Okotie-Eboh): Mr Chairman, Sir, I just want to reply to one or two points made by my hon. Friend, Mr Briggs, in his characteristic irresponsible way. He is a man who wants this House to take him seriously when he says that he is a good specimen of a fisherman. If all fishermen look like Mr Briggs then the Government should put in no more money there. (*Laughter.*)

Mr W. O. Briggs : I would like to tell my hon. Friend that I am a lawyer, not a fisherman.

The Minister of Finance : Sir, as regards the other question he raised about the membership of the International Monetary Fund, I would say that for once I see that a member of the Opposition was speaking only for himself and not for the members of our res-

pected Opposition. I am sure that not even my hon. Friend, Mr Ekanem, will agree that when his country attains independence it will not be proper for his country to become a member of international organisations. We do not want to build a country that will live in isolation.

Secondly, the hon. Briggs is really misinforming the House. The sum of money provided in the Estimates is not a loan to be raised by this country or to be given to anybody. It is the usual fees—admission fees—and which will be paid by us when we are proposed as members of these international organisations.

All respectable countries are members of this Fund and I want to inform the House that we ought to be proud that that amount is ear-marked because the entrance fee, if I may call it that, is usually apportioned in accordance with the importance of the country concerned and in accordance with its credit-worthiness. Therefore, if we are asked as a country, the largest single country in Africa to pay even £1 million, I am sure that hon. Members will agree that it raises our status.

I therefore feel that my hon. Friend is just playing to the gallery in his usual way but in doing so he has done no credit to himself as he has only exhibited crass ignorance.

Mr L. J. Dosunmu (Lagos Central): Mr Chairman, Sir, may I refer the hon. Minister of Finance to sub-head 25 and ask the hon. Minister to favour us with a break-down of the figure of £94,600 under Independence Celebrations (Capital Expenditure) as there is none in the side-notes and not a word is mentioned in the Memorandum to explain it. I notice that apart from this amount there is a huge provision of £300,000 under "Independence Building". I just want him to break it down so that we will know what it is all about.

The Minister of Finance: Sir, the item does not require any breakdown, rather it has to be broken up. (*Laughter*). The expenditure for Independence certainly cannot be finalised at this stage. Speaking seriously, I am sure my hon. Friend will appreciate that it is not possible to break it down. How can you break down something you have not passed. It is there for you to pass and when you pass it, the programme will be got up and when it is got up then it will be broken down.

At the moment it is a Block Vote but you can rest assured that it will be used for the Independence. It may not even be sufficient. You as a Lagos man ought to be proud that we are spending so much money in developing Lagos. I am going to appeal to the people not to vote for you again! (*Laughter*).

Mr Briggs: Point of Order, Sir. How does the Minister arrive at this £1 million?

The Chairman: That is no point of Order; it is a point of debate.

Mr Dosunmu: Sir, that is exactly what I am asking the Minister. This is an estimate. At his Office he must have something on how this total was arrived at. He should be able to tell us what and what make up this amount (*Interruption*).

Mr A. O. Ogunsanya (Ikeja): Mr Chairman, Sir, I wish to speak on sub-head 12, item 7, Federal Loans Board.

I find that several Members are so interested in the Board and have asked a lot of questions during the course of the debate because they did not really understand the provisions of the Industrial Loans (Lagos and Federation) Ordinance of 1956. The real purpose was to be able to give large loans ranging from £30,000 to £50,000 for industries all over the Federation, industries not otherwise provided for by the Regional Boards.

Now, it is true that in the past several Regional applications have been made and this was more because the applications were misconstrued in most cases. Cases were ruled out and I am happy that my hon. Friend, Mr Dosunmu, will agree with me in this. He happens to have been a member and, therefore, better informed than the hon. Briggs. In most cases applications were made from the Regions for sums ranging from £1,000 to £29,000 which could not be entertained by the Board.

The hon. Minister of Transport—who is just going out now—was the father of these Boards and it is now being sympathetically looked after by our indefatigable Minister of Commerce and Industry, the hon. Zana Dipcharima. During the last House it was possible through representations and the readiness of the hon. Minister to harken to the wishes of the people that an Ordinance was passed here to reduce the minimum for Regional loans from £30,000 to £10,000.

[MR OGUNSANYA]

This fact has not for a long time been known to members of the general public. Whereas in the past loans ranging from £1,000 to £29,999 were ruled out technically because of the provisions of the Ordinance, now it is possible to entertain any loan from £10,000 upwards from the Regions.

Another thing is that several people thought this covers the purviews of Agricultural projects. It does not. The Ordinance itself specifically says that this Board was created in 1956 for purely industrial projects.

Now I see that in the Current Estimates the sum of £139,000 has just been provided. I think we will have to appeal more to the Minister of Finance to allow himself to be convinced by the Minister of Commerce and Industry to allow the Federal Loans Board as soon as possible a sum not less than £1 million. I think the desire of the people for the Government to meet the need for financing industrial projects cannot be over-estimated.

Now for the officers of the Board. The Chairman is appointed by the Council of Ministers and there is no doubt that the Chairman of the Board is a first-class man and the members of the Board are chosen from all over the country.

Another point is that I find that a lot of money is being spent on Education—Capital Works, as you will see in Sub-head 6. This is something which is very encouraging. Those of us who live in Lagos thank the Federal Government for this and we want still more and more to be done.

Mr Chairman, I beg to support.

M. Ali Monguno (Gumel West): Whilst supporting the Head, Mr Chairman, I just want to say one or two things. Under Sub-head 6, Item 11, West African Examinations Council, we have been asked to approve the sum of £67,000 which is said to be required for accommodation, storage space, and senior service staff quarters. Well this is all very well, but may I point out to this Council that there is unnecessary delay in releasing the results of examinations.

People have to wait months and months before results are out, employers cannot possibly employ people whose results are not yet out. The examinations should be set well in advance in good time so that the results would be out

either before the end of the academic year or the end of the financial year.

The qualifying test, Sir, is absolutely unnecessary, especially the qualifying test for the G.C.E. (Ordinary) or (Advanced). We hope, Sir, that this money will be spent in improving the appalling conditions especially over results, and we are expecting to see tangible progress in this section.

Sir, I beg to move.

Mr N. A. Ezonbodor (Western Ijaw): Mr Chairman, Sir, I would like to speak on Sub-head 28 about the Niger Delta Development Board. I have seen here that only £250,000 is allocated to this Board. I would like to ask what the Federal Government is going to do with this meagre sum of money for the operation of this Niger Delta Board. It is no wonder people in this House are taking this Board so lightly. I do not think they are very serious about it.

I pray that hon. Members in this House should be a bit more serious about the establishment of this Niger Delta Board. What made these people to cry to get this Special Area Board? It was because of the attitude, the oppressive attitude of other tribes against the Ijaw people. It was because they felt that they had been relegated to the background and that in the country to-day they are nowhere.

They cried before the British people that if they were going to grant independence to this country something should be done for the Ijaw people before the British leave. Mr Chairman, the British people were good enough after setting up the Minority Commission to say that a Special Area Board should be set up for the people. The people are so backward, they are being suppressed, they are being depressed, so much so that they would be nowhere in an independent country, and what certainly occurred to the minds of the British people was that there should be a constitutional means by which a political organ is set up for the rapid improvement of such a neglected and down-trodden tribe and that is why this Board was created. It is a miniature state.

Are you going to operate this Board with £250,000? What for? Mr Chairman, we the Ijaws are not dismayed because we have a God-fearing and righteous man at the head of the affairs of this Government and the

Prime Minister is going to see to everything about this Board. What we are praying to see is that Members in this House should take a more sympathetic view of this Board. We are trying to appeal before everybody in this country that if we are going to attain the independence we are really craving for we, the Ijaws, should go abreast with every other tribe in this country.

Certainly this Board is very important, its arms of jurisdiction cover the whole Niger Delta and certainly it needs a large sum of money for the physical development. Money is needed to reclaim portions of land for the communal settlement of the people. A sum of money is needed to educate the people too so that they may be able to understand the present condition of things in the country. A sum of money is needed to train people, to get skilled men, to get artists, to get technicians. I am sorry, Mr Chairman, this Board concerns me and some of my few people here mostly as the only members from the area concerned, and our voice here is unanimous and it is the voice of the Niger Delta people.

The Chairman : Has the hon. Member finished, he has not said anything for a long time ?

Mr Ezonbodor : Mr Chairman, what I am trying to pray is that a particular interest should be taken in the establishment of this board. Those of us who have been speaking about this Niger Delta Board are no tribalists, as some newspaper men were trying to caricature some of us when they said that some people who were asking about tribal positions in this country are enemies of this country. We are not trying to be tribalistic. We are not trying to be enemies of the country, but we are trying to preach that we should go abreast with other tribes.

The Chairman : I really think the hon. Member is a bit vague in his remarks. He does not really seem to me to relate his remarks to any particular Items under Head 605, and I wish he would.

Mr Ezonbodor : Mr Chairman, what I am trying to say is that more seriousness should be shown this Board and that the Board should begin to operate now. It was in the last London Constitutional Conference that it was agreed upon. It was first of all recommended by the Minorities Commission and the London Conference agreed that this Niger

Delta Board should be established for the Niger Delta people, but since then no serious steps have ever been taken to see that this Board is operative.

A time limit has been set up—ten years. Well much time has elapsed for nothing. We would like the early operation of this Board in order that we may develop these people, improve them, and enable them to go abreast with other tribes in the country if we are really sincere in attaining our independence in this country, I repeat.

Mr Chairman, with these few remarks I beg to support.

The Minister of Economic Development (hon. Mallam Shehu Shagari) : Mr Chairman, Sir, I would like to reply to my Friends, the hon. Members from the Niger Delta.

The Niger Delta is a Special Area which, of all the Minority Areas, is the only Area which has genuine complaints concerning their troubles. (*Hear, hear.*) The people of the area presented their case before the Minorities Commission and the Minorities Commission very rightly recommended that that Area should be regarded as a Special Area in Nigeria. For this reason this Area is entitled to special consideration by the Federal Government. Hon. Members from the Special Area have been speaking about the Niger Delta Development Board. This Board has not been established yet.

Several hon. Members : Why ?

The Minister of Economic Development : The reason is that we have been in consultation with the Niger Delta people themselves and the Regional Governments concerned, and after the consultation we have come to an agreement on the Regulations concerning the Niger Delta Development Board, the Regulations which have now been approved are going to be published very soon. We have also invited an expert committee, people who are experts in rivers, and they have gone to that Area and investigated their problems with a view to giving us expert advice on how best to develop the Area. This body of experts is going to publish its Report very soon.

Mr Chairman, Sir, some Members have complained about the amount which is in the Estimates of £250,000. I wish to make it clear to hon. Members that the Federal Government does not intend to take over the

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Special Area and administer it itself. What we intend to do is to set up a Board which is going to plan the development of the Area and then it is the Regional Governments themselves who are going to do the work. It is not a Federal Government Territory. The development of the Area is the responsibility of the Regional Governments, but the function of the Board is mainly for the development of the Special Areas, helping in the best way possible for the Regional Governments to take over the development of the Area themselves. It is not for the Federal Government to take up the development itself.

Mr Briggs also talked about the membership of the Board and complained that Members of the House are not members of the Board. He knows definitely that this is laid down by the Constitution, and if he wants to be a member of the Board he might as well resign his membership of the House.

We are also considering the appointment of a suitable Chairman for this Development Board, and as soon as we get the right type of person who has the interest of the Special Areas at heart and who has the respect of the people in the Area we will appoint him and the Board will start functioning very soon.

Mr Briggs also spoke about fisheries development. The development of fisheries is a Regional subject. I replied to a question which he has asked this morning concerning fisheries, and if he remembers well I said that the Federal Government is doing its best in research work on fisheries, but the development of fisheries is, of course, a Regional subject. We shall of course do all we can to help the Special Areas which is exclusively our own responsibility.

Mr E. C. Akwivu (Orlu South-East): Mr Chairman, Sir, I would like to touch briefly on a few points. I notice that under Sub-head 8, Item 1 we have a commission on post school certificate and higher education. I think this is a very welcome thing.

Now, I am informed that a recent expert survey on educational policies of the country and the prospect of complete Nigerianisation in our Public Service revealed that in other countries, in the advanced countries, about five per cent of the population constitute the professional and highly educated class that go

in to man the top level administration both in industry and in Government services. But that in the case of Nigeria it is only one tenth of one per cent that Nigeria now has, and it is said that at the rate we are going something fundamental must have to be done with the education of Nigeria if we are really serious about getting this country to be run by our own people in no distant date.

If I may go further to give some very important information the experts have recommended that at the present rate if we produce at the rate of about two thousand graduates a year that after ten years we would still have only two per cent which does not augur well for the future of this country. I think every effort should be made to see that this commission produces the best it can and that its recommendations are followed up very quickly.

Again, Sir, we have on this question, too, higher education and post secondary training. I would emphasise that one of the things this country needs most to-day is the training of scientists of all forms both of the lower level and higher ranks. A good many of our schools in this country to-day either do not teach science or do not teach them at a sufficiently high level. I would commend to the Minister of Education the new system now going on in Germany whereby they have to produce for supplies to educational institutions fairly small compact units of science laboratories that could be moved around with convenience.

I think, Sir, that these science laboratories are very expensive both to build and to equip and it might help if we could make use of these smaller compact units and get them widely introduced in our schools. I think we would be helping the institutions not only by waiving duties on them but also by otherwise subsidising the supplies of science apparatus to our schools.

Now, Mr Chairman, Sir, the Emergency Training Centre in Lagos here I think was started about two or three years ago. We find a number of people who go through that Centre are more or less ending up in frustration. They were led to expect, when they were being admitted, that after their training they would either get employment in the Civil Service or be helped to get some employment in places where their knowledge of science would be of use, or they might be given scholarships. But at the moment, it seems to be the case that

many of the products of that institution are neither employed nor did they enjoy any scholarship.

I think it is a matter that the Ministry should look into very carefully. If we take the trouble of recruiting these youngmen, paying for their training and making them go through the tedious course of study, I think it is also our duty, not only in fairness to the students but also in fairness to the future of this country, that some proper use is made of the students thus produced.

Last time, I had an occasion to refer to the course of training shorthand typists. The Minister of Education on that occasion did not give any explanation. That is a matter that comes under this Capital Expenditure and I would suggest that the Minister should really see to it that these institutions are neither closed down nor stopped from organising their own internal examinations in preference to foreign examinations. If the standard is low, you can raise it and if you cannot then enquire into the circumstances that have made the products not as good as could be expected.

Mr M. A. Ajasin (Owo South): I would like to speak on Sub-Head 8 item 2 Expanded Scholarship Scheme. The Government has proposed to increase the present award of 180 scholarships to 540 for the next two years. I am happy about this. Though the Government has raised the number to 540, I want to say that 540 for the whole country is not sufficiently high. I am saying that to meet up the development of this country at this time what we require would be one thousand scholarships every year for the next five years. I mean one thousand every year for the next five years. If that is done we will be able to meet this gross deficiency that the Government has accepted, obtained in the past.

At present, we talk about the difficulties of filling posts in the Civil Service of this country. After independence many of the expatriates will go away and we will be faced with greater difficulty of filling vacant posts. If the scholarship scheme of this country has been such in the past that we have been training a large number of people, it would not have been so difficult now to meet up these deficiencies. So, that is why I am suggesting to the Government that one thousand scholarships a year should be provided.

Mr Chairman, Sir, the last speaker mentioned the training of science teachers. Now, out of the 540 scholarships 100 can be for teachers every year in the University College—60 for Science and 40 for Arts. If the Government can do that for the next five years, awarding 100 scholarships every year for the training of teachers who will do four years course in the University College—three years for the degree course and one year for the diploma in Education course; we shall be able to meet the needs of the schools in this country. This should be done with a view that teachers so trained would be allowed to go into any of the secondary schools in the country.

Sir, turning to the secondary school buildings, the Minister of Education, the Government rather, should consider giving some grants to the schools in the country. It should not be in the Federal territory of Lagos alone. This will be a good gesture in this year of independence. I suggest £10,000 for every recognised secondary school with double stream and £5,000 for every secondary school with a single stream. (*Interruptions*). That will be a good gesture from the Government of the Federation.

Mr Chairman, there is one point more about the acquisition of sites for primary school buildings in Lagos.

An hon. Member : It is too much !

Mr Ajasin : I do not think it is too much. I think the Government should consider now making free primary education compulsory in Lagos. At present, we have a free primary education but it is not compulsory—(*Interruptions*). If it is compulsory, then we shall be able to have many more children in the schools. Sir, there is a lot of wastage at present. Education in Lagos should be made compulsory and all the Regions will be able to follow suit. Education, at present, is free but not compulsory.

And then one thing more, Sir, we have a large number of working women in Lagos with little children. These women go to work and leave their children. The Minister should encourage the building of nursery schools in Lagos where these children between the ages of three and five, before going to the primary school, can attend. I commend this to the Minister of Education.

House of Representatives Debates

1955

[Appropriation (1960-61)

27 APRIL 1960

Bill : Committee]

1956

[MR AJASIN]

Mr Chairman, Sir, I beg to support.

Whereupon the Minister of Mines and Power 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.

Original Question put and agreed to.

Resolved : That the expenditure from the Development Fund of Twenty-Three Million, Nine Hundred and Fifty-Three Thousand, Three Hundred and Twenty Pounds for the purposes set out in the Draft Estimates of Capital Expenditure, 1960-61, under Head 605—Other Capital Expenditure, be approved.

Sitting suspended : 4.52 p.m.

Sitting resumed : 5-10 p.m.

**CAPITAL EXPENDITURE ESTIMATES
—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 Six Million, Three Hundred and Sixty-Four Thousand, Two Hundred and Eighty Pounds for the purposes set out in the Draft Estimates of Capital Expenditure, 1960-61, under Head 603,—Public Works Extraordinary, be approved.

Questioned proposed.

Mr D. M. Gbolagunte (Ibarapa) : Mr Chairman, Sir, under Sub-head 8 of this Estimate we find provision for building for the General Hospital, Maternity and other places but, Sir, I would like to point out an omission and I think the Minister in charge will notice this. It may be possible to divert some of the amount earmarked for these other buildings to the building of mental hospitals. If we look into the mental hospital at Yaba we find that it is not the ideal mental hospital expected. The mental hospital, you all know, was a railway store built in 1905. You can imagine what a Railway store built in 1905 will look like. But surprisingly you find mentally sick people dumped into this railway store. It was converted into an asylum later on and that asylum is now the mental hospital.

We need a better building for these mental people. Nobody knows when he is going into a mental hospital—(Laughter). It is not too

low for a Minister either, and we find responsible people breaking down and going into these hospitals and they go there to stay in the old railway hospital where we need a big building. Worse still, the catering in the hospital is not good. Unfortunately there are no materials or equipment for the hospital and we find many of the workers there leaving the place because they have not got the materials to use. My suggestions are that we would build a very good hospital for mental patients, youngmen should be trained as psychiatrists, social workers,—therapists and mental nurses if we want this hospital to serve its purpose.

Aro mental hospital, as you all know, is functioning better and it will be a disgrace if the hospital here is not functioning well. I feel the Minister should agree with me that we need to expand our mental hospital. The one at Aro is not sufficient for Abeokuta alone.

The Minister of Finance (Chief the hon. F. S. Okotie-Eboh) : It is a Regional subject.

Mr Gbolagunte : The Minister says it is Regional but I know the mental hospital can be extended to Regional territory.

The Chairman : I think that is just what we cannot debate on this Head. Whether a particular hospital should be built in Lagos, which at present is in the Western Region.

Mr Gbolagunte : I am trying to put forward that the mental hospital should be rebuilt. I beg to support.

Mr W. Briggs (Degema) : Mr Chairman, I wish to talk about Sub-head 8, Item 6—Maternity Hospital. All I am asking is that the principle of maternity hospitals be spread outside Lagos as well. I know medical health is a concurrent subject. What I should ask of the Minister of Health is that the Federal Government should put in more money and show more interest in medical health outside Lagos. At present it appears to be centered mainly in Lagos. Take for instance my own constituency—(Interruptions) Mr Chairman, it is a concurrent subject and here again I have to remind you, Mr Chairman, of those funny names—Kugbo, Odual and Emelegon which are far away from Abonnema. A woman who is under child birth has to be taken by either—

Mr D. D. Okay (Port Harcourt) : Point of Order, Mr Chairman, the hon. Member is discussing a Regional subject.

The Chairman : It rather sounded as if he was discussing a Regional subject.

Mr Briggs : Mr Chairman, I am under the impression, and I think I am right when I say that medical health is a concurrent subject between the Regions and the Federation. All I am asking is that the Federal Government should show more interest and put more money into the Regional Medical system in conjunction with the Regional Governments and I do not think that I am out of order.

The Chairman : I do not believe it is in these figures.

Mr D. D. Okay (Port Harcourt) : Mr Chairman, Sir, there is one point in this Head 603 which I want to talk about. I find here on page 20, Sub-head 31—Lagos Airport : improvement of. You will find under this Estimate that a lot of money has been voted for the improvement of Lagos airport, Kano airport and Port Harcourt is deliberately omitted as far as improvement of the airport is concerned. I hope that the hon. Minister will find his way through to see that Port Harcourt airport is improved.

I turn again, Mr Chairman, Sir, to junior Staff quarters put under Sub-head 31, No. 4. I do not see where Port Harcourt is provided for.

The Chairman : That I think is not included in these figures.

Mr L. J. Dosunmu (Lagos Central) : Mr Chairman, I like the Minister to give us further information about sub-head 13 (12). £300,000 is provided and in the side notes they say it is for building of Independence Square. What type of building does the Government want to erect there? We want to know because it appears everything is shrouded in mystery. If it is the one that is to be built at Tinubu, what type of building does the Government want to erect there?

Dr P. U. Okeke (Onitsha North Central) : Mr Chairman, Sir; I just want to make a few observations. I note on page 13 under Head 2, section 3, 603/23 for the aerodrome in Onitsha, a sum of £2,840 has been earmarked for the

years 1955 to 1962. Going further, the project has been deferred—according to a statement from the Minister of Transport and Aviation. Now I wonder what has been done in that aerodrome to cost so much money that has been spent because it was only plain ground that I saw and which I was told had been earmarked for the aerodrome and nothing has been done on it.

And I want again to look at page 16, that is—

The Chairman : Order, order! Again, the hon. Gentleman ought to have made this point when we were discussing in Committee the Office Head.

Dr Okeke : Mr Chairman, Sir, I was coming to the Niger Bridge, Investigations and—if I am in order—a sum of £30,000 has been earmarked for 1955 to 1962, and this sum goes under the Head 'Investigations'. I still feel that is a lot of money for investigations.

And for the Onitsha-Asaba ferry, on page 19; that is 21/10, I would really want the Minister to be kind enough to allocate more money for the Onitsha-Asaba ferry terminals because there is a great congestion of hon. Members' cars and everyone else's car crossing to Asaba.

We have only two ferry boats ferrying lorries to Asaba and the take-off is so small that two ferries cannot go there at the same time, so one has to give way to the other. If we have two ferries there one is almost always idle because there is not any space for it to land. Two ferries could land if there is a great improvement at the ferry terminals and I think more money should be put into that in view of the fact that the bridge will be five years in building. It will take five years, or four years, so we need an improvement and the sum of £30,000 I think is not enough.

The Chairman : Order, order. I think the discussion of this Head is extremely difficult. It quite clearly does not afford an opportunity for administrative details. The details of what ferries you should have, whether you should have them while the bridge is being built, that all falls under Highways and Bridges and should have been discussed then. This really amounts to little more than whether this total sum should be voted or not; administrative details certainly do not come in.

House of Representatives Debates

1959 [Appropriation Bill : Committee]

27 APRIL 1960

[Cocoa Research Bill]

1960

Dr Okeke : With your explanation, Sir,—*(Interruptions)*—There are too many Chairmen here.

Mr A. F. Odulana (Ijebu South): Mr Chairman, Sir, it appears that the Ministers have something to hide—*(Loud interruptions)*. They did not want to give us time to speak under this Head—*(Prolonged interruptions)* and they start shouting "Aye", "Aye", "Aye". Much has been said about the £30,000 buildings for the Ministers now under this Head, that is sub-section 12, Head 1. They start building houses for the Parliamentary Secretaries which—*(Continued interruptions)*. I do not think is in keeping with what they originally intended.

The Chairman : We have passed the stage at which this should have been debated. Really it seems to me that none of this debate is in order if it is going to refer to details of administrative work that should have been raised in Committee. You can say that this total sum should not be voted now, but not much more.

Mr Odulana : I am sorry, Sir, but I must say something. These Ministers have something to hide. I am not a small-boy and there is nobody who is a small boy here either. We—*(Interruptions)* all have eyes to see and it is our province to point out those things that should be—*(Interruptions)* that are worthy of notice.

Mr Chairman, for regularity's sake I will leave it at that and support.

The Chairman : We have all much to hide! If the hon. Member, Mr Ekenekot, is sure he is going to talk in order I will call him.

Mr U. O. Ekenekot (Opobo South): Mr Chairman, Sir, I want to talk on Customs and Excise—*(Several hon. Members : Fire, fire.)* Sub-head 3, Item 2, that is the Eastern Frontier Control Scheme. I think this refers to buildings and Waterguards in Calabar and Oron.

We all know that smugglers are trying to change their tactics, and I think more Waterguard Officers are needed and also more buildings are needed and this vote is inadequate ; that is my own view about that.

We should increase the vote in order to provide more buildings and more Waterguards to protect us from the hands of these smugglers along our frontiers and my suggestion is that. .

The Chairman : Really, the question should be now put ; this is all irrelevant.

The Minister of Finance : Mr Chairman, Sir, I just want to say that since the hon. Odulana is not a small boy I would like him to be declared an antiquity so that the Minister of Education can acquire him and put him in a museum. *(Laughter.)*

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved, That the expenditure from the Development Fund of Six Million, Three Hundred and Sixty-Four Thousand, Two Hundred and Eighty Pounds for the purposes set out in the Draft Estimates of Capital Expenditure, 1960-61, under Head 603—Public Works Extraordinary, be approved.

Resolution to be reported.

(Mr Speaker resumed the Chair)

The Minister of Finance : Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to report the said Resolutions to the House and to move, That this House doth agree with the Committee in the said Resolutions.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved, That this House doth agree with the Committee in the said Resolutions.

WEST AFRICAN COCOA RESEARCH INSTITUTE
(NIGERIAN STATUS) (AMENDMENT) BILL

Order for second reading read.

The Minister of Pensions (hon. M. Musa Yaradua): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to move that a Bill for an Ordinance to amend the West African Cocoa Research Institute (Nigerian Status) Ordinance 1959 be read a second time.

This Bill is non-controversial. It merely seeks to empower the Governor-General to declare pensionable certain officers of the West African Cocoa Research Institute in Nigeria thus bringing them within the provision of the Pensions Ordinance 1951. This Amendment is desirable since the former Gold Coast Ordinance which created the Institute made no provisions for pensions benefit for those of its employees serving under the Nigerian Branch of the Institute.

Under the Gold Coast, now Ghana, Ordinance and its status in Nigeria is covered only by the West African Cocoa Research Institute (Nigerian Status) Ordinance 1950. Although the Ghana Government makes provision for the declaration of pensionable posts under the Ghana Pensions Ordinance of 1950, no similar powers are vested in the Governor-General under the Nigerian Status Ordinance for public service to be pensionable under the Ghana Ordinance. It had of course to be public service performed within the territorial confines of the Gold Coast now Ghana. In equity, therefore, it is obviously high time for this Government to confer pensionable status on the Institute's junior service serving in Nigeria by declaring their posts pensionable under the Nigerian Pensions Ordinance No. 29 of 1951. Only such staff will be affected as are occupying posts which if they were Government posts would be eligible for pensions.

Hon. Members will recall that similar treatment was accorded to certain junior staff of the West African Examinations Council in Nigeria by Ordinance No. 9 of 1957. Their posts similarly were made pensionable. The justice of this method is self-evident and the cost will be more.

Sir, I beg to move.

Minister of State (hon. M. A. O. Olarewaju): 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 amendment, read the third time and passed.

SAVINGS BANK (AMENDMENT) BILL

Order for second reading read.

The Minister of Communications (hon. Olu Akinfosile): Mr Speaker, Sir, I Rise to move that a Bill for an Ordinance to amend the Savings Bank Ordinance should be read a second time.

My hon. Friend the Minister of Finance in his speech to the House of Representatives on the 4th of April intimated that it was his intentions to launch a National Savings drive which will be aimed at encouraging savings by all sections of the community. He mentioned that apart from the advantages to the individual of operating a personal savings account, the mobilisation of savings was in the interest of Nigeria as a whole. The Minister went on to list a number of measures which it was proposed to take in order to further the National Savings drive. One of those measures was to popularise savings especially by the small man through the medium of the Post Office Savings Bank.

As hon. Members will be aware the Post Office Savings Bank is the responsibility of my Ministry and I am most anxious to ensure that the Bank shall play its full part in meeting the needs of Nigeria.

I have already told the hon. House that as from the 1st of April, a system of photographic identification was introduced by the Bank in order to facilitate withdrawal of money by the Bank's depositors. This is the first of a number of measures which will be taken in order to increase the attractiveness of the facilities which the Bank offers and to enable it to meet the requirements of the community.

The Bill which is before this hon. House to-day is a further measure designed to adapt the Post Office Savings Bank to meet more adequately the needs of a free and independent Nigeria. There are two important sections in this Bill. The effect of Section II is to enable the Minister of Communications after consultation with the Federal Ministry of Finance to make such variations in the rate of interest payable by the Bank as may be deemed necessary from time to time. This section is intended to allow a reasonable degree of flexibility in the interest rate or rates payable upon deposits in the Bank.

It is essential that the rate of interest paid by the Post Office Savings Bank should be in line with the general structure of market interest rates. If the Post Office Savings Bank's interest rate is allowed to fall below the rate of interest paid by similar commercial institutions then it is obvious that the Bank will not be able to attract the desired amount of deposits by the small man.

House of Representatives Debates

1963

[Savings Bank

27 APRIL 1960

(Amendment) Bill]

1964

[MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS]

The Ordinance as it stands at present prescribes a cumbersome and out-of-date procedure to changing the interest rate. It involves reference to the Governor-General in Council and also the Secretary of State for the Colonies and also the giving of three months' notice in the *Federal Gazette*. This procedure militates against the flexibility of the Bank's policy and impair its efficiency.

The other important section in the Bill is section 3 which amends section 11 of the existing Ordinance. The present section 11 deals with the investment of money available in the post office. Hon. Members will appreciate that when a bank has a considerable amount of money on deposit it is desirable that a suitable proportion of that money be appropriately invested. The present Ordinance lays down that a third at least of the savings banks available funds should be invested in Nigerian Government Securities and this implies that the bulk of the bank's funds must be invested overseas. In the view of the Government there is no reason why the post office savings banks should be restricted to such an extent in its investment policy. The banks' funds represent an important potential source of capital for use within Nigeria. Consequently the Government feels that it would be very appropriate for the Minister of Finance in consultation with the Governor of the Central Bank and myself to prescribe, from time to time, what proportion of the savings banks' available funds should be vested in securities.

Provision is made for this in section 3 of the Bill. Hon. Members will note that it is proposed in section 3 of the Bill that the funds of the savings bank should be invested in accordance with the provisions of sub-section 1 of section 9 of the Finance Control and Management Ordinance 1958, the purpose of which is, Sir, to ensure that public funds are invested in a proper and secure manner. Section 11 of the existing ordinance also requires reference to the Secretary of State for the Colonies in the event of any funds remitted by the Post Office Savings Bank to London for investment. This provision is not considered appropriate at the present stage of the Nigerian Constitutional Development and, therefore, it has been deleted in the current amending Bill.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move.

The Minister of Mines and Power (Hon. Maitama Sule): Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to second.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read a second time, and committed to a Committee of the whole House.

Bill immediately considered in Committee.

(In the Committee)

Clause 1 agreed to.

Clause 2:

Dr P. U. Okeke (Onitsha North Central): Mr Chairman, Sir, in Clause 2 where it says, "the Minister may, after consultation with the Minister charged with..." well, I am confused at the "Minister". "The Minister", used there, is a little ambiguous. Could we have the first item explained, and make it much more specific to show which Minister. He says in the definition clause it is the Federal Minister of Finance. It would be much more specific if we were to show it in the clause itself.

The Chairman: I do not suppose the Minister wants to speak. The clause is plain enough.

Clause 2 agreed to.

Clause 3 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 Commerce and Industry.

Mr Speaker: I have several Motions on the Adjournment. Mr H. O. Chuku is the first, if the Minister of Commerce and Industry is prepared to answer him.

The Minister of Commerce and Industry: (Zanna the hon. Bukar Dipcharima): Mr Speaker, Sir, this is the first I have heard of it.

Mr S. A. Babatunde (Ilorin Central): Mr Speaker, Sir, my Motion is on a very brief...

Mr Speaker : Order, order. Has the hon. Member the agreement of a Minister to answer him ?

Mr Babatunde : Mr Speaker, Sir, I have the agreement of the Minister of Communications. My Motion, Sir, is brief. The present system of making out the telephone accounts is very unsatisfactory. Before September 1957 you would see when you received your account "Lagos, 2498—7s 6d on the 12th, Onitsha 298—18s on the 3rd", but now since October 1st, 1957 they simply send a Bill to say "on the 11th, £2-5s-0d., on the 8th, 16s. I suppose nobody in this hon. House or in the Ministry of Communications would like to be a customer of any mercantile house like the U.A.C. and receive a bill at the end of the month to say, "on the 11th, 18s, on the 12th, £35." It does not say whether you have bought clothing or hardware.

With these few remarks I am suggesting that the old and former system be now re-introduced.

The Minister of Communications (the hon. Olu. Akinfosile) Mr Chairman, Sir, I have been aware for some time past of general public dissatisfaction at the manner in which our telephone bills are sent out, and we are at the moment engaged in re-examining the possibility of giving all the information without necessarily increasing the cost of the operations, and as it is known, one of our major tasks at the moment is to cut down the cost of operating postal services. I do hope, S.r, that by the time the Member comes back here it will be possible to say what definite steps have been taken.

Mr A. O. Ogunsanya (Ikeja) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I have obtained the permission of the Minister to raise this question. Even this afternoon, Mr Speaker, we voted huge sums of money for primary and post-secondary schools.

The point I wish to raise is the observance of Muslim holidays by Christian Missionary schools in the municipality of Lagos. One finds this irregularity and snobbishness on the part of all the Missionary schools—the Anglican the Methodist the Baptist and the Catholic. It is most disheartening to know that these schools up till now and as ever before continue

to observe all public holidays other than Muslim holidays. I think, Sir, that the Minister of Education while considering that we are approaching independence should see to it that all public holidays. . . . (*Interruption*) . . . I do not mind if these schools are private schools but they are schools which are assisted from Government public funds. I think the Minister of Education should give us the assurance that all these schools in Lagos, the Board of Governors of these schools would see to it that Muslim public holidays so declared by the Federal Government must of necessity be observed.

Several hon. Members : No. no.

Mr Ogunsanya : Mr Speaker, Sir, whatever my hon. Friends might think about this, and I am not surprised at very many of our Friends who claim to be nationalists, I would not mind if these schools' authorities to-day are not observing holidays such as the Empire Day, the Queen's Birthday and the Bank Holiday. (*Interruption*). I am speaking of Lagos and it may be because some hon. Members do not know enough of my. . . (*Interruption*).

Several hon. Members : Make it a Motion.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Education : Schools in Lagos are encouraged to recognise all public holidays whether these originate in Muslim or Christian religious festivals. It is not, however, obligatory for a school to observe a public holiday occasioned by a religious festival. . . (*Interruption*) . . . unless such a holiday falls within the recognised period of school holidays which are approved by the Minister and published annually. It is not obligatory, as I said, Mr Speaker, unless it falls within the school period of holidays. For example, Christmas Day always falls within a recognised period of school holidays which last for several weeks. When a public holiday falls within a school term it may or may not be observed by the school according to the policy of the Voluntary Agency which is the proprietor. There are, of course, many Muslim children attending Christian schools and many Christian children attending Muslim schools. Such children may be absent from school whenever the parents wish it on religious grounds and the rights of the individual in this respect are fully safeguarded under the Education Ordinance.

House of Representatives Debates

1967

[Muslim Holidays]

27 APRIL 1960

[Use of Refectory]

1968

[MR UGWU]

Thus, if a Christian school did not observe a Muslim festival which was a recognised holiday it would be perfectly in order for the parents of the Muslim children to withdraw their children from school for the period of the festival. The same concession would, of course, apply to Christian children attending a Muslim school.

Mr Speaker, Sir, the position has been made clear from time to time in statements issued by the Minister and in the press. We have never received any complaints of discrimination against individuals of either religious persuasion. If Mr Dosunmu would only listen he would be able to tell the people of Lagos what I am going to say now.

My Minister intends to refer this matter to the Local Education Committee which includes representatives of both Christian and Muslim Voluntary Agencies. In the light of their advice the Minister will be in a position to give further statements. (*Applause*).

Dr P. U. Okeke (Onitsha North-Central): Mr Speaker, I raised a very cogent point about our refectory here in the old House of Representatives. Whenever Members are out for a cup of coffee from the House and the Senate, I understand that the intention of running that refectory is to afford hon. Members the opportunity of having a cup of coffee during the fifteen minutes break; but when we go out for

this break, Mr Speaker, we invariably find the place jammed by workers from the building and I am suggesting, (I do not misunderstand me, I am not saying that workers in the building should not drink coffee) but I am saying that the people should have the place opened, if it is meant for them also, they should have it opened when we are here; and when we go out for the break, we usually spend ten minutes out of this fifteen minutes, they should give way to us to drink our coffee and then they should go back to drink theirs while we are here to talk.

The Minister of Finance (Chief the hon. F. S. Okotie-Eboh): Mr Speaker, Sir, the Government is not aware that the refectory is being used by outsiders and by workers. The refectory, Sir, is there only for the hon. Members of this House; and it is only when an hon. Member has got a guest that he can take his guest there and, of course, in a dignifying manner so as to let him have a cup of tea and if possible buy him some drinks.

I think I shall inform the Clerk of Parliaments to pass an instruction to those responsible for running the refectory that the refectory is not open to the public but to the hon. Members of this House and for some of their guests.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved: That this House do now adjourn.

Adjourned accordingly at one minute to 6 o' clock.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
NIGERIA

Thursday, 28th April, 1960

The House met at 10 a.m.

PRAYERS

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

REPORT OF BUSINESS COMMITTEE

Mr Speaker : Order, order. I have to lay on the Table a Report from the Business Committee regarding the allocation of time for the three Supplementary Appropriation Bills. This report will be considered under the relative item of to-day's Order Paper, and it has been printed and circulated to Members.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS
INDEPENDENCE

National Flag

*O.151. **Mr F. C. Ogbalu** asked the Prime Minister, whether he will include a red stripe in the Nigerian National Flag in view of public opinion in favour of that colour.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister : I have already stated in the House that I do not propose to make any alteration to the National Flag which was selected by the Council of Ministers.

Mr R. B. K. Okafor (Owerri West) : Does the Prime Minister know that the National Flag is most unpopular.

Mr Speaker : That is giving information, not asking it.

Passports Refused

*O.181. **Mr O. C. Ememe** asked the Prime Minister why passports have not been issued to students wishing to study in Egypt.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister : It is not correct to say that passports have not been issued to students wishing to study in Egypt. As a general rule an application for a passport is considered on its merits. If the hon. Member has in mind recent press statements alleging the refusal of passports to five Nigerians who have won scholarships in Egypt the facts are as follows:—

Some time in November last year a letter was received from an organisation called "The

Nigerian Study Group in Cairo". The letter signed by the Cultural Officer of the Association, informed me that five Nigerian students "had been admitted and granted United Arab scholarship awards", four for Medicine and one for Arts. The letter requested that necessary passport facilities should be granted to the students to proceed to Cairo. The students later made their applications and after due consideration the applications were refused for the following reasons:—

(1) Apart from the letter referred to above from the Cultural Secretary of the Nigerian Study Group, a purely private body in Cairo, there was no official letter either from the University itself or the Egyptian Government offering the award of the scholarships.

(2) Under the Medical Practitioners and Dentists Ordinance of Nigeria, medical qualifications obtained in Egyptian Universities would only be registrable in Nigeria on a temporary basis. Even then, the academic standards of Egyptian Universities are such as to make it unlikely that even with such temporary registration the medical graduate from an Egyptian University would obtain employment either with Government, Mission or Native Authority.

(3) The students did not satisfy the authorities that they had adequate financial provision in case of repatriation to Nigeria and the Federal Government had not sufficient information about the background of the scholarships.

In view of the above reasons the position was explained to the students and they were so advised.

Mr J. N. Nwofokoda (Izi North) : Is the Minister aware that these students were asked to resign their jobs before their passports were issued to them?

Mr Speaker : Again, that is giving information.

NIGERIA POLICE

Senior Grades

*O.240. **Mr M. O. Okilo** asked the Prime Minister how many Police officers were in the senior grades in 1950 and 1957; and how many are in those grades in 1960.

Minister of State (Hon. M. A. O. Olarewaju): The establishment of Superior Police Officers, that is, from Assistant Superintendent of Police and upwards, in the years in question is as follows:—

1950	125
1957	235
1960 (from 1st of April) ..	417

Contract Officers

*O.241. **Mr M. O. Okilo** asked the Prime Minister if he will state how many contract officers are in the Police Force and what are their ranks and salaries; how many of them are expatriates and how many are Nigerians; and whether there are no Nigerians qualified to hold the posts being preserved almost exclusively for expatriate officers.

Minister of State (Hon. M. A. O. Olarewaju): There are eighty-nine contract officers in the Nigeria Police. Their ranks and salary gradings are as follows:—

- 1 Deputy Commissioner, Group 6.
- 3 Senior Superintendents, Group 8.
- 3 Principal Accountants, Group 8.

82 Superintendents, Deputy Superintendents and Assistant Superintendents, Scale B 2, 3, 4.

Eighty-eight of these officers are expatriates and one is a Nigerian.

2. If there were sufficient number of Nigerians coming forward to occupy those posts, they would be filled by Nigerians. No post may be filled by overseas recruitment unless the Nigerianisation Officer has certified that no suitable Nigerian is available to fill it. Overseas recruitment has therefore been taking place with the concurrence of the Nigerianisation Officer to fill vacancies that cannot be filled locally. Contract appointees only, however, have been engaged since August 1957 to occupy temporarily what are pensionable posts. The contracts of such officers are determinable as and when Nigerian Officers become available to fill the posts they hold.

Mr P. E. Ekanem: Are these contract officers entitled to inducement allowance and other allowances?

Officers retired from other Forces

*O.242. **Mr M. O. Okilo** asked the Prime Minister whether he is aware that some of the contract officers in the Police Force are retired officers from the Forces of other countries and if he will make a statement.

Minister of State (Hon. M. A. O. Olarewaju): I am fully aware that a number of contract officers in the Nigeria Police have served in the Police Forces of other territories. It is indeed fortunate that the overseas recruitment of contract officers should attract persons who are serving or who have served in similar employment elsewhere. Candidates with professional experience are more likely to be favoured by selection boards for short term employment than those possessing no experience at all, so the net result of accepting experienced candidates is invariably one of benefit to the employer.

Dr P. U. Okeke: Is the Minister aware that there are some of these Police contract officers who have taken their £9,000, compensation from this country and went back home and then returned to this country as contract officers?

Detachment at Agbor

*O.243. **Mr J. B. Eboigbodi** asked the Prime Minister whether he will consider increasing the strength of the Police detachment at Agbor in view of the constant attacks on commercial vehicles and cars by marauders there.

Minister of State (Hon. M. A. O. Olarewaju): The Police Expansion Programme proposes an increase in the establishment of the Police Station at Agbor from one Inspector and sixteen other ranks to one Inspector and twenty-nine other ranks, an overall increase of thirteen other ranks. It is not possible to implement that recommendation at the present time as there are more pressing demands elsewhere, but the increase will take effect in due course. In the meantime, however, the Asaba Police Divisional Headquarters, which controls the Agbor Police Station, is to be strengthened during the current financial year by one Inspector and fourteen other ranks. That will enable patrol activity along the Benin-Asaba Road to be intensified, and other preventive measures to be introduced.

Police Quarters at Ilaro

*O.244. **Mr D. K. Aihonsu** asked the Prime Minister whether he is aware that the present Police quarters and office at Ilaro are old and inadequate, and whether he will consider replacing them with better buildings.

Minister of State (Hon. M. A. O. Olarewaju): The sum of £39,370 for the erection of permanent buildings for the Nigeria Police at Ilaro is included in the draft Capital Estimates to be considered by the House during the current Budget Session.

Mr F. C. Ogbalu: Is the Minister aware of the fact that Awka Police Station is old and dilapidated?

INDEPENDENCE**Printing of National Flag**

*O.278. **Mr R. B. K. Okafor** asked the Prime Minister, whether the contract for the printing of our National Flag for the celebration of Independence has been awarded and what is the name of the firm to which it has been awarded.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister: A contract for the supply of three and three quarter million small flags for school children has been awarded to a Nigerian Company—The Banke Trading Stores. One thousand full size flags are also being made by local tailors.

Mr A. U. D. Mbah: Will the Prime Minister consider the advisability of obtaining the views of the major political parties and other national organisations on the national flag which appears to be dull, unimpressive and unpopular before making the flag?

Nigeria Police Uniform

*O.279. **Mr D. O. Ahamefula** asked the Prime Minister whether, in view of the need to provide a suitable and attractive uniform for the Nigeria Police during the Independence celebrations, he will consider adopting as uniform for policemen the material now being used for the skirts worn by policewomen.

Minister of State (Hon. M. A. O. Olarewaju): No. The material in question has been used for a specimen uniform which was examined by the Police Council but was rejected as unsuitable.

Police Station at Okigwi

*O.280. **Mr D. O. Ahamefula** asked the Prime Minister if he will consider improving the Police Station at Okigwi which was built in 1915; and whether he will post a resident Assistant Superintendent of Police there.

Minister of State (Hon. M. A. O. Olarewaju): A new Police station was built at Okigwi in 1958. The posting of an Assistant Superintendent of Police to Okigwi has been approved in principle and will be implemented when resources allow.

Police Post at Umuelemmi

*O.281. **Mr D. O. Ahamefula** asked the Prime Minister whether he will consider furnishing and equipping the Police Post at Umuelemmi in Okigwi Division, and increasing the strength of the Police there.

Minister of State (Hon. M. A. O. Olarewaju): The new Police Station at Umuelemmi was completed in March, 1960, and is now being furnished. The Police Expansion Programme proposes an increase in the strength of the station and this will be effected as soon as other more urgent tasks allow.

DEFENCE**Southern Cameroons Border**

*O.282. **Mr P. I. Ejukwa** asked the Prime Minister, what proposals he has for securing the safety of the border between Nigeria and the Southern Cameroons in view of the impending secession of that country from Nigeria on 1st October, 1960.

Minister of State (Hon. M. A. O. Olarewaju): Nigeria's military forces have been organised, trained and equipped on a basis of mobility in order to meet any threat to Nigeria's frontiers. I am already paying attention to the security problems which may arise from the change in the Federation's eastern frontier which will take place on 1st October, and a security appreciation is being made of the area in question.

POLICE**Robbery with Violence, etc.**

*O.283. **Chief S. J. Mariere** asked the Prime Minister what was the number of offences known to the Police of robbery with violence, armed robbery and organised robbery

in company with others for the first nine months of 1959 compared with the first nine months of 1949.

Minister of State (Hon. M. A. O. Olarewaju) : The statistical figures available are based on the calendar year and the details of the crimes sought are all classified under the heading of Robbery and Extortion. In 1959 there were 546 cases reported under that heading, compared with 354 cases in 1949.

