



FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

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Prince T. A. Lamuye	..	..	..	..	..	..	Iwo East
S. Lana, Esq.	..	..	..	..	..	..	Ibadan East
	<b>M</b>						
Chief S. J. Mariere	..	..	..	..	..	..	Urhobo Central
E. A. Mordi, Esq.	..	..	..	..	..	..	Asaba East
	<b>O</b>						
M. C. K. Obi, Esq.	..	..	..	..	..	..	Afenmai East
Chief P. Dame-Oboh	..	..	..	..	..	..	Ishan West
J. D. Odebunmi, Esq.	..	..	..	..	..	..	Egba North
A. F. Odulana, Esq.	..	..	..	..	..	..	Ijebu South
A. A. Odunrinde, Esq.	..	..	..	..	..	..	Oshogbo North
S. A. Ogedengbe, Esq.	..	..	..	..	..	..	Owo North
J. O. Ogunbiyi, Esq.	..	..	..	..	..	..	Ilesha Urban
S. O. Ogundipe, Esq.	..	..	..	..	..	..	Ogbomosho South
E. J. Ogunkanmi, Esq.	..	..	..	..	..	..	Oshun South East
Chief D. A. Ogunleye	..	..	..	..	..	..	Ede-Ejigbo
Chief A. O. Ogunsanya	..	..	..	..	..	..	Ikeja
Chief F. S. Okotie-Eboh, C.M.G.	..	..	..	..	..	..	Warri
Chief E. O. Okunowo	..	..	..	..	..	..	Ijebu Central
S. A. Oladapo, Esq.	..	..	..	..	..	..	Ondo West
Oba S. A. Oladiran	..	..	..	..	..	..	Okitipupa South
J. O. Olaore, Esq.	..	..	..	..	..	..	Oshun North East
T. O. Oloyede, Esq.	..	..	..	..	..	..	Ife-Ila
Chief O. B. Akin-Olugbade	..	..	..	..	..	..	Egba South
M. A. Omisade, Esq.	..	..	..	..	..	..	Ife Town
Chief D. N. Oronsaye	..	..	..	..	..	..	Benin East
S. A. Oyewole, Esq.	..	..	..	..	..	..	Ibadan South West
	<b>R</b>						
Chief Ayo Rosiji	..	..	..	..	..	..	Egba East
	<b>S</b>						
D. Senu-Oke, Esq.	..	..	..	..	..	..	Badagry
	<b>T</b>						
J. A. Taiwo, Esq.	..	..	..	..	..	..	Oyo North West
L. O. Tobun, Esq.	..	..	..	..	..	..	Epe
	<b>Y</b>						
S. A. Yerokun, Esq.	..	..	..	..	..	..	Oyo Central

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Mbazulike Amechi, Esq. .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Onitsha South Central
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I. A. Brown, Esq. .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Uyo South West
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I. O. Chikelu, Esq. .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Udi Central
H. O. Chuku, Esq. .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Bende Central
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J. Chukwu, Esq. .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Awgu South
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P. I. Ejukwa, Esq. .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Ikom
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U. O. Ekenokot, Esq. .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Opobo South
U. U. Eko, Esq. .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Obubra
P. O. Eleke, Esq. .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Okigwi South East
N. E. Elenwa, Esq. .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Ahoada West
O. C. Ememe, Esq. .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Aba South
O. J. Eminue, Esq. .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Eket East
G. O. D. Eneh, Esq. .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Abaja and Ngwo
N. Enwo, Esq. .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Afikpo South
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Professor Kalu Ezera .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Bende East
<b>G</b>								
K. Giadom, Esq. .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Ogoni West
<b>I</b>								
S. U. Idiong, Esq. .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Ikot-Ekpene North East
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J. O. Igwe, Esq. .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Ezza
F. U. Ihe, Esq. .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Okigwi North East
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V. Iketuonye, Esq. .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Onitsha South

<i>Member</i>							<i>Constituency</i>
<b>M</b>							
Dr. K. O. Mbadiwe	..	..	..	..	..	..	Orlu North East
A. U. D. Mbah, Esq.	..	..	..	..	..	..	Owerri North
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R. N. Muojeke, Esq.	..	..	..	..	..	..	Awka Central
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R. A. Njoku, Esq.	..	..	..	..	..	..	Owerri Central
S. Nnaji, Esq.	..	..	..	..	..	..	Udi East
Onyiba Aja Nwachuku	..	..	..	..	..	..	Afikpo North
V. A. Nwalieji, Esq.	..	..	..	..	..	..	Nsukka West
N. Nwangbo, Esq.	..	..	..	..	..	..	Ishielu
O. O. Nweke, Esq.	..	..	..	..	..	..	Ikwo
S. F. Nwika, Esq.	..	..	..	..	..	..	Ogoni East
J. N. Nwofokoda, Esq.	..	..	..	..	..	..	Izi North
Dr B. U. Nzeribe	..	..	..	..	..	..	Orlu West
<b>O</b>							
J. U. Odey, Esq.	..	..	..	..	..	..	Ogoja East
C. A. Odigbo, Esq.	..	..	..	..	..	..	Bende West
F. E. Offor, Esq.	..	..	..	..	..	..	Okigwi Central
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Dr P. U. Okeke	..	..	..	..	..	..	Onitsha North Central
M. Okilo, Esq.	..	..	..	..	..	..	Brass
F. I. Okoronkwo, Esq.	..	..	..	..	..	..	Aba Urban
N. N. Onugu, Esq.	..	..	..	..	..	..	Nsukka East
I. S. Onwuchekwa, Esq.	..	..	..	..	..	..	Ahoada Central
Chief R. A. Orok	..	..	..	..	..	..	Abak North West
<b>U</b>							
J. U. Udenyi, Esq.	..	..	..	..	..	..	Enyong North
D. S. Udo-Inyang, Esq.	..	..	..	..	..	..	Opobo North
D. C. Ugwu, Esq.	..	..	..	..	..	..	Nsukka North
B. Ukaegbu, Esq.	..	..	..	..	..	..	Owerri South East
N. D. Ukah, Esq., M.B.E.	..	..	..	..	..	..	Owerri North East
B. U. Ukpong, Esq.	..	..	..	..	..	..	Ikot-Ekpene Central
S. J. Umoren, Esq.	..	..	..	..	..	..	Uyo North
P. U. Umoh, Esq.	..	..	..	..	..	..	Abak South East
Chief M. W. Ubani	..	..	..	..	..	..	Aba Central
<b>W</b>							
Dr. J. A. Wachuku	..	..	..	..	..	..	Aba North
<b>LAGOS MEMBERS</b>							
Chief T. O. S. Benson	..	..	..	..	..	..	Lagos North
L. J. Dosunmu, Esq.	..	..	..	..	..	..	Lagos Central
Chief J. M. Johnson	..	..	..	..	..	..	Lagos South

(i)

[Proclamation]

12 MARCH 1964

[President's Speech]

(ii)

IN THE FIFTH SESSION OF THE  
FIRST PARLIAMENT OF THE  
FEDERATION OF NIGERIA WHICH  
OPENED THIRD OCTOBER, 1960

Thursday, 12th March, 1964

Parliament met at 10 a.m. pursuant to a Proclamation by the President in the Official Gazette Extraordinary of 12th February, 1964, as followeth :—

### A PROCLAMATION



By His Excellency DR NNAMDI AZIKIWE, President and Commander-in-Chief of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

NNAMDI AZIKIWE,  
President

WHEREAS under the provisions of section 67 of the Constitution of the Federation the President is empowered to appoint a place and time for each session of Parliament :

AND WHEREAS it is expedient and necessary that Parliament should be convened :

NOW, THEREFORE, I, NNAMDI AZIKIWE, President and Commander-in-Chief of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, in exercise of the powers in that behalf vested in me HEREBY PROCLAIM that Parliament shall be convened in Lagos : AND I do appoint the National Hall as the place of assembly for the purposes only of the State Opening of Parliament which shall thereafter meet as in accordance with established usage : AND I do further appoint the time for assembly as the 12th day of March, 1964, at 10 o'clock in the forenoon :

The attendance of Honourable Senators and Members is accordingly requested for the transaction of such business as may be prescribed or offered during the assembly and thereafter as from time to time required.

GIVEN under my hand and the Public Seal of the Federal Republic of Nigeria at State House, Lagos, this sixth day of February, one thousand nine hundred and sixty-four.

### PRAYERS

*The Speaker of the House of Representatives in the Chair.*

*His Excellency, the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, entered the Chamber in procession and took his seat.*

### Speech by His Excellency, the President and Commander-in-Chief of The Federal Republic of Nigeria

*Mr Speaker, Senators and Members of the House of Representatives.*

*It is my privilege to address you to-day at this first Budget Meeting of Parliament since our constitutional change from monarchy to republic in October last year. Before outlining the policy of my Government for the coming year, I wish to record my satisfaction with the orderly arrangements that culminated in the successful creation of a Mid-Western Region of Nigeria last month.*

*My Government will continue to support all practicable measures aimed at promoting African unity and to be guided by the principles enshrined in the Charter of the Organization of African Unity especially those of non-interference in the internal affairs of States ; peaceful settlement of disputes by negotiation, mediation, conciliation or arbitration ; and absolute dedication to the total emancipation of the African territories which are still under foreign rule.*

*It is the firm resolve of my Government to continue to co-operate with other African States, and to foster good neighbourly relations between Nigeria and her neighbours. My Government will also seek to widen the areas of co-operation between Nigeria and other African countries.*

*While continuing to support the United Nations Organization as the best hope of mankind for promoting peace and security, my Government will, in collaboration with other nations, press vigorously for equitable representation of African States on the Security Council and the other major organs of the United Nations Organization.*

*My Government will, within the context of the 18-Nation Committee on Disarmament, continue its efforts to explore all possible areas of international co-operation with a view to achieving total relaxation of world tension.*

*In the field of internal security, my Government will further expand the Nigeria Police Force to meet its growing commitments, particularly having regard to the increase in population.*

*The coming year will see greater strengthening of our defences by land and sea and further progress*

in the establishment of the Nigerian Air Force. To this end, the Nigeria Army will be further expanded and re-equipped and steps will be taken to acquire more ships for the Nigerian Navy.

In pursuance of its policy of making our Armed Forces largely independent in the training of their personnel, my Government will further develop the Nigerian Defence Academy to meet ultimately all pre-commission training requirements of our Armed Forces.

Legislation will be introduced during the year for the establishment of a Defence Industries Corporation and for the management of an Ordnance Factory. Other Bills will include one to replace the existing law with an up-to-date naval code to meet the requirements of a Republican Nigeria and to regulate the pensions and retiring benefits of members of our Armed Forces.

The Nigeria Airways will soon introduce, on its European route, one of the modern types of jet aircraft, the VC.10, in place of the Boeing 707, to start direct day flights between Lagos and London.

Arrangements are well advanced for the establishment of a Civil Aviation Training Centre in Zaria, which is being jointly financed by the United Nations Special Fund and the Federal Government. When completed, the Centre will provide training for all grades of our aviation staff including pilots, thereby helping to accelerate the Nigerianisation of the technical and professional posts for which there is at present a dearth of qualified Nigerians.

The Nigerian National Shipping Line will press forward with its fleet development and will endeavour substantially to increase the number of its vessels.

Work on the second Apapa Wharf Extension, involving the construction of four new berths, will be accelerated and the possibility of bulk handling facilities in one of the berths will be explored so as to make for a quicker turn-round of moored ships. A first class deep-water berth with ancillary facilities will be completed at Koko in the Mid-Western Nigeria. While continuing with experiments for finding a permanent solution to soil erosion caused by the sea at Victoria Beach, my Government will intensify its current operation thereby pumping sufficient sand to reclaim land already lost to the sea.

For the first time ever, the building and assembling of wagons will be carried out in

Nigeria by the Nigerian Railway Corporation and, as far as it is practicable, local materials will be used.

To help reduce accidents on our highways, all new bridges that will be constructed during the current Development Plan will either be constructed to 24-foot width or will be so constructed as to allow for subsequent widening.

New Trunk 'A' Roads will be built to a design speed of 60 miles per hour, and legislation is contemplated further to regulate traffic on Trunk 'A' Roads in order to ensure greater safety.

In the award of contracts, indigenous firms of engineering contractors will be given encouragement to enable them undertake larger contracts.

The topographical mapping of Nigeria will be vigorously pursued in order to produce maps on a scale of 1 in 50,000 for the purposes of economic development and planning.

Legislation will be introduced to amend the Survey Act to make membership of the Surveyors' Licensing Board more representative and to enhance the Nigerian Surveyors' Licence which is required to practise the profession of land surveying.

My Government will intensify its efforts towards accelerated development of the Nigerian Telecommunications Service.

A Nigerian Postal Order service will for the first time be introduced, and a White Paper defining further postal development during the next five-year period will be laid before you in due course.

My Government recognizes the importance of expanding our external means of communication and will, therefore, continue to increase the number of African countries with which to establish direct telecommunications links. A powerful radio transmitting station will be built at Ikorodu to bring Nigeria closer to all parts of the world.

The possibility of training more Telecommunications and Meteorological personnel from neighbouring African countries at our Training Schools in Oshodi will be explored. The Meteorological Service will be expanded to meet the ever-growing needs of industry and agriculture as well as military and civil aviation.

In order to increase and to maintain the expansion of our economy in all parts of the country, my Government will continue to promote

and regulate the exploitation of our mineral resources. An inventory of the mineral resources of Nigeria will be made and the modern techniques of geophysical and geochemical prospecting will be used to supplement conventional geological methods.

A Bill will be introduced to tighten the control of quarrying in Nigeria.

The development of our power resources will be continued to meet the increasing demand of our expanding economy. Accordingly, the Electricity Corporation of Nigeria will increase the generating capacity of its major undertakings. The new Towns Development Scheme, which is being undertaken as a joint venture with the Regional Governments, will be continued.

A Bill will be laid before you during this session to grant the Electricity Corporation of Nigeria, wayleaves for the construction of transmission lines.

Conscious of the great importance attached to nuclear power, my Government will by virtue of Nigeria's membership in the International Atomic Energy Agency, seek research and training opportunities for our scholars.

The existing curricula of our primary, secondary and technical schools will be re-examined with a view to revising them to include the latest discoveries of educational research. To provide increased educational opportunities suitable to the age, ability and aptitude of our pupils, secondary education will be diversified. The development of technical education will be further strengthened by enlisting greater co-operation of the industrial and commercial sectors of our economy with the various Governments of the Republic. To this end, my Government will give necessary lead through the medium of a fully representative National Advisory Council on technical education and industrial training. A National Teachers' Training College for training teachers for technical schools and colleges will be opened this year through the generous financial assistance from the International Development Association of the World Bank. The coming year will also witness the opening of a Faculty of Engineering in the University of Lagos.

A National Council for Science and Technology will also be established with the primary aim of stimulating scientific and technological education in Nigeria. This body will advise the Government on its scientific, technological and research policies.

My Government will promote the activity of the Education and Culture Commission of the Organization of African Unity by contributing to the exchange of students and by offering scholarships and facilities for higher education in our educational institutions. It will also encourage the establishment of an administrative organ for these activities within the framework of the Organization of African Unity.

My Government will carry on with its programme of improving the health of the inhabitants of Lagos by widening the basis of preventive measures and bringing medical and health facilities within easy reach of a large number of people. To this end, the five Health Centres in Lagos, which are being built, will be opened for the use of the community during the coming year.

Being gravely concerned about the heavy toll of lives taken by malaria and small-pox in our country, my Government will, in co-operation with the Regional Governments, launch a nation-wide campaign for the eradication of small-pox. In co-operation with the World Health Organization and in collaboration with the Regional Governments, it will also embark on the early stage of a nation-wide malaria eradication project.

Legislation will be presented to you during this session to reorganize the Nursing profession so as to modernize the education of our nurses and to rationalise the basis of registration and practice of the profession in the country.

My Government is determined to continue to play its vital role in International Health Conferences and to co-operate with International Health Organizations. Special efforts will be made to ensure that the Republic gives maximum support to the Health, Nutrition and Sanitation Commission of the Organization of African Unity.

My Government will continue to supply Nigerian legal and judicial personnel to those African countries that request such assistance from us.

A Presidential Proceedings Bill will be presented to you during this meeting to regulate proceedings at certain joint meetings of the Houses of Parliament for the purpose of election of the President and other matters.

An amending legislation will be introduced to tighten the provisions of the Official Secrets Act. An Adaptation of Laws Order will be made to



effect all consequential changes in our Statute Laws, which are necessitated by the constitutional transformation of our country into a Republic.

The possibility of expanding the Dock Labour Scheme to cover all ports in the Republic and also improve the system of registration of dockworkers will be explored.

Legislation governing the National Provident Fund Scheme will be amended to increase the Regional Governments' direct participation in the investment of the accumulated fund of the Scheme.

A classified census of public beggars already being undertaken will be continued as a first step towards evolving a means of their effective control and rehabilitation.

In pursuance of my Government's policy of encouraging and developing sports, more financial assistance will be given to the Lagos Sports Council and the National Sports Council to strengthen them and enable them provide necessary facilities for organized training aimed at improving the standard of performance in all fields of sports.

To enable Government cater more adequately for the welfare of all our Ex-Servicemen throughout the Republic, legislation will be introduced during the year to create a single Ex-Servicemen's organization.

The possibility of instituting a system for registration of marriages celebrated in Lagos under Customary law and Muslim law will be explored.

A new comprehensive legislation will be presented to you during this session to replace the existing Land Registration Act and thereby simplify, to a great extent, the complex problems of land registration in Lagos.

My Government is actively considering a comprehensive United Nations Report on Lagos. In it, concrete proposals have been made for the development of the Federal territory of Lagos as a capital city befitting this country. Before undertaking the implementation of most of the recommendations in the Report, my Government will carry out further feasibility studies on priorities concerned with traffic, sewage disposal, slum clearance and housing.

The Metropolitan Low Cost Housing Scheme, which is designed to help Lagos inhabitants in the low-income group to own houses through loans provided either by the Nigerian Staff Housing

Scheme or by the Nigeria Building Society, will be implemented to the extent permitted by our financial resources. The first phase of the Scheme involves the construction, in South Surulere, of 1,400 units of cheap but durable houses.

The coming year will witness a diversification of the live programmes of the Nigerian Television Service and the introduction of educational television. A nucleus of the National Library will be opened during the year to cater for the literary tastes of our reading public as well as inculcate the reading habit in more and more of our people.

My Government will intensify its efforts in securing an increase in our share of world trade in order to reduce the present imbalance in our terms of trade. To this end, a measure of import control will be introduced. More positive measures will be introduced to direct our industrialisation programme towards the local production, from local raw materials, of our major import items such as textiles, building materials and foodstuffs.

Conscious of the fact that the economic factors which have kept our trade at a low ebb are due to the manipulation at the international level of the world commodity market, my Government will co-operate with other developing countries and all progressive nations in an effort to forge, through the forthcoming United Nations Conference on Trade and Development in Geneva, a new institution for organizing world trade on a more equitable basis. To this end, our membership of all international organizations such as GATT will be reviewed in the light of developing trends.

Steps will be taken during this session to bring before you legislation for better regulation and promotion of our internal trade. Bills will also be introduced to regulate Insurance and Re-Insurance as well as Hire-Purchase. A Committee has been set up to advise on Retail Trade, and it is expected that the Committee on Company Law already set up will submit its report before the end of this session.

A Project Evaluation Unit and an Investment Unit will be set up. The Projects Evaluation Unit will conduct feasibility studies and project evaluation on a nation-wide scale to ensure that our industrialisation programme is properly orientated to those industries which will ensure the maximum growth in our economy. The Investment Unit will serve both as a registry for indus-

Parliamentary Debates

(ix)

[President's Speech]

12 MARCH 1964

[Adjournment]

(x)

trial projects established in Nigeria and as an information centre and liaison office for new investors.

The rapid development of agriculture will seriously engage the attention of my Government. The recent comprehensive survey of agricultural possibilities in Nigeria which was conducted by a team of experts from the United Nations Food and Agricultural Organization will provide one of the basic blue-prints for stepping up primary production in Nigeria.

My Government will continue the intensive search for more effective way and means of expanding the production of local foodstuffs, cash crops and dairy products. The results of the activities of the Federal Departments of Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries and Veterinary Research, will be made more readily available to the farmers. The Nigerian Fishing Industry will be expanded through the establishment of a fishing terminal and other landing facilities, together with the associated fish processing or canning factories. The fishing potentials of Lake Chad will be fully exploited in close co-operation with the other countries bordering the Chad.

A comprehensive Progress Report on the Six-Year National Development Plan will be laid before you to acquaint you with the progress made during the first two years of the Plan, and also to give you the opportunity of assessing the achievements so far made.

My Government will, in consultation with the Regional Governments, introduce practical measures for dealing with the problem of unemployment which a recent survey of urban unemployment showed to be most acute among school leavers.

My Government will continue to use the National Economic Council and other inter-Governmental institutions as the machinery for co-ordinating its economic activities with those of the Regional Governments. These inter-Governmental organs will henceforth play a greater role in the execution of the National Plan and in the general development of our economy.

Senators and Members of the House of Representatives, your principal business at this meeting will be to consider the 1964-65 Appropriation Bill together with the supporting Estimates of Recurrent and Capital Expenditure.

In order to facilitate the growing use of cheques as a means of payment, a Bill will be introduced to make provision for the payment of cheques without endorsement in certain circumstances.

It is also intended to introduce a Bill for a new Stamp Duties Act to bring the existing Act more into line with present-day circumstances and to effect a number of amendments aimed at removing existing causes of delay in assessing and stamping certain classes of documents.

My Government further proposes to introduce legislation to regulate the acceptance of deposits and protect the public against fraud.

Legislation will also be laid before you to make provision for the exercise control of the Oil Refinery now under construction in Eastern Nigeria.

Following an agreement with the Government of the Republic of Dahomey, the first common customs station will come into operation shortly so that travellers between that country and Nigeria will only have to undergo a single examination instead of two separate examinations as at present. Negotiations on similar problems of Customs administration being undertaken with the Republics of Camerouns, Chad, Niger and Togo will continue.

The new form of Customs Tariff in accordance with the Brussels Nomenclature will be used on an experimental basis, alongside the existing Tariff, for a few months, and the formal change-over to the new Tariff will take place when all those concerned have become familiar with the use of the new document.

Mr President of the Senate, Mr Speaker, Senators and Members of the House of Representatives, I pray that Almighty God will guide your work and bless your counsels for the progress of our country and the good and happiness of us all. (APPLAUSE)

HIS EXCELLENCY RETIRED FROM THE CHAMBER.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion made and Question proposed, That Parliament do now adjourn—(THE MINISTER OF HEALTH)

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved : That Parliament do now adjourn.

Adjourned accordingly at twenty-five minutes to eleven o'clock.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

Friday, 13th March, 1964

The House met at 9 a.m.

PRAYERS

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

OATHS

Oath of Allegiance was administered to the following old Member—

Dr Jaja Wachuku.

ANNOUNCEMENT

**Mr Speaker :** I have to inform the House that I have received a letter from His Excellency, Chief S. J. Mariere, as follows :—

“26th February, 1964.

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

*Dear Mr Speaker,*

*I suppose by my appointment as Governor of Mid-Western Nigeria on the 7th of February, 1964 my seat in the Federal House of Representatives has become vacant. All the same, I do not think it will be out of place to send in these few lines to resign my seat formally as the member for Urhobo Central with effect from the 6th February, 1964. And I wish to seize this opportunity to express my profound gratitude to you, Mr Speaker, your predecessor in office and to all honourable Members for the kindness and consideration I have always received in the House since I first took my seat on the 11th of November, 1954.*

*Since my appointment as Governor, I have received an overwhelming number of congratulatory messages from both sides of the House. For their good wishes and for the part they played in making the aspirations and dreams of Mid-Westerners come true, I am indeed grateful to honourable Members. It is in recognition of this role, I think, that the credit of having produced the first Governor of the Region should have gone to your honourable House.*

*I thank God for the honour and privilege of having been a Member of the Federal Parliament through a very significant period in*

*our history. The House has got an atmosphere which is peculiarly its own—the cut and thrust of debates, the interruptions, the inevitable points of order, the jokes and the robust laughter—it is all these and more, Mr Speaker, that I shall miss. But their memory will linger long.*

*The exalted office of Governor to which I have been appointed carries with it heavy responsibilities. I know I can rely on the prayers of honourable Members that God will give me the strength to serve the people of Mid-Western Nigeria to the best of my ability.*

*Yours sincerely,  
(Sgd.) Samuel Jereton Mariere,  
Governor*

**Mr A. A. Ajibola** (Egbado South) : On a point of order, I feel that this honourable House ought to observe a minute's silence in memory of that party, the U.P.P. which—(Interruptions).

**Mr Speaker :** I am afraid your speech is out of order.

BUSINESS STATEMENT

**The Minister of Finance** (Chief F. S. Okotie-Eboh) : To-day, the following Bills will be presented :—

- (1) Appropriation (1964-65) Bill ;
- (2) Presidential Proceedings Bill ;
- (3) Queen's Counsel (Abolition) Bill ;
- (4) Lagos Executive Development Board (Powers) Bill ;
- (5) Bills of Exchange Bill ;
- (6) Nigerian Legion Bill ;
- (7) Insurance (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill ;
- (8) Nurses and Midwives Bill ;
- (9) Registered Land Bill.

The rest of the day will be devoted to the debate on a Motion for an Address. The debate on the Address will be resumed tomorrow. I shall make a further Business Statement on Saturday but it may be helpful to hon. Members if some indication of Government's intention with regard to the present Meeting is given.

It is believed that it will be the general wish that this Meeting should end about the middle of April in order to give hon. Members from the North ample opportunity to make necessary arrangements for the forthcoming Id-El-Kabir festival which comes up on April 22nd. I hear that not only Northern Members but some Southern Members too are affected. I think the Attorney-General is one of them. In order to be able to make this possible, it is necessary for the number of days allotted to various stages of the Appropriation Bill to be curtailed but at the same time Government has taken care not to reduce the actual number of hours of debate to which hon. Members are entitled. It is, therefore, our intention to hold a series of night sittings and formal Motions to provide for these will be moved in due course.

**Alhaji Mohammed Mukhtari Sarkin Bai** (Dambatta) : With all due respect to my hon. Friend, Chief Festus Okotie-Eboh, the Minister of Finance and Leader of the House, I must say that he has failed in his duty as the Leader of the House in two respects. Firstly, he has failed this time to consult the Government Whips on the Government programme for this meeting as he used to every year. Secondly, he has failed to issue to the Whips for distribution to Members for their guidance, points on Government activities.

We do not know what his plans are. We do not know whether the Minister wants to destroy this Parliament any time and fly to London and New York and then come back to tell the House that the country is financially viable.

Without stressing this point too much, I hereby on behalf of all the Government Whips demand from the Leader of the House an unreserved apology and an assurance that this will not occur again. If this is not forthcoming we shall be bound to use our whips and discipline the Minister.

**The Minister of Finance** : I am very surprised at my hon. Friend, the Government Whip, who perhaps failed to consult his colleagues to whom I had entrusted the full programme of the House for transmission to him because when I rang up twice for him and sent for him I was told that he was with his girl friend. (*Laughter*).

**Mr Speaker** : Order ! It is all well and good to provoke laughter and jokes which are

sometimes good for the House but Ministerial Statements are not subject to debates as opposed to Motions.

**Alhaji Mohammed Mukhtari Sarkin Bai** : I want to place it on record that I have never had a girl friend in Lagos or any where else.

## PRESENTATION OF PUBLIC BILLS

### APPROPRIATION (1964-65) BILL

Bill to authorise the issue out of the Consolidated Revenue Fund of sixty-two million two hundred and seventy-five thousand nine hundred and eighty pounds for the service of the year ending on the thirty-first day of March, one thousand nine hundred and sixty-five ; and to appropriate that amount for the purposes specified in this Act, presented by the Minister of Finance ; read the First time ; to be read a Second time—*18th of March*.

### PRESIDENTIAL PROCEEDINGS BILL

Bill to make supplementary provision for the purposes of Chapter IV of the Constitution of the Federation as respects the election and removal of the President of the Republic ; and for purposes connected therewith, presented by the Attorney-General and Minister of Justice ; read the First time ; to be read a Second time—*Thursday, 19th of March*.

### QUEEN'S COUNSEL (ABOLITION) BILL

Bill to abolish the rank of Queen's Counsel ; and for connected purposes, presented by the Attorney-General and Minister of Justice ; read the First time ; to be read a Second time—*Thursday 19th of March*.

### LAGOS EXECUTIVE DEVELOPMENT

#### BOARD (POWERS) BILL

Bill to extend the powers of the Lagos Executive Development Board ; and for connected purposes, presented by the Minister of Lagos Affairs ; read the First time ; to be read a Second time—*Friday 20th of March*.

### BILLS OF EXCHANGE BILL

Bill to amend the law relating to Bills of Exchange ; and for purposes connected therewith, presented by the Minister of Finance ; read the First time ; to be read a Second time—*Friday 21st of March*.

## NIGERIAN LEGION BILL

Bill to make fresh provision with respect to the welfare of ex-servicemen ; and for purposes connected therewith, presented by the Minister of Internal Affairs ; read the First time ; to be read a Second time—*Friday 20th March.*

INSURANCE (MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS)  
BILL

Bill to provide for the investment in Nigerian securities, by persons carrying on business as insurers in Nigeria, of certain assets of the business ; to make further provisions as respects certain contracts of insurance ; and for purposes connected with the matters aforesaid, presented by the Minister of Finance ; read the First time ; to be read a Second time—*Saturday 21st of March.*

## NURSES AND MIDWIVES BILL

Bill to regulate Nursing and Midwifery and for purposes connected therewith, presented by the Minister of Finance ; read the First time ; to be read a Second time—*Wednesday 18th of March.*

## REGISTERED LAND BILL

Bill to provide for the more effective registration of land and titles and for matters connected therewith, presented by the Minister of Lagos Affairs ; read the First time ; to be read a Second time—*Saturday 21st of March.*

## NOTICES OF MOTIONS

## COMMITTEE OF SELECTION

**The Minister of Finance** : I beg to move—

That Alhaji Bello Dandago, Alhaji Mukhtari, Sarkin Bai, Chief D. N. Abii, Alhaji Aminu Kano, Chief Ayo Rosiji and Chief Akin-Olugbade be members of the Committee of Selection.

I beg to move.

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

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Resolved:* That Alhaji Bello Dandago, Alhaji Mukhtari, Sarkin Bai, Chief D. N.

Abii, Alhaji Aminu Kano, Chief Ayo Rosiji and Chief Akin-Olugbade be members of the Committee of Selection.

President's Speech : Motion for an  
Address

**Mr A. O. Ogunsanya** (Ikeja) : I rise to move the Motion—

**Alhaji Muhammed Mukhtari Sarkin Bai** (Dambatta) : On a point of order, in view of the fact that thousands of people from Western Nigeria are running away from the N.C.N.C. and declaring for the new N.N.D.P., I think it is absolutely imperative for the hon. Member to make his stand clear before he is allowed to move his Motion.

**Mr Ogunsanya** : This is a terribly unpalatable preface to an important Motion and I wish to say on the Floor of this House that when the N.C.N.C. was founded in 1944, I was one of the members who founded it. The leader of my party has never doubted my sincerity of purpose and I am, like some other Members here, never in small things which will have only an ephemeral life. I am always insisting on principle, and I will never join these bands of carpet crossers. (*Interruptions*).

**Mr Speaker** : Order ! Will the hon. Member please continue to move his Motion.

**Mr Ogunsanya** : I think one should not fail to take notice of the Government Whip's remarks because looking round there one finds that none of them has remained in two parties. Each of them has a qualification of having been in three, four or even five parties ! (*Interruptions*).

**Mr Speaker** : Will the hon. Member please move his Motion, which is a very important Motion.

**The Minister of Finance** : I would like at this juncture, if this House will allow me some indulgence in this matter, to appeal to all sides of the House that there are times when these expensive jokes are necessary and there are also times when such jokes may not be necessary. If I may ask in all humility that all Members please realise that we are here to do a job of work for the millions of people that we represent, and that this particular Motion is a very serious Motion affecting an Address to the

President, the Head of the State, in the course of which the business of Government during this session will be dealt with.

I, therefore, again respectfully appeal to all Members to crack the usual jokes, but not to allow expensive jokes to carry us into verbal hostilities or brick-bats on the Floor of this House.

Thank you very much.

**Mr A. Akomolafe** (Ekiti North East): It is really a serious business where we want to find out who is who, which Member is in and which is out so that when we are talking, we should know whether we are talking of the Government or of the Opposition. It will also help us to determine whether we are referring to the N.N.D.P. as the Opposition.

**Mr Ogunsanya**: I rise to move the Motion standing in my name, That an humble Address be presented to his Excellency, the President, in the following terms:—

“Your Excellency,

We, the Members of the House of Representatives of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, in Parliament assembled, beg leave to offer our humble thanks to Your Excellency for the speech which Your Excellency has been pleased to address to both Houses of Parliament.”

I deem it a great privilege to move this Motion at this very momentous occasion. It has been said, and if it has not been said, it should have been said that we have now, for the first time, a great test as to whether or not we can keep the good reputation we have, internationally, and at the same time keep ourselves in tact at home. The occasion is a momentous one for two reasons. Firstly this is the first Budget Meeting in a Republican Nigeria. We, of our own volition last year said good-bye to monarchy and at the same time kept our place in the membership of the Commonwealth of Nations. Secondly the Motion is momentous because it is now that we have our very first big test as to whether, as I said before, we are able to solve our own problems.

Not long ago, we had members of the Organisation of African Unity in Lagos. Much time and energy has been spent in trying to evolve African Unity. How much time do we ourselves spend trying to evolve Nigerian Unity? This question has got to be answered

at this present sitting without any emotion whatsoever, but rather with the spirit of trying to show to the world over that we are really a nation.

In spite of this baneful preface, His Excellency's speech is remarkable for its brilliance and comprehensiveness. We have a number of things we need, mentioned in the speech. It is a comprehensive survey of the problems and the needs of the nation. On this occasion, I intend to deal with basic problems only. I am doing this because I am convinced that we have to re-examine ourselves. The laudable programme contained in the speech is non-controversial in itself, but real understanding among the leaders of the country is needed for any programme such as this to succeed.

The Government has to be congratulated on its various proposals contained in the President's speech, but I would like to comment on a few of them. I take first and foremost, the reference in the speech to education. It is my view that it is about time once again that we reviewed our stand as to whether education should be a regional or a federal subject. I think it is high time that education should be federalised. It is not helping the country to have varying standards of education. I think wherever a Nigerian receives primary education, whether in the North, East, West, Mid-West or in Lagos, the standard should really be the same.

His Excellency's speech referred to the new Insurance Law. I would like to congratulate the Government for this proposed legislation on Insurance Companies as well as the proposal in respect of the law relating to hire-purchase. I think it is legislation which has been very much over-due.

By the Insurance Companies Bill, the companies will have to render account to Government and it will be possible for these companies, in effect, to contribute to the development drive of this country. This is very important in view of the fact that most of the insurance companies operating in our country are expatriate firms.

At the present sitting at least mention of creating a fifth region is found on the list. By creating more states, most of the explosive issues of the nation would be solved. The idea of states, no doubt, is not new to this country. In the North, prior to the advent of British rule, we all read in past history of Nigeria

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of the existence of the *Hausa Bokwai* and in other parts of the country we read also of the old Benin empire. We read of the Egba Kingdom ; we read of several others.

**An hon. Member :** What about Uguta, Owerri.

**Mr Ogunsanya :** I know that these things interest various sides of this House, and I say that that shows the interest members are bound to take in the issue of the creation of more States. To-day, we hear on this side of Owerri State. We hear also of the Calabar State. We hear of the Ogoja State. and I think that once we carve out various States out of the present East, North and West, most of the regional consciousness which has plagued our society will disappear.

The Speech of the President refers to the burning question of unemployment and the most intractable problem facing Nigeria to-day is unemployment. There is no doubt about that. Alhaji Waziri Ibrahim, during the recent International Seminar on Man-power, very correctly emphasised the seriousness of unemployment in Nigeria to-day. School leavers no doubt still prefer wage employments in the urban areas but this is not without some reasons. A lot has been said about directing school leavers to work on the farms—in agriculture, but the Government really has to do something concrete in order to attract school leavers to work on farm settlements and other ventures connected with agriculture by making the remunerative side sufficiently attractive.

The Government must also create more employment by building factories. The economic development of the country depends on industrialisation, more on industrialisation. It is the duty of the Government to create avenues for employment for our people. Now the present problem of employment reflects more on primary and secondary school leavers. With the multiplicity of Universities in our country, sooner or later we will start to find that our graduates will find it very difficult to find suitable employment.

The Speech refers also to Sports. I wish to thank the Government for the promised financial assistance to the Lagos Sports Council and the National Sports Council. Talking of the two world powers to-day—the U.S.S.R. and the U.S.A.—you will find in the realm of

sports that whenever there is an Olympic competition, it is in the first place usually between the two of them. This in itself emphasizes the impact of athletic ascendancy on the importance of modern States. Nothing done to help sports would be too much. Much more should be done ; and one finds that the modern emphasis should be, as we were told by the President of the Republic elsewhere some time ago, on winning and not merely on the key tradition of the honour to participate. Our country must regain its lost prestige in sports. We are fed up with being defeated in football and in athletics. I think that by careful planning in this direction we will be better off.

The President's Speech refers to telecommunications. I am not sure that the Minister is here but it is most gratifying to note the promise to accelerate the development of Nigeria's telecommunications service. We are already fed up with the delay in this direction. This promise to accelerate must itself be accelerated. The Minister must come here to give a double assurance. I am saying this because I realise that this matter should not be late any longer. We have incessant telephone black-outs and it is becoming more and more unbearable. If something is not done about our telecommunications system, and that quickly, I think it is high time the Ministry of Communications should be wound up. It is impossible for a country like ours to get on with a gigantic development plan which we envisage without proper means of communication. It should be easily possible to get in touch with leading centres like Kano, Ilorin, Sapele or Agege without much waste of time.

It is very gratifying also to note that the Government has given assurance for continued supply of legal and judicial personnel to those African countries that request such assistance. This is very good and I think the Attorney-General of the Federal Republic should take note of what I have to say in this connection. One of the puzzles of members of the legal profession in this direction is that whereas Nigerians are being recruited to other African countries, it is still impossible sometimes to have Nigerian lawyers recruited to other parts of this same country.

**Some hon. Members :** Where ?

**Mr Ogunsanya :** I think this should be taken up as a problem which the Attorney-General should look into quickly. It is necessary now.

The Speech referred to the United Nation's Report on Lagos. Development of Lagos will be meaningless without considering the effect on Lagos and the neighbouring districts. Lagos workers live in Mushin, Shomolu, Itire, Oshodi, Ikate, Onigbongbo, Bariga, Shogunle and other parts. The argument on this subject, the views of the Jones-Lucas Report on the administration of the Lagos City Council at pages 8 to 10 raises the point quite clearly, and on this issue of the development of the greater Lagos, I think it is apposite, with the permission of Mr Speaker, as a supplement to the United Nations' Report to which reference has been made to read a portion of the Jones-Lucas Report.

*"The population within the present municipal boundary of Lagos was estimated in 1962 as 450,000. Within a few miles of the town, in the Western Region, there live another 280,000 people, approximately. Moreover, as there is very little more land readily available within Lagos itself, it is probably that further growth will take place in these suburban authorities, beyond the present municipal jurisdiction. At the present rate of growth the total population may well have risen from its present 730,000 to over a million by 1970.*

*This poses a problem familiar to all large and growing towns. If the development of the town is to be ordered and well planned, the municipal system will have to be adapted to the needs of the changing social situation. Highway and railways must be designed and constructed to serve the whole metropolitan area; industries and homes must be provided in the appropriate areas; police, health and education services, if they are to be effective and economical, must be unified or co-ordinated. Planning must be done not only for the existing town of Lagos, and not only for the existing population of Greater Lagos, but also for the population which will be born or move into Greater Lagos in the years to come.*

*There are two ways in which this co-ordinated planning and administration could be achieved. It could be done by creating a metropolitan*

*authority to cover the whole area, responsible for some major services, such as planning, sewers, highways, etc., while a lower tier of authorities provides the more local services. This is the pattern adopted in the London Government Bill now before Parliament in the United Kingdom, and also under recent legislation in Toronto, Winnipeg and some other large towns. It would entail the creation of a new Metropolitan Authority (which could be either elected or nominated), and the retention of a lower tier of councils composed of the existing Lagos Town Council and the suburban authorities, probably reorganised on a more effective basis than at present."*

Mr Speaker, the real question is to lay emphasis on the fact that for any adoption of the United Nations Report cognisance must be taken of all the latent points made for the future expansion of Lagos.

Sir, I beg to move.

**Mr I. A. Brown** (Uyo South West): Mr Speaker, Sir, I—

**Dr P. U. Okeke** (Onitsha North Central): On a point of order, Sir, there must be a standard laid down for dressing in this Parliament. The Member for Uyo South West (*Mr Brown*) is wearing an English shirt with a certain cap on top and a curious-looking gown and below that is a pair of trousers.

**Mr I. A. Brown :** I rise to—

**Mr V. Ikeotuonye** (Onitsha South): The Member for Uyo South West is not speaking from his seat.

**Mr Brown :** I rise to second the Motion of Thanks to the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. It is a great honour that has been done to me and my constituency and the nation as a whole by choosing me to second this very important Motion. This is the first time we are moving a Motion of Thanks since the country attained a republican status. Indeed, I am expressing not only appreciation but also the satisfaction of the entire Members of the House and therefore the satisfaction of the whole nation that His Excellency the President has been able to open our Parliament.

Last year, we congratulated the Governor-General for his Speech from the Throne, he himself having been the first indigenous Governor-General of the country. This year,



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we are congratulating him on being the first Nigerian to be appointed the President of a Republican Nigeria.

Turning to the Government I am standing here to congratulate the Prime Minister—

**An hon. Member :** For the first time.

**Mr Brown :** Yes, for the first time. I am here to congratulate the Prime Minister and all his Ministers, including the Minister of Finance, for the able way they have worked and for their remarkable achievement to which no doubt members of the Opposition contributed in no small measure. We know that due to the Government's sense of responsibility and devotion to duty it did quite a lot for the nation.

Last year has been a period of peace, tranquility, national prestige and orderly progress in the entire Federation. Last year also I had the opportunity of undertaking a tour of European countries. Frankly speaking, I thought Nigeria was far behind but on my return I am proud to say that we are not far behind at all. Rather we are near in standards and we can compare favourably with all the civilised countries of the world. In this respect we must thank the Government for its foresightedness and for being able to steer the ship of the state thus far. I am also proud of Nigerians abroad for their role in projecting the personality of this country to the outside world. I was very careful in carrying out a political survey during my tour of some European countries last year including the United Nations Headquarters, Canada, Mexico and many other countries. I was very proud that at no point did I answer any question as to where I came from. On arrival at any destination, my identity was immediately recognised through the efforts of the Nigerians serving there.

In his Speech the President made mention of hire-purchase. I must say that we welcome this idea. However, one thing is that the establishment of finance houses in this country is not in the best interest of the people of Nigeria. As a matter of fact the finance houses are out to ruin the civil servants and even the politicians, and the sooner we try to remedy the situation the better for the people of this country.

Mention was also made by the Mover of this Motion of the question of the creation of new states in this country. May I say that I am

grateful to the Government and the Prime Minister for their attitude towards the creation of the fifth Region in the very near future. I am one of the people in the country demanding for the creation of our own state, and as we all know in this country, Calabar province is going to form the fifth state in this country, and it will be wrong for any politician to suggest that all the states should be created simultaneously in one year.

Such a suggestion from any quarter should be regarded as funny, because such a suggestion should have started right from the time we were creating the Mid-Western Region. I am saying very proudly that as far as the Government has made its stand clear on the issue of the creation of new states in this country, Calabar Province, including all the seven divisions, will form the fifth state in Nigeria. We are now calling on the Federal Government and the Prime Minister to set up machinery to create the fifth Region in the very near future.

I must say very frankly that in many rural areas in this country it appears that the weight of the Federal Government is not often felt as much as the weight of the Regional Governments. To this end, I would like to suggest that the Federal Government undertake to appoint Federal Commissioners in all the Provinces throughout the Republic and these Commissioners should work hand in hand with the existing Regional Provincial Commissioners in order that these Federal Commissioners will project the personality of the Federal Government in the rural areas.

I have my reason for making this suggestion. The Federal Government, according to the Speech, is proposing to carry out a comprehensive survey in the country in order to be able to distribute amenities to all sections of the country on merit and on demand. It will be the duty of these Federal Commissioners, if appointed to each Region of the country, to advise the Federal Government on how to carry out the distribution of amenities to all sections of the country.

I am very grateful that for some time now we are being given the opportunity of bringing the country into one and I am advising my hon. Friends in this House that the spirit of one Nigeria, whether we like it or not, is bound to exist. The spirit of one Nigeria must exist in this country. The question of some-

body coming from the North or the East or the Mid-West or from the West should not be recognised. If my hon. Friend, Mr Ogunsanya, could appear in the same way I am now appearing in Northern dress, I think he will have no cause for complaints.

Sometime ago an announcement was made by the Federal Government about the construction of railway lines in order to provide easy communication between the Federal Territory and parts of the Mid-West and Western Nigeria. I shall be very grateful if during the Six-Year Development Programme this will be put into practice.

During my tours overseas I negotiated with many industrialists to come out to our own areas of Eastern Nigeria, and may I say that if the Federal Government would do its very best to commission the electricity which they have provided for the people of Calabar Province as a whole within the next twelve months, we shall be very grateful. As a matter of fact, the failure of the Federal Government to commission this electricity, all the installations having been completed, has counted against our own progress and as soon as the Federal Government comes to our help in this respect we shall be very grateful.

I beg to second.

**Mr Speaker :** Mr Akinjide.

**Mr D. M. Gbolagunte** (Ibarapa): The Member for Ibadan South East (*Mr Akinjide*) is rising up on the side of the Opposition and we do believe that he should belong to the N.P.C., and when he is sitting here, he is suffocating us. So he should cross over there.

**Mr R. O. A. Akinjide** (Ibadan South East): I rise to support this Motion.

**Mr R. N. Muojeke** (Awka Central): May I know if this House ought not to be cleared of political bats like Akinjide?

**Mr Akinjide :** I rise to support this Motion. This Motion is very important, momentous and an important one in the history of this country. May I say that this country is undergoing, although silently, a political revolution; a political revolution that will ensure the stability of this country, a political revolution that will stop man's inhumanity to man, a political revolution that will ensure that the

amenities of the Federal Government are equitably distributed among all the Regions of this country.

Mr Speaker, I am a born fighter. We Ibadans are warriors and I will die a fighter. I entered this Parliament as an independent and I will win any day any hour, and I challenge anybody to come and face me in my constituency.

In supporting this Motion, I want to stress that the Western Region of Nigeria is being left out in a number of things that are being done by the Federal Government, particularly in the distribution of industries. Whenever we hear the Federal Government's announcement on the distribution of industries, we always hear that this industry is going to the North, and that industry is going to the East, but we are still to hear of any industry going to the Western Region.

We do not want to feel a sense of not belonging to the Federation. We want to feel that we are wanted in this Federation and that we are part and parcel of this country.

**Mr F. I. Okoronkwo** (Aba Urban): On a point of order, may we know whether the Member for Ibadan South East (*Mr Akinjide*) is one of the members of the new political party in the Western Region?

**Mr Akinjide :** I am proud to say that I am one of the brains behind the new set up in the Western Region.

Now, I want to say that there is a very important omission in the Speech of the President, and that is the issue of the Census. I should have thought that the issue of the Census is so important that something ought to have been said about it in the President's Speech. We know as a matter of fact, that the Prime Minister has already accepted the Census figures.

**Mr Speaker :** Order, order? Really, I think that the Census issue has been carefully omitted from the Speech of the President, and it is therefore unwise to discuss this now, otherwise there will be nothing to discuss but the Census issue. I would rather ask that we leave this for the time being, until it is appropriate to discuss it.

**Mr Akinjide :** I will take the advice of Mr Speaker, but I hope I will still have an opportunity to speak at length on the Census issue because it is a subject on which I can speak for three hours.

I have seen from the President's Speech that a number of Bills will be coming before this Session of Parliament. One of them in which I am interested is the new Hire Purchase Bill. May I say with respect that the Hire Purchase Law in this country has for a long time been in a jumble and our people, small traders and buyers of vehicles have been at the mercy of motor dealers. Although I have not seen a copy of the draft Bill, but I hope that there will be a standard form of agreement which will be applicable to all firms on this question of hire purchase.

At present the terms and conditions of hire purchase vary from one firm to another, and what is more, some of them are printed in such a manner that one needs a magnifying glass before one knows what is written inside. In many respects, hire purchase agreements are made out in such a way that the hirer virtually has no right at all, and all the rights and benefits are vested in the sellers, the firms.

I think that there should also be a provision in the law that if the hire purchaser had paid a certain percentage of the money the firms should have no right to seize the vehicle arbitrarily unless by due process of law. At the moment, the law operates in such a way that even when one has only ten pounds or even two pounds left to be paid, the firm can still seize the vehicle and compel one to pay as much as fifteen pounds, the extra amount being called seizure fee. This is an aspect of the hire purchase system in this country at the moment which I think ruins our economy. Not only that—

**Chief D. N. Abii (Owerri East):** That is criminal.

**Mr Akinjide :** It is criminal but it is still being practised. I also feel that the period of payment should be increased, say to eighteen or twenty-four months as opposed to the present nine or twelve months, because one of the main causes of road accidents in this country to-day is this hire purchase business, indirectly though it is.

The hirer of the vehicle has to struggle to meet his monthly instalments, he has to struggle to maintain the vehicle and he has to struggle to pay his driver, and the vehicle has to be on the road virtually for twenty-four hours. In this process maintenance becomes irregular, the driver becomes overworked, and being human he sleeps off on the steering, and the next thing is that one finds that the lorry is being driven into ditch.

If death must be cleared from our roads something very serious must be done about our hire purchase system. I have no doubt that our Attorney-General who has done so much to bring our laws up-to-date will take note of this point.

May I also pay tribute to our Attorney-General who has done a lot during the life of this Parliament in respect of our Criminal Laws, Company Laws and other aspects of our laws. He is a man who has the great respect of the Bar of this country and I hope also of the Bench, and I have no doubt that, not only in Nigeria but also in Africa, he is one of the greatest legal men living, and this Parliament and our Government should be proud for having him as our Attorney-General.

I wish also to say a few things on the oil production in this country. Oil is being founded right and left, in the Mid-Western Region and in the Eastern Region and explorations are also going on in other parts of the country, but unless we are careful, the bulk of the revenues of the country might go to foreign countries.

The most important thing we should take note of is the accounts of these oil companies. It is alright to say that we get so much profit from the oil companies, but we can derive more revenue from the accounts which these companies declare.

The Minister of Economic Development or the Minister of Mines and Power, I hope, will pay special attention to the accounts of these companies. We all know what happened in the Middle-East, and one of the causes of trouble between the Anglo-Iranian Oil Company and the Persian Government was the question of the accounts of the Oil Company. It happened that at a certain stage the Persian Government discovered that the Company, without the authority of the Persian Government, was

selling oil to the British forces and the British Navy at a discount of, I think, about 50 per cent, but this did not appear on the face of the Company's account. As a result of this discovery there was a lot of row.

We all know what oil industry means, it is a big business and oil companies have money to do a lot of things, and unless we pay very special attention to the accounts of these companies and not take them at their face value we shall be doing this country a great deal of harm. If we can have our own independent experts, not experts from Europe because their process is too long,—we might be producing our oil not for the benefit of this country but for the benefit of foreign interests, and I have no doubt that our Minister of Economic Development is a very brilliant man and a socialist like myself—

**The Minister of Economic Development** (Alhaji Waziri Ibrahim): On a point of order, may I thank the Member for Ibadan South East (*Mr Akinjide*) for calling me a brilliant man!

**Mr Akinjide**: So also is the Minister of Mines and Power.

Before I sit down, I want to mention the state of the roads between Ibadan and Lagos. These roads are still in a bad state. I am not unaware of the efforts of the Government to improve them, particularly the road between Ikorodu and Lagos, but may I say that these efforts are not enough. I think the Government has got to get money and make the Lagos-Ibadan road a first class road with, at least, four lanes: two lanes running on one-way traffic system from Lagos to Ibadan, and the other two lanes from Ibadan to Lagos.

It will be a show piece because it is the gateway to Lagos from the Eastern Region, the Mid-Western Region and the Northern Region. If we go through the statistics, we will find that the greatest number of accidents occur in the Western Region. It is not because the drivers in Western Region are careless, but because all the vehicles from the various parts of the country converge into the Western Region, and make it a conduit path to Lagos. If that is so, then we are entitled to have first-class roads. I hope the Minister of Works and Transport will make it a priority in his scheme of things to come.

I beg to support.

**Chief D. N. Oronsaye** (Benin East): I whole heartedly support the Motion of Thanks to the President. It is a credit to this country that within a period of four years, the country has passed rapidly from a dependent state to an independent state, and finally, to a Republic. This is the first Parliament and the first Session of the new Republican State.

I observe that there is going to be a Bill for regulating the activities of Insurance Companies. I would like to sound a note of warning about these companies and their vested interests. Some time ago, a Motion was passed in this House asking for a Commission of Enquiry into the Insurance Companies and their activities. This Motion, and the subsequent Commission of Enquiry, were accepted by all sides of the House. But because of the amount of vested interest involved, this Commission of Enquiry never saw the light of day in the sense that no report was ever issued, at least, to my knowledge.

It is quite necessary that the Bill, which has been written, should be very carefully watched because if there is any escape clause for the Insurance Companies, many people may find suddenly that they have lost their money.

Another aspect of the speech is hire-purchase. As somebody has rightly said previously, hire-purchase really deserve to be critically looked into. If there is any agreement between two parties or two persons or bodies, the agreement must have an advantage to each of them. If only one side has advantage, and the other side has none, then that agreement is not complete, and in fact, it is not legally binding.

This is what has been happening in the case of hire-purchase. The company that has the thing for sale, that gives it on hire to another person, has every advantage in its hands. If it is a vehicle, the duplicate key is kept by the company. Even where somebody has paid three-quarters of the amount and happened to fail by two or three days to meet up the monthly instalment his vehicle will be seized. An hon. Member has just whispered to me that somebody, on his wedding day, has his vehicle seized. That is most embarrassing.

That is an example of what is actually happening. All the company has to do is to have some stalwarts who go about with the duplicate

[CHIEF ORONSAYE]

keys. If, for two days, there is no payment, a stalwart steps in and the car is gone. All the payments made before are lost. Of course, some of the lawyers in the country should have challenged this in the Law Court, but happily, the Government is now coming to the rescue of all the people concerned. I think the earlier this Bill is brought in, the better it will be for all concerned.

We are anxious that the companies who take the trouble to bring their merchandise to this country for sale should be protected. There is no doubt about that. But this protection should not be at the expense of the unfortunate buyer. That is the point I am making.

I have also observed that very soon, there will be registration of all marriages. A Bill will be brought for the registration of all marriages, customary or otherwise in Lagos. I whole-heartedly appeal to our learned Attorney-General to take my comments about registration of marriages into consideration. I know he is somebody everyone respects. We would want him to think about modernising the Marriage Act itself.

As it stands at present, it is very nearly like the hire-purchase system too because the law is very hard on one side and very lenient on the other. As a matter of fact, in the attempt to be too hard on one side, it becomes too hard on both sides so that, where there is a marriage, and both sides are quite willing to desolve it, sometimes through the technicalities of the Marriage Ordinance, they find it difficult or impossible.

Now, in other countries in Africa, in Ghana for instance, the Marriage Ordinance there takes everything into consideration. The Marriage Ordinance that we envisage should be one that will take everything into consideration—that is, it should take into consideration marriages according to native law and custom and marriages according to the Nigerian legal system. At present, the Marriage Ordinance is entirely British. The earlier it is amended, the better it is for everybody.

I whole-heartedly thank all those concerned in the creation of the Mid-Western Region. This, I think, is the most conspicuous part of the Speech of the President. It is impossible to name all the people who have contributed to the creation. But it is clear that it is with the co-operation of all sides of this House and of all the parties that the Region has been brought into being.

In particular, I would like to thank Sir Ahmadu Bello the Sardauna of Sokoto, the Premier of the East Dr M. I. Okpara, the Prime Minister of the Federation Alhaji Sir Abubakar Tafawa Balewa, all the Ministers and Chief Okotie-Eboh.

**An hon. Member :** What of Akintola ?

**Chief Oronsaye :** I will not thank Akintola at all. As I said, it is impossible to name all those who took part. I have only named those that are very conspicuous and whose names come to my mind at this moment.

We have always envisaged that the Mid-Western Region is going to be an ideal Region to be copied by all other people. It will not contain people of doubtful character, but people who are very convinced about their following.

I have also observed that there will be a legislation which will make cheques to be accepted or paid in without endorsement. In civilised countries where velocity of money in circulation is very fast, this is very necessary. But at present, I think that the velocity of circulation of money in Nigeria is not fast enough. So, if at all this legislation comes up it should be undertaken with extreme care because this acceptance of cheques without endorsement is intended to facilitate transactions. But it can lead to all sorts of fraud, and fraud by cheques usually start from four figures. So, while agreeing that this type of legislation should come up I would say that at the same time extreme care should be taken to bring it up.

It is a very happy thing to note that the Nigeria Airways will be having a modern jet aircraft to travel to countries in Europe. For some time now, I have spoken once or twice on the Airways. It is a pleasure to note that most of my suggestions have been accepted indirectly. I say "indirectly" because on the Floor of this House I was told that my suggestions were not good enough. I have now observed that they are all working.

At present the jet service between Nigeria and London is managed by the B.O.A.C. plane, *Boeing 707*. I would not say that the fault is Mr Dafe's because he cannot work with impossibles. If he had the money he would produce a masterpiece. So, the arrangement being made now to replace that by another

plane which is better and perhaps faster is very welcome. I hope that the VC.10 will not be in the same category with the *Boeing 707* which when coming from England carries a B.O.A.C. flight number so and so, but when going from Nigeria changes into Nigeria Airways with some other name.

The international relationship of Nigeria with other countries is one of the most welcome part of the Speech. It is high time Nigeria had Ambassadors in all important countries of the world. In particular, I would like to stress that Nigeria should have an Ambassador in Communist China. When we talk of population of different countries of the world we find that Communist China with a population of about 700 million has nearly one-third of the whole world's population.

Now one-third of the world's population is not represented in the United Nations. And yet the purpose of the United Nations Organisation is to bring peace to all parts of the world. I do not know how peace can ever come fully, if one-third of the people of the world are ignored simply because certain people in America must be pleased. So, I think that the Communist China should have relationship with Nigeria forthwith. There should be an exchange of Ambassadors between the two nations, and delegations from this country to the United Nations should be specially instructed to fight hard to see that those who are impeding the entry of the Communist China into the United Nations are frustrated so that the coming session will find Communist China in the United Nations.

There are other countries with which we need to exchange Ambassadors. It is true that France has for some time been very hostile to countries in Africa by exploding atomic bombs in the Sahara, and those bombs have also been exploded at the times when the wind blows fastest to the south. That has been taken as an act of vandalism. It is, therefore, quite correct to say that Nigeria was right in breaking diplomatic relations with France. However, every effort should be made to watch the position and see whether there is a change of heart in France. If there is, France being one of the homes of modern civilisation, should have exchange of Ambassadors with Nigeria. Moreover, France is one of the big Six that make up the Common Market.

There was no open mention of the African Common Market. But if the relations with other countries in Africa are to be fully realised, one of the best ways of doing it is by making arrangements for an African Common Market. And this should be undertaken as quickly as possible.

On the issue of more states, it is the wish of everybody that Nigeria should be broken into as many states as possible, and the creation of some states may deserve more urgent attention than others. The purpose of breaking Nigeria into states is to see that no part of the country is too big and another part too small. It is only when Nigeria has at least up to twelve states that we will begin to know the real advantages of federalism. We have got our own Region and it will not be sportsmanly of us if after getting our own we say others should not get their own.

Finally, I would like to say something about the expansion and re-equipping of the Army as was proposed in the speech. We all welcome very well the re-equipping of the Army so as to make it formidable enough to deter other countries from attempting at any time to do any funny thing with Nigeria. But in doing that, we should try as much as possible to avoid a lopsided situation. Military installations and institutions should be spread throughout Nigeria in equal proportions. The Mid-West is a Region that has come into existence, and there should be a standing army somewhere there in the Region. If our military institutions are spread over the country, the army will attract brilliant young men and women all over the country. It is when people see things for themselves that they are more convinced, than by merely hearing or perhaps being convinced because of economic pressure.

At present some of the people who joined the lower ranks of the army might have done so due to economic pressure. When everybody has seen it, it will be possible for people to join, not because of economic pressure, but because of their genuine love for the army. That is one of the aspects which I would like those concerned to look into.

The Speech as I have said, is so nice that it does not need a lengthy speech from the Floor, but the few points I have made are made by way of praising the Speech. I give my whole-hearted support to the Motion.

[CHIEF ORONSAYE]

I beg to support.

**Mr M. C. K. Obi** (Afenmai): I rise to support the Motion of Thanks to His Excellency, the President, for his excellent speech. In the Speech, mention was made of the achievement of the Federal Government and other Regional Governments of the Federation in supporting the creation of the Mid-Western Region. Really it is gratifying to note that the Region has come to stay. I would like here to make reference to the recent elections in that Region. It is a matter for deep regret that the Mid-West has not got a representative government, because the recent elections into the Mid-West House of Assembly were rigged by the N.C.N.C.

Ballot papers were fraudulently smuggled into the boxes and opponents were beaten to death. There were so many things wrong with the whole elections and the only thing left for the Federal Government now is to institute a commission of enquiry into the whole conduct of the Mid-West elections.

An M.D.F. supporter was beaten to death somewhere in Agenebode, and his relatives were detained in custody by the Police, whereas the real offenders were left at large.

The activities of the Nigeria Police during the Mid-West elections left very much to be desired. The Police are civil servants and should not take active part in politics, but the part they played was very bad. What would one expect of the Police, when their big men had been bought over by the powers that be. Where money failed to buy the people over, the N.C.N.C. used the Police to subdue the supporters of the M.D.F.

**Dr P. U. Okeke** (Onitsha North Central): On a point of order, the Member for Afenmai East (Mr M. C. K. Obi) is becoming irrelevant because he is giving us the history of the irregularities in the Mid-West elections. It is only a commission of enquiry or a Court of Law that should listen to this complaint.

**Mr Speaker**: Although the Mid-West State was mentioned in the speech, I feel it would be wiser to avoid something that is provocative.

**Mr Obi**: Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. I am emphasising the need for justice and fair play in all the Regions of the

Federation because on the success of the Mid-West depends the hope of all the other sections aspiring towards their own states.

It is remarkable, and it will be interesting to tell the House that already chiefs who have sympathy for political parties like the M.D.F. in the Mid-West, are being denied their rights to go and sit in the Mid-West House of Chiefs.

**Mr J. B. Eboigbodi** (Asaba West): On a point of order, the Member for Afenmai East (Mr Obi) should understand that this is the Federal Parliament and not the Mid-Western House of Assembly. If he has anything to say about the Mid-West, he should go to the Mid-Western House of Assembly and say it. Nobody here, I hope he knows, is in a position to reply for the Premier of the Mid-West. So whatever he the hon. Member says here about the Mid-West is grossly irrelevant. These things are worthy of note to serve as a guide to the Federal Government as well as others who want their own state. I would like to emphasize again that it would be improper to set up Commissions of Inquiry into undisputed chieftaincies simply because of political reasons. These are the things that have already started in the Mid-West. If this is where we are going, it is not good.

**Mr Speaker**: Really, the hon. Member is going into affairs of the Mid-Western Government which I do not think we should allow.

**Several hon. Members**: Shame!

**Mr Obi**: It is shame on those people who do not want peace in the country. They are the people doing this type of thing.

I would like also now to refer to the mention made about the Government's intention to expand the Nigeria Police Force. In this regard, I welcome the proposal and I would like to say that those who are responsible for the recruitment of people into the Police Force should be warned to discern political applicants from vocational ones in order to prevent active participation in politics by those who are already in the Police Force. This is a vital point and I would like the Government to take note of this.

Much has been heard about the intention of the Government to ensure that the E.C.N. increase their generating capacity. One should have expected much also to have been done on the Niger Dam Project to make it possible

for electricity to be supplied cheaply to every hamlet in the Federation. Rural areas are tired of waiting to be supplied with electricity through the Niger Dam. The work on this project should be speeded up.

The problem of mass unemployment in the country to-day is a result of little or no attention paid to technical education. The average literate person lives only on pen-pushing. That is why a good number of school leavers go about without jobs. It is a good thing that the Government intends to strengthen technical education. I would suggest, Mr Speaker, that inter-regional technical schools be established as a step forward in this direction.

As regards the establishment of a national Teachers' Training College, it is hoped that the gates will be thrown open to teachers from all the Regions of the Republic. It will serve no useful purpose if one is opened exclusively for the inhabitants or people in Lagos.

On sports generally, it is remarkable to note that the Government is listening attentively to the appeal from the public and Members of this House, but until such a time that a Ministry is created for sports alone, and athletes are paid encouraging salaries and maintained by the Federal Government, Nigeria will continue to lose at international sports meetings and games. This has been emphasized several times and I think it will be a good thing if the Government will look into the possibility of doing this.

With reference to the health programme, the Government has taken bold steps. I am sure that anti-malaria and small-pox campaign on an extensive scale will do the country a world of good. If the Government succeeds in stamping out malaria and small-pox, I am confident that in another ten years when another census is due, the percentage increase in each region will be between 150 and 200.

Slum clearance should be vigorously pursued to make Lagos what it should be.

Again, the Government has heeded the persistent demand by Members of this House that the hire-purchase system and insurance should be controlled and nationalised.

One would have expected to hear much more from the Speech about the Six-Year Development Plan, what fraction of the Plan has so far been accomplished, and what the Government intends to do specifically this financial year in pursuance of this programme.

The Government should speed up work on the Asaba-Onitsha Bridge and the second bridge to link Lagos Island to the Mainland. The building of a railway line through the Mid-West to Eastern Nigeria should be started. A Motion to this effect has been accepted by the Government. It will be a good idea if the Development Programme is recast having regard to the increased population of the country.

The number of deaths resulting from road accidents in the country is alarming. This is largely due to the fact that the existing Trunk "A" roads are not well maintained, although this is also traceable to negligent driving. The Government should undertake proper repair and maintenance of the existing Trunk "A" roads before embarking on the building of new ones.

It is mentioned in the Speech that contracts will be awarded to indigenous contractors. This is a welcome idea. I feel that contracts, if awarded to indigenous contractors, should not be awarded at the expense of efficiency. It will serve no useful purpose if a group of people combine to form a company with a view to getting money from the Government without doing the actual work given to them to do. This is the point I would like to raise in that regard.

The opportunity which the Government intends to offer the low income people by building houses for them is a good one but the Government should do something to raise the standard of living generally in the country.

Foreign investors and business people should be encouraged to stay in Nigeria to help make money flow as it should, because for some time now that has not been the case, and I hope that politicians and the Governments of the Federation should be well advised to refrain from making statements which are capable of scaring off foreign investors.

I support the Motion

**Mr A. A. Ajibola** (Egbado South): In making my contribution to the Speech by His Excellency, I will first of all refer to some omissions in the Speech.



[MR AJIBOLA]

In the first place, the aim and purpose of this Government and the motto of this Government can be clearly seen at the back of the Speaker—Unity and Faith. I feel that everything which this Government or other Governments in the country may be doing should be towards the achievement of that purpose. Any minute we go outside that line we have failed in our duty towards this country. But there are some public utterances made by some noble and eminent leaders in this country that do not support this motto of our Federal Government. With the permission of Mr Speaker, I shall make some specific references to what I mean thereby.

In the Northern House of Assembly last week during the debate on the Speech by the Governor, a Member by name Apo Cedi, an N.P.C. member for Igala East, on the 9th March, 1964, referred to Ibo people as "black imperialists."

**Mr Speaker :** I do not think this should come into the Motion on the address.

**Several hon. Members :** Shame !

**An hon. Member :** The N.P.C. said so.

**Mr Ajibola :** Furthermore, the Premier of the Northern Region also referred to the Southern Regions as local expatriates in reply to the Speech of the Governor. It affects the unity of the country.

**Mr Speaker :** But your speech does not.

**Mr Ajibola :** I am speaking about omissions in the Speech from the Throne. Also on the 19th day of February, 1964, the Publicity Secretary for the N.P.C., Malam Yusuf Dantsoho, announced that the N.P.C. would rule the Federation for ever.

**An hon. Member :** If you mean it, we mean it.

**Mr Speaker :** Order ! This is a matter which you might have collected from newspapers or from a broadcast. I do not think we should rely on it to allow it for argument in this Debate.

**Mr Ajibola :** That is all right, Sir. Nevertheless it is good if we mention such statements so that the people concerned will have the opportunity to clarify the issue.

It is observed that the President's Speech makes no reference to the political confusion in the West but what affects the East and the North also affects every one of us. At the beginning of last year, there was a coalition Government in the West made up of the N.C.N.C. and the so called U.P.P. but early this week, on the 10th March—

**Mr S. O. Kolade (Oyo South):** On a point of order, Mr Speaker, the hon. Member is discussing omissions. It is not omissions we are discussing but what is contained in the Speech.

**Mr Speaker :** Order, I think several matters have been omitted and there are some important matters which are omitted.

**Mr Ajibola :** The alignment of parties affects the whole country and the alignment of parties in the Federal territory is something which affects everyone in this country. When we came here in January there was a party called the U.P.P. At that time we asked them what the meaning of U.P.P. was. There were five meanings given to it. Namely, the "Useless Peoples' Party" the "Unemployed Peoples' Party" the "Unreasonable Peoples' Party" the "Unreliable Peoples' Party", and the "Ungrateful Peoples' Party". This morning it has been proved that each one of these names is correct.

**Chief A. M. A. Akinloye (Ibadan North East):** I would like to point out that the hon. Member speaking has the record of being a carpet crosser. He has crossed the carpet more than anybody in this House.

I was one of the people who founded the United Peoples' Party ; I did not cross from any party. I resigned from the Action Group ; I have never crossed at all.

**Mr Ajibola :** I would like to assure the Member for Ibadan North East (Mr Akinloye) that in 1954 I was elected into this House on the platform of the Action Group ; in 1959 I was also re-elected on the platform of the Action Group and by the grace of God at the next federal elections I shall again be re-elected on the platform of the Action Group. And if any of these political chameleons comes to Egbado, he will have the worst experience of his life like Akintola did when he came there in November 1963.

**Mr Speaker :** Order, the hon. Member is wasting our time.

**The Minister of Economic Development** (Alhaji Waziri Ibrahim): The hon. Member speaking knows that we are accustomed to very polite language in this House and he is using the most unparliamentary language at the moment. Would he please be a bit more polished and decent.

**Mr Speaker** : Order, order.

**Mr Ajibola** : During the reading of the speech yesterday, the President stressed the proposed increase envisaged in the Police Force as a result of the increase in our population. While it is necessary to increase the Police Force in this country I would like to lay emphasis on the fact that we cannot now determine what the increase in the force should be until the question of population has been properly settled. As it is to-day it has not been settled properly.

I would also like to say that the Speech delivered yesterday was the duller in the life of the Parliament. Every year there has been something said about the Insurance Companies, the Hire Purchase system and so on but nothing so far has been done.

As far back as 1955 certain demands were made about Insurance Companies and Hire Purchase but up till now nothing has been done and we would like government to be constructive and see adequately to the problems facing the country.

Quite recently, I think it was last Sunday, there were increases in import duties in this country. I do not see the justification for them in view of the general depression facing the whole country there is mass unemployment in the country, there is no money anywhere, and I do not know the reason why the Federal Government, instead of getting money from other sources, should think that the only way to make money is by increasing import duties from time to time. I feel that if the government continues like this the general public will be the poorer for it.

Lastly, I will suggest to this government to see to it that the army units are scattered all over the country. To-day, all the army units are based in the North. There are four regions and apart from the North there is no army unit anywhere again. All the units are stationed in the North and with all these installations in the North all other parts of the

Federation are put in danger. So, we would like the Federal Government to look into this matter and see to it that the army bases are scattered all over the country.

Another point is that since 1954 I see that the Federal Government has been discriminating against the Western Region. Federal Ministers scarcely tour Western Nigeria and no amenities are provided for the Region.

**The Minister of Economic Development** (Alhaji Waziri Ibrahim): On a point of order, I sincerely implore the hon. Member speaking not to say anything which is not true. The Federal Government has never discriminated against any Region. I am sure that the hon. Member cannot produce one concrete evidence of discrimination against Western Nigeria or any of the Regions. So, for goodness sake let us be honest. What we say here is very important, it goes all over the world. Therefore, I want the hon. Member speaking to be as accurate as possible.

**Mr Ajibola** : The first question is when has any of the Federal Ministers toured the West? That is a question which I would like the Minister to answer.

**The Minister of Economic Development** : I have toured Western Nigeria thrice.

**Mr Ajibola** : And on the question of distribution of amenities if the Minister wants to prove me wrong, let him at a later stage during this Session make a comprehensive speech on the details of what the Federal Government has done for the Western Region since 1954.

With these few remarks, I beg to support.

**Mr F. C. Ogbalu** (Awka North) : I rise to support the Motion of Thanks to His Excellency the President for his Speech so ably delivered yesterday. I was very much impressed, like other hon. Members by the proposals which are contained in the Speech, and I say that with others that there is really nothing wanting in it. It is comprehensive, stimulating and illuminating.

I am very much pleased by the proposals to improve our educational system, and so on. It is quite true that the Federal Government has risen to some of these responsibilities, but

[MR OGBALU]

in this field of education the Regional Governments have been experiencing a lot of difficulties as far as catering for primary and secondary education is concerned.

I really call upon the Federal Government to give grants to the Regional Governments in order to help them tidy up their difficulties in education. It is quite obvious that on account of the great pursuit for education, a lot of people have been aroused to the needs of education and now the Regional Governments cannot really foot the bill. Education should therefore, be federalised and made the responsibility of the Federal Government.

Another aspect of the Speech which appeals to me concerns the question of the Organisation of African Unity. I must praise the Federal Government for the contribution which Nigeria has made in settling the various problems confronting other African sister countries. These countries have experienced serious boundary disputes and some other problems; and our Government has really played its part. For example, in the Niger-Dahomey boundary dispute, the Federal Government has played a great part that is really worthy of a sister neighbouring country. I must say that in all other disputes arising in Africa especially in matters connected with boundaries, the Federal Government should take a realistic stand over the issue and as before play a prominent part and if possible take the initiative from others helping to solve some of these problems.

Another very important point connected with the Organisation of African Unity is the establishment of the Secretariat of that important organisation. In view of Nigeria's size, population and advancement, I think that we should not hesitate to ask that the Secretariat be sited in this country. That will help us to play a more prominent role in the affairs of Africa.

It is important too that Nigeria should continue to pursue its already committed policy of giving aids to other African countries. I would like to hear of the proposal of the Federal Government to establish a standing army in order to help compel South Africa to abandon her apartheid policy because I sincerely believe that South Africa can only be brought to her knees by force and not merely by negotiations or by being driven away from international organisations.

In this connection I hope that our External Affairs Minister will take up this matter with other African countries. Nigeria cannot use force alone in order to compel South Africa to abandon her apartheid policy. But with our External Affairs Minister taking up the matter with other Independent African States, it will be possible for a United African Force to press on South Africa, in spite of our recent race towards nuclear rearmament.

There is one very important point which is agitating my mind and the minds of the entire people of this nation and that is the unity of this country. History has placed on our shoulders the responsibility of maintaining the unity of this august Republic.

It is to the credit of the Federal Government that for almost four years now, that unity has been maintained and Nigeria has become in the eyes of the world, a progressive, sane and really understanding country. It will be really unfortunate if after all these very genuine expectations we succumb to unexpected disunity or to some of the things that tend to bring about disintegration.

The unity of this country rests not only on all the responsible citizens of this country but also, to a very great extent, on the shoulders of the Prime Minister. History will judge him on his performance and on the extent he has endeavoured, in spite of provocations and many other difficulties confronting him, to hold together the unity of this great country. I am saying this, knowing fully well that the Prime Minister is a man of ability and a man who can see beyond his nose, that he will on no occasion succumb to pressures of any kind that will threaten the solidarity of this great country.

I have another important point which I wish to make and that is in connection with passport. I do not share the view that passports should be made difficult for Nigerians who intend to travel to other countries of the world, particularly people who are known to have the welfare and interest of this country at heart but who desire to go abroad either to attend international conferences or to represent Nigeria in some different organisations.

It is no use asking people, say from the Eastern Region or any other Regions, to renew their passports every year. In the days

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of colonial era, passports were given to Nigerians for a period of five years, but it is really painful that now people have to travel right from the North or the East to renew their passports every year. It is not so easy to come to Lagos to renew passports. This practice will make it impossible for people to attend any particular conference which they may wish to attend if the condition is that, annually one has to come to Lagos for passport renewal. I hope that the Government will consider facilitating the passport system in this country.

There is a very important point which has been made by an hon. Member and that is the question of the creation of more states. I think it will be to the credit of the present House of Representatives if the Government would initiate a policy by which more states could be created based on the old provincial system, that is, making the old provinces states of their own and giving more powers to the Federal Government so that Nigeria will be a federation in reality and not a Federation in which a part is much bigger than the other.

The creation of more states for the whole country will be another step forward towards ensuring the unity, the harmony and the working together of the entire people of the Federation. In this connection, it will be a very good thing if a Government White Paper is published on the creation of more states throughout the Federation.

Sometime ago I complained of the abundance of mineral deposit in my constituency and the fact that the Federal Government was not even aware of such mineral deposits, so I suggested that a comprehensive mineral survey should be carried out throughout the country, or at least in the areas in which such a survey has not been done. I expect that in the Presidential address mention should be made about a Government proposal for a mineral survey which the Government intends to make, because by so doing there will be more mineral activities in many parts of the Federation which will make it possible for industries to be established.

I must also say that the Federal Government should hasten its Six-Year Development Plan because the end of the six years is almost

under way, and unless adequate steps are taken it will be very difficult for the entire scheme to be accomplished within the six years.

There is another point which is really of utmost importance, and this concerns the expansion of the Nigerian Police. This is really a very welcome proposal by the Federal Government. I believe that an assurance was given on the Floor of this House sometime ago that more police posts will be established in the country and some places were actually earmarked for these police posts, but up till now the proposal has not been implemented. I hope that the new proposal by the Government on the expansion of the Police will be implemented.

There is also the hire purchase agreement and the question of the National Sports Council. I am very grateful to the Government for the proposal to have Bills presented to this House at this time and I hope that the Bills will be comprehensive enough to make it difficult for an average Nigerian to suffer in the hands of expatriate finance houses.

The Federal Government is to be praised for the grants given to the Regional Governments in order to expand their agricultural programme, but I think that grants like this should be almost recurrent, because man continues to eat food, he is not satisfied to-day simply because he ate yesterday. The Regional Governments agricultural programme continues to increase day by day, therefore the Federal Government should continue to increase the grants to the Regional Governments in order to help them in their agricultural programme.

I also feel that agricultural research should be intensified in order to find out more suitable crops which could be adequately grown in many parts of the Federation so that we could have more cash crops which would mean more money for our Nigerian farmers.

In connection with the National Teachers' Training Colleges which are being proposed by the Federal Government I have to thank the International body concerned which has given part of the grant for the establishment of these training colleges. I want to say that if it were possible it could have been better for the National Teachers' Training Colleges to be established in each Region, bearing in mind the

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emphasis which the Regional Governments place on teachers training. I think, bearing this in mind, one should feel that one Teacher Training College is not sufficient for the whole of the Federation. I feel that it should be one Teacher Training College for one Region, because this will bring more hope to our school leavers and it will help those who wish to establish technical Secondary Schools to do so.

At present there is difficulty in establishing Technical Colleges because there is lack of teachers. We have no teachers for technical education, and if the Federal Government can initiate plans whereby more Technical Teacher Training Colleges could be built that will be a great step towards enhancing technical education. We have many school leavers now without any technical knowledge, and if the Government can encourage this technical education the problem of unemployment will be greatly reduced. I feel that the Government should do something about unemployment which is now plaguing the country because we have so many school leavers who have got nothing to do, and without providing them with something to do they will not enjoy the fruits of independence or of the Republic.

I want to mention another aspect of the President's Speech which is very important. In the Speech of last year mention was made of the proposal of the Heads of State and Government to tour African countries. There is also a mention made of this in this year's Speech, and I think that this year ought to be an august year for a tour of African State at least by our Prime Minister and the President. Such tours will be a reciprocal tour to many visits which we have received from other African Heads of State. I am very pleased that some African Heads of State have come to this country in order to fraternise with us. It will be a good thing if our Head of State and our Head of Government pay reciprocal visits to these African countries which have allowed their Heads of State to visit our country.

Another point I had hoped to hear from the Speech of the President is the one concerning desire and the wish which have been expressed on the Floor of this House for the Federalisation of the Judiciary. A system whereby our High Courts are brought under the ambit of the Federal Government ought to have been part of the Speech of the President. It may

be good to leave Magistrates' Courts in the hands of the Regions, but the High Courts should be managed and controlled by the Federal Government. I think this point ought to exercise the mind of the Federal Government in order to enhance the unity and uniformity of legal practice in this country.

There is yet another point which the President made in his Speech, and that is the fact that Nigeria should move forward in the United Nations and in other International Organisations to make sure that her voice is heard more than ever before on these Organisations. The question of being a member of the Security Council is something on which we ought to be concerned, and I hope that our Foreign Minister will do his best to co-ordinate his efforts with those of other Foreign Ministers from other African countries in order to increase the number of African members on the Security Council in the near future.

Finally, I have to say that the admission of Red China into the United Nations, which has been mentioned by the previous speaker, is something which ought to be unanimously adopted by this House as Nigeria stand; that Nigeria would like Red China to be admitted into the United Nations, that countries with so many teeming millions should not be kept out of the international organisation which has dedicated itself to the universal peace and brotherhood of mankind. If real peace is to be attained in this world and real brotherhood is to be established, then Red China ought to be admitted without any discrimination against her. By bringing Red China into that world organisation, the possibility of unilateral action on the part of that country would be eliminated.

I have to say that I expected too the mention of the establishment of more embassies by the Federal Government in those countries where we have no embassies. I do not see why a country like Israel, in which there are so many Nigerians who are studying in various capacities and receiving both technical and educational assistance from that country, should not have a Nigerian embassy. I am calling upon the Federal Government that this year, a Nigerian embassy should be established in Israel.

Sir, I beg to support.

**Alhaji Muhammadu Gauyarma** (Hadejia North): I wish to speak on this Motion, regarding the Presidential Speech, delivered by His Excellency the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. I wish to do so just for the importance of the Speech and for the good and successful activities carried out by the Federal Government under the leadership of our highly respected Prime Minister, Alhaji Sir Abubakar Tafawa Balewa, supported by his able Ministers.

In doing so, I also wish to associate myself with other hon. Members in congratulating the Federal Government for the success and commendable achievements so far attained during the previous year, and pray for greater success during this eventful year.

The Speech is comprehensive and commendable, covering all aspects that it is expected to cover, so much so that it behoves everybody here to commend it as a worthy speech for this Budget Session, in which we are faced with crucial issues. This comprehensive speech opens a new era of the speculated critical Session, in which we are confronted with dynamic issues.

The Federal Government certainly deserve to be congratulated for the part played by her leaders in promoting the unity of African nations, and the role our country is playing in her firm resolve to co-operate with other African States to foster good relations with her neighbours and other countries outside Africa.

Concerning the present situation in our country to-day, while security measures are being tightened, it is unfortunate to reckon that seeds of disunity are being planted amongst sister Regions, as a result of certain major political parties now shooting into the air in their dream for overriding power. Their intention is that the might of the minority should defeat the right of the majority, thus creating confusion in our peaceful Federal Republic of Nigeria. God forbid that might should triumph over right, as democratic principles prove that the majority carries the vote.

My next point concerns telecommunications. I wish to say that the activities of the Government in expanding telecommunications services internally and externally are welcome. I would call for speedy links of Hadejia with

Gumel through Mallam-Maduri town, this being a demand already requested for decades but hitherto unattended to.

In commenting on the Food and Agriculture Organisation, the Federal Government must be praised for inviting the specialists to examine and recommend the possibility of promoting increased productivity of our food commodities, cash crops and dairy produce. Having come into contact with the personnel of this United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation—a sectional team led by Dr Gills accompanied by Miss Cooper and few others—I am convinced that a thorough survey and full research are being conducted into finding useful and helpful ways of promoting the economic status of our farmers, and I am optimistic of good results. I commend the work done by the members of this Organisation as satisfactory.

I wish to express that the address delivered by our Federal Minister of Economic Development and Planning, Alhaji Waziri Ibrahim, at the Food and Agriculture Organisation Conference held in Rome, is to be praised. Our Government deserve to be praised for taking the lead in such research work and for the role our Minister has played there.

I support the Motion.

**Mr S. A. Ogedengbe** (Owo North): In contributing my own quota to the Speech, I would advise the Government to make the Nigerian influence more felt in the Organisation of African Unity. I am not advising the Government to initiate that inequitable principle adopted by the United Nations. In the United Nations to-day, you have the big Five—the United Kingdom, Russia, France, the United States of America, and a tiny and infinitesimal portion of China, Formosa. I am not saying that in Africa, Nigeria should throw her weight all over.

I agree that, according to international law all independent States are equal, but we have got to be realistic. In financing the Organisation of African Unity, our Government is going to contribute a lion's share, and as such, we must make our influence felt. Certain offices of the Organisation ought to be sited in Nigeria, in Lagos for that matter, and certain offices ought to be held by Nigerians. We can only do this by co-operation and collaboration with our neighbouring countries—Dahomey, Togo, Ghana and so on and so forth.

[MR OGEDENGBE]

It is very interesting that the Government is doing something about the Nigeria Police. Last summer, I was in England. I paid a visit to a superior Police College near Reading, where I met a Nigerian A.S.P. He was undergoing an advanced course of training. I saw the syllabus embodying the content of what was being taught in this Police College. I discovered that half of it was given by University lecturers and teachers who are not police officers.

The intention of the United Kingdom Government in establishing such a College is to give a sort of University training or higher education to the police officers. Why send a Nigerian to Reading to receive a University education if he is a police officer? The money spent on that young man, I am quite sure, could be spent on twenty Nigerians by developing the Police College at Ikeja. I am sure we can give better education to our police officers here. We are training our doctors locally, we are training our lawyers locally, so also are our accountants, our architects and even our politicians. They are all being trained locally. We have got to be very careful with this outside training.

When the Prime Minister of Trinidad came here recently he said that the advice he would give our Government was that they must be careful of outside influence. I am not saying that the United Kingdom Government is not friendly to us. I know they are. But self-love is as vile a sin as self-neglect. When the interest of the United Kingdom and the interest of Nigeria conflict, there we will see whether the United Kingdom is the right place where we should train our Police Officers.

On my return to Nigeria I visited Ikeja Police College. I was highly impressed. And I have to praise the Government for the effort being put up there. I met some of the lecturers; they were as good as those that I saw in England. I also met some of the students; they were equally capable. They are very young boys and girls from our secondary schools from the North, the Mid-West, the West and from the East and from Lagos. They are all there. What is now left is this. We must mobilise our effort. We have the University of Lagos, the University of Ibadan, the University of Nigeria in Nsukka, the University of Ife and the Ahmadu Bello

University, and so many other institutions of higher education. By co-operation with these Universities we can have occasional visiting lecturers who will give superior training to our Police Officers.

The time has come when a Nigerian Police Officer who is in charge of a Province should receive some sort of education which is equal to that received by a doctor, a lawyer or a Divisional Adviser. Before one can become a Divisional Adviser one has got to be either a graduate or have comparatively high standard of education.

The time has come when many Nigerians will be holding offices of responsibility. Policy makers, that is those who hold policy key posts in the Nigeria Police Force, ought to be given very superior education. The few of them who our Government have helped to train have proved very successful. If we give further training to these officers, I am quite sure that we will gain a lot from that. For instance, the internal security of this country depends more on the Police than on any other arm of the Forces. It is true we have the Army, and I support that the best should be done for the Army, the Navy, the Air Force. But these innocent Police Officers do a lot. They come in contact with the citizens daily.

In my constituency—I am from Oke-Agbe village in Akoko Division near Ikare—most people have never seen any soldier. In fact, many have never seen an aeroplane except probably when it flies over. Many have never, in fact, been to Lagos or to Ibadan to see a train. But there is nobody who has not come in contact with the Nigeria Police. So, we must give them good education in order to attract qualified people to the Force.

Something has got to be done about their standard of living. It appears that what is being paid to Nigerian Police Officers to-day, especially those in the lower segments, is too small. I am not advocating that we should always increase the salaries of our employees. But we have got to be very careful. If we are not satisfied with the minimum standard of education required for admission we can raise that. And *pari passu* we must raise their scale of salaries. So much for the Police.

It is interesting to note that a Civil Aviation training school is going to be established in Zaria. I do not want anybody to take advantage of what I am going to say now. We are

Nigerians. Zaria is part of Nigeria and my constituency or any other part of Western Nigeria is also part of Nigeria. But I will submit with the greatest respect that the Government should give a further consideration to the siting of this training school. I will suggest a place like Akure in Ondo Province where there is not a single aerodrome at present. The training school should be sited in Akure and as soon as possible an aerodrome should be opened in that place.

Speaking of the Railways, I do not know whether it is very expensive as I am not an engineer or an architect, but does it cost much to construct an overhead bridge across a level crossing? I do not think it is too expensive to build. But the Government can give it a thought. We have to consider our needs. For instance, Lagos requires at least two overhead bridges immediately over the railway crossing at Oyingbo in Ebute Metta by Apapa Road. And the other one is near the N.C.N.C. headquarters on the way going to Agege Motor Road. It is unfortunate that the only overhead bridge to-day across the railway line was constructed for expatriates, that is the one leading to the Airport. It was constructed to make communication easy for those expatriates who live in Ikeja and around, and not necessarily for Nigerians. In places like Kano, Port Harcourt, Aba, Ibadan, Enugu, Jos, we will require overhead bridges across level crossings.

And there is another important thing and that is in respect of Trunk "A" roads. Government is going to develop and construct more Trunk "A" roads. The Ibadan-Ilesha-Owo road is one of the worst roads in this country. I am not saying this because I am from that part of the country. I am saying it because what is good for A is also good for B in one Nigeria if we are speaking of one Nigeria. We work for Nigeria and when it comes to sharing the spoils we must not forget any part of the country. That road has been neglected for many years.

I have to agree and support my hon. Friend the Member for Egbado South (*Mr Ajibola*) in saying that sufficient has not been done for Western Nigeria. We have been neglected in many ways. The fault may not be with the Government but with our stars. It may be that we had repose confidence in wrong quarters. But it is never too late to mend.

I will appeal to the Government to do something about that road.

In order to promote home industries in this country I will advise the Government to protect our home industries. Only five days ago, the Government announced the imposition of duties on certain imported articles. I support some of the measures but some are so obnoxious that I will never support them. What actually beats my imagination is why the Government should impose any excise duties at all on articles produced in Nigeria. One may say, "Buy Nigerian products." How can I buy Nigerian cement from Nkalagu or from Ewekoro when the price is the same as the price of imported cement. It is even higher than *Sali* cement. *Sali* cement costs about 10s-6d and Ewekoro cement is about 11s. Nkalagu cement also costs about 11s. The price of white shirting now locally produced is equal to the price of imported shirting. Where lies the logic and the wisdom in trying to site industries in this country? I think the Government will have to do a lot about this.

**The Minister of Labour** (Chief J. M. Johnson): What of employment opportunities?

**Mr Ogedengbe**: I know it creates employment opportunities. In fact I am connected with that because some of my people work in these factories and I gain quite a lot from that. And as a professional lawyer, I have my connections with some of the factories. I am not saying that they do not provide employment opportunities. But the question is, employment for how many people? Employment for a few as against the interest of millions of people in Nigeria?

The Government has got to be thanked for providing legal and judicial officers for African countries that require them. If we want these officers to go away from Nigeria and represent us as ambassadors, we must give a second thought to legal education. In the past, Europeans did not like lawyers. Europeans in India did not like lawyers because Ghandi and Nehru who were lawyers, were the people who drove away the Europeans from India. If we come back to Nigeria too, the seeds of nationalism were planted by many Nigerians including eminent lawyers.

**An hon. Member**: Dr Azikiwe, the Prime Minister and the Sardauna are not lawyers.



**Mr Ogedengbe :** Dr Azikiwe is Doctor of Laws. The Prime Minister, the Sardauna were teachers of lawyers.

The Government should give this a second thought by encouraging legal education, by providing the necessary facilities for research in African law and by helping our universities in establishing faculties for African law.

I have to thank the Federal Government for establishing the Nigerian Law School so that we can now train our lawyers in this country. I am appealing to the Government to do something for the Nigerian Law School. The Government is doing a lot but they can still do more. At the moment, the Law School is housed in a temporary accommodation at Igbosere Road. I hope the Federal Government will make the necessary funds available so that a new premises befitting the Law School can be found.

My hon. Friend the Member for Egbado South (*Mr Ajibola*) in his speech mentioned that Federal Ministers appear to neglect Western Nigeria. Federal Ministers do not pay sufficient visits to Western Nigeria. In siting Federal institutions and other amenities, it is quite definite that Western Nigeria is neglected. We are now begging, we are now appealing, we are now asking that what we are entitled to should be given to us.

**An hon. Member :** You are not serious.

**Mr Ogedengbe :** I am very serious. I know that you will not be happy because the fruits that two of you have been eating for years, we are now praying that three people should share it and you will not like it. To support my statement, I will never come to the Floor of this House and make sentimental statements, statements which cannot be subjected to scientific test. If you want to be convinced about what I am saying, take the *Federal Gazette*, if you take the *Federal Gazette* you will shed tears and say—"Where are we going?" All the civil servants of Western Region origin are relegated to the background as well as in the Airways.

**Mr Speaker :** It is now a quarter to twelve, the moment of interruption.

#### ADJOURNMENT

*Motion made and Question proposed, That this House do now adjourn—(THE MINISTER OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT).*

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Resolved :* That this House do now adjourn.

*Adjourned accordingly at thirteen minutes to twelve o'clock.*

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

Saturday, 14th March, 1964

The House met at 9 a.m.

PRAYERS

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

BUSINESS STATEMENT

**The Minister of Finance** (Chief F. S. Okotie-Eboh): I beg to make the following Business Statement:—

On Monday, the Removal of Vehicles (Lagos) Bill will be presented and we shall continue with the debate on the Motion for an Address.

On Tuesday the 17th March, Private Members' Business will occupy the time until 6 p.m. and the debate on the Address will be concluded at a night sitting.

I will move the Second Reading of the Appropriation Bill on Wednesday and the Second Reading and other stages of the Nurses and Midwives Bill will be taken.

The Second Reading and other stages of the following Bills will be taken on Thursday:—

Presidential Proceedings Bill, and Queen's Counsel (Abolition) Bill.

There will be a Joint Meeting of Parliament on Friday when Sir Alec Douglas-Home—British Prime Minister, will be received. He will address both Houses of Parliament. We shall later take the Second Reading and other stages of the following Bills:—

Lagos Executive Development (Power Bill; Removal of Vehicles (Lagos) Bill, and Nigerian Legion Bill.

On Saturday, we shall take the Second Reading and other stages of the following Bills:—

Insurance (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill; Bills of Exchange Bill, and Registered Land Bill.

Three Resolutions will also be moved to confirm the Customs Tariff (Duties and Exemptions) Order, 1964.

I shall make a further Business Statement next Saturday.

ORDER OF THE DAY

PRESIDENT'S SPEECH

(MOTION FOR AN ADDRESS)

ADJOURNED DEBATE ON QUESTION  
(13TH MARCH):

That an humble Address be presented to His Excellency, The President, as follows:

"Your Excellency,

We, the Members of the House of Representatives of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, in Parliament assembled, beg leave to offer our humble thanks to Your Excellency for the Speech which Your Excellency has been pleased to address to both Houses of Parliament".

**Mr S. A. Ogedengbe**: As I was saying yesterday about the unity of this country, the Government should endeavour to treat every part of the Republic as part of the Republic in fact and in law. This is not politics. If one goes round the country to-day and sees what is happening one immediately finds out that the citizens of the Western part of the country are not happy. If one goes to the Nigerian Railways, a statutory corporation, one will find that the services there are dominated by a group of the community and this is also the case in the Ports Authority, the Airways and the E.C.N. and even in the universities.

As from now onwards whichever party forms the Government, the Government should endeavour to correct this position. I may not be here again and there is no guarantee that any of the Members present here to-day will be here in future. So whatever we do to-day we are here representing the country and we should not fail to discharge our duties.

About Trunk A roads, it is very interesting and gratifying to see that the Government is thinking about the safety of our people on the roads. It is not sufficient to have Trunk A roads very wide, something must also be done about the standard of our drivers most of whom are illiterates and cannot, therefore, read road signs and this leads to lots of accidents on the roads. I implore the Government to introduce legislation as soon as possible to make it

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impossible for illiterates to obtain professional driving licences. We have very many boys who have received primary education and they will make very good drivers. If educated boys are drivers their salaries will definitely be increased and many of us who to-day pretend to be in a position to employ drivers when in fact we cannot but do so because we want to live big will be compelled to drive our cars ourselves, and this will reduce the death toll on our roads.

Secondly, there is a lot of laxity in the Road Traffic Act which is on the side of negligent drivers. If one goes to court it is always very difficult for one to get conviction of these negligent drivers because the judges cannot make law, they can only interpret the law. The law as it is to-day is not good enough for the second half of the twentieth century. Even in England from where we copy the law they have amended their law. I therefore implore the Government to do something about this situation by bringing within the life of this Parliament a Motor Traffic Bill.

About education, I have to support my hon. Friend, the Member for Ikeja (*Mr Ogunsanya*) who said that education should be made a federal affair. But I beg to make the following suggestions. I do not support him wholly that every stage of our education should be federalised. For instance, primary education can be handled by Regional Governments. But at all costs secondary education ought to be a federal subject. When one travels round the country one finds that the standard of these schools vary from region to region and, as the results of the West African School Certificate Examination may reveal, Members will agree with me that we ought to have a standardised secondary education system.

We have five universities at the moment and each of them tries to develop and establish all possible faculties. I will implore the Government to do something by way of advising the university authorities in the country, at least for the next few years, to specialise so that the University of Ibadan for instance may specialise in agriculture and some other things, and the University of Lagos may specialise in some other things. It will be wastage of manpower and our financial resources if every university in Nigeria is to establish, say, the faculties of law, engineering, agriculture, medicine and so on.

Lastly, the Government is to be congratulated on the way it is handling the affairs of this country, but the loyalty of the Police should not be taken for granted. Something must be done to enhance the prestige of the Police officers in the country because they work day and night and the labourer is worthy of his hire.

I beg to support.

**Mr J. S. Tarka** (Jemgbar) : I wish to move an Amendment to the Address to this effect, at the end add—

“But humbly regret that the Speech does not set out clearly positive measures to be taken to combat unemployment in all grades, and foster the unity of the country.”

This Amendment is not intended as a sign of disrespect for either the Office or the holder of the Office of the President of the Republic of Nigeria who has done more than any other person in this country to foster national unity. The unity of this country is being seriously threatened by a number of domestic issues and in particular through the utterances of certain leaders of this country. There are many thorny issues which, unfortunately, I cannot comment on at this juncture because of a ruling from the Speaker on one of the thorny issues and that is the issue of the second census count. Since I am not going to comment in detail on the matter, I think that it will be just proper to mention in passing that the question of the national census should be handled with the utmost care.

It is customary in this House that Members do introduce amendments to the President's Speech in order to afford them the opportunity to spotlight various points of omission and slackness in Government policy for the year. It is well known that the authors of this Speech are Members of the Government of the day. So anything which is said contrary to the contents of the Speech are directed as a criticism against the policy of the Government.

I wish to dwell mainly on the issues of national unity and unemployment in all grades. The question of national unity is tied up with the preservation of the Federal Constitution itself and the rights of the individual. There are other Members who are co-sponsors of this Amendment, but I will deal particularly with the liberty of the individual as it affects national unity. I feel that the right of the

individual in this country is being seriously curtailed by various Government measures, and one of these measures is the arbitrary and unconstitutional use of the Nigeria Police Force to clamp down on the rights of man in various parts of the country. I do not want to drag myself into any controversy with carpet crossers but I wish to say—

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister** (Mr Akubakar Isandu) : On a point of order, the Member for Jemgbar (Mr Tarka) is not qualified at all to speak on national unity since he cannot maintain unity in his own Division.

**Mr Tarka** : I do not wish to cater for people's ignorance. Here in Lagos in particular we have seen examples of members of the Nigeria Police Force being used to threaten the freedom of the ordinary man in the street. Right now, all over Lagos, we can see Police men parading themselves as if Nigeria is a Police State. For the past two years the people of Lagos have not been able to meet and express themselves freely because the Government which is run by potential tyrants—

**Mr Akubakar Isandu** : On a point of order, if we are to tell this nation the truth, the hon. Member and his Division have nothing else to do than to regret and tender their apologies to this country for killing four policemen. There have been many disputes in this country, but never was any policeman killed and we send the Police to settle matters here and there. But four policemen have already been killed in Tiv Division, and the hon. Member is here telling us what we do not know.

**Mr Tarka** : There will soon be an election and we shall adequately, through constitutional means, get rid of people who are professional carpet crossers. (*Interruptions*).

May I please seek the protection of the Speaker. I feel that the Federal Government and the various Ministers that make up the Federal Government are, through their own actions, rather frightened of what they expect might be the outcome of their arbitrary rule. People in this country are respectful, responsible and law abiding, and people in Lagos in particular, should be allowed the freedom of assembly as it is entrenched in our Constitution.

In 1962 this was used as an excuse by various Government parties in order to stop a particular party from campaigning during the Lagos Town Council elections. Nevertheless, it is an example and we must learn from the example shown by the people of Lagos, that you can only oppress a man on the surface of his body, but you cannot oppress a man's spirit. That is why in spite of the atrocities committed by the Federal Government in Lagos, the people of Lagos have had their way.

A member of the Government has been bold enough to challenge me on the issue of the disturbances in Tiv Division. I have not come to deal with that since I have declared publicly that the Police should be sent to investigate and find out the main root of the disturbances not only in Tiv Division, but also in the rest of the country.

It is very well known that a certain political party which goes by the name of N.P.C., whenever it knows that there will be an election and that it is likely to face a defeat, has got a certain way of fomenting trouble and using the Police to threaten the masses to prevent them from voting for the party of their own choice. I wish to say that our Constitution provides that everybody should be allowed the party of his own choice and the association of his choice.

The Federal Government is actively trying to suppress the various peoples of this country so that they will continue to vote for the parties in power. I think that this does not augur well for the unity of this country. However small a group of people may look in this country, that group constitutes part and parcel of the Federation.

Turning to the question of unemployment, I think that the main reason for this is the amount of wealth that is acquired by the various Ministers and various people in the public service in this country. Various countries and people, through their own good-will, have made various investments in this country so that these investments could go to satisfy the day to day yearnings of the ordinary man in the street. These investments go a long way to enhance various projects in which Ministers and public servants have got direct interests.

Whenever there is a new project in this country, one would hear of either a Minister's brother, or his cousin having a direct interest in

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it. It is an abuse of office for a Minister or his relative to have direct interest in a public corporation or a public project which is being run with public funds.

**Alhaji K. O. S. Are** (Ibadan North East) : On a point of order, can the Member for Jemgbar (*Mr Tarka*) cite an example of such a Minister whose relative has a direct interest, or who has a direct interest himself in a project run with public funds ?

**Mr Speaker** : That is a question.

**Mr Tarka** : I wish at this juncture to appeal to the Federal Government to start siting industries in the various provinces in the country rather than concentrating them in Lagos, and in the regional capitals. The bulk of our school leavers in this country are concentrated in the provinces and not in the Federal capital and the various main cities and towns.

Another point which I would like to raise is the Government policy on the enslaved peoples of Southern Rhodesia and South Africa. I think the Federal Government should now take it upon themselves more seriously to help those people to gain their freedom. I think the Government of Southern Rhodesia as well as the Government of South Africa have made up their minds not to help these people gain independence. Other Governments in Africa have been able to help these people to achieve independence in both material and technical ways, but the Federal Government, in its traditional slow way, has not done anything to help these people gain their independence.

This is one of the reasons why the Federal Republic of Nigeria has not gained a lot of support among the African countries. I think that if we in this country wish to portray the greatness of Nigeria among African countries, we must give them a hand of fellowship, not only in words, but in deed.

I beg to move.

**The Minister of Finance** (Chief F. S. Okotie-Eboh) : I rise to oppose the Amendment. In opposing it I must say that this is the first time that my hon. Friend, the Member for Jemgbar (*Mr Tarka*) has filed an Amendment outside his usual spirit of debate in this House. He has argued his case in a most un-Tarka way, and it shows that perhaps the Amendment is imposed on him, and he was not ready to move the Amendment.

The Amendment is filed on two particular matters that are said to be absent from the Speech by the President. The first is on unemployment ; the second is on unity.

**Mr J. S. Tarka** : On a point of order, I said unemployment of all grades which is quite different from mere unemployment.

**Chief Okotie-Eboh** : Again, I think the hon. Member has not recovered from the nightmare he had last night. (*An hon. Member : Resign !*) I will resign when it is necessary for me to do so, but according to an Itsekiri proverb, I will not dance when my enemy is beating the drum for me to dance to. (*Laughter*).

**Mr A. Akomolafe** (Ekiti North East) : On a point of order, I am surprised to hear the Minister of Finance say that I am his enemy.

**Chief Okotie-Eboh** : I never said so. As a matter of fact I have no enemy but when my enemy, if any, beats his drum, I shall never dance.

Now, unemployment is unemployment whether it is in the upper strata or in the lower grades or in the general grades. So, when I speak of unemployment, I think my hon. Friend meant unemployment of all kinds, including of himself. I do not know whether he is still employed now. As I said, my hon. Friend failed to argue his case in his usual fervour and he did not, in my view, adduce any reason to support the contention in the Amendment.

On the question of unemployment, my hon. Friend forgot the policy of the Government which has been clearly stated in the Speech by the President. If I may refresh his memory, he will find that in the Speech, practically all points have been touched. Starting from page 3, he will find that the Speech had dealt with the intra-structure of the country. The development of our intra-structure will certainly give employment to any number of people of all grades. If you develop our public utilities, you will find that that development reflects on the agricultural development of the country and a lot of people will be employed.

Apart from the employment in the Ports, road transportation is also present ; the development of road transportation, the support that the Federal Government is going to give in financing agriculture will enable the peasant

farmer to be employed and development of scientific agriculture will enable our crops to be increased, and all these will tend to give more and more employment to the generality of the people. How can my hon. Friend therefore say that this Government has no measures for increasing employment? Does he want to conscript people for employment?

This Government is not a tyrannical Government. We are not going to force people to work but the policy is to make avenues possible for people to get employment. That is the duty of a democratic Government, and those Members who say they are democratic socialists should be able to realize that even in socialist countries there is no other method of giving employment to the people but by expanding intra-structure by industrial development and by developing agriculture. These are the only means by which you can give employment to people. There are no other means.

**Mr Akomolafe :** Unplanned economy !

**Chief Okotie-Eboh :** As a matter of fact, my hon. Friend only knows how to teach school methods to his school boys. Therefore he is a hundred miles away from the methods of economic development.

**Mr Akomolafe :** On a point of order, the hon. Minister shows crass ignorance because he does not know that school methods are not taught school boys. It is teachers that are taught school methods.

**Chief Okotie-Eboh :** My hon. Friend again has erred. We apply school method to teach teachers. Naturally, it is school method that gives one the method of educating the boys and not of educating teachers. If he lectures teachers, that is his responsibility and not mine. So, on that I want to say that my hon. Friend has completely failed to convince the people.

We talked of education. We talked of health development. We talked of trade and industry. We spoke about development generally in the country and we also mentioned metropolitan development in Lagos. We also talked about building low cost houses. All these will go to show that this Government has practically covered all the policies that are required to develop the standard of living of our people in a democratic society. How, therefore, can my hon. Friend come here and say that we have not

considered the question of unemployment. Truly, we have considered it, otherwise there would be no Development Programme. The Development programme is out to give to our people more education.

**Several hon. Members :** Where is the plan?

**Chief Okotie-Eboh :** If Members have not seen the Plan, then they have not done any home work these days.

Having said that about the first section concerning the combatting of unemployment in all grades, I shall therefore speak on the main topic that my hon. Friend selected for himself; that is the question of unity. Now, on unity I must say that everybody must agree that this country is united, and this country will continue to be united. Those who try to divide this country are the politicians like the Member for Jemgbar (*Mr Tarka*) and the Member for Ekiti North (*Mr Akomolafe*).

**Mr Tarka :** Mr Speaker, I wish to deny that allegation and to make a counter allegation that the Minister of Finance is one of those who are most responsible for disunity in this country through their utterances and activities.

**Chief Okotie-Eboh :** I said so with all sense of responsibility. There has never been any riot in my Division. This is a very serious matter and I do not want my hon. Friend to dismiss it like that. I say, Sir, that there is unity in this country and there will continue to be unity because the elements which constitute unity in any society are present in our society. It does not matter that Nigeria is a heterogeneous country but what we find all over the country is that the people consider themselves first and last as Nigerians. I say, Sir, that if there is disunity in the country my hon. Friend and his colleagues are responsible for it. They are talking about Governments being overthrown here, there and yonder, but I can assure everybody that the generality of the people are still united together.

I will invite the attention of Members to the economic field. Thank God we have a Constitution—

**Mr Tarka :** On a point of order, Sir, the Minister of Finance is making wild allegations because I never talked about the overthrow of Governments.

**Chief Okotie-Eboh :** I think my hon. Friend for Jemgbar (*Mr Tarka*) will realise that I never disturbed him when he was making his speech.

**Mr Tarka :** Then the Minister had better select his words with care !

**Chief Okotie-Eboh :** I am selecting my words and I am speaking on this Motion realising that it is not a Motion filed by the hon. Gentleman as an individual but by a group of people who represent a political party. I will refer in a moment to his party.

I say that there will continue to be unity in this country whether the politicians like it or not because in the schools we know that our children are united ; they do not care whether any students come from the East or from the West or from the North. To themselves they are Nigerians. It is only now that politicians are looking for support in the colleges and universities and making the students to demonstrate against what the politicians do not like. Otherwise if anybody meets our students overseas they look at themselves first and last as Nigerians.

In trade and commerce the women who go to the markets do not want to know whether the buyer is from the East or from the North or whether the seller is from the West or from the North. Even in religious parlance there is no discrimination. There are Muslims in the North as they are in the West and in the East and there are Christians in the North, in the East and in the West. There are ministers of religion who minister to the generality of the people ; these ministers do not minister to their tribes alone and that is why it should be a pity when this country degenerates to the status where religion and politics will be based on tribes.

I must assure my hon. Friend that one must admit that if there is anybody or any political party in this country which practises unity it is the parties that constitute the Government and there is none who practises unity in this country more than the Prime Minister. I say, Sir, that the policy of this Government both in print and in practice shows quite conclusively that the Prime Minister and his Ministers are pursuing relentlessly the policy that will unite this country together.

**Mr A. Akomolafe** (Ekiti North East) : On a point of order, Sir, I am afraid the Minister of Finance is not acquainted with our current affairs. If he is and if he has read the articles on the formation of the N.N.D.P. where they said that the Yorubas are being sold to the Ibos and the other article where they said that the Ibos should be removed from the North I am sure he will agree that these policies are not enunciated for the unity of this country.

**Mr Speaker :** I think you are contributing to the debate in the guise of a point of order.

**Chief Okotie-Eboh :** My hon. Friend the Member for Ekiti North East (*Mr Akomolafe*) has plenty of time to speak on his own and I will be the last man to allow any Member to put words into my mouth.

The Member for Jemgbar also spoke about the rights of individuals. I want to say that the rights of individuals are clearly set out in our Constitution. The fundamental human rights are entrenched in our Constitution and our Constitution also provides—

**Chief O. B. Akin-Olugbade** (Egba South) : My hon. Friend the Minister of Finance is not a lawyer. If he were a lawyer he would know that the so-called fundamental human rights have been eaten up by exceptions.

**Chief Okotie-Eboh :** Thank God I am not a lawyer because lawyers are becoming liars. (*Laughter*).

**Mr A. O. Ogunsanya** (Ikeja) : On a point of order, in putting a bad case before the House, the Leader of the House should not resort to attacking members of the most honourable profession. Furthermore, the Leader of the House should satisfy us, now that he is talking about unity, what the attitude of his Government is to tribal political parties.

**Mr Speaker :** That is not a point of order.

**The Minister of Information** (Mr T. O. S. Benson) : The Member for Ikeja should remember that the Minister of Finance is also a lawyer ; he is LL.B. Sapele ! (*Laughter*).

**Chief Okotie-Eboh :** I am grateful to my hon. Friend the Minister of Information for conferring an honorary degree on me.

I agree with my hon. Friend the Member for Egba South (*Chief Akin-Olugbade*) that there are exceptions to these fundamental

human rights. Naturally there must be exceptions because we cannot protect people who want to subvert the Government; we cannot protect people who oppress others; we cannot protect people who want to commit murder in broad daylight under the guise of protection. After all fundamental human rights must be practised in so far as they do not infringe on the fundamental human rights of another man. That is the point. If anybody thinks he has fundamental human rights to kill anybody with impunity and be defended by lawyers so that he can get away with it then he forgets that he will be treading on the toes of another person.

**Chief Akin-Olugbade :** Fundamental human rights have nothing to do with criminal offences like murder, manslaughter and cases of the like. They deal with free association and so on and so forth. I will advise my hon. Friend the Minister of Finance to read his Constitution properly.

**Mr Speaker :** I believe the Minister of Finance has made it clear that he is not a lawyer.

**Chief Okotie-Eboh :** Although I am not a lawyer I have better reasoning than most lawyers. What I am trying to tell my hon. Friend the Member for Egba South (*Chief Akin-Olugbade*) is not what the Constitution provides under fundamental human rights but what hon. Members are trying to perpetuate through their evil machinations. That is what I am arguing. If the Member for Egba South will listen he will know that I am clear thinking and I have good memory of what I read.

The Member for Jemgbar (*Mr Tarka*) then proceeded to speak about the use of the Police. Policemen are 'peace officers'. Is my hon. Friend suggesting that if there is rioting in Lagos or anywhere in the country policemen should fold their arms and let the people resort to the law of the jungle?

I think it were better he told those who want to riot not to riot for as long as the people will go and riot the Police will be there, whether they kill some of them or not. That is the duty of the Federal Government—to maintain peace. Are we going to use *ḡaguda* boys the politicians carry about now to quell riots?

**Mr Tarka :** I wish to point out to the Minister that for two and a half years now there has been no rioting in Lagos and yet

the Police have always been here. Can he tell us where there has been rioting in Lagos?

**Chief Okotie-Eboh :** Police officers are not to be made use of only when there are riots. The Federal Government is in a position to know when it is necessary for meetings to be held and when meetings are to be banned because if we do not take precautions and there is trouble, my hon. Friend will be the first man to come here and attack us again that this Government has no foresight. Therefore, to be forewarned is to be forearmed.

**Mr A. Akomolafe :** The Police did not even allow my car into the premises of the House yesterday.

**Chief Okotie-Eboh :** The hon. Gentleman's car has no licence, that is why it was not allowed inside here.

**Mr Akomolafe :** The hon. Minister of Finance arrived at the same time as I arrived yesterday and his car was not allowed into the compound. So he too has not licensed his car.

**Chief Okotie-Eboh :** It is the fundamental human right of the Police to stop cars there. So I want to say categorically that we plead not guilty to the use of the Police who are peace officers to quell disturbances because it is our duty to do so, and it is our duty as a good Government to be vigilant to see that we prevent rioting and disturbances and this we shall do within the law.

My hon. Friend also spoke about the Federal Government preventing people from voting the way they like. I think that that gospel ought to be preached elsewhere and to a different Government. We have not voted. We are just trying to go for elections. How can he say—

**Mr Tarka :** I did not say so.

**Chief Okotie-Eboh :** My hon. Friend tried to speak on a very thorny issue on the question of investment. I do not know how that comes into his argument. He again tried to sing the song of Ministers and Ministers' relations and so on. I do not want to raise any question on honesty this morning but I must warn my friend that these types of statements are now out of date and they can only be attributed to the cry of the fox



[CHIEF OKOTIE-EBOH]

without a tail. That is enough to say, but if my hon. Friend wants to preach that gospel he should preach it to his friends who were able to put him on a salary of £3,000. He should have asked them where they got the money from.

**Mr Tarka :** I have never been on a salary of £3,000. In any case, the financial interest of my party was put before a commission of inquiry and my name was never mentioned.

**Chief Okotie-Eboh :** We are used to this type of denial. Enahoro denied it here before and it was proved that it was true. Anyway, what I want to tell the Member for Jemgbar (*Mr Tarka*) is that in this Government we do not sign document with toes but with hands. We do not use dead people's names to raise loans from banks.

**Mr Akomolafe :** The Minister of Finance is being very, very irregular and the Motion has nothing to do with people who signed agreements with toes. After all, we know the people who are the Nichodemuses and who go about in the night collecting hundreds and thousands of money, and we know the way they sign. They change every day.

**Chief Okotie-Eboh :** I am sure that my hon. Friend is now resorting to another type of school method. I am defending nobody. You are attacking the Government and I am defending the Government. In this Government that is not the case. I want to assure my hon. Friend that investors are increasingly coming into this country and when I make my Budget Speech, he will be able to see for himself that more money is in circulation and that investors are coming here day and night. Industrialists are coming here.

**Mr L. J. Dosumu (Lagos Central) :** I have not seen them.

**Chief Okotie-Eboh :** I will ask my hon. Friend, the Member for Lagos Central to take his car and go to Apapa in his own Lagos and he will see wonders that are being done there. This is not the time to talk about it and if these people have no confidence in this Government and the Prime Minister, they will not bring their money here.

**Mr Akomolafe :** What about those who give bribes ?

**Chief Okotie-Eboh :** I do not know about that. The Member for Ekiti should know.

**Chief O. B. Akin-Olugbade (Egba South) :** What of those about whom Mr Ugwu told us ?

**Chief Okotie-Eboh :** The Member for Egba South (*Chief Akin-Olugbade*) should ask Mr Ugwu who they were. Mr Ugwu told me that Chief Akin-Olugbade is the legal adviser of those people ! Therefore, he should know.

In winding up, I want to say that my hon. Friend will appreciate the fact that if they bring a proper Motion on unity in this country to the Floor of this House, it will be supported by everybody. This country is one. This country will be important in the world and in Africa, if it is united. If it is divided, it will mean nothing to us. The stature of Nigeria is growing daily in the comity of nations and it is important and incumbent upon this Federal Legislature to practice and do things and say words that will continue to keep this country together. Otherwise, the millions of people outside who want this country to remain together will throw the recalcitrant elements away and keep this country for ever and ever.

**Mr J. B. Eboigbodi (Asaba West) :** I rise to support the original Motion of thanks to the President. In doing so I congratulate the Government of the Federation for their efforts to project the good name of this country both at home and abroad.

I would like the Government to take care in handling explosive and delicate matters in this country and try to avoid as far as possible, newspaper and radio adverse publications and comments especially at this initial stage, for some of the great European powers that divided the African continent into their farm yards at Berlin in 1885 are not happy to see Nigeria progressing peacefully. We must not forget that the crises created either before or immediately after the independence of America, Congo, Cyprus, India, Ghana and so on were not very far away from the handwork of their former imperial overlords. Nigeria cannot be an exception in this regard. Therefore, time must be taken to handle our matters in order that this country may not suffer as other former colonial countries suffered.

I now want to speak of highway and daylight robbery. This practice was unknown in this country before. The act was learned from the

cinema shows from films sent to us from other countries practising such acts. To check these acts such films should be banned from our cinema houses throughout the country.

I now come to carpet crossing in our Parliament. The character of an average Nigerian used to be exemplary. The root cause of the disgraceful act of carpet crossing is that people go about claiming to be what they are not and wanting to spend more than their normal income. For instance, I know of a friend of mine who has joined five political parties in five years. He spends between twenty and thirty pounds everyday in costly hotels where a bottle of *Fanta* which costs six to nine pence elsewhere costs him either one shilling and six pence or two shillings and six pence, and his followers shout after him, "The Power". He is the man of the day because he gets sufficient money from his carpet crossing from one party to another.

While I will urge the Federal Government to legislate against carpet crossing in this country, I would also like the Police to get hold of people who spend money in such lavish ways and punish them, because no money honestly got can be so spent.

**Minister of State** (Mr A. O. Olarewaju) : On a point of order, carpet crossing does not come under the Police.

**Mr Eboigbodi** : I would also like the Federal Government to authorise the closure of such bars and hotels where a bottle of *Fanta* which can be bought for six or nine pence is sold for between four shillings and six pence and five shillings. We can all imagine how much other drinks will cost in such costly hotels and bars where ordinary *Fanta* costs between one shilling and six pence and four shillings.

I will now deal with thuggery. In order that elections in this country may be free from molestation of people's lives and property, regulations should be made against thuggery and the use of open jeep cars for campaign purposes. It is these jeep cars that these thugs, otherwise known as political body guards, use to invade people. These thugs quickly jump into these jeeps and drive away after they have invaded an area. The M.D.F. party had many of these open jeeps during the last election into the Mid-Western House of Assembly, and they committed a lot of havocs with them. I know that it was the N.P.C. which helped the members of the M.D.F.—

**Mr M. C. K. Obi** (Afenmai East) : On a point of order, I have told the Member for Asaba West (*Mr Eboigbodi*) that one M.D.F. member was killed by his people during the campaign for the election into the Mid-Western House of Assembly, but I do not know why he has come here to tell lies.

**Mr Eboigbodi** : It was when the M.D.F. member went for the usual invasion that he was killed. He was not killed in his house.

Another aspect of my speech deals with the unity of this country. To foster the unity of this country, which we so much desire, it is my belief that each of the old provinces of this country should be allowed the status of an autonomous state. This I believe, can be done without any bitterness. The thirteen provinces in the North should become thirteen separate states and the same thing should apply to the provinces in the East and the West, and all these states should be responsible to the Central Government, because too many powerful Premiers may destroy the unity of this country.

**Mr M. B. Afanideh** (Ikot Ekpene South) : On a point of order, I think the Member for Asaba West (*Mr Eboigbodi*) contested the Mid-Western Election, I wonder why he has come here to mis-inform the House.

**Mr Eboigbodi** : During the last election into the Eastern House of Assembly the hon. Gentleman, the Member for Ikot Ekpene South (*Mr Afanideh*) was held up by thugs whom he refused to pay. But I want to assure him that there was nothing like that in the Mid-Western Region during our own election.

**Mr Afanideh** : I want the House to understand that those who kidnapped me were N.C.N.C. members.

**Mr Eboigbodi** : I will now speak on education. As education is the yard-stick by which any country's intelligence and progress are judged, it will be better to bring all matters connected with education under the Federal Government in order that we may have one standard of education throughout the Federal Republic of Nigeria. Efforts should be made to build at least two or three technical schools and trade centres in every province of the country so that we may have the necessary man-power to man the industries which are to be established.

[MR EBOIGBODI]

Electricity should also be supplied as quickly as possible to many growing towns in the provinces, especially to those long neglected towns in the Mid-Western Region as Agbor, Uromi, Auchi, Obiaruku, Umutu, Eku and so on, in order to allow for the establishment of factories and industries in the Region, so that school leavers from the Mid-West may stop coming to Urban towns like Lagos, Port Harcourt, Kano to look for something to do and thus increase the cost of living in these over populated towns.

Before I take my seat, I would like to send my congratulations to the Premier of Eastern Region, Dr M. I. Okpara, the Premier of the North, Alhaji Sir Ahmadu Bello, the Sardauna of Sokoto and the Federal Minister of Finance Chief Festus Okotie-Eboh for going out of this country on many occasions to look for industrialists and economists to come and develop this country. These people are not like the Member for Ibadan South East (*Mr Akinjide*) who said yesterday that the Yoruba West is being discriminated against in the siting of industries. If the Yoruba West want industries to be sited in their Region let them tell their Premier to go out of his Region to look for industrialists and economists, and let him stop precipitating crises, carpet crossing and formation of mushroom tribal parties.

**Mr M. C. K. Obi** : The Member for Asaba West (*Mr Eboigbodi*) has forgotten that the N.C.N.C. is now in alliance with the Action Group in the West, and this is the Action Group which was described as a party of bad men yesterday.

**Mr Eboigbodi** : The N.C.N.C. has now chosen to be with the Action Group because the bad ones among the members of that party have now crossed to N.N.D.P. Those who were signing vouchers with their toes in the Action Group have all gone away.

**Mr Speaker** : Order ! I do not like the Floor of this House to be turned into a political party campaign field.

**Mr Eboigbodi** : Since the Member for Ibadan South East (*Mr Akinjide*) was trying to confuse the House yesterday, I think it will be proper for him now to take note of what I am saying.

**Oba S. A. Oladiran** (Okitipupa South) : But the Member is not here now.

**Mr Eboigbodi** : I am not responsible for the Member's absence here now. I know that he has gone to look for his girl friends. But if he wants industries in the West let him tell his Premier to go out of this country to look for industrialists and not to confuse the Government and the political parties in the country.

I beg to support.

**M. Ibrahim Gusau** (Sokoto West Central) : I rise to support the original Motion. It is an established practice that Budget Sessions are always dominated by Government programmes for the coming year. This is the last Session of this Parliament, and as such, I feel that it is a Session of stock taking and assessment.

It is difficult to mention in detail all the achievements of this Government since its formation four and a half years ago. Even the President took some fifteen minutes in the New Year broadcast to mention a few of them. For that reason, I think it is unwise to mention details of such achievements.

I know that being the last Session, to many of us, it is a decisive one ; decisive because of what had confronted the nation. One of the problems confronting us is the unity of this country. The Member for Jembar (*Mr J. S. Tarka*) moved a Motion towards this end, but I wonder how it happened that the Motion for the unity of this country came from him, because he is one of those creating disunity in this country.

In the assessment of the Federal Government's achievements, it is a credit that the present Government has done all it could to make the unity of this country a reality. I would here say that the N.P.C. had contributed a lot and Northern Nigeria, in particular had contributed all that it could, to see that this country is united. I mention Northern Nigeria because the worst factor disrupting the unity of our country is regionalism—regionalism in politics, regionalism in socialism, regionalism in all and sundry.

We from Northern Nigeria are now being kicked off from the Federation. Those who cover themselves under the umbrella of all the fundamental principles of democracy abuse, in reality, this unity. We are familiar with that age-long phrase of majority to have its way and minority to have its say. The practice is *vice versa* in this country to-day. Those who

are preaching parliamentary democracy in this country, in reality, are those causing disunity in this country. I say that Northern Nigeria is being kicked off from the Federation for one major reason, that is, this fundamental principle of democracy of majority carries the vote is being discarded. There is one qualification which is being adopted in this country and which Northern Nigeria had already seen being manoeuvred in the Southern politics—that is, an utter disregard of people without academic honours.

We of the North are just being tolerated enough. But I will say that the statement made by Northern Nigeria Premier is hard fact. Northern Nigeria is prepared to face all eventualities. This is not a matter of politics it is this qualification of—

**Mr A. A. Ajibola** (Egbado South): Is it in the interest of unity that the N.P.C. gave one million pounds to Chief Akintola to form his new party?

**M. Gusau**: We know that there are better talents among the Southern politicians who are capable enough to rule the Federation. We know that we have no graduates.

**The Minister of Finance** (Chief F. S. Okotie-Eboh): On a point of order, Mr Speaker, may I ask my hon. Friend to please desist from this Northern and Southern politics, and address himself to the President's Speech in his usual forthright way. I am appealing to the Member for Sokoto West Central (*M. Gusau*) to change his tone of speech and realise that we are all together.

**M. Gusau**: I have a right to say these things but I might stop if I wanted to. I will make one explanation which will prove my case. Northern Nigerians are regarded as an inferior race. If that is not the case, why are those Southern politicians who allied with the N.P.C. belittled by being called Mallams, and such other nick-names? It was only yesterday that the Member for Uyo South West (*Mr I. A. Brown*) was called Mallam Brown. Certainly it was to belittle him that he was called this nickname.

**Chief O. B. Akin-Olugbade** (Egba South): My hon. Friend should have a sense of humour. You have doctors in the East, Alhajis and Mallams in the North and Chiefs in the West. That is nothing among politicians.

**M. Gusau**: We know the gravity of this issue. If it is for fun or joke, we know that. We know for certain reasons that Northern Nigeria is being kicked off from the Federation. Any reason which can be contrary to the one we already have we know is not true. We know who those behind the scenes are and we also know what they are after. So, I will say that if the desired unity of this country is to be a reality we should have better understanding. The way Northern Nigeria is being painted; being tortured in the South is too much to bear.

I am glad that some people from the South went to the North sometime ago and they got happy impressions of the North and its people. I would like this to continue if the unity of this country is to become a reality. So much for the unity of this country.

There are a number of issues mentioned in the President's Speech, one of them is Government's intention to eradicate malaria. On a number of times I spoke on the Floor of this House for the need of this Government to take measures such as this as a federal subject. Eradication of epidemic diseases for example should be taken over by the Federal Government.

One other thing is the relation between Northern Nigeria and other neighbouring countries. There is now a campaign against rinderpest. I would like this as well to be considered by this Government. It is a matter which should not be left to any one Region of the Federation. Anything which is not confined to one particular Region should be taken over by the Federal Government.

There is also one other point which has been mentioned in the President's Speech and that is the strengthening of our Police Force. This is a welcome move by the Government. In my opinion, policemen, particularly those in the far North, are totally forgotten in respect of promotions. Those at the immediate scene are always considered. There are grumbles amongst the Nigerian policemen in the far North that they are not considered when there is promotion in the Police Force. So, I would like the Government to note that anybody in the Federal Service who is near or far should be equally considered.

May I also mention one particular aspect which has been touched in the President's Speech and that is Nigeria's role in African unity. May I say that the spirit of Addis Ababa

[M. GUSAU]

is still going on in the continent. But there is one handicap which this Government must take note of, not only this Government but also other Governments or other nations which are dependent upon France but have now gained their independence.

The Afro-Malagasy Union is a handicap to African unity. In fact, all blocs which were in being before the Addis Ababa Conference should be disbanded otherwise African Unity will not be a reality. I happened to be on our delegation last year and I saw how French-speaking African States did not seem to compromise on any African issue and I knew that the only reason was because they preferred the Afro-Malagasy Union to the Organisation of African Unity. And so, I would appeal to the Government to see that all blocs which were existing before the Organisation of African Unity was formed should be disbanded.

I beg to support.

**Mr S. O. Kolade** (Oyo South) : I rise to support the Motion in respect of the President's Speech. In the first paragraph of the Speech, the President said,

*I wish to record my satisfaction with the orderly arrangements that culminated in the successful creation of the Mid-Western Region of Nigeria last month.*

I think that this is a challenge to other Regions, especially the East and the North. Other Regions should be created from these.

Yesterday, my friend the Member for Benin East (*Chief Oronsaye*) mentioned some names that helped a great deal with the creation of the Mid-Western Region. But to my disappointment he never mentioned names of people from the Western Region. He never mentioned any single name of those who helped from the Western Region. And I am putting it to him that without the approval given by the Government of the Western Region the creation of the Mid-Western Region could not have been possible at all. The Member for Benin East is here to bear witness to what I say, and Members can as well find out from the *Hansard* that he mentioned some important people from the East, from the North and in the Federal Government. But he could not mention names of those who helped from the West. I think he should have mentioned them as well.

**Chief D. N. Oronsaye** (Benin East) : On a point of explanation, my Friend the Member for Oyo South (*Mr Kolade*) has quoted me wrongly when he said that I did not thank anybody from the Western Region. But Western Region's Government was opposed to the creation of the Mid-Western Region until some trouble developed there.

**Mr Kolade** : I will not say that the Member for Benin East is telling a lie. I will rather say that what he has just said is not correct. It was the Western Government which approved of the creation of the Mid-Western Region. It was debated on the Floor of the Western House of Assembly and it was passed. Everybody knows that.

The N.C.N.C. has been proclaiming that it is a party which likes more states to be created. They have been proclaiming this for the past four years. All these Members of the N.C.N.C. have been speaking on the Floor of this House that they like other states to be created. During the elections for the Mid-Western House of Assembly they claimed that they were the people who fought for the creation, forgetting the West Regional House that passed a Bill for the creation. They conceded the creation to themselves until they won the elections. But since then no single part of the Eastern Region has been slashed away from the Eastern Region. It is a form of hypocrisy.

I think it is time the Southern State was created. In fact a Motion will be coming to the Floor of this House to that effect. We shall then see whether that side of the House will support it. And we will then know whether they are true lovers of creation of more states or not.

**Mr J. B. Eboigbodi** (Asaba West) : On a point of order, the Member for Oyo South (*Mr Kolade*) should understand that the Southern Cameroons was a part of the Eastern Region and Eastern people were happy to see them secede.

**Mr Kolade** : The hon. Member who spoke last is not conversant with what is going on in the world. He should realise that Southern Cameroons is no longer a part of Nigeria and so he cannot say anything about that territory here.

I know that the North is eager to create more States. Other States should also be created in other parts of Nigeria.

I need to praise the Federal Government for trying to effect unity in Africa generally. And I also need to praise the role of the Federal Government in helping to settle the misunderstanding between Algeria and Morocco. I think we need to congratulate our Government on projecting the personality of Nigeria as a peace-loving country. We also should thank the Nigerian delegates that went for the settlement of the misunderstanding.

We have noted, too, with pleasure the role of the Federal Government in trying to settle the misunderstanding between Ethiopia and Somalia. May I say that we need to congratulate our Minister of State (*Mr M. T. Mbu*) on his roles in international affairs with particular reference to the Geneva Conferences. He is a credit to Nigeria.

When the President said that this country should help in the peaceful settlement of disputes by negotiations, mediations, conciliations and arbitrations, I think we should agree that the Government is really trying a great deal. I am therefore imploring the Government to continue to help to promote peace in Africa.

Although we are a peace loving country, I think we should not forget that the Cameroun should not continue to annoy us. We have been reading in the papers of the Cameroun trying to harass our people on the border, rushing to our own territorial land to get taxes from the people living there and we have not heard of anything being done by the Government to bring a stop to that. I think we should not be peace loving to a fault. Something should be done. We either send delegates to that country or invite them for some peaceful talk to prevent further occurrence of such things. There is everything to be said in favour of being peace loving, but not to the extent of allowing any other country to abuse our peace loving nature. This will be regarded as weakness on our part.

We have been speaking about the Police who have been doing a lot to maintain the unity and tranquillity of Nigeria. We have not said anything about the Army. We should do something for them and in fact if possible, increase their salaries. Events these days have

shown us that we should do something for the Army. The Federal Government should do something to see that the Army are given something to make them happy.

I think it is very nice to note in the President's speech that a Nigerian postal order service will soon be started. It is a bit late, although, yet at the same time it is one of the things that will project our personality, and the sooner we do this, the better. I congratulate the Government on that.

I do not know if the universities are planning anything like geological services and mining. Somebody said we need a specialist in mining. I agree with him. We need to take a mineral survey of the country and teach our children how to survey and do all these things, instead of sending them overseas where they spend a lot of money and come back not very useful.

Something was also said about health. You will agree with me that Lagos is not very clean in the night. When we talk about sewerage system, adequate arrangements should be made for the removal of whatever collects around the Marina which, of course, is very near the State House. There is a very strong odour at night around this area. I think particular attention should be paid to this aspect of our cleanliness. So it does not suffice to spend money buying drugs to cure people when no arrangement is made to prevent their contacting such diseases. It is better for us to prevent these diseases than to cure them.

The Speech also contains something about malaria eradication. If we do not want malaria we have to improve our drainage system throughout the country. We can give the Lagos City Council some money to enable them build better drainage in the city. I have to say categorically that the condition of the drainage in the towns is very, very discouraging and something should be done about this.

I support those people who say that education should be a federal matter, but not the elementary aspect of it. Each Region should take into consideration the environment in which people live as that is bound to influence the infants who attend primary schools.

I wish also to praise the curriculum adopted in the Eastern Region in which science is taught in primary schools. Other science subjects should also be taught in these schools so that they may know what nature is, and how human

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being are trying to utilise the resources around them. I think this will surely be very interesting to other Regions and, perhaps, they will be willing to copy this example of the Eastern Region in starting the teaching science in elementary schools.

With reference to teacher training colleges, I think this should be federalised because it now happens that a trained teacher from Eastern Nigeria is not always acceptable in the West or in the North and *vice versa*. This is mainly because they have different standards in the Regions and no Region appears to accept the certificates gained in another Region. That is why I say that if we make that a Federal subject we will bring everything along the same line.

I think the secret affairs of the Federal Government should be treated with the secrecy that it deserves. When the legislation comes here before us we shall all, I hope, support it, so that maximum punishment will be given to offenders.

I am happy that the Minister of Labour is here now because many Members have spoken about sports in Nigeria when he was not here. Nigeria is a very backward country as far as sports in general are concerned. It is something which is agitating our minds. For small countries like Ghana to defeat us in every aspect of sports, both in women's events and in men's events, I think is very disgraceful. The other time our football team went to Morocco they returned with a heavy defeat. I do not know whether the Ministers themselves are not ashamed of this as we are.

We have been discussing this matter on the Floor of this House for the past four years, as the *Hansard* can show, and yet the conditions are deteriorating. I do not think we come here just for the sake of coming here to while away time, so I am suggesting to the Government that there should be a full-fledged Ministry of Sports. We should have a Minister of Sports and there should be officers in that Ministry whose sole responsibility should be sports matters in the Federation.

If we have that, I think we can project the personality of Nigeria with regard to sports. The Federal Government should think about that, otherwise we are only shaming ourselves in the world of sports.

I think something should be done with regard to our forests. There should be research, research with reference to particular types of trees that will adapt themselves to special localities; research with reference to medicine. I do not think we have been doing anything about that at all. We have not been manufacturing tablets and we are so blessed in Africa; the green field, the wild forests are there.

My hon. Friend, the Member for Egba South, (*Chief Akin-Olugbade*) said we have got so many doctors from the East, but they have not manufactured anything in the East. I think it is theory mostly. They only go to the United Kingdom, graduate and come back without doing anything. We have not got people manufacturing a single tablet, but the doctors are there. We have to spend our money. Please let us do something concrete; let the Federal Government collect some of these people together to have a place where they will start manufacturing something. Let us make use of our resources which Nature has given us.

Again, we need to go into the research of our native medicine. At one time I read from the papers of a man in the East who boasted that he could cure tuberculosis and he mentioned that he had cured so many people or so. I do not know whether the Regional Government there has done anything about that man. Please whenever we read things like that in the papers, it will be a nice thing for the Federal Government to make a research, to send for that person, give that person some opportunity to practise. If we can get some good medicine from him, then we can develop it and project our personality to the whole world and claim that Nigeria has discovered something.

We always make use of things discovered in Europe, Asia, and so on. What are we discovering ourselves as Nigerians? What are we trying to do ourselves? We need to do something. I am appealing to the Federal Government that something should be done with reference to this.

Finally, I need to warn our Ministers this last session not to travel out of Nigeria at all. They have wasted a lot of money travelling here and there. I except the Minister of State (*Mr M. T. Mbu*) who has done very well at the Geneva Conferences. We know that we need to project our personality, but

these Ministers only waste our money every year going here and there. Many of these Ministers have been Ministers for the past ten years. Even so, they find somewhere to go. My hon. Friend, the Minister of Transport, is here; even before I came to the Floor of this House I used to read about him going here and there for the past ten years, and the Minister of Finance (*Chief Festus Okotie-Eboh*) for the past twenty years has been doing the same.

**An hon. Member** : What about the Minister of Labour (*Chief F. M. Johnson* ?)

**Mr Kolade** : Oh ! The Minister of Labour has even been going to witness such things as the Tiger-Fullmer fight. That waste is enough. We are not going to approve of that expenditure this session. I am sure that I have the backing of all the Members. In this last year, we want to take stock, put into practice what we have gained all these years and we do not want them to be running here and there. All those things they have got, the good things they have got, we want them to be explored and utilised. Please let them not rush here and there again so that we conserve our money.

We need to use money for scholarship awards. Many of our boys have no money in the Universities and many times they appeal to the Federal Government for more money. The Federal Government often says that there is no money, but the second day one will see a Minister going on tour and he may spend over £200,000. Please use that money to help our students in all the Universities. Those students are the people who will project the future personality of the country.

If the Government can take note of this, I beg humbly to support the Presidential Address.

**Mr C. O. Chiedozie** (Enugu) : I rise to support the original Motion and to oppose the Amendment.

The Presidential Speech is a master-piece. It is progressive and all-embracing, but I regret to say that there is a grave omission in the Presidential Speech. That is, no mention was made about the coal industry. This is a basic industry. The coal industry has been responsible for the growth of other industries. It has played a major part in the economy of this country.

It is true the industry is facing a crisis at the moment, but I wish to appeal to the Government to do something realistic to rescue the

coal industry and to put it on its former footing. There is the necessity for some industries to be created and by-products of coal to be used. In other parts of the world scientific discoveries have shown that coal can be utilised for other purposes and there is no need for the Government to wait.

Every year we are told that investigations are being made to find out the uses for coal, but it is necessary this year that the Government should face it dynamically and carry out real investigations about the uses of coal. If we allow this coal industry to suffer, in due course, we may regret it. Other countries of the world like the United States of America or the United Kingdom have coal industries and they had had theirs even before Enugu, but the coal industry is still playing a vital part in their own economy. There is no reason why this coal industry should be neglected.

If it is possible, let us have a Minister in charge of the coal industry. If this is not going to happen, we should do something realistic. The workers on the coal industry should be looked after properly. They have played their part very seriously and very well from time. To-day it appears they are neglected because there are other substitutes for coal. I appeal to the Government to look into this matter very seriously.

There is one thing that I heard. I do not know whether other Members heard it. Eastern Germany offered to buy our coal for the next 20 years. I do not know whether this is true but I want the Government to make a reply in due course. If the Eastern German Government wishes to buy coal from us, whether it is a communist country or not is irrelevant when we come to economic analysis. The point there is that the Government has agreed to purchase coal for 20 years. If this is true why should not our Government allow them to purchase this coal? Are we going to discriminate when it comes to economic analysis? If our policy is based on non-alignment, there is no reason why our Government should not allow any country in the world for that matter that wants to buy coal from Enugu to do so.

Another omission is on the question of Police. There is no doubt that our Prime Minister should be congratulated on the



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matter of Police. I am saying this emphatically because he had fulfilled one promise, leaving one other which he made on the Floor of this House last year. The first one was that he would look into the structure and the conditions of the Police. He had done this because retrogressive segmentation in the Police had been abrogated. At least, we are not having a third-class constable, then second-class, then first-class, then lance Corporal. All these have been abolished now. We now have Corporal and upwards. I think this is one notable achievement of the Prime Minister and it makes it possible for a policeman to start and then go on non-stop and if he is not promoted he can go to a high segment or receive a high salary which will be able to augment his pay, given long service.

But, Sir, the major promise is on the question of salary increases. The Prime Minister last year promised this House that he would look into the salary increases. All I have seen at the moment is that the salaries of the Inspector-General and the Commissioners of Police of the Regions have been increased. That is all right, but what we want is the revision of salaries of the policemen, particularly those in the junior service. We are still expecting that. When an announcement was made last year policemen were very happy but when it came it only dealt with the abolition of segmentation. There have been no salary increases yet, but I believe that the Prime Minister is waiting for the Morgan Commission of Inquiry.

I would not anticipate him but I will appeal to the Prime Minister to release the salary increases which he promised last year. One thing I know is that the Morgan Commission did not investigate the salary structure of policemen. That is why it is necessary that this should be given urgent attention.

Now, I come to the workers generally. I want to say that the Morgan Commission of Inquiry must also pay attention to the question of control of rents and prices. I want to say that any revision of salary which is not commensurate with the standard of living of the working classes will be rejected absolutely in this House. We shall move a Motion rejecting the findings because at the moment we want people in the lower income group to enjoy the necessities of life.

**The Minister of Labour** (Chief J. M. Johnson): I think it is unfair to drag the Morgan Commission of Inquiry into our debate here as the Commission had already concluded its findings and we are all expecting the Report. It will be unfair.

**Mr Chiedozie** : We shall await the result. I am only giving a warning.

I want to congratulate the Government for the low cost houses which are being proposed for workers. I think this is really a scientific approach designed to ameliorate the conditions of the working classes.

Another point is the question of trade. The Government is embarking on new measures to boost Nigeria's trade. This is commendable but I think industrialists in this country must stop importing raw materials which can be acquired in Nigeria. They reject these raw materials and import the same materials from abroad. This practice is contributing to the present trade imbalance of the country. Before industrialists import raw materials they must first of all examine those that we have in the country and I appeal to Government to discourage the importation of raw materials which are readily available in the country.

I want to commend the activities of our Ministers as far as Foreign Affairs are concerned. In particular I must say that we are impressed by the activities of the Minister of State for the Navy (*Mr M. T. Mbu*) for his performances at disarmament conferences. I think he is one of the Ministers who have done excellently well. There is no doubt that the voice of Nigeria has been heard and there is no doubt that Nigeria has contributed much in seeing to it that there is a sort of equilibrium existing in ideological warfare to-day.

Nigeria is also working hard in the Organisation of African Unity, but I want to say that we on this Side wish to press the Government to be aware of the necessity for fighting to have the Secretariat in this country. Nigeria cannot finance the Organisation and leave other countries to enjoy everything. We want the Headquarters, the Secretariat of the Organisation of African Unity to be established in Lagos. There is no doubt that when it comes to communication facilities, strategy, manpower and material Nigeria is leading in Africa.

Everybody is aware of the reception given to the Foreign Ministers in Lagos. All the Foreign Ministers commended Nigeria's hospitality and there is no doubt that Nigeria beat all other countries. We have the money; we have the resources; we have the men and we have the materials, and as such we must have the Secretariat. There is no question of fighting shy of it. We are not going to have it elsewhere.

On the question of the Development Programme, I am very glad that Government will soon publish the result of the developments so far, but one thing we must emphasise is that we want the doors of Nigeria to be thrown open to all parts of the world. On the question of investment possibilities we must throw open our doors to everybody. After all Nigeria is a vast country. We cannot open our doors only to a section of the world. Let us open our doors to those countries which want to help us. We want capital from any quarters; it does not matter as long as it increases the productivity of this country and increases our standard of living. Any country that wishes to invest on good terms must be allowed to do so. Dependence on one particular section of the world will only jeopardise our interests.

On unemployment problems, I am quite happy that the Minister of Finance has been able to explain extensively the measures of Government. I think this is a very great cankerworm militating against our country. We politicians are faced with one problem and that is the reply we will give to the ordinary man as to the measures we are adopting to cure unemployment in the country. We are now producing a large number of children of school-going age. They are too numerous in the country and in the townships we find them going about doing nothing. Many boys and girls are coming out from colleges to be joined by recruits from universities. Where will these people work if we have no employment opportunities for them?

I am advocating more intensification of our industries, more mechanisation and expansion of agriculture and creation of more employment opportunities. Let us create Unemployment Commissions or Boards charged with the responsibility of looking into unemployment in this country. Their duties will include the assessment of the degree of unemployment

and ways and means of realistically solving the problems. If this is not done it will take a long time for these problems to be solved.

On health matters I wish to congratulate the Government for the efforts made to combat malaria and smallpox. We are happy that our population is increasing but we want more increases because in the world to-day only nations with the necessary resources can speak and be heard.

Doctors of medicine should be given more salaries commensurate with their jobs. These young doctors from universities are paid salaries which are not adequate and that is the reason why they engage in private practice. If a young medical officer is paid a starting salary of £3,000 *per annum* and given the chance to do his work he will not only do it professionally but in a humanitarian manner without looking elsewhere; but if we continue to pay them as we are doing at the moment then they will continue to look for money from other directions.

The same thing goes for the nurses who are doing charitable work in hospitals. Their conditions of service should be improved. I will also go to the extent of advocating better conditions for the pharmacists that is to say that they should be recognised as professionals. In this respect I am appealing to the Minister of Health to see that the pharmacists are recognised accordingly. They are not technicians; their profession is distinct and, that being so, they should be regarded and designated as professionals instead of allowing the present trouble to continue. They are of course quite distinct from the doctors. There is no doubt about that.