Counterfeiting Coins

*O.284. **Chief S. J. Mariere** asked the Prime Minister whether the Police have detected and prosecuted any cases of possession of counterfeit coins and currency notes of the new Nigerian money, and possession of instruments and materials for counterfeiting; who are the persons involved, and whether they have been convicted.

Minister of State (Hon. M. A. O. Olarewaju) : The statistics dealing with currency offences do not show whether they involve the old or the new currency. During 1959 there were 185 persons charged with counterfeiting notes. Of these 51 have been tried and 31 convicted. In the same period there were 59 cases of coining offences of which 23 have been tried, 14 successfully. There is no reason to believe that the counterfeiting of the new currency is exceeding that of the old currency. There were 19 fewer cases of forgery of notes in 1958 and the number of coining offences reported was the same in each year.

Mr R. O. A. Akinjide : Is the Minister aware that the counterfeiting of these coins is more common in Ijebu Province than any other place ?

Trend of Highway Robbery

*O.285. **Chief S. J. Mariere** asked the Prime Minister what was the trend of the crime of highway robbery during 1958 and 1959; and what are the extra measures being taken to combat it.

Minister of State (Mr A. O. Olanrewaju) : In 1959 there were 546 cases reported under the heading of "Robbery and Extortion" which includes cases of highway robbery, compared with 557 cases in 1958, a decrease of 11 cases. It would not be in the public interest to divulge the measures adopted by the Nigeria Police

against this type of crime but the honourable Member can rest assured that everything possible within the limits of the resources available is done to combat it.

PUBLIC SERVICE

Employment of Non-Nigerians

*O.286. **Mr F. A. M. Amadi** asked the Prime Minister, how many non-Nigerians are employed in the office of the Commissioner for Nigeria in the United Kingdom; what are their nationalities and in what capacities do they serve; and whether any of them receives inducement addition.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister : There are seven persons of British nationality, none of whom receives inducement addition, on the senior staff of the Commissioner for Nigeria in the United Kingdom. They serve in the following capacities :—

- 1 Economic Secretary
- 1 Office Manager
- 4 Students Officers
- 1 Liaison Officer for Ireland

Subordinate staff, in accordance with normal diplomatic practice, is recruited locally.

DEFENCE

Training for Nigerian Soldiers

*O.287. **Mr A. U. D. Mbah** asked the Minister of Defence, whether Nigerian soldiers are being given adequate training in the use of 25-pounder guns for defence; and whether there are any plans to increase the strength of the Army in the near future.

Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister and Minister of Defence : The former field battery of 25-pounder guns was replaced two years ago by a highly mobile reconnaissance squadron equipped with light machine guns and long-range wireless sets. 25-pounder guns are now used in the Military Forces for ceremonial purposes only.

As regards the strength of the Forces, I have already expressed the view that, when financial circumstances permit, this should be increased.

Army Cadet Corps

*O.288. **Mr F. A. M. Amadi** asked the Minister of Defence what encouragement is given to secondary schools that run Army Cadet Corps; and what schools within the Federation run such Corps at present.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister and Minister of Defence : Encouragement takes two main forms : firstly, financial assistance to cover the cost of clothing and equipment, accommodation and attendance at the annual camp ; and secondly, direct assistance with training and with the provision of training facilities by the supervising regular unit of the Royal Nigerian Military Forces.

Cadet units are established at the Government Colleges at Ibadan, Umuahia, Zaria and Keffi, King's College, Lagos and the Provincial Secondary School, Katsina.

Mr J. A. Akinyemi : Is the Minister thinking of extending such facilities to Voluntary Agency schools ?

Mr Speaker : That is a different question.

LAGOS AFFAIRS

Government Buildings in Ikoyi

*O.245. **Chief A. Akerele** asked the Minister of Lagos Affairs why arrangements are being made by the Government to sell out Government buildings in Ikoyi to expatriate firms and foreign companies.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Lagos Affairs : No such arrangements are being made and the Government has no plans at present for disposing of any of its property in Lagos. The rumour, therefore, is false.

Chief A. Enahoro : The Question is for the present ; what of the future ?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Lagos Affairs : It can be said that Government accepts in principle that the long-term aim of policy should be for it to divest itself of responsibility for housing its staff. This is a long-term aim and it requires further detailed examination, but clearly, once it is implemented, it should be possible for Government to dispose of some of its present housing stock. In this way, at least part of the capital investment will be recouped and savings will also be made in respect of maintenance costs.

EDUCATION

Admittance to Emergency Science School

*O.152. **Mr E. C. Akwiwu** asked the Minister of Education, how many students

have been admitted to the Emergency Science School since its inception ; how many of them have so far completed their course of studies ; and what is the cost of training a student in the school.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Education : The number of students admitted into the Federal Emergency Science School since its inception two years ago is 504 ; 192 of these have completed their course of studies.

The cost of training a student in the school is approximately £103-6s per annum excluding capital cost. But including the expenditure on capital equipment in 1959, the cost is £133-10s per student per annum. In addition students who are civil servants are paid their salaries and those who are private students are paid a subsistence allowance of £150 per annum.

Mr D. N. Abii (Owerri East) : Supplementary, Mr Speaker.

Mr Speaker : I think I had better take the other Questions. The time is nearly up and people who have notice of Questions on the Paper must be given preference over Supplementaries.

EMPLOYMENT OF EX-STUDENTS OF EMERGENCY SCHOOL

*O.153. **Mr E. C. Akwiwu** asked the Minister of Education, if he will state how many of the ex-students of the Emergency Science School are now employed in the Federal Public Service ; how many of them have been awarded Federal Government Scholarships for further studies ; and what has become of the rest of them.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Education : The first class of students to finish at the Federal Science School left only at the end of February this year. At the moment most of them are in temporary employment in the Federal Public Service pending the result of their examination and the award of Federal scholarships which will enable successful students to proceed to higher institutions for further training.

In 1959, however, 16 academically talented students finished the two-year course in one year. These have been awarded Federal scholarships and are now in training at the University College, Ibadan, College of Technology, McGill University and Canborne School of Mines.

CAREER FOR STUDENTS AT EMERGENCY SCIENCE SCHOOL

*O.154. Mr E. C. Akwivu asked the Minister of Education, what arrangements have been made for the future career of students who have completed the courses run by the Emergency Science School.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Education : The Emergency Science School is designed to give students the requisite qualification for entry into an institution of higher learning. Students who successfully complete the course are considered for the award of a Federal Government scholarship and if they succeed in obtaining an award they are bonded to serve as directed by the Federal Government.

Mr Akwivu : Is the Minister aware that some of these boys are neither given scholarships nor employed now and that some of them are being asked to repay the money spent on them ?

The Parliamentary Secretary : What we know, Sir, is that some of them have not actually been employed. As I said, most of them have got temporary employment. Others are awaiting their results and scholarships for this year have not been awarded ; so, when the result is out those who are successful and who compete favourably with the others in the Scholarship Board will be considered for scholarship.

Education Officers

*O.289. Mr F. A. M. Amadi asked the Minister of Education how many of the institutional Education Officers hold honours or specialist degrees and what plans are being made to attract into or retain in the profession graduates of such calibre by the creation of duty posts or subject masters allowances.

Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Education : There is an establishment of 53 Education Officers and Lecturers in the Federal territory. 49 of the holders of these posts are graduates or the equivalent. Of these 30 are Honours or Specialist graduates, 15 are General Degree holders and 4 are Associate Members of professional bodies.

With regard to plans to attract and retain such officers in the Profession, my Ministry some time ago put forward a proposal for the

payment of responsibility allowances to the holders of certain posts. The proposal was considered by the National Council on Establishments but was not accepted. Alternative proposals are now under consideration.

Mr Amadi : Is the Minister aware of the fact that no Specialist teacher will be willing to accept an appointment without an inducement allowance ?

Mr Speaker : All these "is he aware" are really giving information and not asking for answers. There are two private notice questions.

LONDON CONSTITUTIONAL CONFERENCE

Chief A. Enahoro (Ishan East) : May I ask the Prime Minister whether the agenda for the impending London Constitutional Conference has now been settled ; whether he will make a statement on it, including an indication of the attitude which the Federal Government will adopt towards matters on the agenda and whether he will ensure that the agenda is released to hon. Members before his departure to London. (*Hear, hear*)

The Minister of Finance (Chief the hon. F. S. Okotie-Eboh) : Arrangement for the agenda or arrangement in connection with the next constitutional conference in London has not been finalised and after they are finalised they are not expected to be made public by us because we are only one party to the arrangement for this conference and secondly, I am sure my hon. questioner is a member of a party which is controlling a government in the Western Region and surely he would have had the necessary information from the Premier of the Western Region.

VISIT OF PRESIDENT TUBMAN

Chief A. Enahoro : May I ask the Prime Minister if he will make a statement on the visit which the President of Liberia will shortly pay to Nigeria, and whether, he will cause a meeting of both Houses of the Legislature to be summoned for the purpose of receiving President Tubman and listening to an Address by him ?

The Minister of Finance : No, Sir.

Chief Enahoro : During the visit of a head of state—why ?

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

VISIT OF PRINCESS ALEXANDRIA

The Minister of Finance (Chief the hon. F. S. Okotie-Eboh): On the occasion of the Opening of Parliament by Her Royal Highness Princess Alexandria of Kent on the 1st day of October, the National Hall will be declared to be the Chamber of the Senate. On that day, the Senate will meet in the National Hall for Prayers, after which, the hon. Members of this House will join them.

Apart from that occasion, all subsequent joint meetings of the Senate and the House of Representatives will be held in the present Chamber of the Senate until such time that the permanent Chamber of the Senate in the Parliament Buildings at Victoria Beach is completed. (*Hear, hear*).

EFFECT OF IMPORT DUTIES ON GOODS

The Minister of Finance: My attention has from time to time been directed to an apparently high price level ruling on goods in popular demand on which import duties have been increased. It has been alleged that vendors have taken advantage of the fact that import duties have been raised by increasing price to an extent greater than the additional duty appears to warrant thus using the increase in taxation as an excuse.

One such allegation was recently made in respect of corrugated iron sheets and I have in consequence investigated market conditions with regard to this good. My findings are that the average difference between the prices ruling before and after the last tariff change which affected this item approximates closely to the actual difference in duty involved—about £1-1s-11d per bundle in the case of the popular brands and this price increase cannot be regarded as unreasonable or as profiteering—(*Interruptions*). Keep quiet, you Briggs. He is disturbing me; let him behave better, for a change.

In some cases, the difference in price is actually less than the additional duty paid. I wish to assure the House that I am unceasingly vigilant in preventing any undue rise in cost of living in so far as lies within my power and to take effective action in the matter.

I invite Members to bring to my notice any particular instances where the incident for

import duty is put forward by vendors as an excuse to justify excessively high price level.

REPORT OF THE BUSINESS COMMITTEE

The Minister of Finance (Chief the hon. F. S. Okotie-Eboh): Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that this House doth agree with the Committee in the said Report.

The Minister of Economic Development (The hon. Mallam Shehu Shagari): Sir, I beg to second.

Question proposed.

Chief A. Enahoro (Ishan East): We do not wish at this stage to disagree with this Report particularly as I am a member of this Committee myself but we do want to register very strongly our objection to the manner in which business is being rushed. It is not the fault of the Business Committee that we are left with one day or indeed only a few hours which, under Standing Order should take this House nine days.

We have recently passed through various stages of the Committee of Supply and in the course of which the whole Heads of Estimates have been left unexamined and undebated by hon. Member and our hands have been tied. I would like to point out two facts. The first is that, whereas in the past, there was a Finance Committee of this House which examined financial proposals by various Ministers in excess of what was provided by the House at the Budget Session, now there is no such Committee and hon. Members are in no position to examine the excess expenditure before it is actually undertaken. When it has been spent, I think at least we ought to have the opportunity of examining it closely.

Now Sir, Standing Order provides three days for each Supplementary Appropriation Bill. Now we are taking three of them, all stages within two days. I think it is no way to do Business and that at our future meetings the Minister of Finance will co-operate by giving this House more time to examine these various heads of expenditure.

The Minister of Finance: In the first place I am sure that you Mr Speaker are witness to the fact that Government has no intention of rushing business through this House and surely if my hon. Friend would spend less time in

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playing golf and be present in this House he would be here to see that we are not rushing any business in this House.

The Supplementary Appropriation Bills which my hon. Friend has referred to are non-contentious and could be aptly debated and if the debate is such that we feel that time should be extended Government would make Motion to extend the time but if there is going to be repetition as usual and if you yourself, with very great respect to you, would be absent and not come here to criticise us, then we have no alternative than to proceed with this House.

M. Mohammed Muhtari, Sarkin Bai (Dambatta): Thank you Mr Speaker. In supporting the Minister of Finance, I would like to refer to the Business Committee. I think they have made a serious mistake because to-day, according to the Committee's decision, is the last day for the Committee of Supply but for one reason or another all the heads were disposed of yesterday. What we now want the Minister to do is to move the second reading of these Appropriation Bills and hold up the debate until we come for the second reading tomorrow and third reading on Saturday so that the House would adjourn finally on Saturday (*Hear, hear*). There are over 100 Members of this House who relied on the former announcement and have already sent telegrams to various catering rest houses and their homes that we are rising on Saturday. This is very important. (*Applause*).

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved, That this House doth agree with the Committee in the said Report.

NOTICES OF MOTIONS

DEVELOPMENT FUND

The Minister of Finance: Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to move the Motion standing in my name. That this House approves the transfer into the Development Fund on the 1st of April, 1960, of the balance in the Consolidated Revenue Fund in excess of £1,400,000 as at the close of business on the 31st day of March, 1960.

As Members will be aware, it was the policy of the former Government that the whole of the budget surplus in each year, in addition to specific contributions made during the course of the year, should be channelled into the

Development Fund to finance capital expenditure. The present Government intends to continue this policy and this Motion seeks to give effect to it in respect of the financial year which has just closed.

The corresponding Motion last year authorised the transfer to the Development Fund of the balance in the Consolidated Revenue Fund of over £500,000. This £500,000 is, in fact, the working capital of the Federal Government. But in March this year just over £900,000 was withdrawn from the Contingencies Fund in order to meet urgent expenditure—it was in fact used to implement the recommendations of the Mbanefo Enquiry. But the Contingencies Fund has to be replenished and the Third Supplementary Appropriation Bill, 1959-60, which will be considered during the present meeting, seeks to repay this sum to the Contingencies Fund.

We must therefore allow for this when paying over into the Development Fund the actual Budget surplus. That is why the figure in the Motion this year refers to the balance in the Fund in excess of £1,400,000 rather than £500,000.

The practical effect of this Resolution will be to transfer to the Development Fund the Budget surplus for the year which has just closed. The actual figure will not be known until the accounts for the year are closed some time in September. But the amount to be transferred by virtue of this Resolution will include not only the surplus on current account, but also certain special items of revenue, particularly approximately £5 million which results from the decision to defund the Widows' and Orphans' Pension Fund, rather more than £2 million from the proceeds of a special issue of Treasury Bills in order to finance the cost of minting our new currency; rather more than £1 million in respect of interest-free loans from the United Kingdom Government under the Special List "B" Agreement and £500,000 being a grant from the United Kingdom Government towards the cost of defence.

The whole of these sums will be available to finance capital expenditure and have been taken into account in assessing resources likely to be available for this purpose.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move.

The Minister of Economic Development (Hon. Mallam Shehu Shagari): Sir, I beg to second.

Question proposed.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved, That this House approves the transfer into the Development Fund on the 1st of April, 1960, of the balance in the Consolidated Revenue Fund in excess of £1,400,000 as at the close of business on the 31st day of March, 1960.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION (1957-58) (No. 2) BILL

Order for Second Reading read.

The Minister of Finance: Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move, That a Bill entitled "An Ordinance to make Supplementary Provision for the Service of the Federation of Nigeria for the year ended on the Thirty-First Day of March, One Thousand Nine Hundred and Fifty-Eight" be read a second time.

Sir, I have it in command from His Excellency the Governor-General to give his recommendation for the consideration of this Bill.

Although the title is in the usual form for a Supplementary Appropriation Ordinance, this Bill is in effect an "Excess Votes" Bill which seeks formal legislative sanction for excess expenditure which was actually incurred during 1957-58. This being so, hon. Members would wish me to outline the actual overall out-turn for the year before turning to the details of this Bill.

To take the revenue first. The Approved Estimates envisaged that the Federal Government would retain revenues amounting in total to £37,129,810 during the year. When presenting Supplementary Estimates to this House in September 1957 the Minister of Finance, who at that time was our beloved Prime Minister, indicated that our revenues might turn out to be £1,505,380 more than was originally estimated. In fact the revenues amounted to no less than £41,915,880—an increase of more than £4½ million over the original estimates. This was due mainly to

buoyant revenues from import and export duties coupled with unexpectedly large incomes from our investments held both overseas and in our Statutory Corporations.

On the expenditure side, apart from the statutory revenue allocation payments to the Regions, the total expenditure authorised by this House as reflected in the original and Supplementary Estimates, amounted to £37,607,800. But the actual expenditure incurred amounted to only £36,644,190 that is £963,610 less than was authorised by this House. Overall, we ended up the year with a budget surplus of no less than £5,271,691 even after contributing the very large sum of £6,102,042 to the Development Fund to finance capital expenditure. That I regard as a most satisfactory state of affairs.

Members may well be wondering why, although Government spent less during the year than was authorised, it is still necessary to come to this House for approval of excess expenditure. The reason for this is quite simple: the actual overall under-expenditure of £963,610 during the year was made up of under-expenditure amounting to £2,532,571 in respect of 50 Heads of Expenditure and excess expenditure amounting to £1,568,961 in respect of 16 other Heads of Expenditure.

The Annual Estimates embody the economic, financial and social policies of Government for the forthcoming year but these policies are not rigid and inflexible like the laws of the Medes and the Persians. They must be changing needs. These changing needs are almost invariably reflected in changes in the pattern of expenditure.

A good example of this can be seen in the Schedule to this Bill which seeks formal approval for expenditure on the Prime Minister's Office and the Ministry of Health—two items of expenditure which could not have been foreseen when the Annual Estimates were presented to this House.

Although I have the power to authorise variations in the provision within any particular Head of the Estimates, as for instance, by authorising additional expenditure on labour against equivalent savings under personal emoluments, I have no power without your consent to offset excesses under one Head against savings under another Head. This

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(1957-58) Bill]

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[MINISTER OF FINANCE]

is as it should be, if we are to preserve parliamentary control of expenditure. However, even in the most favourable conditions, it is inevitable that the various spending Ministries and Departments may occasionally incur expenditure without authority.

Since the year to which this Bill refers, various steps have been taken to secure greater parliamentary control over public expenditure consistent with the requirements of good Government. Provisions to regulate expenditure and finances generally have been embodied in the Constitution Order; this House has enacted the Finance (Control and Management) Ordinance and detailed measures designed to secure effective control over expenditure have been introduced and are constantly being reviewed.

So much for the background to this Bill; now for the details of the actual over-expenditure for which approval is sought. Of the total over-expenditure incurred during the year some £222,000 was in respect of Pensions and Gratuities payable in accordance with the Pensions Ordinance and, as such, is a statutory charge on the revenues and not subject to specific appropriation by this House. This Bill is therefore concerned with the balance, amounting to £1,346,359.

Details of the individual excesses which have contributed to this total will be found in the *Objects and Reasons*, but I would like to refer to one or two items. By far the largest single item, accounting for well over half the total over-expenditure, is represented by Contributions to the Development Fund. In 1957-58 the policy was that any revenue in excess of £4 million which the Federal Government retained from export duties should be regarded as "windfall" revenue and should be used to finance capital expenditure only. I have already stated that this was an exceptionally buoyant year in respect of revenues from export duties. It follows that our contributions to the Development Fund from this source would automatically exceed the estimates.

Furthermore, this excess does not represent expenditure in the true sense of the word—it merely represents a transfer from one Government fund to another, from general revenues to the Development Fund. This Bill in no way confers authority for the final

expenditure of this money once it was transferred to the Development Fund. Moreover, had this sum not been contributed to the Development Fund during the course of the year it would have swollen the actual budget surplus and would have been automatically transferred to the Development Fund at the close of the year by virtue of a Resolution of this House which authorised the transfer of the Budget surplus for the year.

Another large item is the £145,389 for postal, telegraph and telephone charges. Again this represents a transfer between Federal Government funds, the payment being made to Posts and Telegraphs revenue. The increased payment was largely due to the increased charges introduced during the year.

The remainder, totalling £478,668 represents what I regard as genuine over-expenditure, but this amounts to less than one and one-third per cent of our recurrent expenditure for the year. Many of the individual items which go to make up this remainder were approved by the former Standing Committee on Finance and have already been brought to the notice of this House in the Reports of that Committee. One item, representing the excess under the Council of Ministers Head was brought to the House in connection with the Supplementary Estimates introduced by our Prime Minister. Others are clearly of a nature which cannot accurately be estimated in advance, passages, losses of funds and refunds generally are cases in point. Others again, such as the education grants in aid, were also clearly unavoidable and in accordance with policy endorsed by this House. (*Interruptions*).

Mr Speaker : Order !

The Minister of Finance : I should also explain why this Bill was not submitted earlier. First, the expenditure involved were incurred before the enactment of the Finance (Control and Management) Ordinance, 1958. Under the old system, since all additional provision had to be authorised by the Standing Committee on Finance of the House of Representatives, the submission of a covering Supplementary Appropriation Bill was not a matter of urgency. There was provision under the former Standing Order No. 66 of this House for the Reports of the Standing Committee on Finance to be laid on the Table of the House at frequent intervals.

In fact, two reports were so laid during the 1957-58 financial year and as I have indicated these included authorisations for many of the excesses incurred during that year. It may therefore be truly said that such expenditure had already been sanctioned by the former House of Representatives.

Secondly, it was originally intended to submit this Bill last year but owing to the Federal General Elections the House did not meet after August. Further, it was not considered appropriate to burden the new House with the job of enacting the Bill into law at its first meeting which was convened primarily to pass the historic Independence Motion in January of this year. (*Hear, hear*).

In conclusion, I should say that all democratic Governments the world over, including Regional Governments here in Nigeria, have always had to regularise previous years' transactions in this way. This is so because it has not been given to any mortal to forecast accurately the future to the last detail. Some items may be over-estimated whilst others are under-estimated. It is only at the end of the year that one can know which had been under-estimated and then Parliament is invited to ratify the out-turn for the year in question. I am happy to report that there has been no overall excess in the 1957-58 financial year covered by this Bill. Indeed, as I have indicated, we ended the year with a budget surplus of over five and a quarter million pounds in addition to making contributions totalling over six million pounds to the Development Fund to finance capital expenditure.

Sir, I beg to move.

The Minister of Mines and Power (M. Maitama Sule): Sir, I beg to second.

Mr Speaker: The debate now stands adjourned till the next sitting day, tomorrow.

SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION
(1958-59) (No. 3) BILL

Order for Second Reading read.

The Minister of Finance: Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that a Bill entitled "An Ordinance to make Supplementary Provision for the services of the Federation of Nigeria for the year ended on the thirty-first day of March, one thousand nine hundred and fifty-

nine additionally to that made by the Appropriation (1958-59) Ordinance, 1958, the Supplementary Appropriation (1958-59) Ordinance, 1958, and the Supplementary Appropriation (1958-59) (No. 2) Ordinance, 1958" be read a second time.

Sir, I have it in command from His Excellency the Governor-General to give his recommendation for the consideration of this Bill.

As was the case with the similar Bill in respect of 1957-58 which I introduced earlier, this Bill is in effect an "Excess Votes" Bill which seeks formal legislative sanction for excess expenditure actually incurred during 1958-59. This being so, I propose to touch briefly upon the actual out-turn for the year before turning to the details of this Bill.

To take the revenue first. The Approved Estimates envisaged that the Federal Government would retain revenues amounting in total to £43,715,290 during the year. At the time when I presented the First Supplementary Estimates for the year in August 1958 it seemed that this figure would be exceeded by rather more than £2 million. In the event the revenues for the year amounted to no less than £46,223,006—an increase of more than two and a half million pounds over the original estimate. This was again due in the main to buoyant revenues from import and export duties but our share of the surplus of the West African Currency Board turned out to be very much greater than had been forecast. In addition we received an unexpected grant of half a million pounds from the United Kingdom Government towards our greatly increased defence expenditure.

On the expenditure side, apart from the statutory revenue allocation payments to the Regions, the total expenditure authorised by this House as reflected in the original and two subsequent supplementary estimates amounted to £44,742,630. But the actual expenditure incurred amounted to only £44,321,593, that is £421,037 less than was authorised by this House. Moreover, we ended the year with a budget surplus of £1,901,413, after contributing the very large sums of £9,295,978 to the Development Fund. That again I regard as most satisfactory.

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This figure of £421,037 as the overall under-expenditure during the year was made up of under-expenditure totalling some £3,450,898 in respect of 55 Heads of Expenditure and excess expenditure totalling £3,029,861 in respect of 7 Heads of Expenditure. Let us look more closely at how this excess expenditure was itself made up.

Again by far the largest single item, accounting for almost three-quarters of the total over-expenditure is represented by Contributions to the Development Fund. Again this was entirely due to the automatic payment into the Development Fund of revenues in excess of £4 million which the Federal Government retained from the proceeds of export duties. As I stated in respect of the 1957-58 Excess Votes Bill earlier, this excess does not represent expenditure by the Federal Government—it is merely a transfer from one Federal fund to another.

This Bill does not in any way confer authority for Government to spend this money once it was transferred to the Development Fund. Moreover, if this money had not been transferred to the Development Fund during the course of the year it would again have gone to swell the actual budget surplus. But the budget surplus itself was transferred to the Development Fund at the close of the year by virtue of a Resolution of this House. In short, in respect of this very large sum of £2,253,428 this Bill is purely a technical formality—there has been no expenditure as we understand it.

Another large item is the £109,124 for postal, telegraph and telephone charges under the Miscellaneous Head. This again represents a transfer from one Federal fund to another since the payment was made to Posts and Telegraphs revenue. The excess was due in part to an improved method of assessing charges by the Department and in part to the increased charges.

If these two items are excluded we are left with some £667,312 only, which I regard as over-expenditure in the true sense of the word. This represents less than one and a half per cent of our total recurrent expenditure for the year.

The largest single item is represented by the expenditure on passages. I have been worried for some time at the mounting expenditure and in my Budget Speech I announced that Government intended drastically to restrict first class air travel. This should go far to keep this expenditure under control. The items which have contributed to the various excesses are set out in the Objects and Reasons attached to the Bill and I do not think I need weary the House by repeating them here.

I would, however, like to say that the excess expenditure in the case of Public Works has already been brought to the notice of the House. This expenditure was authorised by use of the Contingencies Fund machinery. In the First Supplementary Estimates 1959-1960 the House approved the replenishment of this Fund in respect of expenditure incurred on the Public Works Department.

Finally, I would like to point out that Government has taken the earliest possible opportunity to present this Bill to the House. It is clearly impossible to be certain of the amount of unauthorised expenditure during a year until the accounts for the year are finalised. The accounts for 1958-59 were in fact finalised in October 1959. This is the first meeting of the House since that time apart from the Meeting in January which was convened for the specific purpose of considering the historic Independence Motion.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move.

The Minister of Economic Development (Hon. M. Shehu Shagari): Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to second.

Mr Speaker: In accordance with the Standing Order, debate on the Second Reading stands adjourned until tomorrow.

SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION
(1959-60) BILL

Order for Second Reading read.

The Minister of Finance (Chief the hon. F. S. Okotie-Eboh): Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that a Bill entitled "A Bill for an Ordinance to make Supplementary Provision for the service of the Federation of Nigeria for the year ending on the Thirty-First day of March, One Thousand, Nine Hundred and Sixty, additionally to that made by the Appropriation

(1959-60) Ordinance, 1959, the Supplementary Appropriation (1959-60) Ordinance, 1959 and the Supplementary Appropriation (1959-60) (No. 2) Ordinance, 1960," be read a second time. Sir, I have it in command from His Excellency the Governor-General to give his recommendation to the consideration of this Bill.

This Bill contains two Schedules: The First Schedule relates to the additional provision of £83,000 required to cover interest on temporary advances from the Joint Consolidated Fund. Members are aware that we are drawing down our investments in London to finance capital expenditure. The income from these investments varies very considerably according to the terms of the stock in which the money was invested. All these investments with a relatively low yield have now been realised; most of the remaining investments give a yield in excess of 5 per cent but we have been able to borrow from the Crown Agents on the security of these investments substantial sums at lower rates of interest.

So long as this state of affairs prevails it pays us to take advances from the Joint Consolidated Fund, upon which we must pay interest, in order that we may defer realising investments from which we derive a greater income. The additional sum of £83,000 covered by the First Schedule to this Bill is more than matched by the yield from our investments which we have not yet realised.

The Second Schedule to the Bill covers reimbursements to the Contingencies Fund. Members are well aware that the Contingencies Fund was established in 1958 under the Finance (Control and Management) Ordinance, 1958 with a provision of £1 million. The purpose of this Fund is to enable Government to meet urgent recurrent expenditure which cannot be deferred without prejudice to the public interest until the next meeting of the Legislature. The Ordinance stipulates, however that all withdrawals from the Contingencies shall be reported to the subsequent meeting of the Legislature. It further stipulates that the Fund shall be restored, as necessary, to its original level of £1 million by appropriation from the Consolidated Revenue Fund.

Mr Speaker, Sir, Section 3 of the Bill provides, therefore, for the transfer of a sum of £904,600 to the Contingencies Fund to

make good the amounts withdrawn from the Fund in March. Details of this amount are given under Head 101—Reimbursements to the Contingencies Fund which you will find at page 4 of the Third Supplementary Estimates in your hands. Members will note that of this amount, £850,000 was authorised in order to pay the Mbanefo award to Government staff before the end of the last financial year.

I am quite sure that Members will unanimously agree with the Government's decision to pay the workers their entitlement without delay. This decision imposed some strain on the Accounting Division of my Ministry but I am happy to say that the officers concerned undertook the additional work involved cheerfully and thus made it possible for practically all eligible officers in Nigeria to receive their arrears before the end of March. The balance of £54,600 related to the 10 per cent interim award in respect of three Departments whose applications for additional funds arrived too late for inclusion in the Second Supplementary Estimates for the 1959-60 financial year which the House approved in January.

The recurrent expenditure authorised for the 1959-60 financial year now stands at £42,789,376, including the amounts covered by this Bill. The latest forecasts, however, indicate that actual expenditure due to savings and unfilled vacancies would not exceed £42.2 million. On the other hand the revised estimate of Revenue retained by the Federal Government for the year is £49,117,540. After making provision for revised contributions to the Development Fund totalling £6,611,500 there remains a revised estimated surplus of £306,040. In fact, the actual surplus when the accounts are closed will probably be very considerably higher than this figure. This surplus will be a welcome addition to our resources for financing the Economic Programme. Mr Speaker, Sir, I would now deal briefly with the Third Supplementary Capital Estimates for 1959-60 which are on page 5 of the volume in your hand. The first item relates to a sum of £806,000 which was authorised by Special Warrant in March to cover the additional cost of minting the new Nigerian coins delivered during the last financial year. I should mention here that the cost of financing

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the new Nigerian currency is being reimbursed by the Central Bank. A further sum of £150,000 was also authorised in March by Special Warrant in order to enable the liquidation of the former West African Airways Corporation to go ahead.

When the Federation of Nigeria Development Loan, 1959, was floated last May it was hoped that some £2 million would be raised. I am glad to say that the loan was oversubscribed and in actual fact £2,355,400 was raised. The recommendation of the Loans Advisory Council which was endorsed by the former Government, was that the whole of the proceeds of this loan should be re-lent to the Northern and Eastern Regional Governments. The approved Estimates provide only for the re-lending of £2 million. The Draft Supplementary Estimates provide for the additional £355,400.

These Estimates bring the authorised capital expenditure for 1959-60 to a total of £45,813,680. Latest forecasts however indicate that actual capital expenditure for the last financial year would be of the order of £38.41 million. The balance in the Development Fund as at 1st April, 1959 was £30,319,590 and receipts of the Fund during 1959-60 have been estimated at £16,497,610 making the total amount available to meet capital expenditure during the year £46,817,200. With revised estimated expenditure at £38.41 million the balance in the Development Fund as at 1st April, 1960 has been estimated at £8.4 million.

Sir, this is an impressive rate of capital development and a concrete evidence of the determination of this Government to modernise our economy and raise the standard of living of all our people. Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move.

The Minister of Economic Development (Hon. M. Shehu Shagari): Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to second.

Mr Speaker: In accordance with the Standing Orders, debate on the Second Reading stands adjourned until tomorrow.

WIDOWS' AND ORPHANS' PENSION
(AMENDMENT) BILL—SECOND READING

Order for Second Reading read.

The Minister of Pensions (Hon. M. Musa Yaradua): Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move the Second Reading of a Bill entitled

“The Widows' and Orphans' Pensions (Amendment) Ordinance, 1960”.

Several hon. Members: Louder, louder.

Mr Speaker: Order. Will the hon. Members, instead of shouting ‘louder’ please be quieter themselves, then the Minister will be easily heard.

The Minister of Pensions: It will assist Members to understand why this Bill is being introduced if firstly, I explain what the Widows' and Orphans' Pension Scheme is, and secondly, I refer to the past history of the scheme.

The Scheme is governed by the Widows' and Orphans' Pensions Ordinance, under which all expatriate officers are required to contribute up to 5 per cent of their salaries. In return for this, if any contributor dies and leaves a widow she receives a pension calculated under the Ordinance and in accordance with the contributions which her husband has made.

Under the Ordinance all contributions accrue to the Federal Government and all pensions are payable by it. In 1954, however, it was decided to fund the Scheme and to put it on a self-financing basis. To enable this to be done the House of Representatives passed a resolution appropriating £4.2 million for the funding of the Scheme. This sum represented the estimated liability for future pensions, arising mainly from the contributions previously paid into Government revenue and therefore to Surplus Balances. It was voted on the understanding that, if all future contributions were paid to the fund and not to Government revenue, then there would be no further charges on Government revenue.

Between the 1st April, 1954 and the 31st March, 1960, all contributions were credited to the sum set aside for funding and all pensions and other expenditure under the Scheme were charged to it. It had been intended to amend the Widows' and Orphans' Pensions Ordinance so as to set up a fund with trustees and so as to make the fund, and not Government revenues, legally liable for pensions.

In fact the drafting of this legislation was delayed firstly, while the United Kingdom Government enacted legislation to exempt the investment income of funds of this sort from U.K. income tax and secondly, because it became doubtful if the sums set aside for funding would be sufficient to meet all future liabilities. In order to ascertain whether or

not the sum set aside was sufficient, the Government Actuary in the United Kingdom was asked to investigate the liabilities of the Scheme and report to the Government.

In the meantime, as Members of the old House will recall, the Government, in 1956, followed the Gorsuch salaries revision by a comprehensive increase in the pensions of retired officers. No similar increase was granted to widows' pensions because, as I have said, the sum of £4.2 million had been voted on the understanding that there would be no further calls on Government revenues and it was thought that this sum would not be sufficient to provide for any increases in widows' pensions. To date, therefore, widows have received no increases since 1948 to help meet rises in the cost of living, although retired officers' pensions were increased both in 1952 and in 1956. The result is that many widows are now suffering acute hardship. The Government Actuary's report on the liabilities of the Scheme has been received and it indicates that the sum set aside for funding would not be sufficient to meet future liabilities, if widows' supplementary pensions are to be raised to the same level as those of retired officers.

As I have mentioned, many widows are suffering acute hardship. The Government considers that it is under an obligation to assist all its pensioners to meet increases in the cost of living and that widows should receive the same assistance as is given to retired officers, particularly as widows' pensions have been purchased by their husbands contributions.

The Government did not, however, consider that it would be reasonable both to set aside for funding large sums of money, which could otherwise be used to finance development, and also to undertake to increase widows' pensions to meet rises in the cost of living. It considered that either the Scheme must be funded on a once-for-all basis as was contemplated in 1954, or that the proposal to fund the Scheme should be abandoned and that widows' pensions should be provided for annually in the Estimates as are the pensions of retired officers.

In considering which course would be best, the Government had no hesitation in deciding that it was in the interests both of the Government and of the widows to abandon the proposal to fund the Scheme. For the Government, the abandonment of funding releases a sum,

which has now grown to approximately £5 million, to help finance economic development. For widows, the abandonment means that the Government is able to help them meet increases in the cost of living and to undertake that in future widows shall receive the same increases as are granted to retired officers. The Government therefore decided that the correct settlement of the question was to abandon the proposal to fund the scheme.

My hon. Colleague, the Minister of Finance, announced in his Budget Speech that as a result of this decision £5 million earmarked for funding had been released for the Economic Programme; and the payment of widows' pensions in the current year is provided for under Head 29 of the Recurrent Estimates. It now remains for me, Mr Speaker, to ask the House to pass this Bill, which enables the Government to complete the settlement by keeping widows' pensions in line with those of retired officers.

I now turn to the Bill itself (*Interruptions*). Will Members please listen. If they are ripe for pension, I will put them on the list.

Sections 4 to 8 provide for the increasing of widows' pensions. Firstly they introduce a scale of supplementary pensions similar to those awarded to retired officers in 1956. Retired officers' supplementary pensions were increased with retrospective effect from the 1st October, 1954. The Government does not consider, however, that it would be reasonable to increase widows' pensions with over five years retrospectivity. The Bill therefore makes the increase effective from the 1st September, 1959.

Secondly, they enable the Governor-General in Council to increase widows' supplementary pensions at a future date if the pensions of retired officers should be increased. This is in accordance with the Government's decision which I have already mentioned, that widows should be given the same assistance in meeting increases in the cost of living as are granted to retired officers.

The Bill mentions the Governor-General and not the Governor-General in Council. Under the Constitution, however, it is the Governor-General in Council who would have to authorise any increases. The House will be aware that it is not now the practice to specify in legislation, whether His Excellency or a Minister must consult the Council.

[MR OGBALU]

that this inefficient system whereby officers have to wait a year or two before they receive their pensions should be completely settled.

Another point which I want to make is in respect of orphans. Every effort should be made to encourage the building of orphanages in this country whereby the children could be cared for, whether they are sons of expatriates or not, in order to establish a special system in which the lives of the inhabitants are ensured.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to support.

Mr J. U. Udenyi (Enyong North): Mr Speaker, Sir, without mincing words, I am going to support this Motion in a most careful frame of mind. This shows that this Government is a humanitarian one, a most sympathetic Government, because one man's happiness is no happiness.

Mr Speaker, Sir, this Government suffers from one disease, that is procrastination, forgetting that procrastination is a lazy man's apology. (*Loud Interruptions*) Many a time we have the Ministers to come and read the policy of their Ministries in the most academic language but is that the answer? That is not the answer; the answer is implementation. Implement what you have read.

Any Minister who starts to implement the policy of his Ministry is the man I regard as the most efficient Minister. Our actions should sound louder than our voices and again on Pensions, I must make a warning.

The irregularities in the Ministries for paying this money is apparent because there are certain places in the Ministry which we call in *lingua franca* as official rigmarole. All the Ministers should try to check this. A man may be old and he may not be able to travel to come and get the pension when he should come and get it. How is he going to live? You give it to this clerk, he puts it in his tray; from one tray to the other for ever. If we want to be a democratic Government, we must really dwell in reality and sincerity of purpose.

With these few remarks, I beg to support.

Mr D. O. Ahamefula (Okigwe South West): Mr Speaker, Sir, in supporting this Bill I have two questions to ask. Firstly, I would like to know whether this Bill concerns

our African widows and orphans. (*Several hon. Members: No, no*). And secondly, I would also like to know how long will this Government continue to pay the money authorised by this Bill to orphans and widows of expatriates. How long? Is it for ever, or will it have a limit?

Mr R. O. A. Akinjide (Ibadan South East): Mr Speaker, Sir, it would appear that many people do not really understand the purpose of this Bill—(*Interruptions*) I am referring to Members in this part of the House. This Bill, in effect, applies merely to expatriate officers and its aim is to benefit their widows and orphans. I have nothing against this, I support the Bill wholeheartedly but I want to say something in respect of our local pensioners.

It is not enough for the Minister to be kind to the expatriates. I agree this Bill is a bill of insurance by these expatriate officers after they are dead: the widows and orphans enjoy the premium which has been paid by their husbands and fathers. But, I would like the Minister to address himself to the local pensioners of this country. Many of them are suffering. If I may say so, there are those of them who retired from Government service ten or twelve years ago and who are earning mere starvation wages, some of them £5 some of them £2 per month.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to support.

M. Inusa, Wakilin Masaka (Gaya North): Mr Speaker, Sir, in supporting this Motion I would like to thank the Minister of Pensions. As he has tried to move this Motion in this hon. House on widows' pensions, I hope he will move again to extend this to the Africans also. When that Motion for local pensions is brought to the House—I would like to say the Members of this House are interested in the fate of local pensioners—Government should take all necessary steps to see that no difficulty is put in the way of payment being made to these pensions. After all, everybody here is hoping or expecting to be a pensioner in the future.

Mr Speaker, Sir, with these few remarks I beg to support.

The Minister of Pensions (Hon. Mallam Musa Yaradua): Mr Speaker, Sir, I should answer the hon. Chief Enahoro and say that this Bill is only eligible to one wife! (*Laughter*). Also the hon. Member who was

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asking whether this will be extended to Nigerians. It will be difficult now to extend it to Nigerians because actual mortality statistics are very difficult to get.

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 5 agreed to.

Clause 6 :

The Minister of Pensions : Mr Chairman, Sir, I beg to move the following Amendment to Clause 6 : Clause 6, page C 108, line 31, after 'Federation' insert "or the former Public Service of Nigeria". This Amendment is a minor one and is to correct a drafting omission. The Public Service of the Federation—which is referred to in the Bill as published—only came into being on the 1st October, 1954. Before this date civil servants were members of the Public Service of Nigeria. It is possible at some future date that it might be decided to increase the pensions of officers who retired before the 1st October, 1954 but not to increase the pensions of officers who retired after that date. If that happens, the Amendment I am now moving will enable the Governor-General in Council to grant similar increases to the pensions of widows which were purchased by contributions made before that date. Mr Chairman, Sir, I beg to move.

Amendment put and agreed to.

Clause 6, as amended, agreed to.

Clauses 7 to 10 agreed to.

Bill to be reported.

(Mr Speaker resumed the Chair)

Bill reported with amendment, read the Third time and passed.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion made and Question proposed, That this House do now adjourn (The Minister of Economic Development).

Mr Speaker : I have a notice from Mr Ekenekot.

Mr U. O. Ekenekot (Opobo South) : The Minister responsible says it is tomorrow because he is too busy to reply to-day.

Mr Speaker : The next request I have is from Mr Okoronkwo. I am not quite sure what Minister he has got to reply.

Mr F. I. Okoronkwo (Aba Urban) : Monday, Sir.

Mr Speaker : Mr Effiong-Spatts is no present. Mr Etukudo is also not present Mr Oladapo.

Mr S. A. Oladapo (Ondo West) : Mr Speaker, Sir, the point I wish to raise is the question of census. In view of the uncertainty of the population of Nigeria and in view of Nigeria becoming independent, by October 1st, 1960, this House urges the Minister of Economic Planning to order a new census of the Federation of Nigeria to be taken before the day of independence on October 1st, 1960.

Mr Speaker, Sir, this statement is self-explanatory and I sincerely hope every Member of the House will support it. The last census was in 1953 or thereabout. Apart from the census being a bit old, it is a well known fact that it was not correct and as a result of this our population has been invariably put at between thirty-five and forty million. On the approach of independence, I think a correct population figure of the country should be known. This is absolutely necessary and no effort on the part of the Government to get it through before our independence day could be considered too great.

The Minister of Economic Development (Hon. M. Shehu Shagari) : Sir, the Federal Government is aware of the need for a national population census but unfortunately it is not the type of work which can be done overnight. We are trying, Sir, to hold a national population census as soon as possible and we have started by appointing a Census Officer provision for which, as you saw in the Estimates, has been approved by this House, and an Assistant Census Officer is also going to be appointed very soon. The Regional Governments have been consulted about this population census and all the Regional Governments are going to appoint Regional Census Officers. It is, I understand, a task which requires some time.

I understand preparation for a national census takes anything from one and a half to two years, but we are doing our best to see that it is done much earlier. We cannot of course

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our respected Prime Minister that if possible, subject to the progress we have made, that this House should adjourn tomorrow night; depending on the progress we shall make to-night and if Members will co-operate, as they have started to do this morning, I am sure that we can get over the supplementary Appropriation Bills and the other Bills as quickly as possible. That is the way I look at it, Sir. I shall make a statement, may be, at the close to-night as to what will happen tomorrow.

HEAD 21—GOVERNOR-GENERAL

£3,416 for Head 21—Governor-General—*agreed to.*

HEAD 22—CHIEF SECRETARY'S OFFICE

£4,616 for Head 22—Chief Secretary's Office—*agreed to.*

HEAD 29—MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS
AND AVIATION

£1,637 for Head 29—Ministry of Communications and Aviation—*agreed to.*

HEAD 31.—AVIATION

£7,700 for Head 31—Aviation—*agreed to.*

HEAD 36.—STATISTICS

£6,616 for Head 36—Statistics—*agreed to.*

HEAD 41.—CO-OPERATIVES

£4,553 for Head 41—Co-operatives—*agreed to.*

HEAD 44.—LAND

£56,446 for Head 44—Land—*agreed to.*

HEAD 51.—EDUCATION

Question proposed, That £13,169 for Head 51—Education—stand part of the Schedule.

Dr Kalu Ezera (Bende East): Mr Chairman, Sir, I am getting worried about these aye, aye, ayes. I am sorry I was not here yesterday, so I d'd not see my Order Paper in time in order to be able to see what they are aye-ing. I fear that we might be aye-ing so much and aye the whole country away.

On this particular Head about Education, I would like to say this much, that there are far too many advisers on Education in the Federation. When I looked at the Estimates, Sir, I see Chief Adviser to the Federal Government, Assistant Chief Adviser, Chief Assistant Chief Adviser, Deputy Chief and about ten sub-heads. I feel this is wholly redundant, since higher education is only a Federal subject.

I think, Sir, that something should be done to remove most of these redundant jobs. I think the Minister of Education is fully aware of this and that he will do something about it.

One other point I want to mention, Sir, concerns the Nigerian College of Arts, Science and Technology. I am ashamed to say that the Nigerian College of Arts has been the most backward in terms of Nigerianisation. The University College, Ibadan has almost 60 per cent Nigerian staff whereas the Nigerian College of Arts has only a very very small percentage of Nigerian staff. One sees that that is the exclusive preserve of our expatriate friends. Those who fail to do their degree in Oxford or Cambridge or London find their way to the Nigerian College of Arts to have a sort of good time. The Minister of Education should look into it.

An hon. Member: Do they have Research officers there?

Dr Ezera: There are very many Botanist Officers and Research Officers from the Railway who second themselves to the Federal Government and find a sort of leeway there. I think the Minister of Education is fully alive to this type of backway or back-room state of affairs and I want to say that if we must progress, the Nigerian College must be made really what it should be. There is an element of duplication in preparing students only for a sort of entering into University Education which should not be. We have ten secondary schools already and therefore we must use the Nigerian College of Arts in the way it should be used and I think the Minister will have to look into it very well.

Mr Chairman, I beg to support.

Mr D. N. Abii (Owerri East): Mr Chairman Sir, I wish to point out one important matter connected with Education, but before I do so, I feel it is the duty of this House to express surprise at the way the Bills we are now debating are seeking the permission of this House for expenditure made as far back as 1957-58. No matter what reason might have been brought I personally feel that to bring such Bills so late is not a good work of any Government.

My second point, Mr Chairman, is a big surprise also in the fact that we have been

saying we have a respectable Opposition in this House, but this morning, the Opposition is not able to criticise anything. They are all absent. The Opposition is not responsible. If they continue like this the recognition of the leader should be withdrawn.

An hon. Member : They are too weak (*Interruption*).