On the question of sports generally, I support the hon. Member who had advocated the setting up of a Ministry in charge of sports. This is very necessary. We want a Minister of Sports. Nigeria is not fairing very well in the field of sports. In our college days we use to read about many countries exemplifying themselves in bravery in sports. We used to learn about America, U.S.S.R. and so on. Nigeria has got the potential manpower. What we need is encouragement. We have got the vitality, the stamina and what we want is proper training. We want to provide ourselves with the facilities for sports, get a

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Minister who is interested in sport, not a Minister who does not know how to play, say, football, to take charge of sports and we will be better off. We want a sportsman as the Minister of Sports, and better still, a man who can play football. I know one of the Ministers—

**An hon. Member :** Name him.

**Mr Chiodozie :** Well, Chief J. M. Johnson is a Sportsman. He had been a boxer for some time so that he can be the Minister in charge of Sports. There is no doubt that to project our personality abroad, it must be considered and the fact recognised that if we are weak in sports, we will be letting ourselves down. Other African countries look upon Nigeria as a leading country and there is no reason why we should allow even Ghana to defeat us in sports. This is a great insult.

Finally, I wish to seize this opportunity to defer from one hon. Member who attacked the Ministers for touring. I think if there is necessity for us to project our views, our personality, our idiosyncrasies, our customs, *et cetera*, we must go outside the world and let them see us. An isolated country is suffering from one disease and that is the insular disease. We must go into the world and meet people. I thank our Ministers for the way they are touring and I think they are projecting us very effectively well. There is, therefore, no need to attack any Minister. We should attack a Minister who sits always in his office without knowing what the world is talking about. Go into the world and let them know that Nigeria is a country to be reckoned with when it comes to power politics.

Also, I would say that so far our Government is doing its best to see that this country is progressive. I think that with some amount of sagacity there is no doubt that we will solve the problems facing us, and I trust on their ingenuity that they will solve them. We should encourage them to solve these problems. We are happy so far about what they have done. Comparatively speaking, I think our Nigerian Ministers are ahead of other Ministers in Africa in nearly every sphere of activity.

I wish to support the Motion.

**Mr J. Ukueku (Urhobo West) :** I rise to support the original Motion of thanks to His

Excellency the President for the Speech he has delivered and, in doing that, I want to mention a few things.

First, I would like to comment on wharf extension and a first-class deep water berth completed at Koko. The House will realise that the Sapele port is the third largest port in the country with a beautiful natural harbour. It would have cost the Federal Government far less than five *per cent* of what it now costs the Government to build one at Koko. What I am trying to say is that in giving consideration such as that it is best to consider the economic and commercial factors rather than political considerations. The consequence is that in giving political considerations to these things we spend awful sum of money wastefully.

Those factors which are conducive to the growth and rise of a port are abundant in Sapele. It has a good hinterland with an abundance of raw materials such as rubber, cocoa, palm produce and so on. These products are exported only through the port at Sapele and not any port in the hinterland. Cocoa lies in the interior of Sapele. Similarly, the marketable goods are imported through Sapele. With the development of Koko port for political reasons I dare say, the port of Sapele will cease to exist as a third-class port in this country for no reason. I think the development of a port should take into consideration these economic factors which I have earlier mentioned, and it would have been best for us to develop the Sapele and Warri ports which are third and fourth largest ports in this country. I am not fundamentally against the development of new ports in this country but an undertaking such as this should not be a waste to the revenue.

I would like to touch again on the National Teachers Training Colleges. It is noted with great happiness that a National Teachers Training College will be opened soon. I am hoping that it will actually reflect that name : the National Teachers Training College. It is noted with regret that certain educational establishments in this country which are of Federal origin have teachers or heads of institutions that have particular interests in particular people. If we have heads of schools from certain tribes, they tend to take into their schools only people of their own tribe.

I have in my mind now the Yaba College of Technology. I understand that most students in that College are of a particular tribe. That is dangerous to the unity of this country. Some people cry glibly about the unity of this country but they try to monopolise the unity of this country. We cannot cry on one hand and monopolise this unity. We must have in a school such as this a broad-minded Nigerian whose interest is beyond narrow tribal bias. I therefore suggest that the unity of this country must not be taken for granted and that such a person should come from one of the minority groups.

Commenting on agriculture, it is a matter for joy that the Federal Government is taking so much interest in agriculture. Quite often when we talk of cash crops in this country, we think of cocoa, groundnuts and palm produce to the neglect of that great cash crop which is available especially in the Mid-West—rubber. Rubber forms the most important cash crop of those of us who now live in the Mid-Western Region of Nigeria. I think the Federal Government, in consultation with the Regional Governments, should begin to plan for this important cash crop.

I have two suggestions in this respect; firstly, that a better and stable market be found for rubber. A few years ago, the price of rubber was about 3s-6d a pound but it has now fallen to as low as 9d per pound. This renders the farmers poor and unable to pay their taxes. It is a matter for regret that while the price of other products is rising, rubber is falling in price and this is the primary means of livelihood in this new Region.

My second suggestion about this is that industries should be created on small and large scales by the Federal Government in the area to process this rubber into various articles like tyres, tubes, *et cetera*. This will serve the dual purpose of providing jobs for the many jobless school leavers and making use of the products of the farmers.

I also want to say that these industries now sited in Lagos create an economic problem. Firstly, labour flowed into Lagos recently so much so that the cost of Consumer goods has risen so high and rents and the cost of everything have also risen. Our boys have to move down into Lagos to look for jobs every day, although they do not get the jobs because the

people who are at the top do not give them the jobs. I suggest that these industries be located in the rural areas.

I also want to talk on the great party which somebody has mentioned yesterday. I think this House should register its appreciation to the Member for Egba East (*Chief Rosiji*) and his group for forming the Nigerian National Democratic Party.

I think that those who love unity should be interested in parties which tend to unite the country, and it is a great vision which these people have seen. It was St. Paul who says in the Bible that when there is no vision the people will perish. These men have really seen a vision and we are now condemning them instead of praising them for the vision they have seen.

People always talk about the unity of this country, and we hope that unity will exist when the different parts of our State are manned by the people from the different tribes of this country. For instance, the President of the Republic comes from the Eastern Region and the Prime Minister comes from the Northern Region. I am hoping that some day the President of the Senate will be somebody from the Western Region. This is the only way by which unity can be created in this country. We must not continue to harbour thugs and then talk about the unity of the country.

I want also to contribute to the points made by a Member in this House about pharmacy. As a matter of fact, those of us who belong to the profession are very proud of our profession like the lawyers. We feel that we are as learned in our profession as lawyers, and it is a matter for regret that the Minister of Health should say that he would not recognise Pharmacy as a profession. I am saying with all sense of responsibility that Pharmacy is one of the honoured professions in this country, and if Pharmacists are given a chance some of the tablets now used in Nigeria can be made by us. We are not just dispensary attendants as people think us to be. Pharmacists are professionals and they are professionals. I am hoping that the Minister in charge of health will have a change of mind and recognise Pharmacy as a profession.

I beg to support the Motion.

**M. Yesufu Ilesha** (Borgu): I wish to associate myself with those Members who have

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congratulated His Excellency, the President of the Republic of Nigeria, for his Speech. In addition I congratulate Chief S. L. Akintola, the Premier of Western Nigeria and the entire people of the Region for the formation of the new political party—the N.N.D.P. I am glad that the Yorubas have now realised the plan of their colleague, the N.C.N.C. whose desire is to rob the Western Region of its treasure at all costs to build the Eastern Region and the N.C.N.C. Government. The whole aim of the N.C.N.C. is to monopolise and dominate the whole Federation of Nigeria.

**Mr Speaker :** Order, order ! I think the Member for Borgu (*M. Yesufu Ilesha*) should depart from attacks of the N.C.N.C.

**M. Yesufu Ilesha :** I also call on the Federal Government to establish Federal medical facilities by erecting dispensaries and health centres in the whole of the Federation.

I beg to support.

**Mr E. A. Mordi** (Asaba East) : I am grateful to you, Mr Speaker, for giving me this opportunity to join all other previous contributors to this momentous debate in expressing thanks to His Excellency, the President, Dr Nnamdi Azikiwe, for his beautiful Speech, so eloquently delivered.

The Speech has been rightly described by many Members as all-embracing, most comprehensive and very reassuring. I will add that it is a message of great hope for a greater tomorrow for Nigerians if they are to lead their lives under normal circumstances.

I note with immense appreciation the President's sweet comments on the newly created fourth Region of the Federation—the Mid-West Region. This is one of the greatest post-independence acts of this country. It is one bold constitutional step in the right direction taken by Nigeria since she was left to manage her own affairs.

Let me at this juncture pay glowing tributes to all those eminent personalities without whom the creation of the Mid-West Region would have ended in a fiasco. Allow me to mention the names of Sir Ahmadu Bello, the Sardauna of Sokoto, that great royal blooded giant of the North whose word is his bond ; Sir Abubakar Tafawa Balewa, the mighty timber of timbers, captain of captains, who never goes

back on his decision ; the indefatigable, warm-blooded and powerful Premier of the Eastern Region, Dr Michael Okpara ; the sharp, cool-headed, patient, indormitable crusader, the leader of the Mid-West Movement, Chief D. C. Osadebay ; the wonderful, sea-never-dry *Omimi*, accurate timer, great calculator and unbeatable bargainer. These men and others too many to mention, will have their names written in gold, when the history of the Mid-West will be written.

I am confident that the Mid-Western Region has been left in safe hands. With the N.C.N.C. headed by Chief Osadebay as the Premier, under the Governorship of Chief S. J. Mariere, that great lover and defender of truth and justice, the Mid-West will prove to be a paradise for its present inhabitants, irrespective of the tribe, creed, sex or party to which they belong. Be they Ibos, Hausas, Fulanis, Yorubas, Edos, Urhobos, Itshekiris, British, German, the doors are open to all.

The President touched many points in his Speech, but I will choose a few to comment upon.

On foreign affairs, the father of the State pointed out the declared intention of his Government to support all practical measures aimed at promoting African unity. This is agreeable to us. We all heard of his Government's support for the United Nations Organisation and Nigeria's fullest participation in all the U.N.O. functionaries in consonance with our peace-loving nature, but we must make it clear that a U.N.O. which refuses to open its doors to a country sheltering over one third of the world's population has still not attained perfection. We ourselves must take a bold stand in this by according recognition to this country and exchanging diplomatic relations with it.

On the question of the fostering of good relations with our neighbours, we are one with our dear President. But, I wish to say that the Ghana-Nigeria relationship still leaves much to be desired. I will not endeavour to bias the minds of our people, but of the Ghana Government must be told in unequivocal terms that so long as they harbour comfortably Sam Ikoku and his wife who are undisguised saboteurs of Nigeria so long shall the good intentions of that country towards Nigeria be held in suspicion.

On internal affairs, the President talked of expanding our Police to meet the commitments of our increased population. I feel that some drastic operation must be carried out on our Police Force. The whole set up is rotten and stinking. The toll of lives lost on the roads is now so shamelessly high that it has left the Police be reft of their last vestiges of respect and honour.

It is a commendable thing to make our Armed Forces largely independent in the training of personnel. It is necessary to point out however that we should aim at producing first rate men in the Army, and in pursuance of this, definite efforts should be made to recruit personnel from among capable boys and girls just completing their courses in Secondary Grammar Schools. The possibility of introducing a national service for our University men should also be explored.

The plan for developing our Shipping Lines is noted with interest. But it must be pointed out, Sir, that there is need for the Government to do something to combat the monopolistic tendencies of the West African Conference Lines. Arrangements should be made whereby the bulk of our exports should be transported mainly by the Nigerian Shipping Line.

It is gratifying to note that building and assembling of wagons will be carried on in Nigeria by the Nigerian Railway Corporation, and as far as is practicable, from local materials. Let us hope that with this step, the old, antiquated, outmoded, dilapidated coaches now in use in Eastern Nigeria on the Port Harcourt to Kano Limited Train will be withdrawn. Train journey in our country, unlike in other civilised countries, is worse than going to hell. One just pays to suffer.

The Nigerian Railway Corporation Authorities should make better arrangements for the feeding of passengers. What is presently done there is a big disgrace. The cost is fantastically high for the very poor quality of food served. What is worth doing at all is worth doing well.

There have been repeated calls, in this House, on the Government for the extension of the railway to connect the East and the West, passing through the Mid-West. This scheme is imperative and most urgent. In carrying out the project, the line should be so laid out to serve those areas not connected by the Trunk A roads.

On the question of development of power resources, I wish to plead with the Minister of Mines and Power to ensure that rural areas be included in the scheme. The extension of electricity to rural areas will make it possible for industries to be scattered about and this will considerably reduce the movement of population to townships. Let us hope that with the ten and three quarter million pounds loan from the World Bank just announced, the phase of life in the rural areas will undergo an immediate metamorphosis.

The adaptation of Laws to effect consequential changes in our Statute Laws necessitated by our constitutional transformation into a Republic is welcome. I think that such changes to reflect our constitutional transformation should not be limited to laws, but should be extended to ordinary things we even see with our eyes. It is regrettable to mention that in very many of our public places, buildings and offices, the photographs of the Queen and her husband are still seen conspicuously displayed. This is abominable and most nauseating. The photographs of the Queen must be removed from all our public offices, and be replaced by those of our President, Prime Minister, Premiers and Governors of the Regions where the buildings and offices are situated.

I think, Sir, that the statue of the Queen in front of our Parliament Buildings has served its purpose. It should be replaced forthwith with those of the President and the Prime Minister.

I like to say a word or two on education. It is good enough to have varied educational opportunities projected for our youths. But Members will agree with me that a popular outcry in this country to-day is that education, or part of it, should become a Federal subject. Even arch-regionalists are now willing to let go education from their regional list. Apart from the fact that education has fallen in standard, there is no uniformity whatsoever that is left in these standards. Certificates have been debased, and a most disgraceful and obnoxious trafficking is going on in the issue of certificates.

In this country to-day, less than fifty per cent of any grade of teachers actually passed the examinations to entitle them to the award of those certificates which they hold

[MR MORDI]

There are many with Standard Six amended certificates who to-day have Grade III certificates without ever doing the examinations, and there are many Grade III and Grade II teachers who are employed in different parts of Nigeria as Grade I teachers, supposed to hold senior certificates, whilst, in fact, they have never entered for the examination in their lives.

The Federal Minister of Education, in co-operation with his regional counterparts, should investigate this.

Let me, at this juncture, also add a word on the leakage of question papers at all levels—Police Examination Questions, School Certificate Papers, Higher School Certificate Papers, G.C.E. Papers, Standard Six Papers and Higher Examination Papers. In fact, in the Western Region a year or two ago, Grade III examinations were taken three times, and even at the third time also, the questions leaked. This is a sad cankerworm that is eating up our educational integrity. Something must be done about it. It has become a regular feature which certainly brings infamy to the good name of Nigeria outside.

I will touch other points if I have opportunity to contribute to the Budget Speech. But before I end let me say a word or two on the problem of internal unity. In speaking on this subject, I wish to appeal to the Members of this House to cast aside jokes and think seriously. Events of the recent weeks, in my view, have shown conclusively that the pregnancy of tribalism in this country has attained maturity, and unless some fair-minded and level-headed political doctors stepped in, birth will be given to a political cataclysm, the effect of which will be very devastating.

I am neither an alarmist nor a pessimist, but I choose to be a realist. I see three Nigerias coming furiously in a VC. 10 to displace our present One Nigeria. Our enviable motto "Unity and Unity" is giving way to "Disunity and Distrust".

**Mr Speaker :** I think you are going deeper than you should really.

**Mr Mordi :** You will agree with me that so many Members who spoke here were trying to cause confusion. I think we shall be deceiving ourselves if we come here and talk

about development, education, and so on and so forth, when in our heart of hearts, we know we are not one. I think it is necessary, in a place like this, to tell ourselves the truth.

I heard over the radio that a lot of things are being said in the different Houses in this country—in the Northern House, in the Eastern House, and possibly in the Western House when they begin sitting because what we are seeing now is a foretaste of what is going to happen in the Western House. Having heard these things over the radio, I personally view the future of this country with great fear. Something must be done about it. I personally agree with Chief D. C. Osadebay that the Prime Minister should summon the Premiers of all the Regions and talk to them to think seriously about the unity of this country which is fast going to pieces.

I even want to suggest a step further. As it stands at the moment, all of us have confidence in the President of the Republic. He is the one person who has been accepted by all as the father of all. I ask, Sir, that if it were possible that protocol could be broken in his own case, he should summon the Premiers and discuss with them this question of the unity of this country. Unless we act in time, I am afraid that our future is not going to be so smooth.

I beg to support.

**Chief D. N. Abii (Owerri East) :** I rise to move, That the Question on the Amendment be now put.

*Question, That the Question be now put, put.*

**Several Members :** Aye ! Aye ! No ! No !

**Mr Speaker :** The Noes are very thin but if Members insist on a Division then the Lobby will be cleared.

**Mr M. C. K. Obi (Afenmai East) :** The Motion of the Member for Jemgbar (*Mr Tarka*) does not stand because it was not seconded.

**Mr Speaker :** Order ! I think that if the Member for Afenmai East (*Mr Obi*) were here and had paid attention he would have heard the seconder saying, "I beg to second".

I would like to put the Question again.

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

*Question, That those words be there added, put and negatived.*

**Mr D. O. Enefola** (Igala South): I rise to support the Motion of thanks to the President on his Speech which was so ably delivered. In doing so, I would like to say straight away that this is a "year of years" in the life of this Federal Parliament. (*Interruptions*).

**Mr Speaker**: Order! Will Members please refrain from making a noise.

**Mr Enefola**: I said that this is a "year of years" in the life of the present Parliament because on five occasions we have heard Speeches from the Throne delivered each year in this House. We are glad to note that four of these speeches were delivered by the present President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria in the person of Dr Nnamdi Azikiwe.

Whatever happens, this is a decisive year. Looking back it is gratifying to note how the Government in these past four years—we are now entering the fifth year—has piloted the ship of State of this country very satisfactorily. We are now looking forward to the future to see what it has in stock for this country.

I say that this is a decisive year. We can prove this from what is happening and from the progress of the Six-Year Development Programme that was launched some two years ago. We do not know how successful this Programme is going to be in the near future after the life of this Parliament.

But unless we keep the unity of this country intact and unless we still have a Government as dynamic and as well-composed of capable people as we have now in the future, all our laudable programmes will come to naught.

It is gratifying to note what has been put down in the President's Speech in respect of all the development plans of the Government and what the Government has planned to do to bring about unity, happiness and prosperity to this country. I feel that the Government is moving in the right direction.

In this Parliament every day we pray that each and every Member, and in fact, the country as a whole should do only those things that will promote the unity, happiness and prosperity of this country. Speaking for myself, I feel that we have got that unity. We

have got it through Sir Abubakar Tafawa Balewa. He is at present the embodiment of unity in this country. He has the element of unity, and once we repose our confidence and faith in him I feel that he will lead us to the goal of unity.

I am glad to say that the father of us all, in the person of Dr Nnamdi Azikiwe, has confidence in the Prime Minister and both of them have been doing very much for this country.

We still pray that this unity should not be something we would only talk about, it ought not to be something that we should laugh at, but something that ought to be thought about very seriously. Therefore we have to think twice before we say anything which may likely disrupt this unity.

I would now like to go over to the educational aspect of the Speech. What affects our educational system is not only the programme in itself but the human aspect of it. The system carried over from the colonial days has been a failure because up to the present time there are so many anomalies that have contributed towards a complete lowering of educational standards. I think that the Government policy on this has not done enough to eradicate these faults.

One of the primary causes is the plight of the teachers. Teachers have not got a proper place in our society. We respect teachers because they have taught doctors, lawyers, and everybody who has become educated. We respect them only in words and not in deeds. Unless the plight of teachers is looked into by the Government, and unless their position is secured, education in whatever way we plan it, is bound to fail.

Teachers should have their reward not only in words of praise but also in kind. Many people are running away from the profession because they are not taken good care of. For instance in some parts of Western Nigeria some of them have not been paid for the past three months. Teachers are suffering and whatever plans we have for the educational advancement of this country, if the teachers are not taken due care of those plans shall fail.

I therefore suggest that all the Governments of the Federation should come together and, in particular, all the Ministers of Education, in



[MR ENEFOLA]

order to evolve an attractive plan for these destitute teachers. Even if we get good results for the teachers from the Morgan Commission of Enquiry, I do not think that anything done in the interest of these teachers will be too much.

Unless due care is taken of teachers' salaries and promotions we are not going to make headway. This trouble is more when it concerns primary teachers, teachers who are not graduates. These people are neglected and I say again, as I said last year, that unless primary education which is the foundation of the pyramid of education in this country is well looked after, we are going to have no sound education.

Another reason why the failure of education in this country has continued apart from the curriculum which is wrong and which has been handed down to us, is that we do not care to find out, before a primary school leaver actually leaves school, what his inclinations are, and unless we do this and are able to adjust him to the society, we are still failing in our duties. Until a child leaving school

has some hope of what he is going to do when he leaves, we are failing woefully in our educational system.

How can we put a child in school for upwards of seven years if he is only to come out without any hopes at all and to face frustration in life? Very few children go from elementary schools to secondary schools and technical schools; so many thousands of elementary school leavers are roaming the streets to-day. This is a very, very important problem for the Ministries of Education in this country to solve.

**Mr Speaker :** Order, it is now a quarter to twelve and therefore the moment of interruption.

#### ADJOURNMENT

*Motion made and Question proposed, That this House do now adjourn—(THE MINISTER OF FINANCE).*

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Resolved :* That this House do now adjourn.

*Adjourned accordingly at thirteen minutes to twelve o'clock.*

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

Monday, 16th March, 1964

The House met at 10 a.m.

PRAYERS

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

REPORTS FROM SPECIAL SELECT  
AND STANDING COMMITTEES

**Mr Speaker :** I have to lay on the Table of the House a Report from the Committee of Selection. This will appear in the *Votes and Proceedings* of to-day's sitting.

I have to inform the House that Mr C. O. Chiedozie reports from the Business Committee that in accordance with Standing Order 55 (1) (c) they have decided that the following Private Members' Motions be placed on the *Order Paper* for Tuesday, 17th March, in the order as follows :—

(1) The Resolutions adopted by the 52nd Conference of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, No. 49 in the Order Book ;

(2) Housing for low income workers, No. 48 in the Order Book ;

(3) Nigeria's bridges and floods, No. 13 in the Order Book ;

(4) Made in Nigeria goods, No. 41 in the Order Book ;

(5) Parliamentary Committee for Foreign Affairs, No. 19 in the Order Book ;

(6) Control of rent, No. 5 in the Order Book.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS  
WORKS AND SURVEYS

Proposals for Taking Over Regional Roads

**O.1. Mr S. Nnaji** asked the Minister of Works and Surveys, if he will give details of regional roads which have been taken over by the Federal Government from 1960 to date.

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Works and Surveys** (Mr Dominic M. Mapeo) : None, Sir.

Proposed Ikot Ekpene Round-About

**O.2. Mr B. U. Ukpung** asked the Minister of Works and Surveys, if he will state when the proposed traffic round-about at the junction of

Aba, Ikot Ekpene, Umuahia, Itu and Abak Roads in Ikot Ekpene will be constructed.

**Mr Mapeo :** The design of the project has been prepared and construction will be started as soon as possible.

Maintenance Cost of Trunk "A" Roads

**O.3. Alhaji Isa Haruna** asked the Minister of Works and Surveys, if he will state what was the expenditure on the maintenance of Trunk Roads 'A' in this country in 1962-63.

**Mr Mapeo :** The expenditure on maintenance of Trunk Roads 'A' in 1962-63 was £1,803,202-17s-1d.

Improvement of Trunk "A" Roads

**O.4. Alhaji Isa Haruna** asked the Minister of Works and Surveys if he will state what efforts he is making to improve the bad condition of our Trunk Roads 'A', in particular the Lafia-Akwanga Road through Jos.

**Mr Mapeo :** Under the current Economic Programme, reconstruction of Trunk Roads 'A', especially the links between centres of intense economic activity, is being undertaken. Replacement of substandard bridges and rehabilitation of sections of Trunk Roads 'A' are also being undertaken. We are adopting modern principles in planning, design and construction of roads and bridges and periodic inspection is made by our Headquarters engineers to ensure that the roads are properly maintained by our agents—the Regional Ministries of Works.

In particular, the Lafia-Akwanga—and indeed beyond Akwanga to Bukuru—section of the Trunk Road A.3 through Jos is included in the 1962-68 programme for reconstruction. The road has been surveyed and the designs are now ready for its reconstruction. A contract will be awarded for this work as soon as the necessary funds are released.

Umuahia-Mamfe Road

**O.5. Mr H. O. Chuku** asked the Minister of Works and Surveys whether he will consider the advisability of taking over the road which runs from Umuahia via Uzuakoli, Alayi, Ohafia, Arochuku and Calabar to Mamfe, in view of the fact that this road is mainly used by the Preventive Police and Customs Officers to track down smugglers.

**Mr Mapeo :** No, Sir. The fact that a road is used by the Preventive Police and Customs Officers to track down smugglers cannot be used as a criterion for classification of the road as a Trunk Road "A".

#### Makurdi-Jos-Fadan-Karshin Road

**O.136. Mallam Yakubu Allanana** asked the Minister of Works and Surveys when he proposes to start work on the tarring of Trunk Road 'A' from Makurdi to Jos through Fadan-Karshin.

**Mr Mapeo :** At present 13 miles northwards from Makurdi and about 40 miles southwards from Jos to the Asob escarpment have been tarred. The tarring of the Aliade-Makurdi section of this road has been included in the current economic programme. The route has been surveyed and work will commence as soon as funds are released.

**Shettima Ali Monguno (Kaga Marghi) :** Would the Minister like to comment on when work will begin on the reconstruction of the road between Benisheikh and Maiduguri?

**Mr Mapeo :** Work will begin as soon as possible.

### TRANSPORT

#### Proposed West-East Railway

**O.6. Mr D. O. Ahamefule** asked the Minister of Transport, whether he will consider directing the projected Railway Line through Onitsha-Asaba bridge to pass through Orlu, Anara and Umuahia and connect Calabar.

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Transport (Mr F. E. Offor) :** A traffic survey of the projected railway line to determine areas of traffic potential began on the 28th of January, 1964. Decision on the route will largely depend on the result of the survey.

#### Proposed Umuahia Aerodrome

**O.7. Mr D. O. Ahamefule** asked the Minister of Transport, what is delaying the construction of the proposed aerodrome at Umuahia for which a large piece of land has already been made available.

**Mr Offor :** The Minister is not aware of any proposal for the construction of an aerodrome at Umuahia.

**O.8. Mr J. Chukwu** asked the Minister of Transport, whether in view of the fact that the ferry boats at Onitsha-Asaba Ferry have been out of order for over a year now, he intends to take any immediate action to save the situation.

**Mr Offor :** It is not true that the ferry boats at Onitsha-Asaba Ferry have been out of order for over a year. The second part of the question does not, therefore, arise.

#### Train Accidents

**O.9. Mr J. Chukwu** asked the Minister of Transport, how many persons have lost their lives as a result of train accidents from January 1959 to November 1963, and what compensations, if any, have been paid to the relatives of the victims.

**Mr Offor :** No fatal train accidents were recorded between January 1959 and November 1963. During this period, however, there were 18 "movement accidents", *i.e.*, accidents arising from the negligence of passengers whilst on railway premises, for which no compensation is paid.

#### Oduma and Ndeaboh Crossings

**O.10. Mr J. Chukwu** asked the Minister of Transport if he will provide gates at the Oduma and Ndeaboh level crossings in view of the fact that these two level crossings have been scenes of regular train accidents.

**Mr Offor :** Level crossing gates are provided on the recommendation of the Regional Level Crossing Committees. The capital outlay and recurrent expenditure of such a provision are the responsibility of the respective Regional or Local Government. No application has been received by the Level Crossing Committees for provision of gates at the Oduma and Ndeaboh level crossings.

#### New Railways

**O.11. Alhaji Isa Haruna** asked the Minister of Transport, if he will state whether he has constructed any new railway lines since this country became independent.

**Mr Offor :** The construction of the Kuru-Maiduguri railway line, which started in August 1958 has continued into post-independence years.

A 107-mile section (Kuru-Bauchi) was opened to freight traffic on the 14th of August and to passenger traffic on the 16th of October, 1961. A further 102-mile section (Bauchi-Gombe) was also opened to freight traffic on 27th December, 1962 and to passenger traffic on 11th of April, 1963.

It is expected that the Gombe-Maiduguri section will be completed by the end of this year.

### Zonkwa Airport

**O.12. Mallam Shekarau Ka'a Layya** asked the Minister of Transport, when the Zonkwa Airport will be reopened.

**Mr Offor :** The question of reopening Zonkwa airport does not arise because there has never been one. My hon. Friend was probably thinking of the airstrip there which was owned and operated by the Northern Nigeria Government for their communications flight and which was later closed presumably because there was no further requirement for it.

There is no traffic to justify the construction of an aerodrome at Zonkwa which, incidentally, is within easy reach of Kaduna and Jos aerodromes.

### Third Vessel for Onitsha-Asaba Ferry Service

**O.13. Mr H. O. Chuku** asked the Minister of Transport why he has not considered a third ferry expedient to ply between Onitsha-Asaba or extended the present two ferry service to operate in the night, inspite of his promise since 1962 to increase the number of ferries from 2 to 3.

**Mr Offor :** The Minister did not promise to increase the number of ferries plying between Onitsha and Asaba from 2 to 3. It would be technically unsound to work the existing two ferries into the hours of the night nor would a third ferry be justified in the light of the need and the number of ferries available coupled with the impending completion of the Asaba-Onitsha Bridge.

### Commercial Pilots

**O.14. Mr H. O. Chuku** asked the Minister of Transport how many Nigerians have been trained as Commercial Pilots, how many are

still in training ; and how much it costs to train a Pilot.

**Mr Offor :** Eleven Nigerians have been trained and qualified as Commercial Pilots (one is deceased). Eight Nigerians are at present undergoing advanced training overseas. The cost of training a commercial pilot to the stage where he can be employed effectively as second pilot is about £4,000 and the cost of training him up to command requirements in Nigeria Airways is at least another £6,000.

### Inland Waterways Workers

**O.15. Mr E. A. Mordi** asked the Minister of Transport, whether he is aware that the workers of the Inland Waterways are unhappy about their condition of service ; and whether he will do something to remedy the situation.

**Mr Offor :** The Minister is not aware that the workers of the Inland Waterways Division are unhappy about their conditions of service. The hon. Member is no doubt aware that adequate machinery exists for settling grievances by Government staff as, for example, the Whitley Council, for which the Minister of Establishments and Services Matters, has responsibility.

### Onitsha-Asaba Ferry Earnings

**O.16. Mr E. A. Mordi** asked the Minister of Transport, how much revenue was derived by the Government from the Onitsha-Asaba ferry in 1961, 1962 and 1963 respectively ; and what were the corresponding figures for the Sapele ferry during the same period.

**Mr Offor :** The annual revenue figures for the financial years concerned are as follows :—

	1960-61	1961-62	1962-63	1963-64
	£	£	£	£
Onitsha-Asaba	117,379	134,698	149,673	146,071 (up to 15-2-64)
Sapele-Benin	25,076	22,362	17,197	20,224 (up to 1-2-64)

**Mr E. O. Ifezue (Orlu North) :** Would the Minister tell the House whether these figures reflect profits ?

**Ilorin Railway Station**

**O.137 Mr S. A. Babatunde** asked the Minister of Transport, what time work will start on the remodelling of Ilorin Railway Station.

**Mr Ofor** : The Railway Corporation's Six-Year Plan includes, among other things a scheme of improvement works to Railway Stations. The Ilorin Railway Station is one of the Stations earmarked for improvement but it is impossible to state categorically when the work will commence.

However, with the supply of electricity to Ilorin some minor improvements have been made at the station.

**Alhaji Mohammed Muhtari Sarkin Bai (Dambatta)** : Could the Minister say how soon work will start on the remodelling of the Kano Railway Station ?

**Mr Ofor** : That is another question.

**O.138 Mr S. A. Babatunde** asked the Minister of Transport, whether he will cause the Railway authorities to ensure that the new railway station at Ilorin is larger than the one at Offa in view of the heavy volume of business transacted at that station.

**Mr Ofor** : The size of a railway station is determined by the volume of business it is likely to handle. So, this principle will apply to determining the size of Ilorin Railway Station.

**O.139. Mr S. A. Babatunde** asked the Minister of Transport, if the new railway building at Ilorin station will have waiting rooms for first and second class passengers.

**Mr Ofor** : First and second class waiting rooms will be provided for Ilorin station on the remodelling of the station.

**INTERNAL AFFAIRS****Niger Pools**

**O.44. Mr E. A. Mordi** asked the Minister of Internal Affairs, how much was collected by the Niger Pools in 1962 and 1963, how much was paid out as dividends and running costs ; and what was the profit realised for each of these two years.

**The Minister of Internal Affairs (Alhaji Shehu Shagari)** :

	1st year (1961-1962)	2nd year (1962-63)
	£	£
Total amount collected . .	997,674	917,129
Dividends paid to winners	432,289	356,979
Running Costs . .	609,126	544,554
Profits . . . . .	NIL	15,596

**Pool Frauds**

**Mr V. L. Lajide** asked the Minister of Internal Affairs, what steps he is taking to protect stakers from the fraudulent practices of certain pool houses and fixed odds companies.

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Internal Affairs (M. Aliyu Zungun)** : To protect stakers from fraudulent practices by pool houses and fixed odds companies, the hon. Minister has laid down certain conditions for the operation of treble chance pools and fixed odds businesses. Only applicants who satisfy these stringest conditions and who are also otherwise suitable are considered for licences.

To ensure that the rules and regulations are properly observed by the pool houses, there has been created in the Ministry, a Pools Inspectorate Unit whose duties, among other things, is to inspect pools houses and to examine pools records to see that the declared winnings are paid and that winners actually receive the amount declared. In addition, complaints from members of the public are carefully investigated and, furthermore, the pool houses (whether agents or promoters) are required to render regular weekly returns to keep us informed of their activities.

**Pool Companies and Agents**

**Mr V. L. Lajide** asked the Minister of Internal Affairs, if he will give a list of licensed Pools Companies and Licensed Agents in the Federal Territory, and what steps he is taking to ensure that pool houses operate as the law requires.

**M. Aliyu Zungun** : The answer is as follows :

One Treble chance and 20 Fixed Odds Pools Promoters are licensed in the Federal Territory. 244 Pools Agents are also licensed.

The Minister is sure that the hon. Member would not wish to take up the time of this House by reading out the full list which will appear in the Hansard.

To ensure that the rules and regulations are properly observed by the pool houses, there has been created in the Ministry, a pools inspectorate unit whose duties, among other things, is to inspect pools houses and to examine pools records to see that the declared winnings are paid and that winners actually receive the amount declared. In addition, complaints from members of the public are carefully investigated and, furthermore, the pool houses (whether agents or promoters) are required to render regular weekly returns to keep us informed of their activities.

**LIST OF LICENSED POOL PROMOTERS**

1. Nigerian Pools Company
2. Rocky Fixed Odds
3. Seven Moon Fixed Odds
4. Ambassador Fixed Odds
5. Superman Fixed Odds
6. Unisco (Chibros) Fixed Odds
7. Boundary Fixed Odds
8. Lion Fixed Odds
9. Nada (Nahib Chidiac) Fixed Odds
10. Star Fixed Odds
11. Jolly Fixed Odds
12. Federal Fixed Odds
13. Somorin Fixed Odds
14. 1 2 (X) (R.S. Chaguri) Fixed Odds
15. Sunflower Fixed Odds
16. Good Luck Fixed Odds
17. City Girl Fixed Odds
18. Lagos and Colony Fixed Odds
19. Mai-Zambura Fixed Odds
20. Carnival Fixed Odds
21. High Life Fixed Odds

**LIST OF LICENSED POOL AGENTS**

1. S. A. Akingbade
2. E. A. Akitobi
3. G. B. Ajala
4. D. O. Akinlade
5. Apeoku Agencies
6. Ebenezer Akin Aiyela
7. J. Ade and Brothers
8. Isaac Ade Akinade
9. F. E. Akinsika
10. E. I. Adeleye
11. Adebawo
12. K. O. Amosu

13. M. O. Ajayi
14. Oseni Salami Aribi
15. Tukur Animashawun
16. M. Akinsolum
17. Jimoh Adeoye
18. A. Ajayi
19. Miss Adenrele
20. M. S. Ariyo
21. J. O. Adubi and Sons
22. R. A. Akinfaderin
23. J. A. Adesanya
24. G. Adeleye
25. S. Akinjise
26. T. Anifowoshe
27. A. K. Ahmed
28. Moses Aderibigbe
29. S. O. Adebajo
30. A. O. Aro
31. I. O. Alabi
32. J. A. Adebimpe
33. W. S. Ayinde
34. S. A. Adeyinka
35. O. Adeboyewa
36. Atas Pools Service
37. J. B. Adekunle
38. E. O. Abiola
39. Sani Adisa
40. T. Bola Ajayi
41. S. D. Akere
42. F. Adedoyin
43. T. Azeez
44. S. A. Adeniyi
45. M. A. Akinlade
46. A. A. Animashawun
47. Peter Aka
48. J. Adeleye
49. G. A. Aderibigbe
50. P. J. Alex
51. Amas Pools Service
52. F. B. Akinwunmi
53. Achike Asolo
54. Augustine A. Akintunde
55. J. R. O. Aiyeola
56. R. A. Ayoola
57. Alejowo Pool House
58. Adebola Pool Agency
59. T. J. O. Bereola
60. S. Bakare
61. S. A. Bakare
62. T. K. Bakare
63. A. Bamgbola
64. A. O. Benjamin
65. T. Bode & Bros.
66. Blessed Pool House
67. M. B. Bakare

- |                               |                                |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 68. J. O. Balogun             | 122. K. Bickesteth             |
| 69. S. B. Bakare              | 123. Clifford Pool House       |
| 70. B. & Y. Agencies          | 124. Central Pool House        |
| 71. B. Crumpsall              | 125. City Pool House           |
| 72. T. Buoro                  | 126. George Cole               |
| 73. L. A. Bakare              | 127. Delta (Group) Agencies    |
| 74. M. R. Babaniji            | 128. L. T. Durojaye            |
| 75. Mrs M. B. Babaniji        | 129. A. Dosunmu                |
| 76. S. A. Lashiji             | 130. B. A. Easy                |
| 77. Lucky Pools House         | 131. G. O. Ekwenye             |
| 78. A. Mensah                 | 132. Essien's Pools House      |
| 79. Moonshine Pool House      | 133. I. E. Eke                 |
| 80. S. Moses                  | 134. Express Pools Agencies    |
| 81. G. Manuwa                 | 135. Edward Pool House         |
| 82. R. Y. Molaja              | 136. J. Esigbe                 |
| 83. F. O. Makinwa             | 137. Frank U. Eneli            |
| 84. Mike Pools                | 138. L. A. Foresythe           |
| 85. S. Macauley               | 139. J. M. Fansegan            |
| 86. Medo Pools                | 140. Fowowawo Service Agencies |
| 87. T. O. Mustafa             | 141. Feola Pool House          |
| 88. Motherwell Football Pools | 142. K. B. Fabolude            |
| 89. H. Mensah                 | 143. Fabiyi Pools Agency       |
| 90. N. Nwokeke                | 144. Rafiu Folami              |
| 91. A. Nuga                   | 145. Fat-Salvad                |
| 92. B. Osuji                  | 146. Fashina Pools Centre      |
| 93. Okunubi                   | 147. R. A. Garuba              |
| 94. B. Oshidele               | 148. I. Gantoa                 |
| 95. E. O. Ogungbesan          | 149. T. Ade Gbadebo            |
| 96. S. Olajide                | 150. Bamgbose Pool House       |
| 97. E. Owosho                 | 151. Goodwill Pool Centre      |
| 98. E. O. Otukoya             | 152. Horney Pools              |
| 99. D. I. R. Odiogwu          | 153. T. Habib                  |
| 100. S. Olaniyi               | 154. Hasdup General Service    |
| 101. A. Oduyebo               | 155. J. Ola Johnson            |
| 102. A. Okuyemi               | 156. J. A. Jegede              |
| 103. P. A. Ogunnaike          | 157. J. Jeje                   |
| 104. J. I. Olufelo            | 158. Kunle Pool House          |
| 105. F. A. Okiki              | 159. Kajola Pool House         |
| 106. A. Oyewole               | 160. J. A. Kuku                |
| 107. E. I. Onewokae           | 161. E. Kuyoro                 |
| 108. R. Obafemi               | 162. S. A. Kuforiji            |
| 109. C. Osuji                 | 163. T. A. King                |
| 110. F. A. Olowokere          | 164. Lagos Pools Centre        |
| 111. P. Okenla                | 165. Latunde Vincent           |
| 112. Omu Pool Office          | 166. S. O. Lawal               |
| 113. A. S. Obadun             | 167. Z. P. Lopez               |
| 114. Onward Pool Agency       | 168. Oscar Younis Pools        |
| 115. I. Ogunsheye             | 169. S. Obi                    |
| 116. E. Oshodi                | 170. T. Oluwole                |
| 117. M. F. Ojoikuye           | 171. I. Ofodile                |
| 118. D. M. Okafor             | 172. A. Obikoya                |
| 119. P. A. Otumbare           | 173. Miss Oyende               |
| 120. T. A. Owodunni           | 174. A. Odukoya                |
| 121. T. Bode                  |                                |

175. P. G. Onariase
176. J. Onasanya
177. Owode Pool House
178. Officer Pool House
179. M. O. Olu
180. O. Owolabi
181. Oputs Pools Service
182. I. O. Osofisan
183. G. A. Okpala
184. J. B. D. Oremeta
185. S. S. Ogunaike
186. E. O. Oshunkoya
187. D. F. Odunsanya
188. A. Olufunke
189. S. I. Oladipo
190. C. Ojin
191. Ojolowo Service Agency
192. O. Owode
193. F. A. Ola Dawodu
194. J. A. Okushote
195. N. Onibudu
196. P. A. Odejobi
197. Pan African Pools
198. Pools Investors Association
199. J. B. Rennaiye
200. Royal Pool House
201. O. Richard
202. Ayo Senu
203. A. O. Sani
204. E. Salami
205. T. A. O. Shoga
206. D. Ade Salami
207. J. Shogemi
208. T. Shodipo
209. A. H. Sulaiman
210. M. Mopeola Shogbamimu
211. Z. O. Shobande
212. A. O. Somorin
213. K. A. Shittu
214. C. A. Sowole
215. T. H. A. Samuel
216. A. Shokunbi
217. K. O. Shoruna
218. A. O. Sobowale
219. R. O. Shobande
220. S. A. Shittu
221. Jimoh Sanni
222. A. Sumola
223. Fati Shibro
224. J. A. Thomas
225. J. Thompson
226. Uyo Ukpong Uyo Ata
227. S. Udokang
228. United Pool House
229. Volvo Pools Office
230. Winny Pools Centre

231. Win A-Lot Pools
232. K. A. Yesufu
233. Young Brothers Pools
234. Sunday Onaniyi
235. Muyideen Owolabi
236. Hope & Progress
237. J. Adekoya
238. Fairway Pool Agent
239. J. T. Izundu
240. I. O. Ijwuwadinachi
241. W. Iroham
242. J. N. Iheuwadinachi
243. International Pools Syndicate
244. Miss Fat Ikifa

## COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

### Prices of Ginger

**O.17. Mallam Shekarau Ka'a Layya** (Zangon Katab) asked the Minister of Commerce and Industry, if he will state the selling prices per ton of ginger in 1962, 1963 and 1964.

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Commerce and Industry** (Alhaji Usman Angulu Ahmed): More than 80 per cent of ginger exported from Nigeria comes from the Northern Region. Before September 1963 the export of ginger was entirely in the hands of private traders. Since 1st of September, 1963, ginger originating from the North has been made a Marketing Board produce. There are two grades—peeled ginger, the higher grade, and split ginger, the lower grade.

Prices have averaged as follows :

1962	..	..	£97-10s-0d per ton
1963	..	..	£130-0s-0d per ton
1964	..	..	£100-0s-0d per ton

### Palm Produce Prices

**O.18. Mr B. U. Ukpong** (Ikot Ekpene Central) : asked the Minister of Commerce and Industry, what plans he has for raising the prices of palm produce this year.

**Alhaji Usman Angulu Ahmed** : The Ministry is making active efforts through various International bodies and Commodity Organisations to secure stable and equitable prices for all our export produce.

While we are optimistic in our efforts, it must be pointed out, however, that, all other things



[ALHAJI USMAN AHMED]

being equal, the world price for palm produce like the price for any other commodity is governed by the forces of supply and demand as well as competition from other products, and no country can, therefore, unilaterally raise the price for any of her commodities in the world market.

#### Perfumes Factory

**O.19. Mr B. U. Ukpogon** asked the Minister of Commerce and Industry, whether he will establish a perfumes industry in Annang Province in view of the abundant supply of palm oil in the division.

**Alhaji Usman Angulu Ahmed :** As the Minister has explained on a number of occasions, his Ministry does not set up industries, but only creates favourable conditions which enhance the establishment and growth of industries.

Regional Governments are responsible for industrial development in their areas of jurisdiction and this matter may well be raised with the Eastern Nigeria Government. His Ministry will, however, be willing to co-operate fully if approached on the question of fiscal incentives for the industry.

**Mr P. E. Ekanem (Enyong South):** Is the Minister aware that up till now, no industry of any kind has been established in the whole of Old Calabar Province?

**Alhaji Usman Angulu Ahmed :** The Minister is not aware.

#### Ikot-Ekpene Raffia Industry

**O.20. Mr M. B. Afanideh (Ikot Ekpene South)** asked the Minister of Commerce and Industry, if he will consider giving the Ikot Ekpene raffia industry some financial assistance to enable the industry to expand and put into use more modern equipments so as to create more employment opportunities and to produce better articles.

**Alhaji Usman Angulu Ahmed :** As far as the Minister is aware, there has never been any request for financial assistance from this industry. The Federal Loans Board which gives medium and long-term loans to small industrialists and businessmen will, I am sure, be pleased to consider any application for a loan from such an industry. Applications will however be considered on their merits.

#### Industries for Old Calabar

**O.21. Mr M. B. Afanideh** asked the Minister of Commerce and Industry, why he has not established any industry in the Old Calabar Province since 1960.

**Alhaji Usman Angulu Ahmed :** As the Minister explained in an earlier question, the Federal Ministry does not set up industries, but only creates favourable conditions which enhance the establishment and growth of industries.

We have, however, where the circumstances require, invested in a few strategic industries in order to safeguard Nigerian interest in the particular industrial projects. No such projects requiring Federal Government participation have so far been established in Old Calabar Province.

**O.22. Mr M. B. Afanideh** asked the Minister of Commerce and Industry, if he will consider establishing palm wine bottling at Ikpe Annang in Ikot Ekpene Division in view of the fact that Ikpe is noted for producing high quality palm wine.

**Alhaji Usman Angulu Ahmed :** The Minister would like to refer my hon. Friend to his answer to Question No. O.19 which adequately explains the Ministry's position.

#### Walcon Monopoly

**O.23. Mr R. N. Muojeke** asked the Minister of Commerce and Industry, how he proposes to break the monopoly of the West African Conference Lines and thus save our export and import trade from destruction.

**Alhaji Usman Angulu Ahmed :** The Minister is not unaware of the effect of the increased freight rates by Walcon on our produce. The reaction of the Nigerian Produce Marketing Company Limited is already manifest.

I can assure the Member for Awka Central that everything is being done to solve this problem. For the time being it will not be prudent to say more on this subject.

**Unfavourable Trade Terms**

**O.24. Mr R. N. Muojeke** asked the Minister of Commerce and Industry what steps he is taking to see that our unfavourable balances of trade with some countries such as Japan, Hong-Kong and India, are promptly and satisfactorily corrected.

**Alhaji Usman Angulu Ahmed** : The Ministry has for the past six years restricted importation of goods from China, but in view of the negligible trade figures, no ceiling has yet been placed on that country.

In the case of Japan and Hong Kong, restrictive measures were imposed on 22nd August and 26th September, 1963, respectively.

In addition, commencing from 1st January, 1964, a quota system was placed on Japan. There is no restriction on our trade with India in view of the negligible trade figures with that country but, the position is kept constantly under review.

A Mission is being opened in Tokyo (Japan) and a senior staff of this Ministry is being posted to Tokyo to take care of our trade with that country. In addition efforts are being made to increase our exports to the countries of the Far East. It is hoped that these measures will help correct the present trade imbalance.

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

**The 1963 Census**

**The Prime Minister** : I wish to inform the House that the Census Board, comprising duly appointed representatives of the Governments in the Republic, which I appointed after the failure of the 1962 National Population Census, has conducted another count. The Board in its Report to me has given me the preliminary figures of the 1963 National Population Census. I am advised that my acceptance and publication of these figures are final.

It is my intention to hold a meeting with Regional Premiers to discuss other matters in connection with the Census.

**ORDER OF THE DAY**

**PRESIDENT'S SPEECH**

(MOTION FOR AN ADDRESS)

ADJOURNED DEBATE ON QUESTION

(14TH MARCH) :

That an humble Address be presented to His Excellency, the President, as follows :

“Your Excellency,

We, the Members of the House of Representatives of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, in Parliament assembled, beg leave to offer our humble thanks to Your Excellency for the Speech which Your Excellency has been pleased to address to both Houses of Parliament”.

**Mr D. O. Enefolo** (Igala South) : Before we adjourned on Saturday I was talking about some aspects of our educational system which I say leaves much to be desired. The point I was making was about school leavers. I want to make it clear that when we are ready to tackle unemployment in this country we must think seriously about our educational system in this country. We are faced with the problem of unemployment and when we produce children who leave school and who do not know what they are going to do I think we must have to do something about our educational system and I think one of the ways is by rearranging the curriculum. (*Loud interruptions*).

**Mr Speaker** : Order ! The House is getting noisy. Will hon. Members who have to confer please do so in undertones.

**Mr Enefolo** : If we must combat unemployment in this country and if the Governments of the Federation are ready to help with the curriculum of education in the country what they should take into consideration is the problem of school leavers. They constitute the major part of the unemployed element in the country. When I say school leavers there are three types of them. The first type is the primary school leaver who cannot proceed with education in the secondary school and who must have to go out to look for a job. He cannot get it and he starts roaming about the streets.

[MR ENEFOLA]

There is the secondary school leaver who for one reason or another cannot go to the university. After all it is not every secondary school leaver who can go to the university. He leaves the secondary school and he is faced with unemployment. He goes from office to office without the prospect of a job. Then the third type of school leaver is the undergraduate. It will be a faulty type of education if after educating a child for about fourteen years he comes out of the university to face unemployment. Jobs must be got for all school leavers. Without that we shall be faced with unemployment problems. What affects the primary school leaver is going to affect the secondary school leaver and the same thing will affect the graduate.

As somebody said last week, unless our universities specialise in certain courses we shall soon discover that there are thousands of graduates from one particular field and there is a dearth of qualified people in other fields.

Turning now to the President's Speech in connection with the plan of the Government for the Economic Development of this country, I wish to say that there are quite a lot of things to be accomplished during the present year. But I wish to say that the question of rural areas being neglected is still a great problem. For four years we have been coming here and we have been pleading the cause of the rural people but up till now there are still many constituencies, divisions and provinces which are completely neglected. Unless the problems of the rural areas as regards the distribution of amenities are solved, I feel that if we develop one part of the country to the neglect of the others, we are bound to face a crisis because these rural areas cannot wait any longer. In the rural areas there are no good roads, no bridges, no communications and for almost five years we have been here shouting always at the top of our voices but up till now almost nothing has been done for these people so as to make them feel the weight of the Government of the country.

All Ministers must give account of their stewardship to their constituencies. We, too, who are Floor Members must also give account of our stewardship. What shall we tell our people at home? Shall we tell them that we have only been talking for the last five years?

I feel that the plan of the Government as envisaged in the President's Speech about rural areas leaves much to be desired.

Last week somebody spoke about Ministers touring parts of the world. I quite agree and support wholeheartedly that Ministers must tour so as to project the Nigerian personality but at the same time these Ministers must tour all parts of Nigeria. If, however, the Ministers cannot tour, their Parliamentary Secretaries can. They should meet the people, discuss with them and see at first hand the plight of the people. That is one of the ways by which the people in the rural areas can know that the people who represent them in Parliament do not forget them.

For the past four years I have not seen up to two Ministers touring Igala Division. They tell you they have no time. If they have no time have their Parliamentary Secretaries no time too? These people must come to see us. After all we all must face our constituencies at the time of election. If our Governments want to help us they must spread amenities in the rural areas.

Finally, I want to stress the point that our Ministers must come to see us so that they may see for themselves what we come here to talk about.

The only way the Government can take the initiative is by trying to promote big combines in this country. I think the Minister of Finance in conjunction with the Minister of Trade and Industry should try and help our people to form big combines so that that would help trade.

I would now like to say something about our domestic issues. There was a time when we were talking of having a Constitutional Conference. The last one was in 1957. I think it is time that we should have another Constitutional Conference where some of the burning issues like carving more states and all types of issues can be decided. Most of our political parties and leaders, instead of getting enough time to see to the development of this country, rather face domestic issues that have nothing to do with development of this country. Some people waste their money and time in fighting for more states. It is time that we took a decision on this.

We have got so many of our laws amended and the Constitution has been amended too. I think we should take a bold step and call all our political leaders to come together and perhaps draft a good Constitution for this country.

Now that the Mid-Western Region is created, everybody is aspiring that more states should be created whether it is feasible or not. What is the need for wasting money and time and perhaps leaving people in moments of anxiety, moments of worry when we can come together and plan our political future for the next ten years?

I support the President's Speech.

**Chief O. B. Akin-Olugbade** (Egba South) : I welcome the opportunity to contribute to the debate on the President's Speech at this Budget meeting. Anybody who could take the trouble to scan through a number of similar Speeches delivered within the past few years would easily discover that this year's Speech comes within the class of addresses which are merely a programme of work for the ensuing year and a repetition of a catalogue of unfulfilled promises.

This being the last Budget Session before the Government quits office for the next Federal Election in accordance with our Constitution, one would have expected the Speech to contain a list of Government's achievements during the past four years. No one need be surprised, however, because the Federal Government has very little to its credit of which it would take just pride.

We are all witnesses to the sad and inglorious performances of a coalition Government whose main objective is to destroy the strongest and the richest of the tripod that supports the Federal structure. The result is that the citizens of this country have been deprived of the economic, social, political and cultural progress which they looked up to in supporting our struggles for independence from colonial rule. Let us not deceive ourselves, Sir, there are millions of people in this country to-day who have been so frustrated because their economic prospects have been so shattered, their sense of justice so outraged and their hopes for the survival of the rule of law and their belief in the high standard of public morality have been so disturbed that they regretted ever joining forces with us to rid this country of British rule.

Yet, some people might say that the worse home rule is better than the most benevolent foreign rule. This is true only where the governing body is out to build and reconstruct the nation. It would not be true where the governing body sets out to destroy the most cherished rights and aspirations for economic and political progress and the individual liberty of the people.

One of the most serious omissions in the President's Speech is the ominous silence on the problem of disunity, instability and economic stagnation which now confronts this country. No problem is ever solved by running away from it, or pretending that it does not exist or constitute any real danger. In spite of the Government's proverbial desert-ostrich attitude, we have listened to speeches by Members of this honourable House and we have read the speeches of Members of Northern House of Assembly, who openly want to turn the Floors of our Legislative Houses into a battle field for racial or tribal wars. We, of the Action Group, being truly Nigerian in our concept, policy and programmes in this country, sincerely deprecate and deplore this tendency which can only lead to the disintegration of our great country.

True enough, great nations like great men always have great problems. But one of the ways by which the greatness of this nation can be determined is the measure which the Government proposes or adopts in solving the problem.

What are the causes of disunity, instability and economic bankruptcy which stare our great nation in the face to-day? To mention a few, I would say they include abuse of political power, envy, vindictiveness, treachery and disloyalty to political leadership, the small mindedness of certain political leaders and educational insufficiency. For instance, the Federal Government has been lending its full weight for the past two years to a class of politicians in the Western Region, who have forfeited their right to rule because, in violation of our Constitution and the accepted rules of law and democratic practices, they have not obtained the mandate of the people of the Region by a general election.

Who are the supporters of the ignoble class of politicians in the Western Region? On the Floor of this House last week somebody said

[CHIEF AKIN-OLUGBADE]

that the Western Region, comprising mainly of the Yoruba ethnic group, was not having its fair share of the investments under the Six-Year Development Plan, and that the people of the Region were being discriminated against in appointments to Federal Boards and Corporations and to the Foreign Service.

While the complaints may be true, it is highly debatable to say that they are justified. I say this as a true Nigerian and as a true Action Group leader. It is said for instance that within the past two years—

**The Minister of Commerce and Industry** (Alhaji Zanna Bukar Dipcharima) : When did the Member for Egba South (*Chief Akin-Olugbade*) succeed Chief Awolowo ?

**Chief Akin-Olugbade** : I am one of those holding the fort for Chief Awolowo in this House.

One instance has been given that since the Six-Year Development Programme has been launched the sums of £7.5 million and £10.5 million have been invested in the East and the North respectively as against only £.5 million in the West. The questions which arise are these : In view of the fact that there are five Ministers of Yoruba origin, namely, Mr T. O. S. Benson, Dr. M. A. Majekodunmi, Chief J. M. Johnson, Chief Olu Akinfosile and Dr T. O. Elias who hold portfolios in the Federal Government, what are they doing ?

**Mr L. O. Tobun** (Epe) : On point of order, the Member for Egba South (*Chief Akin-Olugbade*) is not a true Yoruba ! See how he wears his cap and see how I am wearing mine on the left and the other Gentleman in front of me is wearing his on the left.

**Mr Speaker** : He has already said that he is a true Nigerian.

**Chief Akin-Olugbade** : I thank you very much, Mr Speaker. I prefer to be a Nigerian than a Yoruba, although I am a Yoruba first ; and I prefer to be an African. I regard myself, in fact, as a citizen of the world.

The protagonists of this gospel of racism and hatred in this country should know that the Yorubas have their commonsense and they cannot be deceived. Furthermore, Chief S. L. Akintola, Dr M. A. Majekodunmi and Chief R. A. Fani-Kayode who have been ruling the

Western Region during the past two years when the Six-Year Development Plan was launched are either nominees or friends or agents of the N.P.C. and the N.C.N.C. who are partners in the Federal Government, and it is known that it is the Federal Government that distributes the investments and makes the appointments. What have these people been doing during the past two years ?

**Mr E. J. Ogunkanmi** (Oshun South East) : It has been the tradition of this House that people who cannot come here to defend themselves should not be discussed. Chief Akintola cannot come here to defend himself, neither can Chief Fani-Kayode.

**Several hon. Members** : Defend him now.

**Mr Speaker** : I do not think the Member for Egba South (*Chief Akin-Olugbade*) has discussed their conduct or criticized their activities particularly. I think he is referring to the unity of the country in terms of the parties.

**Chief Akin-Olugbade** : Thank you very much, Sir. I will not attack them here. If I want to attack them, they will be present and I will attack them in their presence. I was merely asking what these people have been doing during the past two years. They should not, in order to win the support of genuine Yoruba people—

**Mr P. E. Ekanem** (Enyong South) : I am really surprised that to-day the N.C.N.C. Bench cheer the Action Group.

**Mr Speaker** : Order ! The Member for Enyong South (*Mr Ekanem*) need not raise a point of order upon his being surprised.

**Mr W. O. Briggs** (Degema) : But Mallam Ekanem defends the N.P.C.

**Mr Speaker** : I do not like the idea of "Chief" Briggs saying "Mallam" Ekanem !

**Chief Akin-Olugbade** : It is sad to observe that since early 1961 the Federal Government has not invested even one penny in the National Bank of Nigeria in spite of the fact that its new Board of Directors were nominated or approved by the Federal Government. You will ask why. Of course, Sir, I will tell you the reason in a few minutes. One can hardly blame the Federal Government. One cannot blame a man for making use to his own best advantage of a callous and unscrupulous politician and a

self-confessed fascist, and one cannot blame the Federal Government for not entrusting its property to such people.

In winding up my discourse—

**Several hon. Members :** Who are these people ?

**Chief Akin-Olugbade :** Well, the impostors in the Western Region have been deprived patronage of the Federal Government because they are not trustworthy. They are not credit-worthy. So they cannot use that as an argument against the different ethnic groups comprising the political parties that form the coalition of the Federal Government.

In winding up my discourse on the problem of disunity and instability I will most sincerely suggest to the Prime Minister as the head of the Federal Government to consider the advisability of setting up a committee or, if you wish, an organisation for Nigerian unity, comprising men and women of genuine interest in the preservation of our great Federation. They should be charged with the duty of finding out the causes of disunity and proposing or recommending the remedies for the cancerous plague afflicting the Western Region.

One obvious solution is that both the N.C.N.C. and the N.P.C. that form the coalition Government, together with the Action Group that constitute the Opposition in this House should sponsor and promote a resolution to dissolve forthwith the present Government of the Western Region. I am quite sure that the N.P.C.—

**Mr J. M. Damla** (Pankshin West) : It appears that the Member for Egba South (*Chief Akin-Olugbade*) is afraid of the N.N.D.P. So I think the best thing for him to do is to declare for that Party.

**Chief Akin-Olugbade :** And one other duty of that committee would be to set up another committee to represent all the political parties operating in the Western Region which will be charged with the duty of preparing for a general election within the next two months. I must say that it is far more in the interest of the N.P.C. that there should be peace and tranquillity in the Western Region.

**Several hon. Members :** There is already peace there.

**Mr Speaker :** Order, continue Chief Akin-Olugbade.

**Chief Akin-Olugbade :** The Northern Region in particular, which is put in charge of the N.P.C., now requires much needed development within a short while. I am asking seriously that the N.P.C. should see to it that there is peace in—

**Mallam Yerima Saleh** (Bedde) : On a point of order, I feel that I should speak at this moment. I think that the Member for Egba South (*Chief Akin-Olugbade*) is irrelevant. He is discussing the affairs of the Western Region in detail. It is not under the power of the Federal Government to order a dissolution of the Western House of Assembly. The Western Region is autonomous.

**Mr Speaker :** Order ! When we are discussing peace and stability, I think it is very wise to refer to regions, but it depends on the Member speaking to avoid being very particular about regions.

**Chief Akin-Olugbade :** I think it is well-known that there has been an un-ending tension in the Western Region since the past two years and it is the concern of every Nigerian to see that the tension is ended as quickly as possible.

**Mr A. A. Ajibola** (Egbado South) : On a point of order, the N.N.D.P. is "Northern Nigeria Devils Party."

**Chief Akin-Olugbade :** I am appealing strongly to the N.P.C. to consider my suggestion very seriously because, if the N.P.C. fails at this hour, the indications are that Chief Akintola and Chief Fani-Kayode will soon start to try their well-known treacherous tactics against the leadership of the N.P.C. to the detriment of the whole nation.

**Oba S. A. Oladiran** (Okiti-pupa South) : On a point of order, the Speaker had said here that Chief-Fani Kayode and Chief Akintola should not be discussed in this House. I feel that Chief Akin-Olugbade is going too far by referring to them as treacherous in this House.

**Mr Speaker :** Order ! Chief Akin-Olugbade, please speak in finer description of the activities of the Premier. (*Interruptions*).

**Chief Akin-Olugbade :** It appears that the Parliamentary Secretary, (*Alhaji Hashimu Adaji*) does not like to be regarded as a traitor.

**Minister of State** (Alhaji Hashimu Adaji) : I am not a traitor. I have never been a traitor and will never be a traitor.

**Chief Akin-Olugbade** : Yes, those people who betray their former political party will in future betray their new friends, because in order to keep themselves in power there, they will not accept the domination of either the North or the East. One obvious solution is for the Federal Government to see to it that more states are created, particularly in the North and in the East. This should take place before the life of this Parliament expires.

However, I am glad to say that the N.P.C. has won to its side the erstwhile members of the Action Group from the Old Calabar Province on the promise that they were going to create a separate state for them. I would like to say that when that Motion comes up for debate we are going to support it. We must support it because it is in the article of faith of the Action Group that in order to preserve stability and peace in this country more states must be created.

**Mr M. B. Afanideh** (Ikot Ekpene South) : On a point of order, I beg to acquaint this House of the information about the views of the Federal Government on the creation of more states in the country. It is—

**Mr Speaker** : Order, it is out of order for you to acquaint the House at this stage.

**Chief Akin-Olugbade** : I want to suggest another solution. But before I do that I would like to remind the House of the act of Mr Jomo Kenyatta, the Prime Minister of Kenya. When Kenya became independent a few months ago over 3,000 political prisoners were released. When it was proposed that, on Nigeria's attainment of Republican status, political prisoners should be released, a leader in this country said he would rather give amnesty to a convicted thief or murderer than to a political prisoner. I think that in order to preserve the unity of this country we should go all out to release all our political prisoners and make it easy for us to use their services in this country.

The series of legislation proposed in the President's Speech are designed, in my opinion, to strengthen further the strong; enrich further the rich; protect the land owning class and

make the poor, poorer. No measures are designed to relieve the working class of the burden of heavy indirect taxation, crushing domestic expenses and lack of opportunity for their educational improvement. There is in the Speech a grudging acknowledgment of the problem of unemployment which a recent survey showed to be most acute among school leavers. The truth is that the problem affects almost all classes of people in Nigeria and not only just the school leavers. No Government in this modern age worth its salt allows an acute unemployment to be chronic as is the case in Nigeria to-day. The earlier the Governments of the Federation tackle this problem energetically the safer it will be for us all. Let those who have ears to hear, hear.

**Mr I. S. Onwuchekwa** (Ahoada Central) : I support the Motion ably moved by the Member for Ikeja (*Mr A. O. Ogunsanya*). The Speech in itself is a masterpiece. We all have every reason to congratulate the Government of the Federation in particular and ourselves in general for the able way in which the affairs of the state have been managed so far. To Nigeria this riddle is true "I was born in a kingdom, raised in an empire and attained manhood in a territory and I am now a citizen of a state and have never been a hundred miles from where I lived" To evolve from a colonial status to independence and then to a Republican status all within so short a time is indeed a great achievement worthy of praise.

Nigeria's role in the Organisation of African Unity is praiseworthy. While the United Nations Organisation offers the best hope for world peace and prosperity, the O.A.U. stands as Africa's best hope for unity and tranquillity. The O.A.U. should, as a matter of urgency, have a standing Army to enable it talk with power. While that body should not unnecessarily interfere in the internal affairs of its members, it has a duty to arbitrate in some thorny problems which are bound to arise from time to time in growing nations that form its membership.

I say this because what happens in many African countries at times dumb-founds one. I know that they do not happen for nothing. The imperialists and their agents are still at work simply to discredit home-rule by Africans. It was no less a personality, than our august visitor of recent, the Prime Minister of Trinidad

and Tobago who genuinely warned us not to accept all advice from the imperialists. This was a timely warning, for Nigeria is no exception to the imperialists' agents.

Talking of this august visitor, I think that it would be a good thing in future for all arrangements to be made to receive such a visitor in Parliament. It is time we started to discern those who are our genuine friends.

As I said earlier, the O.A.U. should be a body capable of counter-acting the intrigues of the imperialists. There is no human problem which cannot be solved by human beings with a little tolerance on each side and the O.A.U. should stand for this as far as Africa is concerned. The O.A.U. should have its goal for a Political Federation clear cut right from the outset even though that goal is yet remote.

The Presidential speech made mention of increasing the strength of our Police force. That is good for our Internal Security, but we should not only concentrate our attention on increasing their strength alone. Their condition of service and salary must also be improved.

Dealing with education, I think that the time has come when we must be positive on what part of our education should be a Federal subject. I make bold to say that if it is possible, education in its entirety should be made exclusively a Federal subject, for that is where it rightly belongs. Experience has shown that education is not only a great burden to the Regions, but the standard of education in Nigeria is falling by allowing for different curricula and methods in our schools. It is not yet late for us to retrace our steps and retrieve our reputation.

The President's Speech touched upon the effective control and rehabilitation of beggars. It is true that beggars on our streets, especially in big towns like Lagos, Port Harcourt, Enugu, Ibadan, Kaduna, Kano and so on, are an eyesore. Their sight also lowers the prestige of our country in the eyes of visitors, but I feel that total elimination of beggars will run counter to the religious belief of most of our citizens. There are people who find pleasure in helping others who are really poor. We must be careful not to make the masses of our citizens callous and indifferent to the suffering of others. We are by nature a generous

people, very unlike many other nations. We must not remove the avenues whereby people show their generosity.

Talking about sports, I think most of us will agree that we are now tired of suffering defeats in the hands of smaller nations from time to time. It is not only shameful and disgraceful to be defeated by smaller nations, but this also lowers our prestige everytime. I would therefore like to suggest that we should have a standing team in soccer, which will always play and practise together, and this team should be financed by the Federal Government.

On insurance, it is very gratifying that something is to be done at last, even though the action is belated. I say the action is belated because as much as forty million pounds has already been taken out of this country by these insurance companies. Although the action of the Government on these insurance companies is belated, yet it is better late than never. I also want to suggest that the Government should take all necessary steps to nationalise the insurance companies in this country because the Government and the country stand to gain a lot by so doing.

When I talk about nationalisation of companies, I am aware that there is a sort of timidity on the part of our Government in pursuing a policy like that. We think that we shall scare away investors if we nationalise insurance companies, but I know that all what investors need is stability. If the Government of this Republic Nigeria is stable, surely, investors will still come to Nigeria. It is not only by allowing them to exploit us that we encourage them to come to Nigeria.

I am speaking in this vein because I know that there are some firms who come here and employ expatriate contractors in an attempt to take money out of this country. We must check this because we want our money to go round the whole part of the country, and we can encourage this by helping our indigenous contractors. After all, we often say that these expatriate contractors have the technical know-how necessary for their work, but we always forget that they did not get this technical know-how in a day. Our own contractors must be helped in all ways. We must try and hold what we have.

We must also keep in mind the rise in the prices of motor cars. I think that the time has come when the Government must control



[MR ONWUCHEKWA]

the prices of motor cars in this country. A motor car that was purchased for less than one thousand pounds a few years ago now sells at over two thousand pounds. I feel that this is exploitation, pure and simple. There is no cause for this increase.

The question of unemployment is a delicate one. I am very happy however that the Government has realised this in time and is now taking every possible step to minimise it. There is no country, of course, without unemployment problems, but we want ours to be minimised. The point is that some of our people are unemployable. We must make everybody in Nigeria employable. The pen-pushing type of work must not be the only work in Nigeria. We need a radical change in our educational set up so that when our children leave school they will fit into our industries. There are many of our children who come out of schools but who are not employable simply because they cannot fit into any industry. We must see that something is done so that when our children come out after graduation from our universities they will have technical knowledge apart from their book knowledge.

About Railways, it is very gratifying to read from page 2 of the President's Speech that something will be done. Here it is said that, (with your permission, Mr Speaker, I will read the portion):

*For the first time ever, the building and assembling of wagons will be carried out in Nigeria by the Nigerian Railway Corporation and, as far as it is practicable, local materials will be used.*

I am making an appeal to the Government to see that the coaches plying the Eastern Railway Line are changed. These coaches that ply from Port Harcourt to Kano need to be replaced. I had an unfortunate experience last time to ride in one of them. It was dirty, stinking, with poor catering. That was really very disturbing. Government must see that these coaches plying the Eastern route are changed at once.

Lastly, about the question of creating more states, I do not endorse the idea of creating states out of spite or tribal prejudice. Experience has taught us that our malady to-day is largely due to the structure of our country.

The structure of this country presents a great problem to our leaders. Therefore, it is inevitable that more states must be created. Government should see to it that states based on provinces are created, and all these states should converge on the centre.

The states we have now are such that the component parts appear to be greater than the whole. This should be impossible according to Playfair's axiom which says that a part should not be equal to the whole. But our states are not only equal to, but greater in power and in all respects than the whole. We should remedy this by getting the centre to have all the power that it deserves so that Nigeria can speak with one voice. That Nigeria, at the present time, does not present an image is a fact that we must hold. We do not present an image. To get Nigeria to present an image to the world, we must have these states all converging on the centre, so that the centre will be truly that which presents the image to the world.

I beg to support.

**Mr W. J. Falaiye** (Ondo North East): I rise to support the Motion of Thanks to the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. This is the first time we are moving a Motion of Thanks since the country attained Republican status. The world is a stage, and we are performers. Blessed are our eyes that live to see and witness these changes.

This is especially so when we remember that it was only in Nigeria that we have gone through a period of peace, national prestige and orderly progress in the course of our political changes from a colonial status to independence and now to a Republic without bloodshed, tears or concentration camps.

I congratulate the President, Members of the Parliament, the Government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and Nigerians abroad for their role in projecting the personality of this country to the outside world.

I would advise that, in this present year, the Federal Ministers should find time to visit the provinces, and get to know the people living there. This will enable them also to know the size, the population and the needs of the people so that they can see and appreciate the reality of our demands for our constituencies.

In the President's Speech, he outlined his Government's activities in the fields of defences

by land, sea and air. Mention was also made of the development of our power resources, health organisations, project evaluation and investment units, oil refinery, food and agriculture, development projects and the Ex-servicemen's welfare. I am particularly happy that we will now have a comprehensive report on the six-year Development Plan during this sitting of Parliament. I want to note the projects as they affect my Constituency; I also want to assess the achievements so far made.

Last year, I complained on the Floor of this House that people in Ondo Province were paying double rates to the E.C.N. compared with what are paid in Ibadan or Lagos. I pleaded with the Minister of Mines and Power to reduce the charges. As nothing has so far been done, I repeat the request again on behalf of the three million people of Ondo Province.

I also submit that at least two industries should be sited in Ondo Province. In the first place, such industries will halt the mounting rate of unemployment, and cause an immediate decline in the mass exodus of job seekers to Lagos or Ibadan.

I will also repeat my request of last year to upgrade Ifedore and Idanre Post Offices to full Post Offices.

An announcement was made sometime ago about the construction of railway lines between the Federal territory and parts of Western and Mid-Western areas. I have myself seen some of the Railway tracks in Akure. I shall be grateful if, during the six-year Development Programme, this will be completely effected. I also demand the construction of an aerodrome in Akure.

I hope I will have another opportunity during this Budget Session to speak at length on the Organisation of African Unity and on Nigerian trade pattern.

I will not speak on the unity of Nigeria which is a very wide subject. The spirit of unity and one Nigeria must exist in this country. The only path to peace is to keep the N.C.N.C. under observation. The N.C.N.C. to-day is Mr Two Faces. Mr Two Faces is described in an allegory entitled the *Pilgrims Progress* as somebody going forwards and backwards, up and down, here and there at the same time.

**Mr. N. D. Ukah** (Owerri North East): On a point of explanation, if there is anybody in this House with two faces it is the Member for Ondo North East (*Mr Falaiye*) because he has been from the Action Group to the U.P.P.; from the U.P.P. to the N.N.D.P., and he had even been in the N.C.N.C. And his party has just emerged from the N.C.N.C.

**Mr Speaker** : Order !

**Mr Falaiye** : I quite agree that I have two faces and if I have two faces it is the N.C.N.C. that taught me to have them.

The following are some of the disuniting measures introduced by the N.C.N.C. into the Federation. The N.C.N.C. together with the N.P.C. formed the Federal Government. And yet the N.C.N.C. is persistently accusing the same Government of lack of dynamism and charges the N.P.C. of ignorance. May I ask, can this make for unity ?

**Several Members** : No.

**Mr Falaiye** : It was the N.C.N.C. that cabled Dr Opara in Europe in 1962 that law and order had broken down in the Western Region. This was an endeavour to kill the Action Group and then control the Western Region willy nilly.

**Mr J. N. Nwofokoda** (Izi North) On a point of order, Standing Order 26 (1) states—

*A member shall not read his speech, but he may read short extracts from books or papers in support of his argument—*

The Member for Ondo North East (*Mr Falaiye*), the four-faced hon. Gentleman, has been reading his speech continuously.

**Mr Speaker** : I have not noticed him reading continuously. But I will keep an eye on him.

**Mr Falaiye** : It was the N.C.N.C. that sent Eyo to imprisonment in the Eastern Region.

**Chief D. N. Abii** (Owerri East): I only wish to know from the Speaker how that concerns the Motion of thanks to the President for his Speech.

**Mr Speaker** : I am just waiting to hear a little bit more from him to ensure whether he was actually throwing a joke at the N.C.N.C. or attacking the N.C.N.C. on the Floor of the House.

**Mr Falaiye :** Mr Speaker, we have to analyse the activities of each and everyone of us to see what contribution we are making to the unity or disunity of this country. And I am putting these facts forward so as to ask everybody whether from our heart of hearts our performances are for unity or for disunity.

I would say that it was Dr Opara who proclaimed to the world that there was a break down of law and order in the Western Region which subsequently brought the Emergency situation in the West in 1962. But to-day the N.C.N.C. changes colours, crosses the carpet into the Action Group and said that they are playing the role of their saviour. Is that the way to ensure peace ?

The N.C.N.C. formed a coalition with the N.P.C. in the Federal Government ; coalesced with the U.M.B.C. and N.E.P.U. in the North, and with the U.P.P. and Action Group in the West, and so on and so forth. When the N.C.N.C. was coalescing with the U.P.P. in 1962 it was for the unity of the Western Region. Again, when it is in coalition with the Action Group it is also for the stability of the Western Region.

Now, the N.C.N.C. in its endeavour for unity supported the creation of the Mid-Western Region carved out of the Western Region. Right now it is shouting that the Northern Region should be cut into three regions. But, we must remember, it refused to create the C.O.R. State from the Eastern Region. When somebody even attempted to put it on the *Order Paper* the N.C.N.C. managed to have it deleted from it.

**Mr P. E. Ekanem** (Enyong South) : On a point of order, the issue of State for the Calabar people is not something to be toyed with by any section of this House. It is clear that we are prepared to shed our blood for it.

**Mr Falaiye :** It is also the N.C.N.C. that incited the Ibadan University undergraduates into an unnecessary and illegal protest procession.

**Mr Speaker :** Order ! I do not think we should continue to agree with all these points being made by the Member for Ondo North East (*Mr Falaiye*).

**Mr Falaiye :** Thank you very much, Mr Speaker,

**Chief O. B. Akin-Olugbade** (Egba South) : I think that the speech of the Member for Ondo North East is a salutary lesson to the N.C.N.C. and we hope that before they take in any carpet crosser in future they will screen him thoroughly.

**Mr Falaiye :** The Member for Egba South is being paid for what he is doing.

**Mr W. O. Briggs** (Degema) : On a point of order, the hon. Member has spoken of the contributions of the N.C.N.C. towards the disunity of this country. We now want to know what the contributions of the N.P.C. are, towards the unity of Nigeria.

**Mr Speaker :** This is a question.

**Chief O. B. Akin-Olugbade :** On a point of order, it is now well-known that it is the Action Group that has contributed most to the unity of this country because it is the Action Group that is represented in all the legislatures in the country.

**Mr Speaker :** All this party propaganda should now stop.

**Mr Falaiye :** My answer to the Member for Egba South (*Chief Akin-Olugbade*) is that this is not the time to board ships going to England.

The Yoruba people, I seriously maintain, are deprived members of the Nigerian family. Yoruba disunity was brought about by the political situations which we created for ourselves. It is mostly due to the actions of the N.C.N.C.

**Mr J. N. Nwofokoda** (Izi North) : On a point of order, the hon. Gentleman speaking has departed from decency. The N.C.N.C. is not the theme of the debate and if he continues to speak in this way, this House will have become something else.

**Mr Speaker :** I think it is wrong to be attacking political parties to provoke inconvenience to this House.

**Chief O. B. Akin-Olugbade :** On a point of order, I think the hon. Member should desist from attacking Members of this House. He has made certain wild allegations in this House, whereas he is, as everybody knows, a convict. He has been convicted recently of stealing fifty blocks. That was why he changed to the N.N.D.P. (*Shouts of Ole ! Ole !*).

**Mr Speaker** : Order, order ! I think the Member for Egba South (*Chief Akin-Olugbade*) will have to give us the facts before we can agree with this. I think it is certainly out of order to make such a statement if there is no evidence to prove it.

**Professor Kalu Ezera** (Bende East) : We do not know that political prostitutes should be allowed to stand up on this august Floor and attack honest and principled men. And this man is indeed the man the papers said was charged with stealing bricks.

**Mr Speaker** : Order ! We do not very much rely on reports made in newspapers in this House.

**Mr Falaiye** : I think something is really wrong with the mentality of some of the hon. Members. (*Interruptions*).

**Mr Speaker** : Order, order ! Will the hon. Member please conclude his speech in a more decent way. (*Shouts of Ole ! Ole ! Interruptions*).

**Mr Speaker** : I do not like that.

**Mr E. O. Araka** (Onitsha Urban) : On a point of order, under Section 45 Subsection 1 (c) of the Constitution of the Federation, if a Member has been convicted and sentenced to a term of imprisonment above six months, he shall cease to be a Member of Parliament. May we have the ruling of Mr Speaker on this.

(*Shouts of Ole ! Ole ! Interruptions*).

**Mr Speaker** : Order, order. It is out of order to refer to a matter which is pending in the court. I understand an appeal is pending.

**Mr Falaiye** : I shall request the Speaker to be good enough to give me some time more to complete my debate, because these people have taken so much of my time by their organised interruptions.

An hon. Member has said that £10 million was allocated to the Northern Region and £7.5 million to Southern Regions for developmental purposes, out of which Eastern Region alone got £7 million and the Western Region £0.5 million. This has not been denied.

**Several hon. Members** : Who said that ?

**Mr Falaiye** : Study the *Hansard*.

Secondly, all industries are based or located either in the North or in the East but none in the Western Region. Thirdly, out of about 70 Nigerian Ambassadors abroad, only two come from the Western Region. Can anybody honestly say that this is in keeping with our diplomatic ideals ? Fourthly, one branch of the Central Bank was located in the North, two in the East and none in the West. Is it any wonder that the Western Region is to-day faced with developmental stagnation ?

**Mr W. O. Briggs** (Degema) : On a point of correction, it is only one branch of the Central Bank which is in the East and that is in Port Harcourt. Even that is only being built ; they have not finished building it. In any case, there are also Westerners in the Cabinet of the Federation.

**Mr Falaiye** : I refer you to the *Hansard* of 14th March, 1964. About the Western Region, this is what the Member for Urhobo West (*Mr Ukuoku*) had to say :

*People always talk about the unity of this country, and we hope that unity will exist when the different parts of our State are manned by the people from the different tribes of this country. For instance, the President of the Republic comes from the Eastern Region and the Prime Minister comes from the Northern Region. I am hoping that some day the President of the Senate will be somebody from the Western Region.*

I now come finally to the question of the formation of the "blessed" Nigerian National Democratic Party. The Constitution guarantees the right of association, and when it comes to consideration of distribution of patronage, in two or three Corporations, Western colleagues are not members. In point of fact—

**An hon. Member** : What does he mean ?

**Mr Falaiye** : For one person alone to preserve our unity is not enough. The leaders must work sincerely and realistically to practise all they preach, otherwise nobody will follow them.

Finally, I congratulate the independent Members of the Eastern Legislature and I hope they will hold out. It simply shows that the scales are falling off and they are trying to be very free both morally and socially. I reserve the rest of my speech till the Budget Session.

Thank you very much.

**Mr Speaker :** Shettima Ali Monguno.

**Mr W. O. Briggs (Degema) :** On a point of order, I think speeches are made in rotation—Action Group, N.C.N.C., N.P.C. and so on. The man who spoke just now is of the N.N.D.P. and that is N.P.C.

**Shettima Ali Monguno (Kaga Marghi) :** I rise to oppose the Amendment.

**Several hon. Members :** It has been disposed of.

**Shettima Ali Monguno :** Well, I beg your pardon, Mr Speaker. I did not realise that the Amendment had been disposed of.

I therefore rise to support the Motion before the House and in doing so, associate myself with those Members who have spoken before me and congratulated our Head of State for delivering, in his usual manner, with pomp and dignity, the Speech which contained real hopes for the entire population of this country, hope for the future, for we have already witnessed, during the past 12 months, that the Federal Government have worked hard and effected progressive developments in this country. There is no question that there has been improvement, no matter how limited, in the welfare and well-being of every citizen of this country during the past 12 months.

This is the last year in the life of this Parliament and as such, this is also a Budget Session which is the last and, therefore, I may tend to be slightly critical for, in my opinion, this is an appropriate time for stock-taking and it is only appropriate also for us to voice out any constructive criticisms that we may have to make on the Floor of this House since the formation of the present Government.

First of all, we are all agreed that we have achieved a lot both within the country and abroad and the credit must go not only to the Members of the Cabinet of the Federation but also to the Civil Servants. Certainly, our Civil Servants, both at home and abroad, have worked very hard and very efficiently in projecting the image of Nigeria. We have witnessed through their utterances, through their actions and through the power vested in them to commit this country, that they have uplifted this country. They have put us high up in the field of international affairs. And the credit certainly should partially go to the Ministry of External Affairs and also to those Nigerians who serve abroad.

The President outlined a good number of projects in his Speech and one or two of the first items in the Speech contained hope for peace. In the first place our support to the United Nations in order to contribute in our humble and limited way towards the peace and progress of the entire world. Similarly, the Speech also contained support for the Organisation of African Unity which also in itself is the hope of the entire continent of Africa in bringing about both peace and steady progress to Africa.

Coming nearer home we also listened attentively to projects still contained within the same Speech which if implemented with a sense of purpose will undoubtedly yield dividends which will benefit the masses of this country and we hope and pray that during the next twelve months there will be the same spirit and the same sense of duty which have been in the minds of our Ministers.

When I say coming nearer home I also intend to touch the rather controversial issue of unity in this country. It is pointless for us to talk and make efforts in order to bring about unity in the world, in order to bring about unity in Africa whereas there are elements of disunity created within our own atmosphere in this Federation. Let us not deceive ourselves that there will be unity in a country where there are sophisticated and enlightened students' unions in universities who talk and act in terms of their Regions of origin. This hardly will be said to foster unity in the country. When in the same country certain political leaders, though preaching unity, hardly practise it, hardly utter words of encouragement of unity and hardly also act in the spirit in a way and manner which will foster unity in the country.

We should not deceive ourselves because even within the same Government of the Federation we do hear from time to time Ministers disagreeing amongst themselves not within the Cabinet but outside; Ministers forgetting that they have on their shoulders the responsibility of the nation, the responsibility not only of their Region of origin but of the nation as a whole. It is indeed a shame to see in our national dailies one Minister from one Region within the Federation condemning another Minister from another Region. It is childish; it is selfish; and it hardly fosters unity in the country. It is shameful to

witness such as Nigerians amongst us, no matter what the degree of disagreement between Ministers' utterances and actions of leaders of this country which leave much room to be desired.

If our leaders in this country could act, could emulate the Head of State, His Excellency Dr Nnamdi Azikiwe, if we could only see him and follow him and cherish the way and manner in which he strove and is still striving to foster the unity of the country, acting as a symbol of unity, then we shall have no more fears of disunity in this country. (*Cheers*).

Very recently we witnessed a very unfortunate incident which occurred within the Region I come from. A Minister in the Regional Cabinet was alleged to have offended the Head of State and the Head of State took it calmly and put that Regional Minister exactly where he was. We were all sorry, but what happened as a result of that? The Northern Premier, Sir Ahmadu Bello, apologised in a very statesmanlike manner to the Head of State. Is that not an element for fostering unity in this country?

**Several hon. Members :** It is.

**Shettima Alli Monguno :** In a statesmanlike manner the Northern Premier not only apologised verbally but very tactfully and in the Fulani diplomacy he dispatched the Minister to Lagos. We all knew that when Sir Kashim Ibrahim, Governor of Northern Nigeria, visited this place he came with that Minister and that Minister went to the State House to pay homage to the Head of State. Why cannot these leaders of the country also restrain themselves in the interest of the entire Federation? This is at least what we expect from other leaders of the country.

We do not believe that anyone individual in this country could dictate terms to the Federation. We do not believe at the same time in the formation of militant organisations, when somebody thinks that he should have a body to protect him and thereby dictate terms. But we are more than prepared to go along with any individual, any Head of Region, and political leader or cultural leader who can sit down and say to himself: "I come from the Region but I just cannot go alone, I must have my brothers from the other Regions". Charity begins at home. No matter how we feel within ourselves we are united.

Those foreign representatives in this country seeing things for themselves would write and tell their Governments about the seeds of disunity sown within the Federation. I should not drag the House any further on this issue, but am appealing humbly to those of us who come from the North to take the others from the other Regions as brothers and sisters. I am appealing, at the same time, similarly to those who come from the other Regions to accept us if they want stability in this country. It is very encouraging to hear from within the House promises coming from—

**Mr A. F. Odulana (Ijebu South) :** On a point of order, I want to know what the appeal of the Member for Kaga Marghi (*Shettima Alli Monguno*) implies.

**The Deputy Speaker :** I thought that the Member for Ijebu South (*Mr Odulana*) was raising a point of order, instead he appeared to be asking a question.

**Shettima Ali Monguno :** Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. I was not, in fact, talking on the census issue. Personally, I think the census issue should not be a political issue. My appeal is that we should not only preach but practice unity and I have, in connection with this subject, an extract which was written by Chief S. O. Adebo, one of our Ambassadors serving abroad. With your permission, Sir, I beg to quote.

*"Anxiety alone to preserve a united country is not enough. Its leaders must work sincerely and realistically."*

Another writer, John Dewey, said.

*"The desire to be important is the strongest urge in human nature."*

We should not destroy our country because we want to be important. By virtue of being Members of Parliament, we have the honour of shaping the destiny of the entire population of this country and we have a great responsibility. No utterances on the Floor of this House fostering disunity could be accommodated and we shall kick back at anyone wishing to dictate terms to us.

This type of speech should not have come from me but I was compelled through circumstance to rise to say something.

I beg to support.

**Mr W. O. Briggs (Degema)** : In joining Members of the House to support the President's Speech, I have to congratulate the President and wish him a long stay of Office free from the political machinations of those who want to rule for ever.

The President's Speech is striking for one very important feature, and that is, there is very little new or anything different from what had been said last year. We heard quite a lot of this from the then Governor-General last year and we thanked him. We still thank him this year but we wish that something new should have been introduced this year. For instance, he was talking about the improvement of agriculture. We heard last year that agriculture would be improved. This year, we are hearing the same thing again and next year it will be the same thing again and from year to year. In spite of the fact that we hear that kind of thing, agriculture is still very much to be improved. Next to agriculture is the fisheries industry which has been neglected by the Federal Government. I am hoping that next year there will be no necessity to re-emphasize the need to improve agriculture and fisheries because I hope more improvements should have been made.

The Speech is also more remarkable for what it leaves out than for what it contains. For instance, I was expecting that the Speech would contain some concrete plan for those of us who come from the water-side area. The most important economic improvements are being done in the hinterland by way of roads and bridges. In the riverine areas very little is being done and I was expecting that the piers and wharfs which are the only means whereby the riverine areas could derive some kind of benefit from the Federal Government would not be neglected. I was expecting that some new plans would have been advocated in the President's Speech but unfortunately very little is being done. I am appealing to the Government to help the people of the waterside areas.

I have spoken to the Minister of Transport in private and in fairness to him he is making a genuine effort but his hands are too full. I hope now that the Ministry has been divided into three parts, something would be done to remedy the situation. I also hope that the Minister for Ports will see to it that not only Lagos Ports are improved but, Port Harcourt,

Warri, Sapele and other Inland Ports like Abonema, Calabar, Opobo and also Bonny, particularly now that a big oil well has been found off-shore in Bonny town.

I hope that ancient city will, once more, come back to its own and feel proud among the great towns of the country.

Much has been said about unity in this country. Everybody wants unity. But the significant thing is that very few people are, in fact, working for unity and that is why I was very much touched with the speech of the Member for Kaga Marghi (*Shettima Ali Monguno*). I think it is very refreshing to see a Northerner speak in that vein and I also think that there is very good hope for this country when somebody of the calibre of the Member for Kaga Marghi from the Northern Region could speak like that. I congratulate him and I think most people in this House would also join me in congratulating him because much of the speeches about disunity are coming from the North and from the Western Region.

**Shettima Ali Monguno** : While I appreciate the words of encouragement from the Member for Degema (*Mr Briggs*) I do not agree with him that the North and the Northerners sow seeds of disunity in this country. On the contrary, it is the Action Group who have always provoked the Northerners within the Federation and also acted subversively within the Northern Region. We have thrown them out with all the means at our disposal.

**Mr Briggs** : I had hoped that the last speaker should have taken in very good part and should have accepted happily my praises. But I dare say, continuing my speech, that only recently in the Northern House of Assembly a Motion was being put through to exclude Easterners from the Northern Public Service. There is no where in the Federation, in the Houses of Assembly, where such a Motion has been put in. It has not been in the Western Region nor the Eastern Region nor the Mid-Western Region.

**Shettima Ali Monguno** : It is yet to be proved on the Floor of this House that there has been a substantive Motion in the Northern Legislature to this effect. We will not accept or believe elements of deceit in this Parliament.

It was only a question asked by a Member of the Regional Legislature. It was not a substantive Motion.

**The Deputy Speaker :** May I please appeal to hon. Members that when they intend to raise points of order they should be points of order and points of information should be points of information ?

**Mr Briggs :** May I say, Mr Deputy Speaker, that I know of only one Premier in the whole of the Federation who has regarded members of other Regions as expatriates in his own Region ? It is only one Premier and that is the Premier of the Northern Region. I am really very sorry but that has got to be pointed out that Easterners or Southerners are regarded as expatriates in the Northern Region. It is something which I am sure the hon. Member who spoke last should deprecate in the same way that he spoke about unity. We are not expatriates in the Northern Region. We are Nigerians and everywhere a Northerner goes he is welcome as a Nigerian. There are many Northerners in the Eastern Region.

**M. Ibrahim Gusau (Sokoto West Central) :** The Member for Degema (*Mr Briggs*) is out of order because it is not only the North that should be blamed for this. The North in particular has always been singled out in all issues and if the Member for Degema is sincere he will know himself that the Northern Region is always singled out anywhere in the Federation.

**Several hon. Members :** No.

**The Deputy Speaker :** Order, order ! I think the hon. Member might be well accommodated if he was raising a point of order. I thought he started by accusing the Member for Degema (*Mr Briggs*) of being out of order but it would appear that he was making a second contribution to the debate. If he is raising a point of order he should do so and leave arguments alone.

**Chief Akerele (Oyo East) :** I think Mr Briggs is a slave in the East.

**The Deputy Speaker :** Order. May I say that what was purported to be a point of order was more of a point of information and alleged status. I do not think that the House has called for that information. I think if we are in doubt of anybody's status I am sure the Chair will call for further explanation but we do not want it now.

**Mr Briggs :** In the East we have no Brazilian refugees like the Akereles. What we have in the East is a diversity of tribes and we of the Rivers have not yet regarded ourselves as slaves of the Ibos although we are a small tribe. Although we are a small tribe, we want our own state but that does not mean that we are slaves of the Ibos as Chief Akerele is a Brazilian refugee slave.

**Mr L. O. Tobun (Epe) :** I do not think I understand the Member for Degema (*Mr Briggs*). Did he say he is from the Yoruba tribe ? I ask because in his place they wear *Agbada Etu*. I saw it in the photograph.

**Mr Briggs :** I am sure the last speaker is drunk again, as usual. Furthermore, I think we should curb some of our leaders in their public utterances. These utterances cause a lot of disunity. I must say right away that no people anywhere in Nigeria have conquered the Rivers. Nobody's grandfather ruled us. We have been independent people and we were conquering other people. So when a political leader gets up to say that his grandfather conquered the whole of Nigeria, I think he is not right and it is not helping the unity of this country. Nobody's grandfather from anywhere conquered us at all and I think such unguarded speeches must be curbed. Such people must be curbed.

**Shettima Ali Monguno :** The Member for Degema (*Mr Briggs*) is making a provocative speech and it would not be in the interest of this nation. I do not think the hon. Member is making a speech befitting him as an Action Group Member fostering the unity of this country. His speech is provocative and we do not want to inspire any provocation in this Parliament.

**Mr Briggs :** I am appealing to all the leaders to refrain from provocative utterances which might disrupt the unity of this country. It is no good any particular leader referring to any other people in a derogatory manner at all. Ilorin or Kabba might have been conquered and become a province of other people, but that does not apply to other parts of the country.

Having said that now, I would once more agree with everybody who spoke about unity that everything should be done practically to demonstrate the unity of this country. Not



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just by empty talk. And as far as the speeches from the Western Region are concerned, I must tell the House that the Yorubas are their own enemies. Nobody is their enemy.

**Chief Akerele :** The Member for Degema (*Mr Briggs*) is from the Rivers. What does he know about the Yorubas? He should keep himself to the East or the Rivers. We are free people in Yoruba land.

**The Deputy Speaker :** May I please appeal to all sides of the House. At a time when very passionate and eloquent appeals are being made for unity, I think we must, as much as possible, refrain ourselves from explosive topics of debate such as tribal characteristics and the like.

**Mr Briggs :** Now, I come to the question of creation of states. I wish to congratulate all persons who have contributed to the creation of the Mid-West State. I was also happy that it featured prominently in the President's Speech. But what disappointed me is the absence of information as to what plans the Federal Government has for the creation of more states. Whatever we say the small tribes can never remain as they are now for ever. It is now becoming fashionable to refer to Nigeria as a combination of three people—the Hausas and Fulanis, the Ibos and the Yorubas in the West.

But Nigeria is not just made up of three tribes. We are so many people, we are so many nationalities who have been brought together by the administration of the British Government to form just one country. Before the British came here, we were an independent nationality and after the British have left we cannot change British imperialism for another imperialism. We must get our own state. We must get the Rivers State, and I am very happy that a Motion for a Calabar State is coming before this Parliament, and that is going to be a test of the sincerity of the parties who talk glibly of the creation of more states. We of the Action Group—

**Mr P. E. Ekanem (Enyong South) :** On a point of order, the N.C.N.C. which is now shouting for Calabar State is not sincere, because its members are now busy campaigning against the creation of the Calabar State.

**The Deputy Speaker :** Order, order? May I appeal to the House again that if Members in the guise of points of order exhaust what they will say when they are called upon to speak, then they should not expect to be given a further opportunity to speak. May I also appeal to Members to appreciate that the Member for Degema (*Mr Briggs*) has only thirty minutes to speak and he should be allowed to finish up in time; but if the Member for Degema himself continues to make utterance that will provoke interruptions, he should expect no extension of time.

**Chief A. Akerele (Oyo East) :** I have always believed that there is an alliance between the N.C.N.C. of the Member for Owerri East (*Chief Abii*) and the Action Group of the Member for Degema (*Mr Briggs*). Why should they try to attack each other here?

**Mr Briggs :** We of the Action Group have spear-headed the demand for the creation of more states, and it forms a principal plan of our policy; therefore, when the Calabar State's Motion is to be debated in this House, if it ever comes, we will pledge our support for it, and we hope that when that State is created we will regard it as one of the fulfilments of the hopes of the Action Group.

**Mr L. O. Tobun (Epe) :** On a point of order, I want to get the Member for Degema (*Mr Briggs*) straight—

**The Deputy Speaker :** Order, order! May I say straight away that getting a Member straight is not part of the Standing Order.

**Mr Briggs :** On the question of the creation of more states, we of the smaller tribes have no compromise to make at all, and I must say, here and now, quite solemnly that any political arrangement or any political grouping, inside or outside this House, that does not take the possibility of the creation of more states into consideration, will not have our backing at all. We will never support any political grouping whether in this House or outside it, that does not accept as a matter of principle, the creation of more states. I am therefore appealing—

**The Minister of Economic Development (Alhaji Waziri Ibrahim) :** On a point of order, why can the Member for Degema (*Mr Briggs*) not take a leaf from the North where, in spite of our large figure, we live in perfect happiness.

In the North we do not talk about more states, which shows our maturity. Why should people be petty? When people are talking about unity some people want to break themselves into small states.

Why can people not learn from the North? It is absolutely unnecessary to have small states. When we are all talking of one Government for the whole of Nigeria, the Member for Degema still wants to be the head of his small clan.

**The Deputy Speaker :** Order, order! I tell the Minister that what he has said goes along the line of a point of information and not along the line of point of order.

**Mr Briggs :** May I tell the Minister that we are advocating for at least eight states in the Northern Region, and we hope—

**Alhaji Waziri Ibrahim :** On a point of order, nobody in the North wants any state. We are mature people in the North and the North is absolutely united. We are not petty-minded. We do not want any state.

**The Deputy Speaker :** Order! I am now appealing to the Members that they should not make it more difficult for the Chair to control the House. The Minister has made what is purported to be a point of order, and I want to say again that, strictly speaking, it is difficult for me to rule on it as a point of order, on the basis of what he has said.

**Mr J. A. Assadugu (Numan) :** On a point of order, I wonder why the Minister has said that people in the North do not want states. What of the U.M.B.C? We have here at least twenty-five Members.

**Several N.P.C. Members :** Where are they?

**M. Ibrahim Gusau (Sokoto West Central) :** On a point of order—

**Mr Briggs :** I am not yielding.

**The Deputy Speaker :** The Member for Degema (*Mr Briggs*) says he is not yielding on a point of information.

*M. Ibrahim Gusau rose—*

**The Deputy Speaker :** But the Member for Sokoto West Central (*M. Ibrahim Gusau*) should not let it be a dilatory point of order.

**M. Ibrahim Gusau :** The question of states should come from the Region of origin. If the U.M.B.C. want their own state let them have their own Parliament and table a Motion for their state in that Parliament. "Charity begins at home". If the present N.C.N.C. and Action Group coalition is sincere a Motion should also be tabled in the Eastern House in order that this C.O.R. State may be created.

**The Deputy Speaker :** Order! Just as I suspected, this has turned to be dilatory. May I say that in order to allow the Member for Degema (*Mr Briggs*) the freedom to continue his speech, any further point of order will be taken in stricter accordance with the Standing Orders.

**Mr Briggs :** I have to say solemnly also—and I am now speaking not as a party man but as a man from a minority group—that we have no interest in Southern solidarity or Northern solidarity. We are not interested in Northern domination or Southern domination. That does not change our status. We cannot be any worse whoever is the dominant figure. What we all want is our state.

If the North wants to rule Nigeria for ever, they can jolly well do so. If the South wants to rule Nigeria for ever, they can jolly well do so. What concerns us is our state. We want to be men in our right. We want to be equal to any other person in Nigeria. We want self-determination in our Region.

I now come to foreign policy. I am still appealing to the Federal Government that they cannot ignore the existence of six hundred and two million people in the Chinese Peoples Republic. We must recognise the Chinese Peoples Republic. We cannot afford to ignore six hundred and two million people in the world. We are cutting our noses to spite our faces by trying to ignore them. The Chinese Peoples Republic is a big market for us, it is a big source of alliance, it is a source of raw materials, and a source of future friendship. We cannot ignore them at all.

If we try to toe the line of the British and American foreign policies, we will find that history will blame us. It will be to our detriment. We must recognise the Chinese Peoples Republic.

We must also recognise that the State of Israel exists. We cannot say that because the

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State of Israel is antagonistic to the Arab World, and therefore perhaps in disfavour with a certain section of the Nigerian community, we cannot accept the fact that there is a progressive country, a small country fighting for its existence and a place in the world, a country, in fact, that has overpowered physical and political circumstances to become a first-rate country in spite of its size. We, therefore, must accept and recognise the Israeli country.

**Chief A. Akerele** (Oyo East): I think we have Israeli advisers here, so that it shows that Nigeria recognises Israel. The Member for Degema (*Mr W. O. Briggs*) is becoming irrelevant, and therefore, misleading this House.

**Mr Briggs**: All I am saying is that we should be more friendly with Israel. We cannot, because a certain section of the Nigerian community is in disfavour with them, refuse to accept them.

My last point is the decline of moral values in this country. I was amused to hear the Minister of Finance saying that the question of Ministers amassing great wealth is an old story and that it should not be countenanced any more. I am really sorry about that statement. I would rather say it is a very new subject, it is topical and it should be repeated over and over again until this kind of transactions between foreigners and some of our big nationalists, big politicians and Ministers, is stopped. It must be stopped. It does this country very great dishonour.

If there is anybody whose hands are not clean, he should keep his mouth shut.

**An hon. Member**: Give an instance.

**Mr Briggs**: I am not going to give any instance at all. It is something very well known. I am appealing again because I have said it before on the Floor of this House that there should be set up a high powered commission of enquiry to look into the activities of some of our Ministers.

**The Deputy Speaker**: The Member for Degema (*Mr Briggs*) has not even up to one minute more to wind up. Will he, therefore, please wind up.

**Mr Briggs**: We should echew from our public offices, from our high offices, people who have been guilty of culpable moral and criminal offences.

I beg to support.

**Professor Kalu Ezera** (Bende East): I rise to make my contributions on the Speech of the President of the Republic. Some Members have been calling this Speech, Speech from the Throne. I think we are now a Republic and, therefore, the question of Throne does not arise any longer. I suggest that it should be called, The State of the Republic's Address, which would, therefore, give the impression, in fact and indeed, that we are a full-fledged Republic. Every Budget Session, the President's Speech should be regarded as The State of the Republic's Address.

I am in full support of the Speech. This Speech, indeed, has attempted to catalogue the achievements of the Federal Government since the attainment of our Republican Status. These achievements have been remarkable in many ways. The Speech also has probably listed the plans and proposals of the Federal Government in the coming financial year, and all these plans and proposals are designed to raise the standard of living of our people and to safeguard the internal and external security of our country.

But as previous speakers have said before, Charity begins at home. This morning, I am speaking with a very heavy heart, and I want to be understood that way. The greatest problem which still faces this country, as I see it, is the problem of unity. The problems of unemployment and economic development are equally important, but you cannot talk about unemployment and economic development in the absence of unity. You cannot talk about these things in the abstract. Any talk of unemployment, therefore, would be moonshine, unless we settle aright the whole problem of unity.

An issue not properly settled is not settled at all. Unless we settle this issue of unity, we should not come here and preach or pay lip service to this country. There are so many factors impinging on our great country, and we have been saying so on the Floor of this House. We love this country, we want this country to be one and, therefore, we must, at all costs, do all those things that would encourage our being one country.

That is why I said that, briefly stated, the problem of unity supersedes all other problems.

It is, therefore, in our own interests to see that there are dangers ahead unless we are able to nip in the bud those aspects which tend to impinge on this unity.

In a Federal structure, unity cannot be maintained where any one single group or unit is directly or indirectly singled out and made a butt of attack by others. There are some of us here, on all sides of this House, who have outgrown tribalism. There are many of us on all sides of this House who have become detribalised, who like to project themselves as Nigerians. I like to say that I am one of them.

But for a federal structure of association to be meaningful, the leaders and the led must imbibe the spirit of give and take; the spirit of tolerance; the spirit of mutual respect among the various groups that make up the Federation. I am saying this in spite of the hustlings and jostlings of political prostitutes who like to inject the question of tribalism into this country by putting advertisements in the press against a particular group or linguistic group. This is a most dangerous thing for us in this country. And I want to say emphatically that anybody who thinks that he can attack Ibos and get away with it is making a dangerous mistake because they can take care of themselves. They can take care of themselves. We hear that in some areas a particular group of people have been singled out for a vicious and unprovocative attack. This does not make for unity.

**An hon. Member :** You caused it.

**Professor Kalu Ezera :** Whether we caused it or not, the founding fathers of this country are still alive. And I want to say that the great President of this Republic, Dr Azikiwe, is there. Alhaji Sir Ahmadu Bello, the Premier of the Northern Region and the leader of the N.P.C., is still there. Dr Michael Iheonukara Opara, the leader of the N.C.N.C. and the Premier of the East, is still there. Chief Obafemi Awolowo, the leader of the Action Group is still there. Chief Dennis Osadebay, the Premier of the Mid-West is still there. Even in this House—

**Mr A. F. Odulana (Ijebu South):** On a point of order, Professor Kalu Ezera has been very irrelevant in this way. He mentioned all the leaders of this country including the

one that became a leader only yesterday but he forgot to mention Chief Akintola. This proves that tribalism is on top of his heart. He even mentioned the name of a man in jail.

**The Deputy Speaker :** Order! I think that the Member for Bende East (*Professor Kalu Ezera*) has not concluded his speech. I hope that he will not be anticipated.

**Professor Kalu Ezera :** Even in this House the head of the Government who has made one of the greatest contributions to this country is none other than the Prime Minister of the Federation himself, Abubakar Tafawa Balewa. Even here still the power of powers, Alhaji Muhammadu Ribadu, who is a timber in his own right, is still there. We have also K.O. himself, the timber of timbers. And we have the Omimi Ejo, the Minister of Finance. These are the men who have moulded the unity of this country. They are still alive. They are still living. They are the founding fathers of this nation.

**Mr I. A. Brown (Uyo South West):** On a point of order, it appears that the Member for Bende East (*Professor Kalu Ezera*) has not mentioned my name as a leader.

**The Deputy Speaker :** I believe that the Member for Bende East was mentioning names according to his own list.

**Professor Kalu Ezera :** In my list here *Alhaji* Brown comes in as a leader of the smuggling group! I am not mentioning those who are carpet crossers; I am mentioning the founding fathers of this nation.

**Mr I. A. Brown :** I know that my hon. Friend is speaking from Songhai. If he were speaking in Nigeria he ought to remember my name.

**Professor Kalu Ezera :** There are many others who have contributed immeasurably to the unity of this country. But limited time will not permit me to mention their names here. I will not mention the leaders of political prostitutes because they have made no contribution to the unity of this country.

**An hon. Member :** The Member for Bende East (*Professor Kalu Ezera*) should mention Akintola as one of the leaders. He is proclaiming unity but right now he has forgotten that unity.

**Professor Kalu Ezera :** As I said before, I have mentioned those in my humble opinion and I think in the opinion of posterity that have made lasting and immeasurable contributions not to the disunity of this country but to the unity of this great Republic. Political prostitutes and chameleons are those whom I have not mentioned as they are people who are not working for the unity of this country.

It is our singular luck that these people are still living. They are not dead yet like in other nations where the founding fathers are people of the past. Our own founding fathers are still alive. We now call upon them to meet. We call upon the Prime Minister who is the head of this Government to see that they come together. I call upon the Prime Minister in all humility. He is a God-fearing man. We on this side of the House have always been praising him sincerely, not because we want anything from him. We have been praising him because he is a God-fearing man. We believe sincerely that the Prime Minister is an upright man and that left alone he is going to be the Prime Minister of the Federation of Nigeria and not the Prime Minister of any one group. We want him to know that.

**The Deputy Speaker :** Order ! It is now one o'clock and sitting is suspended until three o'clock'

*Sitting accordingly suspended : 1 p.m.*

*Sitting resumed : 3.00 p.m.*

**Professor Kalu Ezera :** As I was saying in the morning, I would like to reiterate that we on this side of the House have sincerely considered the Prime Minister of the Republic as an upright and God-fearing man. We have not said so because we were sycophants. We have consistently said so because we felt that he had always lived up to expectation. But we must also point out that events in the last few weeks have so shaken the hope of some of us about the future of this country that we would like to remind our great Prime Minister that he should hold on steadfastly to his policies of one Nigeria and remember that he is the Prime Minister of the whole Federation of Nigeria and not only of either a part or a group. He is the Prime Minister of the whole Republic. We want to remind him of that.

The issues involved are far too grave for glib talk. The Prime Minister and leaders of this country, whom I called upon this morning as the fathers of this nation, should meet and lock their heads together. They are still alive and glib talks here will not do it. Lip service to unity does not bring unity. We know that, and that is why some of us who love this country—and I know that all of us do—and are concerned about the unity of this country speak out despite the talk that everything is fine when the anomalies are there. I say with emphasis that it devolves upon the Prime Minister himself to preserve and protect jealously the integrity and unity of the Federal Republic of Nigeria at all costs.

But this integrity and unity of the Federal Republic of Nigeria cannot be maintained by one single linguistic group being singled out for vicious attacks in the legislature of a sister region. I refer here, with due respect, to the consistent and unprovoked attacks on Ibos generally on the Floor of the Northern House of Assembly. I think that it is a great pity—

**Mr M. B. Afanideh (Ikot Ekpene South) :** On a point of order, is it proper for the Leader of a political party in a particular Region to accuse the Federal Government of which they are part and parcel and in which their Ministers are responsible under the collective responsibility practice ?

**Professor Kalu Ezera :** I am not bothered by idiotic and stupid comments. I am saying here that nobody can rule this country without the great linguistic groups in this country taking part and being catered for in it. Therefore, let nobody make a mistake—

**Mr E. A. Odo (Idoma West) :** On a point of order, is it not unparliamentary for a Member to refer to another Member as 'idiotic and stupid' ? He should withdraw the statement.

**Mr Speaker :** Order, he has not described any Member of this House as stupid. He said 'stupid remarks'.

**Professor Kalu Ezera :** Thank you, Mr Speaker. All I am saying is that they are singling out a powerful linguistic group like the Ibos in a dignified Legislature competent to make laws and rule a part of the Federation. Singling out Ibos runs contrary to the spirit and letter of the Constitution of this country.

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I am saying that such unprovoked attacks do not make for unity if we are really sincere about our preaching on unity.

**Mr Speaker :** It is out of order to discuss the activities of regional legislatures.

**Professor Kalu Ezera :** Thank you, Sir. I was not referring to its integrity. I want to say again that there are indeed uncountable anomalies in the practice of our federal system of government in this country. As I said this morning, in a Federation we have equal independent and co-ordinate units and the leaders and the led must have mutual respect for one another. They must also have the spirit of give and take. That is all I am trying to preach and many have preached it before me.

As I said, there are so many anomalies that if these are hot checked and if Nigerians are not regarded as Nigerians in every part of the Federation of this country—in some parts they are still regarded not as citizens, but as strangers, then we are not having a federation. A Nigerian from Lagos should be at home at Maiduguri; a Nigerian from Sokoto should feel at home at Calabar; a Nigerian from Aba should feel at home in Lagos. We should all be Nigerians everywhere. But where the law of the land deprives Nigerians of their right of citizenship—

**Mr S. D. Lar (Lowland East) :** On a point of order, I think the hon. Member is misleading this House. If somebody outside Nigeria reads his speech in the *Hansard* he will think that Nigeria is insecure whereas that is not so. For instance, I was in Port Harcourt about two years ago and I felt quite at home, although I am a Northerner. I am sure that there are some people from the South who feel very much at home in the North. Therefore, there is no question—

**Mr Speaker :** Order, the hon. Member need not tell us all this at this stage.

**Professor Kalu Ezera :** I still maintain my ground that I would rather not be a citizen of a country where I am regarded as a second class citizen. We know it to be a fact that in some parts of this Federation citizens of this country are not regarded as citizens but rather as expatriates, Pakistanis, Ceylonese and other nationalities are given preferential treatment. I am not saying that the Northernisation policy, giving preference to Northerners, is a

bad thing as such, but where Northerners are not available other Nigerians should be given preference to expatriates, if we are sincere about our advocacy of Nigerian unity. If all these are not acceptable, then I would suggest that we agree to disagree and break up the Federation. This is the issue. (*Interruptions*).

**Mr Speaker :** Order! The hon. Member knows fully well that he cannot be serious in this statement.

**Professor Kalu Ezera :** As I have been saying, and I think I am in order, Sir, and I am speaking on the Floor of this House as a responsible citizen of this country, a country of which I am proud, a country which I would like its unity to be maintained. If we are not willing to rectify the anomalies in our present body-politic where one Region will dominate the other Regions and thus make the others slaves—

**Shettima Ali Monguno (Kaga Marghi) :** On a point of information I wonder if the Members for Bende East (*Professor Kalu Ezera*) knows that in this country the single biggest, tribalistic union is the Ibo Union. And I wonder also if he knows—

**Mr Speaker :** He is not yielding to your point of information.

**Professor Kalu Ezera :** The truth is bitter. If after a quarter of a century's struggle to bring about the independence and integrity of this country by our leaders like Sir Ahmadu Bello, our great Prime Minister and a host of others I mentioned in the morning, and if after three years of independence Nigerians are still discriminated against in some parts of Nigeria in public boards and employment opportunities then let us break up the Federation.

**Mr E. A. Odo :** On a point of order, could the hon. Member name only three Northerners who are serving under the Eastern Government?

**Professor Kalu Ezera :** We are lovers of this country and I do not want to enter into an unnecessary controversy. Truth is bitter. If we are prepared to run a federation we cannot run it on a half hearted basis. We cannot run a country where we have half-slaves and half-free. So, let us agree to disagree and break up the Federation, and then declare to ourselves "To your tents, Oh Israel!"

**Mr E. D. Akinbowale** (Ijebu North) : On a point of information, so many people are desirous to know that Northerners are at home elsewhere than in the Northern Region. I therefore say that in the Eastern Region one Northerner distinguished himself and held office as Mayor in the Eastern Region. He is Umaru Altine and I think he is still there.

**Mr Speaker** : Order ! I shall not allow any points of order which are not actually relevant to this House.

**Professor Kalu Ezera** : All I am saying is that we are all friends here. Nobody would like to dominate anybody. I have stated the bitter truth that the experience of other federations is that the units and linguistic groups in those federations have always come together and agreed to agree and I think in this country our leaders had also come together and agreed to agree. But, as I was saying, the grandfather of my hon. Friend, the Member for Dambatta (*Alhaji Mohammed Muhtari Sarkin Bai*) never conquered my grandfather.

**The Speaker** : The hon. Member has exhausted his time.

**Alhaji Bello Dandago** (Gwarzo East) : I rise to support what is before the House and to say that I am most sorry, and it is most unfortunate that a person who was considered most responsible in the person of the Professor, should come down to such a low level as to try to put oil on a burning fire. Why should he have to do this ? We all heard what he said, and we all listened to the statement of the Prime Minister, to which he referred. What he has said has nothing at all to do with what the Prime Minister said. I want to tell him that we are ready for anything and if he has anything in his sleeves, he should bring it out.

**Mr Speaker** : Order, order ! If the Front Benchers are not refraining from provocative and bitter speeches, I will be inclined to call on the Back Benchers to speak.

**Professor Kalu Ezera** (Bende East) : On a point of order, I have been grossly misunderstood by the Chief Whip. I want to say that I said that if all these anomalies are not rectified then let us break up the Federation. But peaceful co-existence is my slogan. If, however, we cannot maintain it, let us break up.

**Alhaji Bello Dandago** : So many untrue remarks have been made. In the North the Ibos are considered second class, so they said, and it is untrue. I am here categorically to deny this. We give the Ibos more than they deserve. Go over to Kano, Makurdi, and even Jos, you will see for yourselves that the Ibos are everywhere in the North. If the Professor does not go to the North, he should not make this sort of statement here. The Ibos have lived in the North and they are very happy with us. They never accuse us of what the Professor is accusing us of.

Mention has been made by an hon. Member that the East gave the post of Mayor to a Northerner. That is true. But where is he to-day ? He has maliciously been pushed into gaol.

**Mr A. U. D. Mbah** (Owerri North) : It is a pity some of us were not here at the beginning to hear what was said, but the point I am trying to make is that the Chief Whip said the Mayor has been maliciously pushed into gaol. I think with such a remark, our Judiciary has come to question in this House.

**Alhaji Bello Dandago** : What I want to ask is one question. What has been done in the West ? Have you a Northern or an Eastern Mayor in the West ?

**Several hon. Members** : No, no.

**Alhaji Bello Dandago** : After all, we are no children. We are all familiar with window dressing. Umoru Altine was the Mayor of Enugu, Yes, but the next day he was pushed into gaol.

**Mr E. D. Akinbowale** (Ijebu North) : On a point of information, I just want to add that Northerners, as far as I know, and I am not claiming to be the most travelled-man here, but I am sure that Northerners are at home everywhere in this country, as they are in their own area. In the West you find them everywhere and they are happy. I say this, that if they do not come forward for employment or appointment in our own area, it is not our fault. Most of them who are there in the West are traders and they are all happy.

**Mr A. F. Odulana** (Ijebu South) : I support the hon. Gentleman entirely. They marry our girls too.

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**Alhaji Bello Dandago :** They are traders, I agree, and they are the main traders of this country. All that I am saying is that the speech we have heard from the Professor has no bearing whatsoever on what the Prime Minister said. What he was saying the Prime Minister should do is exactly what the Prime Minister is doing.

I say again that if anybody has anything in his sleeves he should bring such a thing out openly. We are ready to meet it.

**M. S. A. Olukotun (Kabba):** I rise to support the Motion of Thanks to the President for the speech he so ably delivered last Thursday on the Floor of this House. The speech no doubt, reflects the yearnings and aspirations of the 56 million people in the Federal Republic of Nigeria. That his speech has done a lot to quell the tense atmosphere generated by the result of the last population count, is beyond doubt. I will be failing in my duty if I do not join in the felicitation of the Members of this honourable House.

I should like to bring before this House again the fact that though the life of this Parliament has almost come to an end, the road from Ajase, that is, Umaru *via* Ilorin, linking Kabba, has not yet been tarred. These were the first Trunk "A" roads in the Federation. Before I return to my constituency, I should like to know from the Minister of Works and Surveys when he intends to tar those roads.

Now, I am happy that Kabba town has got telephone services but there are two other important big towns such as Isolu and Egbe to which I want the Minister of Communications to extend telephone lines. They are also big towns.

In the draft Estimates of 1964, I observed that 10 cooks and stewards were allotted to the President of Nigeria. That is very good so far.

**Mr Speaker :** I think that that should be better left to the Second Reading or Committee Stage of the Budget.

**Mallam Olukotun :** Formerly, we members of Parliament, excluding the Ministers, used to be given soap to use in the LEGCO Flats whenever we came here. Why are we not given this time? Does it mean that the Government has not got the means? I want action to be taken on this at once.

In my constituency, that is Kabba, no lorries or cars can go at more than eight miles per hour during the rainy season because of the bad roads, and those roads are called Federal roads. I want this to be looked into as quickly as possible.

I beg to support the Motion.

**Mr M. A. Ajasin (Owo South):** I consider this to be the valedictory Budget meeting of the present Parliament and as a valedictory meeting, I thought that the address of the President should have summarised the doings of the Government for the last four years but what we have in the Address are just the usual promises of what they will do within the next financial year, but we shall not be here for the next financial year. Perhaps, we have only about eight or nine months more to vacate this place before the election.

**An hon. Member :** Less than that.

**Mr Ajasin :** Be that as it may, something has come out of this Speech and that is what many Members of the House have been speaking about. The theme of this debate appears to be the unity of the Federation; that to me has been the theme of the present Speech of the President. Many Members have made their contributions and I would like to say a few words about the unity of the Federation.

Members from the North, East and West, have spoken about the contribution that each Region should make to the stability or to the unity of the Federation.

**An hon. Member :** You did not mention the Mid-West Region.

**Mr Ajasin :** It is true that each Region has contributed to the unity of the Federation but we should know that there are certain things militating against the unity of this Federation and we should be able to point out these things. Some Members have been able to point out some of them; I will endeavour to point out one or two.

One of the things is the fear of the domination of the other Regions by one Region and that fear is real. We have to ask ourselves whether that fear is real or not. It is very real because of the size and population of that Region. If it had been a question of say, a party in the Mid-West Region going to dominate the



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Federation, nobody would take such a party seriously because of the smallness of that Region but the question of the Northern Region is such that by its size and population, it is greater than any of the other Regions and so that fear is there, that it may dominate the other Regions.

To remove that fear and to work for the unity of the country, we should create more states. The creation of more states should not be anything that will affect the N.P.C. because if there are more states in the North, say, half a dozen states, they can still be controlled by the N.P.C.

**Several hon. Members :** Yes, exactly.

**Mr Akubaka Isandu** (Jos North West) : On a point of order, we quite agree that it will be controlled by the N.P.C. but other parties, too, are allowed to go into the North, as big as it is with its population, and contest freely.

**Mr Ajasin :** The creation of more states especially in the North will help to remove the fear of the domination of the other Regions by one Region. We are—

**M. Ibrahim Gusau** (Sokoto West Central) : On a point of order, Sir, it seems as if the size of the North is being feared by politicians in the South. The only thing therefore is that the other Regions in the South should come together as one Region so that they can face the North.

**Mr Ajasin :** We are in a Federation. This Federation has been created for us by the British Government. What we are trying to do now is to preserve the unity of the Federation. Formerly we were not one people; we were different people; we were brought together by the British people but now we want to preserve that unity. And how can we do that? That is the question. The answer is by creating more states in the North. These states when created could be controlled by the N.P.C. and the fear of the other Regions being controlled by one Region will be allayed because none of the states will be big enough to control the Federation.

The second point about unity is to advise the Northern People's Congress to change its name to the Nigerian Peoples' Congress. If we have the Nigerian Peoples' Congress—

**Mr Speaker :** Order ! Surely this suggestion does not further the unity of the country.

**Mr Ajasin :** I hope the Speaker will allow me to develop my argument on that. Many people in the South will then go into the party because—

**M. Ibrahim Gusau :** On a point of order, Sir, the Member for Owo South (*Mr Ajasin*) should have nothing to do with the Northern Peoples' Congress. He should stick to his own Action Group. As a matter of fact there is no national political party in Nigeria. If there is, why are there those political parties whose tribal leaders have never changed. There was a time when there was no leader of the N.C.N.C in the East.

**Mr Speaker :** Order ! Really hon. Members should appreciate that much of the time for the debate has been taken on discussion of constitutional matters of political parties. I do not think that is progressive debate at all on this subject. We ought to turn our attention to the actual subject matter.

**Mr Ajasin :** We are discussing the unity of the country. If we have Nigerian Peoples' Congress several people in the South will become members of the party—one Nigeria—and everybody will know that the party is Nigerian and we will join. Why should my hon. Friend, the Member for Ibadan East and Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister (*Mr Lana*) leave the party? The same thing applies to my hon. Friend, the Member for Ibadan North East (*Alhaji Are*). They call it the Northern Peoples' Congress and these two people are Southerners. That is why they have gone to join the Nigerian National Democratic Party. They want a party which is Nigerian in name, at least.

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister** (Mr S. A. Lana) : It is said that 'charity begins from home'. My hon. Friend, the Member for Owo South (*Mr Ajasin*) is advocating for the unity of the Federation. Why has he not joined the Nigerian National Democratic Party, a party of his own Region?

**Mr Speaker :** Order ! This is not a place for political battling.

**Mr Ajasin :** I belong to the party that covers the whole of Nigeria—the Action Group of Nigeria.

**Mr W. O. Briggs (Degema) :** On a point of order, my hon. Friend, the Member for Ibadan East (*Mr Lana*) is making the mistake of his life. He now belongs not to the Nigerian National Democratic Party but to the Northern Nigeria Disunity Party ! (*Laughter*).

**Mr Ajasin :** With that change all members of the party will be assumed to come from all over the country. They could therefore go at any time to the West to contest election and if possible form the Government ; or they could go and contest an election in the East and if possible form the Government, rather than becoming allies of people in the South. They can then go on their own and by the new name—The Nigerian Peoples' Congress—we shall know that the party is for the unity of the country.

**M. Ibrahim Gusau :** On a point of information, if the Member for Owo South (*Mr Ajasin*) is serious he should advocate active leadership of the Action Group to non-Yorubas first.

**Mr Ajasin :** I would now leave that subject and go to something else.

In the course of his Speech, the President mentioned that experiments would be continued at the Victoria Beach to prevent erosion of the beach by the sea. I feel that what the Speech should have contained is that experts would be invited from Denmark and Holland to see what can be done about this erosion because in those places they have encountered worse erosions than we have here and it is good if we should get advice from them rather than saying that we are going to make experiments. If we do, it will take us a very long time and perhaps by the time we have finished our experiment the ocean would have overrun us.

I would now go to our Trunk A roads. What we really want is the improvement of the roads. These roads are full of potholes and the trouble is that the foundations of the roads are weak. What the contractors did was to spread on a thin layer of laterite and then smear it over with tar which was washed away by rain. All we want is what the Minister of Works will do to the foundation of the roads. We want the roads to be properly constructed. We have granite which could be used by the contractors. If the foundations are good, these roads will not be washed away on every rainy season.

I would like to say something on the question of education. Some Members in this House have advocated the taking over of primary and secondary education by the Federal Government. Frankly speaking, I disagree with them. Primary education and secondary education should be the responsibility of the Regions. What should be the responsibility of the Federal Government should be the higher education, that is, the universities and the higher technical colleges. What we have at present is rivalry and competition among the Regions that have universities. Perhaps the Mid-Western Region will soon think of starting one, whereas the money is not there to run a university. The amount of money that is being used in these universities should be devoted to the running of the primary and secondary schools and that universities should be handed over to the Federal Government. If the Federal Government runs the universities then it will be able to control the universities about specialization.

At present every one of the universities wants a faculty of agriculture, a faculty of medicine, a faculty of veterinary science and so on. If the Federal Government is in charge, it will be able to ask Ibadan University to specialise in medicine ; the University of Lagos to specialise in engineering ; the University of Ife to specialise in veterinary science, and so on. I think that is what should be done. What we want for primary and secondary schools education is that there should be an advisory council for all the Regions to plan the syllabus. The Federal Government need not take over the responsibility for primary schools.

For the secondary school, there is a uniform standard already created by the West African Examinations Council. Every secondary school is working up to the syllabus of the West African Examinations Council. The argument of those people who are saying that the Federal Government should take it over is that there is no uniform standard and that there should be one standard. There is already a standard for secondary school education. It is only in the primary schools that there is difference in the standard of education. For instance, in the North, we have up to standard seven and in the East and West we have up to standard six. The different Ministries of Education can come together as an advisory council and discuss things and have a common syllabus,

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The other matter I would like to touch under education is about loan scholarships to students in the universities. The Eastern Region Government has already started this by providing thousands of pounds to be given as loans to indigent students in the universities and without considering their tribal origin. I think the Federal Government should do the same thing. The Federal Government should give loans to poor students in the universities and they could refund these loans after some years.

I would like to say something also on the question of sports in this country. We know that we have been disgraced on many occasions by smaller countries in the field of sports. As the Federal Government is making proposals now to improve sports, many things should be taken into consideration. I would suggest that practice should be all the year round as spasmodic and haphazard efforts would not help our players. It is necessary that the people who are going to be responsible for this arrangement should see that our athletes practise all the year round.

Another important thing is about the diet—the food that we give to our athletes. It is necessary that these athletes, wherever they are found, should be encouraged and they should be given such work that they will be able to earn good salaries so that they will be able to live well. No man who is going to be a good athlete can just live only on *Gari* and *beans*. Our athletes want sufficient protein to give them energy and build their muscles.

I had thought that the Minister of Establishments would contribute his own quota to the President's Speech by trying to redress the anomaly which has existed for some time during the colonial days by which some young Nigerians, particularly women are engaged on contracts and on temporary appointments. Some women in this country are being recruited into the service and are given contract appointments, but they are not paid the allowances due to them. Why should Nigerians be employed on contracts and why should they be given temporary appointments? They are qualified in their fields and they should be given permanent appointments. For instance, some of the health officers and women education officers are on contract appointments. They should be given permanent appointments

and should be treated in the same way as the men folk. They are Nigerians and they should be treated in the same way as the men folk.

There is one thing more I want to talk about. It is the admission into the Army, the Navy and the Air Force. In these services, appointment as cadet officers should be on merit and not to be divided up into Regions with so many from the South and so many from the North. It should be those people who are really qualified that should be appointed as cadet officers after an examination and interview. I would like the Federal Government to note that. At present I understand that it is on a 50/50 basis between the North and the South, but it should be on merit.

These are my observations that the Government should take note of the fact that appointments into these armed services should be on merit and not on proportional representation from the North and from the South.

These are my observations particularly on this last point, that the Government should take note of the fact that appointments into these armed services should be on merit and not on proportional representation from the North and from the South.

I beg to support.

**Mr B. N. Ukegbu** (Owerri South East): Mr Speaker, these are times when the hearts of all real patriots in this country must be heavy indeed. Several hon. Members have spoken about the unity of this country and understandably enough, you have been concerned about the great emphasis that has been laid on the problems of unity. But, I think that anybody who has contributed to this debate and has spoken on unity has only done his duty because no matter what plans we may have we have heard the President's Speech to Parliament and we were grateful for the various plans laid out by the Federal Government.

But it goes without saying that these plans, laudable as they are, can only be carried out in a united Nigeria and, therefore, it is our duty to try to discover the true basis on which the unity of this great Federation can be maintained, and I will implore the leave of the House to make some little contribution myself.

I say this with all seriousness that our trouble in this country is due to the fact that we have inherited a baby from the British

authorities and we have not understood the constitution of this baby and the baby is ill. It is all and, therefore, if a baby is ill and you do not understand, a Doctor has to make a diagnosis before he can prescribe treatment. Therefore—

**An hon. Member :** Doctor Nzeribe can do that. You have a Doctor by your side.

**Mr Ukegbu :** Yes, but he is a Doctor of books. Therefore, I know it is good to be jovial when we are speaking here but we cannot forget the fact that what has been in the air in the past few days has actually exhibited the great weakness of this Federation. Those of us who have been in all parts of the country—I can speak with some authority because I was born in the East, I have lived in the North and I have lived in the West. I think I can speak truly and say that I am qualified to understand the throbbings of the hearts of the great majority of the people of this country.

Our trouble is that the form of our Constitution does not agree with our mental attitudes and our practice, and as I was telling an hon. Member of this House the other day, I said that I thought we had to reorientate our thinking and our practice to suit or go with our Constitution or else to reorientate our Constitution to follow our thinking and mental attitudes. That is very, very true and so I would crave the indulgence of the House to listen to me because I am not used to making speeches here unnecessarily.

I am saying with all seriousness that we have a Constitution which has created a Federal Government with power over all sections of the country. We have created a Federal Government which is vested with the right and duty to look after the welfare of people in Owerri, Kano, Ikorodu, Calabar and Benin City. One thing that is very important is that any Federal Government which wants to be taken seriously and which wants to have any moral right to rule must be broadly based. It must get its support from all sections of the country and it must appeal to all parts of the country.

If that is so, it means, as hon. Members said here earlier on, that this is not being said in derogation of any section of the country or any political parties at all. It is being said with due seriousness that we must get political parties which cut across the frontiers of tribe and region and clan and religion. Such parties

are a *sine qua non* if this Federation is to remain in its present form. It is not being said in derogation of any political parties at all because what we have to-day has come out from our own circumstances. Let us make no mistake about that.

The Northern People's Congress was formed when I was in Kano and let me tell you—*(Interruptions)*.

**Mr J. O. Ede** (Idoma North) : The Member for Owerri South East (*Mr Ukegbu*) is misleading the House. He was not there when the party was formed.

**Mr B. N. Ukegbu :** I am not going to be deflected. What I want to say is that the spirit that engendered the formation of the Action Group in 1951 was to win power in Western Nigeria, when Chief Obafemi Awolowo and the Olowo of Owo and so on formed the Action Group in 1951 in Owo, they announced as their intention to try and win power in the Western Region.

**Alhaji Muhammed Muhtari Sarkin Bai** (Dambatta) : On a point of order, the Action Group is the creator of British imperialism in this country.

**Mr Ukegbu :** Now, the point I am trying to put up is that there is nothing shameful in the original formation of the Northern People's Congress at all. There is nothing to be ashamed of because in 1951 the same spirit which made Chief Awolowo and others to get power in the West also honourably and rightly made the N.P.C. to form a political party in the North to get power there. That is correct, and that was honourable. There was nothing wrong in it. Even the Northern Elements Progressive Union was also formed at that time and therefore, let us make no mistake about it. There was nothing wrong in the original formation of the N.P.C. at that time.

And now, this Federation is now independent and a strong Federal Government has been formed. Therefore, it is right for any political party to aspire to power in the centre here. It is right for any political party to win an overall majority and to rule alone. That is right. What happens now is that the time has come when any political party which wants to be in power in the centre has to be Nigerian in name, in conception, in philosophy and in appeal. Why I say that is that I think that this thing is

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really important. Immediately we get the main political parties—the N.C.N.C., the N.P.C. and so on—immediately we get these parties actually spreading to all parts of the country both in appeal and in philosophy, there will be nobody quarelling with them.

If the N.P.C., for example, establishes directly, if it opens directly in all parts of the South and wins their support, there is no reason why it should not rule alone. The stability of this Federation cannot be ensured until the major political parties agree and go into all corners of the country to establish themselves.

**Mr S. D. Lar** (Lowland East): On a point of order, I would like to thank my hon. Friend, the Member for Owerri South East (*Mr Ukaegbu*) but when I go round, I see that there are Northerners in all the political parties but looking round here there is no Easterner in the N.P.C.

**Several Hon. Members**: Yes, yes.

**Mr Ukegbu**: I think there is a contradiction in terms of somebody who was born in the South joining the Northern Peoples Congress; that is the trouble with this Federation, when the N.P.C. changes its name it should expect to get their support. There are many conservatives in the South and they want to join the N.P.C. There are also many aristocrats in the South. People like the Member for Owerri East (*Chief Abii*) and others would like to join the N.P.C.

**Chief D. N. Abii** (Owerri East): On a point of order, that is the truth. That is the only way. When the N.P.C. becomes purely national, we shall join; that is why we want them to change the name.

**Mr Speaker**: Order! Big chiefs like the Member for Owerri East (*Chief Abii*) should not join any party.

**Mr Ukegbu**: Another criterion for the continued unity of this country is that the leaders of the N.P.C. honestly and genuinely should accept their right and duty not only in words but in deeds. They should accept the right and indeed the duty for all political parties to try to expand directly into the North and to try and win support there. The N.P.C. should try and win the control of other regional governments. This is very true. Another point is this—

**Mr J. O. Ede** (Idoma North): On a point of order, during the 1959 General Election I contested with a member of the N.C.N.C. and also with a member of the Action Group and an Independent candidate. I defeated all of them. We want any of them in the North. The North is free for any party to come and try.

**Mr Ukegbu**: And now, my last point is that the time has come when we should declare as unconstitutional such parties as the N.N.D.P. Such parties are inimical to the existence of the Federation. Why should some people form a party and steal a name N.N.D.P. "Nigerian National Democratic Party" only for Western Nigeria through which the River Niger does not flow.

**Mr A. F. Odulana** (Ijebu South): On a point of order, his fathers have been annihilated from the Western Region. If the Member for Owerri South East (*Mr Ukegbu*) thinks that the N.N.D.P. is inimical and the N.C.N.C. plans to declare it unconstitutional, we can very well tell them in plain language that charity begins at home. I want to tell him that it is a blessing to us because the N.C.N.C. is being annihilated in the West.

**Mr Ukegbu**: Why I made my comment about the N.N.D.P. is that party is neither Nigerian, nor national, nor even democratic, and, therefore, nobody has any right to call that party Nigerian. It is a party that is meant for only the Yoruba Westerners. It is not national in any sense at all.

Now, there is something a Member here mentioned about public morality in this country. If the Federation is firmly established and the basis for real and lasting unity has been found, then it will be our duty, we who have inherited the nation from the British authorities, to build this nation firmly on the principle of social equality and justice and fair play for all sections of our populations.

There is no doubt, and I say this with all sense of responsibility, that we have not yet started to build a nation where no one is oppressed as we said in our National Anthem. Instead of building such a nation, we were at cross roads in 1960, and to my mind, we went to the wrong side of the road. I am saying this because the glaring inequality in the distribution of our national wealth will subvert

our Constitution if nothing is done about it now. Many philosophers and political economists have been of the opinion that social organisation, the Constitution and all the basis of a political state are based on the way the wealth of a nation is produced and the way it is shared. I feel that if this is not said on the Floor of this august House I do not see where else it could be said.

I see that the Federal Government has now made an estimate for an expenditure of sixty-two million pounds for the year 1964-65. I want to know into whose pocket this money will go by way of personal emoluments, by way of allowances, by way of building quarters, furnishing and maintaining them and by way of transport allowances and so on. This is the first question. The other question is this. How will the sixty-two million pounds be produced? First of all, we get the bulk of our money from Customs duties and we cannot import anything unless we can export also, but what do we export? We export cocoa, rubber, palm produce, groundnuts and cotton, and on these imports customs duties are charged and with it the affairs of the Federation are run. Who produce the cocoa, the rubber, the palm produce, the cotton and the groundnuts? It is the poor peasants who produce these things. Without them producing these things there could be no production and there would be no public affairs at all.

But the trouble is that those who are charged with the responsibility of organising our policy and running our affairs and managing our public finances forget the people who have placed this trust in them. I am saying this with all sense of responsibility that we are not discharging this trust equitably, and this is not altogether our fault because we have inherited this policy from our British masters. We have not started to organise and reorientate our thought as it should be done for an independent Nigeria.

I say that we inherited this from our colonial masters because during the colonial era, a European District Officer in Kano was earning about seventy-two pounds a month plus allowances and a labourer who was to load the bags of the groundnuts into the train or let them out of the train into the ships was earning no more than four pounds a month. This reduced to mathematical terms, will mean that a

D.O. was equal to eighteen African labourers, and the British people could not care less about us because we were a colonial race or because we were being ruled by them. But now that we are ruling ourselves, what do we see? We see that the equation is now even worse. One African A.D.O. or Education Officer is now equal to nineteen African labourers, and worse still, one African Minister or Permanent Secretary is equal to about one hundred and twenty African labourers.

What is the position in England which is a Monarchy? What is the English Prime Minister being paid, and what is the salary of the least paid man in England? What is an office manager in England being paid and what is the salary being paid to a labourer in England? This is the thing that we want our Government to find out and to let us maintain that proportion.

I am told and I know that the Indian Prime Minister, a Prime Minister of four hundred million people, is not earning as much salary as our own Ministers here. The Indian Prime Minister is earning not up to two thousand pounds a year and he is the Head of Government of a nation of four hundred million people. Therefore, from the President downwards we must see that social justice is maintained and our salaries must be reduced. The fantastic proportion has to be ameliorated.

We should remember the very few labour upheavals that we had last year during our transition to a Republican status. We can only expect greater upheavals if something is not done to improve the position, and I am sure that all the people who desire the peaceful evolution of our country will do social justice. I detest revolution because I want to be ruled by duly elected people. I do not want to be ruled by the army or by a dictator. So all genuine patriots who desire steady evolution to social justice must bring themselves up whether they are from the West, East, or the North. They must brace themselves up to ensure that social justice is now guaranteed.

Finally, I want to say that there is a cankerworm eating into the political fabric of this country. Unfortunately, but it is true, this cankerworm was introduced by the Action Group Government in the West. I really appreciate that the Action is becoming a pro-

[MR UKEGBU]

gressive party. I know that, but the truth must be said. This cankerworm is what is called ten *per cent* or *kick back*, whereby the party in power has it as an absolute right, either directly or indirectly, openly or secretly, to divert the money entrusted to its charge to their party funds. That is a very dangerous practice.

**Mr W. O. Briggs** (Degema): This ten *per cent* was first made known in this country during the Ikpeazu Commission. At that time, the Action Group had not started its ten *per cent*. The late Ojike was receiving ten *per cent* at that time.

**Mr Ukegbu**: I see that even though this evil practice—

**Mr Speaker**: Will the Member for Owerri South East (*Mr Ukegbu*) wind up in one minute.

**Mr Ukegbu**: I will wind up, Sir, but I want to say as quickly as I can that even though this evil practice has been copied by other political parties in power, the time has come, after the awful revelation of the Coker Commission of Enquiry, for other parties to try and wipe off this evil practice.

On foreign policy, I want to say that our foreign policy should be more dynamic especially in Africa.

**Mr Speaker**: The Member for Owerri South East (*Mr Ukegbu*) has exhausted his time.

**Alhaji Mohammed Muhtari Sarkin Bai** (Dambatta): In rising to support the Motion before this honourable House, I should like to associate myself with the sentiments already expressed by many Members on the Floor of this House. I definitely cannot agree more with the Mover of the Motion, the Member for Ikeja (*Mr A. O. Ogunsanya*), when he described the President's Speech as comprehensive and brilliant. I should like to add further that the Speech of the President is excellent and dignifying.

Recent circumstances have really shown that our President is really the father of the whole nation. As long as we come to agree with his advice and wise counsel, I am sure the stability of this country will continue. We only pray to God that our political leaders will always sit

down and solve their problems amicably. This, I believe, will go a long way towards fostering good relations among the various regions, thus bringing everlasting unity and stability in the country.

This young Federal Republic of ours to which we all belong and which belongs to all of us, has many problems before it. It is my humble suggestion that the most pressing problem to-day before us is the question of unity—unity among our villagers, unity among tribes, unity among the provinces, unity among the regions, unity in the country and—

**An hon. Member**: And unity in this House.

**Alhaji Sarkin Bai**: And unity in this House, and even unity at Ikoyi. Therefore, it is my humble suggestion that it should be the duty of every Nigerian, including the press and the radio to do their very best to try to bring everlasting unity in the country.

In this connection, I should like to congratulate the Yorubas for their move to foster friendly relations among themselves, which culminated in the formation of the *Egbe Omo Olofin*. Some people are criticising the formation of this new cultural and tribal organisation, but I am not. If the Yorubas think that the coming together of various tribes will promote unity in Southern Nigeria, then the Yorubas should not be blamed. But as for the North, we have already made ourselves clear—One North, One People, One Destiny. *Interruptions*).

**The Deputy Speaker**: That a Member said One Destiny does not mean one rowdiness!

**Chief P. Dame-Obob** (Ishan West): The hon. Member is congratulating the Yorubas. Is Chief Awolowo not being congratulated? Is he not a Yoruba as well? Does he also congratulate the Member for Owo South (*Mr M. A. Ajasin*)?

**Mr O. C. Emene** (Aba South): On a point of order, the Member for Dambatta (*Alhaji Sarkin Bai*) should try his best to be as Nigerian as possible in his speech and not speak from tribal sentiments, or discuss tribal affairs.

**The Deputy Speaker**: May I say, with regard to the last point of Order, that I believe the Member for Dambatta (*Alhaji Sarkin Bai*)

is pursuing a line of argument which has been repeated several times on the Floor of this House, but I am merely appealing to Members of the House that while making the argument, they should kindly be brief and not create opportunity for misunderstanding.

**Alhaji Sarkin Bai :** If they had not interrupted me, I would have said that the North believes in One Nigeria. In effect, the North is showing in a practical manner that we are giving the best form of democracy in the country.

While others are working on a tribal basis, the North is working on a solid principle of oneness. No matter what—(Interruptions).

**The Deputy Speaker :** Order! Will Members please lessen their interruptions and let the hon. Gentleman pursue his speech.

**Alhaji Muhtari Sarkin Bai :** Let me be frank. Some people think or believe that Northerners are unprogressive, illiterate and conservative. And these people, at the same time—

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister (Mr S. A. Lana) :** I am surprised that Members of Parliament on your far right, Mr Speaker, are interrupting the Member for Dambatta (*Alhaji Muhammed Muhtari Sarkin Bai*). They should allow him to speak and we will listen to him.

**The Deputy Speaker :** May I say that the Chair is also surprised that the people at the Ministerial Bench are assuming the duty of the Chair.

**Alhaji Muhtari Sarkin Bai :** What I am saying is true. People think that we are uneducated and that we are not progressive. At the same time, these people claim to be educated and knowledgeable. But their education and their knowledge will mean nothing if in the end they prove to be lacking hopelessly in tact and in diplomacy.

I would like to refer to the statement made on the Floor of this House this afternoon by the Member for Bende East (*Professor Kalu Ezera*). He has told us that unless certain anomalies are removed this Federation will break. That is what he has said and I will challenge any Member to disprove it. I

would like to assure the House that the Member for Bende East has a definite instruction from Enugu to say what he has said on the Floor of this House.

**Several hon. Members :** No! No!

**Mr O. C. Ememe (Aba South) :** On a point of order—(Interruptions).

**The Deputy Speaker :** Order! Please may I appeal to the House again. I believe that honourable Members have got honourable ways of expressing resentment. But making it very difficult for the Chair to control the House certainly stands a fairer chance of getting things soon out of control.

**Mr O. C. Ememe :** The Member for Dambatta (*Alhaji Mohammed Muhtari Sarkin Bai*) is imputing improper motives and I would ask him to withdraw that statement.

**The Deputy Speaker :** I am sorry but I do think the Chair will readily agree that what the Member for Dambatta said amounted to imputation of motives. If the point of order had been that he was attacking the sense of originality of the Member for Bende East (*Professor Ezera*) that would be a matter that could have been in order. I believe it will be unfair on a man of Professor Ezera's standing to suggest that his speeches are influenced from outside.

**Alhaji Muhtari Sarkin Bai :** I am perfectly sure that the Member for Bende East has something off his sleeves. I am now going to expose him; maybe many people here did not know. These people want crises in this country so that they will succeed because they claim to have enough mineral resources which their economy will rely upon. And let me assure the House that this Federation has come to stay. Anybody who wants to go away can do so. Southern Cameroons has gone away. They did not resort to force in order to do that. Therefore, any part of the country that wishes to secede should be bade good-bye.

**Mr F. I. Okoronkwo (Aba Urban) :** On a point of order, I would like to remind the Member for Dambatta (*Alhaji Sarkin Bai*) that there is no provision in our Constitution for any section to secede.

**The Deputy Speaker :** Order! That is not a point of order.



**Alhaji Muhtari Sarkin Bai :** I think, with all fairness, that all of us should be proud of the country as a whole. No matter how much mineral resources these people may have, throughout these years they have been fed from other Regions. That is true. The reason given by the Member for Bende East (*Professor Kalu Ezeru*) that unless certain anomalies are removed there will be trouble is not enough. What is the meaning of the word "anomaly"? Anomaly is insignificant. It is groundless and senseless. It is not something fundamental that will make enough a reason for any part of the country to secede. What is "anomaly"? Therefore, the Professor's statement has no ground and it is senseless.