Mr Abii : Mr Chairman, Sir, the point I want to raise for the recognition of the Minister of Education is that up to now many boys in this country have failed to have proper secondary education and this is due to the fact that we have been bent on this academic education so that we have got a lot of human wastages.

I am asking the Minister of Education who has very well proposed to institute inter-regional secondary schools to make sure that the entrance to these schools should not only aim at academic education. It is possible to recruit all children, boys and girls who want to go to secondary schools into specially prepared secondary schools and after one or two years in that school you begin to sort out the children to what they are able to learn. I do not believe that the principle of entrance examination is the only way to settle and to find the ability of children in what capacity they can get education. I am recommending that he should examine the possibility of building these inter-regional secondary schools to be able to accommodate as many children as possible so that after the first year they are sorted out for what they can learn whether they should go for academic education or technical education.

With these points, Mr Chairman, I support the Bill.

The Minister of Education (Hon. Aja Nwachuku) : Mr Chairman, just one point in reply to the few points made by my hon. friend, Dr Ezera. He said there are too many Advisers in the establishment of the Federal Department of Education. That is not correct. We have not got up to the required number of Advisers as we do need because these Advisers do not advise us on the Federal level only. They give their advice to all the Education Departments in the country up to the Southern Cameroons. The Regions enjoy the services of these Advisers, so do other Institutions up to secondary level. It does not mean that these Advisers are only meant for the Federal Education Department and I think he ought to have known that.

He said that the Nigerian College is an exclusive reserve for what he called his expatriate friends and that the Nigerian College prepares students only to be admitted to the University College, Ibadan. That is not true. The Nigerian College prepares full profession course for other workers except in Medicine. It awards its diploma which is the same as other schools of Technology in Britain so that it is not only meant to prepare students for entrance into the University. It does something more than that.

Hon. Abii said that children in this country do not have proper secondary education.

That is an ambiguous statement and I do not understand it. At the Federal level they do have secondary education and unless he explains what he means by not having proper education I do not know what to explain.

Mr A. F. Odulana (Ijebu South) : Mr Chairman, Sir, I would like to remind the hon. friend of mine, Mr Abii, that the Opposition cannot just remain silent, as silence means consent. What I want to tell him is that the whole batch of you on the Government Bench could be likened to the ostrich, and as the ostrich is found mainly in the Northern Region where most of you Alkalis come from I will tell you that you are just hiding your long necks in the sand.

M. Mohammed Muhtari, Sarkin Bai (Dambata) : Point of Order, Mr Chairman. Order No. 25 (2). The hon. Member is grossly irrelevant.

The Chairman : So was the Chief Whip of the Government Party and if I allowed him I must certainly allow answer from the Opposition.

Mr Odulana : Thank you, Mr Chairman. I say that these people could be likened to an ostrich who hides its neck and head in just a little bush while the whole big body is outside, forgetting that it is the body that people want and they just cut the body off and that is the end of it.

What I want to tell you is that the Minister of Finance absolutely knew that he was wrong and he knew he would get a majority. He did that yesterday by asking you people who have no minds of their own, to vote for it. When he

[CHIEF ROSIJI]

vested interests feel about it. The first is that there are too many expatriate officials in that place.

The Minister of Education (hon. Aja Nwachuku) : Where ?

Chief Rosiji : In the University College.

An hon. Member : What of the Nigerian College ?

Chief Rosiji : Both of them. The place is just teeming with them and I have no doubt that there are qualified people in this country who can be admitted to that place to fulfil the functions which a good many of these expatriate officers are fulfilling. There are people trained in overseas universities and even in our university here who have the relevant qualifications for the University College.

Now, I will say furthermore that the "leave" conditions in the University College leave very much to be desired. The expatriate officers, and even the Nigerians in the place, go on leave every year. They go on leave to London every year. If I may say so, this is unnecessary, especially for the Nigerians in that place. It is completely unnecessary. If Nigerian members of the staff there want study leave they should take their study leave and go and do some specific thing in the United Kingdom and if this is done the money that will be spent by this Government or the University College will be much less and will be more fruitfully spent.

I will say further that more opportunities should be provided for this study leave, not just going there to spend a few weeks in France, another few weeks in Manchester and another few weeks in London just for pleasure. This is no good. The members of the staff should be given study leave to whatever University they want to go anywhere in the world, not just to Britain, to go and study some specific aspect of their subjects. Now, that is one way in which money can be usefully spent and I hope that the Minister will go and prune any estimate that has been presented to him, if it is presented now.

Another aspect I want to mention is that these institutions are too independent of this Government.

An hon. Member : Ah ! ah !

Chief Rosiji : Yes, they are too independent of this Government.

An hon. Member : That is academic freedom.

Chief Rosiji : The cloak under which they hide is academic freedom. What I understand academic freedom to mean is that this Government does not interfere with the curriculum of the institution, and that it does not interfere with the members of the staff of this institution; not that this Government that pays the money for the running of the institution should have no voice in the estimates when they are prepared. What the position is now is that the Minister is only informed, the estimates of the place is only passed to him for his information. I do not think that is right. I think the Minister should be in a position to examine the estimates, and as a highly responsible man, a Minister of State, his advice on the estimates should be one that should be acceptable to the institution.

M. Ali Monguno (Kaga-Marghi) : Mr Chairman, Sir, while supporting the Head I would like to point out that I am quite happy with regard to the establishment of inter-regional secondary schools, but I am appealing to the Minister of Education to establish such schools not in the regional headquarters but at more favourable places. In my opinion, Sir, the rural areas would be more favourable for studies than urban areas.

May I also say that the period for the course which is normally six years is a bit long. Under favourable conditions with schools adequately equipped and with efficient staff, a five year course would enable the average intelligent student to obtain a school certificate.

If it is true that there is a committee investigating the possibilities of establishing a university in the Northern Region I would like to say that the North not only desires a University but it also thinks it is essential. I hope that these words fall into the ears of hon. Members of this committee and they will bear it in mind while undertaking the task lying before them.

In conclusion I would say that education must reflect the life of the locality or the country. In the past, Sir, still to a small extent at the present, there is too much of Latin and Greek, usually referred to as "dead languages" in the curriculum. If it is possible we should like the Minister of Education to

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say something about this. They are hardly desirable and the fashion now is to do away with them. I know some people would argue that Latin could be useful as it has derivations and would enable students to be better in the field of English, but I still think that too much of it is hardly necessary, and if we cannot wipe it out entirely, it should be lessened. I beg to support.

Mr E. A. Mordi (Asaba East): Mr Chairman, Sir, I have a few observations to make. In the first instance my criticism is on how these supplementary estimates have been distributed to Members. I am not arguing that perhaps it is too late now to discuss the 1957-58 Estimates, because there might be a reason for that; but I want to say that many of us have not seen this Supplementary Estimate Bill, we just got it this morning. Apart from that I will go more directly to what I want to say.

I would like to comment on the attitude of the Government towards the teachers in this country. What I am saying applies to both the Government teachers teaching in Government secondary schools, and also teachers in the voluntary agency schools. It is worse for the voluntary agency schools. The impression one gets from the Government attitude is that the Government regards the teaching profession as perhaps an inferior profession to all others. I have a reason for saying this. In the first instance, most of the voluntary agency teachers when commissions are being set up to review the salaries of the workers of this country, the salaries of the Government workers are first reviewed but perhaps teachers will have to write to the newspapers and then cry out before they have to be considered. This is not altogether a very good thing, and in many cases it has been discovered that lower percentages are awarded to voluntary agency teachers than are awarded to Government teachers.

One of the things discussed in this House from time to time is the question of the falling standard of education. We do not stop to think why there has been a lowering of standards. I want to say that this is not due to the fact that education is not what it used to be, but it is because many of the teachers are losing interest in the job. If we want to be fair to

teachers we should realise that if the Government is serious in taking statistics they would find that most of the workers in Government departments have been people who have taught before. I wonder if they ever ask themselves why the people left the teaching profession to go to join the Government. There is only one reason for it and that is dissatisfaction with the conditions of service. What I am saying also applies to Government institutions.

I know a teacher who was at King's College in Lagos. When he was there he had no hope for promotion, in fact the highest promotion he could hope for perhaps was to become the Vice-Principal or something of that nature. The highest salary for that is £1,520. But no sooner had he left King's College and went to another department was his salary catapulted from lower than £1,620 to nearly £2,040. When he was a teacher he could never have hoped to earn £2,040, which is even higher than the salary of the Vice-Principal. I feel that it is not fair to teachers because somebody who is teaching must have an incentive. If those who are teaching in Government secondary schools have no hope of ever getting into the supernumerary scale the only thing they can do is resign or get a departmental transfer.

In the case of the voluntary agencies it is even worse. I know a teacher who has got four papers in the G.C.E. advanced. He had no opportunity of going to a teacher training school and his salary was only £192. When he left the teaching profession and went into the Government he was appointed an Assistant Executive Officer on the salary of £390.

I think that if we want to raise the standard of education in this country teachers will have to be encouraged because in the final analysis they have to train all these boys who have to go to university, finish in the university, and come back to man the senior posts we are craving for. We all shout about Nigerianisation! Nigerianisation! When teachers leave the teaching profession who will do the teaching? I think one of the chief reasons for the standard of education getting lower and lower in this country is that teachers are not interested any longer. In the schools and even in their homes they burn the midnight oil in order to pass their G.C.E. examination and no sooner have they passed it than they leave the teaching profession and go into Government Service.

[MR MORDI]

Finally, Sir, there is one point again in this connection. Even in England it is very difficult now to recruit science graduate teachers into schools and that is even so with Nigeria. Most of the people who pass the B.Sc. examinations choose to go either into the firms or the industries because of higher salaries and we cannot have the development of industries unless schools do science and if we do not encourage science graduates to go to the schools to teach it means that our hope for industries in this country is completely shattered.

Now I am suggesting very strongly that an incentive should be given to the teachers, particularly the graduate teachers, especially those who are science graduates so that when they are absorbed into the schools then it will be possible for science to be taught much more vigorously.

Finally, Sir, there is one more point that I would like to raise on the question of education. It is interesting to note that the Government is willing to build inter-Regional Secondary Schools. I want to suggest very strongly that foreign languages should be taught in these schools particularly French and Spanish. *(Interruption).*

Several hon. Members : What of Ibo? What of Hausa? We don't want to have anything to do with French. What of South Africa? *(Interruption).*

Mr Mordi : Mr Chairman, Sir, why I am suggesting the teaching of foreign languages is the fact that when this country becomes independent, there is going to be the need for the country to have ambassadors in the different countries of the world and I want to say that knowledge of foreign languages is an important aspect of ambassadorial tradition.

I notice, Sir, that some of the people who have been given special training in the foreign service are being sent to either Paris or to some other parts of the continental countries and that when they get there they have got to study the language. In the Ministry of Foreign Affairs here it would be necessary for the people who are going to man it to know some of these foreign languages, hence I am suggesting very strongly that when these inter-Regional Secondary Schools are built important foreign languages, particularly French

which is now becoming an international language in Europe, is taught. With these few remarks, Mr Chairman, I beg to support.

Dr Kalu Ezera (Bende East) : Mr Chairman, Sir, I am very grateful for this opportunity again. I would like to correct certain impressions which some speakers have about the University College, Ibadan. I happen to come from the University College, Ibadan. I want to sound a note of warning that some political parties have for the last two or three years been consistently attacking the University College with a view to grasping the control of that College and I want to say this, that it is in the interest of this nation not to meddle with our highest institution of learning. There is a very.....

Mr Speaker : Point of Order, Mr Rosiji?

Chief Ayo Rosiji : Some hon. Members are imputing an improper motive and I would like him not to continue

Mr Speaker : As we all know it is not allowed under Standing Orders that improper motives should be imputed to Members of this House.

Dr Kalu Ezera : I do not impute any motive, I stated a point of fact. I said that for the last two years the University College, Ibadan, has been under constant attack by a certain party in this country. I can prove that. The point that I want to make, Sir, is that we should be very careful in this House in the manner we talk about our highest institution of learning. There is a very great danger of lowering academic standards if we stress indiscriminately the issue of Nigerianisation in that aspect. For me, I am a strong supporter of Nigerianisation and I think my hon. friend, Mr Ayo Rosiji, will agree with me that I have always supported him on this issue of Nigerianisation.

But I do want to say this, that when it comes to the question of academic standards, an institution of higher learning is a place where all the academicians from all over the world have an abode and as a matter of fact University College, Ibadan, at the moment has more than 50 per cent of its academic staff Nigerians, professors and lecturers; and in fact of late, as all Members are aware, we have had the

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opportunity of having one of the most eminent Nigerians appointed Principal-designate. Professor K. O. Dike has been appointed Principal-designate. He is a world-known figure and I think it is a cause for joy that a first-class brain in whom we can be very proud has been thus appointed.

And I want to say this again, that the proportion of Nigerians to expatriates in the University College is evenly balanced, almost evenly balanced. We should not just because we want to press the issue of Nigerianisation, endanger the standards which Ibadan University College has already attained. I think it would be a very dangerous thing for us to do.

I want to speak on one other aspect before I sit down, and that is the aspect of autonomy. My hon. friend Mr Rosiji, made the issue of autonomy and I want to say this, that in all universities all over the world: Cambridge and Oxford, Harvard and Yale—

An hon. Member : And Trinity College ?

Dr Ezera : Yes ; and Trinity College too, one finds that universities are allowed a reasonable amount of autonomy. The solution to making the universities to adjust to the needs of the country does not lie in tying down the hands of the universities, but rather lies in trying to find the right men—as we have found one in the person of the Principal of the College, Professor K. O. Dike. Once you find the right men then the University automatically reflects the needs and wishes and aspirations of the country.

I want to emphasise this aspect of autonomy in an institution. If we try to kick the University College like a football, then we can be sure that we are putting a dangerous knife into the hands of this nation. We want the University College to be left alone so that it will produce the future leaders of this country ; leaders who will hold this country much on the partisan basis that we are. We are only holding the reins of power, they will come along very soon and sweep us away because we are training them there to be Nigerians, to be Africans, we are training them in the right way to appreciate what Nigerians and to appreciate what African statement—(Loud interruptions).

It is because of these few observations that I want the University College to remain autonomous as it is, but with one emphatic difference. We have already heard that as from 1960 onwards, or 1962, the University College will have a Charter of its own. This is a very promising development of which this House should be very proud, instead of us coming here to begin an attack needlessly. If we have a Charter which is Nigerian then of course the University College can play its noble role in serving the needs and wishes of Nigeria.

Mr Chairman, Sir, with these few remarks, I support.

Chief Ayo Rosiji (Egba East) : Mr Chairman, Sir, I am afraid that the statement I made here a short while ago has been completely misconstrued. There are two points that I made.

The first is in the staffing of the University College. I did say that there were too many expatriates on the staff. Certainly Mr Chairman, Sir, I would be the last—a person like myself who has benefited from a university education—I would be the last to say that we should not have expatriate people on the staff of the University College ; they will bring new ideas from their own countries to invigorate whatever we do in our University College. In all universities in the world you have people from other countries as members of the staff. But I know no university in the world which has as many as 50 per cent of expatriate people—as my hon. friend has just said, in no university in the world. If it is a Nigerian university there should be a proportion of Nigerians on the academic staff. That is the point that I am making ; this does not happen anywhere else in the world.

The other point is on the question of autonomy. When I made my speech I did say that I endorse whole-heartedly the question of academic freedom. In all institutions of learning there must be academic freedom otherwise there would be toying with learning in the place with political partisanship, or indoctrination which we do not want in our universities.

But the point I was making was a financial point. I was talking about money—and that is what we are here to talk about, not about mathematics or economics—I was talking about money. It is quite clear that the

[CHIEF ROSIJI]

University College depends on this Government for its finances. The University College makes its estimates and the position now is this: the University College can make an estimate for £800,000 and the Minister has no power to approve or prune down that estimate, but the Minister has to pay. That is not right. If the University College develops financial irresponsibility and budgets for an amount which this Government cannot afford, what happens? Where are we? In no other university to which my hon. friend made reference: Yale University, the University of Harvard, or Oxford or Cambridge, or London, do they get money from the Government. They do not! They do not get money from the Government.

But what I would like to say is this, Sir. In order to meet my friend half-way, the University College should do what other universities do. They should ask the Government to create a Trust Fund for them so that they will be constrained to keep within the limits of whatever can be produced from that Fund.

And that, I think, is my point. I am sorry to have spoken again but my point has been completely misconstrued, and I thank you Mr Chairman, for giving me another opportunity.

Alhaji Ahmadu Danbaba (Rabah Wuron) : Mr Chairman, Sir, in supporting the expenditure under this Head I would like to make a few observations. The Government policy on Education is a very commendable one, but I regret to say that Government does not seem to realise the importance of Arabic education in this country. If the Minister considered the number of Arabic schools in this country one would have expected the Minister to make provision for higher education in this field.

In the Northern Region alone, Sir, there is no village, however small it may be into which there are not one or two Arabic schools where children learn how to read and write. There are many schools where, among other things history, geography and law and many other subjects are being taught. It might perhaps interest hon. Members to know that although the Islamic Law was not based on anybody's custom recognised in the administration of justice, the concepts of the rule of law are the same.

I would therefore like to appeal to the Government to consider the possibility of promoting the school for Arabic Studies in Kano to a university status. Mr Chairman, Sir, with these few remarks I beg to support.

The Minister of Finance (Chief the hon. F. S. Okotie-Eboh) : Mr Chairman, Sir, I really want to thank all hon. Members for contributing to this debate. I think it is generally accepted in this House that the Supplementary Estimates which are presented are not without cause or without solid foundation and that, being so, Members find it difficult to pick holes—especially my friends on the Opposition. The facts that I have stated are quite clear, concise and reasonable. In the circumstances certainly no one would expect the Government to do any other thing but to bring the Supplementary Estimates to this House to be approved, which it has rightly approved during the Second Reading. Therefore, strictly speaking, but for the Speaker's ruling, I would say that the points made by my Friend, Chief Ayo Rosiji, are uncalled for at this stage of the debate.

There is note on point made by my hon. friend that has not been touched upon in my speech on this particular Supplementary Estimate, as well as the remaining two. I do not play hide and seek; hide and seek is a game made for school-boys like—(Loud Interruptions) not for reasonable people.

Several hon. Members : *Wuruwuru, wuruwuru.*

The Minister of Finance : *Wuruwuru* is meant for hon. Odulana. Again, my hon. friend spoke about the powers of the Standing Committee on Finance. Surely no body suggests that the Standing Committee on Finance is greater than the Legislature, but where the Legislature by its own Standing Orders has declared certain finances to which the Standing Committee approves, this Legislature will be bound by the decision of such a Standing Committee on Finance, and by the specific section of the Standing Orders which I quoted yesterday. The Standing Committee on Finance was charged at that material time with such responsibility, which was discharged and placed before this House, and at that time, just because my hon. Friend was in the Government he was unable to do anything. He tried to sidetrack it. Yes, it was urgent responsibility—(Interruption.)

Sir, one other reasonable aspect of my hon. Friend's argument, for once, is the economic measures which I think he wants us to apply to the University College, Ibadan, and I want to inform him and others that it is the Government's desire that the Minister of Education should endeavour within reasonable limits to apply the economic measures undertaken by the Government to the University College, Ibadan. I think that when that is done, speaking personally here for myself, I agree with my hon. Friend completely that I do not see why a Nigerian should go on leave with his wife and children once every year. I think it is a waste of money, and I am sure that my hon. Colleague the Minister of Education will look into it. We quite agree that professors in the University or lecturers should go abroad to exchange views with their counterparts in other parts of the world, but I do not think they need to do that every year and if they want to do it, what would their wives and children be doing there at the same time? Is it academic exchange of views, or what? Sir, I agree.

Dr Kalu Ezera (Bende East) : Sir, I agree that Nigerians should not go every year, that I endorse. But there should be a sense of uniformity. If it is that lecturers as a whole should not go every year, that is sensible, but to discriminate between Nigerian lecturers and expatriates, I take exception to that.—(*Interruption*). The argument for going abroad is to exchange views on academic grounds. The point I want to make, Sir, is that if you want to make it every two years, then make it for Nigerian lecturers and expatriate lecturers. There should be no question of discrimination.

The Minister of Finance : Well, Sir, I am very grateful to my respected learned doctor for the point he has made. I agree with him to the extent that there should be no discrimination, and I do not think in this remark that either Chief Ayo Rosiji or myself is asking for any discrimination. We say that the annual visit or leave in the United Kingdom, whether expatriate or indigenous, carrying his family with him at the expense of the country, is something that will not assist our economy. That is our point—(*Interruption*).

Chief Ayo Rosiji (Egba East) : He is now a Nationalist—I am glad he has taken inspiration from the Opposition to be a Nationalist.

Mr W. Briggs (Degema) : I think we should ask Dr Chike Obi to withdraw the remarks he made about the Minister of Finance with regard to his being a Nationalist.

The Minister of Finance : Mr Chairman, Sir, I am very grateful to my hon. Friends for making at least one confession. From the remarks by Mr Briggs it is now clear that it was Mr Briggs and some Members (I will not say the whole Members of the Opposition) that goaded Dr Chike Obi to make his speech.

Mr Briggs : Mr Chairman, Sir, Dr Chike Obi is a host in himself, and does not need any goading at all.

Mr E. C. Akwivu (Orlu South-East) : Mr Chairman, Sir, on the question of the University College, a lot has been said, but I merely wish to add one point, Sir. That is this. One notices that the students of the University College and their products constitute a specimen of their culture that is neither Nigerian nor English. Their language and politics are so foreign that in all my six years in England and, with apologies, my five years at Cambridge, I never knew anything of the sort of English language that these students are speaking.

An hon. Member : Which ones?

Mr Akwivu : The students of the University College and their products. I have seen, Sir, that it might be a greater credit to our country if these people would be a bit more natural in the way they speak, and in the sort of culture they acquire.

Mr Chairman, Sir, the issue of the Nigerian College of Arts, Science and Technology has been very ably raised on the Floor of this House. I agree completely with those who advocate academic freedom. I would not myself say that Nigerianisation should be pursued at the expense of academic efficiency, but I think, Sir, that in some cases we are getting too liberal. The Nigerian College of Arts, Science and Technology should be more objective in its staff policy, particularly on the issue of Nigerianisation. It is said, Sir, that the proportion now is only 2 to 5 per cent of Nigerians as against expatriates.

Mr Chairman, Sir, the Minister of Education I believe is formulating something on inter-Regional colleges or institutions, or secondary

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school courses. I would say that the Federal Ministry should adopt its own policy and principle on that matter. If the Minister is going to delegate to Regional Governments, you might find that the Federal Government may have to take other factors into consideration at the Regional level. For example, divisional patronages and other things like that, may not necessarily make the best use of the money we are putting into that Division.

It is my suggestion, Sir, that the Federal Ministry of Education may well have to consult others, but it must leave to itself the right to decide on policy and the right to decide where to site the colleges it has in mind. I think this is very very important, Sir, and in that respect I think the Minister would be well advised to investigate very widely.

I know there are certain communities that have themselves felt the need for technical secondary schools and have either built them themselves or are subscribing towards building some. I can cite, for example, the Orlu District Council. The Orlu District Council on its own raised funds and started a technical institute, but they had to give it up for want of Government patronage. They are very eager to re-establish it, and we do hope, Sir, that the Minister will consider cases like that, find out for himself where the needs are, whether the people are interested and also where it would cost the country most.

Mr Chairman, Sir, my friend Mr Rosiji did postulate one very interesting point here this morning, which refers to the Federal Government over-spending and under-spending, which constitutes evidence of inefficiency. It is very gratifying to know that he is the one that makes this point, because at that time he had the privilege of being party to the Government. He was one of the Ministers in the Government at the time. If to-day what he did in those days now constitutes evidence of inefficiency, he ought first to blame himself. I think, Sir, he is trying to obscure one certain fact, which is that this is a new Government, trying to bring up to date what has been left over by the last Government, of which Chief Rosiji was a permanent member.

Whereupon the Minister of Mines and Power 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 £13,169 for Head 51—Education—stand part of the Schedule, put and agreed to.

Sitting suspended : 11.31 a.m.

Sitting resumed : 10.57 a.m.

HEAD 53—CHEMISTRY

£498 for Head 53—Chemistry—agreed to.

HEAD 72—COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

£14,298 for Head 72—Council of Ministers—agreed to.

HEAD 79—NIGERIANISATION OFFICE

£2,251 for Head 79—Nigerianisation Office—agreed to.

HEAD 80—MISCELLANEOUS

£476,520 for Head 80—Miscellaneous—agreed to.

HEAD 81—PENSIONS AND GRATUITIES

Question proposed, That £3,258 for Head 81—Pensions and Gratuities—stand part of the Schedule.

Mr P. Ekanem (Enyong South): Mr Chairman, Sir, although on this Head the amount shown there has been spent, I wish to seize this opportunity of telling you, Sir, that pensioners are subjected to untold sufferings due to the way and manner the Ministry in charge of pensions and gratuities treats them. Here is an officer who has been given notice or has notified the Government of his intention to retire. He is given six months' leave to retire at the expiration of the leave. Now, he goes home, spends the six months' leave, retires at the expiration of the leave and stays for a year or two more and his gratuity is not forthcoming. May it be said, Sir, that the Section of the Ministry in charge of Pensions and Gratuities whenever that man gives notice that Section has known of it? Would it not be possible for his gratuity or his pension to be prepared so that it falls or he gets his entitlements immediately his leave expires? Now, most of these retired officers have children not only in primary and secondary schools but they have also children in the University within the country and outside the country and they have guaranteed the education of their children.

Sir, you will realise that in any secondary school when a boy owes for a term he is sent away. Here is a pensioner with his son or daughter in England who has retired for two years now and it has not been possible for the Minister of Pensions to lay his hand on this money to pay to this man. It is a matter that hon. Ribadu, if he is the Minister of Pensions and Gratuities should take very seriously because it is going to affect not only himself when he shall be pensioned when he is no more a Minister; it affects everybody, Mr Chairman. It affects those who are in the Service now and has affected very adversely those who have already left the Service. Now, this happens more to indigenes workers of this country. A European before he goes away takes advantage of the lump sum compensation, pension and everything. Why not treat Nigerians like that? The Minister should see that when you give these people six months' notice their pension and gratuities are worked out. A good servant is worthy of his pay.

Mr Chairman, with these few remarks I beg to support the Head.

Mr F. C. Ogbalu (Awka North): Mr Chairman, Sir, no amount of emphasis can be too much on this question of pensions because we have so many pensioners who have retired from the Federal Government for two years and who have not been paid their retiring benefits. The last speaker was speaking hypothetically but I have specific examples.—people like Mr Onwubuya, Mr Akpuaka and twenty-three Easterners who retired as Supervising Teachers and their retiring benefits have not been paid for two years now. I think it is a serious matter. Two of them have sons in the United Kingdom. The Eastern Region Government had to loan a sum of about £240 to one of them in order to help him tie over his difficulties because the Federal Government failed to calculate the amount of pension due to these retired Supervising Teachers from the Eastern Region.

I mentioned before that perhaps the same thing might be prevailing in the North and in the West, but I think that something ought to be done for the benefit of these men who have given out their services all the time and expect something. According to the agreement, when education was regionalised in 1954, I think the

Pensions Department ought to have calculated the amount of pension due to officers serving under the Federal Government since 1954 so that the table will be ready for the people to have their pensions instead of being delayed.

Well, Regional Governments cannot be blamed for not paying their own share of pensions because they have to wait for the Federal Government to calculate the amount of pension which the Federal Government will contribute. So I am appealing seriously to the Minister concerned that all efforts made by our own Eastern Regional Government are supported in order to see that these twenty-three men are given their pensions. There are others but I am sure of these twenty-three men.

I need not occupy the time of the House. I have made my point, Mr Chairman. Thank you.

Mr W. Briggs (Degema): Mr Chairman, when one considers that under this Head are lumped together annual allowances, gratuities and *ex gratia* awards and that this is now brought three years after this money has been spent, when one considers all this one will realise the heinousness of the crime of spending money before asking permission of this House to spend it. Lawyers have a name for spending money or using other people's things without the consent of the owners of the thing.

An hon. Member: What is the name?

Mr Briggs: I shall not give you that name but the hon. the Minister of Finance knows about it. If I were a cartoonist I should have depicted the hon. the Minister of Finance trotting about the globe looking for loans abroad while in his own country such things as were reported by the Auditor in the last Audit Report are taking place and also some people are making use of money without the consent and permission of this House. I think that would have been a very good picture of the hon. the Minister of Finance, and I am of course recommending this to *Chuks* of the "Daily Service", the famous cartoonist of the "Daily Service".....

The Chairman: On this particular Head we ought not to put thoughts into other people's heads.

Mr Briggs : Mr Chairman, I am sure the cartoonist is more sagacious than we think he is. Now, I see here Annual Allowances and Gratuities. I do not know how much has actually been given but what I am saying under this Head, Mr Chairman, is that for economy's sake all useless allowances must be pruned down this year of independence. We are approaching independence and we want money by all means. I have always said that our budget should be "Austerity Budget" and if it is going to be austerity budget and we are going in for a time when we need a lot of money and all the economy that we can muster, these allowances and gratuities I am asking the Minister of Finance to look very closely into. He should see that he prunes them down quite a lot. We have far too many needless allowances, including the allowances of Ministers.

Mr N. E. Elenwa (Ahoada West): Mr Chairman, Sir, pensioners in this country actually are suffering so much. Take for instance the people in the Federal territory of Lagos when they retire. If somebody happens to retire in the Federal territory and he is in the Regions you will see, Mr Chairman, that it will be difficult for that man to leave the Region and come back to the Federal Territory in order to look for his pension. I say that these people, their pensions are not prepared. . . .

Chief O. B. Akin. Olugbade (Egba South): Mr Chairman, Sir, it is not in connection with the speech of my hon. friend, but I think the Ministers should set good examples in this House. I see a Minister chewing sweets. . . . (Interruptions). . . . he is eating sweets and distributing them around.

The Chairman : That cannot possibly be a Point of Order. I may myself have a sore throat and chew a lozenge.

Mr Elenwa : What I was saying before is that if lump-sum compensation is being paid to Europeans as soon as they leave the service without writing a letter, without going to the office, I think that very thing should be applicable to Africans. After all, if one looks closer, one finds that somebody has retired leaving the service about four or five years ago and that man has to depend on his family if his pension is not paid to him,

I know of four or five cases of people who retired from the Federal territory in 1956, and up until now they are still writing and writing, and up until now their pensions have not been paid. They are asked to leave the Region where they are suffering and come back to Lagos. After all, if you calculate the transport, let us take from the Eastern Region for example.

An hon. Member : From Orlu ?

Mr Elenwa : From Ahoada, not from Orlu ! If you calculate the transport from Ahoada, my home, to Lagos here, to and fro, and yet you will come here four or five times and nothing will be done. If you do not come and see these people, the clerks, you do not get your pension. I am telling you from actual facts. So I am saying that if somebody who retires who has given us his useful services up to when he is old, if he retires from service that man must be given his pension without even writing since the Department knows he is due for his pension and so on and so forth.

Mr Chairman, Sir, I beg to support.

Chief E. O. Okunowo (Ijebu Central): If there is any occasion on which our Council of Ministers are failing in their duty, I think it is failing to create a market for the pensioners in this country.

An hon. Member : What market ?

Chief Okunowo : A pensioners' market. The Minister of Finance said it should be Ebute-Ero which is a Government market for all the people in this country, for what is good for one thing is good for another. If the people still in the Service are enjoying Mbanefo awards and all other awards, I think that the pensioners too must be given adequate consideration. It seems to me that in this country people that are still in the Service seem to forget people that have gone before them and I think our Minister or Prime Minister should be able to give the pensioners good consideration.

I am a pensioner, I know the sufferings of pensioners. . . . (Laughter) and I think I would be failing in my duty this morning if I failed to bring forward the suffering of pensioners. One of our Members has just referred to the delay in the payment of gratuities. There are various causes for which one leaves the Service. In some cases, some people leave as a result of

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resignation; some people leave the Service on account of depression—because of grading and lack of promotion prospects and, in time, they just get fed up and leave the Service.

Here is a man of frustration! Here is a man who left the Service over frustration and he would like to see that he gets his gratuity in time to enable him to pursue other lines of activity in life. In this country, when you come to the Treasury you have got to negotiate with so many clerks before you are paid. So I would suggest to the Government that as soon as it knows that an officer is retiring, the Ministry of Finance should be notified so that before he actually leaves the people concerned can compute his pension: if he left to-day, then a week later he should be able to draw his gratuity and so on.

I would like the Head of the Department to always keep the appropriate Department concerned informed that Mr So-and-So is likely to retire in about two or three months' time and therefore would be grateful for his pension to be computed as early as possible, because it might take the people in that Department some two or three months before his pension is computed. And for that reason I think there should be advance notice to the Ministry of Finance for the compilation of figures.

I am also appealing for adequate consideration to be given to pensioners because in this country, as I have said, there are many cases of people who have left the Service and nobody seems to think about them any more and they suffer. They were useful citizens when they were in the Service. So I appeal seriously to the Minister to give adequate consideration to pensioners.

Whereupon the Minister of Mines and Power 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 £3,258 for Head 81—Pensions and Gratuities—stand part of the Schedule, put accordingly and agreed to.

HEAD 84.—CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE DEVELOPMENT FUND

£722,302 for Head 84—Contributions to the Development Fund—agreed to.

HEAD 86.—THE PRIME MINISTER

£15,782 for Head 86—Prime Minister—agreed to

HEAD 88.—THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH

£13,297 for Head 88—Ministry of Health—agreed to.

Question, That this Schedule be the Schedule to the Bill, put and agreed to.

Postponed Clauses 1 and 2 agreed to.

Preamble agreed to.

Bill accordingly read the third time and passed.

SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION (1958-59)
(No. 3) BILL

Considered in Committee of Supply.

(In the Committee)

The Chairman: The Clauses stand postponed until after consideration of the Schedule.

HEAD 34.—MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

£8,591 for Head 34—Ministry of Education—agreed to.

HEAD 38.—MINISTRY OF FINANCE

Question proposed, That £24,398 for Head 38—Ministry of Finance—stand part of the Schedule.

Mr W. Briggs (Degema): I am sorry, Mr Chairman, I have to come again on the Ministry of Finance. These travelling and other expenses, it is my considered opinion that the Minister of Finance should tell us exactly what are the things that come under the other expenses. That Ministry, in my opinion, is already sufficiently supplied and to think that this money has already been spent and they are now coming to ask for our permission and our consent, that I think is immoral. I think the Minister of Finance should explain.

The Minister of Finance: I have nothing to explain. In the words of John Ploughman, "It is a waste of time advising a man who is pouring water into a sieve". It is a waste of time telling this hon. Gentleman one thing after the other; he cannot understand, he is unable to understand and he has no ability to understand. (*Interruptions*).

Mr A. F. Odulana (Ijebu South): Mr Chairman, Sir, I personally will not discourage the Minister spending money but if he wants to spend money wisely, the better it is for him. But from what is happening, does he get his revenue from Customs? Most of his revenue comes from the Customs and he must look after the Customs. There is a lot of graft going on in the Lagos Customs quay which I personally believe our Federal Minister of Finance closes his eyes to—(Interruptions) Wait a bit. To-day the indigenous importers are suffering a lot in the Lagos Customs quay.

The Chairman: Order, order, I am afraid there is a separate Head for Customs and Excise.

Mr Odulana: Sir, I think one of those things on which you must have to direct our attention is this. You will not tell us under what Head we are going to talk and when it comes to that Head, you will tell us that we have passed it. I know that Customs comes under the Ministry of Finance, so let us talk about it. Go and stop the graft going on there.

The Chairman: That is against my ruling.

Question, That £24,398 for Head 38—Ministry of Finance—stand part of the Schedule, put and agreed to.

HEAD 42—STATISTICS

£5,662 for Head 42—Statistics—agreed to.

HEAD 46—MEDICAL

Question proposed, That £4,491 for Head 46—Medical—stand part of the Schedule.

Mr A. E. Efiang-Spatts (Calabar): It is most unfortunate that the question of medical has not suffered any reduction. That is the whole trouble and what I am asking now is that the Minister should look into the maternity affairs. In my own constituency—

Several hon. Members: Sit down, sit down.

The Minister of Finance (Chief the hon. F. S. Okotie-Eboh): Point of Order, Sir.

The Chairman: What point of Order?

The Minister of Finance: The point of Order is that the Ministry of Health or the Medical Department of the Federal Government has nothing to do with the Medical Department or the Medical services in the hon. Gentleman's constituency.

The Chairman: It is quite true and I am grateful to the Minister for so advising me.

Mr J. U. Udenyi (Enyong North): Mr Chairman, Sir, I want to tell the Members of the Opposition that they are turning this place into a debating club. They do not remember that it is a Parliament. They are making irresponsible statements in this House, attacking people unnecessarily. They should realise that we are not in a debating club, we are in a Parliament.

The Chairman: I must inform the hon. Gentleman that nobody, so far as I know, on this end of the House has had a word yet. Is he talking on the Head—Medical?

Mr Udenyi: What I am saying is that Opposition Members are making what we call unfounded criticism and by so doing they are converting this Head.

Mr J. S. Tarka (Jemgbar): Mr Chairman, Sir, I am particularly concerned about a situation which has recently arisen in Lagos Hospitals. It is common knowledge that there is over-congestion in all the Lagos Hospitals particularly when it comes to the issue of drugs to the out-patients. I would suggest that the Federal Ministry of Health should do something immediately to relieve the present situation. This can be done by employing extra hands, extra pharmacists and druggists to undertake it.

The Chairman: I think the hon. Gentleman should argue that drugs themselves run short, or clothing and bedding. The persons are not under this Head now.

Mr Tarka: There has been an explanation that in some cases there is shortage of certain drugs which makes it difficult for these drugs to be issued to the public. I hope that in future the Minister of Health will be able to help in providing sufficient drugs for these Hospitals.

The Chairman: We should not stray away from this Head—Medical. Has Mr Odigbo anything relevant?

Mr C. A. Odigbo (Bende West): I just want to say Mr Chairman, that the Federal Minister of Health has been doing a very good job and improving the nature of hospitals in Lagos. I think anybody who has been following the

improvements in Lagos will feel that that is really what is required. Now, the same thing applies when one considers the benefits being derived from the University Teaching Hospital at Ibadan. My suggestion to the Minister is that he should borrow a leaf from the Minister of Education and try to build other hospitals outside Lagos for the benefit of Nigerians.

The Chairman : I think it will be wiser to take a decision on this Head than to hear a succession of irrelevancies. If Mr Ekanem has a relevant remark to make I will call him.

Mr P. E. Ekanem : (Enyong South) : Mr Chairman, Sir, there is a point which every Member appears to have lost sight of and that is "duration", the period that a certain drug has got to be used. Take a drug like penicillin, take a drug like Liverdex—

An hon. Member : Like what ?

Mr Ekanem : Liverdex. You do not know. I am telling you medically. (*Laughter*). As I was saying, Sir, there is a certain period and after that period a drug should not be used. I am asking the Minister of Health, what step is he taking to see that the drugs are no longer used when the period has expired? If he continues to use these drugs, you will see that instead of curing, they increase the disease and even kill. That is the point and often times drugs are ordered in excess.

An hon. Member : Do not repeat that again, we have heard it.

Mr Ekanem : Why? Why should I not repeat it. I am not on that Bench so as not to speak. I am in the opposition. Mr Chairman, there has always been in the past and even at present the question of over-ordering of drugs with the result that after the expiration period they still continue to use these drugs in the Hospitals with no good result.

The Chairman : Now, may I come to a decision about these speeches. The hon. Gentleman is blaming the Doctors or Surgeons or whoever prescribes drugs and not the drugs themselves. These Doctors and Surgeons do not fall under this particular item. It is therefore irrelevant.

The Minister of Finance (Chief the hon. F. S. Okotie-Eboh) : Mr Chairman, Sir, I am very grateful to you for the ruling which you

have made but I would ask your indulgence to say that the medical profession is an honourable profession and that we know that no medical officer either in the Government or outside it will use a drug that is out-of-date. My hon. Friend certainly must be referring to quack doctors operating in Calabar area.

Whereupon Mr D. N. Abii rose in his place and claimed to move that the Question be now put.

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

Question, That £4,491 for Head 46—Medical—stand part of the Schedule, put accordingly and agreed to.

HEAD 73—PUBLIC WORKS

Question proposed, That £31,853 for Head 73—Public Works—stand part of the Schedule.

Dr Kalu Ezera (Bende East) : Mr Chairman, Sir, I have one or two observations to make under this Head. The first concerns the plight of Nigerian engineers in the Public Works Department. It is common knowledge that American-trained Nigerians have suffered some sort of discrimination in the past.

An hon. Member : What sort of discrimination?

Dr Kalu Ezera : If the hon. Member in the Opposition had travelled out of Nigeria he would agree with me that America and probably the Soviet Union rank the highest in the drive for technological advance.

I think, Sir, that Nigeria, as an under-developed country cannot afford to discriminate against her own sons who have studied engineering abroad. In the United States there is an American Council for Professional Development. This is an expert body that assesses and evaluates degrees as far as engineering is concerned. Now it is my information that the Ghana Government has accepted the B.Sc. degrees awarded by those American universities which have been recognised by this Professional Development Council, which are also equivalent to the B.Sc. degrees awarded by British universities.

The Chairman : For my own information I wonder which Head this subject comes under. I note Head 73—Public Works—Personal Emoluments and Local Transport and Travelling.

Dr Kalu Ezera : The whole Head, Sir.

The Chairman : To which individual or group of individuals are your remarks attached ?

Dr Kalu Ezera : Engineers. The Minister of Works is very sympathetic towards this complaint. I have discussed it with him and I think that being liberal as he is, and belonging to the N.C.N.C.—N.P.C. Coalition Government the Minister is fully aware of the needs of this country. This country forgets that we have as many engineers trained abroad in order to speed up the development of this country, and the point I want to make is to appeal to the Government to make a statement that these Nigerian engineers who have got their degrees in America should be treated *pari passu* with their counterparts who have studied in Britain. At the moment the plight of these, our Nigerian sons, is intolerable and I have no doubt that the Minister of Works will look into it.

The other point I want to make, Sir, is in regard to the general question of Public Works when Independence comes, especially during the Independence Celebrations.

The Chairman : This is the Supplementary Appropriation Bill referring to the years 1958-59 long past. We cannot talk about the future on this.

The Minister of Works (Alhaji the hon. Muhammadu Inuwa Wada): Mr Chairman, Sir, I want to say I am in great sympathy with the hon. Member on the question of Nigerian engineers qualifying in countries other than the United Kingdom. I have been giving the whole problem very serious consideration and as far back as 1957, when we were trying to recruit engineers I told my officials that as far as I am concerned I am prepared to accept any Nigerian qualified in countries outside the United Kingdom, so long as the degree he obtains is recognised by the Government of the country.

In the particular question of America, the Engineering Council for Professional Development is a conference of American Engineering bodies which has been referred to by the hon. Member. This body recognises about 140 universities and colleges awarding engineering degrees out of a total of just over 1,000. As

far as the Works Division of my Ministry is concerned we are prepared to recognise these 140 colleges and universities.

Some time ago the Director of the Federal Public Works, who is the head of the Works Division of my Ministry recommended that similar recognition should be given by the Federal Government as is given by the Engineering Council for Professional Development. I am now also informed that this recommendation has been accepted and it is for this reason that I am able to accept his contention. I am also informed that the Public Service Commission and the Establishment Branch of the Ministry of Pensions are also prepared to accept engineers with degrees from the 140 universities and colleges in the United States of America.

Mr A. Opia (Aboh): Mr Chairman, Sir, I would like to thank the Minister of Works particularly for the extensive tour which he made before this House assembled. I am asking the Minister of Transport that he should undertake more tours and travel.

The Chairman : Order, order ! This vote is not the Ministry of Transport. It is the Ministry of Works, so I cannot allow that.

Question, That £31,853 for Head 73—Public Works—stand part of the Schedule, put accordingly and agreed to.

HEAD 81.—MISCELLANEOUS

Question proposed, That £701,441 for Head 81—Miscellaneous—stand part of the Schedule.

Mr J. S. Tarka (Jemgbar): Mr Chairman, Sir, we have been asked to pass a vote which has already been spent over the head of this House, and in the same vote we find that there is provision for loss of Government funds. When is this loss of Government funds going to stop? Every now and then the Minister will come to this House and say we have to write off this amount, and write off that amount. It continues for every Session of the House and I think every hon. Member in this House is fed up with this kind of loss.

The Government continue to report this inefficiency in maintaining government public funds. If the Minister of Finance cannot properly look after public funds, I think the Prime Minister should take the right step to put another man in that place,

Another provision, Sir, under the same Head is the provision for the Constitutional Conference. It has been seen that the last Constitutional Conference cost the country about £15,000 and even more and it was just an additional cost to the actual amount spent on the Constitutional Conference. It can be seen, Sir, that it was the great use of various political agents which were carried to the Constitutional Conference by the various governments of the Regional constituents which was responsible for this exorbitant cost. It was known, Sir, that during that Constitutional Conference, most of the members who went there, went to do their shopping particularly Members in front of me and on the other side of the House.

Similarly, Sir, it appears that this is going to be the last Constitutional Conference or the last conference in London and that the Prime Minister will be leaving on Monday. We have been told in this House that the Regions are going to take with them advisers and the Federal Government is going to take advisers along with them. I think, Sir, that in order to cut down expenditure, the Federal Government should be well advised and the Prime Minister should be well advised too to consult Regional Premiers to cut down advisers and this Federal Government should cut down advisers. The Prime Minister and the Regional Premiers alone can go and tidy up the constitution and undertake the handing over of power. I think, Sir, expenditure of that nature is very much uncalled for and the Government in future should look into the economy of this country.

Question, That £701,441—Head 81—Miscellaneous—stand part of the Schedule—put and agreed to.

HEAD 82—CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE DEVELOPMENT FUND

£2,253,428—for Head 82—Contributions to the Development Fund—agreed to.

Question, That this Schedule be the Schedule of the Bill put and agreed to.

Postponed Clauses 1 and 2 agreed to.

Preamble agreed to.

Mr Speaker : Third Reading stands equally with the Bill we passed earlier for a future time.

SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION (1959-60)

(NO. 3) BILL CONSIDERED IN

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

(House in Committee)

The Chairman : As before the Clauses of the Bill stand postponed until after completion of the Schedule.

HEAD 33—MINISTRY OF FINANCE

Question proposed, That £83,300 for Head 33—Ministry of Finance—stand part of the First Schedule.

Mr J. S. Tarka (Jemgbar) : Mr Chairman, Sir, I just want to ask the Minister of Finance whether this particular Head includes allowances for the various Ministries because the present position concerned is that the various Ministers in the Federal Government are provided with advances to purchase cars and they still use Government cars when they go on tour and they still collect allowances for the usage of these cars at the rate of 2s-3d per mile and they pay the Federal Government the sum of... (*Interruption*)... I feel, Sir, that this is a real waste of public funds and a sort of dishonesty which should be looked into by the Federal Government.

The Chairman : We are now on the Ministry of Finance, and I wonder whether the Minister would like to tell the House whether advances for the purchase of cars fall under his Ministry or under a separate Ministry. That is the point I think.

The Minister of Finance (Chief the hon. F. S. Okotie-Eboh) : Advances for cars fall within my Ministry. I do not really, I am in a dilemma, I do not know what my hon. friend has said.

The Minister of Transport (Hon. R. A. Njoku) : Mr Chairman, Sir, it is true that Ministers as well as civil servants get advances to buy cars but they only draw allowances or mileage allowances as they are called when they use those cars for touring. When they use the Ministries' cars, that is Government cars they do not draw any allowances, unless on the cars they had advances to purchase.

What is more important is this ; of all the Governments in the Federation, it is the Federal Government only that pays the lowest rate of mileage allowance to Ministers. We

[MINISTER OF TRANSPORT]

have to draw only 6d per mile and elsewhere it is either one shilling or one shilling and three pence. We draw only 6d and I want my hon. friend to realise this.