**Mr D. C. Ahamefula** (Okigwi South West): On a point of order, I just want to be told if the Member for Dambatta (*Alhaji Sarkin Bai*) is speaking from his master's voice from Kaduna.

**The Deputy Speaker :** Members should stop these cross references that might prove explosive outside.

**Alhaji Muhtari Sarkin Bai :** Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. I will abide by your ruling. But I am grateful to you for giving me the opportunity to express myself fully.

Coming to the President's Speech, the President said that the main business of this House will be the Budget. We, therefore, hope that we shall hear from the Minister of Finance—he is not here at present—the true position of our finances in this country; how much economically viable we are; how far our economic programme has succeeded, and how much effort we are putting to improve our mineral resources. In short, we want to know how much contribution all of us will make for the improvement of the condition of the poor man in this country. I am sure that you will agree with me that the standard of living of the common man in this country should be improved.

I am sure that this is not done by holding parties or by staging *Tshekiri* dances and so on. I am afraid that the Minister is not here. But all we need is a straightforward Budget Speech. We do not want a lengthy speech as we have had in the past. We have had enough of these

lengthy speeches. Even in the British Parliament Budget speeches are short. We are not in a class room.

**The Deputy Speaker :** Order! I think it is against the Standing Orders to anticipate a Motion that will be coming before this House. I am sure that the Minister of Finance will be making his Budget speech and it is up to Members to make their observations then. I am sure it is not fair to anticipate speeches.

**Alhaji Muhtari Sarkin Bai :** I understand that a White Paper on the report of the Motor Vehicles Insurance Committee will be laid before this honourable House in due course. On this, I would only like to appeal to all hon. Members to absolutely reject this piece of paper, the White Paper, on the Motor Vehicles Insurance.

I regard it as the hand work of the remaining imperialists in this country. It contains nothing but the complete and total rejection of our report and recommendations. I am a member of the Committee. This is a matter that affects the voters of this country, and if it is tabled in this House I will move a Motion to defer it for six months in order to allow some time for a detailed and careful study of it.

This is very necessary because I am sure some expatriates must have misled the Council of Ministers or the Minister of Commerce and Industry himself in particular. The adoption of this White Paper will be detrimental to all the motor vehicle owners in this country, and we should reject it.

**M. Saidu Zango** (Zaria Central): I rise to support the Motion of Thanks to His Excellency the President of the Republic of Nigeria. In doing so, I have to congratulate the Government for its endless efforts in trying to improve the living conditions of our people. I am expressing my thanks to the Government for taking prompt action always whenever a genuine plea is made.

I recall that sometime last year I appealed to the Government to appoint a Commission to investigate and thereby cause the bridging of the wide gap existing between junior and senior civil servants' salary scales. Now that a Commission has been appointed, I have nothing to say than to thank the Government,

I would, however, like to make a few observations. I would like to suggest to the Government to take immediate steps and establish a Ministry of Housing for the whole Federation of Nigeria. Workers all over the country are crying bitterly against the exorbitant rents that they pay monthly to their landlords. I have no grudge whatsoever against landlords, but I very much sympathise with our workers.

I would like to illustrate my point with figures if that is at all permissible. In big cities, such as Lagos, Ibadan, Enugu, Kaduna, Kano, Jos, and Zaria, workers pay a lot of money as rent for their accommodations. A worker earning about ₦15 a month has to pay up to ₦4 for an unfurnished room in any of the above mentioned places. What will happen to such a worker if he fails to pay the usual rent? The landlord kicks him out. To avoid this, I strongly appeal to the Federal Government to establish a Ministry of Housing. The Government can do this in conjunction with the Regional Governments.

The new Ministry should provide houses and allocate them to workers. Whoever is given a house should be told to regard it as his own and to be paying a reasonable amount every month. I hope my appeal will be heard in the right quarters.

The supply of the *Morning Post* in Northern Nigeria is very inadequate. Distribution of newspapers is often described as a very difficult matter especially to remote areas in a country as vast as Nigeria. But if other newspapers can reach such areas, why then can steps not be taken to see that the *Morning Post* is read in every corner of Nigeria. In this respect too, I hope the Minister will take steps to see that all important towns in Northern Nigeria get enough copies of the *Morning Post* and other publications issued either free or for sale.

It is a pity that the Federal Information Service does not distribute booklets, pamphlets and posters free to the majority of the people in Northern Nigeria, as is being done in other parts of the Federation. This anomaly too should be tackled vigorously by the Minister of Information. I am not suggesting that the Ministry is discriminating but I feel there is no harm in drawing the Minister's attention to this anomaly.

I have a suggestion to offer on the question of selecting hon. Members of this House to serve on various international Committees. I strongly feel that it will be more advantageous if Members serving on such Committees are allowed to serve permanently so long as they continue to be Members of Parliament.

Many of the delegates fail to contribute to important debates owing to their lack of the historical background of these Committees. But if a representative is allowed to remain on a committee for a longer period he may eventually be of more use to the committee in general, and to the Republic of Nigeria in particular.

I have listened very carefully to the speeches delivered on the Floor of this House from all sides concerning the unity of this country. If we really want unity in this country, we have to desist from making utterances in public or in the newspapers that will eventually do more harm than good. What is good in a man saying something which he knows is impracticable, just to please his listeners?

It is useless to be bringing forward political issues which if left open to the electorate would prove impracticable. Charity begins at home and the entire people of Northern Nigeria regard themselves as one and will continue to be one. At the same time, they are preserving and safeguarding their traditions and culture which some people do not really regard as anything.

Finally, I believe that no nation can really and truly call itself a nation if it lacks traditions and culture such as we have in Northern Nigeria. Respect for elders, leaders and any person in authority is what we in the North are proud of, and we will continue to train our future generations to do likewise.

I beg to support.

**Mr D. C. Ahamefula** (Okigwi South West) : I rise to support the Motion of Thanks for the Presidential Address, because it was most progressive, comprehensive and, above all, it was an X-ray of many achievements by our Federal Government. Those of us who live to-day to see Nigeria pass from the age of dependence to that of independence deem ourselves very fortunate. To-day, we move all over the world as equals and speak as equals. The fruits of independence are many and so long as Nigeria is peaceful and united, we shall continue to

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enjoy the fruits in abundance. I, therefore, appeal very strongly to our Leaders to keep up that wise judgment for which Nigerian Leaders are respected all over the world. We must put heads together to solve our difficult problems and stop, according to our Parliamentary Leader, dancing when our enemy is beating the drum for us. If we detract from these principles for which our Leaders are respected, we shall be throwing out with a spade what we got in a rake, and we shall all regret it at last.

Looking round our country, one would see that throughout the Federal Republic, our Governments have embarked on mass industrialisation. While this is good and welcomed by all, one would expect to have a proper check at the centre to avoid having a particular industry scattered all over the country more than Nigeria can cope with until such a time when we can find adequate market for them outside Nigeria.

Secondly, it is becoming a habit in Nigeria that goods locally produced sell at a higher price than those imported. The effect of this is that the average Nigerian consumer does not stand to gain anything from the locally produced goods. He prefers buying the imported ones since they are cheaper and have the same quality. This should be discouraged by our Government because extracting from Nigeria very heavily in order to keep up industries is just like the expression in Ibo proverb: "digging a hole to fill a hole and the hole remains the same".

Another point of interest in His Excellency's Speech is the proposal for expansion of our electricity. Just a few days ago, we read from our daily papers of over £10 million loan to Nigeria for the expansion of electricity. Last year, over £236,000 was voted for this Ministry and we in the rural areas have not seen any change in the expansion of electricity and then we start to ask, where does all this money go? Up to the moment, there are many Divisions and District headquarters in this country which have not got electric light. Before I came into this House in 1960, I was told that Okigwi Township was placed on the priority list. It is a shameful thing to see that up till the moment nothing has been done to provide electric light to this Division. I think the people of my Division deserve an explanation from the Minister concerned.

On the question of telecommunications, we have all noted with joy that it is the intention of the Government to expand on this line. There are many places in this country that have got no telecommunication facilities. As the saying goes, "Charity begins at home". If we shall deal in terms of connecting the whole world to Nigeria, what about within Nigeria itself? A lot of us in this country live very near big towns, but it takes us many days and many hours to get in touch with ourselves. Yet we talk in terms of being connected to Ghana, Cameroun, and so on and so forth. We should start to think first of Nigeria before any other country.

Another point that I would like to comment on is unity. Many people have said a lot of things, but I feel that only a few people in this country are serious about the unity of the country. If we really mean the unity of this country, I can assure you that it cannot come about until we are able to split this country into States where no one Region or State can dominate others. That is very, very important.

Another point is that it is shameful that a part of this country—a Legislature for that matter—should take it upon itself to criticize some people in its own area of authority simply because they happen to come from another tribe. That is very shameful and I do not think there is any other Legislature in this country that is capable of condemning that attitude than this House of Representatives. If the reported attitude of the Northern Legislature in trying to threaten the life and property of the people of another tribe living in their area simply because they do not belong to that tribe is true, I do not think that there is any other Legislature in this country that is capable of condemning it than this Federal House. If the Eastern House were to say it, it would appear as if they were returning criticism for criticism. I think that we all should stand to condemn it because until we do that, there is bound to be disunity in this country.

**E. D. Akinbowale** (Ijebu North): In contributing to the Debate on the President's Speech at this valedictory Budget Meeting of Parliament, I wish to observe that the policy of the Federal Government as outlined in the Speech has failed to include concrete proposals to deal effectively with the present-day problems.

I shall begin with the Lagos-Ibadan road. It should be remembered that the question has been brought to this House about the dangerous conditions of our so-called trunk "A" roads. The Federal Government had employed experts to carry out assignments on construction of roads and bridges in the past, but very little has been done satisfactorily. It now appears that this year experience has taught the Federal Government to budget for the construction of bridges that will be 24 feet wide and for trunk "A" roads to be built to a design speed of 60 miles per hour.

I wish to refresh the memory of hon. Members in this august House with the event of last year on the Lagos-Ikorodu road, a distance of only a few miles. This only trunk "A" road linking the Federal capital with the rest of the country easily defeated the Federal Government in a straight encounter. The fearful flood rendered all our experts in the Ministry of Works completely impotent. Trade was at a stand-still, the lives of people were greatly endangered, not to talk of commodities. It can only be hoped that that would not be allowed to happen again.

I wish to invite attention to lorry and motor-car drivers. It is indisputable that most of these drivers are not proficient. This appears to be the root cause of the increase in road accidents all over the country. It should be ensured that only drivers who can pass rigorous driving tests are given licences.

There have been numberless cases of drivers obtaining their licences by foul means. This is a two-way traffic, unfortunately, but the Federal Government should devise ways and means of stopping this bad practice and so reduce road accidents to the minimum.

We talk of unemployment in the country and the Minister of Finance was defending the indefensible. If the Minister of Finance finds his way to this Parliament after the next federal elections he should expect to be engulfed in the fearful fury of the several thousands, if I cannot say millions, of school-leavers and others who somehow have been finding it impossible to keep body and soul together. At present the educational institutes turn out their graduates in large numbers and there are no industries or establishments to absorb them. The Federal Government must make concrete plans for these leaders of tomorrow so that there may be no upheaval in the country sometime.

This leads me to the problem of teachers. It is becoming increasingly clear that Secondary Modern School qualification is valueless and cannot bring the possessor any gainful employment. The Federal Minister of Education, in consultation with the Regional Ministers of Education, should devise ways and means of saving these unfortunate teachers from perishing or turning out to be undesirables in their respective societies. So, too, one may say something about Grade III teachers who are being turned out from their training centres in a manner that the supply appears to exceed the demand or requirement. Something must be done and that quickly by the Federal Ministry of Education so that in the immediate future this class of teachers may not create a problem.

The question of making school standards the same and acceptable all over the country is also important. Here in the Federal set-up, and in some countries, standard system as of old is still in operation and pupils from other Regions where primary class system is in operation would not get admission, and *vice versa*. It is advisable to regulate these standards so that our children may not suffer any hardship about admission when they are forced to move about with their parents probably on transfer.

And now to carpet crossing. To me nobody should be much worried about this shameful practice which is always well defended by its protagonists. It just provides amusement to see an hon. Member of an honourable House such as this change his colour like a chameleon. We should wait for the reaction of the electorate to this practice for there is no doubt that the more a Member changes his colour politically the poorer the impression such a Member makes on the electorate. And, of course, these people always dread parliamentary election like poison and are prepared to do anything to avert it at any time. What is more, it will amuse hon. Members to know that the predecessor of the latest addition to the political parties had as its symbol a "Babe" but unfortunately the "Babe" was born, nursed and later murdered by the parent. Now, the symbol of the present successor, the N.N.D.P. is a "Hand". One wonders why this has been chosen for it is indisputable that a hand is only a part of a babe.

**Mr A. F. Odulana (Ijebu South):** On a point of order, it is only fitting for me at this

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time to observe that the Member for Ijebu North (*Mr Akinbowale*) is imputing bad motives because the Oba of his town is heart and soul in the new political party in the West which was founded on Monday last. How can he then come here and—

**The Deputy Speaker :** Order.

**Mr Akinbowale :** When their babe could not survive one wonders how a hand can survive. This is apparently a bad omen and we should just watch to see for how long the party will thrive.

On the question of unity in this country, I am afraid the opinion of the Minister of Finance goes against the grain in this particular respect. If there is unity at all, it is unity in diversity. As long as the "haves" are taking advantage of the "have-nots," there can be no unity. As long as one Region is trying to suppress the genuine aspirations of another Region by foul means, there can be no unity, and hatred is thus engendered. As long as a section of the community chooses to fan the embers of disunity by helping a member against his kith and kin in his own area, there can be no unity. But if everybody in a community places the highest premium on the overall interest of the country and thinks less of himself, there will be peace and unity which will be inherited by successors.

Mention has been made in the President's Speech about classified census of public beggars. If public begging means people who seek alms, I wonder how this could be done effectively in this country. As far as I know public beggars are of various kinds: first on the list are professional beggars as in the Northern Region. Some of them are well clad and ride on horseback to carry out their profession. They say it is an inherited profession. Secondly, there are able-bodied people who pretend to be somehow disabled. They migrate from town to town to beg for alms, and in a month each of them collects as much as fifty pounds and some of them even have houses. Third on the list are the poor and helpless beggars. This class abounds mostly in the North and West. The fourth class consists of people who are obviously disabled and who can only live on begging. These last two groups can be controlled by rehabilitation. But what of tricksters who appear to be beggars. This class abounds

most in the East and in the West. Such a decent beggar is fairly educated and is cunning, and does not ask for more than a penny. A penny to hon. Members does not mean anything but quickly these pennies make shillings and the shillings make pounds. Their motto is :

"Little drops of water,  
Little grains of sand ;  
Make the mighty ocean  
And the pleasant land."

It is not uncommon to see among people in this class landlords in a matter of three to four years. I wish to end this contribution of mine with a special note: the significance of the figure 8 in our political history. For eight long and tedious months some of our own respected leaders and watchdogs have been deprived of their liberty and freedom and have faced ordeals of an indescribable nature.

For eight long and tedious months we their loyal associates and disciples have expected the heavens to fall upon them and so make them martyrs.

For eight long and tedious hours the trial Judge read out his verdict and so some of the country's heroes were declared guilty of the charges preferred against them.

From the beginning of the show to the last those who escaped the fury of the trial Judge numbered eight gallant souls headed by the indefatigable Joseph Tarka, the strong man and the terror of the Northern Region.

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Establishments** (Mr Akubakar Isandu): On a point of information, the Member for Jemgbar (*Mr Tarka*) has dissociated himself from the Action Group.

**Chief Ayo Rosiji** (Egba East): I think it is improper for anybody to eulogize in this honourable House people who under the laws of this country have been found guilty of an offence. It is better for the hon. Member not to talk about those people at all.

**The Deputy Speaker :** I would not quite completely agree with Chief Rosiji but I would have thought that if the hon. Member was referring to matters still pending on appeal, then he will be completely out of order.

**Mr Akinbowale :** The other heroes—

**The Deputy Speaker :** I thought that when the hon. Member started these fine expressions, the House might have invited his attention to the fact that the matter is still *sub-judice*. Now that the order has been called, if the hon. Member is referring to matters that are still pending on appeal, he should please refrain from doing so.

**Mr Akinbowale :** In our own light, this is a good omen for our political future. Those who are of the same faith and conviction with these people, young or old, literate or illiterate, have accepted the fact.

**The Deputy Speaker :** I am afraid I have to rule the hon. Gentleman speaking out of order. If he has any other line of argument, let him please pursue it but he should please drop the present one.

**Mr Akinbowale :** The last but not the least on my significance of the "number 8" is that the present Speech to this august House occupied only eight pages.

I beg to support.

**The Minister of Aviation (Dr K. O. Mbadiwe) :** I rise to speak on the Motion of Thanks to His Excellency the President for his Address. This is his first Speech since this great country became a republic. An address of this nature, given by one of the architects of this country, is unique in itself and coming at a time when it has come, it is even regarded as a momentous speech.

Ours is a great republic. I have faith, confidence and an unshakable belief in this great country of ours. We entered the republic on a resounding note, with historical and traditional achievements behind us within one or two years since the independence of this country.

The African might and powers gathered in Addis Ababa under the banner of the Monrovia Group of Powers to right the wrong, the wrong of the Berlin Conference of 1885 which partitioned Africa and cut it into small bits.

Again, I was a living witness at the same Addis Ababa when representatives of thirty-one countries, great leaders, Presidents, Prime Ministers and Premiers arrived one after the other. When we were cut up in 1885, nobody

knew that there was the possibility of the Africans coming together again.

If these thirty-one great men had only arrived at Addis Ababa without speaking a word and had departed to their different countries, history all the same could have been made but that they spoke and yet, to think that our country was involved in such a display, that we took part in righting the wrong of yesteryears was the most encouraging sign of it all.

**Chief Rosiji :** I am afraid, Sir, and I seek your protection. My ears are rather delicate and it will be better if the Minister could be advised to lower his voice, so that I do not get deaf.

**Dr Mbadiwe :** Now, this brings me to another point. That Sir Abubakar Tafawa Balewa, the Prime Minister of this Federation could take part in making such a historical and momentous decision is a very great achievement indeed. Why then must we tremble in this country like people that do not know where to go. The making of a nation takes time. At times it seems to me that we are too much in a hurry. We want to get things done in one day and within one hour. That is not nation building.

I will refer, Mr Speaker, to the inaugural address of the late President Kennedy of the United States of America when he took the Oath of Office in that great country. He said : "it is no longer what America can give to us that matters, it is what we can give to America". He said that the problems confronting mankind could not be solved in a hundred days nor in a thousand days nor in the life of the Kennedy Administration, nor in our lifetime on this planet, but the most important thing is "let us begin". Men living in this country no longer think of what Nigeria can do for them but what they can offer Nigeria and when I think of the President's Address, I conclude that our Prime Minister belongs to the category of those who think not of what Nigeria can do for them, but what they can return to Nigeria.

When I think of the Prime Minister of this Republic I think not of what Nigeria can do for him but what he can offer to Nigeria. When I think of the Premiers of the Regions, I also think not of what Nigeria can do for them but of what they can return to the teaming millions of this country.

[DR MBADIWE]

We seem to tremble at every problem. We asked for independence and we fought for it. We now have an independent nation and a Republic and yet, with every minor problem we think the nation must break into pieces. We think the heavens must fall. If we are not capable of holding it then let us disperse because there will be no more problems for us to solve.

With every problem that confronts us, we think everything is finished. It is now over. The Heavens are falling and we must secede, we must isolate ourselves. It is our duty as older men who have seen things, to assure the youngmen and the young parliamentarians that the problems of a new and great nation are many and that they will come every year. But the important thing is this. In every catastrophe, and in every difficulty, we can use our goodwill and our faith to surmount the difficulties and strengthen our faith in the greatness of our country.

These are the difficulties which make heroes and heroines. These are the difficulties which show those who love their country as against people who just pay lip-service to their country. The sacrifices which we make, the give and take and the compromises show that the continuity of a resurgent nation should move forward. The knowledge and the difficulties of great nations make a man, and that is where we have geniuses. Geniuses do not come out of the ordinary or normal occasions. It is when the incomprehensibles and impossibles make their presence felt that geniuses, powers, brain seekers and manipulators are around.

Let there be cheers throughout the country. Let there be cheers within the Parliament. We are not cracking, we shall solve the insolubles and we shall cure the incurables; so that we can attain power for greater heights.

Take an example from the British people and the Americans who have crossed the frontiers, who have scanned the frontiers and who have fathomed their seas and oceans and have even explored the antarctic, and are now racing to go to the moon. We have not crossed the first frontier of either poverty or economic stress, how can we now talk of fighting ourselves as if there are no people who can burn

their mid-night candles, and as if there are no people who, while others are sleeping are weighing things to know how to pilot the ship of state so that it will not founder.

There are founding fathers of this country, there are men to whom we can return this country when it becomes insolvable even outside this Parliament, and we can inform them that we have done our best and that they should repair the ruins of this country. These people are still alive, they are not dead. None of those who evolved our Constitution in the United Kingdom has died. They are all living, and when the worse comes to the worst we shall serve them with a notice.

We still have places to refer to and we still have many avenues to refer to. Is this not a friendly nation? Is this a nation that should not recognise where it is going? I am full of confidence. The African countries look up to this country. If our experiment and what we are having to do suffer the slightest mishap the whole European world will write out the black world and the African world will totter.

**Mr Briggs:** Let them write it out. It is their concern.

**Dr Mbadiwe:** We cannot take the voices of the men who have no stake in living realities of a nation. What will I tell my redeemers? Should I tell them that I have searched through the golden faces of Nigerian life that has given me all the opportunities in every segment of life and yet have not yet been able to revive the heritage for others coming after me? It would have been the greatest catastrophe to think of. Let me not hear the words of sensational isolationists.

It is true that there are so many regional jingoisms but we shall cure them from the experiences we are getting now. We are thinking very fast because we shall never allow this country to go down while we still exist and have breadth in our lungs. Let the youngmen learn. It is true that all of us are Parliamentarians wearing the *togas* and the *Agbadas*, but there is wisdom in experience, experience is not got in the University of Cambridge, Oxford or Massachusetts. It is got from the common life in the university of common sense because Jesus Christ of Nazareth who has given us the Bible as a heritage never went to any of those universities, but he went to the university of common sense.

I say that the youngmen coming after us in this Parliament should watch us and learn from the masters because the masters have gone through many saturated experiences and upheavals and when they are carrying the staff of state in a thundering nature with all the delicacies and manipulations with life and death, there are outbursts from the newspapers as if they know all about these experiences. The time has come to stop it.

**Mr A. F. Odulana** (Ijebu South) : On a point of order, we have been enjoying the Minister's speech, but I am afraid, a glass of water should be put on that table for him. I am honestly enjoying him.

**Dr Mbadiwe**: That is my humble note to the dynamic and good youngmen because we do not want to dampen their enthusiasm or their dynamism, but the umbrella of old age must be taken into consideration. When we ask for slow paces, it is not that we had never eaten the fruits of nationalism. Some of us were in the front lines of it, but we have been mellowed.

When the immortal Ghandi said that the English people said, "To-day you change, tomorrow you accept", it is the prerogative of a great man because his burden is very heavy. But if he knows that he is going forward with many millions to crucifixion and death he will change.

And now, talking about the newspapers, I must recall that the unity of this country transcends everything in our lives. It is one single thing that is so symbolic that anybody who touches it is touching the heart of this country. I believe in the press, in the fourth estate of the realm.

I have been a journalist from the humble setting, so that I know what I am talking about the profession. In my days, the newspaper was not as lucrative as it is to-day. We were both journalists and vendors. When I think of how the newspapers of the nation, in the past four days, transformed themselves into an agent of tell-tale, an agent of speculation, an agent of gossip, speculating about the highest organ of this country—the Cabinet—and reporting what is wrong, I tremble when I think of the fate of this country. If the newspapers will not give factual but distorted news for four days, dealing in falsehood and lies, when one comes

to consider that a big newspaper with very wide circulation is so involved, then where are we heading to as a nation ?

The thing is so hopeless now. Mr Speaker, when you give them details of an event, they misquote you doubly. I am not used to threats. I do not threaten anyone. Threat is the prerogative of God. But when newspapers continue to dish out false news and lies, we shall fire them from every conceivable angle.

I have never said this in all my parliamentary life. What I saw in the last four days was a clear distortion or the manufacture of news that never existed, a leading newspaper giving the regional edition one thing, and the Lagos edition another thing. These are men who want to reform the nation, but on their tables, they have made journalism so cheap, so slippery. Journalism, the thing which reforms, the mighty octopus that teaches, has been made a shattering piece of nonentity.

I have not asked my Colleagues to declare an ultimatum, but if this distortion continues, we might act. I am not giving any threat. Newspapers should publish their news irrespective of who is hurt but they should not manufacture news ; they should not deceive.

We have been criticising other countries for clamping down the fourth estate of the realm and making it a regimented press. We refuse to do this. But if this privilege is abused, the men behind this will be told that this is a country which we can man from any corner, no matter whose horse is gored.

The Minister of Finance, *Omimi Ejo*, can bear me out that we can gather forty virile journalists who can shatter the writings of these men.

Finally, we talk of African unity. I agree that there should be a union of African States. But first of all, we must talk of the unity of this country. I believe that the Prime Minister and the Premiers of this country must get together more often, not only out of political stress, but in exchange of friendly association, so that when problems come, telephone alone can solve them. The political union of Africa is a thing we do not yet know about. I believe in going from the known to the unknown.



[DR MBADIWE]

I want to see the Prime Minister and the Premiers exchange visits—getting to parks, swimming pools, horse-racing, in the quieter mood of life. I believe it will inspire the masses of our youngmen and women into confidence and brotherhood. We must do that before we talk about the political union of Africa.

I am satisfied that we are founding fathers of this country. I believe in Nigeria. I nurse it. I love it. It is a land of beauty, elegance—beautiful from all zones.

An hon. Member was talking about Itshekiri dances in this House. Nigeria is a land of creative beauty from the riverside women to the Fulani ladies, from the Opobo women to the Kalabaris and the Ijebus. If it comes to the world of beauty, the economic resources are here. What is this country I am so proud of? Our women are so elegant if we dress them up. The financial resources are there.

The man-power is there. What do we want further other than to strengthen this country with lessons in compromise, with sacrifice, with humility, and with the human touch. If we can thus strengthen our country, we shall make it one of the most formidable, one of the most powerful and one of the most certain of itself in the realm of nation-building.

Mr Speaker, I beg to support.

*And it being 5.45 p.m. Mr Speaker proceeded to interrupt the Business, pursuant to Standing Order 5 (3).*

*Debate to be resumed—Tomorrow.*

#### ADJOURNMENT

*Motion made and Question proposed, That this House do now adjourn—(THE MINISTER OF FINANCE).*

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Resolved: That this House do now adjourn.*

*Adjourned accordingly at fifteen minutes to six o'clock.*

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

Tuesday, 17th March, 1964

The House met at 10 a.m.

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

OATHS

Oath of allegiance was administered to the following old Member—

Dr P. U. Okeke .. Onitsha North Central

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS  
MINES AND POWER

Geological Survey of Owerri

**O.28. Mr A. U. D. Mbah** asked the Minister of Mines and Power, if he had undertaken any geological survey of Ikeduru and Mbaitoli area in Owerri, and if he was aware of the existence of mineral deposits—such as gas, oil and coal in the area.

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Mines and Power** (Alhaji Ahmadu Fatika): A geological survey of the Ikeduru and Mbaitoli areas of Owerri has not been undertaken by the Geological Survey Division of the Ministry, except in connection with water supply investigations. These areas have, however, been geologically surveyed by Shell-BP in connection with their search for oil.

The results of this work have been published by the Geological Survey Division of the Ministry, but no oil, natural gas or coal have been discovered in the areas mentioned by the hon. Member.

Electricity for Awgu

**O.29. Mr J. Chukwu** asked the Minister of Mines and Power if he would consider, as a matter of urgency, supplying electricity to Awgu Divisional Headquarters.

**Alhaji Ahmadu Fatika**: A number of towns in the Eastern Region, including Awgu were recently surveyed, with a view to possible inclusion in the Electricity Corporation of Nigeria's New Towns Development Scheme, Phase II. Awgu was not included in the list submitted by the Eastern Region Government.

**Mr E. C. Akwiwu** (Orlu South East): Would the Minister now make a statement on the one promised Orlu?

Ikot Ekpene/Uyo Power Plants

**O.30 Mr M. B. Afanideh** asked the Minister of Mines and Power when the new electric plants in Ikot Ekpene and Uyo would start to operate.

**Alhaji Ahmadu Fatika**: The hon. Minister has been advised by the Electricity Corporation of Nigeria that work on these systems is nearing completion. Final tests are now being carried out and the Corporation expects to commence the supply of electricity to these towns in about two months' time.

Central Awka Minerals

**O.31 Mr R. N. Muojeke** asked the Minister of Mines and Power what minerals had been discovered in the Awka Central area, in which towns had the minerals been found; and what plans he had for exploiting the minerals.

**Alhaji Ahmadu Fatika**: Apart from clays, no other minerals of economic importance have been discovered in any part of Awka Division. The clay deposits are at Awka, Amawbia, Ago-owelle, Nanka, Aguanalike, Enugu-Agidi and Abagana. The Minister has no plans for their exploitation, as this is outside the scope of the Ministry of Mines and Power.

Ndikelionwu Mineral Resources

**O.32 Mr R. N. Muojeke** asked the Minister of Mines and Power what were the quantity and quality of iron deposits in Ndikelionwu in Awka Central Constituency; and what arrangements the Government was making to exploit the deposits.

**Alhaji Ahmadu Fatika**: As far as the Minister is aware, there are no iron deposits at Ndikelionwu.

**O.33 Mr R. N. Muojeke** asked the Minister of Mines and Power if, in view of the iron deposits at Ndikelionwu, he would recommend to the Federal Government the establishment of an iron foundry and allied industries in the town.

**Alhaji Ahmadu Fatika :** The hon. Member is referred to the answer given to the last question.

**Mr F. A. M. Amadi (Nsukka Central) :** Would the Minister, therefore, consider establishing this foundry at Nsude where there is iron ore deposit ?

#### Uniform Electricity Rates

**O.34. Mr B. N. Ukegbu** asked the Minister of Mines and Power if he would cause the Electricity Advisory Council to get the Corporation to charge all industrialists throughout the country uniform rates, and thereby reduce the high rates in rural areas in order to encourage the establishment of industries in rural areas and small towns, and thus discourage our concentration of population in urban areas.

**Alhaji Ahmadu Fatika :** The hon. Minister of Mines and Power is fully aware of the widespread demand for a reduction in the charges levied by the Electricity Corporation of Nigeria for the supply of electricity. But the Corporation is, according to law, required to fix its charges so as to cover its costs. The cost of supplying electricity varies throughout the country and the tariff is fixed accordingly.

A concessionary rate may, however, be accorded to any industrial concern. This is a matter for negotiation between the industrialist and the Corporation and is usually only given to an industry which is of pioneer status.

But the Minister would remind the Honourable Member that whereas practically everything has gone up in recent years, there has been no increase in charges for electricity since 1956. The hon. Minister hopes that when cheap power is available from the Kainji Dam, a reduction in the price of electricity will be possible.

**Mr B. N. Ukegbu (Owerri South East) :** Is the Minister not aware that in other countries in order to promote the establishment of industries in rural areas industrialists are charged uniform rates ; and will it be in any way detrimental to the interest of the E.C.N. if they should agree to charge industrialists uniform rates ?

**Alhaji Ahmadu Fatika :** This is a new question which needs notice.

#### Ikot Ekpene Power Plant

**O.35. Mr B. U. Ukpung** asked the Minister of Mines and Power when the electric plant at Ikot Ekpene would come into operation.

**Alhaji Ahmadu Fatika :** The hon. Member is referred to the answer given to a similar question asked by the hon. Member for Ikot Ekpene South—Question No. \*O.30.

#### Nigeria's Minerals

**O.36. Alhaji Isa Haruna** asked the Minister of Mines and Power, what were the chief minerals mined in this country, what companies were concerned with the mining, and what was the government's policy towards them.

**Alhaji Ahmadu Fatika :** The principal minerals mined in Nigeria are : limestone, which is used in cement manufacture, coal, mineral oil and natural gas, cassiterite and columbite which are the ores of tin and columbium.

The list of companies concerned with mining is a long one and the hon. Member is referred to the Annual Reports of the Mines Division which are regularly laid on the table of the House.

Government's policy in regard to the Mining Companies is, briefly : a fair deal for the companies and a fair share of the profits for Government.

Land is granted only under lease. Companies are required to train Nigerians for superior appointments ; to pay royalty on minerals at varying rates and to pay compensation to the local people for disturbance of surface rights.

#### Mineral Survey of Nigeria

**O.37. Alhaji Isa Haruna** asked the Minister of Mines and Power if he would state whether the government had made a mineral survey of this country, and what were the results of the survey.

**Alhaji Ahmadu Fatika :** The first mineral surveys of Nigeria were undertaken in the early years of this century. That of Southern Nigeria was started in 1903 and continued until 1913. That of Northern Nigeria was undertaken between 1904 and 1909.

The mineral survey of Southern Nigeria showed occurrences of the ore of lead in several places, lignite deposits and limestone suitable for building purposes. The principal success of the southern survey was the discovery of the Enugu coal seams.

The mineral survey of Northern Nigeria covered, among other places, the Jos Plateau, the Benue Valley and the Nupe area. The discoveries included the marble west of Lokoja, the brine springs of Arufu and Awe and the tin deposits near Jos.

The most spectacular discoveries made by the Geological Survey are the limestone deposits at Nkalagu which led to the establishment of the Nigercem Cement Works; the discovery of columbite on the Jos Plateau; and, more recently, the Geological Survey has proved 20 million tons of good quality limestone suitable for cement manufacture at Yandev in Benue Province; and Limestone in Sokoto Province.

Oil exploration began to the east of Lagos at the beginning of the century. The Mineral Survey of Southern Nigeria and the early work of the Geological Survey indicated the possibility of the presence of oil in the Niger Delta.

A mineral survey is not a once-and-for-all job; it is a continuing process, a continuing widening of the field of knowledge. A comprehensive mineral survey for the whole Federation is being undertaken with the help of the United Nations and this will embrace the modern techniques of geophysical and geochemical prospecting. A series of geological maps covering almost the whole Federation are being compiled. Various technical assistance schemes to assist with mineral surveys from different sources are being sought and implemented.

**Mr S. D. Lar** (Lowland East): Is the Minister aware of the fact that the present Chamber of Mines in Jos is not in the best interest of the African indigenous miners and that it only represents the interest of the expatriate miners?

**The Minister of Mines and Power** (Alhaji Yusuff Maitama Sule): I am also aware that the Africans have got their own Miners' Association and that Government is giving them every encouragement.

### Newly-found Minerals

**O.38. Mr S. Nnaji** asked the Minister of Mines and Power if he would state what minerals were discovered by geological surveyors in the Federation from 1960 to December 1963.

**Alhaji Ahmadu Fatika**: The minerals which have been discovered, though not necessarily in commercial quantities, by Geologists of the Ministry of Mines and Power since Independence are as follows:

Talc near Zonkwa and Kafanchan;  
Mica and felspar near Kafanchan;  
Clay at Ogubulu and near Umuahia;  
Limestone near Ogoja.

### Ugworie Hill

**O.39. Mr S. Nnaji** asked the Minister of Mines and Power if he would state what minerals were discovered during the recent geological survey of Ugworie Hill, situated in Awkunawaw, near Enugu.

**Alhaji Ahmadu Fatika**: No geological survey of Ugworie Hill has been carried out recently. The honourable Minister understands that a topographical survey of this area has been carried out recently, which is a subject within the portfolio of the hon. Minister of Works and Surveys. Possibly the hon. Member has mistaken this for a geological survey.

### Amurri Hill

**O.40. Mr S. Nnaji** asked the Minister of Mines and Power what plans he had for the geological survey of Amurri Hill situated close to Agbani in Udi Division.

**Alhaji Ahmadu Fatika**: I have none at present, Sir, since the hill is located within Enugu Coalfield which has been closely investigated by the Geological Survey. The results have been published in Geological Survey Bulletins Nos. 24 and 28.

### Prospecting in Asaba

**O.41. Mr E. A. Mordi** asked the Minister of Mines and Power, how many firms with prospecting licences were now operating in Asaba Division, and what successes or failure had so far been registered.

**Alhaji Ahmadu Fatika**: Part of Asaba Division is included in one of Shell-BP's Oil Mining Leases. The Company is not engaged

[ALHAJI AHMADU FATIKA]

in any operation in the area at present. A well was drilled near Ubulu in 1958 but neither oil nor natural gas were found.

#### New Electricity Supplies

**O.142. Mr I. S. Onwuchekwa** asked the Minister of Mines and Power whether he would give a list of towns and villages which will be supplied with electricity this year.

**Alhaji Ahmadu Fatika** : The hon. Minister is advised by the Electricity Corporation of Nigeria that Nguru, Okitipupa, Gbongan, Ikot Ekpena, Uyo, Oturkpo and Bacita will be supplied with electricity this year. Koko has already been supplied.

**Mr A. Akomolafe** (Ekiti North East) : For the past three years all the plans and everything for the Ado-Ekiti Power Supply have been ready and may I ask the Minister when he will be ready to open the place ?

#### DEFENCE

##### Deployment of Soldiers

**O.42. Mr M. B. Afanideh** asked the Minister of Defence, if he will consider posting Nigerian soldiers to Calabar and all other border towns as a means of effective defence of our great country.

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Defence** (Alhaji Aliyu Bissalla) : It is not considered necessary, practicable or economically feasible to post Nigerian soldiers permanently to all our border areas since troops and other security forces are strategically located in various parts of the country and can, as experience has shown, be mobilised to deal with any incident that may arise along our borders.

##### Army Recruits from Calabar Province

**O.43. Mr B. U. Ukpogon** asked the Minister of Defence, how many Nigerians have been recruited into the Nigerian Army from Annang, Uyo and Calabar provinces respectively ; and what key positions do they hold.

**Alhaji Aliyu Bissalla** : Although it is the policy of the Ministry to ensure, as far as possible, fair representation for all parts of the country in the recruitment of Armed Forces personnel, initial selection and/or promotion is not done on Provincial or Divisional basis

but on fitness and merit. No separate records of soldiers recruited from Annang, Uyo and Calabar provinces are available.

**Mr A. Akomolafe** (Ekiti North East) : Is the Minister aware that there is a lot of imbalance in these recruitments and that it ought to be corrected for the sake of the unity of the country ?

**Alhaji Aliyu Bissalla** : The Minister is not aware.

##### Navy Nigerianisation

**O.143. Mr E. J. Ogunkanmi** asked the Minister of Defence, how many expatriates are serving in the Nigerian Navy ; and when he proposes to Nigerianise the Nigerian Navy completely.

**Alhaji Aliyu Bissalla** : There are 37 expatriate officers now serving in the Nigerian Navy.

The target date for complete Nigerianisation of the Nigerian Navy is 1st April, 1965.

The present position is as follows :—

Rank	British	Indian
Commodore .. ..	1	—
Commander .. ..	2	1
Lieutenant-Commander	9	7
Lieutenant .. ..	4	5
Senior Commissioned Officer	8	—
Total .. ..	24	13

##### Expatriates in the Army

**O.144. Mr E. J. Ogunkanmi** asked the Minister of Defence, how many expatriates are still serving in the Nigerian Army ; and what are their ranks.

**Alhaji Aliyu Bissalla** : There are 61 expatriate officers and 21 expatriate other ranks now serving in the Nigerian Army.

Their ranks are as follows :—

Major-General .. ..	1
Lieutenant-Colonel .. ..	1
Majors .. ..	24
Captains .. ..	35
Warrant Officers, Classes I and II ..	14
Staff Sergeant and Sergeants ..	7
Total .. ..	82

**Mr A. F. Odulana** (Ijebu South) : I wish to ask the Minister when the Major-General Commanding the armed forces of the Republic of Nigeria will go back to his country because we do not want him any more. We have our own men to replace him now.

**Minister of State** (Alhaji Usumanu Maitam-bari) : If the Member for Ijebu South had listened carefully he would have heard that the Army would be Nigerianised by April 1965.

### MINISTRY OF FINANCE

#### Mid-West Interim Administration

**O.45. Mr H. O. Chuku** asked the Minister of Finance, how much it cost the Federal Government to maintain the Mid-Western Region administration from when it was created up to the time of the General Election in the Region.

**The Minister of Finance** (Chief F. S. Okotie-Eboh) : No expenditure was incurred by the Federal Government on the maintenance of the Mid-Western Region's Administration between the Region's creation on 9th August, 1962, and the time of the General Election in the Region.

#### Imported Bottles

**O.46. Mr F. U. Ihe** asked the Minister of Finance, if he will consider the desirability of imposing prohibitive import duty on imported bottles in order to give our indigenous glass factories opportunity of expanding their sales and thereby satisfy the country's demand for glass from our own resources.

**Chief Okotie-Eboh** : No, Sir. A prohibitive import duty would not be an appropriate form of assistance to the domestic glass industry, which has not sufficient capacity to meet all requirements of glass bottles and containers.

#### Foreign Aids

**O.145. Mr A. U. D. Mbah** asked the Minister of Finance, which of the Regional Governments have received or concluded arrangements to receive foreign aid with or without the prior consent and approval of the Federal Government, and if he will also indicate the names of such foreign countries involved in the arrangements.

**Chief Okotie-Eboh** : None, Sir.

**Mr Mbah** : I think that the Minister of Finance should do well to answer this question. It is specific, plain and straight-forward. I wonder why an attempt is being made to dodge or to avoid answering such an important question.

**Chief Okotie-Eboh** : I really cannot understand what the hon. Gentleman is about. He asked me a straight-forward question and I gave him a straight-forward answer.

### Import Duties on Drugs

**O.147. Mr D. Senu-Oke** asked the Minister of Finance, how much he collected as import duty on the importation of drugs which contain more than ten *per cent* spirit, from the 1st of April, 1960, to 30th March, 1963.

**Chief Okotie-Eboh** : Medical preparations containing more than ten *per cent* of portable alcohol are not separately classified in the Import List, being regarded for statistical purposes as "other distilled potable alcoholic beverages". I therefore regret that it is not possible to provide the information sought by the hon. Member.

### Guinness Excise Revenue

**O.148. Mr D. Senu-Oke** asked the Minister of Finance, how much he has collected in form of Excise Duty from the Guinness Company, Ikeja, from the date of first production to 30th June, 1963.

**Chief Okotie-Eboh** : The amount of Excise Duty collected from Messrs Guinness (Nigeria) Limited from the date of first production to 30th June, 1963, was £571,622-3s-11d.

### LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE

#### Unemployment

**O.47. Mr B. U. Ukpong** asked the Minister of Labour and Social Welfare, what proposals he has to reduce unemployment to a minimum that it will not be necessary for Nigerians to go to Fernando Po for employment in future.

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Labour** (Mr N. A. Ezonbodor) : The problem of unemployment is a matter for all the Governments in the Federal Republic. National and Regional Committees have been set up to study the problem and make recommendations.

[MR EZONBODOR]

There is no doubt that as more opportunities for lucrative employment become available both as a result of the Development Programme and the implementation of the recommendations of the Unemployment committees, the exodus of Nigerian workers to Fernando Po will be reduced.

#### Nigerian Labour in Fernando Po

**O.48. Mr H. O. Chuku** asked the Minister of Labour and Social Welfare, how many Nigerians are working as Labourers in the Island of Fernando Po; and what is the longest period that any of them has worked there.

**Mr Ezonbodor** : The number of Nigerians working as labourers in Fernando Po on 31st December, 1963, was 33,443. The Labour Agreement under which a Nigerian worker is recruited allows for an initial contract of three years' service which could be mutually renewed for another period of eighteen months after which he is repatriated to Nigeria.

**Mr B. N. Ukegbu** (Owerri South East) : Is it impossible for the Minister of Labour to arrange to open a farm settlement to employ all these people in Fernando Po?

#### MINISTER OF INFORMATION

##### Broadcasts in Efik and Edo

**O.50. Mr M. B. Afanideh** asked the Minister of Information if he will include the Efik and Edo languages in the vernacular News broadcast over the National Broadcasting system.

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Information** (Mr S. A. Yerokun) : The Nigerian Broadcasting Corporation at present broadcasts in the three major languages spoken in the country, namely Hausa, Ibo and Yoruba. The Corporation does not consider it advisable to broadcast vernacular News in the National Programme in languages other than the big three in view of the large number of languages spoken by the various minority groups.

On the other hand both Efik and Edo are used respectively for broadcasting news on the East and West Regional Programmes of the Corporation. In this connection the hon. Member may wish to know that it is the policy of the Nigerian Broadcasting Corporation to broadcast in the major languages from Lagos and keep the minority languages to the Regions.

**O.149. Mr V. L. Lajide** asked the Minister of Information, when he will introduce an appropriate drumming tune for "This is the Nigerian Broadcasting Corporation" as the one now in use is anachronistic.

**Mr Yerokun** : It is true that the original call sign of the old Nigerian Broadcasting Service has not been changed since Incorporation. The desirability of a change has been given serious consideration by the Nigerian Broadcasting Corporation but it has come to the conclusion that the purpose of a call sign in a broadcasting organisation is best served by retaining that with which it has been identified in the years past throughout the world.

Changing the present drum signal to beat out "This is the Nigerian Broadcasting Corporation" may be avoiding an anachronism, but it will confuse listeners both at home and abroad.

**Mr A. F. Odulana** (Ijebu South) : Does the hon. Minister know that it is not only the drumming tune that is anachronistic but also the voices of some of the ladies who read the news. Their voices are not heard at all. I think it is necessary for the Minister to remove those ladies. That is not a place for beauty shows.

#### Jagua Nana

**O.150. Mr V. L. Lajide** asked the Minister of Information, what is the present position about filming of the novel *Jagua Nana*, and how much has the Government spent so far on it.

**Mr Yerokun** : With your permission, Mr Speaker, the answer to this Question is very long and I have, therefore, arranged to have it published in the Official Report.

*The answer is as follows :-*

There has been no change in the position about the filming of the novel *Jagua Nana* since I gave my comprehensive answer during the Debates in the Fourth Session of the First Parliament on Tuesday, the 16th of April, 1963. In this connection, the Hon. Member is invited to read my written reply on that occasion as published in full at pages 80 and 81 of the Report of the House of Representatives Debates for Tuesday, 16th April, 1963.

I should like to take this opportunity to say also that generally speaking, enlightened public opinion is opposed to filming *Jagua Nana*. In

this respect, it is of great interest to note that the Christian Council of Nigeria, the United Church Women of Nigeria as well as the National Council of Nigerian Women's Societies have expressed definite opposition to the filming of the novel. I have also received a letter from a group of Nigerian Students in London opposing the filming of *Jagua Nana*. It is generally felt (and I endorse the views expressed) that filming *Jagua Nana* would undermine the character and morals of the youth of this country and would present a false image of Nigerian womanhood.

I should like to add also that in spite of recent newspaper reports, neither the Italian Film Company concerned nor any other Film Company has approached me again about filming *Jagua Nana*.

#### Public Libraries

**O.151. Mr V. L. Lajide** asked the Minister of Information, how much does the Government spend annually on the upkeep and maintenance of public libraries in the Federal Territory.

**Mr Yerokun :** Again, the answer to this Question is a very long one and I have also arranged to have it printed and circulated in the Official Report.

The answer is as follows :—

At present, there are only two libraries in the Federal Territory of Lagos supported and maintained from public funds. They are the library of the Lagos City Council and the National Library of Nigeria. The latter was recently set up as a unit of my Ministry. It is still in its very early stages of planning and organisation; but it is hoped that it may be opened to the public sometime in May this year. During the past two fiscal years, provisions for the National Library have been as follows :—

	£
For the year 1962-63	16,000
For the year 1963-64	90,000
Total ..	£ 106,000

Actual expenditure in 1962-63 was £9,840. During this year, the total expenditure before the end of the financial year is expected to be about £80,000.

I must say that the above expenditure excludes the personal emoluments of the senior staff of the Library, all of whom are at present carried by the Ford Foundation of America. The expenditure therefore covers only the cost of equipment and the acquisition of books and documents in the planning stages and the cost of the salaries of the junior staff.

I am not in a position to give any figures in respect of the library of the City of Lagos as it is outside my jurisdiction. The hon. Member is therefore advised to address his question to the right quarter.

**Alhaji K. O. S. Are** (Ibadan North West) : On a point of order, may I call the attention of the House to the Saturday the 14th of March issue of the *Official Report* where my constituency was quoted as "Ibadan North East" as against "Ibadan North West".

#### PRESENTATION OF PUBLIC BILLS

##### REMOVAL OF VEHICLES, ETC., (LAGOS) BILL

Bill to provide for the removal and disposal of vehicles left on highways; for the arrest without warrant of persons in charge of vehicles appearing to be used unlawfully as hackney or stage carriages; and for purposes connected with the matters aforesaid, presented by the Minister of Lagos Affairs; read the First time; to be read a Second time—*Friday 20th of March*.

**Mr Speaker :** Order, I am getting a lot of trouble with some of the big voices on my left.

#### NOTICES OF MOTION

##### BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

**The Minister of Finance :** I beg to move—

That, at this day's sitting, Government Business shall be exempted from the provisions of Standing Order 5 (Sittings of the House), and such Business shall be taken at the following times :—

(a) on the interruption of Business of Private Members or after the completion of proceedings on Private Members' Motions, whichever is the earlier, till 6 p.m.; and

(b) from 9 p.m. onwards.

I beg to move.



**The Minister of Mines and Power** (Alhaji Yusuff Maitama Sule) : I beg to second.

**Mr A. F. Odulana** (Ijebu South) : I cannot understand why we are going to start night sitting so soon after Parliament has just begun. We have not completed the debate on the Motion for an Address to His Excellency, the President, and now the Leader of the House is asking Members to come in the night.

He told us at the opening of this session that we were going to sit up to the middle of April ; if that is so then what is the necessity for the night sitting to-day ? I begin to sense that the Government is going to rush the business as it has done in the past, and we must tell the Leader of the House in plain language that there should be no hide and seek business this time.

There is no time for Members to read through their bills and make notes ; and especially now that the Appropriation Bill will soon be presented what time have we to study it. This just means that the Leader of the House has got something up his sleeves for introducing this Motion for to-day's night sitting. I am against this Motion.

**Mr S. A. Babatunde** (Ilorin Central) : My own point is quite different from that of the hon. Member for Ijebu South (*Mr Odulana*—

**Mr A. A. Ajibola** (Egbado South) : On a point of information, that 'mallam' standing is not properly dressed ; he should put on his cap.

**Mr Speaker** : The Member for Egbado South (*Mr Ajibola*) does not know the dress of a mallam.

**Mr Babatunde** : As I was saying, I do not rise to oppose the Motion but to make a plea to the Leader of the House that if we have less time and much work waiting for us then he should introduce this Motion for night sitting, but at this early stage when we have just begun I think it is quite unpleasant to start working day and night now. So I am asking the Leader of the House to bring up this Motion only when it is absolutely necessary to do so.

**Mr P. E. Ekanem** (Enyong South) : I welcome the night sitting of to-day because I think the intention is to allow those who have not yet contributed to the Motion for an Address to do so. As we have only tonight to debate on the

Address, and tomorrow being the Budget Day I welcome very much to-day's night sitting, but I am making a plea to the Leader of the House.

We know the Parliament is supposed to wind up about the middle of next month to allow time for the moslem festival which is soon to come up. Next week or so we are also going to have the christian festival of Easter. Because of this I am asking that there should be a long adjournment so as to give the christian Members of this House enough time for the celebrations.

**The Minister of Finance** : In reply to my Friend, Mr Odulana, I want to assure him that there will be no rushing of business.

Speaking seriously on this issue I am sure that if the hon. Member understands the motive behind my Motion he will be convinced. Members are aware that next week we shall be having some religious holidays about which we have a little bit of confusion, that is to say, we have Good Friday which is a public holiday, and then we are expected to sit on the following day, Saturday, and then again come back on the 31st—

**Several Members** : No !

**The Minister of Finance** : Well, I am very happy at hon. Members reaction, but by the time I finish I am sure, you will all agree with me.

As Members are aware we have allotted days for debate on the Presidential Speech as well as for the Budget Speech, and all I am trying to do is to save you the possibility of sitting on Easter Saturday.

I have already discussed this matter with the Prime Minister and he will be prepared, subject to your approval that you will be able to do some overtime in the night, to let us off from Friday, 27th until Monday. Do you agree now to support my Motion ?

**Several Members** : Yes !

*Question put and agreed to*

*Resolved*, That, at this day's sitting, Government Business shall be exempted from the provisions of Standing Order 5 (Sitting of the House), and such Business shall be taken at the following times :—

(a) on the interruption of Business of Private Members or after the completion of proceedings on Private Members' Motions, whichever the earlier. till 6 p.m. ; and

(b) from 9 p.m. onwards.

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE 52ND  
CONFERENCE OF THE INTER-PARLIAMENTARY  
UNION

**Professor Kalu Ezera** (Bende East) : I rise to move the Motion standing in our names—

That this House notes with approval the Resolutions adopted by the 52nd Inter-Parliamentary Conference held in Belgrade from 12th to 20th September, 1963, in the form annexed to this Motion.

The Resolutions are annexed to the Motion on the Order Paper and they have already been distributed to Members. I would like to seize this opportunity to talk generally on the subject and leave the main explanation to my other colleagues.

The first Resolution adopted by this august body concerns the appeal for aid to the City of Skopje in Yugoslavia. Sometime ago there was a disastrous earthquake in this City. We are happy to note that the Federal Government of Nigeria donated the sum of £5,000 in aid to this City and in this regard, we congratulate the Federal Government for this very generous gesture.

The other Resolutions concern world problems of developments, space flights and racial discrimination. We must not forget that this particular subject of racial discrimination is of vital importance to us in this House.

The 52nd Inter-Parliamentary Conference took special note of the currency of racial discrimination in most parts of the world and urged through this Resolution that Parliaments in all parts of the world should make strenuous efforts, through educational channels and other media, to educate their citizens on the evils of racial discrimination. A part of the Resolutions concerns the methods of increasing the effectiveness of the United Nations' action in the maintenance of its international peace and security.

The Resolutions also deal with the creation of denuclearized and limited armament zones as a first step towards general, complete and

controlled disarmament, and last but not least, is the subject in connection with the Moscow agreement.

Most of these Resolutions are non-controversial. They are resolutions which this Government had sponsored at one time or the other at the United Nations. The only difference is that they are now sponsored by a semi-official body called the Inter-Parliamentary Union of which we are happy to be Members. Therefore, I think it would be of very great importance for this House to take note of these Resolutions which would go to intensify the stand already taken by this Government through our Federal Ministry of External Affairs.

Perhaps at this stage I might as well add a word or two on what the Inter-Parliamentary Union is. It is an international association of a semi-official character the origins of which date back to the last quarter of a century when on the initiative of Sir William Randolph Crome of Great Britain and several others, a conference of international arbitration was called. Since then series and series of such conferences have led to the formation of this strong body known as the Inter-Parliamentary Union.

This body comprises almost all the Parliaments of the world both East and West, and as far as we are concerned here in Nigeria, the Federal Government fully sponsors the trips and the attendance which we have been able to make abroad.

I am pleased to report that during this last Conference held in Belgrade, last summer, Nigeria was one of the most impressive and strongly backed delegation.

You will remember, Mr Speaker, that it was during this period that your good self led the Nigerian delegation to the Soviet Union. We, your humble servants, were also at that material time in Belgrade in Yugoslavia.

The distinguished Members who represented this Parliament were Chief A. M. A. Akinloye, Mr L. J. Dosunmu, Mallam Ibrahim Gusau, and Mr D. Senu-Oke and it was my humble contribution in my capacity as the Chairman of the local branch of this Inter-Parliamentary Union to lead the delegation.

I want also to report that the Nigerian delegation was warmly received wherever we went.

[PROFESSOR EZERA]

In fact, we heard the news about Mr Speaker's visit to Moscow at that material time in Belgrade. As I said, we were very well received both amongst the African delegates and the European and American delegates. This goes to show that Nigeria has the greatest fund of goodwill anybody could think about.

It is in this same way, Mr Speaker, that your trip to Moscow helped to publicise Nigeria and I am sure you will agree with me that we have to do more in that part of the world in order to make the image of Nigeria become stronger in the minds of the people.

Hitherto, we have been very well known in the Western world—America and Western Europe, but we need to paint further our image in the right colour both in Eastern Europe and in the Far East Asia. I think that conferences of this nature will continue to help the image of Nigeria to be stamped in the minds of the world, and in this regard I will urge the Federal Government to give further support to future conferences of this kind.

The last time, Nigeria was honoured when she played host to the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association and I am proud to say that the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association is subordinate in status and in every other respect to the Inter-Parliamentary Union which comprises all the Parliaments of the world.

We would like to look forward to the day when the Federal Government will give its own support to inviting the Inter-Parliamentary Union Conference to be held on our own soil.

As a matter of fact, we were asked whether Nigeria was willing to accept an invitation for 1965. We felt unable to commit our Government, but I am taking this opportunity to appeal to the Federal Minister of External Affairs to give his consideration to this because directly or indirectly he has a lot to do with this type of Conferences and we have to clear the stand we have to take on international affairs with this Ministry before we go, in order to present the official stand of the Nigerian Government.

I also appeal to the Prime Minister that serious consideration should be given to fixing a date and to inviting this august Association to visit Nigeria and hold its Conference on our soil. I think such a Conference, as I said, comprising very strong delegations from almost

all Parliaments of the world will help to raise the status of this country and the image of Nigeria as the most admirable and democratic state on the continent of Africa.

I beg to move.

**Chief A. M. A. Akinloye** (Ibadan North East): I rise to second this Motion and in doing so I ask leave to add to the very able speech of the Mover of the Motion.

The Inter-Parliament Union Conference was held in the beautiful city of Belgrade, Yugoslavia, between the 12th and the 20th of September, 1963, and may I put on record the very great hospitality of the Government of Yugoslavia, indeed their very lavish hospitality, to the delegates and members of the Association. We were kindly received and well-treated during all the time that we stayed in that country.

I would also like to put on record the very able contribution of the members of the Nigerian delegation to that Conference and the very high performance of the leader of our delegation in the person of Professor Kalu Ezera. Indeed he gave that delegation a very good lead, so much so that our performance at that meeting was highly acclaimed by all members of the Association.

This is a very long Motion, dealing with about seven resolutions of the Union. The first is about space law, the second is about racial discrimination, and the third is a resolution on measures to safeguard peace in the world; then, of course, there is the very important resolution on the world problem of development.

We have also the resolution on measures to create denuclearised zones or areas in the world and measures towards complete disarmament, of course, the resolution on the complete ban of the atomic bomb or nuclear weapons. The last is the resolution on appeal for aid to the city of Skoplje. I will only touch on two of these resolutions as I presume the other speakers will deal with the remaining ones.

The world problem of development seems to me to be very, very important. It is a clear call on the nations of the world to contribute to the development of the developing nations and countries of the world.

It is gratifying to note from the resolution that there is the full appreciation of the fact that the developing countries of the world require more trade and less aid. It has been emphasised over and over again on the Floor of this House that giving aid, to developing countries is not the cure to their ailments. The cure is the promotion of trade in such a way that it will benefit the developing countries of the world.

It is appreciated in the resolution that except there is a general level of economic development, there can be no true peace in the world. That is why the Association at the Conference took this very important resolution calling on the developed nations of the world to contribute their utmost in developing what is known as the "developing" countries in the world.

Then comes the resolution on racial discrimination and I think one thing is very important in this resolution. The Union has accepted, as a matter of principle, and has advocated the principle of positive legislation against all forms of racial discriminations in the world.

I must say in passing that this particular resolution provoked a very heated debate because there was that clash of interest. I am, however, happy to note that the resolution passed in spite of the objections from the few countries who are having some sort of racial discrimination in their country.

As the Mover of the Motion has said, we would like to urge our Government to give the next delegation to this very important Conference the mandate to invite the next Conference or any other Conference for that matter into this country because, as I said, the matter was thrown to us at the Conference, as to whether Nigeria would like to invite the Union to come to Nigeria but we were handicapped because we felt that except we had a clear mandate from the Government it would be unwise to commit the Government as such.

With these few remarks, I support the Motion.

**The Minister of External Affairs (Dr Jaja Wachuku)** : I rise, on behalf of the Federal Government, to speak on this Motion.

As every hon. Member knows, the Parliament of the Federal Republic of Nigeria is an official member of this Inter-Parliamentary Union.

The delegation of Nigeria which attended this and other Conferences of the Inter-Parliamentary Union did so with the full knowledge and sanction of the Government and, as the Member for Bende East (*Professor Ezeora*) has said, the Government did everything possible to make it a success both financially and as far as the comfort of members were concerned. The Government also took care of their security.

As he has also said, before they left the delegation was fully briefed on the various subjects and issues tabled at that Conference.

From the unedited original Motion, there is a little portion of it which is not in the Motion on the Order Paper, that is, "in the form annexed to this Motion". The original Motion as filed reads as follows—

*The Inter-Parliamentary Union : That this House notes with approval the Resolutions adopted by the 52nd Inter-Parliamentary Conference held in Belgrade from 12th to 20th September, 1963, in the form annexed to this Motion.*

I have read this out because the authors of the Motion had made it clear that the seven resolutions had been circulated among Members so that Members should have the opportunity to read them and know what they contain. That explains why I have taken the Floor so early. Having read the Motion, realising that what the Delegation has done is in accord with our policy, and in view of the fact that the Government has no objection to what has been done, I say on behalf of the Government that I accept the Motion wholeheartedly.

I will also say that although this Motion does not contain that aspect which says that the Government should consider inviting the Inter-Parliamentary Union, but I can assure hon. Members that this would be brought to the notice of the Government, and having regard to the elasticity of our purse and the circumstances surrounding budgetary matters in the Federation, I am sure that the Government will have a sympathetic consideration of the question. I am not making a promise, but I would like to assure hon. Members that as far as possible within the limited resources of the Government, the Federal Government will do all in its power in order not to let this nation down.

I beg to support the Motion.

**M. Ibrahim Gusau** (Sokoto West Central) : In supporting this Motion, I only like to add that having accepted it, the Motion has achieved many things. The first is that although our delegation is not the first to attend such a conference, it is the first to report on the Floor of this House what it has done on behalf of this Parliament.

The reason why we advocate that it should be brought to the Floor of this House is that when we send a delegation abroad, it is important that the delegation should not commit the nation. The Inter-Parliamentary Union is a very important international forum where the images of member-nations project their respective countries. Not only that, a conference comprising all the big powers and many small states is not an easy thing. That is the reason why I say that the Government should take note of this warning. It should not only accept what we have done, it should also see to it that it establishes a very good office of Inter-Parliamentary Union in this country.

Those we met in Belgrade are all members of different Parliaments who have been attending such conferences for more than forty years, and although the conference is over, researches are still going on on particular matters which will come up in the next meeting. One would then see that other countries, with the exception of Nigeria, perhaps, have taken this forum as very important.

As the Mover of this Motion said, any conference of more than seventy nations of various races should not be taken as lightly. I would like to warn the Government that research should be undertaken on matter to come up for discussion before another conference takes place. Those who should go to the conference should not beg the Government, but the Government should see to it that it does its duty and sees it that the delegates do not commit it.

Members might be forced to take part in resolutions when the delegation does not know the stand of the Government. This kind of thing weakens the stand of the Government. I would like the Government to understand that to be a member of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, we must be serious. I understand that this is the first time when a delegation like ours has reported to Parliament on what it has done on our behalf.

I beg to support.

**Mr L. J. Dosunmu** (Lagos Central) : I think I have very little to add to what the other members of the delegation have said, but I just want to emphasize the point made by the Member for Sokoto West Central (*M. Ibrahim Gusau*).

It must be clearly understood that the I.P.U. is not an assembly of governments. It is an assembly of parliamentarians, no matter their colour. As a matter of fact, the point was made very clear at the conference that it is only those who have unshakable belief in the supremacy of the parliament that are welcome in that assembly. Dictatorships are not wanted. Those who believe that parliament is the supreme authority in a state have reception at this organisation.

As I said earlier, we went there as parliamentarians and not necessarily as representatives of the Government; and that will explain why, at times, we hold views that are not necessarily in accord with Government policy.

It may strike hon. Members as strange to know that in voting at that assembly, the Nigerian delegation at times split their votes. The same thing happened with the United States of America, and it could happen to Great Britain. In fact, Great Britain did this. Issues that were before that assembly were looked at purely as issues that concern parliamentarians. And that explains why at times, you do not find accord among representatives of a particular country.

I said I was going to support what the Member for Sokoto West Central (*M. Ibrahim Gusau*) said. It is very necessary that there should be a permanent secretariat of I.P.U. and the C.P.A.

We do appreciate the efforts of the Clerks of the Parliaments who accompanied us as secretary, particularly on the last occasion. We are very grateful for the services which our secretary rendered to us. We urge the Government to take this matter very seriously. We urge the Government to take it seriously. Perhaps it is a matter for us as such and not necessarily a matter for the Government, because if I have succeeded in telling you, Mr Speaker, that the I.P.U. as such is an independent organisation, it is not that we would frown on Government help. As a matter of

fact, we can hardly exist without Government funds or finances, but the basic principle should be appreciated by all sides that the I.P.U. is an Inter-Parliamentary Union as it is and not necessarily an arm of the Government, because if it is, there should be no room for those of us who sit on the Opposition Bench.

I am pleading that the Government should give encouragement to suggestions that may emanate from us, members of the I.P.U., in establishing a permanent secretariat not only to look after the affairs of the Union and allied Unions, but also to take charge of the work of the Union when it is not in Session. As the Member for Sokoto West Central has rightly stressed the point, there are some Parliamentarians that take the work of the I.P.U. as a life-time work. They claim that they had been attending the Conferences of the Union for the past twenty years, and they produce records of what happened at subsequent conferences.

We must confess that we Nigerians are guilty of one thing. We are not to change our delegation at any conference, and we regret we must admit that it does not make for efficiency, because if a party attends a conference in Belgrade, as we did last time, and a new set of people have to go to the next one to be held at Lussane, they will be entirely new faces there no matter how brilliant they are. They will be faced with completely different problems, and they have to sum up courage in order to get their heads above water.

So, I am pleading that Members of this House should not grumble when they find that it appears the same set of people attend all these conferences. Somebody has said that a delegate has been going to these conferences for the past 20 years. If this delegate's colleagues in his Parliament in the United Kingdom or United States of America grumbled he would not find himself there. As a result, one would find that the performance of those of us who are green would be nothing as compared with that of the old timers. One must admit that. It is to the good of the country that we send first-class delegates to these international conferences, and the only way to ensure that as far as possible is to observe continuity of membership of our delegations to such international conferences.

We may vary the membership of these delegations to some extent but the core of it should remain. I repeat my plea that those of us who think that we should be changing our delegations as we change our shirts should pardon me for making this suggestion.

We do not intend also to go into the details of the Resolutions, because as the Minister of External Affairs has rightly pointed out, they have been published and they are so clear. The Preambles are clear, and so are the Final Resolutions, and very little words are needed in explanation.

But may I call your attention to the Resolution on Space Law, because that may look far-fetched. It is true that Nigeria is not a space power but nobody knows what may happen between these space powers—United States and Russia—because if anything happens it will inevitably affect us, though at the moment we may claim to be a non-space power.

As I said, I do not need to weary hon. Members by asking them to go into the details of it, but we need to educate ourselves, and nothing will please our colleagues on the I.P.U. more than seeing that we are able to carry the Nigerian Parliament with them in these Resolutions. The points made there are that they want to be re-assured that when we speak at those conferences we have the entire Parliament of Nigeria with us. That explains amongst other things the reason why we have brought these Resolutions back for your endorsement so that when they hear that this Parliament unanimously supports these Resolutions which have been passed in that world assembly, I think the image of Nigeria will continue to grow.

May I make one point before I finish my contribution to this debate. I said it is necessary that we should ensure that those of us who are members of the delegation representing Nigeria in these conferences should be kept intact. May I say that that also goes for our members who will sit in the Executive Committee of this World Assembly. I have confidence in the Member for Bende East (*Professor Kalu Ezera*) who was our leader at the last Conference of the Inter-Parliamentary Union. Nobody can claim to put him in second place in any Assembly. And hon. Members would also be interested to know that he did attempt to contest a seat in the Executive Committee of that Assembly which

[MR DOSUNMU]

is indeed a highly respectable one. One needs to be present at this Assembly to be able to know the qualities of members of delegations that are sent from all other parts of the world.

The Member for Bende East (*Professor Kalu Eze*) was sponsored, and he had the backing of some member-nations. But among those who were contesting for the seat were some old-timers. I am sure he will not yield the pride of place to anybody either by reason of qualifications or achievements in many other respects. The only thing that was against him was because his face was a new one in this World Assembly. So, when that point was made to us by some from whom we were canvassing for assistance, we were compelled to agree that though he was a first-class man, he was very fresh in the Assembly. They want somebody who has been in the Assembly for a very long time. The Ghana man, our next-door neighbour, was able to claim that he had been attending these conferences for the past four or five years as against the leader of our delegation. We were obliged to manoeuvre and withdraw in a grand way though the Ghana man had to withdraw, too. We gave way for somebody who claimed to have qualifications. So, that explains the point I am making that we need to ensure that we send somebody who is well-known and well-used to these world parliamentarians by reason of his frequent attendance at these Conferences. If our man had been doing that he must have made wonderful impressions in the minds of his colleague in that Assembly.

It is very important to secure a seat in the Executive because that is the instrument of policy in that world Assembly. We can only succeed in getting a place there if we send somebody who is well-known to the people there and who has impressed them either by his brilliance or by his performance.

Finally, I plead that the Government should give adequately whenever the I.P.U. approaches for assistance those who hold its purse. The Government should not grudge us for our recommendations but should see that they give us their backing.

**Mr I. A. Brown** (Uyo South West): I rise to support this Motion solely on principle. We are living in this world of Resolutions here and there. As we are being asked to note

with satisfaction this Motion of Inter-Parliamentary Union, there is no doubt that we are bound to note it. But one thing stands out clearly when sending delegates from this country to attend these Inter-Parliamentary Union or C.P.A. conferences. I have had the opportunity once or twice of being a member of the delegation from this country to these world organisations. In 1961 I discovered in one of these conferences held in London that the purpose of this organisation is for some Parliamentarians in other countries, particularly in Britain, to have the chance of bringing Parliamentarians from other countries to a place where they would have the opportunity of projecting the personality or the supremacy of the British Parliament over all the Parliaments of the world. That was the only single aim I discovered. Last year, in November, I had the opportunity of travelling in company of other delegates.—

**The Minister of Transport** (Mr R. A. Njoku): May I correct this false impression that is being created. At the Conference of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association referred to by the Member for Uyo South West (*Mr Brown*) I was Vice-Chairman, and in the subsequent year I was Chairman. There was no intention or attempt by any parliamentarian from any part of the Commonwealth, including the United Kingdom, to impress upon delegates from other countries the equality or personality of Britain. We all went there as equals and that is why the chairmanship is now being rotated. So what the Member for Uyo South West (*Mr Brown*) is saying is not true at all.

**Mr Brown**: There is no other thing one could expect from a chairman of an organisation than what my hon. Friend, the Minister of Transport, is doing. He is only trying to defend his own organisation, but I am informing this House also that I am a member of this organisation and I am therefore in a position to know about it, next to the chairman.

All I was expecting to hear from the Mover of this Motion was the role that the Nigerian Delegation played at this Conference and not the number of resolutions that were passed. I was also expecting him to inform this House how many of those resolutions were moved by the Nigerian Delegation.

**Mr A. A. Ajibola** (Egbado South): What did the hon. Member himself do when he went to London?

**Mr Brown :** I moved Motions.

The Mover of this Motion also informed this House that the presence of the Nigerian Delegation on this Conference provided us with the opportunity of projecting the personality of Nigeria to the outside world. But, in what way did the Nigerian Delegation project the Nigerian personality in this Conference? Was it by using our national costume alone?

One thing we have noticed is that no sooner our Parliamentary Delegation to the Inter-Parliamentary Union leaves this country to attend these Conferences than our own Government forgets about them. On two or three occasions we were not even provided with just a single paper containing information about this country, not even an empty bag bearing some shining information about this country. But on our arrival overseas we were being presented with several documents containing information about countries like Russia, America, Britain and so on, with the result that the only way we could project the personality of this country was through verbal discussions with parliamentarians from other countries. The Ministry of information seems to know nothing about any Delegation leaving this country. The Ministry of External Affairs is not even interested.

**The Minister of External Affairs** (Dr Jaja Wachuku) : On a point of order, I would like hon. Members to be honourable in their speeches. The proposer of this Motion told this House that in the Ministry of External Affairs the members of his delegation were briefed on all the items and issues that were tabled so that they understood everything and had information on everything. Why then does the Member for Uyo South West (*Mr Brown*) say that the Ministry of External Affairs was not interested? One cannot brief people if one is not interested in what they are doing. I think that the hon. Gentleman does not understand the subject of the Motion, and since he does not understand what is being debated he should be asked to sit down.

**Mr Brown :** I am saying that the Ministry of External Affairs has never shown any sign of interest in any delegation leaving this country and I maintain that. Even when I met the Minister of External Affairs last year at the headquarters of the United Nations, I complained about this very thing to him personally and he never refuted that.

I would very much like to refresh the memory of the Minister of External Affairs on this point. When we met him at the United Nations headquarters in New York last year we did not have with us even a single document from his Ministry. As a matter of fact it was the office of the Nigerian Permanent Representatives at the United Nations that helped with some information before we went in to meet other delegations. The Minister's office here knew nothing of our leaving this country.

In support of the suggestion by my hon. Friend the Member for Sokoto West Central (*Mallam Ibrahim Gusau*), I am saying that the establishment of a special office within the Parliamentary building here, with staff being seconded from the Ministry of External Affairs and the Ministry of Information and other Ministries to handle this particular issue of delegations leaving this country, either to I.P.U. or C.P.A. conferences, will help us immensely.

I remember that last year during our tour overseas in many Parliaments that we visited, we were not only being fed but we were also taken round on sight-seeing and given instructions in almost all the Parliaments we visited. We were even lectured and supplied with documents containing information about their Parliaments and other aspects of their lives. I now want to ask the Chairman of this Organisation to say in what form we in Nigeria have been lecturing members of other Parliamentary Delegations that have visited this country and how many of such Delegations we have received ever since he became the Chairman of this Organisation.

**Dr Jaja Wachuku :** On a point of order, I must say again that the hon. Member on that side is most irrelevant. He is debating C.P.A. and not I.P.U., and I would like him to take note of that. It is not the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association that is before this House, it is the Inter-Parliamentary Union. He is also telling this House about the pleasure trip he made to Mexico, which was not a delegation at all.

**Mr Speaker :** The hon. Member will save much of our time if he confines his speech to the Inter-Parliamentary Union.

**Mr Brown :** Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. But may I say that the I.P.U. and the C.P.A. mean one and the same thing.



**Several hon. Members :** No, no.

**Mr Brown :** With these few words, I beg to support.

**Mr D. Senu-Oke (Badagry) :** I also support the Motion. The Motion is so simple that the Minister of External Affairs has accepted it without any amendment. But I will be doing a lot of injustice to my conscience if I do not say a word about what I have seen over there.

In supporting this Motion I have to make some observations. I will start by praising the Prime Minister and all the Cabinet Ministers as a whole for sending the sum of £5,000 to the President of the Socialist Republic of Yugoslavia, Mr Tito, in connection with the tragedy caused by the recent earthquake at the city of Skoplje. I was there myself and I saw how the whole city was completely destroyed by the earthquake.

I had never seen the amount of destruction that an earthquake could cause before until I visited Belgrade for the Inter-Parliamentary Union Conference.

I want hon. Members to imagine a sort of disaster that would hit Lagos and destroy about 90 per cent of the whole town in order to realise what an earthquake is. When we were in Belgrade, the names of the countries that donated money for the relief of the victims of the earthquake were read but Nigeria was not included. It was when the delegation returned to Nigeria and I was making enquiries that I was told that the Federal Government sent £5,000 to the victims of the disaster.

As I said earlier on, there is no need to repeat what the previous speakers on this Motion have said. All the Motion seeks to do is to request this House to note with approval the Resolutions adopted by the Conference. This Motion does not require any long explanation because this honourable House is doing the right thing.

I support all the hon. Members who have contributed to this debate.

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Resolved.* That this House notes with approval the Resolutions adopted by the 52nd Inter-Parliamentary Conference held in Belgrade from 12th to 20th September, 1963, in the form annexed to this Motion.

#### HOUSING SCHEME FOR LOW INCOME WORKERS

**Mr D. Senu-Oke (Badagry) :** I rise to move the Motion standing in my name in the Order Paper—

That this House notes with appreciation the efforts of the Federal Government in providing quarters for workers in the low income group and urges the Government to increase its efforts by building more quarters for workers on all available crown land at Surulere.

This is a straightforward Motion and there is nothing one can quarrel with in it. If this Motion is passed it will amount to a vote of confidence in the Minister of Lagos Affairs and the Federal Government. We all know that the Federal Government has promised to build more houses for the low income group of workers but we want the Federal Government to hasten this project.

There are many low income group of workers in this country who are suffering from the hands of many of our landlords who are capitalists. We want the Federal Government to put in more effort and to develop more interest in providing houses for the low income group of workers.

May I invite the attention of hon. Members to the wording of the Motion. The Motion reads in part—

*“urges the Government to increase its efforts by building more quarters for workers on all available crown land at Surulere”.*

I realise that there is already a scheme introduced by the Federal Government for giving loans to Civil Servants by the African Staff Housing Board to build their own houses. The money voted by the Federal Government for this scheme last year was very small as compared with applications received by this Board for loans. The position is unsatisfactory.

We still have with the Board applications from civil servants dating back to June 1960 still not attended to owing to lack of funds. I think the Federal Government should vote a block sum of money to clear these outstanding applications. I am sure that if the Federal Government can vote a block sum of money for the African Staff Housing Scheme, the scheme can be self-supporting.

There is also the Nigeria Building Society from which civil servants can get money to

build their own houses. It will surprise hon. Members to hear that the Nigeria Building Society has no money now to give to applicants and they also have a long list of applicants for loans. The work of these two bodies would improve a lot if the Federal Government could give them enough financial assistance.

Workers living in the houses built for them at Surulere pay only 35s for a room and a parlour whereas those who live in town pay as much as £5 for one room.

I regard all the landlords in Lagos as capitalists. They keep on building houses around the town to be able to go on collecting fantastic rents. It is only capitalists who do this. I am of the opinion that the Federal Government will be doing a great service for the low income group of workers if more quarters are built on the available crown land at Surulere for them.

I have referred to Surulere because I know that the Federal Government still has some crown land there. At the moment, the land is being controlled by the Lagos Executive Development Board. This Board has been building houses and renting them out to the workers. The Board also builds some houses which it sells to civil servants, but experience has shown that the houses built by the Lagos Executive Development Board are very costly and poorly built.

The low income group of workers cannot even buy these houses because of the high price demanded by the L.E.D.B. On examination, one finds that the categories of civil servants that buy these houses which are built on crown land are Executive Officers, Higher Executive Officers and others in the top grades.

The aim of this Motion therefore is to appeal to the Federal Government to make use of at least seventy-five per cent of crown land for building houses for workers in the low income group. These houses when built, will prevent the low income workers from being enslaved by wealthy landlords.

In this connection, there are vast areas of land at Surulere and at Iponri village—along Western Avenue Road—which the Government can make use of for building houses for the low income workers. The areas mentioned above have been acquired by the Government and should be used for erecting as many houses as possible.

**The Minister of Lagos Affairs** (Alhaji Musa Yar'Adua): On a point of information, I would like the Member for Badagry (*Mr Senu-Oke*) to know that there is nothing like "crown land" instead we have what is called "state land".

**Mr Senu-Oke**: I am really pleased with the Minister's correction because I have observed that the Minister has not filed any Amendment to my Motion. Therefore, I presume that the Minister of Lagos Affairs has indirectly accepted the Motion.

As I was saying, when these houses are built for the low income workers, the Government should also provide them with adequate means of transport. Transport should be provided to convey the workers to their working places. Without adequate means of transport, their wives would not be able to go to the market, and their children would find it difficult to go to school.

In fact, building these houses without simultaneously providing the would-be occupants with adequate means of transport, would place the workers in a very difficult situation.

These houses when built would help to solve the high cost of living of workers in the low-income group and to reduce the frequent demand for increased wages.

I would like the Minister of Lagos Affairs to consider this point carefully because the trouble encountered by the Federal Government to-day arises from the frequent demand for increased wages by workers in this country.

It will be disheartening to note that when these workers' salaries are increased, the landlords indirectly take the increases back, and the workers will remain as they were before the pay increase.

For instance, if a worker's salary is £10 a month and later he gets an increase of £2 which takes his salary to £12 a month, and the landlord takes £3 from him as rent, then it is clear that the increase has not benefited the worker but the landlord. Therefore, the Minister of Lagos Affairs should look into this matter carefully.

I have earlier said that I will be brief, and since it appears to me that the Minister of Lagos Affairs has indirectly accepted the Motion by not filing an Amendment, I would not like to take much of the time of the House.

**Some hon. Members**: Is that all?

**Mr Senu-Oke :** It is not all. I would like to remind hon. Members that this Motion is a very important one. Already the Morgan Commission of Inquiry has been set up to readjust our wage structure. Hon. Members may wish to know that one of the points raised when the Commission was sitting was the question of controlling rent in Lagos and I am sure that the Report of this Commission, when completed, will say something about it. Therefore, the best way to avoid these high rents in Lagos is to build more houses for the low income workers.

As I have said, this is a non-controversial Motion and since the Minister of Lagos Affairs has indirectly accepted it, I commend the Motion to the House for acceptance.

I beg to move.

**Mr C. O. Chiedozie (Enugu) :** I beg to second this Motion. In the first place, we praise the Government for the efforts it has made so far. But this House is now calling on the Government to intensify its efforts. There is no doubt that rent in Lagos is soaring higher and higher owing to increase in population and subsequent overcrowding. Before one gets a room now in Lagos, one would be asked to pay about four or five months rent in advance and having paid this one would be told again to wait. The conditions under which houses are rented out in Lagos are very appalling.

The payment of high rents and high prices of commodities in this country are one of the things militating against the workers. It appears that all the rich men depend upon the workers. The landlords charge high rent, the traders charge high prices and they expect the workers to pay them for all these. Therefore, it is necessary that the Government should embark on a real dynamic rehabilitation system by erecting houses.

The Government, definitely is doing something, but I would like the Minister of Lagos Affairs to bear in mind that the population of Lagos has increased tremendously and will continue to increase.

Therefore, it is necessary that vast areas of land at Surulere and other places should be acquired with a view to building houses for the workers in the low income group.

Hon. Members will realise that overcrowding causes ill health and in consequence, militates

against the workers, and when the workers are ill, their rate of productivity is lowered considerably. When one is sick or unhealthy, one cannot produce as much as one would have done if one were healthy.

There are no ventilations in overcrowded houses and when houses are not properly ventilated, they cause sickness. Overcrowded houses can always be seen in first class townships. If under these conditions the workers output is low, it is not because their intention is to lower output, but because there are internal and external forces militating against them.

Hon. Members will agree with me that the workers are the lowest paid in this country. We should remember that these workers are expected to pay the school fees of their children, feed them and also have to marry in order to satisfy the ordinary necessity of life. As hon. Members are well aware, sociologically the African is polygamous. If a person is going to live an average life, he must, at least, get a wife and if he is highly productive, he will get up to twelve children.

**An hon. Member :** How many do you have ?

**Mr Chiedozie :** What I am saying is true. In Africa to-day only those countries that have high population are talking. If one looks all over the world, one will discover that countries that have high population are the ones that are talking to-day. If a country with a low population attempts to talk, she will be told to go and sit down.

In international relations, the voices of nations are reflected through their population basis; that is true. When China is speaking, we cannot say anything and when we are speaking, Ghana should not be expected to say anything. We should not mind some people who compare us with Ghana. That is a very great insult. Ghana has a population of about four million people. Their population is only equal to that of Owerri or Onitsha Province. The fact that we have many children and that we are paying their school fees up to university education level does not mean that we have money.

We have five universities in Nigeria now and we expect to send our children there. Where will the money come from if the workers have not a penny to save? If the houses are built and workers are allowed to live there on very

small rental basis, they could then have some surplus with which to feed their children and maintain them in universities.

It is a fact that everybody wants his child to go to a university, because university education is not the prerogative of the big men alone. We want equal opportunity and we can only do this by alleviating the suffering of these workers.

One of the ways of alleviating their suffering is to plan a housing programme for them in order to help them.

There is no doubt that throughout our political struggle, workers contributed much to bring us to where we are to-day. Directly or indirectly, they have helped the nation. Therefore, one of the problems facing us is to try and increase their standard of living.

I would like the Minister of Lagos Affairs to take our criticisms in good faith. There is no doubt that he is doing very well as far as Lagos is concerned. Although, this Motion is in respect of Lagos, I want to add that the same thing should apply to the other important towns in the Federation, and one of the most effective ways is to establish a Housing Corporation charged with the responsibility of building houses in large numbers for the low-income group.

The Eastern Government has established a Housing Corporation for the low-income workers in the East. If this is done for Lagos, it will be quite all right, after all the aim is to help the workers. Once the workers are satisfied, we and also the Minister himself would have little to quarrel with.

With these few remarks, I beg to second.

**The Minister of Lagos Affairs** (Alhaji Musa Yar'Adua) : I rise to accept this Motion. In accepting this Motion, I would like to tell this House that a sum of £1,344,000 has been set aside for housing development in the 1962-68 Economic Development Plan period. A proposed low-cost housing scheme for lower income group workers is being actively pursued and within the next few weeks, Government will take back from the L.E.D.B., the 63 acres of land in Surulere where it is proposed to :

- (a) develop the site by provision of roads, drainage, *et cetera* ;
- (b) construct initially 1,400 housing units ;

(c) extend the area as and when the housing units mentioned are sold, which will make available further funds for extension.

The Lagos Executive Development Board has been charged with the responsibility for laying out the area and a suitable design for the houses is being considered. It is the aim to provide a housing unit which will cost between £500 and £700. The housing unit will be a two-room or three-room dwelling of permanent construction supplied with electricity and water services.

The purchaser would be required to finish the interior of the house. It is the aim to produce such a dwelling by mass production methods at a cost which will allow individuals to purchase them at a reasonable price which can be paid at a moderate monthly charge payable over twenty years. It is hoped that this scheme will see the construction of the 1,400 such housing units within the shortest possible time.

**The Deputy Speaker** : Order. In view of the statement made by the Minister and in view of the fact that this topic has already been clearly stated as being part of the Government policy in His Excellency's Speech, I do not suppose that we should waste a lot of time in debating it further.

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Resolved* : That this House notes with appreciation the efforts of the Federal Government in providing quarters for workers in the low income group and urges the Government to increase its efforts by building more quarters for workers on all available crown land at Surulere.

#### NIGERIA'S BRIDGES AND FLOODS

**Mr R. N. Muojeke** (Awka Central) : I am very much emboldened to move this Motion which stands in my name, not only because it is simple, straightforward and non-controversial, but because it commends itself to all sections of the community—I mean the man on the street, Members of this august House and all the Governments of the Republic. The Motion reads as follows—

That, in view of the increasing havoc wrought regularly against our commerce by broken and over-flooded bridges on our national highways, this House calls upon the

[MR MUOJEKE]

*Government to take prompt and all-embracing steps to prevent recurrence of broken and over-flooded bridges.*

Before I go further with the details of this Motion, may I refresh the memory of hon. Members of this House that the Motion has been substantially accepted by no less a person than the President of the Republic, Dr Nnamdi Azikiwe, when in his Presidential Speech, page 2, paragraph 8, he said as follows—

*To help reduce accidents on our highways, all new bridges that will be constructed during the current Development Plan will either be constructed to 24-foot width or will be so constructed as to allow for subsequent widening.*

The fact that our bridges break now and again or are carried away by floods is no news to us. Only two years ago, we heard that on our Akure 'Trunk A' road between Onitsha and Lagos, a bridge was carried away by flood and that the East-West traffic was brought to an abrupt halt.

Travellers who passed through the road had to make a detour of about a hundred miles via Lokoja and Idah in order to get back to Onitsha, wandering in the bush like the Israelites in the desert when they left Egypt in search of the promised land.

Again it was only a few weeks ago that a bridge was again carried away by flood a few miles from here at Ikeja and many of our Members actually suffered inconveniences, apart from the cost to the nation. These are a few specific examples on our trunk 'A' roads. If we go back to, say, the North or the East, the story of broken bridges and over-flooded roads is a common experience. Only last year the bridge at Ugwuoba in Awka on the trunk 'A' road through Onitsha and Enugu was also carried away by flood. In the North also the trunk 'A' road between Onitsha and Jos is what may be described as a death-trap in the nature of small antiquated bridges. We who come from rural areas know that the story of broken bridges and washed off roads is even still sadder and more distressing and depressing than is generally known.

If I take my constituency, for example, we will find that most important towns are cut off one from the other, thickly populated towns like Ogunka and Owerre-Ezukala;

Akpugo is cut off from Ufuma; Ajali from Ndiokpaleze; Mbaukwu from Umuawulu and Adazienu from Nnokwa.

**The Deputy Speaker :** Order. The towns and villages I think are not on trunk 'A' roads. I would ask the Member for Awka Central (*Mr Muojeke*) to leave these to the Regional Government.

**Mr Muojeke :** In order to develop these areas, I would ask the Minister of Works to take immediate steps to convert these roads into trunk 'A' roads.

**The Deputy Speaker :** Order. If it is the case of conversion of roads into trunk 'A' then exactly it does not come within the scope of the Motion. This Motion is assumed to deal with bridges that are already within the competence of the Federal Government.

**Mr Muojeke :** These towns I mentioned are on the trunk 'A' roads. May I ask the Minister of Works and Surveys whether most of these towns on the trunk 'A' road are approved roads? Adazienu, Mbaukwu, Umuawulu, Ajalli, Ndiokpaleze be not allowed—

**Chief O. B. Akin-Olugbade (Egba South) :** On a point of order, the Member for Awka Central (*Mr Muojeke*) should abide by the ruling of the Chair. We know that this is election year and we would like to give an account of our stewardship to our constituencies, but since his home town is not on a trunk 'A' road, he should please deal with the Motion.

**The Deputy Speaker :** I do not think it is necessary for me to make any more ruling on that again except to appeal to the hon. Gentleman to leave his regional colleagues something to talk about in the Regional House of Assembly.

**Mr Muojeke :** We should take account of the continuous hold-ups and spoil and lost merchandise and damaged vehicles on our trunk 'A' roads. These obstructions and losses arise as a direct result of our bridges on trunk 'A' roads being either broken or water-logged during the rainy season. We can imagine the amounts we are losing in terms of money. If we have a statistical data I can assure this House that the amount wasted as a

result of the havoc on our trunk 'A' roads caused by broken bridges will run into millions of pounds. If we continue to waste millions of pounds in this way we shall be going abegging.

**Several hon. Members :** We do not beg.

**Mr Muojeke :** Yes, we go abegging. If we improve our roads, a lot of money will be saved and we shall not go abegging either individually or as a nation. We know that the cause of high price of things in Nigeria is the difficulty to transport our commodities from one part of the country to another. You know, that some countries where transport facilities have been modernised one commodity in one part of the country commands the same price in another part. Again, we hear every now and then that our balance of trade is always unfavourable to the nation's economy. This is because most of our commodities are so bulky and so heavy that the cost of transporting them from the place where they are produced to the ports makes their prices so exorbitant that eventually when they are sent overseas they fetch the prices which are not sufficient to pay for manufactured products.

I wish to say that we have very industrious and energetic and hard-working Minister of Works, and I implore him to immortalise his name on the roads. I know that he does his best to improve the conditions of the roads. He can do this in one or other of these ways :

- (a) by widening and fortifying our existing bridges ;
- (b) by constructing more durable bridges ;
- (c) by raising our bridges above high-flood levels so that no menacing floods would in future reach them.
- (d) by taking over most of the regional roads and bridges and also by giving financial assistance and expert advice to our Regional Governments.

We know that our Regional Governments are doing a great deal to improve their roads, and in this matter of high-ways and bridges the Federal Government can come to their rescue, otherwise the burden could be too much for them. The North is such a vast area that unless the Federal Government gives financial assistance and expert advice to the Regional Government, the burden will be too much for them.

In the East the present Minister of Works, Hon. Ururuka, is doing his very best to provide the areas with the much needed roads and bridges, but unless the Federal Government gives him the much needed financial and expert advice, he will find his task very unpleasant.

What I have said about the North and the East applies also to the Mid-West. It is only unfortunate now that the present leaders of Western Nigeria think that it will pay them more to play politics with the conditions of the roads in the West. But whenever it pleases God to give them leaders acceptable to them, and when they ask the Federal Government to give them financial help and expert advice, I hope the Minister will give them that without grudge.

I will appeal to the Minister of Works that in converting some of these bridges and roads, especially as far as townships are concerned, he should do his utmost to see that existing monuments and buildings are not expropriated, distorted or mutilated. I have in mind the All Hallos Seminary at Onitsha, because a road is to be constructed which will pass through it to the bridgehead, which is as far as one mile off. I think the Minister of Works will use his good offices to see that in constructing this road, nothing is done to mutilate this Seminary that gives Onitsha its beauty, its importance and, if I may add, its prominence.

This Motion is non-controversial and non-contentious, and I wholeheartedly ask all hon. Members here to support it, cherish it and commend every letter of it to the pushful Federal Government.

I beg to move.

**Mr F. A. M. Amadi** (Nsukka Central) : I rise to second this admirable Motion, so ably proposed by my hon. Friend, the Member for Awka Central (*Mr Muojeke*). I believe that this Motion is of such interest to this House that it will pass through with acclamation.

Nevertheless, I think it might be just as well, in seconding this Motion, to remind this honourable House in general and the Minister of Works in particular, that by bringing this Motion, we are only trying to help the Government to implement some of the vital proposals which they have undertaken for the people. If you refer to the Annual Report of the Public

[MR AMADI]

Works Department for the year 1955-56, Chapter 8, paragraph 1, you will find Mr Speaker, this statement, with your permission, I quote—

*“The main trunk roads of Nigeria which alone of the road systems are a Federal responsibility, are planned to give access to all parts of the Federation”.*

I have made this particular point because we must realise that this Motion is not intended for any particular region or particular district. As the introduction says here, the roads are meant to give access to all parts of the Federation. We are all appealing to the Minister of Works to make sure that these trunk roads which alone of the systems are a Federal responsibility do actually give access to all parts of the Federation.

What do we see? These trunk roads that we talk very much about do not cover very much area at all. If you compare the mileage of roads maintained by the Western Nigeria Government or the Eastern Nigeria Government, not to talk of the Northern Nigerian Government, you will find that the trunk ‘A’ roads which are the responsibility of the Federal Government are very small. So it will be a shame if this limited mileage of roads maintained by the Federal Government are not always kept in perfect condition.

**Chief D. N. Abii** (Owerri East): Is the hon. Gentleman saying shame to the Minister then?

**Mr Amadi**: Well, the situation is very shameful. I will prove further to you that the condition of the roads is very shameful. I am not withdrawing that statement at all because if you look at the Report of the Nigeria Police for the year 1962, chapters 38-41, you will find that there were 14,130 accidents on the roads in 1961 and 16,317 (note the increase) in 1962, and of this number 1,578 were fatal. If we lose as many as nearly 2,000 people every year on road accidents alone, I think this is sufficient indication to us that something ought to be done about the roads. The present condition of the roads is bad.

I also realise that other factors contribute to these road accidents. Nevertheless, it must be admitted also that the conditions of the roads also lead to these accidents. They do because if we analyse these figures, we will

find that a good number of the fatal accidents occurred where mammy-waggons and other heavy waggons run into rivers because of the narrow bridges. We all know the amount of loss of property involved in these accidents.

We appeal to the Minister of Works to take into serious advisement this Motion which seeks to bring the Federation abreast of modern times.

While talking about these roads and bridges one cannot help remembering that up till now antiquated and dilapidated pontoons are still being used in linking roads. I am thinking particularly now of the inter-regional link between Eastern and Northern Nigeria. One travelling from Nsukka to Idah will have to cross a river, and what does he cross by? He crosses in one of these barrel pontoons which were used by Commissioners in the earlier days of the twentieth century.

**The Minister of Works and Surveys** (Alhaji Muhammadu Inuwa Wada): That is not a Federal road, but an inter-regional road.

**Mr Amadi**: As a matter of fact, I am very happy the Minister has turned round to say that it is not a Federal Road, but an inter-regional road. I agree. But it is an inter-regional road connecting a university town with such a big town.

**An hon. Member**: The hon. Gentleman is becoming irrelevant. An inter-regional road is different from a trunk ‘A’ road.

**Mr Amadi**: I do not think I am irrelevant.

There is also another thing we have to consider in this question of roads. The prestige of this country, to a great extent, also rests on our roads. Strangers tend to form an opinion about the people when driving on our roads. If they find the roads so uncomfortable, they are bound to have a very bad impression of us.

In this connection, one might even quote an example of what happened during the flooding of the Ikorodu road last year. I had this bitter experience myself. A young Englishman had spent eight months in my school on voluntary service and was going home to the United Kingdom. He travelled from Nsukka down to Ikorodu. He was compelled to get out of the lorry and cross the narrow river in a canoe and he carried on his head

his suit-case for six miles. This boy, when he gets back to his University in England, will, of course, talk to his friends about the country where he spent eight months. What impression will the people to whom he speaks get about Nigeria? That is only a single example from my own experience; I do not know whether other hon. Members have experienced the same thing.

And what about our investors and other visitors? Will an investor be very delighted to invest his capital in a country where the means of transport is not quite secure; where there is danger that all his capital might be destroyed because of uncertainty of transport; where his goods might be thrown into a river by vehicles or carried away by floods? I do not think so.

**Chief D. N. Abii** (Owerri East): What of hurricanes?

**Mr Amadi**: That is a natural phenomenon. The washing away of bridges is something we can overcome by our engineering experience.

So, I hope that this very interesting and important Motion which is so useful to the country will be seriously taken up, not only accepted but also acted upon by the Minister of Works and Surveys.

I mentioned earlier the situation of the inter-regional road between Nsukka and Idah. What about the Federal road between Alade and Makurdi? What has happened to it? As far as I know, the road is still untarred and the bridges are nothing but a death-trap. What about the roads between Owerri and Aba? Two of them were washed away by flood during the last rainy season. What has been done about these things? Surely, the engineering knowledge we have in this country should be able to help us to cope with these problems, if only the proper people would be put on the job. Here is not where we are going to talk about Nigerianisation. The job of building these roads and bridges, more especially the approaches to the roads, should be given to people who are capable of doing it.

**Chief Abii**: No matter where they come from.

**Mr Amadi**: No matter where they come from. We want efficiency there. These roads are not being built for one or two years. They are being built for generations yet to come. The

only thing for which you can talk about Nigerianisation is the question of supervision. We can get an expert to make sure that those people who are given the job to do on contract, whether indigenous or expatriate, do it according to requirement.

I would like to end perhaps on the same note as the proposer of this Motion. It is with a heavy heart that I am appealing to the Minister of Works and Surveys to re-consider the desecration and the mutilation of monuments and existing institutions. I think that in spite of all I have said, if a road is going through an occupied area, then by all means such a road should not tamper with any existing institutions or monuments. I am talking about the situation of All Halos Seminary, Onitsha. This Seminary is more than a mile from the bridge-head, but for the simple reason of having a traffic island, not even that the road will necessarily pass through it, but for the simple reason of having a traffic island, we want to mutilate and desecrate the old institution where we are producing the leaders of tomorrow. I appeal strongly to the Minister of Works and Surveys to see that that does not happen.

I have the plan of the whole business and I will produce it to the Speaker if he so desires. It is for the simple reason of having a traffic island that we want to mutilate the existing institution. In fact, there is already a turnover from getting into the major road, and yet we want a continuation in order to have a traffic island, and for that simple reason, the Seminary that is producing for us the leaders of tomorrow is going to be mutilated. I appeal strongly to the Minister to advise the contractors or whoever are concerned not to do that.

With these few words, I beg to support the Motion.

**The Minister of Works and Surveys** (Alhaji Muhammadu Inuwa Wada): I rise to accept the Motion (*Hear, hear*).

The hon. Mover of the Motion has mentioned that the acceptance of the Motion was contained in the Speech delivered by the President. I should also like to remind hon. Members that some time ago, not very long ago, I made a statement on the Floor of this House, just after the two road links between Lagos and the rest of Nigeria were cut by the floods of which the Mover is now complaining.



[ALHAJI INUWA WADA]

In my statement, I said the Government and indeed my Ministry were doing all we could to restore the vital links to normal use. I am sure hon. Members who have come to Lagos by road should have noticed the extensive amount of work we have done on the Ikorodu road and the road to Ibadan via Abeokuta.

Floods and heavy rains are natural phenomena. We cannot control them and to build roads and bridges to be able to withstand all rains and all floods will be so expensive that I am sure hon. Members will not advise us to do it.

**Several hon. Members :** We will.

**Alhaji Inuwa Wada :** However, we do all that is possible to foresee the normal floods and normal rains and build roads and bridges to withstand them.

**Chief D. N. Abii (Owerri East) :** That is not sufficient.

**Alhaji Inuwa Wada :** I want hon. Members to remember that when I made my statement, I said that in order to bring the Federal trunk "A" roads to a first-class standard, a sum of £195 million is required over a period of 10 years. Hon. Members know very well how rich we are in Nigeria. This huge sum of money simply cannot be provided. Other Ministries have equally important subjects which have equal claim on the Federal revenue. I need not tell hon. Members how much money was allocated to my Ministry for the period 1962-68. Besides, Sir, it is said that one cannot eat one's cake and have it. On the one hand, hon. Members want us to construct first-class roads and first-class bridges and on the other hand, they come and say that each one of them wants something to be done for his constituency. If we are to construct roads and bridges up to the standard required I am sure the experts in my Ministry will only be too pleased. But how many miles will the money provided construct ?

Therefore, when we come to plan the road system of the Federal Republic, a number of things must be taken into consideration; political consideration and also equal distribution of amenities to all parts of the Federation. Very often, we are forced to stretch the money, stretch it to almost breaking point, with the result that standards have to be sacrificed.

But now, we are trying to adopt the policy of constructing roads and bridges which can stand up to the traffic which is using them.

His Excellency the President said in his Speech that all roads and bridges we construct now will be constructed to standard specifications and the old ones will be improved, widened and so on. Because I take it that hon. Members are already aware of the statement I made in the House, I do not want to take too long a time in dealing with this subject.

The Mover of the Motion and the Seconder made certain points which I should like to reply to. There is one especially concerning the approach road to the Onitsha bridge. We are being accused of constructing the road through seminary and of disregarding appeals sent to us by the people concerned. I want to assure hon. Members that we did not decide on the alignment of that road until after very full and exhaustive consultation with the Eastern Regional Government. The Federal Government or, to be more precise, the Minister of Lagos Affairs does not go outside Lagos to acquire land. If we require any land for Federal purposes, my colleague the Minister of Lagos Affairs—

**M. J. M. Damla (Pankshin West) :** On a point of order, Sir, I want to remind the Minister of Works that the roads from Bida to Lokoja and from Jos to Kaduna should be seriously considered because these roads—

**The Deputy Speaker :** Order ! Will the Minister continue ?

**Alhaji Inuwa Wada :** I was saying that my colleague, the Minister of Lagos Affairs, did not go on his own to acquire that piece of land. The land was acquired for the Federal Government by his counterpart in the Eastern Regional Government. Therefore, if there is any complaint I take it that it should be directed not to me but to the Eastern Regional Government. I want to assure hon. Members that before that land was acquired and before the road was decided upon the Minister responsible for Land in the Eastern Region consulted everybody concerned and this went on for quite some time, for about two years. Right from the time they started and up till now no complaint has been lodged and we take it that everything is all right and so we are going ahead.

I am afraid it is too late and the road is already being constructed and I am sure the only part of this institution touched by the road is the very part of it which will in no way interfere with the normal running of the institution. That is by the way.

**Mr R. N. Muojeke** (Awka Central): On a point of order, Sir, I have to inform the Minister of Works that a protest letter was sent to the Ministry of Works as far back—

**The Deputy Speaker**: Order, order. I certainly will not accept such an obvious violation of Standing Orders. If a Member rises on a point of order it is too much to expect him to start off from a point of information.

**Alhaji Inuwa Wada**: The hon. Member who spoke, I think the Mover of the Motion, wants the Federal Government to give not only expert advice but also financial assistance to the Regional Government. I have already said that we are very tight as far as funds are concerned; and besides, the revenue allocation system of the Federal Republic takes into account the requirements of the Regional as well as the Federal Governments and each Government is allocated money enough for its purposes. As far as roads are concerned the Federal Government is responsible for Trunk 'A' roads and the Regional Governments, Trunk 'B' roads.

It was the seconder of the Motion who made mention of the prestige of Nigeria suffering because of our roads. I want to tell him that our road system is second to none in the whole of Africa. I am not talking of the road systems in Europe and America, but no country in the whole of Africa has as many miles of tarred and paved roads as we have in Nigeria. Those of us who have been abroad have seen that in some cases they tar main roads which serve as show pieces and as soon as you leave these show pieces there is nothing more. I want to assure hon. Members that we have nothing to be ashamed of as far as our roads are concerned. (*Hear, hear.*)

Coming to the question of untarred roads, I quite agree with hon. Members that there are miles of untarred roads in all parts of the Federation and it is simply impossible for us to tar all Federal Trunk "A" roads, but I want to say that it is the intention of the Federal Government to continue tarring and paving these roads as and when funds are available.

Before I conclude I want to assure hon. Members that the terms of the Motion are accepted and it is the policy of the Federal Government to do everything possible to keep our roads in good condition. The same thing goes for our bridges. The old ones will be improved and the new ones constructed to standard specifications in a way that will keep our traffic moving.

**Chief O. B. Akin-Olugbade** (Egba South): On a point of information, I want to ask the Minister of Works to see that the roads are put in good condition in good time.

**The Deputy Speaker**: I do not know if at this stage I can appeal to the House. Since matters dealing with roads and bridges inevitably feature prominently during the debate on the Budget and during the Committee Stage and I wonder if I have the permission of the House to put the Question?

*There was general assent.*

*Question put and agreed to.*

**Resolved**: That, in view of the increasing havoc wrought regularly against our commerce by broken and over-flooded bridges on our national highways, this House calls upon the Government to take prompt and all embracing steps to prevent recurrence of broken and over-flooded bridges.

#### MADE-IN-NIGERIA GOODS

**M. Yusha'u A. Mohammed** (Kubau Soba): I beg to move—

"That, in view of the fact that some of the products hitherto imported into this country are now manufactured locally, and since these locally manufactured goods do not get enough patronage from our people, this House urges the Federal Government to encourage local producers by organising a trade fair for goods made in Nigeria."

I think the Federal Government could help our local producers by organising a trade fair for goods manufactured in Nigeria. It would appear that locally manufactured articles are not being patronised as much as one would expect. This is a problem which confronts each and everyone of us. It is high time that we should patronise made-in-Nigeria goods.

[M. YUSHA'U MOHAMMED]

Frankly speaking, it is time we rallied round the goods manufactured in Nigeria instead of rallying round those goods being imported under the British imperialist. Since the producers of these locally manufactured articles are registered with the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, I see no reason why the Ministry of Commerce and Industry should not help them.

For instance, some imported goods sold in this country are more expensive than the articles produced locally. An imported article costing about two pounds, ten shillings would probably cost less if the article were bought locally.

After all, Nigeria is one of the biggest African countries in the continent and since some of the small African countries could recognise and patronise their locally manufactured goods, I think Nigeria should patronise her locally manufactured goods. We produce various goods in Nigeria, and as a matter of fact, the Federal Government should encourage the producers of these articles.

If the Minister of Commerce and Industry is sincere enough I hope he will organise such a trade fair in order to help the producers of our locally manufactured goods. In doing so, he could invite all the local producers and inform them how best he could help them. Although the Minister might be busy, nevertheless he could delegate this task to his Parliamentary Secretary and I am sure he would carry it out well.

This is a very simple Motion and I commend it to the House.

It is reasonable to the extent that we have our tenants—

**Mr J. M. Damla** (Pankshin West) : On a point of order, I think my hon. Friend is not speaking seriously on the Motion.

**The Deputy Speaker** : I think we do everything possible to encourage freedom of speech on the Floor of this House, and certainly Members can develop their styles along their own lines.

**M. Yusha'u A. Mohammed** : In Nigeria to-day, not only have we many things to introduce to other African countries but the fact is that we have various things which even European countries can buy from us and I am advocating that these things should be manu-

factured in Nigeria. We cannot show examples to other African countries by our democratic practices alone. We must make them feel and recognize our supremacy by selling goods manufactured in this country to them.

This Motion I am introducing is very important. I can remember that in 1950 or thereabouts, a Member of this Parliament raised a Motion here demanding the production of local goods in this country. I do not mean the simple things that are being produced at present but that we should include the major ones. I think it is high time that we thought of the things that would be in the best interest of our people so as to rely on our own locally manufactured goods as much as possible. This should be on such a big scale as will free us from reliance on the products of our former colonial masters.

It is high time people were encouraged to do things for themselves in this country. For example, we should not only manufacture things like pomade, matches, powder and shoes, but we should extend this to the manufacture of things like guns, machine tools, *et cetera*. I must say that even the things we manufacture locally at present are undertaken by British firms and not by Nigerian firms. The Ministry of Commerce and Industry must not neglect those who are trying to carry out local production. I would like the Ministry to note that it is not only capital alone that organises big industries but patronage and it is the duty of the Minister to see that this is encouraged within his own Ministry.

If, for example, I have company of tailors that can sew gowns, shirts, trousers, *et cetera*, I think it will be very useful to Nigerians. Yet, we have tailors here in Nigeria who can sew these things but who are not encouraged. I see no reason why we should continue to rely on those clothings that we order from overseas.

I implore the Federal Government, through the Minister of Commerce and Industry to encourage local industries in Nigeria.

**Several hon. Members** : The hon. Member should sit down if he has no more points to make.

**The Deputy Speaker** : May I please implore the House to be a bit sympathetic with the hon. Member. Under Standing Order 33, he has got a good length of time in which to speak.

**M. Yusha'u A. Mohammed** : Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move.

**Mr Kemte Giadom** (Ogoni West) : I rise to second the Motion. I think the Motion has been ably moved and I am going to second it and in seconding it I would like to emphasise that the Motion is very important and should be viewed with all seriousness.

In dealing with Nigerian goods, and when we talk of Nigeria as a free country, we always think of freedom in the political sense chiefly, but I may add that Nigeria can never attain the position of a truly politically free country without these conditions being looked into. I think that is what this Motion seeks to impress on the minds of the Members of this House. It is true that the Government has encouraged some kind of trade fairs to ginger up the manufacturers or producers not only of Nigerian origin but those from other nations. We watched some international trade fairs in this country some time ago and in my opinion as I see it, the motive behind this Motion is to show that such international trade fairs—

**Mr M. C. K. Obi** (Afenmai East) : On point of order, the time is now one o'clock.

**The Deputy Speaker** : Order ! Under Standing Orders, the interpretation of time is for the Chair.

**Mr Giadom** : As I was saying, the Motion seeks to remind us of the international trade fairs that have been encouraged in this country.

**The Deputy Speaker** : It is now one o'clock and sitting is suspended until three o'clock.

*Sitting Suspended : 1 p.m.*

*Sitting resumed : 3.00 p.m.*

**Mr K. Giadom** : As I was saying in the morning in support of this Motion, political freedom will not be enough for this country. We also need economic freedom and this economic freedom can only be achieved when most of our consumer goods are produced in this country. By this, I mean that Government should do all that is possible to inculcate in Nigerian citizens the sense of pride for things that are Nigerian. This does not mean that foreign goods which are essential in our life or in our nation should be prohibited for the mere sake of prohibiting foreign goods in the country.

Because of the stage of our development, foreign goods which at present cannot be produced in this country and are essential in our life should be encouraged, but we should do so with serious advisement. It will be disheartening to see that things like chicken, fish and some vegetables that can be produced here in Nigeria are imported. These are the sort of things that we want prohibited. We want Government to work seriously to discourage the import of such goods.

We appreciate the effort of the Government to promote international trade fairs in the country and thereby advertising the goods or products made in our country. But if we look back on the few trade fairs that have been held in this country, we will see that they have not fulfilled the main object we had in mind. We know that they were organised on a level that does not make it possible for the average Nigerian producer to come out to compete by way of advertisement at the trade fair.

So, we see that only big foreign concerns and some Nigerian producers, who have through some hard labour, come to a stage that they could cope with such competition, advertise their goods. If this type of trade fair is encouraged over and above the type that we have in mind and which I am going to name presently, we shall see that things made in Nigeria will not be advertised sufficiently to merit their proper position in their country.

The type of trade fair which I have in mind and that should go in conjunction with the ones that are being undertaken by the Government is the inter-regional type. These inter-regional trade fairs to be promoted by the Government will have to educate Nigerians about their country and the things made in it. I observe that many of us are very ignorant about things made in this country and rather we know more about the things made in other countries.

For example, I had the opportunity of travelling on some occasions to the Northern Region and, therefore, I can say that there are many things that are made in that Region which should be advertised in other regions of the country. This will help to educate Nigerian citizens about their country. This will also promote unity amongst the people of Nigeria. It is just like sports. When one goes to the field one meets people from different parts of the country or even from other nations and everybody exchanges views and ideas and as a result certain misunderstandings are removed.

[GIADOM]

If we have inter-regional trade fair promoted, it will give opportunity to the different tribes of the country to meet, and when we go round to see these goods we also discuss other things and have more understanding of the other parts of the country. It will help a great deal in the solution of the disunity problem in the country. It will also help in the solution of unemployment problem. If Government encourages this type of advertisement by promoting inter-regional trade fairs and many of our Nigerian goods are advertised our people will be encouraged to use these goods and as a result there will be a great demand for Nigerian goods. This will result in demand of labour, and where there is a demand of labour we know that it means that more hands will be employed and employment will thus be given to our school leavers. In this respect it has also helped to solve our unemployment problems.

It is really very amazing that here in this country we grow cotton and make singlets, or undershirts as some people call them, and underpants and one sees that Nigerians prefer to buy foreign singlets. So, we would like the Government to come out with bold steps to encourage the purchase and the use of these Nigerian made goods.

**An hon. Member :** Not Ijebu !

**Mr Giadom :** Ijebu or no Ijebu, they are Nigerian made.

**An hon. Member :** Does the Member mean 'Okrika wake up' ?

**Mr Giadom :** 'Okrika wake up' is a term given to foreign goods imported into this country but that is not what I am after. I am talking of really beautiful cotton goods that are produced in the Northern Region and in some parts of the Western Region. I think they are goods that we can proudly say are made in our country and they can be used in any part of the world.

While I do not want to belabour the issue, I feel that my seconding this Motion this afternoon will not be complete without referring to one important aspect of our national development and that is the sovereignty of Nigeria. This sovereignty can never be enhanced with only political freedom without pride in things made in Nigeria. I have made this point because one always sees on the pages of newspapers and magazines or hears on the radios advertisement

about French spaghetti, American food and so on. All these foodstuffs are produced in these countries and the natives of these countries take pride in advertising and using these goods. So, by encouraging the people to take pride in things made in our country and not develop any inferiority complex while using them we will be projecting the personality of our country and at the same time enhancing the sovereignty of our country.

When we continue giving preference to things made in other countries we belittle ourselves in the eyes of the world. Other countries will feel that we are not actually independent because we really cannot own certain things as our own. This question of asking the Government to promote trade fairs at inter-regional level so that producers of things made in Nigeria will be encouraged is really important and it will help in the advertisement of our country in the right direction and this, I am sure, is the greatest wish of all Nigerian citizens.

So, in the Motion we are just asking the Government to do things that are possible. We do not say that the Government has not put in any effort by way of promoting trade fairs but what we are saying is that the type of trade fairs we have now is just international in outlook and does not give opportunity to very many Nigerian producers to advertise their goods. I am saying with all seriousness that Government should see that inter-regional trade fairs are promoted because they are really very important, as I have said, in the promotion of the unity of the country.

I beg to second the Motion.

**Minister of State** (Alhaji Usumanu Maitamari) : I beg to amend the Motion as follows—

Line 1, leave out from "That" to end of Question and add—

"this House expresses its satisfaction with the untiring effort of the Government to ensure adequate local consumption of all goods manufactured in the country."

The Motion, as it stands, seems to imply that the Federal Government has not taken necessary steps to ensure adequate local consumption of all locally manufactured goods. It also proceed to suggest a remedy which, in my view, may not necessarily achieve the desired effect, that is adequate local patronage.

Hon. Members may be aware that the recent increases in import duty ranging from 33½ per cent to 85 per cent *ad valorem* were designed to provide the fullest protection for local producers of the products affected. By giving such protection, it is expected that the price of the imported article would be higher than the local one thereby compelling the average consumer to buy the cheaper local production. A similar situation developed last year when corned beef from Argentina, because of the devaluation of the local currency, entered the country at ridiculously low prices. On discovery, immediate steps were taken to increase import duty to 50 per cent *ad valorem*. Since then, reports have been received of increased patronage of the local product and the manufacturers themselves have confirmed that their products have never had it so good.

Closely tied up with the above is the idea of putting some of these products on specific licence. This has been discovered to be a very effective device of giving protection to local producers while at the same time stabilising the prices of these products at competitive levels. By these devices, goods are imported to supplement local production to the extent that the latter falls short of total consumption. Because of its effectiveness, it has now been decided to put more items on the list and these will be gazetted later this week.

Thirdly, I must mention that I have myself on several occasions made representation to my Colleagues in charge of Corporations and bulk-purchasing departments to patronise local industries. While I must admit that the response I have so far received has been encouraging, I feel there is still room for improvement in this respect. Similar approaches have been made to the Regional Governments, and I am pleased to state that there too immediate response has been received. "The approved manufacturers list" which is a list of all local manufacturers whose products are certified to be of good quality, prepared by my Ministry is now widely distributed for guidance.

I should mention here that the mounting of trade fairs being very expensive, the country cannot afford to undertake it too often. As a way out, therefore, my Ministry has devised two permanent exhibitions of goods made in Nigeria at the Independence and Broad Street Buildings. It is expected these would give

not only local consumers but also visitors a fair idea of the capabilities of our industries. Consideration is constantly being given to the possibility of mounting similar exhibitions in other public places.

All these efforts cannot be effective, however, without the local industries themselves taking some initiative. To this end, officials of my Ministry have been endeavouring to persuade local manufacturers to engage in more vigorous advertisement and salesmanship, adequate media in the form of newspapers, radio, and television are now available in the country. It is encouraging to note that already some companies are taking advantage of these.

I beg to move.

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Works and Surveys** (Mr Dominic M. Mapeo): I beg to second.

**Mr D. M. Gbolagunte** (Ibarapa): I fail to agree with the Minister that the Government is working hard enough to introduce locally produced goods to the masses. In Nigeria to-day we have many locally manufactured goods which are not introduced to the people.

I will start by mentioning some of the locally manufactured goods which are not introduced to the people. At the last Trade Fair in Lagos there were certain tinned meats exhibited at the Northern Nigeria pavilion, although the meat was very expensive. A tin of corned beef then was to cost three shillings, whereas we could get a tin of imported corned beef for one shilling and nine pence or two shillings at the most.

**Oba S. A. Oladiran** (Okitipupa South): Those are smuggled ones.

**Mr Gbolagunte**: Well, they could be smuggled ones but that goes to show that they are locally manufactured products.

There are also tinned beans manufactured locally here and yet people are still going for *Heinz* beans, *Heinz* this and *Heinz* that. People prefer these *Heinz* beans because they feel that the price of the locally baked beans is the same or perhaps higher than the price of the imported ones; and, unfortunately, they are not of the same standard. It appears that the imported tinned beans are of better quality. The Government should encourage

[MR GBOLAGUNTE]

our manufacturers in the production of these local products by giving them grants so that they could make very good and cheaper goods. That is all on food.

I will now speak on drinks. We have people in Nigeria distilling drinks in Nigeria. These locally produced drinks are not protected. The imported drinks are not sufficiently taxed to protect the locally made ones. I do agree with the Minister, however, that our people are not patronising some of the locally manufactured products. Coffee can be taken as an example of those products. Coffee is being produced in this country, but people still prefer the tinned coffee because they feel that the local coffee is not as good as the imported one. We are just starting to produce these things and we should know that we cannot attain perfection in a day. What the Government should do is to tax the imported coffee so heavily that the people bringing them into Nigeria will stop bringing them.

When I am talking about the Government not protecting the locally produced goods, another Nigerian produce, cocoa, comes to my mind. For instance, we produce cocoa in this country, unfortunately we still find in stores like the Kingsway that our own cocoa is being turned into food from countries outside Nigeria and the food is brought here to be sold to us at exorbitant prices, and yet we are not doing anything to have an industry here in Nigeria where cocoa can be manufactured into food. We also have maize in the Northern Region of this country. We should try and embark on the manufacture of goods like flour and things like that. If we do that, we shall be protecting our own revenue.

Let us now take products from Japan. We always find Japanese goods in our markets and they are cheaper than our own goods. Unfortunately, the trade imbalance between Nigeria and Japan has risen very high because we feel that our products here are not as good as Japan's and we do not patronise them. On the contrary the goods from Japan are those which are not as good as ours, but because they are imported we look upon them as superior. It is only the Government which can make our people more interested in our own locally manufactured goods.

Moreover, the Government can control the commercial houses and the goods they exhibit in their shop-window. If one goes to the Kingsway, for example, one will find all sorts of things displayed, but no Nigerian goods are ever so displayed in these shop-windows. I feel that the Government can legislate to the effect that at least 60 or 75 per cent of the goods exhibited in those shop-windows should be goods manufactured in Nigeria.

We are however happy that we are now making a success in the production of cotton goods. Cotton bafts are now being sold all over Nigeria, and in fact, these bafts appear to be better than the imported ones, and I am very happy that the price of the Kaduna bafts is lower than the price of the imported ones, and because of that, people are now rushing to buy the Kaduna bafts. There are some other kinds of cotton bafts also being made in Ikeja and people are patronising them. But we can help our people further by taxing the imported ones higher and at the same time encouraging our people to buy locally manufactured ones.

I do not know what ideas the Government has about imported drugs. I once mentioned on the Floor of this House that our people have better drugs for the cure of malaria, yellow fever and all sorts of malaria. The Government is not making any research on these local drugs, and if they are making any research at all, the result is too slow to come out.

I know of people in my area, the local people, who can cure malaria in one day. But their medicine are not looked upon as being pure or of good standard. We should encourage at least enough people from the villages to come and experiment their medicines, and then the Government can finance them and protect them in making these medicines. If they are not protected, we can accuse them by saying that their manufactures are illegal.

Take the case of illicit gin for example. There will be no need to call this gin illicit when we legalise it. The gin made in Nigeria should not be illicit or illegal. We have only not just covered this sufficiently with our support. I suppose we should by now have legalised the making of gin in Nigeria.

I am surprised also that in certain parts of Nigeria, a few days ago, we read in the press that some people were arrested because they were making ammunitions. I think what they call

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ammunitions are the native guns, made by dexterous and creative Nigerians. They do not make these guns to kill people, but to hunt game. We can afford to spend our money on double barrelled guns from overseas when our people can make effective ones. The effectively made guns should be protected by Government.

I do not agree that anybody making these things should have a licence because I am quite sure that these people have not got a place from which to apply for a licence. Government does not allow the production of these things. If there was a place from where to obtain licence, then the people, of course, should have licences before they can produce.

It is most unfortunate that if you want to buy a very good bed for your use at home, or any type of furniture whatever, our people actually look down upon the efficiency or efficacy of the ones produced by our people in Nigeria. We prefer to go to the *Kingsway* or *U.T.C.* or *G.B. Ollivant* to buy those from Holland, England or other oversea countries at exorbitant prices. Here you find a chair or table costing you £40 whereas you can go to *Fawehinmi* and get these things for £10 or £15.

The imported goods can be banned instead of being heavily taxed. No imported furniture should be brought into this country. If you want iron chairs, the iron chairs are being made at Iron Foundries in Ibadan and other places. We should stop buying from outside.

There are assembly lines of cars in this country now, but still we find these big American cars coming into this country in a rush. The Government possibly should limit the cost of cars coming into this country. I cannot imagine a *Peugeot* car costing £650 in Ghana and costing £1,000 in Nigeria. If you limit the cost of cars coming into this country, foreign manufacturers of cars will try to reduce their prices and the common man will be able to buy very cheap cars. If we can assemble cars here, we can even stop the import of some of the cars that are very expensive.

*Michelin* tyres are made in Eastern Nigeria and it is quite good throughout the whole world. But what situation do we find in this country? We and the *Firestone* tyres, the *Dunlop* tyres competing so vehemently with *Michelin* tyres. I do agree that the cost of *Michelin* tyres should be reduced so that our people can buy them.

The mover of the former Motion suggested that we should have inter-regional fairs. I agree with him, but we should, first of all have regional fairs, where the exhibition of all locally made goods would be carried out in the regional headquarters. The best goods from the regional fairs can come to the national fairs. I agree with him on that line.

The Government is not doing enough to encourage our people because the prices of the locally made goods are high. They are high because Government is not financing the struggling manufacturers, and also because Government is not taxing the imported goods heavily enough. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

**Mr O. C. Ememe** (Aba South): I wish to contribute to the debate on the Made in Nigeria Goods. My contribution should be deemed to be very important to this nation. I wish the Minister of Commerce and Industry were here to hear me, but at least, he will read the *Hansard*. Made in Nigeria goods have had a very chequered history in Nigeria.

Sometimes, some of us who have studied economics try to evaluate what is happening in this country as far as these goods are concerned. We cannot help coming to the conclusion that it is more economical not to manufacture anything in Nigeria at all. As you can see, if you go to the local market, if you buy any goods made in Nigeria, you will discover that the price differential between these goods and those imported is very negligible or sometimes even higher than those imported, that one can very well forget about manufacturing anything in Nigeria.

This is a very sad situation in that we are trying to industrialise, but with this unfortunate aspect of our economy, we are not encouraging any import of capital into this country. We have said that we want to encourage private enterprise to come from overseas to invest in this country, but we have not really bothered to study the condition that will attract private enterprise neither have we cared to institute or create a situation that will encourage even Government enterprises in this country.

I am asking all hon. Members to recall the fact that when you go through a local market to buy anything to-day, you will see that it is



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much better to buy that very thing imported from Hong Kong, Japan or even from England rather than buy those from Nigeria because the prices of made in Nigeria goods are a little bit higher if not more.

Now the cause of these high prices is what I want to state in this House, and to suggest remedies. That is where the Government comes in and the Minister of Commerce and Industry should take it very seriously.

I tabulate these causes of high prices in made in Nigeria goods into about five categories. One of the causes is, of course, the collusion in the retail outlet of foreign firms. What I mean by this is that the foreign firms agree with manufacturers to sell their goods in Nigeria. They are in position to do this because they control most of the retail outlets—that is, they own most of the shops, most of the places where people buy and sell.

Since they are in a position to do so, they enter into agreement with manufacturers to sell these goods on the understanding that they will be given some kind of commission. Foreign firms who are importing goods that are made in Nigeria make sure that the locally produced goods do not drive out the imported goods from the market. This is a very important aspect of it because if an English man who sells goods manufactured in England, is asked to sell goods manufactured in Nigeria in the same shop, I am very sure that he will try to give preference to the English manufactured goods and make it highly difficult for the Nigerian manufactured goods to sell even at a lower price. This is the situation.

All these foreign retail outlets are controlled by foreigners. We all rush to the Kingsway Stores every day. It is a U.A.C. shop. It is controlled by the U.A.C. It is a foreign firm, and all the goods they sell are controlled. If one goes there to buy some of the goods made in Nigeria one will discover that the prices are higher than the goods made in England even though the goods have travelled thousands of miles. This kind of collusion between the manufacturers and the retailers is a very serious matter. And the Government is not bothered to look into this matter.

Another important reason why the cost of these made-in-Nigeria goods is high is the

cost of packaging. I was talking to one industrialist the other day. He is in Nigeria here to manufacture drugs.

**Mr N. D. Ukah :** (Owerri North East) : A Russian ?

**Mr Ememe :** He is not a Russian ; he is a Briton. He is manufacturing drugs at Aba. I asked him what his problems in this field were and he told me that one of the most important problems was the problem of packaging.

I further asked him to explain. Then he showed me, statistically, the cost of his manufacture in Nigeria. He showed me also an identical material that was made in Hong Kong and its market price. The price of his own locally manufactured drug was almost double the price of the identical article imported from Hong Kong. The reason is simple. The dispensed drugs have to be bottled and packed.

The bottle is not made in Nigeria ; it is imported. The papers which he uses in covering these things are imported. The cork itself is imported. In fact, everything is imported.

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister** (Mr S. A. Lana) : Including the drugs ?

**Mr Ememe :** The drugs may not be imported ; they may be made out of local materials. But here is the problem. When he is importing the packaging material the Federal Government places on him a very high tariff. The result is that in order to make a profit, he has to endeavour to get back the cost of the import duties he had paid. As a result his cost of production tends to be very much higher than the cost of an identical drug overseas. And the Government does nothing about this whatsoever.

The third thing which I feel is also responsible for this high cost of made-in-Nigeria goods is the cost of raw materials. Sometimes one finds that the raw materials which they use in making these things in Nigeria are not really from Nigeria, they are from overseas.

I know one example of some people importing clinker from Germany in order to turn it into

cement in Nigeria. This is a very costly undertaking. When raw materials are imported from overseas for making these things here the real problem does not come from the importation of these goods but from the tax the Federal Government places on this kind of imported materials. The Government makes it almost impossible for them to manufacture some of these things locally by placing very high duties on them. This is a shame. And the Government keeps on talking of industrialisation every time.

Another very major point which should be taken into account is the cost of unskilled labour. In this country there are no technicians; there are not many people who can handle modern machines. I have a good example in Aba. The Pfizer Company is trying to manufacture some plastic materials at Aba. But they found that Nigerians cannot handle most of the machines necessary for the job. If they use their time to teach our men how to operate the machine, within a few days the machine will spoil and there will be no replacement for those machines. It generally takes a long time to replace these machines and the cost is very high. All these are taken into account by the manufacturer; our labour is not a skilled one and there is no attempt by the Government whatsoever to train our people to become skilled.

Whenever we talk of scholarship, the Government talks in terms of University education and also tries to place an embargo on people who want to go overseas for technical studies. As a result of this there are no real technicians in Nigeria. And the Government has a Six-Year Development Plan. The Government seems to have no real plan to train technicians. And yet we talk of industrialisation. This is a very serious matter.

Let us ask the Government. How many ordinary plumbers have you been able to train? Practically none. And nobody is even making any attempt to train these people. The result is that all these dear machines are imported here and we get people from overseas to run them—ordinary machines. And I know that from the Shell BP.

Ordinary things, which ordinary men can run, we have to import people from Switzerland, from everywhere, even from the Soviet Union to run. And what happens is this.

When these people come here, they begin to claim all kinds of allowances, allowances which our people would not really ask for. The result is, of course, high cost of production. I am saying this because the Government ought to find out how to remedy the situation.

I have talked about high tariff. On this high tariff let me tell the Minister of Finance very specifically that I do not see what the Federal Government is doing to encourage industrialisation in this country. How can we place a heavy tariff or a heavy import duty on goods that we know very well that the manufacturers are going to use in manufacturing goods in Nigeria? The Government knows this very well. Yet they put import duties on them to discourage these people from manufacturing these things.

Most of us who are Members of Parliament do not know much about this. The result is that we continuously find England having the largest market in Nigeria even though we say that we are industrialising.

The duty on cement, for example—I have to bring this out. Take the cement manufactured at Nkalagu or at Ewekoro here. Do hon. Members notice that the cement manufactured here is not even got at 10s a bag? At Aba it was selling at thirteen shillings. At the same time we were able to import the same type of cement from Poland and Egypt, at six shillings a bag. Is that not a shame? We may say that this type of high cost is also encouraged by Government indirectly in that the Government has really no way of checking the excessive profits these manufacturers sometimes make.

The manufacturer may manufacture an article at one shilling and sell it at one pound. There is no way at all of checking the excessive profit and the result is that when they know that the price of cement from overseas is, say, five shillings and that they can sell their locally-made ones at twelve shillings and six pence, they insist on selling at high price. The Government cannot control it.

Have we not all heard it said that the Nkalagu Cement Factory makes almost a profit of one million pounds annually? Is that not shameful and who is paying for all that? It is the man who is trying to build an ordinary house in the village, yet we say we want to manufacture goods locally in this country for the benefit

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of the masses. It is very, very shameful indeed that the Government is not doing anything whatever to control this excessive profit.

Let me suggest one remedy for this type of excessive profit. If the Government is not going to control foreign firms making excessive profits then what it should do is to take over these firms and as a result divert excessive profits to Government coffers. We do not care if the Government makes the excessive profits because the money comes back to us.

I am therefore saying that the Government should encourage Made-in-Nigeria goods. There are many ways of doing this, one of which is to institute an enquiry—and the Minister of Commerce and Industry should know this—into the cause of high prices on Made-in-Nigeria goods. If the Government does not have enough people to do it, parliamentarians who are qualified are ready to assist.

An enquiry should be instituted to find out why goods made here are sold at such high costs. The second way is that the Government should reduce the import duties on materials which are used for the manufacture of goods in Nigeria, otherwise we are indirectly discouraging local manufacture in this country.

Another thing—and this is the last resort—is that the Government should really protect our own industries. I notice that the Minister of Commerce and Industry is trying to put a barrier to those who are importing cement into this country. Before the Government does this, let it make sure that the quantity of cement produced here is sufficient to meet the demands of the Nigerian public and that locally produced cement is sold at a price that is reasonable for the ordinary man.

This question ought to be solved first before we start protecting, because people do not want to keep throwing in their money into other peoples pocket. They want to have the advantage of our freedom and unless we can give this freedom it is no use talking about their protection.

I am talking about cement particularly in this respect because I understand the Government is doing something drastic about it. The Government does not want people to import cement any longer, yet the quantity produced at both the Nkalagu Cement Factory and the Ewekoro Cement Factory is not enough to meet the demands of the Nigerian market.

I know very well why this is so. It has been alleged that some people in high places are building cement factories and if this is correct I had better warn the Government that this is a very serious offence. If because some people are setting up cement factories then the importation of cement should cease, even though the people are suffering from high cost, then something is wrong somewhere. The protection given to our own industries should be morally justified, it should not be done for selfish reasons and for selfish purpose.

I also want to refer to flour production in the country. Not long ago, the bakers in this country protested to the Government that the high duty placed on imported flour was detrimental to their trade but the Government did not pay any heed to them. And this was because the interests of certain people were involved. If we are going to have protection it should be a protection that will benefit all our people, not just a few individuals.

We already know of many other ways of encouraging these people; for instance, we can give them tax relief, and, in fact, the present system of tax relief is not well administered for I know that some industries that are being established in the Eastern Region are not regarded as pioneer industries and for that reason they are not given any tax relief.

If one firm alone comes in first and is given tax relief, may I ask, can that firm alone satisfy the demands of the people of this country? Of course, not. So what the Government should take into account is whether that one firm is satisfying our demand, and if it does not, then, any other firm that comes into Nigeria should be given pioneer certificate for that is the only way of encouraging more production.

If we have to limit the issue of pioneer certificates to one firm because that firm happens to be the first to establish, what about the rest that are coming in. And it is likely that when this only firm that has been given pioneer certificate discovers that the other non-recipient firms are making profits, it will increase its prices as a result of a gentleman's agreement and we will not notice it. Large profits will be made and the Nigerians will gain nothing. The Government should look into this matter seriously.

Very often our Government tries to take correction but one thing it has failed to do is

to make use of the knowledge of Members of Parliament. When the Government is in difficulty, it generally turns to what it calls "expert advice", which advice is quite often faulty. The expert advice is given on the understanding that the expert's country is going to gain.

Some time ago I know it was recommended that a paper industry should be established in this country, but up to the present time politics and self-interest have not allowed the Government to locate the industry where it is expected to be sited. And if Members do not know where, I had better remind them—it is in Aba South.

**Mr P. E. Ekanem** (Enyong South): On a point of order, it is wrong to say that a paper industry was meant to be sited at Aba South. It was actually mooted that it should be sited in Calabar and because this is in the minority area no action has been taken.

**Mr Ememe**: I appreciate the hon. Gentleman's point of order because that is a political way of doing things.

I am bringing this matter here because it is one of the reasons why the consumers are suffering in this country. If the Government should go to establish an industry where the industry is not economically suitable, what happens is that the cost of production becomes higher and the consumers suffer the more. I am talking seriously about this because I do not see why the Government should not start industries at places where they will be economically feasible and viable. It is not good merely for political reasons to establish a salt plant at Sokoto where there is no salt.

**Alhaji Bello Dandago** (Gwarzo East): On a point of order, may I remind the Member for Aba South (*Mr Ememe*) that no salt industry or factory has ever been sited at Sokoto.

**Mr Ememe**: This is only a general example which serves as a warning to the Government. I do not mean that a salt factory has actually been sited at Sokoto.

What I really mean, Mr Speaker, is that whenever any industry is to be established, if what we have is really one Nigeria, the industry should be established at the most economical and feasible place instead of where someone's political interest will be protected. This

should be done no matter whose ox is gored. This is very important. The paper industry is supposed to be sited at Aba South because that is what the experts said, and no politician should remove it from there. One paper industry is not enough for Nigeria and so the first one should be established at the place which is recommended by experts. Other paper industries to be established may come later at some other places.

Another big problem which these made-in-Nigeria-goods firms face is that when they manufacture their goods, they produce by-products for which they cannot find a market. This results in higher costs, because if they had marketed these by-products, they would have been in a position to reduce the prices of some other goods.

Now, the only way to encourage these people to market their by-products is to establish industries that can absorb the by-products of some other industries.

One thing is very much lacking in this country which I think the Government should take steps from to-day to remedy. The Government has no proper planning. When we talk about establishing a paper industry, the Government of Nigeria has no plans as to how many rolls of paper should be manufactured next year; how many rolls should be manufactured this year, and what attempts they will make to manufacture enough paper to satisfy our local market or even for export. There is no real planning whatsoever. They merely say that they want to manufacture iron and cement, but they do not tell the public that Nigeria is going to manufacture so many tons of cement this year and so many tons next year. No, they cannot do that. The reason is that they have not attempted doing it. If the Government should make any attempt, I am sure that they will get experts who can help them with the planning.

I will therefore recommend to the Government that a real economic council or commission be set up. I do not mean the type of council comprising people who will come here to smoke cigarettes and then go away without doing anything. We want an economic council of men and women who understand the problems of the country, people who will sit down and plan. We have a Six-Year Development Programme with no targets. We do not know what we are going to do

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this year nor what we are going to do next year; all we know is that Nigeria should have £600 million at the end of six years.

**Several hon. Members :** Radio Moscow ! Fire ! Fire !

**Mr Ememe :** I am not trying to make a destructive criticism. All I am doing is to point out to the Government that these things are essential if we are going to be industrialised, and they should be done without any bitterness. We should do these things as people who really have a future. Our Government does not seem to have a future for this country. The Government is the cause of all the trouble about the census and everything that goes with it because it has no real plan. If the Government has a plan and the people are benefiting from it, no one would have time to waste talking about the census. Everybody would be busily engaged in his or her work instead of roaming about in the streets doing nothing. There are millions of people doing nothing, and yet whenever we ask the Government to establish an industry they talk of brewing beer for people to drink and die.

**Mr Speaker :** The hon. Member has exhausted his time.

**Mr P. E. Ekanem (Enyong South) :** I am really in sympathy with the original Motion. I say so because the only reason which the Mover of the Motion has given for his suggestion that a trade fair should be organised in Nigeria is that the locally manufactured goods do not get the patronage of our people. I am also in sympathy with the Amendment because it is meant to ensure adequate local consumption of all goods manufactured in the country.

What are the factors that contribute to people not patronising Nigerian made goods? Well, it is the high price. I agree with my hon. Friend, the Member for Aba South (*Mr Ememe*) on this. I have an example to confirm what he said on this subject.

A few days before I came to this Parliament, I went to a local shop at Aba to buy cement manufactured at Nkalagu and I was told that the price was 12s-6d. So I went into another shop where Portland Cement was being sold and I was told that the price was 9s-6d a bag. What is the cause of this difference in prices?

It is because we are too much in a haste to get money in this country at the expense of the poor taxpayer. It is one of the things that will not enable—

**Mr N. D. Ukah (Owerri North East) :** On a point of information, it appears very clearly from the speech of the Member for Enyong South (*Mr Ekanem*) that he has so much realised the need for making money from almost everything that he has made his own seat in Parliament a marketable commodity.

**Mr Speaker :** I am sure you are not serious.

**Mr Ekanem :** I will not accuse him back and, as I said in January when I came here, my age and my status in the country are such that I will always keep secrets.

**Mr A. A. Ajibola (Egbado South) :** Can we know from the Member for Enyong South (*Mr Ekanem*) what status a carpet crosser has?

**Mr Speaker :** That is a question.

**Mr I. A. Brown (Uyo South West) :** The status of the Member for Enyong South (*Mr Ekanem*) is that he did not agree to join hands with Chief Awolowo to overthrow the Federal Government.

**Mr Ekanem :** If it is not a sin to apply the Constitution to oneself, then I would say freedom of choice, freedom of association—*(Interruptions)*.

**Mr Speaker :** Order. It will help this House a great deal if any Member wishing to raise a point of order will tell us the number of the Order.

**Mr Ekanem :** I am making this statement very seriously, that I am old enough to keep secrets and I have been keeping secrets. I do not want the N.C.N.C. bloc here to force me to divulge secrets. But if they force me, then I will not hesitate to do so and I will tell the N.C.N.C. what I know about them. *(Interruptions)*.

**Mr Speaker :** Order. I do not think there should be so much anxiety over this statement. The hon. Member should continue his speech, please.

**Mr Ekanem :** As I said, it is cheaper for one to buy a box of matches that is manufactured in Sweden than to buy a box of

matches which is manufactured here in Apapa. To-day, a box of matches made in Sweden costs 3d, but the one made here in Nigeria is 4d or even 6d in some places. (*Interruptions*).

**Mr Speaker :** Order.

**Mr Ekanem :** I realise there is an organised, I repeat the word *organised*, attack on me from a certain section of this House, and I very respectfully ask, Mr Speaker, that you protect me because I am an elected Member of this House. I am talking here not as Ekanem but as a man who won the second highest number of votes in this country to come to this House. I feel also that where I am to-day, I am there at the expressed wish of my people, and if I wish to go anywhere, I can do so. Those people over there are shameless people and I am sure they will not allow me to expose them here. (*Interruptions*).

**Mr Speaker :** Order. Will the Member for Enyong South (*Mr Ekanem*) please desist from wasting our time and continue his speech.

**Mr A. U. D. Mbah** (Owerri North) : On point of order—

**Mr Speaker :** What order, Mr Mbah ?

**Mr Mbah :** Standing Order No. 25.

**Mr Speaker :** Will the Member for Enyong South (*Mr Ekanem*) please continue his speech.

**Mr Ekanem :** As I said, it is cheaper to buy a tin of cocoa or a tin of coffee manufactured in America than to buy one manufactured here in Nigeria. We must seek a remedy for these things, and the only remedy that I can suggest is that the Government should, rather than indirectly protecting imported goods at the expense of locally manufactured goods, introduce a price control. That is to say, in order not to allow Nigerian to patronise what is not manufactured in this country, the Government should resort to price control so that a tin of milk from somewhere in America should be made much dearer than the one made here in Nigeria.

Previously, we imported butter from South Africa, but now we have butter of a better quality manufactured here in the country. Such should be the policy of the Government.

There was a time when a tin of milk imported from overseas was not as fresh as our locally manufactured, milk, e.g., those from Moor Plantation and from Agege. We should place

impregnable barriers on imported goods so that the price of anything which can be manufactured in this country but is still being imported from overseas should be much higher. That will keep the people away from buying them.

When we heard that cement industry was to be established in this country, we all leapt with joy ; we said we were going to get houses built at lower costs. But to-day, unless one is a very big contractor, not a parliamentarian (a parliamentarian is a very poor man), one will not be able to afford the price of cement manufactured in this country. Any Member of this House who can say that he is a rich man is telling a lie, unless he is also a contractor or a Professor or Lecturer.

**Mr F. C. Ogbalu** (Awka North) : Mention names.

**Mr Ekanem :** Such as the Member for Awka North (*Mr Ogbalu*)

**Mr Ogbalu :** On a point of order.

**Mr Speaker :** What order, please ?

**Mr Ogbalu :** Standing Order 26.

**Several hon. Members :** Let him read it out himself.

**Mr Ogbalu :** The Clerk is there to read it.

**Mr Speaker :** Please continue, Mr Ekanem.

**Mr F. I. Okoronkwo** (Aba Urban) : The Member for Enyong South (*Mr Ekanem*) was the U.P.P.—

**Mr Speaker :** What is the number of the Order that you are raising ?

**Mr Okoronkwo :** Order 26 (2) reads :

*“A Member must confine his observations to the subject under discussion and may not introduce matter irrelevant thereto.*

The Member for Enyong South (*Mr Ekanem*) was a U.P.P. agent and—

**Mr Speaker :** I do not know how the Member for Aba Urban (*Mr Okoronkwo*) knew that.

**Mr M. B. Afanideh** (Ikot Ekpene South) Would you please order the Member for Aba Urban (*Mr Okoronkwo*) to sit down because he was the one who said that the British Prime Minister should not come here on the 20th.

**Mr Ekanem** : I hope you are taking note of my points? I really want to make points.

To-day Zinc is manufactured in Port Harcourt. But imported zinc is cheaper than the one manufactured here in Port Harcourt. How can we then, for goodness sake, popularise Nigerian-made goods?

The weaving industry in the Eastern Region—Akwete Weaving Industry—is an example. It is not even very much patronised by the Government. If you go to buy from there, you will discover that it is very much dearer than the one from the Kingsway Stores or any Indian shop here. This is because even though we have cotton, this material is taken away from here, manufactured into threads elsewhere and this thread is resold to our people, and any cloth woven with it is bound to be very expensive.

The only way to combat this is for the Government to introduce a legislation to the effect that goods manufactured here in Nigeria should sell at a price much lower than the imported ones. If we do this it will be better.

Recently, I went to a certain place and I needed a pair of slippers. I wanted to patronise the "made-in-Nigeria" goods, but I discovered that the slippers I bought for £1 at Benin City was more costly than the one I bought from the Bata Shoe Company. The one I bought at the Bata Shoe Company cost 17s-6d only.

**Several Members** : And are they of the same quality?

**Mr Ekanem** : Yes, they are. Apart from that, you have leather ones in Kano and Maiduguri. What happens now is that the U.A.C. studies the make of these shoes, then they buy our hides and skins and manufacture the same type of shoes in competition with our people. That is a fact.

Finally, I would appeal to the Government—and I am in sympathy with the original Motion as well as with the Amendment, and I am in a position to say that I am supporting the Amendment because even the original Motion was not proposed properly.

**An hon. Member** : The hon. Member is blowing hot and cold at one and the same time.

**Mr Ekanem** : I beg to oppose to original Motion and I support the Amendment.

**Mr E. C. Akwivu** (Orlu South East) : I wish to make a few points with regard to the present Motion. Several hon. Members have expressed their disappointment at the fact that some factories in Nigeria produce goods which are far too expensive. But I must say that this is a matter which requires the most urgent and far-reaching attention. If we produce cement in Nigeria, there is no reason why it should be several times dearer and more expensive than the one imported from over five thousand miles away.

Sometime ago, I tabled a Motion on this matter and the explanation I was given was that the depreciation rate allowed on the capital was high in order to ensure that the initial capital investment was recovered in the shortest possible time. This is a little bit surprising because to invest about a million or half a million pounds, you must have some confidence in the place where you are investing in.

If, under normal circumstances, the depreciation rate allowed for in an investment of such magnitude is paid over a space of fifteen years, why must we want to recover it, in the case of Nigeria, in three years? This is one of the reasons why prices quickly jump up. If you recover it in three years, what happens to the rest of the life-time of the equipments? Either that people have confidence in Nigeria when they invest or they have not. It will be no use trying to create some fictitious atmosphere of insecurity to justify what otherwise would not be acceptable as a reasonable depreciation policy. Therefore, I think it is very important that while we must do everything in our power to encourage our people to patronise goods manufactured in Nigeria, we must not make it difficult or impossible for them to do so. Therefore, the capital depreciation policy must be re-examined and, as much as possible, must be realistic and in line with the practice obtaining elsewhere.

Another factor in the cost which goes to put the price of home-made goods out of range is the question of staff.

The industries established in Nigeria will not be serving a useful purpose if they are merely going to produce jobs for the boys, that is for the expatriate staff for whom there is no real necessity for employment but only

for the purpose of giving jobs to extra hands which would be otherwise unemployed elsewhere.

Industries should not be established in Nigeria as a means of unemployment relief for the unemployed or the unemployables outside Nigeria. So, it also becomes necessary that the factories to be established in Nigeria must be closely examined with regard to their staffing.