Several hon. Members : It is a lie.

The Minister of Finance : Mr Chairman, Sir, I am now briefed as to what my hon. friend has said. I understand, Sir, that he said that when Ministers use the Ministries' cars, the Station wagon cars, that they draw allowances on it. If that is so I want to assure the House that it is not correct, that Ministers do not draw allowances on the Ministries' cars because they are Government owned cars; but when Ministers use their own personal cars, as my hon. Colleague has said, they draw allowances which are the lowest in the Federation.

Mr E. C. Akwivu (Orlu South East) : Mr Chairman, Sir, we are very grateful to the Minister of Finance and the Minister of Transport for the explanation they have given. I think it is a matter which we have fallen into very easily in this House by making frivolous and malicious accusations at will against Ministers. . . . (Applause)

Question, That £83,000—Head 33—Ministry of Finance—stand part of the Schedule put and agreed to.

Question, That this be the First Schedule of the Bill put and agreed to.

Second Schedule :—

HEAD 28.—NIGERIANISATION OFFICE

£600 for Nigerianisation Officer—agreed to.

HEAD 33.—MINISTRY OF FINANCE

Question proposed, That £850,000 for Head 33.—Ministry of Finance—stand part of the Schedule.

Chief O. B. Akin. Olugbade (Egba South) : Mr Chairman, Sir, the hon. Minister of Finance in dealing with the First Schedule said. . . .

(Interruption) Sir, I want to refer. . . .

The Chairman : Order, order. We are on the Second Schedule. The Minister of Finance has not yet spoken, so you cannot refer to anything he has not said.

Chief Olugbade rose.

The Chairman : I really cannot understand why the hon. Member is jumping up and down.

£850,000 for Head 33.—Ministry of Finance—agreed to.

HEAD 39.—MINISTRY OF HEALTH

£37,000 for Head 39—Ministry of Health—agreed to.

HEAD 52.—INLAND WATERWAYS

£17,000 for Head 52.—Inland Waterways—agreed to.

Question, That this Schedule be the Second Schedule to the Bill, put and agreed to.

Postponed Clauses 1 to 3 agreed to.

Preamble agreed to.

Bills to be reported.

(Mr Speaker resumed the Chair)

Bills reported without amendment, read the third time and passed.

DISTRIBUTION OF GERMAN ENEMY PROPERTY

The Minister of Finance : Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that in as much as the Administrator of German Enemy Property will, in the course of the next few months, direct the Custodian of Enemy Property to transfer to the Government of the Federation in accordance with section 7 of the Distribution of German Enemy Property Ordinance, 1957, the balance of the proceeds of German Enemy Property held by him.

(1) The Government of the Federation shall, after such direction has been made, pay to the Governments hereinafter named, such sums as will, together with the sums paid in accordance with the Resolution of the House passed on the 17th of March, 1958, result in the Governments hereinafter named receiving the following proportions of the total proceeds of German Enemy Property :—

(i) The Government of the Northern Region, 13/90ths, 3/13ths of which amount (*i.e.* the same proportion of the amount of the Northern Region share as the sum granted in 1958 by the said Resolution) shall be for application separately to the benefit of the people of the Northern Cameroons.

(ii) The Government of the Eastern Region 10/90ths,

(iii) The Government of the Western Region 10/90ths.

(iv) The Government of the Southern Cameroons 10/90ths.

such sums paid in accordance with the above to be applied in such manner as the receiving Government may determine to projects, whether new or existing, for the furtherance of the development and welfare of their peoples.

(2) The balance of the funds directed to be transferred shall be retained by the Government of the Federation to the intent that 47/90ths of the total proceeds shall be so retained. This amount shall be applied to the benefit of the people of Nigeria as a whole by way of the Economic Programme of the Government of the Federation.

The Minister of Works and Surveys (Alhaji the hon. Muhammadu Inuwa Wada): Sir, I beg to second.

Question proposed

Mr J. S. Tarka (Jemgbar): Mr Speaker, Sir, we are all ready to support this distribution, but there is a comment which I would like to make on the share which goes to the Northern Cameroons. It is well known, Sir, that the Northern Cameroons is the most undeveloped part, apart from the Rivers Province. It is the most undeveloped part of the Federation of Nigeria. Very soon, Sir, the plebiscite is going to be held so that the people of the Northern Cameroons will decide their own future. All of us in this House would like to have the Northern Cameroons staying permanently within the Federation of Nigeria. It is up to the Government of the Federation and the Regional Government which looks after the Northern Cameroons to see to it that this particular area of the Federation is developed in such a way that the people will be convinced that it is essential for them to stay within the Federation of Nigeria.

As the Minister has just mentioned that it is impossible to do this within the short period from now to the time of the plebiscite, I think this is untrue. We have from now to the

month of February 1961 to help the people, and there are various projects in that part of the Federation which have not been included, and which have been dropped, such as the Trunk A road from the Northern Cameroons linking the Northern Cameroons with the Southern Cameroons. The Minister of Works has made a statement explaining why this has been dropped, but I think, Sir, that money like this should go to develop that country, particularly that important road linking the Northern and Southern Cameroons, so that these people who actually belong to the Federation of Nigeria may feel that they are part and parcel of the Federation.

Sir, I beg to support.

The Minister of Works and Surveys (Alhaji the hon. Muhammadu Inuwa Wada): Mr Speaker, Sir, I just want to reply to the various points in Mr Tarka's speech, where he says that there is no federal road linking the Northern and the Southern Cameroons. This is untrue. (*Interruption*).

What I understand is that he is asking the Federal Government to spend the money earmarked for the Northern Cameroons in developing the road linking the Northern and the Southern Cameroons. If that is so, already the Federal Government is spending huge sums of money for this purpose. The hon. Member no doubt knows of the existence of the road between Yola and Takum, and also there is another federal road from Takum to Bisala.

Mr W. Briggs (Degema): Mr Speaker, Sir, since the backwardness of the Niger Delta people has become proverbial in this country, and since I see there is a balance of seven-ninetieths that is going to be retained, I would suggest that that portion of it be given to the Niger Delta ports. We want at least thirteen-ninetieths.

Question put and agreed to.

Sitting suspended : 12 midday.

(For continuation of Proceedings, see Official Report for Saturday the 30th April, 1960).

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
NIGERIA

Friday, 29th April, 1960

*(Continuation of Proceedings from Column
2050 of Official Report of 29th April, 1960.)**Sitting resumed : 9.00 p.m.*

Resolved, That inasmuch as the Administrator of German Enemy Property will, in the course of the next few months, direct the Custodian of Enemy Property to transfer to the Government of the Federation in accordance with section 7 of the Distribution of German Enemy Property Ordinance, 1957, the balance of the proceeds of German Enemy Property held by him.

(1) The Government of the Federation shall, after such direction has been made, pay to the Governments hereinafter named, such sums as will, together with the sums paid in accordance with the Resolution of the House passed on the 17th of March, 1958, result in the Governments hereinafter named, receiving the following proportions of the total proceeds of German Enemy Property :—

(i) The Government of the Northern Region, 13/90ths, 3/13ths of which amount (*i.e.* the same proportion of the amount of the Northern Region share as the sum granted in 1958 by the said Resolution) shall be for application separately to the benefit of the people of the Northern Cameroons.

(ii) The Government of the Eastern Region 10/90ths.

(iii) The Government of the Western Region 10/90ths.

(iv) The Government of the Southern Cameroons 10/90ths.

such sums paid in accordance with the above to be applied in such manner as the receiving Government may determine to projects, whether new or existing, for the furtherance of the development and welfare of their peoples.

(2) The balance of the funds directed to be transferred shall be retained by the Government of the Federation to the intent that 47/90ths of the total proceeds shall be so retained. This amount shall be applied to the benefit of the people of Nigeria as a whole by way of the Economic Programme of the Government of the Federation.

PENAL CODE (NORTHERN REGION)
FEDERAL PROVISIONS BILL, 1960*Order for Second Reading read.*

The Minister of Transport and Aviation (The hon. R. A. Njoku): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to move that a Bill entitled The Penal Code (Northern Region) Federal Provisions Bill 1960 be now read a second time.

Sir, this Bill is complementary to the Criminal Procedure (Northern Region) Bill which is also being introduced at the present meeting. The purpose of these two Bills is to supplement legislation which has recently been enacted by the Government of the Northern Region introducing a new Penal Code and a new Criminal Procedure Code for that Region.

Sir, the history of this matter is that in December, 1958, both Houses of the Northern Legislature accepted certain recommendations that had been made by a very distinguished panel of jurists appointed by the Northern Government to enquire into the legal and judicial systems of that Region. The legislation for the North is substantially modelled on the Sudan Code, which is in turn based on the Indian legislation, which was originally drafted by the Indian Law Mission, presided over by Lord Macauley. The legislation consists of the Penal Law and the Criminal Penal Law 1960 and it is a compromise between the Moslem Law and the English system of criminal law, and the panel strongly recommended that this system was suitable for conditions in Northern Nigeria.

It should be remarked that before proceeding with proposals for this legislation, the party in power in the Northern Region brought those proposals before the Constitutional Conference in London, and the Conference recognised that such legislation was within the competence of the Northern Region Legislature. In consequence of this new regional legislation the courts in the Northern Region will follow a new system of law in so far as regional offences are concerned. Members will readily appreciate that it would be impracticable for these same courts to continue at the same time to operate under the existing provisions in respect of Federal offences, and legislation is now being introduced into this Federal House for the purpose of enabling Federal offences in the Northern Region to be tried under the new Northern system of law.

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[Penal Code Bill]

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The purpose of the Bill now before the House, namely the Penal Code Bill, is two-fold. The first object is to apply to Federal offences committed in the Northern Region the general principles of law which will in future be in operation in that Region. The second object is to specify those matters which are of exclusively Federal competence, and to authorise the Northern courts to deal with them. The Bill is in fact designed to incorporate the existing provisions of the Criminal Code Ordinance in so far as they affect the Northern Region, in the new Regional form. It does not incorporate the one variation of substance from these provisions which the Regional Penal Code contains, namely the extension of the power to impose corporal punishment to cover all cases involving male offenders irrespective of the length of the appropriate prison sentence. Under the existing federal legislation corporal punishment may only be inflicted whether as an alternative or as an additional punishment in the case of offences where imprisonment for a period exceeding six months is provided, and the proviso in Clause 3 of the Bill under consideration has been inserted in order to retain this limitation in respect of federal offences.

The Penal Code Law which has been enacted by the Legislature of the Northern Region is not of course before the House. Clearly, however, the code which it lays down would be incomplete without the provisions contained in the Penal Code (Northern Region) Federal Provisions Bill concerning matters on which this hon. House alone is competent to legislate. These provisions represent a change of wording rather than a change in substance, and I can see no objection to re-casting the Federal Criminal Code in its application to the Northern Region so as to bring it into line with the new Regional Penal Code.

Sir, this is the main object of the Bill, to bring it in line with the present law as recently enacted in the Northern Region, and as I have already said, there is practically no change in substance, and where there has been any variation we have in the provisions of this Bill preserved the *status quo* as regards federal offences and I am quite sure the hon. Members will have no difficulty in accepting this Bill.

Sir, I beg to move.

The Minister of Mines and Power (Hon. Maitama Sule): Sir, I beg to second.

Question proposed.

M. Ibrahim Jalo Waziri (Gombe Central): Mr Speaker, Sir, this Bill is progressive, carefully worded and impressive. The fact that it is objective and reasonable is indeed indisputable. It is timely and welcomed. Hon. Members, particularly those of us who are lawyers will, I am sure, find that it embodies a lot of similarity with the present criminal code now practised in Nigeria. There is no doubt that its contents satisfy the need of the community living in the Northern Region. To the Northern Region it is a square peg in a square hole. In fact, I have no fear to declare that after a successful practice in the Northern Region it will be found most suitable for application to the whole Federation.

Sir, I beg to support. (*Applause*).

Mr D. D. U. Okay (Port Harcourt): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to speak on this Bill. I have my difficulties in giving my personal sanction to this Bill. The name itself shows to any outsider that this Bill is only being enacted for one region—the Northern Region Penal Code. We are all clamouring for one Nigeria and you can see with me where my difficulty lies.

Now, to my own personal opinion I feel that this Bill is discriminatory. That is my personal opinion. I do feel that within the Nigerian Constitution Order in Council there is the Eastern Regional Government, the Western Regional Government and both of them are in a position to enact such a law as this but because all of us are clamouring for one Nigeria they have not been able to produce or to enact a law of this type. My fear must be allayed that if this law passes this hon. House it is not going to be used against political opponents in the Northern Region. This is my personal opinion. My fear must be allayed by the Minister responsible for bringing this Bill into this hon. House. Well, if an assurance is given to this hon. House that it is not going to be used against any political opponent in the Northern Region or it is not going to be used by judges or the Alkali courts or those in positions against Southerners in the Northern Region then I shall give my support to this Bill.

M. Muhammed Muhtari, Sarkin Bai (Dambatta): Thank you, Mr Speaker. In rising to support the second reading of the Bill before this hon. House, I should like in the first place to congratulate the Northern Regional Government for its steadfastness, vigilance and foresight in enacting this law. This is a practical demonstration of the Northern Regional Government's genuine desire to see that justice is done in the Northern Region. (*Hear, hear*). A special note of gratitude is due also to the N.P.C., the party in power in the Region, which after realising the need for the modification of our laws vigorously pursued this matter to this effect and, consequently, the Government of the Northern Region appointed a panel of juries to enquire into the judicial and legal system of the Region. This they did and they recommended that the Sudan Code of criminal law is the best for the Region, and the Government accepted it.

As far as this Bill is concerned, I do not think we here in this Federal House are competent to debate the whole Penal Code itself. This can be done in the Northern House of Assembly. So, I should like to advise my Friends on *that* Side that they should ask their spokesman in the Northern Region—Mr Olawoyin (*Interruptions*) to make whatever criticisms they think necessary in the Northern House. I would like to assure the House that this law was made with the best of intentions and that if implemented will go a long way towards solving many problems at present confronting the Northern Region.

To those people who are agitating for a Middle-Belt State or who have complained against our judicial system this is their answer—The Penal Code Law—and they should therefore entertain no fear at all. I would also like on the Floor of this hon. House to defend the Alkalis or the District Courts. I should like to make it abundantly clear that I for one would definitely prefer to be tried by an Alkali Court to being tried in a Court of Law. (*Interruptions*).

An hon. Member: Why? Are you a District Head?

M. Muhtari Sarkin Bai: I will tell you the reason. The Alkali Courts are more straightforward, no time is wasted and one has not got to pay a man like Akinjide for the service

rendered. It costs nothing. I would like to assure all those who fear this Bill, especially the Action Group Members on this side who are constantly on political tour of the Region, that they should entertain no fear and that whenever they contravene any of the provisions of this law they will be treated fairly.

Sir, I beg to support.

Mr J. A. Akinyemi (Ilesha Rural): Mr Speaker, Sir, the administration of justice is a special heritage which we have inherited from the British people and we are all very proud of it. I am sure there is no sane person in any community who will condone lawlessness, hooliganism or things of that sort (*Interruptions*).

Several hon. Members: What of the Action Group?

Some Opposition Members: It is the N.C.N.C. The Z.N.V. is there.

Mr Akinyemi: Amechi is an embodiment of hooliganism and that is why he talks like that all the time. There is a significant aspect of this Bill which should make one feel very happy and that is the aspect that specifies definitely in what respect corporal punishment can be inflicted. From time to time in the past reports have reached us and it is common knowledge all over the country that people for very trivial matters were dragged to public places and given very many strokes of the cane, 80 lashes of the cane. In fact, I am surprised that an hon. Member got up to say that he would prefer to be tried by an Alkali Court to being tried by a Court of Law. Of course, there is one definite inference from that, that is, the Alkali Court is not a Court of Law if such a man can say that.

Mr Speaker, Sir, it is also very significant that people will no longer be sentenced to imprisonment just because they happen to sit on a chair in front of the District Head's house; and in like manner, we are glad that nobody will be sentenced because he gives shelter to a relative who leaves her husband's house. It is in this respect that we are very glad that a Bill of this kind has come before this House. But, Mr Speaker, there are certain sections of the Bill which give me some apprehension because I fear the interpretation that may be given to them. There is a section which has to deal with a person being brought to book in a court of law for an offence which

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did not originate in the Northern Region. This gives me a special fear and we would want assurance from the Minister concerned that this law will not be used in a way to victimise people who are political opponents and who are not natives of the Northern Region.

Also, Sir, there are other sections of the law where the Minister's opinion is made the determining factor. This gives me a lot of apprehension because what the Minister's opinion is may vary according to the nativity of the person who is brought before him and in this case, Sir, I fear very much when this law will begin to operate. Therefore, we would like a categorical statement from the Minister in charge on the Floor of this House that all precautions will be taken and that all cheeps and balances will be applied in a way that this law will operate for the benefit of those who are natives of Northern Nigeria as well as those who are not natives of Northern Nigeria.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to support.

Mr E. C. Akwivu (Orlu South-East): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Second Reading of this Bill. One very fundamental thing is this. If we accept a principle we must be prepared to follow it up. I understand, Sir, that at the last Constitutional Conference this concession was made that the Northern Region could form its own penal code and I believe this present law we are now passing is in furtherance of that decision.

But the one point I would really like to make is this, Sir, that in the present circumstance I support the present law but I feel it is time for our leaders to think again. Germany could not be what it is to-day until they had completely abolished all the different laws that had been enacted by the different parts constituting Germany, when they were operating under a system in which each section had to frame up and pass its own law different from the others, different customs law, different criminal law, different criminal procedure. It was more of a nuisance than anything else and unity was really difficult because trade from one section of the country could not be carried on by the other people, mainly for the ignorance of what the law might be in the other section.

My present appeal is this, Sir, that there might well be occasions for the attitude of communities, Regions and Governments to

differ, but as much as possible let us bring them together in a compromise that will represent a comprehensive law known to all citizens of this country, so that when a man is leaving his home to another place he knows exactly what law he is walking under.

It is a very difficult thing, Sir, and I have great sympathy for the circumstances that have necessitated our adoption of the Sudan Code in the Northern Region but I feel that it makes for greater unity if these special circumstances could be carefully studied and what obtains elsewhere in the country also carefully studied and we arrive at a workable compromise, so that the country would not only be one in its continuity of land space but would also be one in its laws and in its rules as to freedom, liberty and everything else that means simply fair. I think that is really the fundamental issue in this and I would very seriously commend it to the careful consideration of our leaders, the Governments of the Federation and others who help to strengthen the mode of thinking, the philosopher, the respondent—whatever it is that rules this country—that as much as possible we must not allow whatever differences we have to be reflected in the laws that are applicable in this country.

It might be quite simple to start now on a penal code which I for one could say does not constitute a fundamental difference from the accepted criminal code now operating in this country. We would not find ourselves going further and further and come to a point where we find that things might really become difficult and the law itself might be more of a nuisance than a safeguard to the citizen. I am quite sure that, like what views have been expressed here earlier, I have no doubt whatsoever and I do not fear that in the Northern Region the law will be applied as fairly and as equitably as it can be applied elsewhere; but all I am saying is that this is a very small beginning and we must endeavour to see that we do not tend to deviate or disagree more and more in the laws applicable to us.

I might just add this in conclusion, Sir, that in the present code under consideration there is a reference to Chapters 1 to 6 of the Penal Code in the North. I have no complaint against Chapters 1 to 6 but it is just to show how these things could deviate from what we originally thought. Now, in so far as

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definitions and applicability of the law we are now passing are dependent upon Chapters 1 to 6, when those chapters are to be varied they will not have to come to this House again, so to that extent there might well be some variations from what we have now seen that might have some more far-reaching effect, but that is a matter within the exclusive competence of the Regional Legislatures. But in this law that we are now passing it says that for purposes of definition and applicability or one thing or the other, that to understand what we are now passing you must refer to the law for the time being in force in Chapters 1 to 6 of the Penal Code. So that, Mr Speaker, without being unduly repetitive, the one point I would like to make is that I support this Bill, I accept it in principle and I think the Northern Region, being competent within the Constitution of this country, is perfectly entitled to draw up the law they have drawn up and I have every confidence in their ability to administer it as it should be administered. But all I am saying is that I want to make it clear that we do not encourage further deviation from what might otherwise be a unitary law known to all and applicable to all and completely devoid of surprises.

Alhaji Bello Dandago (Gwarzo East): Mr Speaker, Sir, the Bill before the House is a real progressive gesture on the part of the Northern Government to go with the time and not away from it. For the people who fear that the political opponents might be subjected to torture, under the present law, I wish to assure them that the penal code is not intended for that purpose.

N.P.C. as a party does not subject their opponents to any sort of torture. Sir, it is never the intention of the N.P.C. to destroy a political opponent. We can defeat our political opponents as we have been doing (*Hear, hear*) but we cannot destroy or torture them. (*Applause*).

The object of political warfare is not to destroy the opponent but to defeat him, and that is exactly what the N.P.C. did recently and did it with honour.

In the past the North was accused of being conservative, but now a move is made to codify our law. Some people who are afraid of their own shadow start to complain unnecessarily.

Sir, the Bill is health, progressive and forward-looking and I beg to support.

Mr P. Tarkende (Iharev Nongov): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to support this Bill but I have to make certain observations. (*Interruption*). When I say I rise to support, it does not mean that I have nothing to oppose in it.

I say if I were an *alkali* in the North when this law is being enforced, I should first of all flog a person like Muhtari Sarkinbai who is here on the Floor of this House on his own behalf and not on behalf of the poor people of the North who will be suffering under this law when it shall have become law.

There is a point in this law about drunkenness: if I were an *alkali*, I will like to flog a person like the hon. Babatunde from Ilorin who drinks always. (*Interruptions*). In the North anybody who drinks in private and is known to the public is imprisoned for one month or is made to pay a fine of £5 or both and somebody who drinks in public will also go to prison for seven days or pay a fine of £5 or even both. Worse still, if you are a Muslim and you drink at all, you will be imprisoned for one month or pay a fine of £5 or both.

Now, we have the fundamental human rights entrenched in the Constitution. You can imagine yourselves—both of you on the N.C.N.C. bench who are now rejoicing—you can imagine what will happen if you go to the North and you feel like taking a cup of beer and you will be held for that and imprisoned for one month. Is that fundamental human rights?

An hon. Member: Ask Mr Ogunsanya there.

Mr Tarkende: Is that fundamental human right? We want fundamental human right to be entrenched and I hope the Minister will try to remove this objectionable section from this law so that if it is removed, we shall be free to talk, we shall be free to drink and so on.

Now you are all rejoicing; the N.P.C. and N.C.N.C. are rejoicing—those of you who used to go to the North from the N.C.N.C. Bench will find yourselves arrested one day for drinking a cup of beer, so I hope the Minister will look into this and remove it.

With these remarks, I support.

M. Albatan Yerima Balla (Adamawa North West): Mr Speaker, Sir, in making my contribution to this Bill, I know that we cannot blame the Northern Region because that Region is exercising the power as set out during the last Constitutional Conference in London. Nigeria has been divided into three Regions and each Region has its own power to pass its own law within its own competence.

Now in dealing with this Bill we must weigh two things in our minds; one is that we are going to pass this Bill into law in a Federal Parliament and another is that this Bill is a subject which falls within the competence of the Federal Government and we therefore wish to draw the attention of the Council of Ministers to one important point. That is, as we are passing this law, we are doing so under the authority of the Federal Parliament and therefore we call on the Council of Ministers to ensure that any offence arising from this law will be tried not in an *Alkali* court but in a Magistrate court.

I am sure that at every stage of the British rule in any country, the first thing that they do is usually to ensure efficient and impartial administration of justice. If the administration of justice fails, democracy would be put into a melting pot. We only pray that after long association with the British—bred, brought up and nourished in democratic ways—we desire to remain in the same democracy. In all modern countries there are three organs of government which I would like to see separated in the near future. That is to say, there should be uniformity of law throughout the country.

The Northern Region Penal Code which is copied from Sudan and Pakistan was quite outside the Muslim Penal Code and the Code was just very primitive and has been overthrown by the primitive people of these places, because Sudan was under the Turkish Empire which is noted for her dictatorial rule, and Pakistan was once under Britain. Even the Aligha University had rejected the present Muslim law. I have contacted the Al Azhar University of Cairo about Muslim laws and I have not found justification for the present penal code in the Northern Region. I hope that in the near future, universal law will be developed and applied throughout this country. (*Hear, hear*).

The Minister of Finance (Chief the hon. F. S. Okotie-Eboh): Mr Speaker, Sir, I am sure my hon. Friends are a bit worried. I am not intervening in this debate. I want to give the House a brief information which I am sure they will all love to hear. Before doing so, I would like to say that I think that this is a progressive Bill and we are looking forward to one of our Regions to codify its customary laws. I shall say no more but to inform the House that if we can make progress and finish these four non-contentious Bills to-night, there will be no sitting tomorrow. And then on Monday all that (*Interruptions*). I am sure, Sir, that my hon. Friends from the Opposition would not like me to give them 80 strokes of the cane if they make more noise! I want to be an *Alkali* now!

Speaking seriously, we feel that the ceremony of presenting the new Speaker and also of our respected Speaker addressing you should be a ceremony at which all Members of the House are present and in which the Opposition will take an active part. (*Interruptions*.) What I am telling you has been arranged with our respected Friends of the Opposition and we had fixed it for Monday before we came to meet to-night. It will not be necessary, therefore, to change the whole thing. It will not be right for me to ask my Friends here that the programme we agreed to yesterday should be changed to tomorrow. I appeal to hon. Members to please have some recess tomorrow, enjoy yourselves. (*Interruptions*.) In any case, hon. Gentlemen, I am profoundly making this appeal to you. I realise the difficulty; I appreciate that all of you want to go away tomorrow, but I am sure that you will not like to have a Leader of the House who, after agreeing on something with the Opposition, will go behind the Opposition to do another thing. (*Interruptions*.)

I am sure that the appeal that I have made to all of you has been accepted and I am grateful to all of you and I hope that you will co-operate with us in order that we may pass these Bills and go and have some rest to-night. (*Interruptions*).

Mr Speaker: Order, order. Let the House please collect their normal senses and continue this debate. Alhaji Muhammadu Gaiyamma.

Alhaji Muhammadu Gauyamma (Hadejia North): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Bill. In doing so, I want to raise a point here that is very very important. When people speak of fundamental human rights, some do so with the intention of obstructing law and order. They forget that law and order will ever remain for the safety of the public and the safeguard of any democratic country.

The point I want to raise is that this hon. House must find one way or the other of protecting the Native Authority Judges. After trying cases and performing their lawful duties they are victimised. This danger, I forecast, will spread in our peaceful and respectable Nigeria. (*Prolonged interruptions.*)

Mr Speaker: Order, order. It would be far better if Members would keep to their ordinary seats and not start conversations elsewhere. It does make it impossible for me to hear the Alhaji who is speaking now.

Alhaji Muhammadu Gauyamma: Mr Speaker, Sir, I see no reason whatsoever why our *Alkalis* should be summoned to Magistrate's Courts just because they performed their duties. Judges need protection.

Another bad example is that many people are in the habit of playing with religions. This is very very bad. They belong to one religion and when asked in a court of justice, they claim another. This is not a good practice.

The Action Group people, Sir, are responsible for misleading the nation. (*Interruptions.*)

Mr Speaker: Order, order. Really there has been no behaviour in this House to-night.

Alhaji Muhammadu Gauyamma: People should be encouraged to listen to what they are asked in court and speak the truth instead of being summoned to Alkali courts against their trial.

Mr M. A. Omisade (Ife Town): Mr Speaker, Sir, I have some observations to make about this Penal Code (Northern Region) Federal Provisions Bill. We are being indirectly committed to the Alkali Court in the Northern Region. The whole country is being committed to the jurisdiction of the Alkali Court in the Northern Region by implication. It is stated in the *Objects and Reasons* of this Penal Code provisions that they are importing into this country the Sudanese law—that is the law being practised

in the Sudan. I am sure the courts of law—the Magistrate's Court and the High Court of Justice—do not know anything about the Sudanese law. It follows therefore that the provision of this law can only be applied in the Alkali Court. In the Eastern and the Western Regions we do not know anything about the Alkali Court.

The only suggestion I would like to make in that respect is that the Alkali Courts are given power only in so far as it affects Sudanese Law but other law which is already in force in Nigeria or which is already codified in our criminal code should be applied only in the Magistrate Court and in the High Court in order to give fairness of trial without impartiality to anybody. I am sure Mr Speaker, Sir, this Federal provision would not have been brought to the Floor of this House if certain subjects which are outside the jurisdiction of the Northern Region had not been included in the schedule like sedition, offences relating to ships and wharfs, coins and notes, deportation, passports, Railway. But for all these offences, this provision would not have been brought to the Floor of this House.

There is one important aspect of it again which I would like to bring to the notice of this hon. House. An offence which initially starts from the Northern Region and requires some further elements are committed in other parts of the Federation not in the Northern Region, the person is liable to be tried for this offence even though the ingredients of that offence were not completed in the Northern Region. I think in all fairness this is a serious onslaught and regional integrity and jurisdiction.

I am sure hon. Members will not like to place themselves in a position where perhaps you drank a bottle of beer in the market at Kano and you were on your way and reached Enugu before you got drunk and then you are arrested for that offence. I think this is a very serious provision. Most of the Members perhaps do not fully appreciate the seriousness of this section. I will refer you to section 4, paragraphs 1, 2 (*a* and *b*). This is very important and I believe, you will not take it very lightly. When these laws start to be applied, you will appreciate the seriousness of this point.

Mr Speaker, Sir, that is all I have to say.

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Mr S. A. Babatunde (Ilorin Central): Mr Speaker, Sir, I begin to see at a glance that the reason why the Opposition finds it difficult to support this Bill is that they are a group of people who would like to do as they like in Nigeria, to say what they like, to move every place under the meaning of their own—(*Interruptions*).

I whole-heartedly support this Penal Code and I want to give a little advice to our brothers on this side, the Action Group, that the next time they see a Code like this brought up, they must know that it comes from the mouth of a recognised Minister of his own Party and if there is anything dangerous, he will not bring it here.

The reason why I support the motion is that the Opposition group fears every honest thing. I had an experience in the Western Region in 1953 when I was in Shagamu. A chief had the recognition of the Western Region Government and another man who called himself a Prince collected some people to himself, told the people not to pay tax—

Mr Speaker: Order! A point of order, Mr Omisade.

Mr M. A. Omisade (Ife Town): The hon. Member—(*Interruption*).

Mr Speaker: Will the House please keep silent while I listen to a point of order. I will deal with it myself.

Mr Omisade: Mr Speaker, Sir, I think it is a well-known rule that Members should confine themselves to the subject matter being discussed. The hon. Member is not discussing the Penal Code (Northern Region) Federal Provisions which is being discussed. He is referring to Shagamu.

Mr Speaker: Yes! I think on the whole, the hon. Member will conclude his speech more quickly if I do not interfere. (*Shame, shame*).

Mr Babatunde: I am dealing with the Penal Code to show the way that the Opposition was trying to give their own interpretation of fundamental human right. To have two chiefs in one town, one recognised, the other just a made-up chief, whenever they blow the whistle in the recognised chief's house, he himself will blow it. This is the type of thing that the Action Group people call fundamental human right.

The Minister of Transport (Hon. R. A. Njoku): Mr Speaker, Sir, I would like to say that some Members are trying to bring into this Bill certain provisions which are not contained in it. There is nothing concerning drunkenness or drinking at all in this Bill. This Bill deals with matters within the exclusive jurisdiction of the Federal Legislature. Offences against the state, offences relating to copyright, offences relating to ships and wharfs, those relating to coins and notes, those relating to revenue stamps, weights and measures, Posts and Telegraphs, Railway and Aircrafts and the mines mineral, deportation and passport. That's all. (*Hear, hear*).

Sir, I want to assure the hon. Member that provision has been made in the other Bill, the Criminal Procedure Bill, for all these Federal offences to be tried either in the High Court or the Magistrate's Court. None of these Federal offences will be tried in the Native Courts so that there is no question at all, those who are talking about the persecution by political opponents, nothing like that will arise under the present Bill.

There is one other point I think I should reply to relating to the venue of crimes and offences. I want to assure the hon. gentleman on the Opposition Back Bench who is a lawyer by profession that the provisions of Clause 4 relating to offences and the venue for trial of offences is exactly the same as it is in the Criminal Code of the Federation, so that there is no departure there.

Generally, Sir, I am very grateful to those Members who have made comments on this Bill and I can assure Mr Akwiwu that as he will very well appreciate, the substance of this Bill is exactly the same as the Criminal Code. It is only a question of phraseology. Different system of drafting has been used for the Northern Criminal Code and, therefore, it is quite advisable to adopt the same system of drafting to cover those offences within the exclusive jurisdiction of the Federal Parliament. That is why we have got this Bill here. The only changes of substance which we have in the Penal Code of the North have not been incorporated in ours. I am quite sure that hon. Members need not be alarmed at all that there will be any discrimination or that this is going to bring any hardship.

Whereupon the Minister of Mines and Power 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.

Original 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.

Mr E. C. Akwivu (Orlu South-East) : Mr Chairman, Sir, it is just one point I would like to make. What I am really driving at is the fact that those of us who do move about in this country ought to be given some recognition here. Section 22 says, "The provisions of Chapter II to Chapter VI of the Penal Code of the Northern Region shall apply in respect of the provisions of the schedule to this Ordinance as fully as though the provisions of such Chapters were enacted in this Ordinance".

From Chapters I to II, we have section 44 which says, "A person who does an act in a state of intoxication is presumed to have the same knowledge as he would have had if he had not been intoxicated". The point I am really driving at is this. Under section 2 of this Bill we are now passing, Chapters I to VI of the Penal Code apply, that is, if one is to be convicted on a charge that comes within what we are now passing here, his criminal liability or responsibility will have to be determined within the definition and provisions of Chapter I to Chapter VI of the Northern Region Penal Code.

The law that operates here makes allowances for a gentleman like Omishade on a night like this taking a few shots of drink and getting rather jubilant and doing a most silly thing. But we quite appreciate that in the North, for religious reasons, drunkenness is not really tolerated, but we would like some safeguards to be provided for people who travel say from the Southern Regions to the North who would like to have the same law applying so that intoxication should under certain circumstances be an excuse or rather a defence because it is generally accepted to be so and I think this present provision is quite a new one.

M. Yusha'u A. Mohammed (Kubau-Soba) : Mr Chairman, Sir, I would like to say a few things under this Head concerning section 100 of this Penal Code.

The Chairman : If the hon. Member has something to say will he say it louder and quicker ?

M. Mohammed : In dealing with this Penal Code, I would like to suggest that a considerable clause be taken into consideration in connection with sections 100 and 101.

Clause 2 agreed to.

Clauses 3, 4 and 5 agreed to.

Schedule agreed to.

Preamble 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.

M. Mohammed : Mr Speaker, Sir, concerning this Penal Code, I would like to say something more about section 100. (*Interruptions*).

Mr Speaker : The hon. Member should realise that there are only 5 Clauses to this Bill.

Mr A. O. Ogunsanya (Ikeja) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I only want to say something about what I think sounds extremely technical. Perhaps the hon. Minister may want to say something not strictly against this Bill as such but it is bearing in mind the general rule in a *prima facie* Bill, that is in respect of what my learned Friend the hon. Mr Akwivu raised.

We have to bear in mind the ultimate administration and the general principle of law, and the rule in DPP in so far as the point raised by the Minister is concerned. I think the Minister should really answer the ruling in section 2 bearing in mind the DPP, and the hon. Gentleman is a First Class lawyer.

The Minister of Transport and Aviation : I want reference to the section of the Penal Code.

Mr Akwivu : Section 44, Chapter 2, page 868.

Mr Speaker : Any way, I think it is too detailed now for Third Reading.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read the third time and passed.

CRIMINAL PROCEDURE (NORTHERN
REGION) BILL

Order for Second Reading read.

The Minister of Transport and Aviation (Hon. R. A. Njoku) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move the Second Reading of a Bill for a Criminal Procedure (Northern Region) Ordinance. This Bill, Sir, is complementary to the Bill which I have already moved for a Penal Code (Northern Region) (Federal Provisions) Ordinance. Its purpose is to enable Federal offences committed in the Northern Region to be tried in accordance with the new Code of Criminal Procedure which has just been introduced in respect of Regional offences in the Region by the enactment of the Criminal Procedure Law, 1960.

As I said in connection with the Penal Code Bill, this new Code of Criminal Procedure is being introduced in the Northern Region following the recommendations of a panel of jurists appointed by the Northern Government to enquire into the legal and judicial systems of that Region. The procedure is modelled on that in the Sudan, which is in turn based on the Indian system which was originally drafted by the Indian Law Commission presided over by Lord Macaulay. The procedure represents a compromise between Moslem Law and the English system of Law, and the panel recommended that it was suitable for conditions in the Northern Region.

The effect of the Criminal Procedure Law, 1960, is to replace the present Criminal Procedure Ordinance in the Northern Region so far as Regional offences are concerned. Now, it would obviously be impracticable for the courts to use two entirely different systems of procedure in dealing with Regional and Federal offences, and the Federal Legislature are accordingly being asked to enact this legislation in order that Federal offences may be tried in the Northern Region in accordance with the new procedure.

The main alteration is that the courts are given much wider responsibilities to see that

everything is done to ensure that a complaint is properly investigated and brought to trial.

Thus, the first and most important thing to know about the new Criminal Procedure is that it gives very much greater control to the Magistrate of prosecutions brought before the court. The Police write down a complaint in a case diary and gather all details into a first information report, which is submitted to the court. The court can then either direct further investigation by the Police or proceed to deal with the case. If the Magistrate decides to deal with the case he hears the evidence which the prosecution produces and then drafts the charge. The Police do not draft the charge as at present and the charge is not drafted before any evidence is heard, but only when the Police have called evidence to satisfy the Magistrate that a *prima facie* case is established does the Magistrate himself then draft the charge.

The accused or his lawyer can then cross-examine any prosecution witnesses and when the prosecution has completed its case the accused can make his defence and give evidence or call witnesses as he thinks fit. If the Magistrate does not consider the prosecution has made out a *prima facie* case no charge is formulated by the Magistrate and he discharges the accused.

The next thing to know is that the same procedure applies if the Magistrate holds a preliminary enquiry in order to commit the accused for trial in the High Court. The Magistrate, after hearing the evidence, formulates the charge if he is satisfied that there is a *prima facie* case (otherwise he discharges the accused) and forwards the charge and record not only to the High Court but also to the Director of Public Prosecutions. If the Director of Public Prosecutions is not satisfied with the charge formulated by the Magistrate, he can amend or substitute such charge as he thinks fit, and the accused will be tried on the amended or substituted charge in the High Court.

The trial can only take place in the High Court after a preliminary enquiry or by a direction of a Judge of the High Court (as at present in section 240 (2) (b) of the Criminal Procedure Ordinance) or on a charge for contempt, but the procedure at the trial is exactly as at present.

[MR NJOKU]

In order to give greater protection to accused persons, provision has been made in the Northern Region Procedure that when an accused person makes a confession he can be taken by the Police before a Justice of the Peace and his confession recorded by that Justice of the Peace. A confession taken in this way will carry greater weight than one taken under the present procedure which is still retained.

The new procedure in the Northern Region must, of course, remain subject to powers of the Attorney-General of the Federation and the Directors of Public Prosecutions, which are contained in the Constitution Order. As Members of the House will be aware, the Directors are given a complete control over prosecutions. They can institute proceedings on their own Motion, they can take over proceedings and they can enter *nolle prosequi* in any case. These powers will, of course, still remain in the Northern Region.

The procedure which I have outlined is different from that in the existing Criminal Procedure Ordinance, but I see nothing in it which should lead the Federal Government to refuse to allow Federal offences in the Northern Region to be tried in accordance with it. And, as I said earlier, unless the practice and procedure of those courts in respect of Regional offences, as provided for in the Bill now before the House, the practical difficulties will be immense.

There is a departure in the Bill which Members will see in the Schedule. This refers to jurisdiction of the Native Courts. In the Bill it is provided that certain of these Federal offences may be tried in the Native Courts. I want to assure Members that I thought over this matter and I have decided that the jurisdiction in respect of these cases should not be handed over to these Courts and so, during the Committee stage I am going to make an amendment which will ensure that the trial will be confined to the High Courts and Magistrate Courts.

Sir, I beg to move.

The Minister of Finance (Chief the hon. F. S. Okotie-Eboh): Sir, I beg to second.

Question proposed

Mr R. O. A. Akinjide (Ibadan South East): Mr Speaker, Sir, I think in respect of this new Penal Code for the North, a matter of fundamental principle is involved, and that is on the question of the framing of the charge. One thing is very very important, and that is the origin of this new Penal Code.

As it has been said earlier, it is a mere statement of the Penal Code or the Criminal Code of this country which is derived from the English Statute Law and the English Common Law. Now, under this new procedure, it will be open to the Magistrate and not the police or the Crown Counsel to frame the charge. I think this is a very serious thing. A situation has arisen where somebody will be tried more or less on the English Criminal Code without having the checks and balances which he could have had under the English Criminal Procedure Ordinance. I should have thought that a person should be charged either by the Prosecutor or the Crown Counsel. After all, there is a Legal Department in the North. I do not see any reason why a witness should come before the Magistrate and give evidence, and on the face of that evidence frame the charge on a matter which he is going to preside over as a Judge or Jury. I think the Minister in charge should have a re-appraisal of that point. It is a fundamental principle of the law which is involved. I do not think it is fair. It should be amended.

Mr M. D. Bulus Biliyong (Tangale Waja): Mr Speaker, I rise to oppose this Bill with reasons. I am one of the Members from Bauchi Province and I want to tell this hon. House that in passing this Bill we are allowing the party in power in the Northern Region to take action against the other parties there.

There are many Yorubas and Ibos in the Northern Region. Therefore, I would like you in this House to-day to think before you pass this Bill. If this Bill is passed the minorities in the Northern Region will suffer for it. I am drawing the attention of hon. Members to the fact. We suffered during the last Election in Tangale Waja constituency from the hands of the Alkalis and from that time up to now the chiefs and people are still suffering under this N.P.C. Government in the Northern Region. Why should the Federal Government allow the Northern Region alone to force other

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tribes in the Northern Region to suffer. How can we allow these people who send delegates outside Nigeria to find out another way which they will rule the country?

Therefore, Mr Speaker, I oppose this Bill.

Mr A. O. Ogunsanya (Ikeja) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I think we must first and foremost congratulate the Federal Government in being able—(Interruptions) to introduce this Bill, putting all on the system we have known and as lawyers have cherished, that is, the possibility of having all trials in one court—the High Court or the Magistrate Court as the case may be. This hon. House and the Government is taking the lead in a matter on which we really have to teach our friends on the opposite side of the House. I know that it is not at all accidental that the whole of their Front Bench is absent to-night. It is not accidental at all. I think it was deliberate that they are all absent.

Mr Speaker : That really has nothing to do with the debate on the second reading.

Mr Ogunsanya : Sir, what I want to say is in keeping with what the hon. Gentleman, Mr Akinjide, has said. It is a point which we are really asking the Government to accept. That is that once the facts of the case had been gone into and it is where there has been the possibility of a *prima facie* case in the charge being drafted, it is a well-known principle of law that once the Prosecution has gone into its case and has eventually closed its case—(Interruptions), once the Prosecution has unfolded its case and has put its case before the Magistrate or the Judge it would be too late to start amending. If the charge itself has to be drawn up after all the evidence has been unfolded it would be a very fundamental folly.

I hope the hon. Minister would sympathise with us if we say that this aspect of it should be deleted completely, more so when the man who has to prepare the charge is the presiding Magistrate or Judge himself. This is very important because we are always happy in the Court when in case of defect in the drafting of the charge the case is thrown out technically. This is one prerogative of lawyers that when the case has a defect in the drafting it is thrown out. If the person who really has to adjudicate on that very important point is the man presiding over the case himself then the chances of ever throwing out a charge or finding a defect in the drafting of it will be completely ruled out.

Our Law is one which has to be related to the general principles of the British Law and we are happy of our heritage. The British system, the British Common Law dominates our legal system in this country and we are proud of that heritage in the sense that no man is ever brought before the court without a precise statement of the charge before the court for him to answer. That is, before I am brought to court for trial, I must know in precision the charge I have to answer.

If the present procedure is to be followed, it follows, therefore, that it is possible for a man to come to the Court without knowing what charge he has to answer. Our Federal Government, I know, is a Government which is always willing to help us and I am sure the Minister will consider this point quite seriously and make amends.

Mr Speaker, I beg to support.

Chief E. O. Okunowo (Ijebu Central) : I am not a legal practitioner but I would like to look at this Bill from a businessman's point of view. I do not think it is our duty to encourage law-breakers. I think our lawyers will agree that—(Interruptions) if a man steals my goods, I would not like him to be released because the Magistrate feels that the prosecutor or the policeman in charge of the case has made a technical mistake. I would like the Magistrate to be in a position to see that that man is properly brought to book. For that reason, Sir, I am not in support that if the Magistrate discovers irregularities he should not be able to have it rectified and bring the accused properly to book. That is why I am supporting that section which says that the Magistrate in court should be empowered to—(Interruptions).

Mr Speaker : Order !

Mr J. U. Udenyi (Enyong North) : Mr Speaker, Sir, (Interruptions).

Mr Speaker : The conversation which is at present taking place on the Benches below the gangway on the right is inaudible to me and not a word, I think, of Mr Udenyi's remarks has reached the Reporter yet. Perhaps he could speak concisely and louder.

Mr Udenyi : Mr Speaker, Sir, what I want to say is that this point is a technical point in law. We want learned lawyers to make a

[MR UDENYI]

serious statement about it. (*Hear, hear*). Not lawyers that swim in the ocean of inefficiency. Before I go further in this point, Mr Speaker, Sir, I must assure you now—you can see the Front Benches in the Action Group, nobody is there—

Mr Speaker : Order, order. If the hon. Gentleman cannot talk more relevantly and more seriously, I shall have to ask him to resume his seat.

Mr Udenyi : Mr Speaker, Sir, what I want to say is this that we are here for a very important purpose and not to make nonsense in this House—(*Prolonged Interruptions*).

(Speaker Designate, hon. Jaja Wachuku
in the Chair)

Mr Udenyi : I want the people in the Gallery to know—(*Prolonged Interruptions*).

Mr Speaker : Order, order. I am afraid the Reporters do not understand you. They cannot hear you and they do not understand what you are saying. Intelligibility in your speech, I think would be helpful.

Mr Udenyi : What I want to say now is that I fully support this Bill wholeheartedly.

Mr E. C. Akwiwu (Orlu South East) : Mr Speaker, Sir, a very fundamental point has been raised by my learned friend Mr Ogunsanya and also Mr Akinjide, and I believe somebody from the Opposition has tried to reply, but I quite frankly say, Sir, that in all seriousness it is a fundamental point. Now a man cannot be taken to Court unless he is charged, arrested and brought before the Court, and if he is to be charged, the man must know what he is being charged of. Then, Sir, if it is for the Magistrate to hear the facts and then make up his mind on what the charge should be, then at least on one point we are trying to blend inconsistencies which I do not think would work.

You have got to prefer your charge. I mean you arrest a man, you charge and caution him, then the next stage is to drag him before the Court. Now, if we are going to go by the explanation the hon. Minister has given, in fact you cannot charge the man. All you can do is drag him along to the Magistrate, direct your facts, and probably call your witnesses, then the charge will be preferred. What is that man being brought before the Magistrate

for? In fact these fundamental rights are defeated because you ought not to arrest a man without his knowing what he is being arrested for, and if the Magistrate were to be the proper to frame the charge, then he might as well climb down from his high bench, go and investigate the case, and be a party to it. I think, Sir, it makes nonsense of pure justice.

I think that the question of framing the charge, and investigating the case, should be completely divorced from the responsibilities of the Magistrate. After all the Magistrate or the Judge is an independent arbiter. He sits down there, having no hand whatsoever in the circumstances that led up to the case and in the circumstances that led up to the accused person being brought before him. He has to listen impartially to the accusers of the accused and to what the accused has got to say and then come to his own independent judgment within the limits of the law. But if he is to listen to the prosecution, hear the defence, and then frame the charge, what safety is there for anyone in this country? As somebody once said in the last House, it is all right when you are in control of the radio system. It can be great fun if you can say what you want to be said, but it is not such fun if it is the other way round. So I think it is a serious matter. The Minister should consider it.

We wholeheartedly support this Bill, but we would like this aspect of the matter to be re-examined. Magistrates and Judges should be left alone to officiate as independent arbiters and not merely to be accusers, chargers, and also the independent judges. It will completely defeat any sense of confidence that we have in the Judiciary.

Now, Mr Speaker, Sir, there is another point that really worries one. That is contained in section 287 of the Penal Code. I am not dragging the Penal Code into Debate, but it is a section that will have to be applied concurrently with what we are now passing, and that is the question of the position of a person who is convicted and has decided to appeal. Up to the moment in all our laws in this country applicable in all the Regions, the point is very readily appreciated that the Magistrates Court is a court of summary jurisdiction. It has not got as much time as the high court has to go into details of offences.

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All that happens is that the man you bring before the Magistrates for trial is not in a position to know all that the witnesses for the prosecution are going to say. He is not given very much advance information of the case he has got to answer, and as a result, because things are dealt with very summarily, when he is convicted, and he chooses to appeal and he gives notice of appeal, he is entitled, as of right to be on bail so that he can arrange more effectively for his defence and organise his appeal. It may be that the whole thing has been organised so summarily and may have happened within so short a time that he has had very little time to organise his resources, human or financial, for the defence of his liberty, and in order to compensate for that, the law has always been that when he gives notice of appeal, he is entitled to go on bail.

Now the contrast is the case when the case is tried by the High Court. First of all you go to the Magistrates Court, everybody says what he has to say against him, the man knows for certain what the case is all about, and if he is convicted in the High Court and he chooses to appeal to the Federal Supreme Court, there is no question of bail as of right. It is purely discretionary for the High Court.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I would like the Minister very kindly to assure us that this privilege or this last opportunity in defence of liberty will be granted to persons who might be charged under this law, and I think this is a very important point. I may also make this illustration if it might help. Now if, for example, someone who is on tour to the Northern Region where this law and procedure applies happens to be charged and he is completely taken unawares.

An hon. Member : Which somebody ?

Mr Akwiwu : Well, somebody in the Action Group Bench. Now, this man is confronted with a charge, taken to court, within 24 or 36 hours he is tried and convicted and probably sentenced to two months' imprisonment. Now, he gives notice of appeal. If he is not allowed to go on bail even for a week or two he really cannot get back to his home to get something, or whatever defence he may be in a position to arrange and the result is that having been taken by surprise he is put in gaol and he is compelled to remain there because

he probably has failed to satisfy the court as to why they should give him bail. So if it is a High Court matter, by the time he goes to the Magistrate Court and the preliminary investigation is taken he would still be on bail and be able to get about and get his defence arranged before the case is finally heard.

So, I am really worried about two points. One is that a person tried summarily ought to be given the opportunity by granting him bail to arrange more effectively for his defence. And, secondly, the Bench should continue to remain an impartial, independent arbiter rather than being brought in and mixed up with the whole question of investigation, charging and prosecution by putting the onus on the Bench to make the charge itself. I must confess that in my student days I studied Mohammedan Law and I did not come across any provision like this.

Mr A. E. Effiong-Spatts (Calabar) : Mr Speaker, Sir, although I am not a barrister but it is known that ignorance of the law excuses no man. Therefore, I am under the law. Anything that is against the law is against the character, so that what we are trying to discuss is the question of character of somebody who might commit an offence, or who might have committed an offence, or is about to commit an offence.

I feel very much with all the barristers who have said, particularly, the youngman who said that magistrates should not be made bailiffs, because as a result of the magistrates becoming bailiffs they might have to go to serve warrants and serve summonses, and then the other person will come before them, and at certain times they might have to administer *fifa*, and *casa*, and everything, if it goes to that extent.

I feel that the British Law is directly very, very good, and as from the ages since Parliament was established it has ever been so and so it continues to be.

I feel this very much that the magistrate should be kept quite apart, and the prosecution officer on the other side should be carrying on with prosecution, make the charges, bring them before the Magistrate, who is able to see into it whether this man is guilty or not guilty, and if there is anything like preliminary

[MR EFFIONG-SPATTS]

investigation which has been going on such as is done at the present time then the Magistrate in his own right can commit the case, and at such it could be committed to the High Court.

I feel very much, being a layman, but I still say that I am under the law, and that as ignorance of law excuses no man, I feel that under that circumstance I have this excuse also to say that I do not feel it a safety valve for anybody to allow the magistrate to be a policeman, and then to be a sub-inspector, to be everything there, and then finally to become the magistrate and then the Attorney-General in all the matters. So that I feel that side of the law should be deleted.

That is all I have to submit, Sir, and I support.

The Minister of Transport and Aviation (Hon. R. A. Njoku): Mr Speaker, Sir, I realise that all legal practitioners find the procedure rather strange. It is a different procedure, I did say that, but the main consideration is whether it would work undue hardship. I would like to refer to some of the sections in the Code itself to which hon. Members have referred. The present system which Members are being asked to approve in respect of Federal Offence does not convert the Magistrate into a policeman, or a bailiff. He still remains the Magistrate. He is on the Bench. It does not affect the arrest of the accused persons. There are provisions made for the arrests of accused persons by the Police, by a Justice of the Peace, and by other people just as is the case at the present time under the present system of law—Criminal Procedure Ordinance.

There is the provision for bail of accused persons, and as a matter of fact there is a provision here in section 42 of the main Code itself which says that a person arrested without a warrant cannot be detained for more than twenty-four hours. He cannot be detained for more than twenty-four hours. If he is arrested without a warrant, so if there is any suggestion that people will be indiscriminately arrested and detained that is not so.

As I said, I realise that the procedure envisaged is different from the one that is obtaining now, but the main question is whether this procedure will work undue hardship. I do not believe that it would work undue hardship.

It is the procedure which is going to apply to the main bulk of offences, for the Criminal Code for the Northern Region, and as hon. Members are aware offences relating to subjects within Regional competence are far more numerous than offences referring to Federal competence, and if this procedure can be applied successfully to offences referring to Regional subjects I do not see the reason why the same procedure cannot be applied to Federal offences. I appeal to hon. Members to pass the law and then give it a chance and see how it works.

Whereupon the Minister of Mines and Power 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.

Original 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.

The Minister of Transport and Aviation (Hon. R. A. Njoku): Mr Chairman, Sir, I beg to move that in clause 4 line 31 leave out from the word "hereto" to "hereto" in line 32.

Question, that the words proposed to be left out be left out, put and agreed to.

The Minister of Transport : Mr Chairman, I beg to move that in clause 4 line 33 leave out the words "or native court as the case may be".

Question, that the words proposed to be left out be left out, put and agreed to.

Clause 4, as amended, agreed to.

Clauses 5-7 agreed to.

The Minister of Transport and Aviation : Mr Chairman, Sir, I beg to move in Appendix page C 40 line 6 leave out from the first "court" to the end of line 7 and add the words mentioned in column 6.

Question, that the words proposed to be left out be left out, put and agreed to.

Question, that the words proposed to be inserted be there inserted, put and agreed to.

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[Adaptations of

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The Minister of Transport and Aviation :
Mr Chairman, I beg to move that in Appendix page C 40 leave out column 7.

Question, that the proposed column to be left out be left out, put and agreed to.

The Minister of Transport and Aviation :
Mr Chairman, I beg to move that in Appendix page C 41 leave out column 7.

Question, that the proposed column to be left out be left out, put and agreed to.

The Minister of Transport and Aviation :
Mr Chairman, I beg to move that in Appendix page C 42 leave out column 7.

Question, that the proposed column to be left out be left out, put and agreed to.

The Minister of Transport and Aviation :
Mr Chairman, I beg to move that in Appendix page C 43 leave out column 7.

Question, that the proposed column to be left out be left out, put and agreed to.

The Minister of Transport and Aviation :
Mr Chairman, I beg to move that in the Appendix, page C 44, leave out column 7.

Question, that the proposed column to be left out be left out, put and agreed to.

The Minister of Transport and Aviation :
Mr Chairman, I beg to move that in the Appendix, page C 45, leave out column 7.

Question, that the proposed column to be left out be left out, put and agreed to.

Appendix, as amended, agreed to.

Preamble agreed to.

Bill to be reported.

(Mr Speaker resumed the Chair)

Bill reported with amendment, read the Third Time and passed.

ADAPTATION OF FEDERAL PROVISIONS
(NORTHERN REGION) BILL.

Order for Second Reading read.

The Minister of Transport and Aviation
(Hon. R. A. Njoku): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to move that a Bill entitled "The Adaptation of Federal Provisions (Northern Region) Bill" be now read a Second Time.

The adaptations for which this Bill provides are simple and uncomplicated. The purpose of the majority of them is to give recognition in the Federal laws to the district courts which are to be created in the Northern Region under the provisions of the District Courts Law which the Legislature of the Region has recently enacted.

The remaining few are adaptations to certain Federal Ordinances in their application in relation to the Northern Region which are consequential upon the enactment by the Regional Legislature of laws relating to a new Penal Code and a new Criminal Procedure Code for that Region. They are designed to give recognition to the existence of these new Regional laws in the Federal laws other than the Criminal Code Ordinance and the Criminal Procedure Ordinance. The adaptation of the Penal Code Ordinance and the Criminal Procedure Ordinance to take account of these new codes is, of course, subject of two separate Bills which have already been dealt with in this House.

In moving the first of these two Bills I noted that the enactment of such codes is beyond doubt within the competence of Regional Governments. I further noted that unless after enactment such codes are accorded recognition in the Federal laws the situation will arise that Regional and Federal offences within the Region concerned will fall to be dealt with under two different systems of law. I do not need to emphasise again how unsatisfactory and confusing such a situation would be.

If the House agrees in principle, as I trust it will, that the Federal amending legislation is warranted in order to avert such a situation I need only add, with regard to the adaptations in the Bill now before the House, that the detail of the Bill is uncontroversial. All the adaptations in question are purely consequential and have therefore been incorporated in one Bill which I now commend to the House. I hope that hon. Members have had the opportunity of looking at this Bill and if they have done so they will agree with me that everything in the Bill is purely consequential and that there is nothing controversial at all in it.

Sir, I beg to move.

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[Audit (Amendment) Bill]

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The Minister of Mines and Power (Hon. Mallam Maitama Sule) : 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 3 agreed to.

Schedule agreed to.

Bill to be reported.

(Mr Deputy Speaker in the Chair)

Bill reported, without amendment, read the Third Time and passed.

AUDIT (AMENDMENT) BILL

Order for Second Reading read.

The Minister of Pensions (Hon. Mallam Musa Yaradua) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that this Bill for an Ordinance to Amend the "Audit Ordinance of 1956" be read a Second Time.

Its purpose is to give to the Director of Audit the benefit of the salary increases which have recently been approved for the Public Service. As this House knows, the salary of the Director of Audit, with the salaries of certain other public servants such as Judges and the Members of the Public Service Commission is charged by law upon the revenue of the Federation and is payable from the Consolidated Revenue Fund. Salaries chargeable in this way are not subject to debate when the Appropriation Bill is under consideration and in order to increase or otherwise to alter them an Amendment must be made to the Ordinance

concerned. Members will have this in mind—the High Court of Lagos and the Federal Supreme Court (General Provisions) Ordinances of 1955, to which Amendments of the same kind have been made during the present Meeting.

The Director of Audit is graded in Group 4 and in keeping with the new salary groups recently introduced for the Public Service his emolument should rise to £2,940 but as the law stands now he can only be paid the old rate of £2,640. To enable him to receive the same increase in his salary as that given to his colleagues this Bill has been introduced and I trust that its term will commend itself to this House.

Sir, I beg to move.

Minister of State (Hon. M. A. O. Olarewaju) : Sir, I beg to second.

(Mr Speaker resumed the Chair)

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 in the Chair)

Bill reported, without amendment read the Third Time and passed.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr Speaker, adjourned the House without Question put, pursuant to Standing Order 4 (10).

Adjourned accordingly at ten minutes past eleven o'clock until Monday.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
NIGERIA

Monday, 2nd May, 1960

The House met at 10 a.m.

PRAYERS

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

PAPERS

Mr Speaker : The following papers, already distributed to Members, are deemed to have been laid on the Table :

Annual Report of the Prisons Department for the year 1958-59.

Annual Report of the Department of Marketing and Exports, 1958-59.

Schedule of Additional Provision, Capital Expenditure, 1957-58.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS
ROADS

Port Harcourt-Owerri Road

O.290. Mr I. S. Onwuchekwa asked the Minister of Works and Surveys whether the Port Harcourt-Owerri road *via* Elele has finally been taken over as a trunk road A and if so, when work will start on the widening of the road and the cutting down of the oil bean trees along it.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Works and Surveys : No, sir. The Port Harcourt-Owerri road *via* Elele has not been taken over as a trunk road A. As I have explained in answer to a previous question, access to Port Harcourt from the North is already provided by trunk road A 3 and from the West by trunk road A 6 through Onitsha and Owerri to Aba.

Zungeru-Minna-Abuja road

O.292. M. Garba, Turakin Paiko asked the Minister of Works and Surveys if he will convert the Zungeru-Minna-Abuja road to a trunk road A.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Works and Surveys : No, Sir. This is a road of Regional rather than national importance and, as I have said in reply to

many similar questions, the trunk road A network is based on roads which are important as inter-regional or inter-national links.

Trunk A Roads in Ogoja Province

O.293. Mr P. I. Ejukwa asked the Minister of Works and Surveys how many miles of trunk roads A are in the new Ogoja Province; and when will the roads be tarred.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Works and Surveys : I regret that I do not have information concerning the boundaries of the new Ogoja Province.

With the boundaries of the former Ogoja Province the mileage of Federal trunk roads is as below :

	<i>Miles</i>
Total mileage ..	139½
Mileage tarred ..	30½
Work in hand on ..	42
Balance untarred ..	67

The 42 miles at present in hand will be completely tarred by April 1961. Funds are not available in the current planning period for the tarring of the remaining 67 miles.

Benin-Asaba Road

O.304. Mr J. B. Eboigbodi asked the Minister of Works and Surveys what proposals he has for widening the tarred part of the road and checking erosion at the hilly town of Boji-Boji Agbor on the Benin-Asaba road, especially between miles 277 and 280.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Works and Surveys : There are no proposals within the present Highways and Bridges Programme for widening trunk A 6 between Benin City and Asaba.

If erosion occurs, maintenance funds are available for carrying out repairs.

Calabar-Arochuku Road

O.305 Mr J. U. Udenyi asked the Minister of Works and Surveys when the Calabar-Arochuku road will be completed, in view of the fact that before the contract was awarded it was stipulated that the work must be completed on or before 31st March, 1960.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Works and Surveys : The Calabar-Arochuku road is not a trunk road A and consequently does not fall within the responsibility of the Federal Government.

Accidents on Trunk Road A 1 in 1959-60

O.306. Alhaji Kabiru Bayero asked the Minister of Works and Surveys, how many accidents have occurred on Federal Trunk Road A 1 in the year 1959-60.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Works and Surveys : I am informed that the Nigeria Police do not maintain separate records of accidents occurring on Trunk Road A 1. The Minister is taking steps to obtain the figures and will communicate these to the hon. Member if and when they are available.

Shintaku-Oturkpo Road

O.307. Mr D. O. Enefola asked the Minister of Works and Surveys, when the road from Shintaku (Embankment) to Oturkpo will be tarred.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Works and Surveys : There is no provision for tarring the road from Shintaku to Oturkpo within the current Highways and Bridges Programme. The Minister shall give consideration to the provision of funds for this purpose in the post-1962 planning period.

Responsibility for Idah to Nsukka Road

O.308. Mr D. O. Enefola asked the Minister of Works and Surveys when he proposes to take over responsibility for the Idah-Nsukka road ; and whether he will construct a bridge over the Anambara river.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Works and Surveys : It is not intended that the Federal Government should take over the responsibility for Idah-Nsukka road or that a bridge should be built over the Anambara River.

The road mentioned by the hon. Member crosses the inter-Regional boundary but does not connect at Idah with any other road of national importance.

Widening of Enugu to Onitsha Trunk Road

O.309. Mr G. O. D. Eneh asked the Minister of Works and Surveys if he is aware that the widening of the trunk road from Enugu to Onitsha has adversely affected many buildings at Ngwo, Nsude, Obioma and Abia

in Udi Division ; and whether he will make a statement on the compensation to be paid to the owners of those buildings.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Works and Surveys : The Minister is not satisfied that he has sufficient information available yet to give a full reply to the hon. Member. He will write to him as soon as he has completed his enquiries.

Percentage of Profit on Contracts

O.310. Mr G. O. D. Eneh asked the Minister of Works and Surveys, if he will state the percentage of profit allowed by the Federal Government on the following types of contract—ordinary, costs-plus, and contractor finance contracts.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Works and Surveys : In the case of a contract awarded after competitive tender the contractor does not disclose his profit. The effect of competitive tendering is to keep the profit margin to a minimum.

There are no cost-plus contracts in force at present nor is it the Minister's intention to award any. Except for the special deferred payment arrangements there is no essential difference between a contractor finance project and a contract awarded under a normal procedure.

Senior Posts in Ministry of Works and Surveys

O.390. Alhaji Adamu, Sarkin Tafarki asked the Minister of Works and Surveys, how many Nigerians hold senior posts in the Federal Public Works Department ; and how many of them are Northerners.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Works and Surveys : The Ministry of Works and Surveys does not maintain separate records of the place of origin of Nigerian officers serving in it. At present there are 65 Nigerian officers holding senior posts within the Works Division and of these, as far as I am aware, none is a Northerner.

FINANCE**Women Mechanical Accounting Assistants**

O.294. Mr R. B. K. Okafor asked the Minister of Finance, whether he is aware that there are no prospects of promotion in the work of

Women Mechanical Accounting Assistants in the Accounting Division of his Ministry, and whether he will consider offering the officers concerned better conditions of service.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Finance : No, Sir, I am not so aware. The Estimates for the Division concerned show a normal pattern of promotion posts. The question of offering better conditions of service is one for my colleague, the Minister of Pensions.

Loans raised by Government

*O.295. **Mr R. B. K. Okafor** asked the Minister of Finance, if he will state the projects which have utilised the loans raised by the Government; and which of these projects have begun to yield profits.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Finance : In Chapter 117 of the Laws of Nigeria the hon. Member will find a list of the projects on which the proceeds of the 1923 loan were utilised. The other external and internal loans raised by the Federal Government have been applied to general development purposes. The 1959 internal loans have been re-lent to the Governments of the Northern and Eastern Regions. Government is not a commercial organisation and the object of its development programmes is not that they should make a narrow financial profit. The benefits of these programmes lie in the general development of the country and the rising standard of living of its people.

Motor Vehicle Advance for Civil Servants

*O.296. **Mr H. O. Chuku** asked the Minister of Finance, how much was granted to officers in the Federal Public Service as motor vehicle advance in the year 1958-59; and what interest accrued from the advance.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Finance : The amount advanced to officers in the Federal Public Service as motor car advances in the year 1958-59 was approximately £600,000. This amount attracts interest at 3 per cent per annum, on a reducing balance basis. It is impossible to separate from the accounts interest accruing from advances made in 1958-59 from interest accruing from advances made in previous years. But the total interest received during 1958-59 from advances totalling £1,400,000 was £35,402.

Customs Post at Mfum

*O.297. **Mr P. I. Ejukwa** asked the Minister of Finance, what proposals, if any, have been made to establish a Customs Post near the Cross River Bridge at Mfum in order to combat smuggling into Nigeria from the Southern Cameroons.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Finance : A site is being acquired at Mfum near the Nigeria end of the Cross River Bridge suitable for the building of a Customs Station. These negotiations are now almost completed, and as soon as they are satisfactorily finalised the erection of prefabricated quarters and an office will commence.

Exchequer Loan for Western Region

*O.311. **Mr A. Adedamola** asked the Minister of Finance, why part of the Exchequer Loan of £3 million will not be given to the Western Regional Government.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Finance : The allocation of the proceeds of external loans negotiated by the Federal Government is based on the recommendations of the Loans Advisory Council on which all the Governments of the Federation are represented. The allocation of the proceeds of this particular loan was the unanimous recommendation of the Council.

Car Advances to Members of the House

*O.312. **Alhaji Kabiru Bayero** asked the Minister of Finance, why he has arranged that Messrs Lombard Nigeria Limited should grant advances to Members of the House of Representatives instead of arranging with one of the indigenous banks.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Finance : The Minister of Finance has spoken on this subject several times during the present meeting. Arrangements had to be made quickly in January because of the pressing need on the part of many Members of the House for car advance facilities. At this time commercial banks generally were not interested in this type of business which involves lending for a longer period than is their custom without the right of recall. There are indications that this view is changing and I am in touch with several commercial banks, both indigenous and

expatriate, regarding the taking over of motor vehicle advances for members of the Public Service.

Lombard Nigeria Ltd. and the Federal Government

O.313. Alhaji Kabiru Bayero asked the Minister of Finance, what is the relationship between the Federal Government and Messrs Lombard Nigeria Ltd.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Finance : It is a normal business one.

INTERNAL AFFAIRS

Deportation of Nigerians

***O.157. Mr E. C. Akwivu** asked the Minister of Internal Affairs, how many Nigerians have so far been deported from each of the newly independent West African States ; and what steps have been taken to protect Nigerian Citizens against arbitrary deportation and confiscation of property.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Internal Affairs : Since Ghana became independent on 6th March, 1957, this Government has been officially informed of 54 Nigerians who have been deported from that country. 8 have been deported for criminal offences and in 38 cases their presence in Ghana was considered by the Government of that country to be not conducive to the public good. They were found to be either destitute or without valid travel documents. In the 8 remaining cases the reason for the deportation is not known.

The hon. Member has not stated which of the newly independent West African States he has in mind, but this Government has not been officially informed of any Nigerian being deported either from the Cameroun Republic or from Guinea.

A complaint has, however, been received recently from a Nigerian alleging that he was deported from the Cameroun Republic and that his property was confiscated on the attainment of independence by that country on 1st January, 1960. This has been referred to the British Embassy in Yaounde with a request that enquiries and representations be made to the Government of the

Cameroun Republic. The British Consul has replied that no official complaint was made by this man before he left for Nigeria. Enquires are still proceeding and a report from the British Embassy is awaited.

At the present time the Government of the United Kingdom is responsible for the protection of Nigerians in foreign countries and the same protection is afforded to their property.

COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

Hire Purchase

O.319. Mr A. A. Ajibola asked the Minister of Commerce and Industry, whether he will consider initiating legislation on hire purchase within the Federal Territory of Lagos as is done in all other civilised countries.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Commerce and Industry : This matter is already in hand. Hire Purchase Legislation is being prepared which will be applicable not only to the Federal Territory of Lagos but throughout the Federation of Nigeria.

Sugar Industry

O.320. Mr D. O. Enefolo asked the Minister of Commerce and Industry, whether he has plans to establish a sugar industry at Ibaji in Igala Division in view of the fact that the soil is most suitable for sugar plantations.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Commerce and Industry : No, Sir. As I explained in replying on the 4th of April, to Oral Question No. O.8, the most promising area for the cultivation of sugar cane found so far is near Bacita in Ilorin Province. In view of the progress already made with experimental cultivation at Bacita, it is the intention to concentrate on that scheme for the present.

Training of Indigenous Officers

O.321. Mr I. S. Onwuchekwa asked the Minister of Commerce how many Nigerians serve in the senior grades in the Department of Commerce and Industries and how many indigenous officers will be trained overseas during the current financial year in order to prepare them for responsibilities in higher capacities.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Commerce and Industry : Of the total senior staff of 153 in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry 83 are Nigerians. 18 indigenous officers are currently undergoing training overseas, these having been selected prior to the commencement of the present financial year. It is the intention, of course, to continue sponsoring further Nigerian officers for training for higher responsibilities. At the moment I am unable to state the number which will be trained in the present financial year.

INTERNAL AFFAIRS

Granting amnesty to prisoners

*O.298. **Chief S. J. Mariere** asked the Minister of Internal Affairs, what proposals he has for granting amnesty to the prisoners with long sentences to mark the Independence of Nigeria in October 1960.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Internal Affairs : None, Sir.

RETIREMENT OF MR SPEAKER METCALFE

Mr Speaker : May I have the indulgence of the House for a few minutes.

It is with deep regret that I inform you that I have asked His Excellency the Governor-General to be allowed to resign from the Office of Speaker. His Excellency and the Prime Minister have been good enough to accept my resignation and I shall, therefore, say goodbye to you in a few minutes.

For nearly six Sessions now I have been privileged to hold this office as first Speaker of the Federal House of Representatives of Nigeria. It has been the highest honour that could have been given to me to serve your great country and to enjoy the friendship of so many of you, her distinguished citizens. I rejoice to see the day of your Independence draw near and I pray that I may be able to be among you when that great day dawns.

I hope it is appropriate for me now to say that I bequeath this high office of Speaker to a personal friend of mine whose kindness has been of greater value to me than I can easily express. I cannot mention his name yet for the election of a new Speaker lies with you. I

trust, however, that under his guidance this House may be a source of wisdom and strength and unity to Nigeria. To all of you I express my deep gratitude for the tolerance and friendship and help which you have always given to me.

Also, I express my thanks to the Staff of this House. To my good friend, the Clerk of the Parliaments, and to the Clerk Assistants, to the Serjeant-at-Arms, to the Editor and staff of the Official Report and to all Secretaries, Clerks, Messengers, Porters from whom I have always had loyal assistance and support.

I pray that Nigeria may go forward in the strength of freedom and democracy into her glorious future.

Goodbye to you all. (*Prolonged applause*).

The Minister of Lagos Affairs (Alhaji the hon. Muhammadu Ribadu): Mr Speaker, Sir, the Prime Minister would have liked to be present here in person to express his appreciation and deserving gratitude to you, Sir Frederic Metcalfe, but as everybody knows, the Prime Minister left yesterday to be able to attend the Nigerian Conference due to start in London shortly. Because of this absence the responsibility has fallen on me and I must say how very much I appreciate the opportunity given me to express the gratitude of this House in particular and of Nigerians in general to Sir Frederic Metcalfe who, for the past few years, has occupied the Chair of the Speaker in this hon. House. I am sure all Members of the House will agree with me when I say Sir Frederic has not only occupied the Chair, he has graced it and there is a sure place for him in the Parliamentary history of Nigeria. (*Hear, hear*).

One cannot speak of Sir Frederic without referring to the British Mother Parliament through whose kindness arrangements were made for Sir Frederic to become available to us in Nigeria. This is one example of the interest and trouble taken by the British Parliament in order to ensure that our Parliamentary institution develops in the right lines. Since the inaugural session of this House in 1952 we have received distinguished parliamentarians and priceless gifts from the British Parliament. Hon. Members will remember the piece of stone from Westminster brought to us by distinguished members of the British Parliament

[MINISTER OF FINANCE]

This morning we are making yet another history by electing a Nigerian for the first time to be the Speaker of this Parliament. (*Applause*). That individual is no less a personality than our respected countryman, a good parliamentarian of many years' experience, a keen debater and one who is not afraid to speak his mind. I must say that in this legislature we will be missing his able contributions to the debates of this House, but at the same time as Leader of the House I must say that it is a relief to me to pass him to the Chair. (*Prolonged laughter*). It is really a relief, hon. Members, for the hon. Jaja Wachuku to sit in the Chair and be the Speaker.

Sir, it was Mr Dennison, a former Speaker of the House of Commons for fifteen years who said on retiring: "The House is always kind and indulgent, it expects its Speaker to be right. If he should be found tripping, his authority must soon come to an end".

Hon. Members, I am confident that our Speaker will always be right in this House: I believe in his sense of impartiality; I believe in his ability to do his duties in this House creditably, and I commend him in all sincerity to all of you; to accept him as your Speaker; to co-operate with him and to make his duty a light one and a huge success.

Chief A. Enahoro (Ishan East): In rising to second this Motion I wish to observe first of all that those who may record the history of our times will, no doubt, note the fact that to-day not only are we getting a Nigerian Speaker for the first time, not only is this House to have an elected Speaker for the first time, but also in the life of this Parliament it is the first occasion on which an important proposition moved from the other side is seconded from this side. (*Several hon. Members: Hear, hear*).

When I say that I hope that this precedent will set the pattern for the future behaviour in this House, I am of course holding out no hope to the Government that we shall cease to criticise or halt them. Far from it, I am merely re-stating the second half of the well-known dictum that "While Government and the Opposition can disagree on matters which they find it impossible to agree, they ought also to agree on matters which it is unnecessary

to disagree" and it is in this spirit that I say on behalf of this side of the House that we endorse the proposal to elect the hon. Member for Aba North as the Speaker of this House.

The Speakership of a legislature is an honourable, dignified and onerous office, and the Member who is to enjoy the distinguished honour of serving as our spokesman, representative and chairman must have certain qualities.

In the last eight years, I have myself had something to do with the selection of a number of Speakers and Presidents of legislatures and the qualifications which were always borne in mind are numerous, but I must confess that I did not quite realise how numerous they are until a few days' ago when, in anticipation of this ceremony, I was looking at one or two books on Parliaments from which it would appear that a Speaker is required to possess at least twenty-two attributes.

I do not want to bore hon. Members, but we are told that: (1) his voice must be great; (2) his carriage must be majestic; (3) his nature must be haughty; (4) his purse must be plentiful; (5) he must have a good temper; (6) he must possess commonsense; (7) he must have a capacity for scrupulous fairness; (8) he must be honest; (9) he must be firm; (10) he must have a sense of humour; (11) he must possess endless patience; (12) he must be tactful; (13) he must be quick of mind; (14) he must be capable of rapid judgment; (15) he must have an instinct for justice; (16) he must be respectful and respected; (17) he must be a friend to every Member; (18) he must not be intimately associated with any Member; (19) he must uphold the honour and dignity of the House; (20) he must be sane; and (21) he must not be blind or deaf. (*Loud laughter*).

On reflection, I am sure that hon. Members will agree that, in part, only in part, this does not quite sound like a description of the hon. Member for Aba North. But after all, who among us can claim to be a paragon of all these virtues and qualities? It is enough, I believe, if the Speaker elect has some of these qualities and develops the rest in office.

We are the inheritors of seven-hundred years of British tradition, but after all, Speakers in the British House of Commons have not always been of the best plain. Hon. Members may know of three in particular who were no credit to the race of Speakers.

to his party annihilation, for this will go a long way to bring about further the goodwill which already exists on the Floor of this House.

Sir, this occasion is a very happy one. The

recommendation of the Loans Advisory Council, which was endorsed by the former Government, was that the whole of the proceeds from this loan should be re-lent to the Northern and

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[Election of Speaker Wachuku]

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The first of them was so disliked by hon. Members that instances like the following appear in the records of the British House of Commons: "Sixteenth of July, Sixteen-hundred and Ten: It was affirmed by Mr Speaker that an hon. Member, Sir Eric Hubbard put not off his hat to him but put out his tongue and popped his mouth with his finger in scorn". We are not told what the Speaker did in reply. (*Prolonged laughter*)

About the second, the following was also recorded: "It was affirmed by Mr Speaker that an hon. Member, Mr T. T. in a loud and violent manner and contrary to the usages of Parliament standing near the Speaker's Chair cried "*Bore*" in Mr Speaker's ear to the great terror and affrightment of Mr Speaker and the hon. Members of the House". (*Laughter*)

The third Speaker, Sir John Trevor, was described as a tortuous character and the very antithesis of what a Speaker should be. He was expelled from the House of Commons in 1695 for taking a bribe of a thousand guineas from the City of London for helping a Bill through Parliament. And worst still, he suffered from such an atrocious squint in the eye that it is said that two Members were habitually on their feet in different parts of the House both under the impression that they had caught Mr Speaker's eye! (*Loud laughter*)

These three sad characters turned out as bad eggs in a distinguished line of great Speakers who have enhanced the effectiveness of the Parliamentary system and in whose footsteps we hope Mr Speaker-elect will follow.

In the age of nationalism and African resurgence some people speak of an African way of doing certain things; of African modification of usages and practices which are still the test of time in other parts of the Commonwealth. I would like to warn the House and advise Mr Speaker-elect that there is only one way to be a good Speaker and that it would do us no credit at all to try and find an African standard of Speakership which may be inferior or less just or less impartial than the standards observed at Westminster.

The hon. Member for Aba North has qualities both in his profession and in this House which can make him a model Speaker.

He will need them all because he has taken office in a period of transition and he must, if he is to be more than a mere figurehead, take the lead in tackling those problems of transition which affect us in this House.

The problems are many, but I would crave your indulgence, very briefly, to refer to five of them. The first is the frequency and duration of Sittings. It is our considered opinion that meetings are too short and recessions are too long. Parliament cannot fulfil its purpose unless it meets frequently and sits for long periods. There are, very broadly, two forms of Government: Government by discussion; and Government by force. Sometimes the two forms may meet either way and overlap, but essentially Parliament is the instrument of discussion in the first form. If Parliament does not meet often and when it does meet it is not permitted enough time to discharge its duty, despotism will replace Parliamentary democracy, for it is rightly said that "The essence of despotism is that discussion is tolerated only when it cannot be avoided." But under our system discussion must be a conscientious, objective of the right, and unless Parliament has the widest possible scope to use this right, it cannot be effective. We know from the sad experience of other countries that when Parliament ceases to be effective the people would seek other forms of Government.

The second problem is that we urge that Mr Speaker, the new Speaker, must help the House to revise the terms of reference of the Business Committee. This Committee is in our view developing into a censorship body especially in regard to Private Members' Motion when it comes to prescribing what may or may not be taken on certain days of the week. Unfortunately whilst its prescription, like sweet pill may have so far saved the Government an unpleasant taste in the mouth, it has had no curative effect on the ailment of our body politic.

In the Legislature from which I have just come Private Members' Motions are taken, strictly taken, in the order in which they appear in the Order Book, thus the Government cannot prevent any Private Members' Motions from being taken. In the House of Commons there are usages which ensure that important Back Bench Business is taken. Our system here, devised at a time when it was necessary to hold the balance between three parties, when there

[MR MBAH]
 cussing the Supplementary Estimates and I want to draw attention to the fact that the workers as a whole expect some sort of encouragement to mark the celebration of our Independence.

An hon. Member : Another Mbanefo ?

Mr Mbah : In Ghana the Government paid their workers two months' salaries and it is expected that those who are preparing the Supplementary Estimates should not forget the contribution which the workers have made.

Mr Speaker : Order, order. I have no notice of this. I thought you were speaking to the question that has been raised by Mr Mbakogu. I must say that this is absolutely irrelevant to the matter being discussed now.

Chief M. W. Ubani (Aba Central) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I should not have stood up to

speak on this issue but for the way Mr Ayo Rosiji has really gone all out to attack the Minister of Finance for making a statement on the allegation made. In fact every Member in this House has time without number spoken of writing into the Constitution "the fundamental human rights" and here is a case in point which has arisen and I feel that the Minister has expressed exactly what has come to his notice as an information, and it is the same type of thing that we are up against. You cannot eat your cake and have it. Members of the Action Group should be responsible. I am sorry that Mr Rosiji should have attacked the Minister and I feel that the Member made a very, very sweeping statement and is very irresponsible.

Question, That the House do now adjourn until the 3rd of August, put and agreed to.

Adjourned accordingly at five minutes to twelve noon.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

APPENDIX

COMMUNICATIONS

Purchase Tax on Radios

W.14. Dr K. Ezera asked the Minister of Communications, whether he will consider imposing a purchase tax on radios as an alternative and a more collectable impost in place of the present annual licensing fee.

The Minister of Communications : The present method of obtaining revenue from wireless sets is now under review.

MINERALS

Tin Mining Industry

W.15. Alhaji Isa Haruna asked the Minister of Mines and Power, how many people were employed in the tin mining industry before Tin Control came into operation in 1957, and how many people are now engaged in the industry.

The Minister of Mines and Power : The figures are as follows :—

			<i>African</i>	<i>European</i>
1956	..	..	51,031	296
1957	..	..	49,521	304
1960 (Feb.)	..	..	35,879	248

Tin and Columbite

W.18. Alhaji Isa Haruna asked the Minister of Mines and Power, how many tons of tin and columbite were exported annually for the three years preceding the operation of Tin Restriction.

The Minister of Mines and Power : The tin quota system, operated under international agreement by the Tin Council, came into operation in 1957.

The annual exports for Nigeria, of Cassiterite and Columbite for the three years preceding the control were as follows :—

			<i>Cassiterite</i>	<i>Columbite</i>
1955	..	..	11,400	3,047
1956	..	..	13,364	2,406
1957	..	..	13,577	1,145

ROADS

Narrow Bridges

W.27. Alhaji Adamu, Sarkin Tafarki asked the Minister of Works and Surveys whether he will consider widening and strengthening all existing narrow bridges on Trunk

Roads 'A', especially those on the Bauchi-Gombe and Bauchi-Maiduguri roads.

The Minister of Works and Surveys : It is the intention of my Ministry to continue its policy of widening and strengthening bridges, where necessary, on all Trunk Roads 'A' when funds are available under the Economic Programme. The two roads specifically mentioned by the hon. Member are not covered by the present programme, but I can assure the hon. Member that the widening and strengthening of these bridges will be given prior consideration under the next Economic Programme.

During the present planning period an extensive programme of bridge strengthening and widening has been carried out on Trunk Roads 'A'. For example, on the road from Lagos to Mando *via* Abeokuta no fewer than 110 bridges have been dealt with.

Benin Trunk Roads A

W.28. Mr U. O. Ayeni asked the Minister of Works and Surveys if he will state the total number of miles covered by trunk roads A in Benin Province and what plans he has for converting the Ifon-Uhonmora-Agbor road to a Trunk Road A in view of the fact that it is a shorter route from Lagos to the Eastern Region than the Ifon-Benin-Agbor road.

The Minister of Works and Surveys : The number of miles covered by Trunk Roads 'A' in Benin Province is 160 miles. There are no plans for converting the Ifon-Uhonmora-Agbor road to a Trunk Road 'A' because an adequate inter-regional link is provided by the existing Ifon-Agbor road which has the added advantage of serving the important centre of Benin City.

COMMUNICATIONS

Post Office at Shendam

O.15. Mr G. Yilgwen asked the Minister of Communications when a departmental post office would be built at Shendam in Lowland Division.

The Minister of Communications : The conditions on which the Ministry of Communications will establish a postal agency, sub-post office, or post office at any given place are set out in the Statement of the Policy Proposed by the Government of the Federation for the Establishment of Post Offices within Nigeria, which the House of Representatives approved

as Sessional Paper No. 4 of 1957. The Sessional Paper also explains the manner in which the volume of postal business is calculated. The current rate of business at the Shendam

postal agency is 13,222 units a year, and the prescribed levels for the establishment of post offices and sub-post offices are 40,000 units and 24,000 units a year respectively.

4th April, 1960

INTERNAL AFFAIRS

Immigrants into Nigeria

W.1. Dr K. Ezera asked the Minister of Internal Affairs, if he will state the total number of immigrants into this country since January 1954 to date, indicating the nationalities of these immigrants, and how many of them have since taken naturalisation papers and become citizens of Nigeria.

The Minister of Internal Affairs : At the present time no non-Nigerians are admitted to Nigeria as immigrants in the normally accepted sense of the word. Persons are permitted to enter and reside in Nigeria to fill some specific post (Government, Commercial, Missionary, etc., as the case may be) and, except in the case of Government officials and persons exempt from the provisions of the Immigration Ordinance, the numbers are controlled by means of "expatriate quotas" allocated by the immigration authorities. Generally speaking, the nationality of persons who may be employed within such quotas is not controlled.

Tables which are very detailed and which show the number of non-Nigerians entering and leaving the country during the year and indicating nationality have been published annually in the form of an appendix to the Annual Report of the Nigeria Police. These tables do not indicate the numbers of non-Nigerians residing in Nigeria at any one time, but a Census is scheduled to be held in 1961 or possibly 1962 which will provide these figures and a comparison can then be made with the 1952-53 Census figures.

The number of aliens who have been naturalised since 1954 under the provisions of the British Nationality Act of 1948, is given in the schedules, but following the effect of such naturalisation is that the person in question becomes a British subject and citizen of the United Kingdom and Colonies. He in no way becomes a Nigerian and still remains a person subject to the Immigration Ordinance. On the attainment of Independence, however, Nigeria will have its own citizenship laws and naturalisation under these laws will become a possibility.

SCHEDULE

The number of aliens who have been naturalised under section 10 of the British Nationality Acts, 1948 during the period 1st January, 1954 to 31st December, 1959 is as follows :—

Greeks	6
Lebanese	5
Syrians	4
Czechoslovakians	4
Polish	6
Danish	1
German	1
French	1
Israeli	1
Icelandic	1
Sudanese	1
French Cameroonians	1
Stateless	6

The number of women who have been registered under section 6 (2) of the British Nationality Acts during this period is as follows :

Germans	4
Lebanese	6
Czechoslovakians	3
Polish	4
Swiss	3
French	3
Dutch	4
Italians	2
Austrians	2
Greek	1
Danish	1
Spaniard	1
Jordanian	1
Jugoslavian	1
Chinese	1
French Guinea	1
Burmese	1
Stateless	1

The number of children who have been registered under section 7 of the British Nationality Acts during this period is as follows :

Lebanese	5
Czechoslovakians	4
Jordanians	2
French	1
Chinese	1

TRANSPORT

Cruelty to Cattle

W.2. Mr S. A. Yerokun asked the Minister of Transport and Aviation, if he has received any report on cruelty to cattle transported from the Northern Region to the South in railway trains.

The Minister of Transport and Aviation : No, Sir.

It is the practice of the Nigerian Railway Corporation to give priority to the running of cattle trains and in the event of a blockage of the main line, arrangements are made to detrain the cattle for feeding and watering.

COMMERCE

Hire Purchase Systems

W.4. Mr S. A. Yerokun asked the Minister of Commerce and Industry, if he will state the number of firms and companies which have been operating hire purchase systems since 1957.

The Minister of Commerce and Industry : There is at present no hire purchase legislation in Nigeria to make it compulsory for hire purchase agreements to be registered and it is therefore not possible to say how many firms have been operating hire purchase systems since 1957. It is known, however, that most of the major firms, and some of the smaller ones, do operate such a system for certain goods.

MINERALS

Numbers of Mining Leases

W.17. Alhaji Isa Haruna asked the Minister of Mines and Power how many mining leases for tin, columbite and other minerals respectively are now held by mining operators ; and what is the total acreage covered by the leases in respect of each mineral.

The Minister of Mines and Powers : The figures at the 31st March, 1959, were as follows :

Number of mining leases held by mining operators	3,329
Total acreage covered by mining leases	256,425 acres

	No.	Acres
Cassiterite and associated minerals	3,306	244,417
Precious metals ..	14	589
Lead-Silver-Zink ..	7	4,541
Non-metallic minerals	2	6,878
Total	3,329	256,425

Rehabilitation of Mine Workers

W.19. Alhaji Isa Haruna asked the Minister of Mines and Power, whether Government have any plans for rehabilitating workers engaged in the mining industry at the expiry of the mining leases, and what alternative industries Government propose to establish at the mining sites at that time.

The Minister of Mines and Powers : It is not anticipated that a shortage of mining leases will develop in the foreseeable future.

Surveys point to a growing proven body of both cassiterite and columbite available for mining, and the number of mining leases is increasing.

I invite the hon. Member's attention to the following figures which indicate the growth over a five year period :

Year	Ore Reserves* (tons)	Total Mill	Acres
1953	151,336	*2,967	*245,147
1958	*204,279	*3,401	*263,24

* Proved and indicated.

It follows that the second part of the Question does not arise.

Mechanisation of Mining Industry

W.20. Alhaji Isa Haruna asked the Minister of Mines and Power, what Government is doing to rehabilitate workers displaced in the mines as a result of mechanisation of the mining industry.

The Minister of Mines and Power : Unemployment caused by mechanisation does not present a sufficiently serious problem on the minesfield to warrant the setting up of special machinery to absorb any redundancies.

I invite the hon. Member's attention to my reply to Written Question No. 16 in which I explained, among other things, that there is an

Unemployment Exchange in Jos to which unemployed miners are directed, but it is regrettable that many of the men fail to register and take advantage of the facilities available.

information required is given in the table below :—

Country	1958		1959	
	Imports £'000	Exports £'000	Imports £'000	Exports £'000
Japan ..	19,433	1,029	18,826	2,311
India ..	6,007	228	3,623	274
South Africa	751	171	1,007	216

Wages Board for Tin Industry

W.21. Alhaji Isa Haruna asked the Minister of Mines and Power whether Government will consider establishing a Wages Board for the tin industry in order to ensure proper handling of trade disputes and the promotion of healthy industrial relations in the mines, or, alternatively, whether Government will encourage all holders of mining leases to join the Nigeria Mining Employers' Association.

The Minister of Mines and Power : Wages and conditions of employment of workers in the tin mining industry are presently regulated through two Orders in Council, Nos. 10 and 13 of 1948. In addition there is a Minefield Joint Industrial Council, comprising representatives of the Employers and Trades Unions, one of whose functions is to negotiate the regulation of wages. There is adequate machinery available under the present system and I do think that the hon. Member's demand could be met through this machinery.

Government is aware of the value of the Nigeria Mining Employers' Association but it is not the function of this body, representing as it does only one side of the industry, to deal with disputes arising from wage, or other claims.

COMMERCE

Export and Import Trade

W.24. Mr U. O. Ayeni asked the Minister of Finance, what was the value of Nigeria's export and import trade respectively with each of the countries Japan, India and South Africa in each of the years 1958 and 1959.

The Minister of Commerce and Industry : This question would more appropriately have been addressed to me and I have accordingly agreed to reply to it on behalf of my colleague, the Minister of Finance. The

FINANCE

Government's Assets Abroad

W.25. Mr U. O. Ayeni asked the Minister of Finance what is the value of the Federal Government's assets abroad and in what countries they are held.

The Minister of Finance : The gross value of the Federal Government's investments held abroad was £39,854,000 at 31st December, 1959. Advances outstanding against the security of these investments amounted to £6,040,000 at the same date giving a net value for the investments of £33,814,000. The investments represent a wide range of holdings in the stocks of the United Kingdom Government, Local Authorities, independent Commonwealth countries and Colonial Territories.

2. The Federal Government also has certain other assets, mainly real estate, equipment and vehicles, which are required for the service of Nigeria in various countries. No figures are available for the value of these assets.

ELECTRICITY

Supply for Bauchi

W.26. Alhaji Adamu, Sarkin Tafarki asked the Minister of Mines and Power, whether Bauchi will be supplied with electricity this year as a matter of priority.

The Minister of Mines and Power : Yes, Sir. The supply of electric power is scheduled for Bauchi in December of this year.

INTERNAL AFFAIRS

Nigerians deported from Ghana

***O.27. Mr V. L. Lajide** asked the Minister of Internal Affairs, whether any more Nigerians have been deported from Ghana since the last visit to Nigeria of the Prime Minister of that

country; and what Government has done to rehabilitate Nigerians already deported from there.

The Minister of Internal Affairs : Since the last visit of the Prime Minister of Ghana to Nigeria which ended on 6th February, 1959, this Government has been officially informed of 28 Nigerians against whom the Government of Ghana has made deportation orders. Of these, 5 have been deported for criminal offences and 21 were found by Magistrates' Courts to be destitutes and their presence in Ghana was considered by the Government of that country as not conducive to the public good. In the two remaining cases the reason for the deportation is not known.