One knows that when one has an expatriate employed at the very minimum that expatriate costs about £3,000 per annum to maintain. If one is paying him about £1,200 a year by the time one has provided for his accommodation, car, medical attention, and pension element for every £1 one gives him as a salary one is also committed to extra £2 or £3.

So, if one is going to establish a new industry with an expatriate staff, naturally the cost will be four times than it needs to be, and this must be put on to the product right from the beginning.

Another factor that I think contributes to the excessive cost in our goods is the excessive cost of investigation. An investor who comes to invest in a manufacturing industry in Nigeria may spend about twelve months, or eighteen months, or two years trying to investigate and clear the preliminaries before he ever starts building. Building, again will take another one year, before he starts producing anything.

Now, if he has got to spend about £10,000 or £20,000 visible or invisible, investigating preliminaries both explainables and inexplainables, then these things must be recovered before the benefits are ever passed to the people for whom they are intended. So, our Government should see to it that the potential investor's burden is not made unusually excessive. If an investor applies for *visa*, there is no reason why he should spend about eighteen months waiting for approval. If the undertaking is one that qualifies for a pioneer certificate his efforts in that direction must not be made too expensive nor should it be made to take far longer than it is necessary.

The question of incorporation under the Company's Act is far more straight-forward than many other preliminaries required to be gone through. So, I feel that there are many

administrative things that should be looked into and the processes should be made much easier in order to make the cost of our production less expensive. If the qualities of two identical articles are equal, the local ones should be less expensive in order that it can attract the market to itself.

Now, another factor is that in some cases where industries have been established it has been the case that right from the word "go" the establishment had been tied on to some industrial price groups. If our cement factories are controlled by the controllers of Portland Cement Group in Europe, for example then they will insist on the price being kept so high here in order that the cement manufactured in Europe can be brought in here and sold. That is perfectly so.

This is another matter that our Ministries of Commerce and Industry and Economic Development should really investigate. The factories being established in Nigeria should operate in order to make things easier for the people of this country and not to make the costs and the prices so high as to keep demands for them to a minimum in order to make it possible for those manufactured in Germany, Britain, and elsewhere, 4,000 miles away, to be sold cheaper in Nigeria.

Now, the other point is that we must do all that is possible to ensure that costs are reduced in other directions. For example, about three or four years ago our produce in Nigeria could have been fetching much more competitive prices overseas if our Government had cared to investigate the best possible handling methods. But because of the handling methods at the time the prices were about 25 *per cent* higher than they should normally be.

I shall now take the question of tyre manufacturing into consideration. Recently, a duty of 10 *per cent* was put on locally manufactured tyres. We understand that there are two competing tyre manufacturing firms in Nigeria. One group insisted on having this 10 *per cent* being put on. The other group made a representation to the Government that they could do without this 10 *per cent* duty and if their competitors found their costs too high they should re-examine their production methods and see what they could do in order to bring down their prices and be more competitive.



[MR AKWIWU]

The group that wanted 10 *per cent* excess had their way through. The result is going to be that the tyres produced in Port Harcourt, for example, will be more expensive than they ought to be in Nigeria, and the very good export market they are trying to build up will have to close down on that because with the 10 *per cent* they cannot compete in other African markets outside Nigeria where tyres are imported from overseas.

The important thing in some of these things is that when we are expanding in some of these industrial undertakings, we expect not only to serve the needs of the people of Nigeria but also those of our neighbours. After all the United States of America is leading Europe to-day not because Europe wants to be led but because the United States of America is so economically strong that the European market is depending on the American market. That is one form of leadership.

If we could meet our needs here and also meet those of neighbouring African countries we would be leading without saying so and without playing politics. This is a most enduring type of leadership.

Finally, one other point on which I wish to speak is the question of the siting of industries. For example, one must site a factory where one has got some basic market to start with. Many people shout against factories being established in a place like Port Harcourt. May I say that this place has got railway facilities, shipping facilities, and land transport facilities. So, on all grounds the distribution from that place would be much cheaper and more efficient than one would get if one were to establish about a hundred miles inland where one has got only land transport facilities.

If everything else must be taken into account whenever one is to establish a factory for the manufacture of gin it is no use to establish it in the North because already it is an offence to get drunk. The Ijaw people know what gin is. They make it in all forms, and if one establishes it in their area one would get the local experience. The market for consumption is already there, and when things are difficult, in times of flood when the bridges are washed away, at least, one can trust the local people to consume a lot and get the factory going.

I think that the siting of factories should depend mainly on economic reasons and factors. If we should site factories just where politicians want them we may end up with factories that cannot stand competition from even neighbouring countries.

Hospitals may be sited anywhere they are wanted. Schools may be sited anywhere they are wanted but factories are things that once they are established they are expected to go on for a long time. If factories cannot sell their products, and compete with the other producers around them, they would have to be closed down and people in whose localities these factories are set up would have no more use for them, if they failed to derive any benefit from the setting up of the factories.

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

*Question, That the words proposed to be added be there added, put and agreed to.*

*Motion as amended, agreed to.*

*Resolved :* That this House expresses its satisfaction with the untiring effort of the Government to ensure adequate local consumption of all goods manufactured in the country.

#### PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS

**M. Albatan Yerima Balla** (Adamawa North West) : I rise to move the Motion standing in my name—

**The Minister of External Affairs** (Dr Jaja Wachuku) : On a point of order, is the Member for Adamawa North West (*M. Yerima Balla*) speaking Chinese ?

**The Deputy Speaker** : The official language in this House is English. I have no cause to doubt that the Member for Adamawa North West (*M. Yerima Balla*) is speaking the English language but perhaps that will be more evident when he is speaking from the right microphone.

**M. Yerima Balla** : I beg to move the Motion standing in my name on the Order Paper—

That this House calls upon the Federal Government to form a Parliamentary Committee on Foreign Affairs during the life of the present Parliament.

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This is a clear cut and non-controversial Motion and I believe the Minister of External Affairs will accept the Motion and that it will be passed by this honourable House unanimously.

It is very important that a country like Nigeria should have a Parliamentary Committee on Foreign Affairs. May I say that it is the practice in nearly all the countries in the Western bloc to have Parliamentary Committee on Foreign Affairs. I am sure that this is the practice in the United States of America and the United Kingdom.

The first debate we had on Foreign Affairs was when the Prime Minister was holding the portfolio of Foreign Affairs immediately after the 1st of October, 1960. The second debate we had on Foreign Affairs was when the present Minister of External Affairs, Dr Jaja Wachuku took over from the Prime Minister in 1961.

I do not think that we have had any other debate on Foreign Affairs since 1961 and we have had to rely on the radio and the newspapers to tell us what is happening. It was from the newspapers that we read that our Minister of External Affairs did not support the expulsion of Portugal and South Africa from the United Nations. Our delegates to the United Nations at that time were already in New York and they knew nothing about the Government's view on this very important point before they left New York.

As Members of Parliament we could not defend the speech of our Minister of External Affairs on this issue since we knew nothing about it. With your permission, Mr Deputy Speaker, I will read a portion of the Minister of External Affairs' speech at the United Nations on the expulsion of Portugal and South Africa from the United Nations—

*That rumour has arisen because it is stated that the African States want to expel South Africa and Portugal from the United Nations. I think I can say categorically that, as far as I know, the African States are very reasonable States and they have reasonable representatives. Certainly the African States want to apply the strongest possible pressure on those two States to make them reasonable, I do not know of any positive decision to expel those two Members*

*from this Organization. Their expulsion would serve no useful purpose at all. It would be a sheer waste of time. It is better to bring them here and keep on whipping them until they have learned their lesson.*

These are extracts from the speech made by our Minister of External Affairs at the United Nations. If there had been a Parliamentary Committee on Foreign Affairs, the Committee could have discussed the problem of Portugal and South Africa, and Members of Parliament would have been able to defend the speech of the Minister of External Affairs at the United Nations.

I will give the following suggestions on the formation of the Committee—

(1) The Parliamentary Committee on Foreign Affairs should consist of twelve members, four from the Senate and eight from the House of Representatives. The Minister of External Affairs should be the Chairman.

(2) The Committee should be a policy making body. It should meet at least three times a year, especially with the Nigeria delegation to the United Nations before they leave for any meeting of the General Assembly.

(3) The Committee will make comments on International Affairs and forward its findings to the Council of Ministers.

(4) It will also discuss Nigeria's relations with foreign countries and make recommendations.

Hon. Members will agree with me that Nigeria is a country to be reckoned with and in order to make our presence felt we must be able to contribute to debates intelligently.

In Asia, there is the conflict between Malaysia, Indonesia and the Philippines on the formation of the Malaysian Federation; there is trouble between India and Pakistan. There is trouble in Vietnam and Korea. There are also the arguments for and against the admission of China into the United Nations.

Even in Africa, there are the border disputes between Somalia and Ethiopia, Somalia and Kenya, and also between Dahomey and Niger. There is also the question of Angola, Mozambique and South Africa. In the Americas we have the Panama crisis, there is trouble in Cuba and trouble in British Guiana.

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In the Middle East, there is conflict between Israel and the Arab countries on the question of diverting the waters of the River Jordan. In Europe there is the burning issue of Berlin and the meeting of the 18-Nation Disarmament Conference which has been holding in Geneva.

All these things are happening in the world and we do not know the stand of our Government on any of the problems. We, Parliamentarians do not know the attitude of our Government to all these burning issues, not to talk about the public.

There is still the question of whether we should join the European Common Market or not. We do not know what the Government is doing about this very important matter. There is also the conflict between the Greek and Turkish nationals in Cyprus. These are very important issues and we must know what the Federal Government feels about them.

We are the representatives of the people and we must not be kept in the dark. I am confident that if the Federal Government can set up this Parliamentary Committee on Foreign Affairs it will go a long way to helping this country.

I beg to move.

**Mr F. C. Ogbalu** (Awka North): I rise to second the Motion calling upon the Federal Government to form a Parliamentary Committee on Foreign Affairs during the life of the present Parliament. The Mover has mentioned all the events which ought to be made quite familiar with Members of Parliament. I shall, therefore, not repeat what he has said but speak in a different vein.

I shall speak on the nature and composition of this Committee, the necessity for setting it up and why it should be now. In my opinion, the Parliamentary Committee on Foreign Affairs should be a standing committee consisting of a miniature Parliament of between twenty and twenty-four members under a fairly experienced Chairman with a quorum of about nine members.

Its meetings could be attended by other Members of Parliament, if they wish, as observers. Members of the Committee will be drawn from all sides of the House in the

proportion adopted in setting up already existing committees. There will also be Members from the Senate.

My reasons for urging the Government to set up the Committee are divided into two parts; namely, the necessity for securing the usual advantages accruing from Committee practice of Parliaments, and the peculiar position in which we, not only as young Parliamentarians but also as Members of the Parliament of a country which wields preponderant influence in African affairs find oneself.

The institution of Parliamentary Committee as we all know has great advantages and as these advantages outweigh the disadvantages if any, I recommend it to this House. By setting up a Parliamentary Committee on Foreign Affairs, discussions very often carried out in heated and uncongenial atmosphere will be carried out in an informal atmosphere where freedom, the spirit of give and take, tolerance and understanding will prevail. The small size of the Committee will greatly enhance this, for it would allow members to be persuaded more readily than is the case with formal speeches often heard in this House sometimes with bitterness and lack of understanding and details of what has transpired in the Ministry of External Affairs can be made known to Members.

Government should not entertain any fear; for a defeat would not mean a vote of no confidence and, as a matter of fact, the adoption of such Motions are very rare.

Within a Parliamentary Committee on Foreign Affairs, concessions would be more possible and would sweeten the atmosphere and engender useful amendments.

Of late, the Minister of External Affairs has been receiving darts of varying intensity and strength from all directions—from misguided and ill-disposed politicians who possibly have personal grievances, an axe to grind, and those who think they ought to have been the right persons to fill the post. Similar unwarranted attacks have been wantonly engineered, maintained and sustained by an ill-informed Press.

However, those attacks might have been not without any cause—at least there is the possibility of ignorance being responsible. If there has been a Parliamentary Committee on Foreign Affairs, the Minister of External

Affairs would have had a good opportunity of keeping a substantial arm of Parliament informed of all his moves and manouvres in the comity of nations.

He would have saved himself unnecessary embarrassment and the constant vapourings of those kept outside from the secrets of the Ministry of External Affairs. Moreover, and more than anything else, he would have had valuable contributions from his Parliamentary Colleagues serving in the Committee. There are many Members actuated by genuine motives to make their services, experience and tact available to the Minister of External Affairs but they have no effective medium of getting their ideas through.

I do not forget that matters on foreign affairs are debated in Parliament and that the Minister of External Affairs often makes laborious and long speeches in order to keep Parliament informed and allow Members to express their views. What I am saying is that this is not enough ; it is not adequate ; it is not congenial enough and very often it is all done in a rush .

I do not mean too that a small body of Members of Parliament should be substituted for Parliament. What I mean is that the existence of such a body will enhance the smooth working of Parliament.

After all, the Committee will give its report to Parliament and Parliament has the right to accept, amend or reject the report. Members will still have opportunities of contributing their speeches for the guidance of the Minister of External Affairs.

A Parliamentary Committee on Foreign Affairs should not cost extra money to the nation for its meetings could take place when Parliament is in session either in the free afternoons or at night. The Ministry of External Affairs apart from the Ministry of Finance is the most important of all the Ministries and Parliament should not hesitate to place that Ministry and its affairs on an excellent and sound position.

A Parliamentary Committee on External Affairs will enable Parliament to deal with the multifarious questions agitating the minds of many people to-day. It is a time saving device. It will enable Parliament to give effective scrutiny to Bills, proposals and problems on foreign affairs coming before it.

Furthermore, it will bring about an element of specialisation so completely absent at the moment in this House where every hon. Member is almost a jack of all trade, and master of none. By establishing the Committee, Members will be compelled to take more interest in foreign affairs, devote themselves to details and correct information ; and follow the trends of world events with interest, enthusiasm and seriousness of purpose and maturity. I commend the setting up of a Parliamentary Committee on Foreign Affairs because it will assist the delegation which this House generally sends abroad. It will also help to equip members of parliamentary delegations with the necessary facts with which to face their counterparts from other parts of the world. It is often the case that Members going outside Nigeria on Parliamentary delegations are not always aware of the details of the relationships existing between one country and another or the details of certain events happening in other parts of the world, with the result that when Members are selected, they find it difficult to acquaint themselves with the necessary facts with which to make contributions in debates. A Parliamentary Committee on Foreign Affairs will certainly equip such Members of Parliament with facts which will enable them to make useful contributions in debates anywhere in the world.

The Minister of External Affairs will do well to take this House into confidence and accept this suggestion in his own interest and in the interest of Parliament and the nation.

I beg to second.

**Mr S. D. Lar** (Lowland East) : In supporting this Motion, I would say that the Motion is overdue to come before this House. This is a Motion that should be supported by all sides of the House. It is a Motion which, I am sure, when supported, will save our Minister of External Affairs from making the type of blunders which he had committed in the past.

**Mr F. C. Ogbalu** (Awka North) : On a point of order, it is surprising to hear the Member for Lowland East (*Mr Lar*) speak in this vein. To our knowledge, the Minister of External Affairs has not made any blunders in the past ; if the Minister did, the Prime Minister could have called him to order. However, the Minister of External Affairs was only projecting the opinion of the Federal Government.

**The Deputy Speaker :** That is a point of comment.

**Mr Lar :** I am very sorry. I thought I was supporting my hon. Friend, the Member for Awka North (*Mr Ogbalu*), but unfortunately he has turned round to stab me in the back. When I said that the Minister of External Affairs made some blunders in the past—

**Dr P. U. Okeke (Onitsha North Central) :** On a point of order, this is a very strong accusation. I do not know what the hon. Member speaking calls blunder. He is not using his words properly.

**Mr Lar :** Well, if such Committee had been set up about a year or two ago, I am sure Nigeria would have been able to win a seat at the Security Council of the United Nations. Perhaps it is because of the absence of this Committee that the Minister of External Affairs made such blunders.

**Dr P. U. Okeke (Onitsha North Central) :** On a point of order, hon. Members should learn to speak with decency in this House.

**Chief A. Akerele (Oyo East) :** The hon. Gentleman was only sworn in this morning.

**Mr Lar :** The Member for Onitsha North Central (*Dr Okeke*) should know that blunder means a mistake.

**The Deputy Speaker :** Will the Member for Lowland East (*Mr Lar*) please go on with his speech and leave the definition of the word alone.

**Mr Lar :** I do not mean to be provocative. I support the Motion wholeheartedly and I hope that the Federal Government will take it seriously and appoint this Committee during the life of this Parliament.

**Some hon. Members :** How many months more? It is too late.

**Mr Lar :** Well, I do not know how many months more are left, but to avoid any eventuality, this Committee should be set up now. I am sure that when this Committee is set up and the members of the Committee are carefully selected, they will be able to guide and direct our Minister of External Affairs to carry our policies to the outside world in the right way.

I beg to support.

**Mr A. A. Ajibola (Egbado South) :** I feel that this Motion is unnecessary for one or two reasons. In the first place, the life of this Parliament is almost ended. We are now in March and very soon there will be an election. How could you then set up a Committee now to advise the Minister of External Affairs? I think it is too late.

My second objection to this Motion is that if we agree to set up a Committee on External Affairs, we should also set up Committees on the Army, Police, Commerce and Industry, Education and also on the Prime Minister. What is good for the goose is also good for the gander. Why do we pin-point only the Minister of External Affairs? With due respect to this honourable House, the Minister of External Affairs is one of the best Ministers we have in this House. (*Applause*). The Minister of External Affairs is one of the most capable and efficient.

**An hon. Member :** Is it because their two parties are now in alliance?

**Mr Ajibola :** It is not the question of alliance. When there is reason for opposition, we shall oppose, and when there is reason to support any move in this House we shall support it. I do not see any reason why a Committee should be set up only on Foreign Affairs.

**Mr Ogbalu :** On a point of order, it is the practise everywhere in the world. We shall begin with the Foreign Affairs and as time goes on we shall also set up Committees on the other Ministries.

**Mr Ajibola :** Apart from the fact that it is too late to pass this Motion now, it should also be borne in mind that if passed it means indirectly a vote of no confidence in the Federal Government whose sole duty is the formulation of policies for this country. Therefore, if we set up a Committee on Foreign Affairs, it means that we have condemned the Federal Government. I am not supporting this Motion because I do not know the reason for it and I do not understand the motive behind it. On the face value, I see that this Motion is worthless, useless, needless and is already belated.

Thank you, Mr Speaker.

**Mr I. S. Onwuchekwa (Ahoada Central) :** I support this Motion. I do not agree with those who say that it is belated. I think we

have to make a beginning somehow, and even if the life of this House ends the next minute, we have got to have Parliamentary Committees on Ministries.

This Motion has nothing to do with the substantive holder of this Ministry. We know, as my hon. Friend the Member for Egbado South (*Mr Ajibola*) has said, that the Minister of External Affairs is among the best we have. Foreign Affairs is about the greatest assignment of any independent nation. This is evidenced by the fact that it is always the last portfolio to be handed over to any nation on the attainment of independence.

Many a time criticisms, warranted and unwarranted, have been levelled against the Minister of External Affairs. Most of such criticisms are due to ignorance. If a Parliamentary Committee on Foreign Affairs is formed, most Members will be better informed about the intricacies involved in matters of diplomacy. The Committee in turn will be able to contribute by giving genuine advice to the Government and the Minister on the delicate issue of Foreign Affairs.

Many people, rightly or wrongly, doubt the way our Foreign Policy of non-alignment is being carried out. This, to my mind, is because Members are not put in the picture. I think that if a Committee of this nature is formed, it will put most of the Members in the picture and they can advise the Government. There are certain people who say things without knowing the fundamental principles involved, but if these people are in the Committee, they will be informed that in diplomacy we do not go just the apparent way people think. As I said some time ago, it is the duty of this Parliament to see that Nigeria presents an image in the comity of nations, and I think—

**An hon. Member :** Which image ?

**Mr Onwuchekwa :** The image of Nigeria. It will be the duty of this Committee as the custodian of Parliament to watch this and to see what general advice it can give to the Minister. Such a Committee must be established and it is in the best interest of Government, Parliament and the people of our great nation that such a Committee be set up immediately.

I beg to support.

**The Minister of External Affairs (Dr Jaja Wachuku) :** I rise to oppose this Motion on behalf of the Government.

Having listened to the various speeches this afternoon and the haphazard way in which they have been made, I take it that Members are not really serious about the demand for this Committee because this House knows, and Members know, that in August 1960 a similar Motion was brought to this House and it was rejected. In April 1962, a similar Motion was brought and it was rejected. Members know that there was a time when we had two days to debate our foreign policy and Members had debated it to their hearts' content. They made constructive suggestions and some irrelevant suggestions and spoke as freely as possible, some with substance and some without—but it is part of parliamentary tradition. Consequently, Members have brought this Motion over and over again.

I interpret this Motion as an indirect way of experienced parliamentarians trying to find out or trying to know what the Government is doing in respect of the Foreign Policy in different fields. For instance, when the Mover of this Motion spoke, he said, "How do we know what we are doing with regards to Berlin, Disarmament, Malaysia, Kashmir, Ethiopias Somalia dispute, Dahomey-Niger and various other items ?"

Certainly the Member for Adamawa North West (*M. Albatan Yerima Balla*) will agree with me that as for the Niger-Dahomey dispute, nobody could have planned any policy about that because the dispute just broke out like that. We were in this House when we heard that something had happened. We took steps to despatch some people to go there privately without anybody knowing it, made contact with various people and set up a machinery. Surely no Committee could do that within 24 hours. In the first place, the House would not be sitting. But this was done within the Ministry by the Ministers and the machinery was set going and we were able to achieve this result. Surely no Committee of 20 could do that. By the time the Committee summoned 20 people from different parts of Nigeria to come and discuss the fact that we had information that Dahomey and Niger were quarrelling, and before they reached here, seven of them might suffer accident on the road and might be going to hospital ; and they would say there was no

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quorum. There are so many things against such a thing. Even when they arrived, what would happen? Somebody would be elected Chairman; the Chairman might not have had enough sleep and then he would not attend. The next thing would be to adjourn and nothing would be done. Instead of the Committee being an asset, it would be a liability. So nothing can be done expeditiously.

It has been suggested that this is the practice everywhere. That is not correct. We are patterned after the Westminster, The Cabinet controls Foreign Policy. In the United States, it is not even the whole Congress, it is in the Senate that they have Foreign Relations Committee. There is no uniformity about this thing all over. I would like Members to be accurate, particularly the two Members who spoke about it to be sure about their facts.

Now I would suggest—I know Members may not agree with me, but in the final analysis they will agree with me—we already have a Committee on Foreign Affairs. I think if Members think seriously, they will find that during the Budget Session when the House resolves into Committee of the whole House to consider the Heads of Estimates, they can offer their suggestions in respect of Head 44—Foreign Affairs. When the House is in Committee, the Heads of Estimates are considered one by one. My advice to Members is this: if they will speak less on unimportant things, they will have time to debate Foreign Affairs. What is happening over and over again is that Members spend so much time talking about so many things and when the important Heads are about to be considered, they find that there is no time and the whole thing is passed over like that without any debate. Whose fault is it?

If we constitute a Committee of the Whole House and keep me here so that I can answer every available question, and good use is not made of the opportunity, whose fault is that? I will accuse hon. Members of negligence of their duty. They neglect to do their duty. They have lost the opportunity in Committee in not doing their work which is set out under the Standing Order.

**An hon. Member :** But that is in the Committee of Supply.

**Dr Wachuku :** Yes, in the Committee of Supply the Estimate is discussed Head by Head.

**M. Ibrahim Gusau (Sokoto West Central) :** On a point of order, with due respect to the Minister, I should like to inform the House that when the House is in Committee, it is in Committee of Supply and it is only one and a half hours for Head 44 for the whole year. Is that what he means by debating Foreign Affairs?

**Dr Wachuku :** Apart from the one and a half hours available for discussing Head 44 in Committee, if Members are really serious about their desire to know what is going on, Members have not only the privilege but the right to ask for debate on Foreign Affairs at a particular time. I am not going to teach Members parliamentary practice. These are things that are done. Not only that. There are so many parties in this House, and it is the practice that every party sets up a machinery within its own party, and they have spokesmen on Foreign Affairs.

**Hon. Members :** There are three parties here.

**Dr Wachuku :** Well, there are three parties and there should be at least three spokesmen here on Foreign Affairs.

They said that this Committee would lead to specialisation. Now, this is the opportunity to specialise if each party has its spokesman on Foreign Affairs. It is this person who will be entrusted with the responsibility of going into the researching, making the necessary contact that will enable Members to understand what is involved in Foreign Affairs.

Again, the hon. Members who spoke here said that they do not know what the policy is. I want to remind Members that on the 20th August, 1960, the foreign policy of Nigeria was declared in this House and that was printed and circulated to Members. I doubt how many Members have even their copies now!

**An hon. Member :** I have mine here.

**Dr Wachuku :** For instance, the Proposer of this Motion talked about the Ethiopia/Somalia dispute. What is our stand there? If he reads that statement, he will find that there is a statement there referring to boundary disputes, so it will be seen what the Nigerian stand would be in case there is a boundary dispute between one African territory and the other. Then you find that you have various aspect of this. The point is that Members,

due to various problems that confront all of us, have no time even to discover where they have laid aside document containing the foreign policy statement.

It is also suggested by the Proposer of the Motion that before we do anything, this Committee has to sit down and draft a memorandum for the Minister of External Affairs. In other words, this House is going to constitute a rubber stamp Minister.

I want to assure this honourable House that in international affairs there is nothing prepared or ready-made. You must be prepared to meet surprises just in the conference. When you want to deal with a particular matter, a new issue would come in there and you have to be in a position to deal with that within the framework of your policy having regard all the time to your national interest. That is a fundamental thing. Whatever you may be, the national interest must be at the back of your mind.

**Chief A. M. A. Akinloye** (Ibadan North East) : And world peace.

**Dr Wachuku** : Yes, and world peace. If there is no peace there will be no Six-Year Development Programme. So it is in our national interest—peace and prosperity go with that.

I do not think that the hon. Members are really serious when they say that they want this Committee to be set up now within the life time of this Parliament. Well, I do not know how long the Parliament will last. All I know is that according to our Constitution, this House cannot last longer than December this year. Usually we used to have our elections in December, so about October we have about six weeks between the time of dissolution and the time a new House is elected. If the House runs the full length of its life time, it should not go beyond November, and I do not know what value a Committee set up now will be to this nation. Rather, it would create more problems for the Government.

Another thing is that if such a Committee is created, I am sure the moment it is created there will be some people who will be agitating that the Committee should be summoned, if for nothing else, at least for transport and mileage allowances. From what vote is the Foreign Ministry going to meet this expenditure? We are planning to get enough money to open Embassies and to do so many other things.

We have not got enough money. The Ministry of Finance will always tell us that we are the most spend-thrift of all the Ministries. Everybody thinks that this Ministry spends all the money. Then on top of that, we bring about 20 or 40 people and put them there. When you put the whole thing together, you find, Mr Speaker, that it is a waste. It will be an economic waste.

So it is quite clear from watching the reaction of Members that they see it is not feasible, at least during this session. If it is correct that it is not feasible, it is not practicable. And even if it is set up, it cannot work. Then that alone disqualifies this Motion. If we can say that it is not feasible and that it is not workable or practicable, then the Motion fails straight away.

I am not going to belabour this House on this particular issue. I expect that when the House moves into Committee, Members will take advantage of that to raise relevant matters, and I want to assure that if Members are, as I believe they will as hon. Members, constructive in whatever comment they make and seek information, they will find that we shall give them full co-operation because this House is entitled to know what we are doing so as to appreciate the reason why we do certain things. The more they know what we are doing the stronger will the Government's influence become when we move forward to conduct the affairs of this country.

With these remarks, I beg to oppose the Motion.

*Question put and negatived.*

#### CONTROL OF HOUSE RENT

**Mr A. U. D. Mbah** (Owerri North) : I rise to move the Motion standing in my name which reads :—

That this House views with grave concern the prevailing exorbitant house rents in Lagos, and calls on the Government to take immediate and appropriate steps to control house rent in the Federal Territory of Lagos.

I do not intend to confine my Motion to Lagos alone.

**An hon. Member** : But the Motion is for Lagos alone.



**Mr A. O. Ogunsanya** (Ikeja) : Lagos is the capital of Nigeria. I am happy you are all jealous of Lagos.

**Mr Mbah** : But since Lagos is the seat of the Federal Government, I think anything that is good should start in Lagos and consequently be extended to all parts of the Federation.

Before I begin to talk on rent control in Lagos, I would like to give some facts about Lagos houses. Lagos, as you all know, covers an area of about twenty-seven square miles. This, of course, includes the island of Lagos, Ebute Metta, Yaba, Surulere and Apapa on the Mainland. There are areas outside the present boundary of Lagos, where a worker is compelled by lack of accommodation to reside. These areas include Idioro, Ikeja, Mushin Shomolu, Shogunle, Ajegunle, Olodi and Agege. People who are forced by housing problems to reside in, say, Ikeja or Agege or any of these other places, travel to their places of work, from distances of about 16, 14, 12 and 10 miles respectively.

In 1960, the population of Lagos was estimated at about 400,000 but the last Lagos City Council elections indicated that the population has increased to 600,000 in 1962. If we are to rely on the last census conducted, the population of Lagos was given at about three-quarters of a million. The increase in population continues with fury owing to the convenient location of Lagos with the establishments and modern amenities around, and of course, with the presence of a real channel to the sea which has made Lagos develop as an important commercial centre. According to survey reports it is known that the island of Lagos and much of the Mainland areas had been reclaimed to provide the land necessary for the heavy buildings and development programmes of the Federal Government, the Lagos City Council and the commercial firms.

Before proceeding to talk on rent control, the first question to consider is land. It is obviously clear that there is acute shortage of land in Lagos. The rush and desire for land which, among other things, prompted the reclamation and allocation of land which led to housing schemes outside Lagos island including Ikeja Housing scheme, Southern Police College and the Federal enclave in

Western territory shows that there is real difficulty in absorbing the inhabitants, particularly workers in the Federal territory due to shortage of land.

Let me remind the House, that the colonial Government as far back as 1941 promulgated the Rent Restriction Ordinance as a step to curb the excesses of landlords. With your permission, I would like to quote from the laws of Nigeria, Chapter 183. I will quote the the relevant section, and that is what we have in the law as far as rent control in Lagos is concerned and nothing more :—

THE RENT RESTRICTION (PERMITTED INCREASES) ORDER IN COUNCIL

made under s. 18

1. *This Order in Council may be cited as the Rent Restriction (Permitted Increases) Order in Council.*

2. *The net rent payable for premises which were completed, or first let at a rent, after the 1st day of July, 1941, may, in cases where under the contract of tenancy the rates to be paid in respect of the premises are payable by the landlord, be increased by a sum calculated in accordance with the following principles :—*

(a) *the actual amount in the pound payable in respect of rates for the half-year during which the premises were completed, or were first let at a rent, shall be taken as the basic rate ;*

(b) *the sum shown in the First Schedule to the Rent Restriction Ordinance, opposite the basic rate, as being the increase of the rent permitted where the rate for the half-year has been increased from eightpence in the pound to the basic rate shall be deemed to have been allowed for the original rent, and shall be termed the basic increase of rent ;*

(c) *where at any time the amount in the pound payable in respect of rates (hereinafter referred to as the current rate) is greater than the basic rate, the rent may be increased by a sum equal to the difference between :—*

(i) *the basic increase of rent, and*

(ii) *the increase of rent permitted by the said Schedule in respect of the current rate”.*

Now, what I am trying to show is that the increase permitted has not been followed, or should I say, has always been misused by landlords. I know very well that in this House and outside this House, there are many landlords who may not be willing to accept what I am trying to say. But I would like them, however, to give me their ears. The question is that the burden of enforcing the Ordinance falls on the poor workers as contraventions are only challengeable by civil action in court. But with what resources can a poor worker involve himself in such litigation which in most cases, can be protracted? He is not hindered by fear or unwillingness to displease the landlord. I can assure you that if it were possible, many tenants could have taken their landlords to court but they cannot afford the cost.

Now, as the seat of the Federal Government, there are governmental and industrial establishments in Lagos and these have taken up a large portion of the habitable space. Apart from the intake of both manpower and industries, the inflow of people to industries continues to increase. It is a credit to this Government to say that huge sums of money have been spent on land reclamation. Yet accommodation in Lagos constitutes a serious problem. I remember the commendable effort of the Anti-Malaria Unit in the 1940's to reclaim the swampy mangrove island of Lagos and to free the people of mosquito and malaria. As the first step to combat the housing problem, the workers' quarters in Surulere, under the LEDB Housing Project, was initiated. This laudable scheme was not followed with the urgency it deserved and as a matter of fact, the efforts could not arrest the situation.

To begin with, the houses are miserably insufficient and secondly the whole scheme has lost construction and purpose. The true position of the Surulere Housing Scheme is that girl friends of rich landlords, executive officers, lawyers and businessmen and perhaps Ministers' nominees live in these quarters to the detriment of the lower strata of the working class.

**An hon. Member :** Shame !

**Mr Mbah :** On top of this ugly situation, there is the allegation of corruption and nepotism in the allocation of these quarters, and as a result, the LEDB quarters have become a difficult and uneconomic exercise.

The proposed metropolitan low cost housing scheme announced by the President in the course of his Speech is highly commendable, but there is yet no guarantee that the scheme will not suffer the faith of the LEDB quarters.

Here, I want to give the House some guidance about the objective of the national housing policy. It used to be the objective of our national housing policy within the framework of the general housing policy, to promote the construction of houses and related facilities with a view to ensuring that adequate and decent accommodation is made available to all workers and their families. A degree of priority should be accorded to those whose needs are greatest. The end should be that such housing accommodation should not cost a worker more than a reasonable proportion of income whether by way of rent or by way of periodical payments towards the purchase of such accommodation.

Housing should be co-ordinated with general social and economic policy so that the housing of workers may be given a degree of priority which takes into account the need and the requirements of workers' economic development. These are a few guides I want to give on the objective of a national housing policy.

Coming to the actual rate in Lagos, rentage costs in Lagos are the highest in the country and, in fact, throughout Africa. Rent control has been introduced in the Regions. In the Eastern Region, we have an effective rent control in Enugu, Port Harcourt and some other areas; also in the West and possibly in some parts of the Northern Region. If the Regional Governments can introduce rent control, I do not see why Lagos, the capital, cannot, at least, do something about rent control.

We have, many a time, resented wage agitations. I want to assure this House that one of the causes of agitation for wage increases is the high cost of living, and rents particularly are the principal cause of this. For instance—

**The Minister of Commerce and Industry** (Alhaji Zanna Bukar Dipcharima) : On a point of order, the hon. Member is misleading the House. The agitation is for the labour leaders to keep their positions, that is all, and not because people are worried about rent control. Let him not deceive anybody.

**Mr Mbah :** I used to know the Minister of Commerce and Industry as one of the old nationalists, but the fact that he is now eating ice-cream is no sufficient reason for him—

**An hon. Member :** Ice-cream !

**Mr Mbah :** Yes. He is sucking ice-cream now (*Laughter*). That is not a sufficient reason for him to be changing and trying to oppose such a measure calculated to promote the interest of the workers.

One of the causes of the high cost of living in Lagos is high rent. When I am talking about control of rents, I am not saying that we should just do it arbitrarily. We have to classify the houses, take a house which was built in Lagos 20 years ago, a house which was built when building materials were cheaper, and a house built in Lagos, may be five years ago when perhaps the cost of building materials was higher. I will never suggest that such buildings, in controlling rent, should be placed on the same footing.

There was an incident at Falomo the other day. A whole area was burnt. I am sure some of the hon. Members who live at Ikoyi saw the ramshackle buildings burnt. What would one call those things at Falomo that were burnt? Would one call them houses?

**Several hon. Members :** No !

**Mr Mbah :** One cannot call them houses, and yet, the landlords charge exorbitantly and nothing is being done to check them. I cannot compare those buildings with the decent modern buildings springing up around Lagos. So, I am not saying that we should control rent arbitrarily. We have to classify these buildings before we are able to know the size of the buildings, the requirements, and how much should be paid.

Before I can wind up on this, I want to give—

*And it being 5.45 p.m. Mr Speaker proceeded to interrupt the Business, pursuant to Standing Order 5 (3).*

## ORDER OF THE DAY

PRESIDENT'S SPEECH  
(MOTION FOR AN ADDRESS)

ADJOURNED DEBATE ON QUESTION  
(16TH MARCH)

That an humble Address be presented to His Excellency, the President, as follows :—

“Your Excellency,

We, the Members of the House of Representatives of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, in Parliament assembled, beg leave to offer our humble thanks to Your Excellency for the Speech which Your Excellency has been pleased to address to both Houses of Parliament.”

**Mr S. D. Lar (Lowland East) :** I rise to express my appreciation for the Speech delivered by our most respected President. Several hon. Members have expressed their views on this and especially, on the unity of Nigeria. I would like to say about one or two things on this important issue.

First of all, I am sure that all true Nigerians, all true Nigerians, I repeat these words, would like to see that this country is running smoothly and is running without any trouble, and they always pray for the peace and the stability of this country. I remember since the attainment of our national independence there have always been peace and unity but I regret that since about a few weeks ago, we have been hearing utterances which are not in the best interest of this country. These utterances and pronouncements unfortunately have come from certain political leaders. These political leaders who should first of all look for the peace and unity of this country made the utterances.

I do not intend to be provocative or to create any controversy over my speech. What I am saying is that we all cherish the unity of this country and I think these political leaders should be very cautious of their statements, otherwise the unity of this country will break up and, I am sure, nobody will be benefited once the unity of this country is broken up.

Yesterday, somebody suggested on the Floor of this House that the Federation of Nigeria should be broken up. I am sorry about that and I think it was a very unfortunate thing to say. For a Member of that calibre, a Member I respect so much and like so much, to come to this place and speak in that manner was unfortunate to say the least and I do not think that was good of him. As I have already said, I do not want to bring any controversial issue to the Floor of the House especially after one has listened to the speech of the Member for Kaga Maghi (*Shettima Alli Monguno*) yesterday. I am sure hon. Members would like to drop the issue and let sleeping dogs lie.

I should have liked to reply to the hon. Member and let him know that there is no one Region in this Federation which is afraid of the other; or any one Region which can control another. After all the Regions have autonomy and they have equal powers and there is no need to regard one Region as being inferior to another according to the speech of that Member. The Member I am referring to went to the extent of condemning the leaders of a certain Region and he called the Northern Peoples' Congress an unprogressive party.

I am very sorry to say that he has made a great mistake. It is unfortunate for any Member of this honourable House to call the N.P.C. an unprogressive party. After all it is on record that the leader of the Northern Peoples' Congress has done a lot to bring about the independence of this country. If certain things which are said on the Floor of this House should bring about trouble, it will not be the fault of anybody but that of the people who make unnecessary utterances.

**Mr E. O. Araka** (Onitsha Urban): On a point of order, Sir, it is not good for certain false impressions to be created on the Floor of this House. The impression is being created that the Member for Bende East (*Professor Kalu Ezera*) referred to certain leaders of the N.P.C. as being unprogressive. I have here a copy of the *Hansard* for yesterday and there is no where in the speech by Professor Kalu Ezera where leaders of the N.P.C. were referred to as unprogressive. It is very wrong to create that impression.

**The Deputy Speaker**: Order! Will the Member for Lowland East (*Mr Lar*) please carry on with his speech but he should make sure that he is leading the House aright.

**Mr Lar**: I did not mention names. I said an "hon. Member". There might have been one, two, three or even four hon. Members who spoke and made reference to the leaders of the N.P.C. I want to make it categorically clear that it is not the intention of the Northern Region to dominate any other Region and it is not the intention of the N.P.C. either. What we want is unity. I am sure we from the North are peace loving people; we believe in unity and that is the reason why we are able to work with other political parties in unity. If it were another political party it could have

disregarded other political parties to go it alone. We have the majority but in spite of that we still want to work with other political parties.

**Mr F. I. Okoronkwo** (Aba Urban): On a point of information, Sir, the Member for Lowland East (*Mr Lar*) sang a different song when he was in the Action Group and now he is singing another song. I wonder what song he will sing tomorrow.

**Mr Lar**: Another point I would like to discuss is this. Recently, some people have suggested equal representation in the House of Representatives. I must say that this suggestion is ill-conceived, uncalled for and unwarranted. It is also mischievous and we shall oppose equal representation in this House. Already all the Regions are equally represented in the Senate and it will be asking for too much sacrifice from the North if we are equally represented in the Federal House. Each Member is said to represent a specific number of people. During the last federal elections one Member represented one hundred thousand people. That was the best idea. I cannot understand why we should give the job of five people to one man. That will be unprogressive. I want to say that we of the North shall reject this idea.

In the President's Speech mention was made of industries. I think that is a very good thing. I am happy to note that the Federal Government is interested in the affairs of mining—tin mining. I think tin mining is one of the industries that we should take seriously in this country. Several promises have been made in the past but up till now nothing has been done. I am suggesting to the Federal Government that before anything is done the present Chamber of Mines should be dissolved as it is composed of expatriates and these expatriates naturally cater for the interests of their fellow expatriates. Once that is done a new election should be ordered and another Chamber of Mines composed of Africans should be set up and a chairman should be elected from among the African members.

*And it being 6 p.m. sitting was suspended until 9 p.m., pursuant to the Resolution of the House—  
This Day.*

*Sitting resumed—9 p.m.*

**Mr S. D. Lar :** I wish to say that if we want to improve the standard of living of our people we must not only fight to establish our own industries but we should also make efforts to tap our natural resources. With this in mind, I would like to speak in regard to the tin mining industry which we have been blessed with in the country. To-day Nigeria is one of the lucky countries producing tin for the world market. Therefore, I think the Federal Government should do something so as to guard against any possible exploitation of these minerals by foreign concerns.

At present, the tendency is that one will find that indigenous miners are not willing to go into mining any longer because they are not morally nor financially encouraged, and I think it will be a very pitiful and serious thing to the economy of this country if mining is left in the hands of foreigners. I suggest that the Federal Government should do something to encourage these indigenous miners by way of finance.

I would like to be brief because, this being the last day for the debate on the Address, other Members would like to speak on it. I think the present Chamber of Mines at Jos, as I said in the morning, is not working for the best interest of the indigenous miners in Jos. The Members of the Committee are expatriates and they only cater for the interests of the expatriates. I will suggest that the Federal Government should establish a Nigerian Chamber of Mines without further delay.

My last point is on the role of the Federal Government in international affairs, especially in Africa. I think the Federal Government should be congratulated because we have seen the activities of this Government as regards the Organisation of African Unity. With that in mind I wish very respectfully to record my appreciation to the Federal Minister of State in the Ministry of External Affairs, Alhaji Nuhu Bamali, for the able way in which he has conducted the affairs of this country especially on the Arbitration Committee to settle the dispute between Algeria and Morocco. This Gentleman should be commended for

that. Also, my praises go to Mr M. T. Mbu in the Ministry of Defence. This Gentleman too has also placed Nigeria on record in the field of international affairs. He has done a lot.

When the Heads of State and Government meet sometime this year in Cairo, we are told, one of the items on their agenda will be the question of an African High Command. I would like to tell the Prime Minister that this African High Command is a very delicate issue. I think if that Command is established it will place Africa in a very insecure position. There will be a temptation for all the countries concerned to be fighting for the command of such a joint army. If a particular country is charged with the power to command, who knows if that country will not tend to use the power for her own interests. I would like to suggest that the best way of solving that problem is that the countries which are members of the O.A.U. should sign a declaration prohibiting all the foreign troops from moving into Africa and that if any trouble breaks out anywhere in Africa, the help that the country affected should seek should be from within the countries in the O.A.U. and not from foreign sources. I do not think that the presence of foreign troops in Africa is in our best interest. We should only seek for help within the countries of the O.A.U.

I think we should also pay tributes to our representatives in the United Nations Organisation, especially persons like my friends, the Member for Kaga Marghi (*Shettima Ali Monguno*) and the Member for Kano East (*Alhaji Aminu Kano*). In fact these people have represented us very well. Often times we hear of the Member for Kaga Marghi speaking about the Portuguese in Angola and I think that we should record our appreciation of the activities of these people.

I beg to support.

**Mr N. Enwo (Afikpo South):** I rise to support the Motion of thanks to His Excellency, the President for the Speech he delivered to the joint Session of this Parliament. Much has been said about the good and efficient way in which this country has been run. I would therefore like to thank the Ministers, particularly the Prime Minister, for the efficient way

in which they have been handling the affairs of this country. The President has really proved himself as the symbol of unity and as the father of this country.

I have said that the Prime Minister is a very great leader, but I want to say also that if there has not been co-operation between him and his Ministers the affairs of this country could not have been so efficiently run. I therefore appeal to every Member of this House to let us co-operate with ourselves in order that the much talked about unity of this country may not be a wishful thinking.

In the President's Speech a lot was said about the expansion of our Police Force. This is very encouraging, but I do not know how we can ask somebody whose house is not secured to come and seek the security of others. The Police quarters are awfully bad, and I can cite the Police quarters at Afikpo as an instance. The Police in Afikpo are still housed in the old army barracks. Some of them even have no quarters; they live here and there—

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister** (Mr S. A. Lana): On a point of order, I think my hon. Friend, the Member for Afikpo South (*Mr Enwo*) should reserve this part of his speech until we come to debate the Budget Speech.

**Mr Enwo**: I am touching this point now because it was mentioned in the President's Speech.

The police officers live in hired houses and as a result of which they move from one house to the other just because there is no permanent Police quarters at Afikpo. How can we think of expanding and maintaining the Police when those who we already have are not well catered for? I therefore feel that the time has come when great attention should be paid to the question of providing our Police with good quarters.

My next point is on the development of our roads. It is said in the Speech that roads will be built to a speed design of sixty miles per hour. This is a very laudable undertaking, but I would like to ask whether any improvement is to be made on the existing Trunk 'A' roads. If it is the existing roads that are going to be extended, I would like to say that if there is any road that needs extension it is the

Enugu-Abakaliki-Ikom Road. This road is an international highway which links Nigeria with the Camerouns, and I feel that it is high time that this road was improved.

Talking about communications, I think it is time for the Minister of Communications to examine the possibility of changing all the postal agencies into full post offices. We need many more post offices in the country. Just as efforts are being made to develop our road system so also should efforts be made to improve our postal and telegraphic communication. Postal and telegraphic communications are Federal subjects and as the Ministry concerned is a public property everybody has a right to enjoy the facilities it provides.

Electricity is another Federal subject. It has been said that electricity will be supplied to all parts of the country. This is a very good idea because everybody needs light. I would however like to say that it is very unfair to light every bed-room of all the houses in developed towns without any regard to the rural areas. Light is something that everybody needs and it must be given.

Lastly, I want to say that we have the Nigerian symbol of unity and faith behind Mr Speaker and almost everywhere in Nigeria, but I would like to say that the President of the Republic in the person of Dr Nnamdi Azikiwe and the Prime Minister of the country in the person of Alhaji Sir Abubakar Tafawa Balewa are human symbols of unity.

I beg to support.

**Mr Speaker**: With so many Members wishing to speak I do hope that Members will be brief and speak to the point so that as many Members as possible will have time to contribute to the debate.

**Mr O. J. Eminue** (Eket East): I rise to support the Motion of thanks to His Excellency, the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria for the magnificent Speech he delivered to the joint Session of this august Parliament.

Nigeria has passed through a wonderful transformation. In 1960 she was a colony and appendage of Britain. By the 1st of October of that year she became an independent sovereign state and to-day she is a Republic within the Commonwealth of Nations. All these were achieved without let or hindrance.

[MR EMINUE]

Thanks to the fortitude and singleness of purpose of our great leaders who have successfully piloted the ship of our destiny to the port unswept.

I hope and sincerely believe that when the new Parliament buildings shall be erected by the side of our great Lagos Lagoon (by the rivers of Babylon) the statues of our illustrious sons—the statue of our first President, our great Dr Nnamdi Azikiwe, the statue of Sir Abubakar Tafawa Balewa, our great peaceful Prime Minister, the statue of Sir Ahmadu Bello, the great Premier of the North,—shall be erected conspicuously at the forecourt of the Parliament buildings in happy memory of their devoted service and loyalty to this nation.

The creation of the Mid-West State is now history. We sincerely congratulate the people of this region for their magnanimity in their struggle for the creation of the fourth region of Nigeria. In 1958, the Willink Commission recommended a minority council for the Edo-speaking people. This council was the nucleus of the new Mid-West region. The same Willink Commission also recommended that a Calabar minority council should be established for the people of Old Calabar Province. But the N.C.N.C. Government of Eastern Nigeria openly refused to establish this council.

In population and in size, we are by far larger; the whole of the old Calabar Province is by far larger than the Mid-West region. The demand for a separate state for the people of old Calabar Province is mounting higher and higher every day. We are strongly appealing to our great Prime Minister, Sir Abubakar and the Federal Government to set the necessary machinery in motion for an amendment to Section 3 of our Constitution for the purpose of establishing a fifth region in the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

This region shall consist of the seven divisions of the old Calabar Province. This region shall be known and designated as the South-Eastern Region. This is of great and imperative necessity if the unity of this country must be guaranteed forever.

The Government intends, in the coming year, to strengthen our defences by land and sea. I am sure the proposed establishment of a naval base at Calabar is not a forgotten venture. We

know this is a minority area—a forgotten and neglected area of Calabar. There was an arm of the Nigerian army stationed at Calabar in the colonial days, but since Nigeria became independent, the soldiers there were removed to Enugu, and the military base there closed down.

Now since Western Cameroun has seceded from Nigeria and constituted themselves into a separate country, there is a big need to station a battalion of the Nigeria army at Calabar to protect our frontier with the Cameroun. Recent events along our fishing settlements clearly justify this demand. I know I am raising an alarm which I want this Government to investigate.

In 1960, I asked this Government if she was aware of the boundary problem between Western Cameroun and the fisher folks from old Calabar Province in the Eastern Region, which resulted in the fisher folks paying taxes doubly every year—first to the Government of Nigeria and then to the Government of Western Cameroun. The Prime Minister, who was then holding the portfolio for Foreign Affairs, replied that his Government was not aware of any boundary problem, but was aware that these fisher folks, after paying their taxes to the Nigerian Government, were requested by the Cameroun Government to pay taxes again. The Prime Minister then promised that he would advise the East Regional Government to look into this matter. I am sure the Eastern Government looked into the problem because the Western Cameroun Government withdrew for a moment.

But last year, the Government of Western Cameroun renewed their demand with vigour. This time they came with their soldiers armed. These soldiers were looting our fishing settlements and beating our men mercilessly, demanding taxes from them. In one settlement, one fisherman of Calabar origin, was shot dead and a woman seriously wounded. As a result, over thirty police constables from Enugu were sent to patrol these fishing settlements. I am sure the report of the Police Intelligence Officers might have reached this Government by now.

The real problem is that our Government must adjust its boundaries with the Western Cameroun Government. From the colonial

days, the natural boundary between the people of Calabar and the *Efote* people of Western Cameroun has always been at the *Rio-del-Rey* river, so that all the rich fishing ports to the left of this river from the mouth belong to Calabar, and constitute our fishing settlements; all the fishing settlements to the right of this river belong to Western Cameroun.

Some of these fishing settlements are *Abana*, *Atabong*, *Ine-Okpo*, *Ine-Atayo*, *Ine-Akpak*, and many others, but the Western Cameroun is claiming the boundary right down to the *Ikang* river in the Calabar waters, thus claiming our rich fishing settlements as part of their land.

Therefore, I am, once more, appealing to the Federal Government to look seriously into this problem and to try to adjust forthwith our boundary with the Government of Western Cameroun.

An Army stationed at Calabar will also check the inroad of the Cameroun soldiers into our fishing settlements.

Electricity provides the cheapest source of power to a developing economy. The Electricity Corporation of Nigeria has over £10 million to extend electricity supply to a number of towns. I am sure that the Government will consider it an urgent necessity to supply Ikot Ekpene, Uyo and Calabar with light at the earliest possible moment, and also think of linking Oron, Eket, Abak and Opobo to this main line.

I beg to support.

**Oba S. A. Oladiran** (Okitipupa South): I rise to support the Motion of Thanks to His Excellency for the Speech he delivered to the Joint Sitting of both Houses of Parliament.

We are told that the strength of our Nigerian Police will be increased. This is a welcome move. I am glad that the Federal Government has realised that the inadequacy of police contingency in the Eastern Region has always been the cause of frequent thirsty murder in that part of the Federation.

We must at the same time praise the activities of N.A. Police in Northern Nigeria and those of the Local Government Police in Western Nigeria. They have rendered invaluable services to the Federation. I will strongly appeal to the Federal Government to place the entire Force under an effective control of a Nigerian Police Officer.

Many people have spoken about the need for encouraging policemen. I associate myself with the views expressed by those Members. This would perhaps reduce the corrupt practices which are going on in our Police Force.

I praise the Federal Government for the role it played in handling the leakage of examination papers in the Nigerian Police College. It is rather shameful to hear about the leakage of question papers in the College and that some Inspectors of Police were involved. The Federal Government was justified in dismissing those responsible for the leakage. That will be a deterrent to others.

I am happy to note that emphasis was laid on the question of electricity in Nigeria. I am referring to the Progress Report on the Niger Dam Project. Without this dam it will be impossible to have sufficient power supply throughout the country and the various industries which are springing up might be attracted to the urban areas where there is electricity, to the detriment of rural areas.

I am appealing to the Federal Government to extend the electricity installation which is now under construction in Okitipupa Division to other places than Okitipupa township which is no more our administrative headquarters, I would like electricity to be extended to places like Irele, Igbobini, Shabomi, Aye, and so on.

The question of postal communication is another point I would like to touch. The Federal Government has not given enough attention to the problem of postal communication in Nigeria. At least a modern post office should be provided for every federal constituency, and a number of postal agencies for the various districts.

Take for instance, a telegram which was sent to me on the 6th of March and which reached Okitipupa post office the same day was delivered to me on the 9th. I am sure that many Members in this House have been victims of such an anomaly.

The Speech touched the question of unemployment in the Federal Republic. We must not lose sight of one point. The Six-Year Development Programme must be executed in such a manner that the people in the rural areas may feel the impact of the development.



[OBA OLADIRAN]

This will minimise the exodus of school leavers to the principal towns. We can only do this by giving the investors from foreign countries some sort of encouragement.

It is most interesting to hear that improvement will be made to the health scheme in Lagos which will ultimately improve the health of the inhabitants of Lagos. With your permission, Mr Speaker, I will quote the relevant part of the Speech—

*My Government will carry on with its programme of improving the health of the inhabitants of Lagos by widening the basis of preventive measures and bringing medical and health facilities within easy reach of a large number of people.*

I will implore the Federal Government to come to the aid of the Regional Governments by maintaining General Hospitals owned jointly by those Governments and some Missionaries. The Federal Government can do this by providing grants through the Regional Governments to the hospitals wherever they may be located.

I remember that some time last year the Federal Government made an announcement that it would take over the responsibility of Trunk "B" roads from the Regional Governments so that the Regional Governments could be in a position to help the District Councils in maintaining the local roads.

I would implore the Federal Government to give consideration to the Trunk "B" road connecting Okitipupa and Ondo. This road is only 54 miles long. It is a very bad road and it requires resurfacing. Although a Federal Minister comes from that area, we are not properly cared for by the Federal Government. In any event, the Regional Government is trying but we feel that the Federal Government should do something to help the people in that area.

With these remarks, I beg to support.

**Mr E. O. Araka** (Onitsha Urban) : I rise to associate myself with the views expressed by many previous speakers who have showered encomiums on the President for his eloquent Address to the Joint Sitting of both Houses of Parliament. In doing so, I would also like to associate myself with the views expressed by

many Members of this House with regard to the problems confronting this great Federation of ours.

I have in mind the issue of unity which is very dear to our hearts.

It is unfortunate that quite recently there have been certain provocative statements coming from some quarters. I say it is unfortunate but I do not blame our leaders very much for this situation because these are the things that have been handed over to us by our former colonial governors.

It was clear in 1945 when the Richard's Constitution was being fashioned that problems of this nature were bound to rise. At that time our President of the Republic pointed out the difficulties that were bound to arise if the country was split into three, that is the North for the Northerners, the East for the Easterners and the West for the Westerners. It is now that we are realising the evils of regionalisation and the misdeeds done to this country—(Interruptions).

**Mr Speaker** : There is too much noise and I have got a message from the Reporters that they cannot hear the hon. Gentleman speaking. (Interruptions). The ruling of the Chair should be respected.

**Mr Araka** : Now it is for us, the representatives of the teeming millions of this great Republic, to find a means of resolving these issues. It is for us to find out what type of constitution will best suit this country most, because it is clear that the constitution that has been fashioned out for us by the imperialists that ruled this nation in the past is certainly not in the best interest of Nigeria.

A constitution which does not give the smallest child in this country any hope that at some time in the future he could be a potential Prime Minister, a constitution that does not give one the feeling that one is free to move about in the country as any other citizen, is certainly not the best for us.

**Mr M. B. Afanideh** (Ikot Ekpene South) : On a point of order, the present Constitution that we have is quite in order because we have with us our respected and competent Attorney-General and a distinguished lawyer also who has been able to give us guidance as far as the Constitution is concerned. Therefore it is

improper for anyone to come here to talk of the Constitution.

**Mr Araka :** A constitution which creates the impression that at one given time or the other one Region alone will be able to rule the whole of the Federation is not a true constitution for the country. We all know that the present Constitution gives one Region of the Republic the right to rule the whole country.

**M. Sule Abba Biu (Biu North):** On a point of order—

**Several hon. Members :** What order ?

**Mr Speaker :** Is the hon. Gentleman standing really raising a point of order, if so, what order please ?

**M. Sule Abba Biu :** I just want to remind the Member for Onitsha Urban (*Mr Araka*) that the Constitution which he is criticising was discussed, agreed to, and drawn up by the leaders of this country.

**Mr Speaker :** I think the reference to the Constitution in this respect is not entirely out of order because he is relating it to the unity of the country which cannot be actually far from the real point.

**Mr Araka :** I appeal to our leaders to forget the ills of the past ; let us come together and get out a constitution that will be most acceptable to the fifty-five million people of this great Republic of ours.

Certainly once we have got a constitution that is most acceptable to the majority of the people of this country I assure you that there will be peace and tranquillity everywhere. I will leave this issue for the time being.

I now come to the problem of South-West Africa which is uppermost in my mind. After the first World War, South-West Africa became a Trust Territory under the administration of South Africa. There were other Trust Territories created at that time, namely, Tanganyika under the U.K. Government, Camerouns under the U.K. Government, Ruanda-Urundi under the Belgian Government, *et cetera*, but what have we now ?

All other Trust Territories are now independent with the exception of South-West Africa. The South African Government has completely

defied the authority of the United Nations on the question of granting self-determination to the people of South-West Africa.

South Africa is now in the process of annexing South-West Africa completely. It has even gone to the extent of refusing to receive the United Nations' observers who were asked to go and view the situation in South West Africa. This is a problem facing us as Members of the Organisation of African Unity and with all seriousness I suggest that we should take up this matter at the United Nations Organisation and state categorically that there must be an end to the trusteeship of this territory by the South African Government ; and that the members of the O.A.U. should take over the administration of South West Africa.

If peace, order, good Government and tranquillity could be achieved in the Republic of Congo through the assistance of the United Nations and with the active help of members of the O.A.U., there is no reason why we should be afraid to ask or demand the complete take over of the administration of this little territory—South West Africa—until such time when the people will be able to take over completely the running of their affairs. It is very bad for us to leave things as they are now.

As we have seen, South Africa has introduced apartheid policy in South West Africa. It has made different laws for the white people and different laws for the Africans, the indigenous people. There are areas in South Africa exclusively segregated for the indigenous people while the white people are put in specially reserved areas. Such a state of affairs is obnoxious and we should not allow it to continue. We in the Federal Republic of Nigeria who make up at least one quarter of the population of the whole of Africa, are expected to take the lead in such matters as this and to see that an end is put to the atrocities committed in South West Africa.

The question of Southern Rhodesia is another problem which we should not allow to pass unchallenged. We have seen quite recently, statements made by Winston Field to the effect that the Southern Rhodesian Government will be unilaterally declared independent. What are we going to do in the face of this challenge ? Should the members

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of the O.A.U. allow Winston Field to declare self-Government for Southern Rhodesia and self-Government only for the white population who are in the minority?

I say again that this is a problem that must be taken up by the members of the O.A.U. We, as one of the foremost leaders of this Organisation are expected to be in the forefront in demanding that any such act on the part of Winston Field's Government will be an unfriendly act committed against all the people making up the Organisation of African Unity.

I have in mind also, certain suggestions which we should consider when we talk about our Constitution. There is the problem of an Appeal Court for the Federation. According to our Constitution, provision has been made for the various Regions to establish a Regional Appeal Court and provision is also made for an Appeal court to be established in Lagos, but in the President's Speech there is no mention of any proposal to set up an Appeal court this year. If we are not careful, the whole of the year will run out without an Appeal court being established in Lagos.

My submission, therefore, is that if we can rightly put an end to all appeals to the Privy Council, it is proper that another Court should be established to take the place of the Privy Council.

One Appeal court is not enough for this country. We, who deal with litigations know very well that it is not fair for litigants to have access to only one Court of Appeal. Justice must not only be done but should appear to be done. Litigants will not have satisfaction, they will not have the feeling that justice has been done to them in the particular case in which they are interested, if the only avenue left to them is the one Court of Appeal. There must be a second Court of Appeal.

It might be that it will be very expensive for each Region to set up its own Court of Appeal. Therefore, one court of Appeal for the whole of the Republic is enough. This Court of Appeal in the Federation could travel to various parts of the Regions—Lagos, Ibadan, Enugu, Kaduna, Benin and so on but the final court of Appeal which will be known as the Supreme Court of Appeal will be stationed in Lagos just like the Privy Council. I am saying, strongly, that the Federal Government should have this in mind and see that this matter is looked into.

One other point which I have in mind also is the question of election expenses—expenses during election time. We know very well how expensive it is to contest an election both at the Federal and the Regional levels. In certain countries election expenses are regulated, and I am going to submit that election expenses be regulated in this country.

**An hon. Member :** I cannot agree with the hon. Gentleman on that point.

**Mr Araka :** Oh yes, he may not agree with me, but it is necessary in order to curb corruption, thuggery, and so forth, during election time. I submit also that after elections, account should be submitted to the Government for purposes of auditing. Each party, as it is done in countries like England, should submit its elections expenses at the end of every election, because there is always a ceiling on the limits of expenses to be incurred by any candidate.

Of late we have observed the disgraceful incident among Members of Legislative Houses in this country, and we have seen how Governments have been changing from one hand to another just by people signing documents overnight pledging allegiance to one political party or the other. Our experience has shown that there must be provision in the Federal Constitution giving the Federal Government power to dissolve any Regional Legislature if, in the opinion of the Federal Government, such a Legislature does not enjoy the confidence of the people that elected it into office.

In civilised countries one can never see any Government changing its political creed overnight. For example, if the members of the Conservative Government change overnight and declare for Labour, the obvious thing to be done is dissolution of the House of Commons and the Members of the House sent back for purification. It is disgraceful for us in a civilised country such as ours to allow such a state of affairs to exist now, and I submit that the only remedy is to reserve in the Federal Government the right to direct the President of the Republic to dissolve any Regional House of Assembly that is not enjoying the confidence of the people that elected it into office. (*Prolonged Interruption.*)

**Mr Speaker :** Order. There is far too much noise for Reporters to hear and record

the proceedings. I do appeal to Members please to co-operate in this matter.

**Mr Araka :** The other point which I would like to touch upon is the University Teaching Hospital in Lagos. We have seen quite recently a lot of complaints, criticisms, and so forth, against the administration of this Teaching Hospital.

**An hon. Member :** The Member of Onitsha Urban (*Mr Araka*) has come with his tribalism.

**Mr Araka :** It is not a question of tribalism. I am speaking from what I have seen in the papers. (*Interruptions.*)

**Mr Speaker :** Really Members must desist from these persistent interruptions. I will take note of those Members who make such interruptions and see that they are less likely to catch the Speaker's eye when they want to speak.

**Mr Araka :** There is a case of a Canadian Professor in the University Teaching Hospital being paid a salary of £8,000 a year while the official salary is £3,400. Why should he be given £8,000? On what basis is he being paid £8,000?

There is a Senior Lecturer who should be paid £2,300, but he is being paid £7,000, another Canadian Professor. This may be because they told the Teaching Hospital authorities that their last salaries in Toronto University Hospital, Canada, where they came from were £8,000 and £7,000 respectively and, therefore, to retain them in this country they must be paid £8,000 and £7,000 respectively.

If an advertisement had been put up in the papers calling for people to apply as Lecturers or Professors and they saw what the salaries were, anybody who wanted that post should have taken the advertised salary into consideration. If anybody was reluctant to accept the salary, he should have left; but if he was satisfied with the condition and applied, why should he expect an *ex-gratia* payment of £8,000 instead of £3,400? I feel that if they are not prepared to serve here, there are many Africans who are capable and ready to take their places.

Then again there is this question of tenders in this Teaching Hospital. Lots of complaints

have been coming up in the papers that now and again major contracts are being given out to contractors without any tenders at all being put up in the papers. I read most of the Nigerian papers regularly, but I have never come across any advertisement for tenders in respect of the University Teaching Hospital in Lagos, yet gigantic buildings are being put up and major works are being carried out. My submission is that a proper enquiry should be conducted into the administration of this Teaching Hospital.

**Chief A. Akerele (Oyo East) :** I do not know whether the Member for Onitsha Urban (*Mr Araka*) is aware that the Chairman of the Nigerian Railway Corporation is also the Medical Consultant to the Railway Corporation and that he pays himself—that is Dr Ikejiani.

**The Minister of Transport (Mr R. A. Njoku) :** I am afraid I must correct this impression straight away. Dr Ikejiani is the chairman of the Nigerian Railway Corporation. When the post of Pathologist was advertised, there was no suitable candidate and Dr Ikejiani is doing the job free of charge. He is, therefore, saving the Railway Corporation an annual expenditure of £3,000.

**Mr Araka :** There are other irregular matters going on in this Teaching Hospital, but I am not prepared to divulge them all here. If, in my submission, a commission of inquiry is appointed, I will be prepared to make more disclosures.

Now, in the President's Address, mention was made about the registration of marriages in Lagos. In my submission, the legislation on the registration of marriages under native law and custom is a very fitting legislation. It is a legislation that should apply all over the Federation. We who are connected with the administration of law in this country know the difficulties that we come across when it is necessary to prove marriages under native law and custom. There is no easy way in which such marriages can be proved. It is not a question of proving marriages the next day or when a man is alive. It is after the man is dead and his children and grand children begin litigating over property and other things and it then becomes necessary to prove whether or not the mother was really married to the man. In my submission, it is only the

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registration of marriages under native law and custom which should afford a *prima facie* evidence of such marriages.

It is my submission that if this legislation is passed, it should apply to the whole of the Federation. Marriages create a status which in turn creates certain rights in them, as lawyers call it, and these rights apply all over the world. This status is one of the responsibilities that the Federal Government should look into. The Federal Government should determine the status of all the members of our community, and it is only by registration of marriages under native law and custom that we will be able to determine the status of each and every member of our community.

One last point which I would like to make is the difficulty which many visitors to this country experience when they land at Ikeja Airport without *visas*. Many Nigerians who travel abroad to various countries know very well that when one travels to certain countries without *visas*, one is never thrown out at once. If one has a representative in such a country, it is a question of that representative getting into our Embassy and within thirty minutes he produces the *visas* and is allowed to go in. This is true and—

**Mr Speaker** : The hon. Member has exhausted his time.

**M. Muhammadu Sagir Umar** (Katagun West) : In supporting the Motion of Thanks for the President's Speech, I would like to centre my remarks on the unity of this country. I would like to make the stand of the North and the stand of my party clear on this issue of unity.

We the people of the Northern Region do not intend to dominate any other Region or tribe in this country. All we want is that every section or tribe should participate in the affairs of the Federation. Since the inauguration of the Federal system of Government in this country, our leaders from the North have sacrificed a lot for the peace and unity of this country.

**M. Sule Abba Bui** (Biu North) : For a long time now, no Member has been called from this side of the House to speak.

**Mr Speaker** : It is unfortunate that that side has not caught the Speaker's eye.

**Alhaji K. O. S. Are** (Ibadan North East) : I am appealing to you, Mr Speaker, that since many Members are anxious to speak on this Motion, a sort of limit should be imposed on Members. Five or ten minutes per speaker would be adequate.

**Mr Speaker** : I think I shall stick to the Standing Orders ; but I shall also appeal to Members to curtail their speeches.

**M. Umar** : The sacrifices which we have made at the expense of our people are many. Take for example the position in the Federal Public Service. How many people of Northern origin are working here ? They are very few as compared with the people of Southern provinces.

**Mr F. A. M. Amadi** (Nsukka Central) : On a point of order.—

**Mr Speaker** : Please state the number of your point of order.

**Mr Amadi** : My point of order is that the Member for Katagun West (*M. Muhammadu Sagir Umar*) is misleading the House. The Federal Public Service Commission is there for appointment into the Public Service, and in that Commission, a Northerner is the Chairman, and there are other members.

**Mr Speaker** : That is not a point of order.

**M. Umar** : What I am trying to do is to repudiate this question of domination by the Northern people. That is why I made mention of the few Northerners in the Federal Public Service as compared with our Southern brothers.

On other appointments to Corporations, Boards and Embassies, we are not getting what we should get. Even in the Cabinet, we are having nearly the same number as our sister party in the Coalition Government. All these sacrifices are made for the sake of unity and peace.

**Chief O. B. Akin-Olugbade** (Egba South) : May I respectfully ask the Member for Katagun West (*M. Muhammadu Sagir Umar*) to refer to himself as a member of the N.P.C. and not as a Northerner. I think this is a tendency we should deplore in this House. People should not speak either as Southerners or Northerners but should speak instead as

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representatives of their political parties. Members should refer to the political parties they belong to.

**M. Sagir Umar :** I am, of course, a Northerner, so I have every right to speak for the North.

I am sure nobody from the Northern Bench here has ever made mention on the Floor of this honourable House of being dominated by our Southern brothers. This is the highest Legislature of this Federation, and we think that it is improper for us to bring anything which would endanger the unity of this country.

I am proud to say that we, the people from the North, have inherited many fine cultures. We have inherited a sense of tolerance.

**An hon. Member :** And also a sense of greatness.

**M. Sagir Umar :** We overlook things even if they do not happen according to our wishes.

**An hon. Member :** Why do the Northerners want to change now ?

**M. Sagir Umar :** We have every opportunity to will anything and see that it happens, but when we see that our brothers might not like it, we overlook it and forget about it.

What happened recently will prove to this nation what I have said about our fine cultures and sense of tolerance. A Northern Minister made certain remarks about our beloved President. What happened was that the Premier of the North came out publicly and tendered his apology on behalf of that Minister, and this apology was carried on the radio and published in all our newspapers. It does not matter whether what the Minister said was wrong or not, but the Northern Premier came out publicly and issued a statement in order to maintain the unity of this country and also in order not to hurt anybody either wrongly or purposely.

I am sure if it were the Southern leaders they would not act in that way. They would think that it is a sign of cowardice to issue that kind of statement. The Northern Premier did this not because he was afraid of anything or anybody. He did this not because he was forced to do it. He did it not because he was a coward. He has every right to keep quiet.

He has every right to encounter the situation and make it more explosive. But he chose to follow the way which every peace loving leader is supposed to follow.

I must say it here clearly that we know the sweetness of everything we give out to our Southern brothers. We are not afraid of anybody, and we are not fools. We sacrifice all these things to maintain our unity, and sometimes we are accused of being partial. But when our leaders turned and told us that they did such things for the sake of maintaining the balance of unity in this country, we cooled down. We are lucky to have a peace-loving man in the person of Sir Abubakar who is doing everything he can to maintain peace and unity in this country. But, alas, some people think it to be cowardice ! I would like to tell those who are thinking so that they are thinking wrongly, and since what we have done and what we are doing are not appreciated by our brothers, from now onwards we shall demand our rights on anything pertaining to the Federal Government. We shall demand our proportional rights in Ministerial, Corporation, and Board appointments. We have the people to do them, and the men to do these jobs have the proper knowledge for them. There is a limit to our tolerance and patience, and we have come to the climax of this situation.

I must solemnly say that I am forced by the Member for Bende East (*Professor Kalu Ezera*) to make this speech. It is very unfortunate and surprising for a man of his calibre, for certain reasons only known to him, to call for the breaking up of this Federation. A man who is looked upon to guide and preach unity has failed in this way. This Member is a man who has the knowledge of seeing things in their right perspectives, and he is a Professor of Political Science. But with all these qualifications, he acted in a manner which even a layman could not do. He has been led away from his knowledge by his wishes, and that is why I am discouraged by those who have these so-called paper qualifications and lack common sense.

It is true, as the Minister of Aviation, (*Dr Mbadiwe*) said yesterday, that paper qualifications are not the authority which would enable one to rule. Paper qualifications are not the authority to enable one to handle the affairs of a nation. Common sense, tolerance, and patience are the qualifications for the

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authority to handle efficiently the affairs of a nation. For this reason I call upon people like the Minister of Aviation (*Dr K. O. Mbadiwe*) and the Minister of Finance (*Chief Okotie-Eboh*) to teach the Professor. What he is lacking is common sense, tolerance, and patience.

This Federal Republic has come to stay and no amount of threat from anybody or from any Region can break this country. If any Region wants to secede we shall let it go as the Member for Dambatta (*Alhaji Sarkin Bai*) has suggested. We shall force the Region to come back like Katanga in the Congo.

Finally, may I appeal to our brothers from the South to refrain from making speeches that can cause disunity on the Floor of this House. Please leave the North, alone we have had enough.

Thank you, Mr Speaker.

**Mr V. T. Shisha** (*Iharev Masev*): I rise to support the Motion of Thanks for the Speech so ably delivered by the President of our Republic. I must first of all congratulate the Federal Government for the steps it has taken in checking the recent disturbances in Tiv Division of Northern Nigeria.

The Speech of the President is very progressive and comprehensive but I must warn that all the proposals should not be left only on paper. We must be up and doing to improve the lot of our people and to show this Parliament the progress that the Federal Government is making.

We have all heard of the projects that the Federal Government intends to start for the people but these things must be done quickly and efficiently.

The President's Speech referred to the strengthening of internal security and the expansion of the Nigeria Police Force. Judging from the increased population of this country, we should increase the strength of our Police Force in order to check properly the activities of the newly formed parties of "progressive elements" in this country.