Those who make themselves known to the Immigration Authorities as deportees on arrival in Nigeria are issued with a letter inviting them to report to the Social Welfare Department. That department assists them in tracing relatives and in every way possible.

Details are as follows :

1. Abudulai Hausa—Being in unlawful possession.
2. Jack Gbegbe—Stealing.
3. Imoru Bangora—Begging.
4. Halidu Kassena—Begging
5. Letsiya Amadu (*alias* Letsiya Kano (*f*)—Wife of Imoru Bangara.
6. Medela Guana (*alias* Amina Sokoto (*f*)—destitute.
7. Awudu Kano—Destitute, living by begging.
8. Gariba Butcher Kano—Destitute, living by begging.
9. Hasen Kano—Destitute, living by begging.
10. Adama Kadejame—Destitute, living by begging.
11. Malam Awuduey—Destitute, living by begging.
12. Kalam Kakaley—Not conducive to the Public good.
Sule Kalangu (not accepted).
13. David Ayo Lagos—Not conducive to the Public good.
14. Adama Nguna (*f*)—Not conducive to the Public good.
15. Masaliti Hausa—Not conducive to the Public good.

16. Mahamadu Damato—Not conducive to the Public good.

17. Yiro Sokoto—Not conducive to the Public good.

18. Abuba Kara—Not conducive to the Public good.

19. Onado Sokoto—Not conducive to the Public good.

20. Mama Yaro—Not conducive to the Public good.

21. Pinida Monanu—Not conducive to the Public good.

22. Robert Obi—Fraud by false pretences.

23. Jima Balogun—Imprisonment for unlawful possession.

24. Musa Bagonji—Not conducive to the Public good.

25. Belo Lagos—Not conducive to the Public good.

Ezekiel Jacob—Criminal offence.

26. Moro Hausa—House-breaking, stealing and receiving.

Philip Meya Alale—Not conducive to the Public good (Apparently not accepted).

27. Paul Oligme—

28. John Dickson—

5—Criminal Offences.

21—Not conducive to the Public good (begging).

2—Unknown.

ROADS

Alternative road to Maiduguri

O.36. M. Muhammadu Sagir Umar asked the Minister of Works and Surveys if he will consider the possibility of making an alternative motor road to Maiduguri which will pass through Azare and Potiskum.

The Minister of Works and Surveys : I assume that the hon. Member has in mind a road from Kano to Maiduguri *via* Azare and Potiskum which would offer an alternative to the existing Trunk Road A 21.

There are at present no plans for re-routing Trunk Road A 21, known as the Kano Eastern Road, through Azare and thence to Potiskum. The existing route followed by A 21 through Wudil, Foggo and Kari to Potiskum appears adequately to fulfil the need for a trunk road in the eastern portion of Kano Province.

5th April, 1960

POWER

Electricity for Kazaure

O.49. M. Ibrahim Na Maitama asked the Minister of Mines and Power, when Kazaure will be supplied with electricity.

The Minister of Mines and Power : As Kazaure has not been included in the Five Year Development Programme as one of the towns to be electrified it is not presently envisaged that it will receive a supply of electricity in the near future.

The list of towns to be electrified is drawn up after consultation with the Government of the appropriate Region, and Kazaure has not been nominated yet by the Government of Northern Region. It may be possible for Kazaure to be included in the next Programme

if the Northern Region Government is convinced of the economic feasibility and makes a request to my Ministry to that effect.

Electricity for Dambatta

O.50. M. Mohammed Muhtari, Sarkin Bai asked the Minister of Mines and Power, whether he will explore the possibility of supplying Dambatta with electricity.

The Minister of Mines and Power : Electricity is supplied to the towns in Nigeria on a list of priorities drawn up after consultation with the Regional Governments.

I regret that Dambatta has not been nominated, but it may be possible for Dambatta to be so nominated if the Northern Region Government is satisfied that it is economically feasible. I would, therefore, refer the hon. Member to the Government of the Northern Region.

6th April, 1960

COMMUNICATIONS

Zuru P.O. Telephone Facilities

W.5. M. Isa Iko asked the Minister of Communications, whether he will consider providing telephone facilities in the new post office at Zuru.

The Minister of Communications : The Federal Government's proposals for extending the Nigeria telephone system during the current economic planning period are set out in the Statement on the Policy proposed by the Government of the Federation for the Development of Telecommunications within Nigeria, which the House of Representatives approved as Sessional Paper No. 8 of 1957. There is no provision in the Sessional Paper for providing telephones at Zuru, but the neighbourhood's claims will be borne in mind when the Ministry of Communications is budgeting for the planning period which is due to begin in 1962.

Telephone Installation Delays

W.6. Mr R. O. A. Akinjide asked the Minister of Communications, whether he was aware that the Posts and Telegraphs Department failed to instal telephones in a large number of

premises in Ibadan after having collected the necessary installation charges from the applicants ; and whether he would make a statement.

The Minister of Communications : When a new subscriber is to be provided with a telephone the Posts and Telegraphs Division of the Ministry of Communications collects a fee from him, for installing it, and six months' rent in advance. Normally thereafter the telephone is installed within two months, but in certain cases recently at Ibadan there have been delays occasioned by shortages of equipment, and I regret the inconvenience thereby caused to prospective subscribers. All those affected will be on the telephone by the end of this month.

Mail Services—Kontagora-Zuru

W.7. M. Isa Iko asked the Minister of Communications whether he would consider increasing the number of mail services each week between Kontagora and Zuru.

The Minister of Communications : There is a weekly mail service at present between Zuru, Kontagora, and Yelwa, and an additional service would cost £780 a year. I doubt if the Ministry of Communications could find the money, in present circumstances, but I am looking into the question.

Expansion of Telephone System

W.8. Mr G. K. Dada asked the Minister of Communications, what immediate proposals he had for the extension of telephone facilities to Aramoko and Effon-Alaye in Ekiti Division.

The Minister of Communications : The Federal Government's proposals for expanding the Nigerian telephone system during the current economic planning period are set out in the Statement on the Policy proposed by the Government of the Federation for the Development of Telecommunications within Nigeria, which the House of Representatives approved as Sessional Paper No. 8 of 1957.

There is no provision in the Sessional Paper for installing telephones at Aramoko and Effon-Alaye, but the claims of both places will be considered when the next development programme is drawn up.

W.9. Mr G. D. Dada asked the Minister of Communications, what proposals he had for erecting a departmental post office to serve the towns and villages on the trunk road B from Erinmo to Ikole in Ekiti Division in order to facilitate communications by telegram in that area.

The Minister of Communications : The conditions on which the Ministry of Communications will establish a postal agency, sub-post office, or post office at any given place are explained in the Statement of the Policy proposed by the Government of the Federation for the Establishment of Post Offices within Nigeria, which the House of Representatives approved as Sessional Paper No. 4 of 1957. There is no provision in the Sessional Paper for the post office which the hon. Member has in mind, but the neighbourhood's claims will be sympathetically considered when the Ministry of Communications is budgeting for the next economic planning period, due to begin in 1962.

A telephone call office is to be established at Ikole shortly, and thereafter the sub-post office there will accept telegrams.

Post Offices in Bende Divisions

W.10. Dr Kalu Ezera asked the Minister of Communications, how many post offices there are in Bende Division, and whether he would arrange for the postal agencies at Abam and Ohafia to have transactions with the post office at Umuahia which has superseded the one at Bende to which they are still attached.

The Minister of Communications : There are four post offices in the Bende Division, and the one at Bende is under the executive control of the Postmaster at Umuahia, but has in no way been superseded by the Umuahia post office. The postal agencies at Ohafia, Ozu Abam, Iduma Abam and Ndioji Abam are all much nearer Bende than Umuahia and an arrangement whereby they got cash, stock, and mails from Umuahia would be less efficient and more expensive than the present one.

By virtue of the volume of business transacted there the agency at Ohafia is to be converted into a sub-post office, which will receive cash and mails from Bende, but draw its stocks direct from the Posts and Telegraphs Division of the Ministry of Communications.

Mail to Abam, Ohafia and Abiriba

W.11. Dr Kalu Ezera asked the Minister of Communications, whether he was aware that mail to Abam, Ohafia and Abiriba is still carried by bicycle or runner from Bende and Uzuakoli twice a week, when commercial lorries which ply these routes daily could easily be engaged on contract to perform this task daily and more efficiently at a lower cost; and whether he would consider giving the work out on contract to the lorry owners.

The Minister of Communications : There is a thrice weekly mail service to the postal agencies at Abam, Ohafia, and Abiriba. In paragraph 7 of the Statement of the Policy proposed by the Government of the Federation for the Establishment of Post Offices within Nigeria, which the House of Representatives approved as Sessional Paper No. 4 of 1957, it is stipulated where postal agencies are concerned that the Ministry of Communications "normally accepts no responsibility either for delivering the mail from the nearest departmental Post Office or collecting the mail from them". The Ministry does, however, pay a mail runner to serve the Abam, Ohafia, and Abiriba agencies, and will have mails carried to and from them by lorry, if it would be cheaper and more efficient to do so. I am obliged to the hon. Member for having brought the matter to my attention.

Bende P.O. Business

W.12. Dr Kalu Ezera asked the Minister of Communications, what is the average volume of business transacted in Bende Post Office

and what is its ratio to the volume of business transacted in the postal agencies at Ohafia and Abam respectively, which are attached to Bende Post Office.

The Minister of Communications : Using the method of calculation explained in Sessional Paper No. 4 of 1957, the post office at Bende carries on business at a rate of 64,000 units a year. The rate for the postal agency at Ohafia is 35,026 units a year, and for the agencies at Ozu Abam, Ndioji Abam, and Iduma Abam 7,448, 4,095, and 3,321 units a year respectively.

Sub-post Offices at Ohafia, etc.

W.13. Dr Kalu Ezera asked the Minister of Communications, whether he was aware that the building of sub-post offices equipped with telegraph and telephone facilities at Ohafia, Abiriba, Abam and Nkporo is long overdue and what proposals he now has for erecting those post offices.

The Minister of Communications : The conditions on which the Ministry of Communications will establish a postal agency, sub-post office, or post office at any given place are set out in the Statement of the Policy proposed by the Government of the Federation for the Establishment of Post Offices within Nigeria, which the House of Representatives approved as Sessional Paper No. 4 of 1957. The Sessional Paper also explains the manner in which the volume of postal business is calculated. The postal agency at Ohafia is carrying on business at the rate of 35,026 units a year, and is therefore eligible to be converted into a sub-post office. The Owuwa Anyanwu District Council is arranging to provide a suitable building for this purpose, and the Ministry of Communications will supply furniture and equipment, and train a sub-postmaster. The postal agencies at Abiriba, Ozu Abam, Ndioji Abam, Iduma Abam, and Nkporo are carrying on business at rates of 13,057, 7,448, 4,095, 3,321, and 2,936 units a year respectively, and are therefore not eligible to be converted into sub-post offices.

The Federal Government's proposals for extending the Nigerian telephone system during the current economic planning period are detailed in the Statement on the Policy proposed by the Government of the Federation for the Development of Telecommunications within Nigeria, which the House of Represent-

atives approved as Sessional Paper No. 8 of 1957. There is no provision in the Sessional Paper for telephones at Abiriba, Ozu Abam, Ndioji Abam, Iduma Abam, or Nkporo, but there will be a telephone call office at Ohafia by the middle of next year, and thenceforward the sub-post office there will accept telegrams.

Post Office at Bauchi

W.22. Alhaji Adamu, Sarkin Tafarki asked the Minister of Communications, whether he would expand and modernise the post office building at Bauchi in order to ease the present congestion there.

The Minister of Communications : The Federal Government set out its proposals for improving existing post offices, and building new ones, during the current economic planning period in its Statement of the Policy proposed by the Government of the Federation for the Establishment of Post Offices within Nigeria, which the House of Representatives approved as Sessional Paper No. 4 of 1957. There is no provision in the Sessional Paper for improvements, or for a new post office, at Bauchi, but I have asked for a report on how any inconveniences suffered by the public in the present post office there might be eliminated.

Sub-post office at Igarra

W.23. Mr U. O. Ayeni asked the Minister of Communications, when the construction of the post office at Igarra will be completed.

The Minister of Communications : The conditions on which the Ministry of Communications will establish a postal agency, sub-post office, or post office at any given place are set out in the Statement of the Policy proposed by the Government of the Federation for the Establishment of Post Offices within Nigeria, which the House of Representatives approved as Sessional Paper No. 4 of 1957. The Sessional Paper also explains the manner in which the volume of postal business is calculated. The postal agency at Igarra carries on business at the rate of 34,085 units a year, and is therefore eligible to be converted into a sub-post office, for which purpose the local community has provided a suitable building. The Posts and Telegraphs Division of the Ministry of Communications has arranged to supply furniture and equipment, and to train a sub-postmaster, and I hope that the sub-post office will be open by the end of July.

MINERALS

Tin Mining Unemployment

W. 16. Alhaji Isa Haruna asked the Minister of Mines and Power, what action Government took to combat the unemployment caused by Tin Restriction during its period of operation.

The Minister of Mines and Power : Unemployment caused by the tin restriction did not develop at any time into a serious problem on the minesfield. Many of the companies on the Plateau repatriated their redundant mine workers to their homes and the Bornu Railway

Extension absorbed approximately 20 per cent of their total labour force of 1,800 from redundant mine workers. In addition, miners were advised to register at the Jos Employment Exchange and the Exchange then endeavoured to place those who had registered in employment. This state of affairs existed particularly in the early part of 1958 and the hon. Member may be interested to learn that far from unemployment presenting a problem at the present time the minesfield is short of labour and the labour shortage is a serious problem to the minesfield now endeavouring to fill the greatly increased tin quota.

7th April, 1960

ECONOMY

Standard of Living

W.33. Mr D. N. Abii asked the Minister of Economic Development, what steps he is taking to raise the standard of living of the people, and what are the effects on the country's economy of the recent general increase in salaries and wages.

The Minister of Economic Development : All economic activities of the Government, including budgetary and fiscal measures, are aimed at raising the standard of living of the people.

The effect on the country's economy of the recent general increase in salaries and wages will not be apparent for some time ; but much will depend upon the extent to which increased salaries and wages are matched by increased productivity in all sectors of the economy.

DEFENCE

Military Bloc Opposition

O.91. Dr Kalu Ezera asked the Prime Minister whether he is aware that an overwhelming majority of Nigerians is vehemently opposed to this country's joining any military bloc or pact as well as to any agreement that directly or indirectly implies the use of this country as a military base by any other country, no matter how friendly, and whether he will make a statement.

The Prime Minister : The Federal Government will, after our Independence, have exclusive power to decide on the relations between Nigeria and other countries, and hon.

Members can rest assured that the Council of Ministers will know what is right for the country and will discharge their duties according to the wishes of the people.

INDEPENDENCE

Nigerian Diplomats

*O.52. Dr Kalu Ezera asked the Prime Minister, if he will state the number of Nigerian diplomats who have completed training now and the total number that will have completed training by Independence Day and would be ready to take control of Embassies or assume duties as Charge d'Affaires.

The Prime Minister : For the first part or his question I would refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave to another hon. Member ; as regards the second part, the hon. Member will appreciate that it will be necessary to select persons from outside as well as inside the service to take charge of our overseas posts.

DEFENCE

Nigerian Battalion to Cameroons

*O.32. Dr Kalu Ezera asked the Minister of Defence whether the despatch of the Nigerian Battalion to the Southern Cameroons frontier a few months ago was made as a purely defensive border operation or in response to a request by the Government of the Cameroon Republic.

The Prime Minister of the Federation and Minister of Defence : The despatch of troops to the Southern Cameroons eastern frontier was ordered by the Governor-General, with my agreement, as a defensive measure to promote the confidence of the local population and to secure the frontiers of the Federation. It was not made in response to a request received from the Government of the Cameroons Republic.

ATOMIC TESTS

Nuclear Fall-out Records

*O.59. **M. Aminu Kano** asked the Prime Minister, whether any nuclear fall-out has been recorded in this country, following the recent French atomic test in the Sahara.

The Prime Minister : Some amounts of radio active fall-out were measured in Nigeria, mainly in the North, which were certainly attributable to the first French atomic explosion in the Sahara. The amounts of radiation from the fall-out were such as would give doses far below those which would be acceptable by the standards of the International Commission

on Radiological Protection. No radio active fall-out from the second French atomic explosion in the Sahara has been detected in Nigeria.

MILITARY FORCES

Training Scheme

*O.60. **M. Aminu Kano** asked the Prime Minister and Minister of Defence what programme he had for the training of Nigerian Army Officers, Naval Officers and Air Pilots for a future Nigerian Air Force.

The Prime Minister of the Federation and Minister of Defence : Candidates for commissions in the Royal Nigerian Military Forces receive preliminary training at the Nigerian Military Training College, Kaduna, and subsequently attend courses of instruction at Mons Officer Cadet School, Aldershot, and the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst. Candidates for commissions in the Royal Nigerian Navy also receive preliminary training at the Nigerian Military Training College, Kaduna, and subsequently attend a course of instruction at the Britannia Royal Naval College, Dartmouth.

9th April, 1960

INDEPENDENCE

Pilgrims to Lourdes and Rome

W.30. **Mr D. N. Abii** asked the Prime Minister whether he is aware that some Nigerians will be going in June as pilgrims to Lourdes and Rome for dedication in view of the approaching Independence of Nigeria; and whether Nigerian Pilgrim Officers will be posted to Tripoli, France and Italy to cater for the needs of the pilgrims.

The Prime Minister : The number of Nigerians who will be going as pilgrims to Lourdes and Rome will not justify the posting of Nigerian Pilgrim Officers to France, Italy and Tripoli. Nigerians enjoy the assistance, protection and co-operation of British Embassy staff in countries in which we have no Nigerian representation and I believe that such assistance will be readily given to any Nigerian pilgrim who requires it in Lourdes or Rome, or on the journey.

POLICE

Officers who have left the Force

W.29. **Mr D. N. Abii** asked the Prime Minister how many Police officers in the senior ranks have left the Force since 1958: what were their ranks and Regions of origin, and the causes of their resignation, termination or dismissal.

The Prime Minister : Thirty Police Officers of gazetted rank have left the Nigeria Police since April 1958, as follows:—

Pensionable Expatriates ..	15
Pensionable Nigerians ..	5*
Contract Expatriates ..	10
	—
TOTAL ..	30
	—

Region of Origin

Eastern Region ..	3
Western Region ..	2

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2. The ranks of the thirty officers under reference were as follows :—

	Pension- able Expa- triates	Pension- able Nigerians	Contract Expa- triates	Total
Deputy Inspector- General ..	1			1
Deputy Commissioner Assistant	1		1	2
Commissioner Senior Superin- tendent of Police ..	1			1
..	3			3
Superintendents and Assistant Superintendents of Police ..	9	5	9	23
TOTAL ..	15	5	10	30

3. The reasons for those officers leaving the Force were as follows :—

Retirement ..	11	includes 3 Nigerians
Transfers ..	3	
Deceased ..	1	Nigerian Officer
Resigned ..	5	includes 1 Nigerian Officer

Non-renewed
Contracts .. 10

EDUCATION

W.34. Mr C. A. Odigbo asked the Minister of Education what steps are being taken to secure for the teaching profession uniform conditions of service throughout the Federation.

The Minister of Education : It is the aim of my Ministry to secure, through the National Council on Establishments, uniform conditions of service for the Teaching Profession throughout the Federation. As regards Voluntary Agency Teachers, the Federal and Regional Governments have agreed, in principle, to the introduction of national scales and they will attempt to implement this agreement as and when the opportunity arises. With this end in view, it has been agreed that no changes in scales will be made without prior reference to the National Council on Establishments.

FINANCE

National Income

W.35. Mr D. M. Abii asked the Minister of Finance, what is the National Income of Nigeria and the rate of its fluctuations; and whether there are plans for effecting a rise in the national income with a view to making Nigeria a Welfare State.

The Minister of Finance : I refer the hon. Member to my answer to question O.6 which was published in the Hansard for Wednesday, 30th March, 1960.

ADDENDUM

Please add at foot of Answer to Question O.60. Col. 24 of 7th April 1960 the following: Although there is at present no Nigerian Air Force there is a scheme for training Nigerians as civilian pilots. Four training aircraft have been procured and a flying instructor has been engaged.

11th April, 1960

NIGERIAN ECONOMY

National Income

W.35. Mr D. M. Abii asked the Minister of Economic Development what is the National Income of Nigeria and the rate of its fluctuation; and whether there are plans for effecting a rise in the national income with a view to making Nigeria a Welfare State.

The Minister of Economic Development: I refer the hon. Member to my answer to

question O.6 which was published in the Hansard for Wednesday, 30th March, 1960.

POLICE

New Stations Proposed

W.36. Mr J. U. Odey asked the Prime Minister if he will state the number of Divisions in Ogoja Province in which it is proposed to set up new Police Stations, where the stations are going to be located, and when they are going to be opened.

The Prime Minister : It is proposed to establish new Police Stations at the following towns in the Police Divisions of Ogoja Province :—

<i>Division</i>	<i>New Police Stations</i>
Abakaliki	Effium Ndubia
Afikpo	Nwofe
Obubra	Okposi
Ogoja	Ugep Iyahe

2. Provision for the erection of these stations is included in the Capital Programme ending on the 31st of March, 1962. Funds have not yet been provided, however, but these projects are reserved for priority attention when funds become available. In the meantime temporary posts, consisting of an N.C.O. and six Constables, established in June 1959, continue to operate at the following centres :—

Effium
Ndubia
Nwofe
Ikwo
Ezza
Odumoke
Izzi-ogo.

RESEARCH

Agricultural and Veterinary Centres

W.42. Mallam Usman Borkono asked the Minister of Economic Development, whether he has taken steps to establish more agricultural and veterinary research centres in the country in order to combat cattle and plant diseases.

The Minister of Economic Development : At present the limited funds available for agricultural and veterinary research are wholly absorbed by the research centres at Vom and Moor Plantation. Research, however is a concurrent subject and there is nothing to prevent Regional Governments establishing other research centres if they so wish. But research scientists are few and difficult to recruit and until the existing vacancies at Vom and Moor Plantation are filled it would be pointless to consider the setting up of other research centres.

LABOUR

Manpower Figures

W.43. Mr U. O. Ayeni asked the Minister of Labour, if he will state the number of employable people in Nigeria, and how many of these are employed.

The Minister of Labour : According to the 1952-53 population census there are about 17,000,000 people of employable age in Nigeria but it is not known how many of this number are in fact fit or able to work

The vast majority of employable Nigerians are engaged in subsistence agriculture. Wage or salary earners in establishments employing ten or more persons numbered 478,300 on 30th September, 1958, according to the return of employment and earnings maintained by the Federal Office of Statistics.

ELECTRICITY

Supply to Ilorin

W.44. M. Abdusalami Olomoda asked the Minister of Mines and Power, what plans he has to extend electricity to Ilorin before Nigeria's Independence.

The Minister of Mines and Power : Ilorin is one of the towns scheduled for electrical development. Contracts for the work have already been placed.

As the hon. Member will know, towns in this country are being gradually electrified on a scheme of priority which has been drawn up in consultation with each Regional Government. Ilorin is scheduled to be commissioned in September of 1961. I wish I could arrange for its electrification before Independence but such is the position of the Priority List that its place cannot be altered.

FEDERAL PUBLIC SERVICE

Encouraging Northerners to join

W.45. M. Abdusalami Olomoda asked the Minister of Pensions, what proposals he has to encourage more Northerners to join the Federal Public Service.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Pensions : My Ministry is not unmindful of the disproportionately small number of Northerners in the Federal Public Service and has therefore taken a number of steps to remedy this situation. In the first place, Federal Government Scholarships for this year have been increased considerably and this will enable the Federal Government to accommodate a number of Northern students who wish to take up "Federal" subject such as Geology, Mining and Telecommunication, etc. Arrangements have therefore been made for the Secretary of the Northern Scholarships Board to submit a list of suitable candidates to the Federal Scholarships Advisory Board in due course. Some 50 Northern students who have already reached School Certificate level are now studying in three Federal Secondary Schools for the Certificate of Education Examination at the advanced level. In addition to this, there are some 136 Northern students pursuing their secondary education at various Federal Government and Voluntary Agency Secondary Schools in Lagos.

It is hoped that when these students complete their education they will consider seeking appointments in the Federal Public Service.

A branch of the Federal Training Centre will be opened at Kaduna by the end of this month and will start with an intake of 60 Northerners who have not had a full secondary education. These will train for two years and qualify as Clerks, Typists and Stenographers. There is also a class of 25 Northern students attached to the Posts and Telegraphs School at Kaduna undergoing a course of training for two years as postal workers.

Arrangements have been completed whereby the Nigerianisation Office will maintain the closest liaison with the Premier's Office in Kaduna by regular visits, to discuss ways and means of increasing the number of Northerners in the Federal service at all levels.

ROADS

Kano—Eastern Region Trunk Road

W.46. M. Muhammadu Kura asked the Minister of Works and Surveys if he will consider the desirability of straightening the road at the corners between miles 157 and 159, and 159 and 160 on the Kano-Eastern Region trunk road A in view of the frequent occurrence of fatal accidents at the corners.

The Minister of Works and Surveys : The present rehabilitation programme for that part of Trunk Road A 21 which lies in Bauchi Province does not include provision for realignment. I will, however, call for a report on the sections mentioned in the question and communicate further with the hon. Member.

Reconstruction of Ngorore Bridge

W.47. M. Usman Borkano asked the Minister of Works and Surveys what proposals he has for reconstructing Ngorore bridge at mile 17 on the Yola-Wukari road, and whether he will consider replacing the temporary bridges between Jimeta and Mubi on the same road.

The Minister of Works and Surveys : As regards the Ngorore bridge on Trunk Road A 4, the position is that the Ministry of Works and Surveys is preparing plans for a new bridge. The design and siting of the bridge require careful study in view of the seasonal changes of water level and these investigations will take some time to complete. When firm plans and estimates are ready, the Federal Government will consider the provision of funds for construction in the light of the overall financial situation.

As regards the replacement of temporary bridges on Trunk Road A 4 between Jimeta and Mubi, it has not been possible to allocate funds in the present planning period, but consideration will be given to providing funds after 1962 if Mubi should still then be within the Federation of Nigeria.

Tarring of Lagos-Daura Road

O.78. M. Haruna Wakilin Daji asked the Minister of Works and Surveys when the tarring of Trunk Road A 1 between Lagos and Daura will be completed.

The Minister of Works and Surveys : The tarring of Trunk Road A 1 should be completed within a period of from two to two and a half years from the commencement of work on the extensive programme of improvements to the road between Tegina and Daura which the Federal Government intends to put in hand as soon as possible.

Negotiations are at present in progress with a major contractor for the execution of these improvements on deferred payment terms and, if the negotiations are successfully concluded, I hope that work will be in full swing by next dry season.

12th April, 1960

COMMERCE

Palm Produce Prices

W.37. Mr M. B. Afanideh asked the Minister of Commerce and Industry, what plans he has for improving the prices of palm produce, especially in Calabar, Ogoja and Rivers Provinces.

The Minister of Commerce and Industry : The fixing of producer prices for Marketing Board produce is a Regional responsibility. By law it is the duty of the Eastern Regional Marketing Board, therefore, to control producer prices for palm produce in the Calabar, Ogoja and Rivers Province.

The Federal Government supports research work to produce higher-yielding strains for oil palm and to improve methods of production in various ways. These measures are all designed in the long run to increase producers' incomes.

In addition, since the maintenance of high and reliable standards of quality is important

to help Nigeria's competitive position in relation to other sellers, grades and standards of quality are carefully prescribed by the Federal Government in the light of both local conditions and overseas requirements, and an incentive to the improvement of quality is provided by suitable price differentials.

Regional Subsidies to Farmers

W.38. M. Usman Borkono asked the Minister of Commerce and Industry, what proposals Government have to assist Regional Governments to subsidise farmers to grow enough food to meet the needs of the growing population of this country.

The Minister of Commerce and Industry : None, Sir. As the hon. Member knows, agriculture is, under the Nigerian Constitution, a Regional subject. The Federal Government has not received any request from a Regional Government for assistance in subsidising farmers to produce foodstuffs.

13th April, 1960

FEDERAL PUBLIC SERVICE

Recruitment Policy

***O.68. Mr A. M. A. Akinloye** asked the Minister of Pensions, whether he is aware that recruitment into the Federal Public Service is based on a regional allocation at the expense of efficiency, experience and qualification; and whether he will make a statement.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Pensions : My Ministry is not aware that recruitment into the Federal Public Service is based on regional allocation.

POSTAL SERVICES

Mail between Zungeru and Yelwa

O.90. M. Muhammadu Aminu Yelwa asked the Minister of Communications, if he

would increase the mail services between Zungeru and Yelwa from two to three times a week.

The Minister of Communications : There is a mail service twice a week between Zungeru and Kontagora, and a weekly service between Kontagora and Yelwa. Two additional services a week between Kontagora and Yelwa would cost £1,560 a year, and an additional service between Zungeru and Kontagora £500 a year: three services a week between Zungeru and Yelwa would therefore cost £2,060 a year more than the existing services, and the Ministry of Communications cannot afford the expense now.

14th April, 1960

COMMUNICATIONS

Post Office at Umuahia-Ibeku

W.31. Mr C. A. Odigbo asked the Minister of Communications, how soon it is proposed to build a new and bigger post office in Umuahia-Ibeku in order to ease the congestion at the existing one which is old and inadequate.

The Minister of Communications : I hope that a new post office will be built at Umuahia-Ibeku next year should the necessary funds be available.

Post Office at Sabongidda-Ora

W.39. Mr U. O. Ayeni asked the Minister of Communications what proposals he has for the construction of a post office at Sabongidda-Ora.

The Minister of Communications : The conditions on which the Ministry of Communications will establish a post office or sub-post office, at any given place are set out in the Statement of the Policy Proposed by the Government of the Federation for the Establishment of Post Offices within Nigeria, which the House of Representatives approved as Sessional Paper No. 4 of 1957 and the Sessional Paper also explains the manner in which the volume of postal business is calculated. The sub-post office at Sabongidda-Ora is carrying on business at a rate of 37,000 units a year, and paragraph 16 of the Sessional Paper provides that the Ministry of Communications will normally consider the conversion of a Sub-Post Office into a Departmental Post Office where the units of business transacted amount to 40,000 per annum, which is the lowest point at which a staff of two postal officers and a messenger may be economically employed.

Telephones in Obudu

W.40. Mr J. U. Odey asked the Minister of Communications, how many people in Obudu applied for telephones to be installed in their premises; and if he will state the number of subscribers required to justify the installation of a switchboard in an area.

The Minister of Communications : Three individuals in Obudu have asked to be provided with telephones in their premises. The number of prospective subscribers required to justify the establishment of a new exchange varies according to technical factors arising in

each particular case, but generally there must be at least twelve prospective subscribers within a range of two miles.

INDEPENDENCE

National Flag and Anthem

O.55. Dr Kalu Ezera asked the Prime Minister what part the Federal Art Adviser or any other Nigerian artist played in the designing of our National Flag, and in the composition of our National Anthem.

The Prime Minister : The Federal Art Adviser was co-opted to the sub-committee of the National Independence Celebrations Committee which made recommendations for the National Flag. No artists as such were consulted about the National Anthem because they would not appear to be specially qualified to compose either literature or music.

Public Opinion on National Flag

***O.56. Dr Kalu Ezera** asked the Prime Minister whether he is aware that public opinion is strongly against the adoption of the newly designed tri-colour National Flag; and what action is being taken or is likely to be taken to produce a national flag generally acceptable to at least all the major political parties.

The Prime Minister : No, Sir, I am not so aware. As regards the second part of the question the National Flag was selected by the leaders of the major political parties.

DEFENCE

Military Agreements

***O.33. Dr. Kalu Ezera** asked the Minister of Defence, what proposals he had for the defence of the country from external aggression, and what military agreements there were or were likely to be made with the British Government or any other Government.

The Prime Minister of the Federation and Minister of Defence : The Royal Nigerian Military Forces and Royal Nigerian Navy have been organised, trained and equipped to defend Nigeria against external aggression. If and when any Military agreements were to be concluded with the United Kingdom Government, or any other Government, the text of such agreements would first be laid before this House for ratification.

19th April, 1960

EDUCATION

National Scientific Council

W.32. Mr C. A. Odigbo asked the Minister of Economic Development, what proposals he has for the establishment of a National Scientific Council charged with responsibility for scientific education and research.

The Minister of Education: I have undertaken to reply to this question on behalf of my colleague, the Minister of Economic Development, since my Ministry is charged with responsibility for scientific education. Responsibility for the various branches of research is divided among the Ministries, according to the subject matter.

There are no plans at present for the establishment of a National Scientific Council. I am not sure whether the hon. Member has in mind a council on the lines of that which exists in the United States of America. The impetus towards the creation of that body came, I understand, from business concerns and the funds disbursed by the Council to implement its recommendations are voluntarily subscribed by the same interests. I would welcome a parallel development in Nigeria.

If, however, the hon. Member has in mind the creation of an Advisory Committee on Scientific Education, I would be glad to give the matter consideration. There are already a number of groups interested in this subject and their work might conveniently be co-ordinated by such a body as the Joint Consultative Committee on Education.

COMMUNICATIONS

Ogoja-Obudu Mail Service

W.41. Mr J. U. Odey asked the Minister of Communications what proposals he has for running a mail van between Ogoja and Obudu.

The Minister of Communications: I propose that the existing mail service by runner between Ogoja and Obudu should be replaced by a motor service, if a contractor can be found to maintain the latter at an acceptable cost.

POLICE

Van for Patrol at Awka

W.48. Mr F. C. Ogbalu asked the Prime Minister whether he will supply a van to the Police at Awka so as to ensure an effective patrolling of the area.

The Prime Minister: Provision is made for the supply of a landrover to the Police Station at Awka in the current financial year for the purpose of carrying out mobile patrols and general police duties.

Police Barracks at Awka

W.49. Mr F. C. Ogbalu asked the Prime Minister if he will undertake as a matter of urgency the rebuilding of the dilapidated Police Barracks at Awka.

The Prime Minister: It is not intended to rebuild the police barracks at Awka at present. The need for new buildings is recognised but the funds available are required for more pressing work elsewhere. Funds are, however, available for repairs to make the buildings weather-proof.

Police Quarters at Awka

W.50. Mr F. C. Ogbalu asked the Prime Minister whether he will consider building quarters for the Assistant Superintendent of Police in charge of Awka-Onitsha rural areas now living in hired quarters in Awka.

The Prime Minister: There is no substantive post of Assistant Superintendent of Police in charge of the Awka-Onitsha rural areas. There is a post of Assistant Superintendent of Police in charge of the Onitsha rural areas but it is a supernumerary training post, set up in 1959 on the recommendation of the Police Council. The officer concerned is based in Awka and supervises the police station there as well as the one at Aguleri. It would not be appropriate—indeed, there is no authority from this legislature—to provide quarters for the holder of a post which is not substantive.

Police Posts in Awka Division

W.51. Mr F. C. Ogbalu asked the Prime Minister what proposals he has for establishing police posts at Ekwulawbia, Umunze and

Abagana to serve the three district council areas of Aguata, Orumba and Njikoka in view of the size and population of Awka Division.

The Prime Minister : The expansion programme of the Nigeria Police provides for the establishment in due course of police stations at Ekwulawbia, Ufuma and Abagana to serve the police needs of the district council areas of Aguata, Orumba and Njikoka respectively. Ufuma is considered to be more appropriate for the siting of the Police Station than Umuze.

EDUCATION

Commercial School Grants

W.69. Mr E. J. Ogunkanmi asked the Minister of Education, whether he will consider giving grants-in-aid to and recognising, such commercial schools as are organised and run on a satisfactory educational basis.

The Minister of Education : Grants-in-aid and recognition for any post-primary school in Lagos may be given under Regulations 21 and 22 of the Education (Grant-in-Aid) Regulations, 1958 provided such schools comply with the conditions required.

Two commercial schools are already in receipt of grant-in-aid under these regulations and others will be added if and when they are eligible for assistance.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

National Income

W.65. Mr U. O. Ayeni asked the Minister of Economic Development, if he will state the National income per head in the Federation.

The Minister of Economic Development : I would refer the hon. Member to my reply to Question O.6 which was published in the *Hansard* for Wednesday, 30th March, 1960.

Cost of Living Indices

W.66. Mr B. U. Ukpong asked the Minister of Economic Development, what progress has been made in the preparation of a special cost-of-living index for the blind and the lame.

The Minister of Economic Development : No special price indices are contemplated for the blind and the lame whose commodity consumption is generally indistinguishable from that of normal persons.

Veterinary Research Posts

W.67. Mr E. D. Akinbowale asked the Minister of Economic Development, how many of the senior posts in the Veterinary Research section are held by Nigerians, and what are the requisite qualifications for Technical Veterinary Officers and Veterinary Research Officers.

The Minister of Economic Development : There are 8 Nigerian Officers in senior posts in the Department of Veterinary Research. One of these is a Research Officer while the others are Veterinary Laboratory Technologists.

For the post of a Veterinary Laboratory Technologist, prospective candidates are expected to have passed the Associate Examination of the Institute of Medical Laboratory Technology. In addition, candidates who hold a technical qualification such as the Higher National Certificate in Chemistry are also considered.

The qualifications required of a Veterinary Research Officer are decided by the Veterinary Council of Nigeria and are based on Membership of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons as far as United Kingdom candidates are concerned, or its foreign equivalent recognised by that Council. In addition candidates who have obtained an honours degree in Biochemistry or a degree in Parasitology may also be engaged as Research Officers in the Department of Veterinary Research.

Forestry Research Posts

W.68. Mr E. D. Akinbowale asked the Minister of Economic Development, how many Forestry Research Officers are Nigerians; how many of them are Principal or Senior Research Officers respectively; what are the requisite qualifications for Technical Officers, and why are the posts created.

The Minister of Economic Development : There are three Nigerian Research Officers in the Department of Forest Research, of whom one is a Senior Research Officer.

The qualifications required for the post of Technical Officer differ according to the type of work on which the officer is to be engaged, and are as follows :—

(a) Forester's Certificate of the United Kingdom Forest Commission.

- (b) City and Guild's Final Certificate.
 (c) Diploma in Wood Working.

The posts are created in order to relieve Research Officers of the duty of taking charge of routine silvicultural work, and similar routine operations which will be required as the department expands, in, for example, the field of forest products research.

EDUCATION

Schools for the Blind

W.70. Mr B. A. Ajayi asked the Minister of Education, how many schools for the blind were opened during the last financial year; and what are the main occupations taught to the students in each of the schools.

The Minister of Education : None; The school for the Blind is at present under construction and modern equipment is being ordered. This school will be a primary school for blind children between the ages 5 and 14. The syllabus will be drawn up with an eye to the future vocation of pupils. As members know there are many occupations, such as those of Typist and Telephone Operator, which blind persons can do and every effort will be made not only to train these unfortunate children in productive occupations but to place them in employment after they leave school. It is intended that this school for the Blind should be of excellent quality in buildings and equipment. I am happy to be able to state that highly qualified staff have been obtained to conduct the school which will open early next year.

LABOUR

Unemployment Problem

W.71. Mr E. J. Ogunkanmi asked the Minister of Labour, what steps he is taking to solve the problem of unemployment in the Federal Territory of Lagos, particularly among those who have successfully completed a secondary school course.

The Minister of Labour : The records kept by the Employment Exchanges of those persons who are seeking employment show that at the end of March 1960, there were 5,357 adult males, 167 females, 549 secondary school leavers and 166 primary school leavers registered as in need of employment in Lagos.

My Ministry devotes its constant attention to exploring ways and means of finding suitable employment for these persons. Officers in

charge of the Employment Exchanges maintain close liaison with employers in order to secure vacancies for the unemployed. The Trade Testing Office provides facilities for the assessment of skill of unemployed artisans in order to facilitate their employment. There is a Juvenile Employment Advisory Committee in Lagos whose function is to keep constantly under review the problem of providing suitable employment for primary and secondary school leavers in Lagos. On the advice of this Committee, a short brochure entitled—Summary of Occupations for School Leavers in Lagos—was recently prepared by my Ministry and distributed to secondary schools, public libraries and reading rooms in Lagos. This is being followed up by a much more detailed and comprehensive "Careers Guide for School Leavers".

Finally, officers of my Ministry provide some vocational guidance service by visiting all secondary schools at least once a year and talking to and interviewing boys and girls in their final year at school. By this means a large number of secondary school leavers are enabled to make two choices of employment which are submitted to the various employers by my officers before the candidates actually leave school. As a result of this measure, a large number of boys and girls have been found employment before the school year ends. In short, my Ministry has taken steps to ensure that, as far as possible, secondary school leavers go straight from their class rooms into employment of their own choice.

TRANSPORT

Diesel Engine Service

W.81. Albaji Muhammadu Gauyama asked the Minister of Transport and Aviation, how soon he intends to replace locomotive engines which run between Kano and Nguru with diesel engines.

The Minister of Transport and Aviation : With the present restricted axle loading on the section Kano-Nguru, it will not be practicable to introduce a diesel service before 1962-63 at the earliest. Power policy is necessarily related to a gradual replacement of steam units in consonance with railway commitments to the coal mining industry. Budgetary provision exists for improving track standards on the Kano-Nguru section.

FEDERAL PUBLIC SERVICE

Nigerians as Assistant Secretaries

W.78. Mr A. Akomolafe asked the Minister of Pensions, how many Nigerians now hold posts of Assistant Secretary or their equivalent and above in each Ministry of the Federal Public Service.

The Minister of Pensions : 279 Nigerians hold posts of Assistant Secretary or posts which are similarly graded in the Federal Public Service, while 41 hold posts which are graded higher than that of Assistant Secretary.

Special List "B" Enrolments

W.79. Mr A. Akomolafe asked the Minister of Pensions, if he will state, under their appropriate Ministries, the number of expatriate officers who have enrolled in Special List "B".

The Minister of Pensions : The number of expatriate officers who have enrolled in Special List 'B' in the different Ministries and Extra-Ministerial Departments as at 14th April, 1960 are as follows :—

Administration (<i>see note below</i>)	82
Ministry of Commerce and Industry	22
Ministry of Communications	121
Ministry of Economic Development	36
Ministry of Education	49
Ministry of Finance	35
Ministry of Health	45
Ministry of Information	13
Ministry of Internal Affairs	9
Ministry of Labour	18
Ministry of Lagos Affairs	4
Ministry of Mines and Power	24
Ministry of Transport and Aviation	42
Ministry of Works and Surveys	69

Extra-Ministerial

Audit	6
Antiquities	1
Judicial	6
Legal	2
Royal Nigerian Navy	6
Nigeria Police	114
Total	704

*Note :—*The figure includes all Officers in the Administration who are not permanently posted to any Ministry.

Nigerians in S.A.S. Posts

W.80. Mr A. Akomolafe asked the Minister of Pensions, how many Nigerians have been appointed to posts of Senior Assistant Secretary and above in each Ministry during the last twelve months.

The Minister of Pensions : Since the 1st March, 1959, the following numbers of Nigerians have been promoted or appointed to the rank of Senior Assistant Secretary or above :

Clerk of the Parliaments	1
Administrative Officers Class I	2
Deputy Secretary (Commerce)	1
Administrative Officers Class II	7

In addition, 5 Nigerians have been appointed to the rank of Senior Assistant Secretary (Supernumerary) to enable them to obtain experience in exercising higher responsibilities.

2. Appointments or promotions are made within the Administrative Class and not in particular Ministries to which Administrative officers are only posted for duty.

TRANSPORT

Railway Line Aba to Oron

W.82. Mr B.U. Ukpog asked the Minister of Transport and Aviation, if he will consider extending the railway line from Aba *via* Ikot Ekpene to Oron, in order to facilitate the evacuation of produce in that sector of the country.

The Minister of Transport and Aviation :

No, sir. The hon. Member's attention is invited to the second part of the reply to question No. O.45 of the 5th of April, 1960.

ROADS

Tarring of Kano-Kara-Zaria Road

W.83. Alhaji Muhammadu Gauyama asked the Minister of Works and Surveys if he has plans to tar the Kano-Kara-Zaria Trunk Road A.

The Minister of Works and Surveys : I am glad to inform the hon. Member that the tarring of the Trunk Road A 1 between Kano-Kara-Zaria forms part of the extensive programme for the improvement of Trunk Road A 1 which is at present under negotiation by the Federal Government with a firm of major contractors. Assuming successful conclusion

of the negotiations, the contractors should be fully at work by the next dry season and the whole programme will take 2 to 2½ years to complete.

Maintaining Trunk Roads

W.84. Mr J. M. Damla asked the Minister of Works and Surveys, what plans he has to keep trunk roads A in a motorable condition throughout the year, particularly the road between Jos and Makkwa in the Northern Region.

The Minister of Works and Surveys : The maintenance of Trunk Roads A is undertaken by Regional Works Organisations acting as agents of the Federal Government. Every effort is made to keep such roads open throughout the year, but the hon. Member will appreciate that on untarred roads, periods of closure after heavy rain are frequently essential to enable the surface to dry out.

Assuming that the hon. Member is referring in particular to the road between Jos and Mokwa, I regret that I am unable to provide any information on this road as it is a trunk road 'B' and therefore a Regional responsibility.

Lagos—Mainland Bridge

W.85. Mr E. J. Ogunkanmi asked the Minister of Works and Surveys how soon it is proposed to construct a second bridge to link Lagos Island with the Mainland in order to ease the traffic congestion on the approaches to Carter Bridge.

The Minister of Works and Surveys : I would invite the attention of the hon. Member to columns 834 and 835 of the Official Report for the 7th April where the Minister made a full statement of the Government's intentions in this matter.

Trunk Roads in Shagamu, etc.

W.86. Mr E. J. Ogunkanmi asked the Minister of Works and Surveys what proposals are in hand for widening the trunk roads A in Shagamu, Iperu and Abeokuta.

The Minister of Works and Surveys : As regards the widening of Trunk Road A 1 at Shagamu, I have to inform the hon. Member that it has not been possible to carry out this work during the present planning period. Consideration will be given to the providing of funds after 1962. The widening of Trunk Road A 9 through Abeokuta involves very great

expense in that a large amount of valuable land would have to be acquired. At the present stage of development of the Trunk 'A' network it is considered that the national interest is better served by devoting the funds that are available to the extension of the surfaced mileage rather than to very expensive improvements on short stretches of road passing through urban areas.

I am not aware of any need for widening Trunk Road A 1 at Iperu.

POLICE

Quarters at Owerri

W.87. Mr A. U. D. Mbah asked the Prime Minister, if he will state when the mud building with a thatched roof which quarters a section of the Police at Owerri was erected; and whether he has any plans to erect better police quarters at Owerri in place of this dilapidated mud building.

The Prime Minister : The records do not show when the temporary police quarters at Owerri were erected. There is no intention at the present time of replacing them with permanent buildings as there are more pressing projects in other places with higher priority.

MILITARY FORCES

Recruitment of Women

W.103. Mr D. N. Chukwu asked the Minister of Defence, whether he has any plans for the recruitment of women into the Nigerian Military Forces.

The Prime Minister and Minister of Defence : In the Bill for a new Royal Nigerian Military Forces Ordinance, which will be presented to this House at its next meeting, provision has been made for the grant of commissions to women, and for their enlistment, in the Royal Nigerian Military Forces, with a view to the recruitment of nursing personnel to the Military Medical Service.

HEALTH

American Trained Pharmacists

W.108. Mr O. C. Ememe asked the Minister of Health, whether American-trained Pharmacists are accorded recognition by the Government for the purposes of employment in the Public Service, and whether he will make a statement in the event of their not being so recognised.

The Minister of Health : The qualification for persons entitled to be registered as Pharmacists are set out in section 9 of the Pharmacy Ordinance Chapter 169. The subsections which would regulate the registration of American-trained Pharmacists are (c) and (d) which state as follows :

“No person shall be entitled to have his name entered in the register of Chemists and Druggists unless

(i) he satisfies the Board that he possesses sufficient competent skill and knowledge as to qualify him to practise the business of a Chemist and Druggist; and

(ii) is of good character and a fit and proper person to be registered.”

Thus, like others qualifying outside of Nigeria or the United Kingdom, American-trained Pharmacists must first satisfy the Pharmacy Board before their names can be registered and thereafter must satisfy the Federal Public Service Commission that they are fit and suitable persons for employment in the Public Service. The latter aspect is of course beyond my jurisdiction. Thus, in short, they are accorded recognition but must first satisfy the Pharmacy Board in accordance with the Ordinance.

Supplementary Information

There is only one American-trained Pharmacist on the register in Nigeria. His name is G. O. Ejoegwu.

Expatriate Nursing Sisters

W.109. Mr D. N. Chukwu asked the Minister of Health, whether the Government will now cease to employ expatriate Nursing Sisters in view of the vast number of Nigerians qualifying for such appointments.

The Minister of Health : At the present moment the percentage of Nigerian Senior Nurses is over 96 but with the present rate of training I foresee no necessity to recruit any Expatriate Nursing Sisters save those in the Sister Tutor Grade in which there are not sufficient Nigerians qualified to undertake the training of our Nurses. Whether this situation will change as Medical Services increase, I cannot tell. But it appears to me that at our

present rate of expansion we should have sufficient numbers of Nigerian Nursing Sisters. Should this not turn out to be so, I will have no hesitation in recruiting such staff from outside Nigeria for the good health of the country.

PRISONS

Nigerians in Senior Posts

W.110. Mr D. N. Chukwu asked the Minister of Internal Affairs, how many Nigerians now hold senior posts in the Prisons Department, and how many did so in 1955.

The Minister of Internal Affairs : 41 Nigerians now hold Senior posts in the Prisons Department.

2. There are also twenty-four Cadet Assistant Superintendents of Prisons now under training for Senior posts, and five Assistant Executive Officers performing Executive Officer's duties.

3. In 1955 there were nine Nigerian Officers in Senior posts.

LABOUR

Unemployed Ex-servicemen

W.111. Mr D. N. Chukwu asked the Minister of Labour, how many ex-servicemen who have registered as applicants for employment at the Federal Labour Department are still unemployed.

The Minister of Labour : According to records maintained by Employment Exchanges throughout the country, there were 317 ex-servicemen registered as unemployed at 31st March, 1960. The regional distribution of this figure is as follows:—

Lagos	57
Northern Region	170
Eastern Region	75
Western Region	15
Total	<u>317</u>

This statement does not mean that all these men have never been placed in employment since the war ended. Ex-servicemen, like other members of the community, are subject to the hazards of temporary interruptions in their employment.

political parties in Nigeria to discuss the question of a suitable National Flag before Nigeria attains Independence.

The Prime Minister : No, Sir. A national flag has already been selected by the Council of Ministers and approved by the Queen.

INTERNAL AFFAIRS

Votes for Women

W.136. Mr J. M. Damla asked the Minister of Internal Affairs, whether he will consider the desirability of allowing women to vote in future elections in the Federation ; and whether he will make a statement.

The Minister of Internal Affairs : Women in the Eastern and Western Regions did vote in the last Federal Election and they will vote in future Federal Elections. They would also vote in the Southern Cameroons if it is decided to hold elections there to the Federal House.

At the Resumed Constitutional Conference in 1958 the Premier of the Northern Region stated that public opinion in the Northern Region was strongly opposed to women voting and it was then decided that the franchise would not be extended to women in the North. It is understood that there has been no change in public opinion in the Northern Region.

AVIATION

Aerodrome at Gusau

W.141. M. Abubakar Tsofo Mafara asked the Minister of Transport and Aviation when the aerodrome at Gusau will be improved in order that it may be open for use throughout the year.

The Minister of Transport and Aviation : Seasonal thunderstorms may occasionally interrupt services at Gusau aerodrome, as at any other aerodrome in Nigeria, apart from which the aerodrome is generally open for use throughout the year. The duration of a thunderstorm and its possible after effects are such that any interruption is unlikely to be prolonged. Gusau is served by one scheduled service a week, which is sufficient to meet traffic demands, and it is not considered that there is any need for improving existing facilities.

ROADS

Tarring of Ilorin, etc., Roads

W.142. M. Yusufu Ilesha asked the Minister of Works and Surveys when he will tar the Ilorin-Bussa and Kaiama-Koshuonsu roads.

The Minister of Works and Surveys : I have pointed out to the hon. Member that only the Ilorin-Kaiama section of the Ilorin-Bussa road is classified trunk 'A'. The Kaiama-Bussa section is a Northern Region responsibility. In view of the limited volume of traffic using the road, the Federal Government has no present plans for tarring the Ilorin-Kaiama section. As regards the trunk road 'A' road between Kaiama and the Dahomey frontier at Kosubosu, there are no plans for laying a bituminous surface during the current planning period as the traffic requirements are insufficient to justify the expense.

Azare to Hadejia Road

W.143. M. Shekarau Omar asked the Minister of Works and Surveys if he will consider constructing a motor road from Azare to Hadejia *via* Katagum ; and if he will make a statement.

The Minister of Works and Surveys : As a motor road to follow the route proposed by the hon. Member would be of regional rather than national importance, I regret that the Federal Government could not contemplate the provision funds for this purpose.

Yama to Potiskum Road

W.144. M. Shekarau Omar asked the Minister of Works and Surveys if he will convert the Yana-Azare-Dambam-Potiskum road to a trunk road A in view of the constant use of this road for the transportation of groundnuts and other cash and food crops.

The Minister of Works and Surveys : The policy of the Federal Government is to base the classification of roads as trunk Roads 'A' primarily on their importance as international or interregional links. I regret that the Yana-Potiskum road cannot be regarded as falling within the category of road that could be considered for up-grading to trunk 'A' status.

20th April, 1960

TRANSPORT

Ex-Indian Railway Employees

W.3. Mr R. O. Akinjide asked the Minister of Transport and Aviation, whether he is aware that there is an influx of expatriate ex-Indian Railway employees into the Nigerian Railway Corporation, thus impeding the chances of advancement of trained Nigerian technicians; and whether he will take appropriate steps to speed up Nigerianisation in that Corporation.

The Minister of Transport and Aviation : I am aware that there are some expatriate officers in the Nigerian Railway Corporation who have had previous service with Indian Railways, but their numbers are not sufficient to justify the term "influx". Out of 555 senior posts filled in the Corporation either by recruitment or promotion since October 1st, 1955, only 27 have been filled by the recruitment of officers who have had previous service in India, and of these only 2 were appointed from India direct.

Nor is it correct to say that these appointments have impeded the chances of advancement of trained Nigerian technicians. The Staff and Establishment Committee of the Corporation approves recruitments from outside the Corporation only after the Committee is satisfied that there are no suitable persons within the Corporation for promotion to existing vacancies. In such cases, the vacancies are advertised both in Nigeria and in the United Kingdom and only the best candidates available, regardless of their nationalities, are appointed, after they have been interviewed and selected by Selection Boards.

With regard to the speeding up of Nigerianisation in the Corporation, the appropriate steps are being taken and will continue to be taken. The following measures are already in hand :—

(1) The Corporation has schemes in operation for the training of Nigerians to fit them for higher appointments.

(2) Selected Nigerians are sent to the United Kingdom either for higher training to qualify them for senior appointments or to improve their skills.

In this connection, I should like to refer the hon. Member to my reply to question No. W.44 of the 6th of August 1959 and to my statement in the House on the 20th of January, 1960.

(3) At my request, the Nigerian Railway Corporation has set up a new Nigerianisation Committee comprising Nigerian Members of the Board of the Corporation to report on ways and means of speeding up Nigerianisation in the Corporation.

(4) The Federal Government has recently introduced a new procedure for the award of scholarships for higher training to suitable junior officers of Corporations to qualify them for senior appointments on the successful completion of their courses.

COMMERCE

Industries in Ikot Ekpene Division

W.52. Mr B. U. Ukpog asked the Minister of Commerce and Industry, if he will consider establishing industries in Ikot Ekpene Division, in view of its congenial geographical position.

The Minister of Commerce and Industry : The hon. Member is referred to the answer given to Question O.77 on the 11th April.

The Federal Government has no plans to set up industries in the Ikot Ekpene Division.

Establishment of Chocolate Factories

W.53. Mr E. J. Ogunkanmi asked the Minister of Commerce and Industry, whether he will consider establishing chocolate factories in Aiyedade and Egbedore where the principal agricultural product is cocoa.

The Minister of Commerce and Industry : The hon. Member is referred to the answer given to Question O.77 on the 11th April.

The Federal Government has no plans to set up chocolate factories in Aiyedade and Egbedore.

Import of Bentonite

W.11. Mr D. N. Chukwu asked the Minister of Commerce and Industry, what quantities of bentonite have been imported into Nigeria in each of the years 1957, 1958 and 1959, and where was it manufactured.

The Minister of Commerce and Industry : I am advised by the Office of Statistics that bentonite is not separately coded and it is therefore not possible for statistics of imports to be supplied for the years 1957, 1958 and 1959.

Answer to Written Question No. 92

W.92. Mr D. N. Chukwu asked the Minister of Commerce and Industry, what was the total quantity and value of bentonite imported into Nigeria in the year 1959-60 by each of the Government Departments and private companies concerned.

The Minister of Commerce and Industry : I must refer the hon. Member to the answer given to Written Question No. 91.

TRANSPORT**Landing Ground at Ogbomosho**

W.118. Mr V. L. Lajide asked the Minister of Transport and Aviation whether he will consider the possibility of constructing a landing ground at Ogbomosho in view of the fact that the people of Ogbomosho and Ejigbo travel constantly and in large numbers to Ghana by air.

The Minister of Transport and Aviation : Ogbomosho is situated only 30 miles from Ilorin and less than 60 from Ibadan, and is connected to both by a first-class motor road. The average number of air passengers picked up or put down at Ibadan is of the order of 1.5 per day; it is unlikely that Ogbomosho, which is a considerably smaller community than Ibadan, would have any greater traffic offering. The construction of a landing ground at Ogbomosho could not therefore be justified on economic grounds.

Air Accidents in Nigeria

W.119. Mr D. N. Chukwu asked the Minister of Transport and Aviation, how many air accidents have occurred in Nigeria each of the years within the period 1951 to 1959; and how many persons lost their lives in these accidents.

The Minister of Transport and Aviation : The information required is as follows :—

Year	Number of Accidents	Number of Persons killed
1951	3	30
1952	1	—
1953	1	—
1954	1	—
1955	2	13
1956	1	32
1957	7	—
1958	5	4
1959	4	2
	—	—
Total	25	81
	—	—

2. This information covers the total number of accidents that occurred to aircraft in Nigeria, whatever the country of their registration, and includes aircraft registered in France and the United Kingdom as well as Nigeria.

COMMUNICATIONS**Postal Agencies in Niger Delta Area**

***O.195. Mr N. A. Ezonbodor** asked the Minister of Communications, what plans he has to establish a network of postal agencies in the Niger Delta area; and whether he is aware that many towns in this area are in need of postal facilities.

The Minister of Communications : The conditions on which the Ministry of Communications will establish a post office, sub-post office, or postal agency at any given place are set out in the Statement of the Policy Proposed by the Government of the Federation for the establishment of Post Offices within Nigeria, which the House of Representatives approved as Sessional Paper No. 4 of 1957. There are 110 postal agencies in the Niger Delta, and seven post offices, or sub-post offices, at places cut off from the country's main road system. The Ministry of Communications will continue to improve postal facilities in the Delta as fast as it can with the money at its disposal.

Telephone Service at Katsina

***O.196. Alhaji Damale Kaita** asked the Minister of Communications, what steps he has taken to improve the telephone service at Katsina to relieve the congestion there.

The Minister of Communications : I assume that the hon. Member's question has been prompted by delays in trunk calls from Katsina, and I hope that within the next year the number of channels from Katsina to Kano will be increased by three.

DEVELOPMENT

Next Census

O.197. Mallam Muhammadu Sagir Umar asked the Minister of Economic Development when another Census will be carried out.

The Minister of Economic Development : A Census will be carried out within the next two years ; the exact timing is now the subject of consultation with Regional Governments.

Benefit from Niger Delta Development Board

Mr N. A. Ezonbodor asked the Minister of Economic Development if he is aware that many places such as Ogbe-Ijoh, Gbaramatu, Egbema and Aregbo in the "Special Area" have not benefited from the creation of the Niger Delta Development Board ; and what he proposes to do to assist the people of these areas.

The Minister of Economic Development : I am fully aware that no part of the "Special Area" has as yet benefited from the Niger Delta Development Board, because the Board has not yet been created. In this connection the hon. Member is referred to my answers to questions O.91, 92 and 93.

"Special Area" Development Plan

O.199. Mr N. A. Ezonbodor asked the Minister of Economic Development, to what extent the Federal Government has implemented the ten-year Development Plan made for the "Special Area".

The Minister of Economic Development : The Regulations setting up a Development Board for the Special Area have been

approved both by the Eastern and Western Governments and by the Council of Ministers. These Regulations will be published shortly in the "Official Gazette" of the Federal Government. It will be the duty of the Board to plan for the Area's development.

Tribes in Nigeria

O.208. Mallam Muhammadu Sagir asked the Minister of Economic Development, how many tribes there are in Nigeria, and which is the largest.

The Ministry of Economic Development : There were as many as fifty tribes mentioned in the 1952 Population Census of Nigeria, and, these were by no means considered to be exhaustive. Of these, the Hausas formed the largest unit with a population of 5,500,000. Other major tribal units include the Ibos, 5,100,000 ; the Yorubas, 5,000,000 and the Fulanis, 3,100,000.

HEALTH

Number of People per Doctor

O.201. M. Ali Monguno asked the Minister of Health, if he will state the number of people per doctor in the Federation ; what percentage of the total number of doctors is Nigerian, and what percentage is not English.

The Minister of Health : The estimated population of the Federation in 1959 was some 35,284,000 and at the end of December there were 958 doctors on the register which gives an average of one doctor for every 36,800 persons or so.

Thirty-five per cent of the doctors were Nigerian, while 51 per cent came from British Commonwealth countries but principally from the U.K. The remaining 14 per cent came from a variety of other countries outside the Commonwealth. The register was published in *Gazette* No. 14, Vol. 47 of 17th March, 1960 from which the hon. Member will see details of each individual doctor.

21st April, 1960

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

Nigerians in Senior Grades

O.21. Dr K. Ezera asked the Prime Minister if he will state how many Nigerians are serving in the senior grades in the External Affairs section of the Prime Minister's Office, indicating the grades in which they serve.

The Prime Minister : There are five Nigerians and one expatriate in the External Affairs Division of the Prime Minister's Office. The posts filled by Nigerians are the Deputy Secretary who is in charge of the office, and four Assistant Secretaries. A Nigerian Senior Assistant Secretary has been posted and will assume duty in a few days.

MILITARY FORCES**Service Conditions**

O.172. Mr A. U. D. Mbah asked the Prime Minister, whether there are adequate measures to improve service conditions in the Army, Police Force and the Navy in order to ensure that there is no frustration among members of these forces.

The Prime Minister : The need to maintain a high standard of morale in the Royal Nigerian Military Forces, the Royal Nigerian Navy and the Nigeria Police is fully appreciated by the Government and the conditions of service and general welfare of officers and men serving in these forces are kept under constant review. In particular, every effort is being made, within the limit of funds available, to provide them with modern accommodation.

POLICE**Station in Lowland Area**

O.202. Mr G. Yilgwen asked the Prime Minister whether he is aware that there is no Police Station in the Lowland area in the Northern Region; and whether he will consider the desirability of establishing one there.

The Prime Minister : Yes. There is, however, a Native Authority Police Station at Shendam. I shall certainly consider the

desirability of establishing a Nigeria Police Station in the area when I am advised it is desirable to do so.

EDUCATION**King's College Prospective Students**

O.175. Mr A. M. A. Akinloye asked the Minister of Education, why fifty per cent of the places in King's College, Lagos are reserved for prospective students of Northern Region origin; and whether the students admitted under that arrangement pass the usual Entrance Examination.

The Minister of Education : Students are admitted annually to King's College for both the School Certificate Course and also for the Higher School Certificate Course. In the case of the former no places are reserved for students of Northern Region origin though an attempt is made to secure a good representation from each Region provided students are of the necessary calibre. Fifteen places out of approximately 40 on the Higher School Certificate course are, however, reserved for Northern Region students. This is part of a scheme designed to attract Northerners into the Federal Service. Every student admitted is required to pass the entrance examination which is set by the West African Examinations Council.

23rd April, 1960**INDUSTRY****Revolving Loans Fund**

W.54. Mr B. A. Ajayi asked the Minister of Commerce and Industry, how much of the Revolving Loan Fund has been paid out, and what is the pattern of its distribution throughout the Federation.

The Minister of Commerce and Industry : No loans have yet been paid out from the Revolving Loans Fund for Industry.

2. The advisory Committee met for the first time on the 11th April, when it considered 32 applications. The Committee decided to recommend that loans should be granted to two applicants, one from the Eastern Region and one from the Western Region; that 13 applications should be deferred pending further reports; that 16 should be rejected; and that one applicant should be advised to re-apply in twelve months' time.

POLICE**Strength of Women Constables**

W.88. Mr D. N. Chukwu asked the Prime Minister, what was the strength of women constables of the Nigeria Police Force as at 31st December, 1959; and how many of the policewomen were recruited from each Region and the Southern Cameroons.

The Prime Minister : I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to Parliamentary Question No. O.26 where I invited the House to agree that we have now progressed beyond thinking in terms of tribal groupings. The strength of women constables in the Nigeria Police as at the 31st of December, 1959, was 74.

TENSION IN LAFIA DIVISION

W.128. Mr P. O. Tarkende asked the Prime Minister, if he is aware of the tension in

Lafia Division which has resulted in the deaths of five people; and whether he will make a statement?

The Prime Minister: A number of incidents resulting in breaches of the peace were reported to have occurred in Lafia Division in the early part of March. As a result of these incidents, on the 18th March, three riot units of the Nigeria Police accompanied by the Resident, Benue Province, entered the town of Obi to arrest 10 men wanted as witnesses by the Lafia Native Authority Court. The police party was met by a hostile crowd of some 600 armed men. They were called upon to lay down their arms and hand over to the police the 10 wanted men. The crowd refused and became hostile. The Resident ordered the crowd to disperse but they took no notice.

As the crowd became more threatening the Police threw tear gas grenades and made baton charges to disperse them, but without success. The Resident then went forward to talk to them but the good he did was undone by a number of old men at the back of the crowd who were constantly urging those to whom the Resident had spoken to take no notice of what he had said. After about half-an-hour the crowd had become so threatening that the Police decided to withdraw. At this point arrows were fired at the Police and one police constable was seriously injured. In order to extricate themselves from the increasingly difficult position the Police were obliged to open fire, as a result of which 5 members of the crowd were killed and 5 wounded. Arrows continued to be shot at the Police who were obliged to fight a rearguard action out of the town but without receiving or inflicting any further casualties.

Additional Nigeria Police Units were subsequently drafted into the area and a number of arrests made. No further trouble has been reported from Lafia Division.

CALABAR PROVINCE

Minority Council

W.145. Mr I. A. Brown asked the Prime Minister, what plans are being made to establish without further delay the Minority Council for the people of the old Calabar Province as agreed by the last Constitutional Conference in London.

The Prime Minister: The establishment of a Calabar Minority Area Council is within the executive authority of the Eastern Region Government.

FEDERAL MINISTERS

Declaration of Business Interests

W.146. Mr O. C. Ememe asked the Prime Minister, whether all Federal Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries have declared their interests in foreign business firms operating in Nigeria; and if he will make a statement.

The Prime Minister: On appointment all Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries are required to resign any directorships they may hold, except honorary directorships and directorships in connection with philanthropic undertakings. They are also required to disclose to the Governor-General in confidence a full list of their holdings in stocks and shares in all companies.

MINES AND POWER

Minerals in Kano Province

W.72. Alhaji Muhammadu Gauyama asked the Minister of Mines and Power, whether he has any plans to prospect for minerals in Kano Province; and if he will make a statement.

The Minister of Mines and Power: Liruein-Kano, in the South of Kano Province, has been known for a long time as an important source of tin and columbite. Before World War II, columbite was won as a by-product of tin mining in this area, but after the war it became, next to the Jos Plateau, one of the most important sources of columbite in Nigeria. In addition, a large body of granite containing the radio-active mineral pyrochlore is known to occur in the Kaffo Valley at Liruein-Kano and this has been investigated by geologists of the Atomic Energy Division of the Geological Survey of Great Britain and by drilling by the Geological Survey of Nigeria, who has also mapped the area in detail. Apart from Liruein-Kano no other sources of mineralisation are known in Kano Province.

Electricity to Hadejia and Malamaduri

W.73. Alhaji Muhammadu Gauyama asked the Minister of Mines and Power, what plans he has to supply Hadejia and Malamaduri with electricity.

The Minister of Mines and Power : No plans at present have been made for the electrical development of Hadejia and Malamaduri. The electrification of these townships could only be considered if they were included in any schedule of towns submitted by the Northern Regional Government for development in a second phase of the New Towns Development Programme. However, an enquiry from the Northern Ministry of Works has recently been received by the Electricity Corporation of Nigeria concerning the possibility of supplying Hadejia with electric current.

Electricity to Aiyedade and Egbedore

W.74. Mr E. J. Ogunkanmi asked the Minister of Mines and Power, when Aiyedade and Egbedore in Oshun Division will be supplied with electricity in view of the importance of these towns to the commercial life of Nigeria.

The Minister of Mines and Power : No plans are at present being made to supply Aiyedade and Egbedore with electricity and the electrical development of these townships could only be considered if they were included in any schedule of towns submitted by the Western Regional Government for such development, in the second phase of the New Towns Development Programme.

Prospecting in Ekiti Division

W.75. Mr B. A. Ajayi asked the Minister of Mines and Power, what specific prospectings for minerals have been carried out in Ekiti Division ; and what are the detailed results of the investigations.

The Minister of Mines and Power : Photogeological mapping of Sheet No. 244, which covers the greater part of Ekiti Division, Ondo Province, was carried out by a photogeologist from the Directorate of Overseas Geological Surveys in 1957. Field mapping was commenced in 1958, concurrently with an investigation of the distribution of heavy minerals in alluvial stream deposits. A search for radio-active minerals was carried out in 1959 by an officer of the Atomic Energy Division of the Geological Survey of Great Britain. Apart from small occurrences of tin and tantalite, no deposits of economic minerals have been located to date.

Electricity Supply to Awka

W.76. Mr F. C. Ogbalu asked the Minister of Mines and Power, why Awka has not been supplied with electricity, in view of its teeming population and its nearness to Oji River Power Station.

The Minister of Mines and Power : It is proposed to carry out a survey to determine the economics of supplying Awka with electricity, and if the revenue which can be anticipated justifies the capital cost which will be involved, this town will be included in the second phase of the New Towns Development Programme.

Electricity Supply to Ikot Ekpene

W.77. Mr B. U. Ukpong asked the Minister of Mines and Power, whether Ikot Ekpene will be supplied with electricity this year as a matter of priority.

The Minister of Mines and Power : Plans for development of electricity supplies in the Eastern Region include the construction of a transmission line from Aba to Calabar via Ikot-Ekpene and Uyo. All the foregoing townships will receive electric current from the new Afam Power Station which is scheduled for commission in mid 1962, and it is anticipated the proposed Ikot-Ekpene scheme will be completed by the end of that year.

Oji River Power Station

W.115. Mr D. N. Chukwu asked the Minister of Mines and Power, what progress has been made in the construction of the second stage of the power station at Oji River.

The Minister of Mines and Power : The present stage of construction at the Oji River power station which includes the addition of one 10,000 KW set is scheduled for completion by the middle of this year. A further 10,000 KW set has recently been ordered, and is scheduled for commissioning by the latter part of 1962.

Awgu Supply from Oji

W.117. Mr D. N. Chukwu to asked the Minister of Mines and Power, when Awgu will be supplied with electricity from Oji River Power Station.

The Minister of Mines and Power : It is not at present possible for economic reasons

to supply electricity to Awgu township. However, as soon as it has been ascertained that demand for electricity there will be enough to justify the high capital cost of the transmission line for the purpose the project will be considered.

Land after Prospecting

W.139. Mr J. M. Damla asked the Minister of Mines and Power, if farmers whose lands were acquired for the purpose of prospecting for minerals will be given back their lands after the prospecting companies no longer require them.

The Minister of Mines and Power : Yes, Sir.

EDUCATION

Primary Schools in Lagos

W.149. Mr L. J. Dosunmu asked the Minister of Education, if he will state how much the Government has spent on the building of primary schools in Lagos within the last three years, indicating the amount paid to each voluntary agency for the purpose.

The Minister of Education : A total of £1,093,060 was expended on primary school buildings in Lagos between April 1957 and April 1960. Of this amount £77,224 was not allocated to Voluntary Agencies being expended on Government Schools, furniture, equipment and miscellaneous small items. The remainder, £1,015,836 was divided between Voluntary Agencies as follows :—

	£
Roman Catholic Mission Schools	258,106
Anglican Schools	236,820
Methodist Schools	100,496
Baptist Schools	28,546
Salvation Army Schools	12,582
Apostolic Church Schools	3,384
African Church Schools	37,447
United Native African Church Schools	11,470
United African Methodist Church Schools	23,170
Ansar-Ud-Deen Society Schools	96,916
Ahmadiyya Movement Schools	25,694
Jamatul Islamiyya Society Schools	36,469

	£
Shamsu-Deen Society Schools	1,905
Fazl-I-Omar Schools	3,380
Zumratul Islamiyya Society Schools	28,491
Private Schools	35,349
Lagos Town Council Municipal Schools	75,611

Scholarships for Professional Courses

W.150. Mr L. J. Dosunmu asked the Minister of Education the number of scholarships for professional courses awarded by the Federal Government within the last three years, and how many of these were awarded to students of Lagos origin.

The Minister of Education : The number of scholarships awarded in 1957 was 192. I regret that there is no record of how many of these awards went to students of Lagos origin. The number of awards made in 1958 was 208 of which 17 went to students of Lagos origin. In 1959 the total number of awards was 375 of which 20 went to students of Lagos origin.

Secondary School Scholarships

W.151. Mr L. J. Dosunmu asked the Minister of Education the number of secondary school scholarships awarded in 1958 and 1959; and how many of these were awarded to students of Lagos origin.

The Minister of Education : The number of scholarships awarded to students in secondary schools in Lagos from the vote under my control in 1958 and 1959 were 18 and 22 respectively. Of those awarded in 1958 one went to a student of Lagos origin; of those awarded in 1959 eight went to students of Lagos origin. These scholarships are designed to assist needy students already in the schools and are awarded on the recommendation of the Local Education Committee.

In addition to the above mentioned scholarships, certain institutions in Lagos award scholarships designed to cover boarding or tuition fees alone.

FINANCE

Government Funds and Reserves

W.152. Mr V. L. Lajide asked the Minister of Finance, if he will state the amount of Government Funds or Reserves in each of the alien and indigenous banks; and what proposals he has to encourage the indigenous banks.

The Minister of Finance: Under the provisions of the Central Bank Ordinance (No. 24 of 1958) the Central Bank is entrusted with the Federal Government's banking business in Nigeria, but where it has no Branches or where the Minister so directs, the Federal Government may maintain accounts with other banks in Nigeria. The Federal Government's fixed investment in the Central Bank of Nigeria is £1½ million in the form of the Central Bank's capital. The Federal Government's balances with the Central Bank may be ascertained from the Central Bank's Statements of Assets and Liabilities published in the *Official Gazette* at fortnightly intervals.

2. Within the Lagos area all the Federal Government's banking business has been transferred to the Central Bank with the exception of a few minor accounts which remain with commercial banks. In the outskirts of Lagos a very small part of the Federal Government's banking business is conducted for convenience through whichever branch of a commercial bank happens to be the most conveniently situated.

3. In the Regions, Federal Government banking business is conducted through the agency of the Regional Governments and use is made of bank accounts operated by the Regional Governments.

4. It is not therefore possible to state at any moment what amount of Federal Government funds may be on deposit with commercial banks whether alien or indigenous.

5. The Federal Government's banking business is only a very small part of the total banking business carried on in Nigeria. In my Budget Speech I outlined a number of measures to encourage the banks.

TRANSPORT

Re-opening of Opobo Port

W.159. Mr I. A. Brown asked the Minister of Transport and Aviation, how soon it is proposed to effect the re-opening of Opobo port.

The Minister of Transport and Aviation: The Port of Opobo will be reopened when technical and financial considerations permit. I regret that I cannot at this stage say when this will be.

Railway Corporation—Assistant
General Manager

W.160. Mr A. F. Odulana asked the Minister of Transport and Aviation, if he is aware that the Nigerian promoted to the post of Assistant General Manager in the Nigerian Railway Corporation about two years ago has not yet been given full powers to act in the office to which he is promoted; and if he will make a statement.

The Minister of Transport and Aviation: No, Sir. The hon. Member is no doubt referring to the present Assistant General Manager (Staff) of the Nigerian Railway Corporation. This Officer was promoted substantively to his present post in October, 1956 and apart from the period November, 1959 to February, 1960 during which he acted as Secretary to the Corporation, he has, since his promotion, always exercised the full powers of his office.

WORKS

Tunnels between Lagos and Apapa,
and Iddo

W.161. Mr V. L. Lajide asked the Minister of Works and Surveys if he will consider the possibility of constructing tunnels between Lagos and Apapa, and Lagos and Iddo as a preventive measure against aggression on an independent Nigeria.

The Minister of Works and Surveys: I regret that I do not consider the hon. Member's suggestion to be one that Government could accept. The construction of tunnels between Lagos and Apapa, and Lagos and Iddo would cost many million pounds and the additional protection provided would be small since in time of war there would be danger of the exits being blocked by enemy action.

25th April, 1960

ROADS

Ajassepo narrow bridge

O.220. Mr P. B. Olatunde asked the Minister of Works and Surveys what proposals he has for widening the dangerous and narrow bridge at Ajassepo and for straightening the dangerous corners at Ilako and Orisa on the Ilorin-Kabba trunk road A.

The Minister of Works and Surveys : I regret to inform the hon. Members that there are no funds available for widening the bridge at Ajassepo during the current planning period.

Straightening of corners on the Ilorin-Kabba trunk road A. 13 is likewise not provided for in the current programme.

These works, desirable though they are, have had to give place to more urgent projects. It is hoped that in the post-1962 planning period it will prove possible to improve this road.

Connecting Azare and Gashua

O.221. M. Shekarau Omar asked the Minister of Works and Surveys if he will consider the desirability of connecting Azare to Gashua via Sokoto.

The Minister of Works and Surveys : No, Sir. I understand that Azare is already connected to Gashua by a regional road passing through Hadeijia and Nguru. I agree that the route proposed by the hon. Member via Gololo would be shorter and straighter, but it would still be a road of regional rather than national importance. I therefore regret that the Federal Government could not consider the building of a trunk road 'A' to follow the route proposed.

Bridge to join Abonnema to Degema

O.228. Mr W. O. Briggs asked the Minister of Works and Surveys whether he is aware that a bridge joining Abonnema to Degema will be of immense economic value to people in the Rivers area as such a route would link places in this area to Port Harcourt which is

the nerve centre of trade in the Eastern Region ; and whether he will cause such a bridge to be constructed without delay.

The Minister of Works and Surveys : I am afraid, Sir, that I have no information on the economic value of a bridge joining Abonnema to Degema. There are no Federal trunk roads in the vicinity of either of these places and the question of a bridge is therefore one for the Eastern Region Government.

Agbor bridge widening

O.229. Mr J. B. Eboigbodi asked the Minister of Works and Surveys what proposals he has for widening the bridges on the trunk road A from Benin to Agbor, especially the one at Agbor which has now become a death-trap.

The Minister of Works and Surveys : I regret that funds will not be available in the current planning period for the replacement of bridges on the Benin-Agbor road. They are included in those which will be surveyed by the Crown Agents Engineering Team at present in the country, and consideration will be given to the provision of funds for rebuilding these bridges after 1962.

Ajilete Bridge

O.230. Mr D. K. Aihonsu asked the Minister of Works and Surveys when the narrow and weak bridge between Ajilete and Oke-Odan on the Sango Otta-Idiroko road will be replaced with a more adequate one.

The Minister of Works and Surveys : I presume that the hon. Member is referring to the bridge generally known as the Ajilete bridge. I agree that the present bridge is inadequate. Site investigations have been carried out and a new bridge is being designed in my Ministry.

There is no allocation of funds for this bridge in the current Economic Programme, but I shall not lose sight of the project when considering the post-1962 construction programme.

used were temporary structures designed by the C.F.E.O. (North) which were found to be very suitable.

3. In Lagos, 117 semi-permanent polling booths were made by the Public Works Department at a cost of £13,013. During the last elections a total of 24,000 polling stations were used, and if all had been built to the Lagos pattern, the cost would have been approximately £2,500,000. It is considered that such expenditure would not be justified even if the money were available at the time of a future election. The special arrangement made for Lagos was necessary because it is a very densely populated urban centre.

LABOUR

Unemployment in Nigeria

W.217. M. Wada Nas asked the Minister of Labour, if he is aware that there is mass unemployment in the Federal territory; and what steps he intends to take to improve the position.

The Minister of Labour : I have dealt adequately with the subject of this question when replying to the motion on "Unemployment in Nigeria" debated in this House on the 19th April and in my answers to questions Nos. W.43 of the 11th April, O. 80 of the 12th April and W. 71 of the 16th April, 1960.

2. I am aware that, at the end of March, 1960, there was a total of 6,239 persons registered at the Adult and Juvenile Employment Exchanges in Lagos as in need of employment. As I have already stated in reply to another question, employment officers in the two Employment Exchanges in Lagos devote their constant attention to exploring ways and means of finding suitable employment for these persons. The existing facilities offered by the Employment Exchanges are quite adequate to deal with the situation.

Assistance to Welfare Centres

W.218. Mr P. E. Ekanem asked the Minister of Labour how many Welfare Centres there are in the Federal territory; how many of these centres are owned and run by Government, Voluntary Agencies, private individuals and local Government bodies; how many of those not owned by the Government receive financial assistance from Government, and how much is granted in each case.

The Minister of Labour : If the question is in respect of Community Centres, then my Ministry is responsible for establishing and running 6 such centres in the Federal Territory of Lagos. They are all financed from funds provided by the Federal Government. I am not aware of any centre owned or run by Voluntary Agencies or any other body and, accordingly, no funds are provided as grants in aid.

27th April, 1960

COMMUNICATIONS

Cause of Aba Exchange Fire

O.147. Mr H. O. Chuku asked the Minister of Communications, what was the cause of the outbreak of fire in the newly completed automatic telephone exchange building in Aba; and what is the total cost of damage done by the fire.

The Minister of Communications : The Board of Enquiry set up by the Minister of Finance to investigate the causes of the fire in the new telephone exchange at Aba last January has not produced its final report yet, and it is not yet possible to say what the total cost of making good the damage will be.

Cost of Aba Exchange

O.148. Mr H. O. Chuku asked the Minister of Communications, what is the cost of the automatic telephone exchange at Aba.

The Minister of Communications : But for the fire which broke out last January the new automatic telephone exchange at Aba would have cost approximately £230,000 when completed.

Mail Services in Ekiti Division

O.150. Mr A. Akomolafe asked the Minister of Communications, what steps are being taken to introduce daily mail services in Ado District of Ekiti Division.

The Minister of Communications : As explained in the Statement of the Policy proposed by the Government of the Federation for the Establishment of Post Offices within Nigeria, which the House of Representatives approved as Sessional Paper No. 4 of 1957, the Ministry of Communications, in the ordinary way accepts responsibility for delivering mails to post offices and sub-post offices only. In the Ekiti Division, there is a daily mail service to the post offices at Ado Ekiti and Ikerre, and to the sub-post offices at Ikole and Ijero. The lorries maintaining it call on their way at the Ifaki, Ido-Ekiti, Ushi-Ekiti, Aromoko, Igede, Uyin, and Oye Postal Agencies.

Udi Post Office cost

O.234. Mr G. O. D. Eneh asked the Minister of Communications, what is the total cost of building the post office and staff quarters at Udi.

The Minister of Communications : The total cost of building the post office and staff quarters at Udi is likely to be of the order of ₦5,650, when all bills have been presented and settled.

Sapon market post office

O.258. Mr A. Adedamola asked the Minister of Communications, when work will commence on the construction of the proposed post office at Sapon Market in Abeokuta.

The Minister of Communications : I expect that the post office to which the hon. Member refers will be built next year.

Sub-post office at Eha-Amufu

O.259. Mr F. A. M. Amadi asked the Minister of Communications, when it is proposed to open the sub-post office at Eha-Amufu for which a clerk successfully completed a course of training at the Posts and Telegraphs Training School, Enugu over three months ago ; and whether any conditions still remain to be fulfilled before the post office is opened.

The Minister of Communications : So far the Eha-Amufu Local Council has declined to sign a bond of the type described in paragraph 12 (6) of Sessional Paper No. 4 of 1957, indemnifying the Ministry of Communications against loss of stock or money, and consequences of dishonesty or neglect on the part of a sub-postmaster, or any person employed

by him, and until a local government body signs such a bond the sub-post office to which the hon. Member refers cannot be opened.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Agricultural Research Stations

***O.273. Mr F. A. M. Amadi** asked the Minister of Economic Development, how soon he proposes to establish agricultural research stations for sugar cane, rice and coffee ; how many such stations already exist in the Northern, Western and Eastern Regions respectively under the aegis of the Federal Government ; and where they are located.

The Minister of Economic Development : The establishment of agricultural research stations involves a considerable amount of planning and subsequent expenditure if they are to serve the useful purpose for which they are established. It is considered therefore that it is at present more advantageous to concentrate our limited available financial resources on a few projects such as rice, maize and cocoa in a select number of research stations. There is a rice research station at Badeggi in the Northern Region but so far there are no research stations established for sugar cane or coffee under the aegis of the Federal Government.

INDEPENDENCE

National Anthem and Flag

W.162. Mr E. C. Akwivu asked the Prime Minister, whether the views of the Regional Governments were previously sought on the choice of the Nigerian National Anthem, the music to the National Anthem, and the Nigerian National Flag ; and if he will make a statement.

The Prime Minister : When the National Committees for Independence Celebrations were formed each Regional Government was invited to nominate a Minister to sit on the committee. This has enabled the Regional Governments to make known their views on the various subjects such as the National Anthem and the National Flag.

COMMUNICATIONS

Telephones in Aba South

W.93. Mr O. C. Ememe asked the Minister of Communications, how soon telephone facilities will be provided for the headquarters of the two Rural District Council in Aba South.

The Minister of Communications : For an account of extensions to the telephone system which have been or will be carried out during the current economic planning period I refer the hon. Member to Sessional Paper No. 8 of 1957, from which he will observe that there is no provision for installing telephone at or near the headquarters of the Asa and Ndoki Rural District Councils.

Sub-Post Office at Agwe

W.94. Mr O. C. Ememe asked the Minister of Communications, how soon a sub-post office will be built at Agwe in Aba Division, in view of the dense population there.

The Minister of Communications : Sessional Paper No. 4 of 1957, besides detailing the Federal Government's intentions with regard to the establishment of post office, sub-post offices, and postal agencies during the current economic planning period, explains how the volume of postal business is calculated for this purpose ; before a postal agency can be converted into a sub-post office it must carry on business at a rate of not less than 24,000 units a year, and the current rate at the Agwe postal agency is 11,353 units a year.

Divisional Headquarters with Post Offices

W.95. M. Sule Abba Bui asked the Minister of Communications, how many Divisional Headquarters have been provided with post offices, and how many have not yet been so provided.

The Minister of Communications : There are post offices or sub-post offices at fifty-five Divisional headquarters in Nigeria ; at one Divisional headquarters a sub-post office is being converted into a post office, and at another a postal agency is being converted into a sub-post office. At seven Divisional headquarters there are postal agencies, doing comparatively little business.

Telecommunication Services in Eastern Region

W.99. Mr D. N. Chukwu asked the Minister of Communications, whether he will make a statement on his recent visit to the Eastern Region in connection with the development of telecommunication services there.

The Minister of Communications : My recent tour of the Eastern Region was intended to provide me with a background knowledge of the activities of the Posts and Telegraphs and Meteorological Divisions of my Ministry. The information which I gathered during the tour has proved extremely useful and will greatly assist me in the formulation of policy for my Ministry.

Telephone Exchange for Gusau

W.131. M. Abubakar Tsofo Mafara asked the Minister of Communications, when he will supply Gusau town with an automatic telephone exchange, in view of the fact that the town will be supplied with electricity this year.

The Minister of Communications : I expect that a telephone exchange will be installed at Gusau within the next twelve months.

Postal Agency at Bokkos

W.133. Mr J. M. Damla asked the Minister of Communications, if he has plans to establish a postal agency at Bokkos in Pankshin Division.

The Minister of Communications : The suggestion made in 1957 that there should be a postal agency at Bokkos was dropped by the individual from whom it emanated. The conditions on which the Ministry of Communications will open a postal agency at any given place are explained in Sessional Paper No. 4 of 1957.

Telephone Facilities for Auyo, etc.

W.55. Alhaji Muhammadu Gauyama asked the Minister of Communications, if he has any plans to provide Auyo, Keffin-Hause, Bulangu, Guri and Kirikasamma with telephone facilities.

The Minister of Communications : The Federal Government's proposals for extending the Nigerian telephone system during the current economic planning period are set out in the Statement on the Policy proposed by the Government of the Federation for the Development of Telecommunications within Nigeria, which the House of Representatives approved as Sessional Paper No. 8 of 1957. There is no provision in the Sessional Paper for installing telephones at Auyo, Keffin-Hause, Bulangu, Guri or Kirikasamma, and the Ministry of Communications, I am sorry to say, has no money for these purposes.

Telephone Facilities for Kaugama, etc.

W.56. Alhaji Muhammadu Gauyama asked the Minister of Communications, what proposals he has for providing Kaugama, Garun Gabas and Birniwa with telephone facilities.

The Minister of Communications : The Federal Government's proposals for extending the Nigerian Telephone system during the current economic planning period are set out in the Statement on the Policy proposed by the Government of the Federation for the Development of Telecommunications within Nigeria, which the House of Representatives approved as Sessional Paper No. 8 of 1957. There is no provision in the Sessional Paper for installing telephones at Kaugama, Garun Gabas, or Birniwa, and the Ministry of Communications, I am sorry to say, has no money for these purposes at the present.

Postal Agencies to sub-Post Offices

W.57. Mr B. A. Ajayi asked the Minister of Communications, when it is proposed to convert the postal agencies at Ise-Emure, Igbara-Odo and Ilawe to sub-post offices.

The Minister of Communications : The conditions on which the Ministry of Communications will establish a sub-post office at any given place are set out in the Statement of the Policy Proposed by the Government of the Federation for the establishment of Post Offices within Nigeria, and the Sessional Paper explains the manner in which the volume of Postal business is calculated. To be eligible for conversion into a sub-post office a postal agency must carry on business at a rate of at least 24,000 units a year; the Ise-Emure, Igbara-Odo and Ilawe agencies are carrying on business at rates of 9,744 units, 10,023 units and 10,869 units a year respectively.

Automatic Exchange in Ijebu

W.58. Mr E. D. Akinbowale asked the Minister of Communications, when an automatic telephone exchange system will be extended to Ijebu Province.

The Minister of Communications : The Federal Government's proposals for extending the Nigerian telephone system during the current economic planning period are set out in the Statement on the Policy proposed by

the Government of the Federation for the development of Telecommunications within Nigeria, which the House of Representatives approved as Sessional Paper No. 8 of 1957. There is no provision in the Sessional Paper for installing an automatic exchange in the Ijebu Province, but the Ministry of Communications will bear the Province's needs in mind when budgeting for the next planning period.

Direct Telephone System

W.59. Mr B. U. Ukpogon asked the Minister of Communications, if he will provide a direct telephone system in the new post office at Ikot Ekpen to other important towns in the country so as to obviate delays and inconvenience suffered by the public at present as a result of calls having necessarily to pass through Uyo or Aba to other towns.

The Minister of Communications : It would be uneconomic to provide direct telephone connections between all the important towns in Nigeria. Current delays in trunk calls to and from Ikot Ekpen are due in a great measure to the fire which broke out in the new automatic exchange at Aba last January, and the Ministry of Communications is seeking to bring about by other means improvements which the new exchange would have produced.

Ado-Ekiti Post Office

W.60. Mr A. Akomolafe asked the Minister of Communications, whether in view of the increased need for postal facilities in Ekiti Division, he will consider converting the Ado Departmental Post Office into a major departmental Post Office.

The Minister of Communications : In Annexures 5 and 6 to the Statement of the Policy Proposed by the Government of the Federation for the Establishment of Post Offices within Nigeria, which the House of Representatives approved as Sessional Paper No. 4 of 1957, the hon. Member will find lists of post offices which the Ministry of Communications set out to build or improve during the current economic planning period. The post office at Ado-Ekiti is not among them, and the Ministry has no money to extend the lists, but will bear the needs of Ado-Ekiti in mind when budgeting for the next planning period.

Postal Agencies in Ekiti Division

W.61. Mr A. Akomolafe asked the Minister of Communications, how many of the postal agencies in Ekiti Division have satisfied the minimum requirements for conversion to sub-offices, and what steps he is taking to convert them.

The Minister of Communications : The conditions on which the Ministry of Communications will establish a sub-post office at any given place are set out in paragraph 12 of the Statement of the Policy Proposed by the Government of the Federation for the Establishment of Post Offices within Nigeria, which the House of Representatives approved as Sessional Paper No. 4 of 1957 and the Sessional Paper explains the manner in which the volume of postal business is calculated. To be eligible for conversion into a sub-post office a postal agency must carry on business at a rate of at least 24,000 units a year, and no agency in the Ekiti Division is eligible to be so converted at present.

Units of Business in Ekiti Division

W.62. Mr A. Akomolafe asked the Minister of Communications, how many postal agencies, sub-post offices and departmental post Offices there are in Ekiti Division, and what are the latest figures of units of business transacted in each of them.

The Minister of Communications : There are two sub-post offices in the Ekiti Division, at Ikole and Ijero, carrying on business at rates of 19,000 and 17,000 units a year respectively, and the following postal agencies carrying on business at the rates shown :—

Aiyede	1,900 units a year.
Aiyedun	7,138 units a year
	and so on.

The figures given are calculated on the principles explained in paragraph 18 of the Statement of the Federation for the Establishment of Post Offices within Nigeria, which the House of Representatives approved as Sessional Paper No. 4. of 1957. These principles are not properly applicable to post offices, of which the Ekiti Division has two, at Ado-Ekiti and Ikerre.

Abagana sub-Post Office

W.63. Mr F. C. Ogbalu asked the Minister of Communications, whether he will consider converting the post office at Abagana, built by

community effort, into a sub-post office equipped with telecommunication facilities, in view of the increase in the volume of business transacted there.

The Minister of Communications : There has been a sub-post office at Abagana since the 10th of September last year, with a telephone call office, and the sub-post office accepts telegrams.

Ugwuoba Postal Agency

W.64. Mr F. C. Ogbalu asked the Minister of Communications what proposals he has for building a post office at Ugwuoba in Awka Division, in view of the increase in the volume of business transacted at the postal agency there.

The Minister of Communications : The conditions on which the Ministry of Communications will establish a post office at any given place are set out in the Statement of the Policy Proposed by the Government of the Federation for the Establishment of Post Offices within Nigeria, which the House of Representatives approved as Sessional Paper No. 4 of 1957, and the Sessional Paper explains how the volume of postal business is calculated. To be eligible for conversion into a sub-post office a postal agency must carry on business at a rate of at least 24,000 units a year, and the current volume of business at the Ugwuoba postal agency is only 8,875 units.

Central Annang Postal Agency

W.96. Mr M. B. Afanideh asked the Minister of Communications, whether he will consider converting into a departmental post office the Central Annang Postal Agency, in view of the fact that the postal agency serves a very wide area with a very high density of population.

The Minister of Communications : The conditions on which the Ministry of Communications will establish a post office at any given place are set out in the Statement of the Policy Proposed by the Government of the Federation for the Establishment of Post Offices within Nigeria, which the House of Representatives approved as Sessional Paper No. 4 of 1957, and the Sessional Paper explains the manner in which the volume of Postal business is calculated for this purpose. To be eligible for conversion into a sub-post office a postal agency must carry on business at a rate of at least 24,000 units a year, and a sub-post office, to be

eligible for conversion into a post office, must carry on business at a rate of at least 40,000 units a year. In the Central Annang district there are postal agencies at Adiasim and Asagha Ikot Ebak, carrying on business at rates of 3,079 units and 6,065 units a year respectively.

Ikot Ekpene Telephone Exchange

W.97. Mr M. B. Afanideh asked the Minister of Communications, what proposals he has for installing a telephone exchange in the Ikot Ekpene General Post Office.

The Minister of Communications : I know of no advantage likely to be gained by moving the telephone exchange at Ikot Ekpene from the premises where it is housed at present into the post office.

Post Office for Inyi, etc.

W.98. Mr D. N. Chukwu asked the Minister of Communications, if he is prepared to approve post offices built by community effort at Inyi, Lengwe and Ihe in Awgu Division.

The Minister of Communications : The conditions on which the Ministry of Communications will establish a post office at any given place are set out in the Statement on the Policy Proposed by the Government of the Federation for the Establishment of Post Offices within Nigeria, which the House of Representatives approved as Sessional Paper No. 4 of 1957, and the Sessional Paper explains the manner in which the volume of postal business is calculated for this purpose. To be eligible for conversion into a sub-post office a postal agency must carry on business at a rate of at least 24,000 units a year, and a sub-post office, to be eligible for conversion into a post office, must carry on business at a rate of at least 40,000 units a year. The postal agencies at Inyi, Lengwe, and Ihe are carrying on business at rates of 9,477 units, 6,712 units, and 6,209 units a year respectively.

Awgu Telephone Applications

W.100. Mr D. N. Chukwu asked the Minister of Communications, how many applications have been received from individuals and companies respectively in the town of Awgu for telephones; and whether he will consider extending telephone facilities to Maku, Mbowo, Lengwe, Owelli and Ihe, all of which lie along the telephone line from Enugu to Awgu.

The Minister of Communications : The Federal Government's proposals for extending the Nigerian telephone system during the current economic planning period are set out in the Statement on the Policy proposed by the Government on the Federation for the Development of Telecommunications approved as Sessional Paper No. 8 of 1957. There is no provision in the Sessional Paper for installing telephones at Maku, Mbowo, Lengwe, Owelli, or Ihe and the Ministry of Communications, I am sorry to say, has not now money for these purposes. When funds are available these places will be considered.

The Awgu telephone exchange has twenty-three subscribers; no applications for telephones are outstanding at Awgu at present.

Cost of Awgu Post Office

W.101. Mr D. N. Chukwu asked the Minister of Communications, what was the contract price of the Awgu Post Office.

The Minister of Communications : The new post office at Awgu cost £4,085 to build.

Awgu Division Postal Agencies

W.102. Mr D. N. Chukwu asked the Minister of Communications whether he will state how many postal agencies it is proposed to convert to sub-post offices in Awgu Division by the end of 1960; and when a post office will be provided for the areas of Mbanabor, Achi, Inyi-Awlaw, Mbanano and Egboetti in Awgu Division.

The Minister of Communications : The conditions on which the Ministry of Communications will establish a post office, or sub-post office, at any given place are set out in the Statement of the Policy proposed by the Government of the Federation for the Establishment of Post Offices within Nigeria, which the House of Representatives approved as Sessional Paper No. 4 of 1957, and the Sessional Paper explains the manner in which the volume of postal business is calculated. To be eligible for conversion into a sub-post office, a postal agency must carry on business at a rate of at least 24,000 units a year. In the Awgu Division there are postal agencies at Agbogugu, Owelli, Enugu Nato Ihi, Achi, Inyi, Lengwe, and Ndeaboh, carrying on business at rates of 3,082 units, 6,358 units, 6,209 units, 10,158 units, 9,477 units, 6,712 units and 6,908 units a year respectively.

Telephone at Mainchi

W.129. M. Abubakar Tsofo Mafara asked the Minister of Communications, when the telephone line proposed for Mainchi on the Gusau—Sokoto road will be installed.

The Minister of Communications : The Federal Government's proposals for extending the Nigerian telephone system during the current economic planning period are set out in the Statement on the Policy proposed by the Government of the Federation for the Development of Telecommunications within Nigeria, which the House of Representatives approved as Sessional Paper No. 8 of 1957. There is no provision in the Sessional Paper for installing telephones at Mainchi, and the Ministry of Communications, I am sorry to say, for the present has no money for the purpose.

Telephone Exchange at Talata Mafara

W.130. M. Abubakar Tsofo Mafara asked the Minister of Communications, if he will consider the extension of telephone facilities to private subscribers in Mafara since the single line there is insufficient for the needs of the people.

The Minister of Communications : The Ministry of Communications is conducting surveys preliminary to the establishment of a telephone exchange at Talata Mafara, but it will be impossible to say until the surveys are completed how soon the exchange will be ready.

Ilorin-Borgu Telephone Connection

W.132. M. Yusufu Ilesha asked the Minister of Communications, what steps he has taken to connect Ilorin to Borgu by telephone.

The Minister of Communications : The Federal Government's proposals for extending the Nigerian telephone system during the current economic planning period are set out in the Statement on the Policy proposed by the Government of the Federation for the Development of Telecommunications within Nigeria, which the House of Representatives approved as Sessional Paper No. 8 of 1957. There is no provision in the Sessional Paper for connecting Ilorin and Borgu by telephone, and the

Ministry of Communications, I am sorry to say, has no money now for the purpose.

Post Offices in Pankshin West

W.134. Mr J. M. Damla asked the Minister of Communications, what plans he has for providing remote areas in Pankshin West with post offices.

The Minister of Communications : The conditions on which the Ministry of Communications will establish a post office at any given place are set out in the Statement on the Policy proposed by the Government of the Federation for the Establishment of Post Offices within Nigeria, which the House of Representatives approved as Sessional Paper No. 4 of 1957, and the Sessional Paper explains the manner in which the volume of postal business is calculated for this purpose. A new post office is being built at Pankshin, and should come into service within the next three months. To be eligible for conversion into a sub-post office a postal agency must carry on business at a rate of at least 24,000 units a year, and a sub-post office, to be eligible for conversion into a post office must carry on business at a rate of at least 40,000 units a year. The current volume of business at the Panyan postal agency, in Pankshin West, is 9,135 units a year.

Telephone System to Mbiase

W.147. Mr I. A. Brown asked the Minister of Communications, how soon he will consider extending telephone facilities from Etinan Post Office to Mbiase Postal Agency with a view to connecting these places with the administrative headquarters at Uyo.

The Minister of Communications : The Federal Government's proposals for extending the Nigerian telephone system during the current economic planning period are set out in the Statement on the Policy proposed by the Government of the Federation for the Development of Telecommunications within Nigeria, which the House of Representatives approved as Sessional Paper No. 8 of 1957. There is no provision in the Sessional Paper for extending the system to Mbiase and the Ministry of Communications, I am sorry to say, has no money for the purpose. There is a telephone call office at Etinan, from which it is possible to ring up Uyo.

Mbiaso Postal Agency

W.148. Mr I. A. Brown asked the Minister of Communications, if he will consider converting the present postal agency at Mbiaso in Western Nsit-Uyo to a sub-post office in view of the volume of business being handled there.

The Minister of Communications : The conditions on which the Ministry of Communications will establish a sub-post office at any given place are set out in the Statement of the Policy proposed by the Government of the Federation for the Establishment of Post Offices within Nigeria, and the Sessional Paper explains the manner in which the volume of postal business is calculated. To be eligible for conversion into a sub-post office a postal agency must carry on business at a rate of at least 24,000 units a year, and the volume of business at the Mbiaso agency is only 11,962 units a year.

ELECTRICITY**Supply to Uyo and Ikot Ekpene**

W.158. Mr I. A. Brown asked the Minister of Mines and Power, how soon it is proposed

to extend electricity to Uyo and Ikot Ekpene in the old Calabar Province.

The Minister of Mines and Power : It should be possible to commission the proposed Ikot Ekpene scheme by the end of 1962.

MINERALS**Gold Mining in Sokoto Province**

W.221. M. Abubakar Tsofo Mafara asked the Minister of Mines and Power, whether Government has plans to continue gold mining in Maru and Anka Districts in Sokoto Province.

The Minister of Mines and Power : Government does not undertake gold mining. Its concern is only with the issue of Licences to Mining Companies. A gold dredge has recently been sent to Anka by one company in order to investigate the possibility of gold mining there. The Maru and Anka Districts are open to application for prospecting from any company or individual, except for these areas already under licence to the company with the dredge.

28th April, 1960**COMMERCE****Aids to Cloth Weaving**

W.89. Mr O. C. Ememe asked the Minister of Commerce and Industry, what financial and other aids are being given for the improvement and preservation of Akwete cloth weaving.

The Minister of Commerce and Industry : I understand that the Eastern Regional Government has made a grant to the Akwete weavers under its Assistance to Rural Industries Programme. The responsibility for assisting the Akwete weaving industry was transferred from the Central Department of Commerce and Industries to the Eastern Regional Department of Secondary Industries in 1952, but since then officers of the former Federal Department of Commerce and Industries and later officers of my Ministry have on a number of occasions offered technical and practical help to the weavers.

HEALTH**More Hospitals**

W.215. Mr E. J. Ogunkanmi asked the Minister of Health, in view of the congestion

in the General Hospital, Lagos, what proposals he has for building more hospitals in the Federal Territory.

The Minister of Health : During the current development the following projects for additional hospital facilities have been approved.

(1) Campbell Street Maternity Hospital which I hope will open in July ;

(2) Mainland Hospital, Suru Lere, which is a large project, going forward rapidly and which I hope will be ready by 1960 ;

(3) General Hospital Improvements, which I hope can be put in hand this year and which will replace the existing temporary buildings by permanent structure. These improvements will cost up to £300,000 and are intended primarily to relieve congestion at the Out-patients and Specialist Clinics ;

(4) Massey Street Building which I hope to have converted into a temporary children's hospital when the present Maternity Unit moves to Campbell Street. I am not able to give completion date for this project at present.

29th April, 1960

LABOUR

Boys' Holiday Camps

W.289. Mr F. A. M. Amadi asked the Minister of Labour, how much was actually spent by his Ministry on Boys' Holiday Camps in 1957-58 and 1958-59; and whether he will consider extending the facilities so that selected young men and women could be sent on exchange visits to other African countries.

The Minister of Labour : The Ministry of Labour gave a subvention of £200 per annum to Boys' Holiday Camps during the period 1957-58 and 1958-59.

Assistance has been given from time to time to enable young men and women to participate in international and Commonwealth rallies for youth.

Nigerianisation in Department

W.290. Mr J. M. Damla asked the Minister of Labour, what proposals he has to increase the pace of Nigerianisation in his Ministry.

The Minister of Labour : In addition to the particulars in my statement on Nigerianisation, published at page 926 of the Official Report of this Session of the House, No. 19 of 8th April, 1960, there are at present, five Nigerians acting in super-scale posts of Principal Labour Officer and Senior Labour Officer. The Assistant Industrial Relations Commissioner is also a Nigerian.

There are 30 authorised Scale A posts of Labour Officer in the Labour Divisions, out of which 19 are held by Nigerians and 4 by overseas officers, two of whom are contract officers. 13 Assistant Labour Inspectors are currently undergoing degree courses overseas and in the University College, Ibadan, to fit them for appointment as Labour Officer and Factory Inspector. In addition two others are undergoing a factory inspection course in the United Kingdom and two more will be sent next October. The International Labour Organisation has granted three fellowships for labour studies—one in Australia and two in Belgium, and three Nigerian officers are now studying under these fellowships.

In the Social Welfare Division, all but two of the senior posts are held by Nigerian officers. One of the two overseas officers is due to retire later this year and the resultant vacancy will be filled by an indigenous officer. The two senior officers in the Co-operative Division are Nigerians.

Inservice training goes on all the time and 3 senior officers devote their whole time to staff training within the Ministry.

Agency Fees from Spanish Authorities

W.291. Mr I. A. Brown asked the Minister of Labour how much has been received in agency fees from the Spanish Authorities in Fernando Po in respect of labourers recruited into their territory from this country during the period 1st January, 1955 to 31st March, 1960.

The Minister of Labour : A total of £180,120-15s-3d has been collected from the Spanish Authorities as capitation fees in respect of labourers recruited from Nigeria during the period 1st January, 1955 to 31st March, 1960. This does not include the amount collected by the British Vice-Council and Labour Officer, Fernando Po, during the last three months January to March 1960, particulars of which have not yet been received in the Ministry.

Nigerians employed in Fernando Po

W.292. Mr I. A. Brown asked the Minister of Labour how many Nigerians were employed in the Spanish Territory of Fernando Po during the period 1st January, 1955 to 31st March, 1960; how many of them were reported dead, and what were the causes of their deaths.

The Minister of Labour : 45,068 Nigerians were recruited for work in the Spanish Province of the Gulf of Guinea during the period 1st January, 1955 to 31st March, 1960. Of this number, 615 died from illness arising from various causes such as tetanus, tuberculosis, pneumonia, dysentery and also from industrial accidents. Those who died as a result of accidents at work number 47.

PUBLIC SERVICE

Expatriate Officers' Study Leave

W.224. Chief O. B. Akin. Olugbade asked the Minister of Pensions, if he is aware that

certain expatriate contract officers are being given study leave and whether he will consider putting a stop to such practice.

The Minister of Pensions : No, Sir. I am not aware that expatriate contract officers are granted study leave to study at Government expense. A few such officers in, say, the Ministry of Communications and the Ministry of Works have been sent on short duty visits and conferences while on leave in the United Kingdom, to observe and discuss new training methods or the operation of new machinery to be installed by Government. Such visits should be distinguished from study leave which is of a longer duration and has a long-term purpose.

Nigerians as Permanent Secretaries

W.301. Dr P. U. Okeke asked the Minister of Pensions, how soon it is hoped to replace the expatriate Permanent Secretaries in our ministries with qualified Nigerians.

The Minister of Pensions : I refer the hon. Member to my answer to Parliamentary Question *O.070 on the 13th of April, and wish to say that no special steps are envisaged to replace expatriate officers by Nigerians in the grade of Permanent Secretary. This grade is a promotion post and promotion thereto is governed by the normal criteria of official qualifications, experience and merit.

Payment of Retiring Benefits

W.303. Mr F. C. Ogbalu asked the Minister of Pensions, why some supervising teachers who retired from Government service over a year ago and over twenty other teachers from the Eastern Region have not been paid their retiring benefits up till now, in spite of the incessant representations being made on their behalf by the Establishment Branch of the Government of the Eastern Region.

The Minister of Pensions : It is not possible without knowing the names of the Teachers concerned to give an answer to this question. If the hon. Member will let me have this information I will certainly look into the matter and ensure that he is informed of the position.

Secretary-Typists and Personal Secretaries

W.302. M. Haliru Gwandu asked the Minister of Pensions, how many Nigerians and expatriates hold substantive appointments as Secretary-Typists and Personal Secretaries in the Federal Public Service; and what plans he has for Nigerianising these posts.

The Minister of Pensions : There are 28 expatriate and 1 Nigerian Personal Secretaries and 77 Expatriate and 23 Nigerian Secretary-Typists in the Federal Public Service.

2. At present 16 Nigerian Stenographers are taking a special residential course at Pitman's College in the United Kingdom and they will be eligible for promotion to the grade of Secretary-Typists on their return to Nigeria. The post of Personal Secretary is a promotion post and Nigerian Secretary-Typists will be considered for promotion to it as and when vacancies arise.

Promotions after drawing lump sum Compensation

W.223. Mr J. Chukwu asked the Minister of Pensions, how many expatriate officers in the Federal Public Service have been promoted to higher posts within the past four months after they had drawn part of their lump sum compensation and in what Departments are they serving.

The Minister of Pensions : Forty (40) expatriate officers have been promoted to higher posts within the past four months after they had drawn interest free advances equal to 25 per cent of their annual pensionable emoluments. These advances will be deducted from the lump sum compensation eventually payable to them after independence.

2. The officers concerned are serving as follows:—

Board of Customs and Excise	3
Ministry of Communications, P. and T. Division	1
Ministry of Transport and Aviation, Civil Aviation Division	6
General Executive Class	2
Ministry of Works and Surveys, Works Division	1
Survey Division	1
Ministry of Commerce and Industry ..	3

Ministry of Mines and Power, Mines Department	1
Ministry of Internal Affairs, Prisons Department	2
Ministry of Information, Printing Division	2
Ministry of Economic Development, Veterinary Research	1
Agricultural Research	1
Forestry Research	1
Police Department	9
Ministry of Labour, Labour Division	1
Co-operative Division	1
Ministry of Health	2
Ministry of Education	2

EDUCATION

Entries and passes at G.C.E.

W.104. Mr D. N. Chukwu asked the Minister of Education, if he will state the number of Nigerians who took the General Certificate of Education examination at the ordinary and advanced levels respectively during the period 1958-59, indicating the number of passes at each level within this period.

The Minister of Education : Full information is available in respect of the calendar year 1958 only. The following were the number of candidates entering for the General Certificate of Education in that year :—

At Advanced level only ..	2,608
At Ordinary level only ..	6,099
At both Advanced and Ordinary levels	3,038
	<hr/>
	11,745
	<hr/>

Candidates entering for the full Certificate which is granted at the Ordinary Level, numbered 7,014 and the number of full certificates awarded was 932. These figures are included in those given above.

It will be appreciated however that some candidates entered in one, two or more subjects. The number of subject entries offered at Advance Level was 12,798, and 2,231 passes were awarded at the level. The number of subject entries offered at Ordinary Level was 37,405 and 11,762 passes were awarded. In addition, 2,550 passes were awarded at Ordinary Level to candidates entering at the Advanced Level.

Recreational Facilities for Students

W.105. Mr D. N. Chukwu asked the Minister of Education what recreational facilities are available to the students of the Nigerian Colleges of Arts, Science and Technology at Enugu and Zaria.

The Minister of Education : Facilities normal to any College, including Common Rooms, Libraries, College Societies, Sports Fields, Tennis Courts and the necessary equipment are available to students at the Enugu and Zaria Branches of the Nigerian College of Arts, Science and Technology.

Lecturers' Resignations

W.106. Mr D. N. Chukwu asked the Minister of Education how many lecturers resigned their appointments in the Enugu and Zaria Branches of the Nigerian College of Arts, Science and Technology during the years 1958 and 1959; and what steps are being taken to obviate further resignations.

The Minister of Education : In the year ending on the 31st August, 1958 one lecturer resigned from the Enugu Branch and four from the Zaria Branch; in the year ending on the 31st August, 1959 three lecturers resigned from Enugu and ten from Zaria.

It is quite normal in academic institutions for staff to move on to new fields. The College Council has very much in mind the need to ensure satisfactory conditions of work, including the level of salaries and other terms of service as well as the internal administrative machinery of the College. All these matters are now under consideration.

Nigerian Students abroad

W.107. Mr D. N. Chukwu asked the Minister of Education how many Nigerians are now studying in the United Kingdom, the continent of Europe, the United States of America, India, Egypt, Japan and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics respectively.

The Minister of Education : Figures of the total number of Nigerians who are studying in the countries referred to are not available.

The following figures relate to Federal Government scholars in the countries concerned :—

United Kingdom	383
Germany	14
Holland	1
North America	78
India	2
Egypt	Nil
Japan	Nil
Union of Soviet Socialist Republics	Nil
Total	478

LAGOS AFFAIRS

Membership of the Lagos Executive Development Board

W.155. Mr L. J. Dosunmu asked the Minister of Lagos Affairs how many new members have been appointed to the Lagos Executive Development Board since the year 1957, stating their names, occupations and political parties.

The Minister of Lagos Affairs : The following six new members have been appointed to the Lagos Executive Development Board since the 1st January, 1958—

Alhaji A. R. Laguda	General Contractor
B. K. Sutherland ..	Company Director
S. O. O. Abudu ..	Barrister
Chief J. I. Talabi ..	General Trader
F. U. Anyiam ..	General Trader
Mrs B. A. Oshodi ..	Barrister

Alhaji Laguda is a leading member of the National Emancipation League in Lagos and Mr Abudu contested the last Federal elections on the platform of that party; Chief Talabi is the National Council of Nigeria and the Cameroons member for Ward D2 in the Lagos Town Council and Mr Anyiam is a senior official of the party. So far as I am aware, neither Mr Sutherland nor Mrs Oshodi are active politicians.

LAGOS AFFAIRS

Lagos Central Planning Scheme

W.153. Mr L. J. Dosunmu asked the Minister of Lagos Affairs whether, in view of the apparent delay in rebuilding on the re-planned area under the Lagos Central Planning Scheme, Government will consider allowing

the original owners of the plots of land to pay the reconveyancing charges by reasonable instalments.

The Minister of Lagos Affairs : For the benefit of original owners who have been re-allocated land zoned for commercial development under the Lagos Central Planning Scheme, an approved scheme is already operating whereby the Lagos Executive Development Board can arrange for the purchaser to receive a mortgage advance of two-thirds of the cost of the land. Such loans are repayable over three years in half-yearly instalments at a current interest rate of seven per cent per annum.

In the case of land zoned for residential development, however, the matter is rather more complex and no such scheme for mortgage advances at present exists. I am having this matter examined and I will certainly consider whether it would be practicable to operate a scheme which would allow for the payment of reconveyance charges on residential plots by instalments.

Government Mortgage Scheme

W.154. Mr L. J. Dosunmu asked the Minister of Lagos Affairs how many property owners whose dwelling houses have been demolished under the Lagos Central Planning Scheme have applied for financial assistance under the Government mortgage Scheme for the purpose of rebuilding; and how many have received such assistance.

The Minister of Lagos Affairs : Nine applications have so far been received for assistance under the Mortgage Scheme for rebuilding in Central Lagos. In each case the applicant has been notified of the amount of the loan which could be granted and of the conditions which would be inserted in the mortgage agreement. The loans offered vary (depending upon the size and value of the plot concerned) between £1,992 and £4,788, the average being £3,127. None of these offers have so far been taken up.

Stipends to Traditional Chiefs

W.156. Mr L. J. Dosunmu asked the Minister of Lagos Affairs when Government proposes to take decisions concerning the payment of stipends to the traditional Chiefs of Lagos.

The Minister of Lagos Affairs : This matter is receiving active consideration, but I am not yet in a position to say when a final decision will be taken.

Lagos Central Planning Scheme

W.157. Mr L. J. Dosunmu asked the Minister of Lagos Affairs what was the estimated number of years within which it was proposed to complete the Lagos Central Planning Scheme, and whether at the present rate of progress it will be possible to keep to the schedule.

The Minister of Lagos Affairs : No specific period was laid down for the completion of the Lagos Central Planning Scheme because it was recognised from the outset that progress would be dependent upon many factors and that adjustments would be required in the light of the experience gained during the implementation of the Scheme.

In the Scheme as originally made in January 1952, it was provided that Sub-Area 1 and Sub-Area 12 should vest in the Lagos Executive Development Board one month and sixty months respectively after the date of commencement. Subsequently, the 1st October, 1955, was appointed to be the date of commencement. Under the original programme, therefore, Sub-Area 12 should have vested on the 1st October, 1960, but various adjustments to the vesting arrangements have been made from time to time and the revised date for the vesting of Sub-Area 12 is the 1st June, 1962. Since approximately two years will be required to complete the Scheme after the vesting of the last Sub-Area, it is at present estimated that it should be possible to complete the Scheme by mid-1964, that is to say, about two years after the date originally envisaged as the earliest by which it could be completed.

FINANCE

Accountant-in-Training

W.207. Mr R. B. K. Okafor asked the Minister of Finance, whether the post of Accountant-in-Training in the Accounting

Division of his Ministry has been cancelled and if so what posts have been created in its place.

The Minister of Finance : The Accountants-in-Training Scheme had to be discontinued when the General Executive Class was formed.

2. The 18 posts previously provided for Accountants-in-training are now included with the A.E.O. (A/cs) posts in the current Estimates. Officers filling these posts are given training within the Accounting Division and the Audit Department, at the Nigerian Technical College, Ibadan, the Federal Training Centre, and with the Crown Agents in London to equip them for selection for promotion to Executive Officer (A/cs).

Frustration in Accounting Division

W.209. Mr R. B. K. Okafor asked the Minister of Finance, if he will state the causes and circumstances leading to the frustration among the staff of the Accounting Division of his Ministry and whether the relationship between the Accountant-General and his staff is such as can be regarded as satisfactory.

The Minister of Finance : I am not aware of the feeling of frustration referred to. Staff relations in the Accounting Division appear satisfactory.

Senior Grade Appointments

W.213. Chief O. B. Akin Olugbade asked the Minister of Finance, how many Africans and how many expatriate officers held appointments in the senior grades in the Accountant-General's Department in 1952, 1955 and 1959.

The Minister of Finance : The information required is as follows :—

	<i>Expatriates Nigerians</i>	
1952 <i>Pre-Regionalisation</i>	43	25
1955 <i>Federal</i>	20	14
1959 <i>Federal</i>	21	28

2. During this period the work of the Accounting Division of my Ministry has become both larger in size and more complex.

2nd May, 1960

COMMERCE

Federal Loans Board

W.90. Mr V. L. Lajide asked the Minister of Commerce and Industry, in view of the fact that beneficiaries of the Federal Loans Board are mostly from Lagos, what efforts he is making to ensure that the activities of this Board benefit people from other parts of the country.

The Minister of Commerce and Industry : The purpose of the Industrial Loans (Lagos and Federation) Ordinance, under which the Federal Loans Board is constituted, is "to promote industrial development in and around Lagos and, in respect of projects of a major nature, to promote industrial development throughout the Federation". Loans from the Federal Loans Board are thus available to all Nigerians irrespective of where they live, the only proviso being that loans to people residing outside a 10-mile radius of the Federal Territory may not be made for an amount of less than £10,000.

Hitherto, applications from the Regions have been far fewer than those from Lagos. The Government fully supports the idea that sound Regional enterprises should benefit from the facilities provided by the Federal Loans Board. To help further in bringing those facilities to the notice of the public, the Federal Loans Board is proposing to produce a brochure describing its activities, which will be circulated widely throughout the Federation.

MINERALS

Geological Survey in Oshun

W.121. Mr V. L. Lajide asked the Minister of Mines and Power, when he is making a geological survey of towns in Oshun Division with a view to discovering potential mineral resources in the Division.

The Minister of Mines and Power : A geological survey of the whole of Oshun Division is in progress at the moment. Two geologists are engaged on this work.

INDUSTRY

Nigerians as Industrial Officers

W.171. Dr C. Obi asked the Minister of Commerce and Industry how many Nigerians are Assistant Industrial Officers including Assistant Industrial Officers-in-training; what type of training do they receive and how many years is it scheduled to last; and after how many years are serving officers expected to qualify as fully-fledged Industrial Officers.

The Minister of Commerce and Industry : Ten Nigerians hold appointments as Assistant Industrial Officers or Assistant Industrial Officers-in-Training. These officers receive training "on the job", including attachment to industrial enterprises and to the Federal Experimental Boatyard at Opobo, attendance at courses at the Yaba Technical Institute, instructional film shows and industrial visits. In two instances an overseas course on Small Scale Industries at Delft (Holland) has been arranged for officers who have shewn special promise.

The length of training depends on the progress made by each individual officer.

Expatriate Industrial Officers

W.172. Dr C. Obi asked the Minister of Commerce and Industry, whether he is aware that Government has been unable to recruit expatriate Industrial Officers with the right type of qualifications and experience as a result of a policy under which they are offered much lower salaries than they earn in the United Kingdom, and if he will make a statement.

The Minister of Commerce and Industry : I am not aware that Government has been unable to recruit expatriate Industrial Officers possessing the right type of qualifications and experience. At the 31st March there was one vacancy only in an establishment of eleven. From the 1st April the establishment has been increased to fifteen but there has not been sufficient time as yet to recruit to the four new posts.

Advertising for Industrial Officers

W.173. Dr C. Obi asked the Minister of Commerce and Industry why posts of Industrial Officers are not advertised in Nigeria, and why Nigerians are not being encouraged to take up these posts.

The Minister of Commerce and Industry : Vacancies for Industrial Officers are first advertised in Nigeria and are only advertised overseas if it proves impossible to fill them from Nigerian resources. Preference in filling these posts is always given to Nigerians in possession of the prescribed qualifications.

Special List "B" Enrolments

W.174. Dr C. Obi asked the Minister of Commerce and Industry, how many expatriate officers in the Industrial Division of the Department of Commerce and Industries have enrolled in Special List "B" or have otherwise signified a desire to leave the Service before or after Independence.

The Minister of Commerce and Industry : Two officers have enrolled in Special List B. One officer has signified his intention to retire by the end of this year.

Prospects for Nigerians

W.175. Mr B. A. Ajayi asked the Minister of Commerce and Industry, why the Industry section of the Department of Commerce and Industry does not seem to offer bright prospects to Nigerians, and why he has allowed a trained and qualified Nigerian officer to remain in a post for more than two years without being made the substantive holder of the post.

The Minister of Commerce and Industry :

I cannot accept the suggestion that the Industries Division of my Ministry does not offer bright prospects for Nigerians : the avenue of advancement for qualified Nigerians is comparable to that offered by any other branch of the public service. Promotion is a matter for the Federal Public Service Commission.

Nigerianisation in Department

W.176. Mr B. A. Ajayi asked the Minister of Commerce and Industry, what his proposals are for the immediate Nigerianisation of the Department of Commerce and Industry.

The Minister of Commerce and Industry : Every effort is being made to accelerate the pace of Nigerianisation in my Ministry. Of the total senior staff of 153, 83 are Nigerians compared with 58 a year ago. In addition, 18 Nigerians from my Ministry are currently undergoing training overseas, with a view to assuming higher responsibilities on their return to Nigeria.

Assistance for Raffia Industry

W.177. Mr B. U. Ukpong asked the Minister of Commerce and Industry, what proposals Government have for assisting the Raffia Industry in the Raffia Guild at Ikot-Ekpene in order that it may meet the great demand for its products by the growing population of this country.

The Minister of Commerce and Industry : None. Assistance to the Raffia Industry at Ikot-Ekpene, a rural industry, is a matter for the Government of the Eastern Region.

Loans in Ikot-Ekpene Division

W.178. Mr B. U. Ukpong asked the Minister of Commerce and Industry how many people from Ikot-Ekpene Division have been granted loans by the Federal Loans Board since the inauguration of the Board and if he will state their names.

The Minister of Commerce and Industry : The Federal Loans Board has made no loans to people in the Ikot-Ekpene Division.

Percentages of Imports

W.180. Dr B. U. Nzeribe asked the Minister of Commerce and Industry, what percentage of imports into this country in 1957, 1958 and 1959 was capital goods and what percentage consumer goods.

The Minister of Commerce and Industry : The main categories of import during the last three years classified under the headings 'capital goods' and 'consumer goods' are shown in the table below. The totals reveal the percentages year by year of each category of import.

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Commodity	Percentage of Value of total imports		
	1957	1958	1959
CAPITAL GOODS			
Cement	3.0	2.5	2.5
Constructional steel ..	3.6	3.9	3.9
Corrugated iron sheets	2.5	1.5	1.9
Air-craft	0.2	0.2	0.1
Boats, barges, etc. ..	0.8	0.8	1.2
Cars and kitcars ..	2.7	2.7	3.0
Electrical machinery and apparatus ..	3.4	3.6	4.4
Lorries and chassis ..	3.4	4.1	3.2
Railway rolling stock	1.7	2.8	1.6
Road construction, mining and convey- ing plant	1.7	2.4	2.3
Other non-electric ..	4.4	4.6	6.2
Other road vehicles ..	1.5	1.7	1.7
Total ..	28.9	30.8	32.0

CONSUMER GOODS			
Cycles	0.8	0.8	0.8
Flour	1.5	1.3	1.5
Stockfish	5.1	4.1	4.4
Sugar	1.7	2.0	1.7
Beer	2.1	2.0	2.0
Unmanufactured Tobacco	1.0	0.9	0.7
Salt	1.0	1.1	0.9
Animal and vegetable oils	*	*	0.1
Medical preparations	5.3	5.0	5.6
Cotton piece goods ..	9.5	9.8	8.3
Household utensils ..	1.7	2.0	1.9
Paper and board ..	1.3	1.3	1.4
Rayon piece goods ..	7.5	6.0	4.4
Clothing	1.9	2.3	2.4
Footwear	1.6	1.6	1.5
Yarns	0.5	0.5	0.6
Mineral fuels ..	5.4	5.4	5.8
Jute bags	1.3	1.3	0.8
Tyres and tubes ..	1.2	1.5	1.4
Miscellaneous ..	1.9	1.5	1.4
Others not elsewhere specified	18.8	18.8	20.4
*Negligible			
Total ..	71.1	69.2	68.0
Grand Total ..	100.0	100.0	100.0

Ceramic clays at Oguta

W.182. Mr R. B. K. Okafor asked the Minister of Commerce and Industry, whether he will consider the possibility of inviting experts to survey Oguta area with a view to finding out whether ceramics and pottery industries can be economically located there in view of the abundance of clay in the area.

The Minister of Commerce and Industry: A reference to page 31 of the publication "Minerals and Industry in Nigeria" shows that an extensive survey of the ceramic clays of the Eastern Region was carried out in 1955 by the Geological Survey. Any further investigation for the purpose indicated in the question would be primarily a matter for the Government of the Eastern Region.

DEFENCE

Service conditions of N.C.O.

W.196. Mr W. O. Briggs asked the Minister of Defence, what are the relative conditions of service in the Army of the Nigerian non-commissioned officers and their counterparts, the British non-commissioned officers, particularly with regard to salary, increment, promotion and leave; and whether he will make a statement with regard to the great disparity between these two types of non-commissioned officer of the Army.

The Prime Minister and Minister of Defence: The conditions of service applicable to Nigerian non-commissioned officers in the Royal Nigerian Military Forces are not, and cannot be, related to those under which non-commissioned officers seconded to the Forces from the British Army are serving. The salaries, increments and leave entitlement of the former are related to those of Nigerian civil servants remunerated on the 'H' Scales and they are promoted as vacancies occur in the establishments of military units. The salaries and increments of British non-commissioned officers are related to those which they would receive if they had been serving in British Army units overseas, with the addition of an inducement element to attract them for service in Nigeria. They are not eligible for promotion while seconded to the Military Forces, and their leave entitlement corresponds to that of other expatriates in the Public Service.

The disparity that exists between the conditions of service of Nigerian non-commissioned officers and those of their British counterparts is not peculiar to the Military Forces. It is to be found elsewhere in the Public Service, and arises from the necessity of attracting expatriate personnel for service in Nigeria until trained Nigerians are available to replace them. During the last two years 298 British non-commissioned officers have been replaced by Nigerians.

Officers in Nigerian Army

W.197. Mr W. O. Briggs asked the Minister of Defence, how many Nigerian and how many European commissioned and non-commissioned officers are in the Nigerian Army.

The Prime Minister and Minister of Defence : There are in the Royal Nigerian Military Forces 56 Nigerian and 230 British commissioned officers ; and 2,160 Nigerian and 30 British non-commissioned officers.

FINANCE

Officers in Accounting Division

W.208. Mr R. B. K. Okafor asked the Minister of Finance, if he will state the names and the posts held by all Expatriate Officers in the Accounting Division of his Ministry indicating their educational and accounting qualifications.

The Minister of Finance : The information required will be found in the Staff List of the Federal Government published by the Federal Government Printer.

Balancing of Federal Accounts

W.210. Mr R. B. K. Okafor asked the Minister of Finance, if he will state the dates on which the Accountant-General balanced the accounts of the Federation in each of the years within the period January 1955 to December 1958.

The Minister of Finance : The Accounts of the Federal Government of Nigeria are published monthly in abbreviated form in the *Federal Gazette* in nine statements giving details of the Public Funds, the Consolidated Revenue Fund, Revenue and Recurrent Expenditure, Capital Expenditure, the Development Fund, the Treasury and Special Trust Funds, and the Public Debt.

2. The date of completion of the final account for the financial years ended 31st March, 1955, 1956, 1957 and 1958 was 7th October, 1955, 21st September, 1956, 1st November, 1957 and 10th October, 1958 respectively.

3. The date of the closing of the final account is determined by the date of the receipt of the last accounts to be received from the various self-accounting units, and from the various offices of the Federal Government situated outside Nigeria.

Write off as losses

W.214. Chief O. B. Akin. Olugbade asked the Minister of Finance, how much has been written off as losses since he was assigned the portfolio of Finance and by what principles he is being guided in writing off the losses.

The Minister of Finance : Accounts written off in recent financial years have been as follows :

Estimated figure 1957-58	..	£ 81,146*
Actual figure 1958-59	..	46,548*
Estimated figure 1959-60	..	10,773*
		<hr/>
		97,321†
Nominal Writes off 1959-60	..	14,304
		<hr/>
		111,625
		<hr/>

I only took up office on the 30th August, 1957 and the total charge to the losses sub-head in the year 1957-58 was £81,146. It is not possible to say what proportion of this sum was written off before that date and after it.

2. These figures do not include losses of stores and abandoned revenue claims which are not charged against the losses sub-head. Records are now maintained in respect of 1959-60 onwards of losses and abandoned revenue items for which the write off is nominal only, and the provisional figure for 1959-60 was £14,304. It must be remembered, however, that some writes off are to effect clearance of old dormant balances in the books of account arising from misclassifications.

3. No write off is authorised until every possibility of recovery or clearance has been exhausted, and in all cases I require the

*Charged to losses vote.

†No charge to losses vote necessary.

recommendation of both the Accountant-General and the Director of Federal Audit, that further recovery action is impracticable. Where losses of cash and stores are involved Boards of Enquiry are held if there is any possibility of fraud or a weakness in the accounting system is discovered.

AVIATION

Training Nigerians as air pilots

W.227. M. Abubakar T. Marafa asked the Minister of Transport and Aviation, if Government will consider the desirability of building its own school to train Nigerians as air pilots.

The Minister of Transport and Aviation : I would invite the hon. Member's attention to the Official Report for the 11th of April, 1960 (columns 1011 and 1012), in which it was made clear that the Federal Government has already made preliminary arrangements to establish a flying school for training Nigerians as pilots. An aerodrome is in course of construction near Apapa and staff are being recruited. Final details of the training scheme are being worked out by my Ministry.

TRANSPORT

Taking over of Feeder Roads

W.245. Mr E. O. Okunowo asked the Minister of Works and Surveys, whether in view of the rapid increase in the population of Nigeria, and the growth of towns and villages, Government will consider the advisability of taking over some of the feeder roads in the Regions.

The Minister of Works and Surveys : The Federal Government has given an undertaking in the National Economic Council to the effect that it will be prepared, after 1962, to consider widening its responsibility for main roads in the light of the financial means then available to it. I regret that at the present time I am unable to go beyond this general undertaking.

Classifying Trunk Roads 'A'

***O.155. Mr E. C. Akwivu** asked the Minister of Works and Surveys, if he will consider the advisability of classifying as trunk roads 'A' the Port Harcourt-Owerri-Okigwi road and the Port Harcourt-Owerri-Orlu-Awka road.

The Minister of Works and Surveys : No, Sir. As I have had occasion to explain already in answers to previous questions, it is not the policy of the Federal Government to add, during the present planning period, to the heavy commitment involved in the maintenance and development of the existing trunk road 'A' system.

The Federal Government recognises the importance to the national economy of good communications between Port Harcourt and the rest of the country, but it cannot accept that all roads radiating from a major port should be classified trunk 'A'. Port Harcourt is already served by trunk road A 3 from Aba and points to the North and my Ministry is keeping the adequacy of this road under review.

The hon. Member may be interested to know that the Federal Government will shortly award a large contract for the construction of a new approach road through Port Harcourt township to the wharf area, thus easing the flow of traffic to and from the port.

Total Mileage of Trunk roads 'A'

***O.255. M. Muhammadu Sagir Umar** asked the Minister of Works and Surveys what is the total mileage of trunk roads A in each of the three Regions of Nigeria, the Southern Cameroons and the Federal Territory of Lagos.

The Minister of Works and Surveys : On the first of January, 1960 the following were the mileages of trunk roads 'A' in the Federal Territory, the three Regions and the Southern Cameroons :

	<i>Miles</i>
Federal Territory ..	13
Northern Region	4,013
Eastern Region	674
Western Region ..	810
Southern Cameroons	463

This gives a total mileage in the Federation of 5,973 miles.

Ngo-Agala Road

***O.291. Mr N. Nwangbo** asked the Minister of Works and Surveys whether, in view of the importance of the Ngo-Agala road which links Abakaliki in the Eastern Region with Idoma in the Northern Region and which is now being

constructed under the Community Development project, he will consider the advisability of converting the road to a trunk road A as soon as the construction is completed.

The Minister of Works and Surveys : I appreciate that the road mentioned by the hon. Member crosses an inter-Regional Boundary, but as its importance is local rather than national I regret that it will not be possible for the Federal Government to consider taking it over.

Aba to Oron Road Widening

***O.389. Mr B. U. Ukpong** asked the Minister of Works and Surveys, when it is proposed to widen the road from Aba to Oron and to strengthen and widen the bridge on it situated about three miles to Ikot Ekpene over the Qua Iboe River.

The Minister of Works and Surveys : I regret that provision does not exist in the current Highways and Bridges Programme for the widening of the road from Aba to Oron or, for the reconstruction of the bridge mentioned by the hon. Member.

The Minister will be ready to give consideration to the provision of funds in the post-1962 planning period.

Serti-Bamenda Trunk A Road

***O.391. Mr P. Maken** asked the Minister of Works and Surveys what proposals he has for the construction of a trunk road 'A' between Serti in the Northern Cameroons and Bamenda in the Southern Cameroons.

The Minister of Works and Surveys : The construction of a trunk road 'A' between Yola and Bamenda *via* Serti is provided for in the current Highways and Bridges Programme and extensive construction has been carried out southwards from Yola as far as Serti.

The section from Serti to Mayo Selbe on the Mambilla Plateau is particularly difficult. The Northern Region Government has expressed a desire that the construction of this section should be begun without delay. The Federal Government has accordingly transferred £45,000 to the Northern Region Ministry of Works for this purpose.

The balance of funds remaining will not suffice for the completion of the road southwards into the Southern Cameroons in the current planning period. The provision of funds after 1962 could only arise if both portions of the Cameroons Trust Territory were still then within the Federation.

Niger Dam at Kurwasa

***O.392. Mallam Yusufu Ilesha** asked the Minister of Works and Surveys, whether experts have been employed to survey the proposed Niger Dam at Kurwasa; and how soon the work will be started.

The Minister of Works and Surveys : Yes, Sir, the Consultants are Messrs NEDECO (Netherlands Engineering Consultants) and Balfour, Beatty. The detailed survey of the dam sites at Kurwasa started about August, 1959, and the Consultants expect to complete the main investigations by the end of his year. The date when construction can begin will be determined by the outcome of these investigations and the time required to find the necessary finance.

Makurdi-Jos road tarring

***O.393. M. Yakubu Allanana** asked the Minister of Works and Surveys when the tarring of the trunk road A between Makurdi and Jos will be completed.

The Minister of Works and Surveys : Trunk Road A.3 between Makurdi and Jos has been tarred over a distance of 40 miles southwards from Jos and for 13 miles northwards from Makurdi. It is regretted that the funds available are insufficient to allow for completion of the tarring of this road during the current planning period, but the Minister will give consideration to providing funds for this purpose in the post-1962 Highways and Bridges programme.

FINANCE

Tax from Oil prospecting

***O.156. Mr E. C. Akwivu** asked the Minister of Finance what company profits tax, if any, have so far been paid by the oil prospecting companies now operating in Nigeria.

The Minister of Finance : Of the Companies prospecting for oil in Nigeria only one is producing oil. When its operations reach a profitable stage, tax will be due under the Petroleum Profits Tax Ordinance and not under the Income Tax Ordinance.

Sterling balances in U.K.

O.246. Mr W. O. Briggs asked the Minister of Finance, what is the value of Nigeria's sterling balances in the United Kingdom.

The Minister of Finance : The sterling assets owned by Government, semi-official and banking organisations in London as at the 31st December, 1959 are estimated to total £223.25m made up as follows :

	£ million
<i>Governments :</i>	
Federal Government	33.54
Regional Governments	39.91
Local Governments	3.54
<i>Semi-Official :</i>	
Development Corporations ..	5.62
Marketing Boards	34.04
Statutory Bodies	11.92
<i>Banking :</i>	
West African Currency Board (estimated)	25.00
Central Bank's Overseas Assets	57.50
Commercial Banks Overseas Assets	12.18
	£223.25m.

INTERNAL AFFAIRS

Non-Nigerians in the Federation

***O.277. M. Muhammadu Sagir Umar** asked the Minister of Internal Affairs how many non-Nigerians are living in the Federation of Nigeria; how many of them are English, French, American, Russian, German, Syrian, Lebanese, Japanese and African other than Nigerian; and how many of them are employed or engaged in private business.

The Minister of Internal Affairs : The information required will involve some research and I hope to circulate the answer in due course.

Re-opening of Prison in Oshogbo

O.314. Mr B. A. Adeyemo asked the Minister of Internal Affairs, whether he will consider re-opening the prison in Oshogbo.

***The Minister of Internal Affairs :** The old prison at Oshogbo was administered by the Local Government Council. It was closed because the Council could not afford to maintain it and arrangements have been made to accept all persons convicted in this area into the Federal Government Prison at Ilesha.

The Prisons Department did not take over this Prison as requested by the Council since

it was unsuitable as a Government Prison. Because of its location it could not be extended and improved.

Warders Recruited in Oshogbo Division

***O.315. Mr J. U. Odey** asked the Minister of Internal Affairs, how many warders have been recruited since 1954 from each of the Divisions of Ogoja Province.

The Minister of Internal Affairs : Ten warders have been recruited from the Divisions comprising the new Ogoja Province since 1954.

Juvenile delinquents

***O.316. Mr M. O. Okilo** asked the Minister of Internal Affairs, why there are no prison farms and preparatory schools for juvenile delinquents in the Niger Delta Special Area.

The Minister of Internal Affairs : Juvenile delinquents are not sent to Prison, but are dealt with by the Social Welfare Department in Approved Schools or Remand Homes. The responsibility for Approved Schools and Remand Homes is that of the Regional Governments, so the hon. Member may wish to obtain the information he wants from the Ministry concerned in the Eastern Region.

Approved Schools in Brass, etc.

***O.318. Mr M. O. Okilo** asked the Minister of Internal Affairs, how many approved schools of the Prisons Department are in Brass, Degema, Western Ijaw and Ogoni Divisions.

The Minister of Internal Affairs : None, Sir.

Remand Homes

O.394. Mr E. A. Mordi asked the Minister of Internal Affairs, how many Remand Homes are at present in this country; how many children have so far been remanded, and what are the definite steps taken to ensure that they benefit by their stay in the homes.

The Minister of Internal Affairs : The information required is not readily available as Remand Homes are controlled by the Social Welfare Departments of the various Governments. However, I will arrange for the answer to be published in the Official Report.

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Prospecting in Ekiti Division	.. 59 Q		
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Schools for the blind	.. 35 Q		
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Com. Head 60	1776-1779		
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