It is my believe that the idea of forming these parties of "progressive elements" is not to achieve anything good for the people of this country but to attempt to spread disunity among our people. The formation of these parties does not in any way make for the

economic development and prosperity of this country; instead it is for the destruction of the unity and progress in this country.

The Federal Government should put an end to these mischievous attempts to destroy the unity of this country. I do not know whether it is guilty conscience that made the Member for Jemgbar (*Mr Tarka*) to speak about unity and the activities of the Nigeria Police during the federal elections.

I thought he was going to tell us how six Nigerian Police men were killed in Tiv Division and how a clan head was murdered. Mr Tarka is preaching unity without practising it. Somebody who cannot unite his people wants to unite a country. What has he done to unite the Tiv people? During the Tiv riots—

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Establishments** (*Mr Akubakar Isandu*): Tell us what happened?

**Mr Shisha**: I will tell this honourable House what happened. In Tiv Division, there is a military training ground at a place called Agasha. It is from this place that the supporters of the U.M.B.C. get their power for killing and murdering the supporters of other parties. Each time there is a meeting there, a riot must take place.

For this reason, I am appealing strongly to the Federal Government to see that the U.M.B.C. is banned in the interest of the people of Tiv Division in particular, and the people of Nigeria in general. It is surprising to note that the leader of the U.M.B.C., Mr Tarka was not happy when a mobile police unit was sent to Tiv Division. Mr Tarka wants more people to be killed before he can create his state. He also wants the police to be banned from public meetings and processions. I will again appeal to the Federal Government to ban the U.M.B.C. in the interest of the people of Tiv Division.

**Chief O. B. Akin-Olugbade** (*Egba South*): That party brought you here.

**Mr Shisha**: It is true the U.M.B.C. brought me here but the party has changed from what it was then.

May I also say that the N.C.N.C. keeps on shouting about the creation of more states in the North, I do not know whether this is only for party propaganda. Even the leader of the

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U.M.B.C. is not sincere. The N.C.N.C. should stop shouting about the creation of the Middle Belt State as they did during the campaigns for the creation of the Mid-West State, they should allow the people of the Middle Belt to shout for themselves. It is high time the members of the N.C.N.C. told Dr Okpara to create more states in the Eastern Region first.

It is interesting to learn that the Government is going to adopt certain methods for the eradication of malaria and small-pox.

**Mr E. C. Akwivu** (Orlu South East): On a point of order, now that many hon. Members are thinking about how to preserve the unity of this country, the Member for Iharev Masev (*Mr Shisha*) is referring to the Premier of a Region as "Okpara". I think this type of statement will invite more explosive statements. May I therefore, appeal to hon. Members to be reserved in their comments.

**Mr Speaker**: Order! It is a pity that there was so much noise and as such, I do not think I heard him say so.

**Mr Shisha**: Thank you Mr Speaker. When the Government embarks on a nationwide campaign to eradicate malaria and small-pox throughout the Federation, it should remember to build temporary health centres in the remote areas of the country. This is because there are some places in this Republic where nothing is known about the way to prevent and eradicate these diseases.

In this connection, great importance should be attached to educating the people about the causes of these diseases and efforts should also be made to improve the health conditions of the people of this country. It is a well known fact that an educated and healthy individual with a sound mind in a sound body, is the strongest single factor in the rapid economic and social advancement of any nation. Therefore, the Federal Government should co-operate with the Regional Governments in the fields of Education and Health.

Mention was also made to the Ex-Servicemen in the President's Speech. At the moment, as far as I know, the Federal Government has done very little to demonstrate the appreciation of the country for the sacrifice of those brave and heroic men who risked their limbs and lives for the freedom of this country.

These ex-servicemen deserve special treatment. If they are well rewarded, it will encourage others, who in future may be called upon to follow their noble example. I am, therefore suggesting that a single ex-servicemen's organisation be created during the year. I am sure they will all appreciate it.

With regard to unemployment, I would like to say that the number of unemployed people in this country is increasing by leaps and bounds. There are lots of school leavers roaming and loitering about the streets of Lagos without employment, and this lack of employment leads most of these school leavers to indulge in highway robbery and other malpractices.

This state of affairs cannot be quickly remedied unless industries are established. May I also take this opportunity to say that local industries should be established in order to curb the inflow of school leavers into Lagos.

We are also very glad to hear that new Trunk 'A' Roads will be constructed, but while waiting for the construction of these new roads, the existing ones should be improved. This is because a bird in hand is worth two in the bush. The conditions of the old Trunk "A" Roads are very appalling and must be seriously looked into.

It will be seen that most of the accidents taking place in this country are due to bad roads. Therefore, the Government should carefully examine this problem.

Whilst still on the question of road improvement, I would like to remind the Government about the Makurdi-Jos road. It is sad to learn that this road has taken so many lives. I therefore, strongly appeal to the Government to improve the existing roads before constructing new ones.

I beg to support.

**Mr T. O. Oloyede** (Ife Ila): In supporting this Motion of Thanks to the President, I would like to associate myself with the good sentiments expressed by some hon. Members in this House.

It is gratifying to learn that the Nigeria Airways will soon introduce on its European route, one of the most modern jet aircraft—VC10. But what surprises me most is that those planes flying international routes do not



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bear the inscription—'Nigeria Airways', and yet such planes are said to be owned by us.

I have seen many of our planes with the inscription B.O.A.C. written on them and therefore it is very difficult to know which plane is ours. Apparently, the VC10 plane has only been introduced to us on the pages of the newspapers and it bears the inscription B.O.A.C. and not 'Nigeria Airways'. Nigeria should pride herself in what she owns. Moreover, we want our sovereignty to be reflected everywhere. To the outside world, it does not seem as if we have got aeroplanes.

This is the time for sober reflection. I am happy to know that the building and assembling of wagons will be carried out in Nigeria. This will help to solve this problem of unemployment.

The Nigerian Railway Corporation should try to be alive to its responsibilities. Its coaches are not in good condition as they use to be in the colonial days. The coaches are dirty and stinking and do not befit our status as a growing nation. This should therefore, be looked into.

In connection with Trunk 'A' Roads, I would like to say that instead of constructing new ones, the existing ones should first be improved. I must mention in particular the road between Ibadan and Ife. The condition of this road is poor. It is true however, that occasional repairs are being carried out on this road. The repair work is limited to short stretches at six-mile intervals. This is not sufficient. This road needs complete resurfacing. It is even not comfortable to drive on the road. By the time one gets to one's destination one is completely worn out. I do hope that the Minister of Works will take note of this.

On education, many Members have mentioned the fact that education in this country should be a Federal subject. I do not think so. The Federal Government cannot afford to spend as much money as the Regions are now spending for the expansion of education in the country. In the Regions, education takes about 36 per cent of their total expenditure and this percentage represents the highest spent on any item.

All that is needed is the setting up by the Federal Government of an Advisory Council on Education. This Council will co-ordinate

all the efforts of the Regional Governments of the Federation according to the needs of each Region and channel them in such a way as to give a fruitful result in the final analysis.

Education is very important to the life of a nation and it will be retrogressive to bring this important subject to the Federal level where effective control may be lacking owing to the multifarious duties the Federal Government will have to tackle.

With your permission, Mr Speaker, I quote page 4 of the Presidential Speech—

*To this end, my Government will give necessary lead through the medium of a fully representative National Advisory Council on technical education and industrial training.*

I wish to suggest that the National Advisory Council should not only cover technical education and industrial training, but should also extend to primary and secondary education.

The Speech deals with the supply of Nigerian legal and judicial personnel to other African countries. I wish to say that the Government should make the conditions of service very attractive.

This brings me to an important item that affects our economy—the subject of internal trade. I have looked round, but the Minister of Economic Development is not in this House. Our economy is mostly in foreign hands.

If I remember correctly, the Minister of Economic Development (*Alhaji Waziri Ibrahim*) made a Ministerial Statement on the Floor of this House, in November 1961, about our trade being mostly in the hands of foreign concerns. These are retail trade, produce buying business and transport. He said, *inter alia*, that this business should pass into indigenous hands. That was the policy of the Government we were made to understand.

But I have to say with all seriousness that the statement made by the Minister has not been pursued. Our retail trade, produce buying, and transport business *are still* in the hands of foreigners. We must arrest this situation, and to this end, we want action and not words.

It is action that will help us to build our nation. Any profit made by the indigenous businessmen will not be invested outside this country. As far as the retail trade is concerned,

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it is possible that the Committee to be set up might be in a position to find a solution to this problem.

May I say a word about the unity of this country. Many Members have spoken on this important item and the discussions have, no doubt, provoked many Members. As a result, the substance of the debate has been lost in jokes.

To me, the unity of this country is not something to be toyed with. Let us think seriously about the unity of the country. We cannot all have the same ideas but where ideas differ, it should not necessarily lead to imputation of motives.

It is true that a new political party with a national outlook has been formed in Western Nigeria. This party by the grace of God has come to stay. The Member for Owerri South East (*Mr Ukegbu*) on the Floor of this House has argued that there is nothing Nigerian or national about the new party, nor is it democratic in its concept.

I may venture to ask him whether he has read the constitution of this new party in order to determine the scope of its membership. May I also ask the hon. Member to tell us whether he has within these few days, watched the political activities of this newly formed party before he came to the conclusion that the party is not national or democratic.

The position of things to-day calls for sober reflection. I would therefore, like to suggest that the leaders of all the political parties in this country should work together to hold this nation as one and be on friendly terms with one other. To this end I wish to suggest that if Nigeria is to remain undivided the Prime Minister of the Federation and the Regional Premiers should not in any of their utterances, provoke one another.

I beg to support.

**Mr V. A. Nwalieji** (Nsukka West) : I rise to contribute to the debate on the able and comprehensive Speech so eloquently delivered to the Parliament on March 12, by His Excellency, the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

In doing so, I hope to join hands with those Members who have expressed strong belief in the unity of our great country—Nigeria.

I deplore the attitude of some Members of the Northern House of Assembly who, in their contributions to the debate in the House of Assembly, singled out a particular Region and accused it falsely and attacked it maliciously.

**Shettima Ali Monguno** (Kaga Marghi) : It is unfortunate that a Member should make reference on the Floor of this House to someone who is not here to defend himself. It is not good for unity at all.

**The Deputy Speaker** : Order. Will Members please spare those who are not members of this House by not dragging their names into controversy without their having the opportunity to defend themselves.

**Mr Nwalieji** : As I was saying, they recommended complete eradication of Easterners, particularly the Ibos, from the North and the seizure of their properties, only because they are Ibos. And these Members claimed to be advocates of Nigerian unity. If Nigerians can be accommodated outside Nigeria anywhere in the world, I wonder why they cannot be accommodated in their fatherland. It is a capital sin against this great nation to look at a Nigerian as a foreigner anywhere in Nigeria. Regionalism or tribalism should have no place in this country's Parliament or in any of the Regional Houses of Assembly. Parliament is a place where the common good of Nigeria as a whole and not one section alone should be discussed.

I appeal to Members on all sides of this House and of the Houses of Assembly to think of and look at this country as one country, one people with one destiny. We should hate discrimination and selfishness and strive to eradicate tribalism and nepotism completely. If a Nigerian anywhere or in any region of the country is doing a job well and efficiently where his services are required, why should his appointment be terminated and his properties seized only because he does not come from that particular region? If a Nigerian businessman anywhere in the country is doing his business honestly and progressively, why should he be ejected from that region and his properties seized only because he is progressive and does not come from that particular region?

I want to say that all those Members of that House of Assembly who made these speeches

[MR Nwalieji]

have manifested their tribalism, wickedness, selfishness, immaturity of mind, lack of progressive spirit, irresponsibility, hatred—

**Mr S. D. Lar** (Lowland East): On a point of order, the hon. Gentleman is using the most unparliamentary language and I think Mr Speaker may wish to rule him out. He has been calling Northern legislators all sorts of names, and we must protest very strongly against this.

**The Deputy Speaker**: I must confess that the volume of interruptions has steadily grown to such a pitch that remarks such as those complained of are obscured. But may I appeal to the hon. Gentleman speaking, if he has been using too many pointed words, to kindly be less provocative.

**Mr Nwalieji**: I urge this Parliament to abhor and condemn such actions.

The expansion of the Nigeria Police Force, as contained in the President's Speech, is welcome. This is to meet the country's growing commitments, having regard to the increase in the population of Nigeria. In view of this, it is my humble suggestion that a Police post be established in every constituency for the protection of the lives and property of all the people of Nigeria and not just a section of the community. I am also suggesting in very strong terms a total abolition of the establishment of Native Authority Police all over Nigeria, as this establishment becomes an agent and a free tool in the hands of any political party in power in any part of the country.

In the field of defence, it will be seen, as this honourable House will agree with me, that there is a great need for training many more Nigerians in the Army and as many battalions as are necessary and possible should be set up in very many centres in the country and have them well equipped.

More Nigerian army officers should be sent for training abroad. It is my recommendation that the Nigerian Army, Police and Navy be completely Nigerianised as soon as possible.

I would like to say a word or two on education. I suggest in this regard that the Federal Government should co-operate with the Regional Governments to make primary education uniform throughout the country. It is not

good for some Regions to operate a six-year primary school course while others operate an eight-year course.

Leakages of public examination papers in Nigeria should be thoroughly investigated and the offenders severely punished. The people who are responsible for the leakages are dragging the good name of Nigeria to the mud.

It will be good if the Federal Government scholarship awards are made on regional or provincial basis throughout the country. Many candidates are at this time qualified for awards. It is then unjustifiable that when many students are equally qualified for scholarship awards, some provinces or divisions do not get any awards at all while others have very many. After all, they are all equally qualified.

The Scholarship Board is fair and honest. Nevertheless it is one thing to be fair and another to let the public know that fairness is maintained. My suggestion here, as you see it, will bring the fairness and honesty of the Scholarship Board to the provinces for them to see for themselves.

On the question of medical facilities, I would like to say a word or two. The Government centres its attention on the big towns only. The poor people in the provinces and in the suburbs have no medical attention at all. Apart from the fact that they pay their hospital bills, they find it rather difficult to find means of transport to travel the fifty or sixty miles from their homes to the nearest medical centre in order to receive medical attention. They have cause to wonder whether the Government has forgotten them and why. The Government should establish a medical centre in every Federal constituency with a view to fighting against malaria, small-pox and other diseases.

The following, as well, are the immediate and various needs of the people: good roads, good postal facilities, and the establishment of industries to ease unemployment problem. There should also be trunk 'A' roads linking all the constituencies. The road connecting the Regions, such as the Nsukka-Idah road, should be taken over by the Federal Government and tarred forthwith. There should be post offices or at least a sub-post office in every Federal constituency.

Industries should be sited in central and suitable places throughout the Federation in such a way as all the sections of the country will benefit from them. This is the surest means of solving the problem of unemployment.

I have to conclude by recommending country wide tours of Federal Ministers, especially the Ministers of Works and Surveys, Health, Communications, Commerce and Industry and Mines and Power. This will keep them in touch with the people while the people will avail themselves of the opportunity of presenting their needs to the Government through their Ministers.

I beg to support.

**M. Ibrahim Muku** (Bida West): I rise to support the Motion of Thanks for the President's Speech. The Speech is progressive, comprehensive and measures up to every expectation.

I would, for the first time, like to express my special appreciation for the role which the President of the Republic, the Prime Minister and the Regional Premiers, particularly the Premier of the Northern Region, had played in piloting the ship of the State to its present status. I think there is no greater single gift that God can give to a country than good leaders, and I am sure that even the children yet unborn will have every reason to be proud of these people and their achievements.

Many hon. Members have said quite a lot about the unity of this country. This obviously shows that the question of unity is uppermost in the mind of everyone of us here, and for this I would like to show my gratitude to the leaders and to everyone connected with the running of the affairs of this country.

But it is most unfortunate that some political leaders in this country are not sincere in their bid for unity. They are not realistic about it. If they are, it may be that they want unity at the expense of other Regions.

We have seen quite recently that some political leaders organise students to demonstrate on very delicate issues. If such students could be organised for such things, why should they not be organised to do better things? For example, during the rainy season there was a washout of roads between Lagos and Ibadan. These students could have been employed to cheer up the labourers and workers. Politics is

like atom; it can be employed usefully for construction, and it can be employed for destruction. I think that some of the political leaders in this country want to use their political knowledge for destruction and not for construction, and unless such political leaders stop organising students to demonstrate on very delicate issues, unless they stop trying to deny the majority the right to rule, unless they stop to expect unity at the expense of other Regions, these political leaders can never be taken seriously in their bid for unity.

It is very gratifying to note that the Federal Government is setting up industries in this country. I hope that these facilities will be extended to Bida Division where industrialisation and Government aid for local industries are urgently needed.

I beg to support.

**Chief A. M. A. Akinloye** (Ibadan North East): I am grateful for the opportunity to contribute to this debate. I rise to support the Motion, and in doing so I would like to pinpoint one or two matters which I feel are of importance.

Some of the greatest problems confronting the Republic to-day are those of providing employment for the rising number of unemployed youngmen in the country and the question of maintaining and strengthening the unity of the country. Unemployment problem in the country to-day is assuming an alarming proportion and it is imperative in the national interest and for the sake of tranquillity that immediate solution to this problem must be found. I emphasise the word *immediate*. There is a glimmer of hope and inspiration in connection with finding a solution to this problem from the President's Speech and, with your permission, Sir, I would like to quote:

*"My Government will, in consultation with the Regional Governments, introduce practical measures for dealing with the problem of unemployment which a recent survey of urban unemployment showed to be most acute among school leavers"*.

This is merely a glimmer of hope and we wish it to be more real and permanent. We therefore call on the Government to attach all due importance to this problem and to appreciate the urgency of its solution. School

[CHIEF AKINLOYE]

leavers all over the country number thousands every year, only to add to the existing army of those unemployed. These school leavers are from Primary Six, Modern III and Secondary Schools. Added to this is the growing number of graduates from universities, local and abroad. This problem calls for positive and prompt solution if this country is not to be engulfed by an army of discontented youngmen. It is the duty of the Government to find gainful employment for these people.

The medicine for this natural ailment, in my point of view, lies in the establishment of more industries in the country and the encouragement of agriculture. The establishment of more industries will surely help, but it is in no way a complete answer. No amount of industries that we may establish can absorb the vast number of unemployed in the country to-day. Industries can only be supplementary to the main answer of attracting young men to agriculture.

In the siting of industries too, I would like to urge the Federal Government to take note of the disparity and the disregard of the interest of people of Western Nigeria in the siting of industries which has been going on for some time now. We are entitled to a share in the national cake.

Agriculture is the back-stay of a country. All that we have to do is to popularise agriculture, modernise it and make it more rewarding than it is at present. I appreciate the fact that agriculture is principally a Regional matter. But the Federal importance of agriculture is duly recognised in the Presidential Speech. What is responsible for the unpopularity of agriculture in the country to-day is the drudgery attached to it. With due encouragement and introduction of labour-saving devices, new and modern machines, and a programme of orderly market of the products to ensure high returns, agriculture will become popular. It is the duty of the Federal Government, therefore, not only to co-operate with the Regional Governments but also to make adequate and substantial financial contributions to the Regions for the promotion of agriculture and establishment of young farmers.

The unity of this country is imperative. Everything, therefore, must be done to foster its growth. Nothing must be done to endanger

it. We are living in a world of crises. We must learn to live with our troubles and crises. Judged by other standards, Nigeria is comparatively a happy country. To strengthen our unity, the imbalance in the participation of the various Regions in the national cake must be stopped, reversed and remedied. Nobody can deny the fact that the West has suffered so far.

One is at a great loss to understand a man like my good Friend, The Member for Egba South (*Chief Akin-Olugbade*) who is one of the architects of the sufferings of Western Nigeria, challenging certain Yoruba Federal Ministers for their contributions in the Federal Government. Can it be denied that the destructive policies of a few Action Group leaders have led the West to its present dismal position?

**Chief O. B. Akin-Olugbade** (Egba South): On a point of order, the hon. Gentleman speaking was the legal adviser of the Action Group when the trouble started in the West and when I was not a member of the Western House of Assembly.

**Chief Akinloye**: I was never at any time the legal adviser of the Action Group. Chief Rotimi Williams was. I was only a divisional leader and I was only led to the door. I was not led to the secrets.

**Mr N. D. Ukah** (Owerri North East): I would like to ask the hon. Gentleman speaking if he means to say that he is now the legal adviser to the N.N.D.P.?

**Chief Akinloye**: That is a question and I can tell the Member for Owerri North East (*Mr Ukah*) that I am not now the legal adviser to the N.N.D.P. I am one of the founders of that party.

Whilst our brothers from the East wisely decided to adopt compromise as their attitude to the national problems, the Action Group leaders adopted a fight to finish attitude. It is on record that the Action Group was invited into this very Government notwithstanding its crushing defeat at the Federal elections of 1959, and posts were offered to the leader of that party. Was that offer not spurned? Pride goeth before destruction. It was Chief Awolowo himself who admitted with his own mouth in the court during the trial that offers were made to him to join the Federal Government and

that he was given the post of Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance. It is on record.

On this question of unity, loose talks and inflammatory speeches can wreck unity. I call on this House, through you, Mr Speaker, to put a stop to abuses and insults against either the President of the Federal Republic or our able Prime Minister or the Regional Premiers on the Floor of this House. Nothing more can break the country. Derogatory remarks made against Chief S. L. Akintola, the Premier of Western Nigeria, by certain irresponsible members on the Floor of this House are not only irrelevant but dangerous. Those Members, nonetheless honourable, are the remnants of the shattered Action Group villains, spiteful, arrogant and with venom in their hearts. The plight of the Yorubas to-day is not their concern. To them one person or cult by far transcends the interests of the millions of people in this country. Any attack by any person on Chief Akintola from any quarter outside the Floor of this House can be properly taken care of.

**Chief Akin-Olugbade :** The Gentleman speaking will surely lose the next election.

**Chief Akinloye :** I challenge my good Friend the Member for Egba South (*Chief Akin-Olugbade*) to come and contest with me in my constituency and he will lose his deposit. We have to sympathise with him. He has ingrain hatred for Chief Akintola and the NNDP. His complete lack of interest in the welfare of the Yorubas has led him to the complete ignorance of the Constitution of this Federation. He calls for a Motion of this House to dissolve the Government of Western Nigeria. He ought to know better. As a lawyer he should know that that is impossible in the absence of a state of emergency as defined in our Constitution. I can only say that he is dying of obsession and hatred—the green-eyed demon.

Indeed grateful thanks are due to His Excellency the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria for his gracious Speech

from the Presidential Chair. Blessed indeed is Nigeria to have him as our President—so erudite in learning, mature and experienced in politics, a perfect mediator and peace-maker, and a good father of the nation, kind, passionate and with the fear of God in his heart. The affairs of our nation and indeed our destiny can be likened to a mechanically fit coach drawn by a strong and reliable engine. Our destiny is in the hands of His Excellency the President, Dr Nnamdi Azikiwe and our Prime Minister Alhaji Sir Abubakar Tafawa Balewa. With these two able men at the head of our affairs, and with the co-operation of all our able leaders in the country, I am sure that the unity and destiny of Nigeria is assured.

I beg to support.

*Whereupon the Minister of Mines and Power (Alhaji Yusuff 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.*

*Main Question put accordingly and agreed to.*

*Resolved :* That an humble Address be presented to His Excellency, the President as follows :—

Your Excellency,

We, the Members of the House of Representatives of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, in Parliament assembled, beg leave to offer our humble thanks to Your Excellency for the Speech which Your Excellency has been pleased to address to both Houses of Parliament.

#### ADJOURNMENT

*And it being after 6 p.m., the Deputy Speaker adjourned the House without Question put, pursuant to Standing Order 5 (10).*

*Adjourned accordingly at twenty-six minute to twelve mid-night.*

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

Wednesday, 18th March, 1964

The House met at 10 a.m.

PRAYERS

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

COMMUNICATIONS

Sub-Post Office for Umunato

**O.51. Mr H. O. Chuku** asked the Minister of Communications, if he will state when he will build a sub-post office within Ununato Centre, now that Igberre, Item and Alayin Bende Division have agreed to have one central postal agency, which has more than the required units of business transaction for a sub-post office.

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Communications** (Mr S. F. Nwika) : Conversion of Postal Agencies to sub-Post Office is considered individually on the merit of each agency. None of the three agencies mentioned has qualified for upgrading to Sub-Post Office. Their current unit figures are as follows :—

Item .. .. .	7,347
Alayin .. .. .	8,139
Igberre .. .. .	5,567

The minimum unit figure required for upgrading to a sub-post office will shortly be reduced to 18,000 units. If the communities concerned are willing to close the three agencies named and replace them with one central postal agency which I do not advise, consideration will be given to its upgrading to a sub-post Office status if the standards laid down are met.

**Ikot Ekpene Post Office**

**O.52. Mr B. U. Ukpong** asked the Minister of Communications, whether he will consider increasing the staff of Ikot Ekpene Post Office to cope with the increased demand for postal services in this area.

**Mr Nwika** : The staffing position at Ikot Ekpene Post Office is under constant review and it is confirmed that the existing staff is adequately related to the volume of business transacted at the Post Office.

**Zonkwa Postal Agency**

**\*O.53. Mallam Shekarau Ka'a Layya** asked the Minister of Communications, when Zonkwa postal agency will be converted into a full post office.

**Mr Nwika** : Present standards for the conversion of a Postal Agency to Sub Post Office and Departmental Post Office are 24,000 and 40,000 units respectively.

The current units of business at Zonkwa Postal Agency amount to only 17,000 units but with the projected reduction in units of conversion from 24,000 to 18,000 the Zonkwa Postal Agency may soon qualify for conversion to a Sub-Post Office.

**Mr I. A. Brown** (Uyo South West) : During the last meeting of the House, my hon. Friend in answer to this particular question promised this House that he would reduce the units of Postal Agencies to 12,000. I wonder whether he is now going up again or coming down.

**Southern Zaria Postal Facilities**

**O.54. Mallam Shekarau Ka'a Layya** asked the Minister of Communications, whether he is aware that the people of Kaciya and Zongon Katab in Southern Zaria have no satisfactory postal facilities ; and whether he will consider providing these areas with post offices.

**Mr Nwika** : A Postal Agency at Kaciya in Southern Zaria, was opened on 10th September, 1962, but its current units of business transacted is only 4,000 which figure is far below the required number of units for conversion into a Sub-Post Office.

No request has been received from the community at Zongon Katab for the establishment of a Postal Agency but if the community applies in the usual manner to the Territorial Controller, Posts and Telegraphs Headquarters, Kaduna, it will be examined.

**Ajalli Sub Post Office**

**O.57. Mr R. N. Muojeke** asked the Minister of Communications if, in view of the strategic importance of the Sub Post office at Ajalli in Awka Central Constituency area, he will equip it with telephone, and telegraphic facilities and convert it into a full Post Office.

**Mr Nwika :** Ajalli has been a full Departmental Post Office since September 1959.

It is the policy to provide telephone service at as many administrative offices as possible during the current development programme and service at Ajalli will be considered in conjunction with the project for the Orumba County Council office.

**Mr Muojeke :** Does the Minister not consider Ajalli's position a special case in view of what I have already stated ?

#### Ekpenyong Atai School

**O.58. Mr M. B. Afanideh** asked the Minister of Communications, if he will consider the establishment of a new Postal Agency in Ekpenyong Atai School (St. Anthony's), in view of the very long distance from there to the nearest Postal Agencies.

**Mr Nwika :** No application has been received for the establishment of a Postal Agency in Ekpenyong Atai School (St. Anthony's) and when this is received, the merits of the application for the establishment of the postal agency will be examined.

#### Mbano Okigwi Postal Agencies

**O.59. Mr D. O. Ahamefule** asked the Minister of Communications, which of the following Postal Agencies in Mbano Okigwi, having regard to the volume of work transacted in them, are due for conversion to sub-post office: Umuduru, Anara, Obollo Uguri, Amuzari-Owerri, Umuohiri and Ehime.

**Mr Nwika :** None of the Agencies has attained 24,000 units figure required for upgrading to Sub-Post Office. The current unit figures of the Postal Agencies are as follows:—

Umuduru .. ..	18,926
Anara .. ..	11,389
Obollo Uguri .. ..	7,897
Amuzari-Owerri .. ..	5,463
Umuohiri .. ..	4,237
Ehime .. ..	17,586

But with the projected reduction in units of conversion, Umuduru will qualify for conversion to Sub-Post Office.

**Mr W. O. Briggs (Degema) :** When will the projected reduction take place ?

**Mr Nwika :** When the Minister brings the White Paper before the House.

**O.60. Mr D. O. Ahamefule** asked the Minister of Communications, what is the volume of business transacted in each of the following Postal Agencies in Okigwi Division from 1st of April, 1963 to 29th of February, 1964:—Umuduru, Anara, Obollo Uguri, Amuzari-Owerri, Umuohiri and Ehime.

**Mr Nwika :** Unit figures of Postal Agencies are, on the anniversary dates of the opening of each Postal Agency, calculated backwards for a period of one year. The current figures of the Postal Agencies mentioned are as in the reply given to Question O.59.

#### Amaraku Postal Agency

**O.61. Mr D. O. Ahamefule** asked the Minister of Communications, what is withholding the conversion of Amaraku Postal Agency in Owerri Division into a sub-post office.

**Mr Nwika :** The upgrading of Amaraku Postal Agency has been approved and its conversion to a Sub-Post Office awaits the provision by the local council of a suitable building.

#### Telephone Service for Shendam

**O.152. Mr George Yilgwen** asked the Minister of Communications, whether he has made any provisions in the Six-Year Development Programme to supply Shendam in Lowland Division with telephone services; and how soon will the service come into operation.

**Mr Nwika :** Shendam is being considered for provision of telephone service during the current development programme but it is not yet possible to estimate when the service will come into operation.

#### Lagos-Zaria Trunk Line

**O.153. Mallam Yusha'u A. Mohammed** asked the Minister of Communications, if he will consider the desirability of connecting a direct trunk line to link Lagos with Zaria in view of the fact that the existing system is unsatisfactory.

**Mr Nwika :** The provision of a direct trunk line between Lagos and Zaria is not justified because the present system of the



[MR Nwika]

operator dialing through Kaduna Exchange to the distant subscriber is basically sound and only lacks sufficient circuits to meet increasing demands. This will be remedied in the Five-Year Telecommunications Programme.

**Mallam Yusha'u A. Mohammed :** Is the Minister aware of the fact that it takes almost twelve hours before one can get on to Zaria ?

**Mr Nwika :** The Minister is not aware.

#### Bauchi Post-Office

**O.154. Mallam Muhammadu Ningi** asked the Minister of Communications, if he will expand the Bauchi Post Office in view of the increased volume of business there.

**Mr Nwika :** Yes. A larger Post Office, type No. 2 has been approved for Bauchi and arrangements are on hand for commencement of the building.

**Shettima Ali Munguno (Kaga Marghi) :** Is the Minister aware also of the increase in the volume of business transacted at Maiduguri and has he a plan at hand for the expansion of a post office there ?

**Mr Nwika :** The case of Maiduguri will be given consideration when applications are received.

#### Obia Postal Agency

**O.155. Mr I. S. Onwuchekwa** asked the Minister of Communications, when the Obia Postal Agency will be converted into the Sub-Post Office as already approved by him.

**Mr Nwika :** Obia Postal Agency has since qualified for upgrading to a sub-post office, but the local council has not yet responded to several requests for sponsoring the sub-post office.

#### PORT HARCOURT-OGONI TRUNK LINE

**O.156. Mr I. S. Onwuchekwa** asked the Minister of Communications, why compensation was not paid to owners of crops and economic trees destroyed while laying the Port Harcourt-Ogoni Telegraph Line.

**Mr Nwika :** This route is not yet completed and compensation is not normally paid until after completion. A list of all trees destroyed

is being kept and after assessing the value of these with the current rates payable, compensation will be paid. It is anticipated that the route will be completed in May, and that compensation will be paid by June or July.

### ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

#### Owerri Economic Survey

**O.62. Mr A. U. D. Mbah** asked the Minister of Economic Development, if he will state the progress made in Owerri Division by the Economic Survey team of his Ministry.

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Economic Development (Mr F. U. Mbakogu) :** The Minister of Economic Development stated in April last year that the rural economic survey was already in progress. This survey is being conducted by the Federal Office of Statistics and its purpose is to assess the annual agricultural production of the whole country based on information collected on the village level. The survey now covers the whole country.

A team is now working in Owerri Division and has collected information on the agricultural production of Owerri Division but as the figures are published annually, the 1963 figures are still being processed.

**Mr Brown :** Will my hon. Friend, the Parliamentary Secretary, make a statement on whether he did not tell me last year that they would visit Calabar Division and also say when they will arrive there ?

**Mr Mbakogu :** A separate team is working in Calabar Province.

#### Mbaitoli and Ikeduru

**O.63. Mr A. U. D. Mbah** asked the Minister of Economic Development, if he will indicate the extent to which Mbaitoli and Ikeduru in Owerri Division will benefit from the Six-Year Development Plan.

**Mr Mbakogu :** The Six-Year Development Plan was not drawn up for the benefit of any particular town or village and as such the benefits accruing to any area in Nigeria is not specified.

#### Co-ordination between Governments of the Republic

**O.64. Mr F. U. Ihe** asked the Minister of Economic Development, when he intends to

co-ordinate the progress reports of the Governments of the Federation on the Six-Year Development Programme in order to give Nigerians a comprehensive view of the general progress made towards the realization of our huge 1962-68 development plan.

**Mr Mbakogu :** The Progress Report on the Development Programme of the Federal Government and its Statutory Corporations is to be published as a Sessional Paper soon. The co-ordinated Progress Reports on the Development Programmes of all the Governments of the Federation will be published later in the year to give the public an insight into the progress made in the first two years of implementing the Six-Year National Development Plan.

### Unemployment

**O.65. Alhaji Isa Haruna** asked the Minister of Economic Development, what plans are the Federal Government making to reduce unemployment in this country to a minimum.

**Mr Mbakogu :** One of the major objectives of the Six-Year Development Plan is to create employment opportunities through the growth of the National Economy in general and the execution of particular projects and capital works. In implementing the Federal Development Programme, therefore, the Federal Government is directly reducing the level of unemployment in Nigeria.

The Federal Government is also committed to stable monetary, fiscal and other policies directed towards increasing the volume of private investment in Nigeria which also creates employment opportunities. In addition, the Federal Government in close consultation with the Regional Governments has set up a National Manpower Board consisting of experts, businessmen, Trade Union leaders and people in other walks of life. This Board and various organs of Government are examining ways and means of reducing unemployment in this country to a minimum.

**Alhaji Aminu Kano (Kano East) :** While we very much appreciate the effort which the Government is making about employment opportunities, I wonder whether the Minister is thinking of the problem of the unemployable people.

**Dr P. U. Okeke (Onitsha North Central) :** Is the Minister aware that there are many boys without jobs and that there are jobs without people; and what is he doing to relate the people turned out looking for jobs with the jobs that he has to offer in the country?

**The Minister of Economic Development (Alhaji Waziri Ibrahim) :** I am not aware that there are jobs without people or people without jobs.

As regards the question of the Member for Kano East (*Alhaji Aminu Kano*) I think this is a very difficult problem. We do not force people to work in this country. So, unless we have a system of government where people are compelled to work, I do not see the answer to the problem of those unemployed people who do not want to work.

**Chief D. N. Abii (Owerri East) :** Does the Minister know that all the time the coaches in the trains from Port Harcourt to Kano are very dirty and there are no cleaners to wash them. Is that not an employment opportunity?

**Professor Kalu Ezera (Bende East) :** This question of the problem of unemployment is a question of social importance to this country. Therefore, we would like the Minister to give serious answers to our questions.

What in fact is the progress being made by the Manpower Board already set up with regard to solving the problem of unemployment?

**Alhaji Waziri Ibrahim :** The Government is more than aware of the seriousness of the problem of unemployment. The Manpower Board has recently carried out surveys of the different classes of people who are unemployed and also of the classes of people we will require in the next ten years or so. We intend to provide employment, of course, by the establishment of more industries, as we have always said, and by the establishment of farm settlements, and I do not think we can do more than that.

The important thing is that we are aware of this problem and we shall soon know exactly how many millions are unemployed and in what sector of the economy they are.

**Mr W. O. Briggs (Degema) :** The Minister has mentioned something about industries. Would he tell us the basis of the siting of industries in this country?

**Alhaji Waziri Ibrahim :** Industries are sited on economic bases. If it is a question of using raw materials the industry is sited in the particular area where the raw materials are available and also where there are electricity, access routes, and markets. These are the economic merits.

### ESTABLISHMENTS

#### Federal Government Employees

**O.66. Alhaji Isa Haruna** asked the Minister of Establishments, how many Nigerians are employed by the Federal Government.

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Establishments (Mr Akubaka Isandu):** The number of Nigerians in established posts of the Federal Public Service is 49,535. The number of Nigerians in unestablished posts is approximately 15,000.

#### Police Salaries

**O.79. Mr S. Nnaji** asked the Minister of Establishments, if he will state the steps so far taken to increase the salaries of policemen as indicated during the September 1963 meeting of this House.

**Mr Akubaka Isandu :** With a view to abolishing unnecessary ranks and gradings, and in order to create a simpler and more attractive salary structure in the Nigeria Police, the Government approved a complete examination of all posts and gradings in the Force. This resulted in an increase in the salary scales which was made possible by adding to existing scales, those which have become superfluous through the abolition of some unnecessary ranks.

The opportunity was also taken to upgrade some higher posts in the Force in order to, more adequately, equate their emoluments with responsibilities. Details of the new gradings and scales are shown in the 1964-65 Draft Estimates.

**Mr E. O. Ifezue (Orlu North):** Is the Minister aware that the Police are not satisfied with the gradings?

#### Retiring Age

**O.157. Mr A. U. D. Mbah** asked the Minister of Establishments, how soon he hopes to raise the retiring age limit in the Federal Civil Service.

**M. Abubakar Isandu :** The possibility of altering the normal age of retirement is still under consideration by the Federal Government.

### HEALTH

#### Infectious Diseases

**O.67. Mr F. U. Ihe** asked the Minister of Health, to what extent has the spread of infectious diseases decreased in the Federal Territory since 1953, if he will state which of the diseases has the lowest number of victims, and what efforts he is making to stamp them out completely.

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Health (M. Hamza Gombe):** There has been a marked decrease in the spread on infectious diseases since 1953. In 1963, there were no deaths reported from 10 out of the 22 notifiable diseases—a very good record.

Efforts are being made further to control communicable diseases by mass vaccination against small pox, either at the Hospital or at the Registration Office and the vaccination of pre-school children at Child Welfare Clinics with triple vaccination against whooping cough, diphtheria and tetanus. Research is being undertaken into the use of oral vaccination against poliomyelitis and vaccination against measles.

With the co-operation of Local Health Authority, environmental sanitation including Port and Airport sanitation is being vigorously pursued. It is hoped that when the Health Centre are completed in the various wards of Lagos, there will be impetus to the protective health measures in the City of Lagos.

#### New Federal Hospitals

**O.68. Alhaji Isa Haruna** asked the Minister of Health, how many hospitals have the Federal Government built since the 1st of October, 1960.

**M. Hamza Gombe :** The Federal Government has built two hospitals since the 1st of October, 1960 as follows:—

- (i) Lagos Island Maternity Hospital
- (ii) Lagos University Teaching Hospital

In addition the Federal Government has rebuilt the Out-Patients Department of the

General Hospital, and has established a Children's Hospital in the old Massey Street Maternity Hospital.

**Lepers**

**O.69. Mr E. A. Mordi** asked the Minister of Health, what efforts are being made by his Ministry to detect leprous people in the Federal Territory of Lagos; and what arrangements are being made for their segregation and treatment.

**M. Hamza Gombe** : Lepers are picked up at our hospitals and dispensaries and serious cases are sent to the Leper Settlements in the Western and Eastern Regions. Treatment is given at the Yaba Dispensary and contacts are inspected to detect early cases. A few cases are isolated at the infectious Diseases Hospital, Yaba.

**Tuberculosis**

**O.70. Mr E. A. Mordi** asked the Minister of Health, how many cases of tuberculosis were treated in the Federal Medical institutions in 1960, 1961, 1962 and 1963; how many of the patients died; and how many patients were completely healed.

**M. Hamza Gombe** : Information is available on the number of cases of tuberculosis treated and the number of deaths. The healing process is slow and prolonged and the final cure difficult to locate. It is therefore difficult to answer the last clause satisfactorily :

The figures are as follows :

1960	3,055 Cases	75 Deaths
1961	1,995 Cases	39 Deaths
1962	2,413 Cases	68 Deaths
1963	2,242 Cases	70 Deaths

**Abortion : 1961-1963**

**O.71. Mr E. A. Mordi** asked the Minister of Health, how many abortion cases were known to his Ministry in the years 1961, 1962 and 1963.

**M. Hamza Gombe** : The following numbers of abortions were recorded in all Government hospitals and Clinics in the Federal Territory of Lagos in the years 1961, 1962 and 1963 ;

Year	No. of Abortions
1961 .. .. .	1,405
1962 .. .. .	1,185
1963 .. .. .	1,505

**Mr I. A. Brown** (Uyo South West) : Will the Parliamentary Secretary inform this House what were the causes of these cases of abortion each year.

**The Minister of Finance** (Chief F. S. Okotie-Eboh) : The Member for Uyo South West (*Mr Brown*) is responsible.

**Mr E. A. Mordi** : Are all these cases among unmarried women ?

**Mr Speaker** : Order, order !

**PRESENTATION OF PUBLIC BILL**

**DEFENCE INDUSTRIES BILL**

Bill to establish a Corporation to operate, maintain and control factories for the manufacture, storage and disposal of Ordnance and ancillary stores and material; to provide for alteration in any such manufacture, storage and disposal at any time; and for related matters, presented by the Minister of Defence; read the First time; to be read a Second time—*Tomorrow*.

**ORDER OF THE DAY**

**APPROPRIATION (1964-65) BILL**

*Order for Second Reading read.*

**10.31 a.m.**

**The Minister of Finance** (Chief F. S. Okotie-Eboh) :

I have it in command from His Excellency the President to move that—

A Bill entitled "A Bill for an Act to authorise the issue of the Consolidated Revenue Fund of sixty-two million two hundred and seventy-five thousand nine hundred and eighty pounds for the service of the year ending on the thirty-first day of March, one thousand nine hundred and sixty-five; and to appropriate that amount for the purposes specified in this Act" be read a second time.

My previous Six Budget Speeches represent a record of Nigeria's constitutional financial and economic progress during the six years

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which might be regarded as the most crucial phase of Nigeria's constitutional history. The circumstances in Nigeria in 1958 when I presented my first Budget, made it necessary that that epoch making budget be named the People's Budget. At that time we were a dependent people and we were united by a common purpose—the struggle for sovereignty—and accordingly there was at the centre a national government. It was therefore only reasonable that a budget which would represent the common yearnings and aspirations of the people must necessarily be the "People's Budget".

Since 1958, Nigeria has gone a long way on the road of nation-building. We went through the last years of our political tutelage with a rare responsibility and stability from whence we marched inevitably to sovereignty. Since the attainment of independence, we have witnessed a dramatic mobilisation of all our resources, namely, manpower, the fruits of our land and capital, towards the avowed aim of modernising our fatherland. Society is never stagnant but is always on the march, and thus from the position of modernisation, we have come to a stage which, with the indulgence of Honourable Members, I shall name later in this speech.

The classical economists regarded the factors of production as simply land, labour and capital. This might be true for the classical age; indeed, it was. That was the golden age of *laissez-faire* when state interference in economic affairs was looked at with the greatest disdain. The theory was that the individual while in pursuit of his own good, imperceptibly contributed to the good of society. I am not here to argue the case for or against *laissez-faire*. Suffice it to say that the mood of society in the classical era tolerated that doctrine. The classical era has come and gone; *laissez-faire* is no more; the mood of society has become highly agitated. It is to-day obvious that economic progress cannot be divorced from political interference and national sentiment. In fact, all are so interwoven in their present-day connotations that it would be idle to attempt to delimit their denotations.

The present century has witnessed instances of dramatic economic growth achieved not merely by the inter-action of the three classical

factors of production but mostly by the infusion of other intangible factors. Nationalism has increasingly become a stimulus to which economic growth responds very actively. Since the glorious days of 1st October, 1960, events of even greater far-reaching consequences have taken place which have formally established Nigeria as a full-fledged nation in the comity of nations. This milestone is particularly significant because it is beyond that kind of Sovereignty when Nigeria still held the Queen of Great Britain as the Queen of Nigeria: we have advanced from sovereignty to nationhood. I am sure that I speak for the whole nation that, since attaining our Republican status on the 1st of October, 1963, we have more than ever put a finishing touch to our independence and for ever established ourselves a great nation in Africa and the world at large. And this new status must necessarily be reflected in every aspect of our national life. It is, therefore, in this spirit that I have decided to name this Budget, the first one after Nigeria's attainment of Republican status, the "National Budget". This Budget should, therefore, be a survey to depict the most important facets of our national economy to map out the changes in the economy since our attainment of sovereignty and the subsequent introduction of the Development Programme and to indicate the further developments which may be expected in the next few years.

But before attempting the above survey, I shall return for a brief moment to the subject of economic nationalism, which, defined briefly, is economic patriotism. The doctrine of nationalism holds that humanity is naturally divided into nations, that nations are known by certain characteristics which can be ascertained, and that the only legitimate type of government is national self-government. To-day we have attained nationhood, but this attainment of nationhood is not an end in itself, it is but the means to an end. We should, therefore, not be complacent. It is a factual statement that we are individually and severally so strongly tied to our fatherland that we can neither isolate nor separate ourselves from it without feeling the consequences of our mistake. If the government is happy, we prosper; if it suffers financial or economic harm, its misfortune will definitely react on all of us. By the same token, if the citizens of a nation enjoy honest opulence, the State prospers, but should the citizens be overwhelmed with

poverty, the condition of the State will be worthy of pity. It is the full realisation of this fact that will help to engender in us a true sense of national pride—pride in everything Nigerian. And we in Nigeria have every reason to be proud. I recall what Charles Stewart Parnell said of the march of a nation towards political liberty, which saying could equally apply to our struggle for economic stability. Says he :

“No man has a right to fix the boundary of the march of a nation ; no man has a right to say to his Country—thus far shalt thou go and no further”.

How appropriate is this bold saying to the Nigeria of to-day ! With the abundance of resources which it has pleased nature to bequeath us I proudly say without fear of contradiction, that no man can stop our march to prosperity : the future belongs to us—the sky is our only limit. The realisation of this fact by itself should therefore imbue us with a sense of national confidence and pride in our future.

This brings to mind one of the doctrines of a great son of Nigeria, nay of Africa, whose philosophy was based on “Back to the land”. The propounder of this doctrine was compelled later by the hard facts of economics to modify it to mean, “Boycott the Boycottables”. While not trying to over-emphasise that doctrine the moral of it is nevertheless very appropriate in this context. The idea of boycotting imported goods in preference to Nigerian-made goods, is not born out of any selfish motive or xenophobia but out of the desire to raise the standard of living of our people.

**Mr W. O. Briggs (Degema) :** On a point of Order, what is xenophobia ?

**The Minister of Finance :** I expect the Member for Degema (*Mr Briggs*) to know what it means. Xenophobia means hatred for foreign things. If the hon. Member does not know what xenophobia means, then he has to go back to school in spite of his LL.B. Okirika”.

For Nigeria and indeed, for any country to play its part effectively in the comity of nations, it must first of all stabilise and consolidate its economy ; and this can only be done by increasing productivity and providing more employment and raising the overall standard

of living of the citizens. We therefore cannot allow our developing country to be a dumping ground for manufactured goods from other places. And the only way to do this is to encourage the people to patronise everything Nigerian in preference to any other.

We have several examples of the impact of nationalism on the economic growth of a nation. I do not necessarily agree with the methods adopted in some of them nor do I agree that the end always justifies the means. Perhaps the appropriate illustration for our purpose is the rapid recovery of the whole Continent of Europe after the war. It is true that capital was made freely available to the Continent after the war, yet there was this abstract element always in operation ; it is the will to succeed, a sense of national consciousness, the feeling of personal pride in the success of the nation.

It is gratifying to note that this mental discipline has begun to gain grounds in Nigeria. People now pride themselves in asking for Nigeria-made materials in place of the imported ones. We notice this very trend in the demand for textile goods, tyres, cement and other building materials, to mention a few. Indeed, economic nationalism has come to stay in order to keep it up in Nigeria, we must endeavour to see that everything Nigerian must be first-class. There must be the quality in everything Nigerian so that the products of Nigerian industry can look their counterpart from anywhere else in the face. To achieve this, our skill must be improved, our energies geared up and our resources co-ordinated within the compass of the Development.

In my last Budget Speech, I tried to set out as comprehensively as possible the prospects and problems of external finance in relation to the current Development Plan : the difficulties inherent in relating offers of finance to specific projects and the urgent need for adequate project appraisal and detailed feasibility studies of projects which are likely to attract external finance. The present prospects for external finance are brighter than they were a year ago. During the year, we have been able to receive outside assistance for the detailed preparation of a wide variety of new projects and there has been some expansion of the staff of the executive Ministries. A good number of projects are yet to be fully appraised. Additional offers of

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external finance of at least £24 million and probably more will be available. In some cases the finance already promised for the implementation of the Plan has got to be drawn down or committed to specific projects. In the first year of the Plan, we had an assured external finance of approximately £172 million; this left a shortfall of £128 million out of the £300 million external finance required for the Plan. As pointed out, we have since received additional offers of £24 million thus reducing the gap to £105 million. I am optimistic that this gap will be closed before the end of the fourth year of the Plan.

During the current sitting of Parliament, my colleague the Minister of Economic Development, will be presenting the first Progress Report on the Federal Development Programme 1962-68. I shall, therefore, confine my remarks to the general financial indications of the Plan. A review of the performance in the first year of the Plan reveals that of the expected annual investment from external sources of about £50 million required in the public sector to fulfil the Plan target, slightly over sixteen per cent did come. The low level of the external finance complement to the investment effort was due to the large number of continuing projects from the last Economic Programme and the fact that prospective lenders needed time to make up their minds. The final figures for the second year of the Plan are not yet ready but from the best available estimates, we have improved on our performance during the first year. What is important at this stage is the need for us to know how much external finance in total will be forthcoming in the remaining years of the Plan Period. Without this assurance, it is difficult to plan rationally on the basis of overall priorities which cannot be done on a year to year basis. Without assured finance, we cannot start many of the projects at present, and this will mean, in many cases, that they cannot be completed within the Plan Period.

**Mr W. O. Briggs (Degema):** The Government has failed.

**The Minister of Finance:** How did we fail? The Member for Degema (*Mr Briggs*) has never tried anything in his life. Failure is his slogan, so he will continue to fail.

The result will be great distortions in the Plan targets and probably failure to produce the desired economic growth. This, of course,

does not mean that the Plan will be totally halted if external finance is not flowing at the required rate. There are certain expenditures which cannot be postponed or delayed and for such cases we have to rely on our domestic resources. It is gratifying to note that we have continued to bear the greater part of our development burden. The total authorised expenditure during the year 1963-64, sector by sector, was as follows:—

	£
Development Sector ..	29,390,681
Social Overhead Sector ..	7,069,853
General Administration Sector .. .. .	19,859,630
Financial Obligations ..	566,078
	<hr/>
Total .. .. .	£56,886,242
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We seek external assistance not because we are destitute and helpless but rather because such assistance is an instrument for the promotion of international co-operation and partnership. In this regard, I cannot but mention the role which the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (otherwise known as the World Bank) has played in our foreign aid. The Bank has now agreed to provide a loan of £10.7 million to the Electricity Corporation of Nigeria to finance the foreign exchange element required for the construction of transmission lines and distribution facilities in the first three and one half years of the Corporation's Six-Year Expansion Programme. The Programme would establish a transmission network and provide generating plants to meet power requirements in Nigeria until the proposed Kainji project on the River Niger comes into operation in 1969. The new loan will bring the Bank's total loans to Nigeria since the inception of the current Development Plan to £15.5 million. I need not emphasise the need for this assistance in view of the persistence power failure which we have so often experienced. It would be relevant to mention at this juncture that at the last Executive Meeting of the World Bank in Washington, a Nigerian—Mr John Garba—was elected an executive director of the Bank on the unanimous vote of the 24 African members of the Bank. Mr Garba will thus watch the interest of all the African members of the Bank on the Board. Honourable Members will agree that this is an

expression of the highest confidence in Nigeria and a rare honour indeed.

By far the most important project in the Six-Year Development Plan is the Niger Dam and associated works. Indeed, because of the multifarious benefits which the accomplishment of this single project would confer, such a cheap power for industrial development, fisheries and agricultural development and the opening up of the River Niger to further navigation than has hitherto been possible, the project is being regarded as the corner-stone of the present stage of our economic development. The revised estimate of the total cost of the phase of the project, schedule to be completed in 1969-70, is £72,000,000. Out of this total, the Federal Government is expected to bear the entire local cost and to be able to pay interest on the loan capital during the period of construction: all these are estimated at £28,000,000. The off-shore cost or the cost of procuring goods and services from abroad is thus estimated at £44,000,000. Approaches have been made to the World Bank and to friendly countries for assistance and the results have been encouraging. Because the project is fully viable it has proved to be very attractive, and so I am in the happy position to announce that we have been able to secure the following firm promises of long-term loan assistance at very reasonable terms:—

	£
The World Bank .. ..	28,000,000
Italian Government .. ..	9,000,000
U.S.A. Government .. ..	5,000,000
United Kingdom .. ..	3,000,000
Netherlands .. ..	2,000,000

The World Bank has in addition to the £40,000,000 already promised for various projects, indicated its willingness to provide some £5.3 million for 3 road projects in the Northern Region and the Nigerian authorities are required to provide the balance of £2.7 million for the local costs of these projects.

At the 1963 Annual Meetings of the International Financial Institutions, the New President of the World Bank declared in his Presidential address to the Board of Governors that the Bank would now intensify its support for agricultural development on a broader front, through such means as helping to finance storage facilities and farm-to-market roads, and through the

strengthening of agricultural organisations that extend credit and technical help to the farmer. The Bank also promises to make its assistance to industry more versatile than it has been so far, and to do more in the field of education, particularly in the field of technical and secondary education. In the past, we have complained about the inability of our educational and agricultural projects to attract external assistance generally, but now that there is going to be a change in the Bank's attitude in this regard, I hope that the Bank will in future be able to provide useful assistance to these important sectors of our economy.

Another milestone in the economic march of Nigeria was the establishment of the Nigerian Industrial Development Bank. Here again the World Bank is connected, for, the International Finance Corporation, which is an affiliate of the World Bank but which confines its interest principally to financing private business, contributed largely to the establishment of the Nigerian Industrial Development Bank. As Honourable Members are aware, the Bank was formally established on the 22nd of January, 1964, with an authorised capital of £5 million, of which £2.25 million was initially subscribed. The Bank will provide long and medium term finance in the private sector of the economy of the Federal Republic. Quite apart from the contribution by the International Finance Corporation to the share capital of the Bank, the Corporation has invited leading foreign banking and investment institutions in Europe, Japan and the United States to contribute to the equity shares of the Bank. The Bank is essentially a Nigerian institution and will be left entirely to operate on its own. The controlling interest in the company is held by the Central Bank and the International Finance Corporation. They are holding the shares until such time that private Nigerian investors can come forward in sufficient numbers to take up shares in the Development Bank. A well-known Nigerian businessman was elected Chairman of the Development Bank at the inaugural meeting of the Board of Directors. There are four other Nigerians on the Board. The Bank also secured the services of Mr James Raj, the Deputy General Manager of its Indian counterpart, to serve as the General Manager in the first three years and to train a Nigerian as his successor. The Federal Government has paid a £2 million interest-free loan to the Bank.



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The loan is for a term of thirty years with fifteen years moratorium. This generous contribution by the Government brought the capital resources of the new Development Bank to £4 million. This amount may appear to be small in relation to the demands for industrialisation but if the bank pursues sound commercial policies, the total resources at its disposal could quickly assume massive proportions. The Bank cannot, and indeed should not, provide all the finance required for all our industrial projects. It can only provide an additional source of finance for industry and will serve as a channel for bringing in overseas investment into the country. The Bank is committed to finance properly managed projects in various parts of this country. It has powers to borrow up to three times its paid-up capital and free reserves. With the support of the Government it stands a very good chance of obtaining substantial credit from the World Bank and other overseas financial institutions as similar corporations in other countries are doing. So I am sure that Honourable Members will join me in wishing the new Bank and its management a very prosperous future and a career of useful service to the nation in co-operation with other financial and development institutions. It is my sincere hope that the Bank within a short time will vindicate itself and the foresight of those who conceived its establishment.

Let me now turn to individual offers of assistance. The United Kingdom Government, apart from the £10 million Commonwealth Assistance Loan and the £5 million outright grant for educational projects in the Regions, has again provided a further £2 million special loan for the purchase of British goods and services. The United States Government has promised assistance of about £80 million for the first five years of the Plan Period, and is prepared to consider further assistance even if the present offer is fully expended or committed before the expiration of the five years. So far we have been able to negotiate two major loans under the USAID Programme of assistance. The terms of the loans are namely : a repayment period of 40 years including a 10-year grace with an annual credit fee of  $\frac{3}{4}$  per cent. These are truly soft loans which are difficult to obtain nowadays. This Honourable House will join me in paying tribute to the memory of the late President John F. Kennedy of the United States of America for the noble role which he played in

the economic development of this country. History will record that he was a great international Statesman, and that he died for the cause for which he dedicated his life. He was a man of noble character whose rare courage in the quest of justice and keen foresight was a shining example for anyone who aspires to leadership. He was a humanitarian of the first order, gentle but firm in his convictions, a man who had the fear of God in him and respected his fellow man. Humanity, but in particular Africa and the developing countries, shall ever remember him for his administration was characterised by a great philanthropy which leaned more towards Africa and the developing countries. We are, however, comforted by the assurances of President Johnson that he would continue to carry on President Kennedy's aid programmes. Although the U.S. Foreign Aid Programme for Africa has been reduced, we look forward to closer co-operation with the new administration. The West German Government has also greatly come to our aid. Of the promised assistance of £8.5 million, £5.4 million has been earmarked for the second Mainland Bridge. The estimated cost of the bridge is now £8,223,000. It will be necessary to find about £2.8 million from other sources. In addition, there are a number of points in the loan agreement that have yet to be resolved. Quite apart from the financial aspect, there is the question of site acquisition, and the resettlement of those who will be displaced. Experience in the past has taught us that these problems are immense, but are capable of solution. In the months ahead, the appropriate Ministry will direct itself to this important task.

Apart from the Government-to-Government assistance, the German Reconstruction Loan Corporation (KfW), an agency of the West German Government, is to provide a short-term loan in the form of suppliers' credit of £2.3 million towards the establishment of a Nigerian Paper Mill. The loan is to be repaid in 9½ years with an interest rate of 6 per cent. My experience with German assistance so far is that the German businessman moves very fast in getting something done in the purely industrial field. Recently, the Italian Government, for the first time since the inception of the Plan, came forward with an offer of £9 million for the Niger Dams project. The Netherlands Government has offered a loan of £2 million for the Niger Dam and in addition to this, that

Government has also agreed to guarantee suppliers' credit up to £2 million for financing agreed projects within the Plan. Other offers of assistance include those from the United Nations Special Fund, the Government of Israel, the Swiss Government, the Canadian Government and the Government of Sweden. I am sure this Honourable House will join me in extending our warmest appreciation of the assistance rendered to us by these countries.

On the domestic front, the Central Bank has continued its efforts to focus activities of the banking system on Lagos and to play an increasingly important role in the provision of finance for the economy. Since January 1963, Treasury Bills have been issued on a weekly basis. There are now thirteen different maturities of Treasury Bills compared with a maximum of six in 1962. This widens the opportunities for investing temporarily surplus funds in Nigeria and thus obviates the necessity for seeking short-term investments abroad. Treasury Bill outstanding now total £30 million as compared with £9 million at the end of 1960 when they were first issued. Of the Treasury Bills outstanding £8 million has been on-lent to the Regional Governments. In pursuance of its policy of making available investment opportunities in Nigeria, the Central Bank has authorised its Kano Branch to accept applications for subscriptions to new issues of Treasury Bills and for dealings in such Bills as from the 2nd January this year. Thus, an investor resident in Kano can now obtain and sell Treasury Bills on the same basis as investors based in Lagos. This facility will be made available at other branches of the Central Bank as these are opened.

The Call Money Fund which the Central Bank operates has proved its value as an outlet for investment on an over-night basis of temporarily surplus funds of the member institutions. Last year, the monthly average amount supplied to the Call Money Fund was £12 million as compared with £9 million in 1962. In addition to the Central Bank's Call Money Fund, some of the commercial banks and one acceptance house also operate a similar scheme. This scheme is fostered by the growth in the number of bills of exchange in the market which are used as security under the scheme.

The commercial bill finance scheme which was launched in 1962 for the financing of the marketing of groundnuts and cotton for the

Northern Nigeria Marketing Board was extended last year to the produce handled by the Western Nigeria Marketing Board. The invitation to the Eastern Nigeria Marketing Board to join the scheme is still open. The basic arrangement of the scheme is that a marketing board, on the basis of a contract for the sale of its produce, draws a 90-day bill of exchange on the Nigerian Produce Marketing Company Limited. When the company accepts this bill the marketing board then discounts it with a bank or acceptance house participating in the scheme and obtains cash for meeting its obligations to the licenced buying agents, transporters, etc. The bank or acceptance house which has discounted the bill can either hold it until maturity or refinance it at the Central Bank. The support of the Central Bank is essential to the success of the scheme and it is one of the schemes designed to ensure that most of the finance needed to meet the short-term needs of Nigeria's growing industry and commerce are provided locally. At the peak of the current season last December, the Central Bank held nearly £15 million of the Marketing Board bills.

In addition to the bill finance scheme for the Marketing Boards, the Central Bank has also agreed to offer rediscount facilities within limits to bills of exchange drawn on banks and acceptance houses by reputable licenced buying agents with substantial paid-up capital in respect of produce bought on behalf of marketing boards. During the current season, facilities totalling nearly £2 million were approved under this arrangement. The Central Bank is also prepared to grant rediscount facilities within limits to other bills of exchange drawn in respect of other exports and essential imports strictly defined, provided they meet its other reasonable requirements as to maturity and names.

The creation of a local money market within a relatively short time reflects credit on the Central Bank as well as upon the other institutions which are participating effectively in the market. Our policy is to foster the growth of the money market and to make it more and more flexible to meet the growing needs of the country's industry and trade.

In January this year the Central Bank floated another loan of £20 million on behalf of the Federal Government. This is the fifth loan

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raised locally since 1959, but it was called the Federal Republic of Nigeria First Development Loan for obvious reasons. It was the largest loan raised locally so far and brought loans raised publicly by the Government since 1959 to £54.35 million. The loan consisted of four stocks and the short-dated stock maturing in 1970 was over-subscribed. Subscriptions by the public and various institutions to the loan totalled only £2.4 million. In pursuance of its policy of underwriting new issues of Government stocks, the Central Bank took up the balance of £17.6 million not initially subscribed by the public and it will gradually sell off its holding on the Lagos Stock Exchange. This practice has been successfully carried out earlier for out of its initial holding of £9.3 million of the loan raised in 1962, the Central Bank had sold off nearly £7 million by the end of the year.

Arrangements are in hand for the redemption at par of the £400,000 5 per cent Federation of Nigeria Development Stock 1964 on the due date, 20th May, 1964. The Central Bank, which is managing the Sinking Fund on behalf of the Federal Government, has sent notices to individual stockholders advising them of the arrangements made for the redemption of the 1964 stock and when they should submit their stock certificates for repayment. The notice will also be published at intervals in the Press. This shows quite clearly that investment in Government stocks is safe and profitable. Investors in other Government stocks can rest assured that they will get their own capital back on the due dates as stated in the relative prospectus. It is my earnest desire that members of this Honourable House and Regional Legislatures should show the example by investing in Government stocks.

At this juncture, perhaps I may refer to the contributions of the Central Bank to the financing of the current Six-Year Development Programme. I have already mentioned the contributions which the Central Bank is making in the provision of finance to meet the short-term needs of both the private and public sectors of the economy in the form of rediscount or refinance facilities for commercial bills and the issue of Treasury Bills on behalf of the Government. As I have stated in my previous budget speeches, the Central Bank had agreed to provide over the Six-Year Plan period up to

£40 million in long-term finance through the purchase of publicly issued long-dated Federal Government stocks. Although originally it had been hoped to confine Central Bank finance to the later years of the Plan, it was subsequently agreed that £20 million of the Central Bank's contributions would be provided by March 1964, owing to the delay in the flow of anticipated foreign aid. I can say that the Central Bank's holding of Government stocks at the end of the 1963-64 financial year will be within the revised limit. It should however, be noted that the £20 million represents half of the amount expected from the Central Bank over the whole Plan period and that it is a higher rate of contribution than from any other source of finance for the Plan.

The injection of so much Central Bank money into the economy needs to be watched carefully to keep any inflationary tendencies well under control. My Ministry will continue to keep in touch with the Central Bank in order to facilitate the Bank's function of maintaining monetary stability and the defence of the Nigerian pound, but in such a way as to permit reasonably rapid growth and expansion in the economy as a whole. I shall return again to this matter later in my speech.

There is a tendency to regard the maintenance of monetary stability as the job of the Central Bank alone. This I must say is a shortsighted view; as the various elements which make up monetary policy come from a wide variety of sources such as policies relating to wages, taxation, international trade, agriculture and industrialisation and also the national attitude to savings, to mention only a few. These are among the potent factors over which the Central Bank has no control and which determine to a large extent whether a country enjoys monetary stability or suffers from inflation which leads to a rapid loss of the country's external reserves. At this stage, I would confine my remarks to the need for more savings.

It is not the intention of Government to pre-empt all available savings into the public sector. We believe that the private sector has an important role to play not only in the stimulation of domestic savings, but also in channelling it into productive investment. While on the subject of domestic savings, I should like to take this opportunity to remind

Honourable Members of our efforts in connection with the National Savings Campaign. My Ministry in collaboration with the Federal Ministry of Communications mounted the National Savings Campaign which came into operation in December 1962. The Campaign is intended to popularise all forms of savings including Post Office Savings Bank, Commercial Banks, Investment in Stocks and shares, Federal Government Loans, Co-operative Societies, Savings Certificates and Premium Bonds. Our activities, however, have been primarily directed to the promotion of the National Savings Certificates and Premium Bonds which have been made available to the public for purchase at Post Offices and Commercial Banks throughout the country.

We are now engaged in the implementation of a big Development Plan which will involve the injection of new money into the economy on a massive scale. The fruits of some of the investment we are now making will become available in a very short while, whilst the fruits of some will not ripen for our consumption for a fairly long while. Since the goods will not be available for our immediate use, we have to exercise some restraint in the spending of the money that is generated by the construction of the various projects in the Development; otherwise, if we spend all the income that happens to come our way without saving a reasonable part of it, we shall be doing either or both of two things. First, the increased demand would lead to rise in the prices of food-stuffs and other goods and to a rise in the cost of living. Secondly, the rise in prices would induce the merchants to import more, probably at higher prices and this would lead to a further drain on our external reserves. The amount of savings that can be made varies from one individual to another but, since all of us desire to share in the more prosperous future that we are trying to build, all can, and indeed should try and save something out of our incomes, if only to provide for the proverbial rainy day. It is a mistake to think that one's income is too small and therefore one cannot afford to save anything out of it. Remember the old Church hymn which reads :

Little drops of water,  
Little grains of sand,  
Make the mighty ocean,  
And the beauteous land. (*Hear, hear*).

Saving is an important element in the maintenance of monetary stability and it is therefore a national duty to save. If there is an adequate flow of voluntary savings, the job of the monetary authorities, including the Government, would be that much easier until there would be less need to achieve a higher rate of saving through increases in taxes.

We have got to work a lot harder and save more in such a way that the savings can be used for development. Savings hoarded in pots and buried in the ground are of no use to the nation. Savings deposited with a bank or in a post office savings account, savings invested in savings certificates, savings bonds, government stocks, shares of companies and life insurance policies, and profits ploughed back into business and industrial ventures, are savings well made. They will not only yield further income to their owners but will also contribute to the realisation of the economic Development Plan.

Sales of these securities, particularly of premium bonds, have proved rather disappointing despite intensive publicity campaigns on the radio and television services, in the press and cinema film shows and by the use of loudspeaker vans. His Excellency the President of the Republic set a fine example to the nation by making a substantial subscription to the Federal Republic of Nigeria First Development Loan floated in January. Nevertheless, I am very far from being despondent because I did anticipate initial difficulties with the introduction of the scheme, due primarily to other competing media and lack of adequate purchasing power. My Ministry is now actively considering the desirability of intensifying the campaign activities and adopting a new approach and technique aimed at stimulating the people's awareness of the importance of saving as a desirable and necessary way of life in a developing community.

Last October, I introduced a voluntary savings scheme by monthly pay-roll deductions. This arrangement is at present confined to Federal Ministries/Departments in Lagos area. I have consulted my colleagues in the Regions and made a similar proposal to them. It is my hope that the Regional Governments will accept my proposal. This will thus permit similar pay-roll deductions to be introduced at

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Regional level. Once this is accepted we hope to go beyond the Regional level and establish contacts with the various local councils as selling spots for savings certificates and premium bonds. I am sure this Honourable House will also wish to participate in this scheme, so that pay-roll deductions can be made from the emoluments received by Honourable Members. (*Hear, hear*).

I would like to draw attention to the Premium Bond prize draws which take place every three months. In order to qualify, at least three months must have elapsed since the purchase of bonds. Every bond purchased qualifies for inclusion in the draw taking place three months after the purchase as well as in subsequent draws. In each quarterly draw there will be one prize of £750, one of £250, four prizes of £110, seven of £50, twenty of £25 and twenty-five of £10. Since the inception of the scheme, four draws have taken place and total prizes distributed come to £10,000.

The fundamental advantage of the Premium Bond draws over that of the Football Pools or Lottery is that a bond staker does not lose his original investment in the event of failing to win a prize. The premium bonds together with the savings certificates constitute an ideal form of saving for both the villagers and town dwellers and I hope that we will all purchase our bonds without delay and also do our utmost best in promoting the sale of these securities in our respective areas. This is the message which Honourable Members should carry back to their constituencies.

The National Provident Fund is growing apace. As at the twentieth day of February, 1964, 399,815 workers were registered with the Fund and monthly subscription now average £280,000. Subscriptions to the Fund totalled £4,995,000 and nearly all this amount has been invested in Government stocks.

This does not preclude us from considering the wider aspect of our currency system and in particular the international trend towards decimalization. Honourable Members will recall that during the last Budget Session, I informed the House that the Federal Government had appointed an official committee to investigate and report on the desirability of, and problems involved in, introducing the decimal currency

system in Nigeria. Since the publication of the Halsbury Report in the United Kingdom, the subject has evoked considerable interest in view of our commercial and economic links with the United Kingdom. The Official Committee has been able to consult Régional Governments and their views have been made known to the Committee. In addition, the Committee has sought the views of those institutions and bodies directly concerned and also individuals whose views would be helpful to the Committee.

One of the principal advantages of the decimal system as compared with the present *£. s. d.* denominations is the ease of calculation offered by the former. The decimal system is essentially based on multiples of five, ten and one-hundred, and it is an accepted fact that these are the easiest tables to master even by school-children. Quite apart from the normal public and private life of the nation, the decimal system offers considerable attraction in the field of education itself, in that less time needs to be spent in training the young mind to become conversant with monetary calculations. The saving in time in carrying out calculations under the decimal system could also be of some importance in both Government and commercial organisations, particularly in times like the present when costs need careful consideration and productivity per man is of increasing concern to all employers.

Another factor which may be regarded as of some importance is that in adopting a decimal currency system, Nigeria would be following what is a decidedly modern trend as the majority of nations are either already on the decimal system or have the introduction of same under active consideration.

Nigeria must, of necessity, play an ever-increasing role in international trade and to have a currency system in line with that of most of its customers would obviously be of distinct benefit. Indeed, this fact is realised by the very parent of the sterling system, the United Kingdom, where there is a distinct possibility of the decimal system being introduced within the not too distant future.

Yet again, there is the apparent advantage that a decimal system opens the door to a much wider field of supply for various types of office machinery and one would suppose that that in itself would lead to less costly machines, which

in turn would increase the scope for office mechanisation in the smaller office and business unit. There can be no doubt of the distinct benefit to the business organisation in adopting the modern technique of machine accounting. Let me, however, sound a note of warning: the introduction of an entirely new currency denomination is bound to give rise to certain problems, most of which will be of a temporary nature.

The Committee is now concentrating its efforts on detailed examination of four systems, namely—the £1-cent system, the 8/4-cent system, the 5/-cent system and the 10/-cent system. It will not be long when I should be in a position to make a positive statement to this Honourable House on this vital subject. In the meantime, we are carrying out all the necessary preliminary consultations which are essential for a successful changeover. It is clear, beyond reasonable doubt, that any decision to make a change would involve a considerable preparatory period.

Currency in circulation at the end of December 1963, reached the record level of £91.7 million as compared with £87.4 million at the end of 1962. This represents an increase of 4.8 per cent over 1962. It also reflects the rise in the level of activity in agriculture, industry and commerce.

The expansion of credit was again very large in 1963. Loans and advances of commercial banks at the end of December totalled £89.5 million, nearly £12½ million or one-sixth higher than a year earlier. To an important extent, this rise was related to the financing of larger crops during the last crop season and to the domestic financing of the cocoa crop in the current crop season. Also, growth in domestic manufacturing has also led to increased demands on the banking system for credit. In addition to these credits from the commercial banks, the Central Bank increased its accommodation to the private sector over the year by about £4 million in the form of refinanced commercial bills.

During 1963 too, the entire banking system extended *additional* credit to government totalling some £11 million. When this is aggregated with the credit extended to the private sector, it makes a very large sum of credit creation indeed. As I have said earlier,

this trend has to be watched very carefully because of its inflationary implications and because of its impact on our external reserves.

Deposits held with commercial banks at the end of 1963 totalled £96 million, a rise of £9 million on the year. This amount included a further healthy and welcome growth of savings deposits by £4 million. The rise in deposits was again smaller than the increase in loans and as a consequence, the liquidity position of the banking system deteriorated. Again, this points to the need to accelerate deposit growth to improve the long-term health of our financial structure and to help assure the availability of credit at all times for productive purposes.

The Banking Act, 1962, was passed not very long ago. But my advisers are already agreed on the need to effect one or two changes to this legislation, with a view to providing better control and supervision of Banks and other related financial institutions. Active thought is being given to this problem and our hope is that in the next year or so, a bill will be placed before Parliament which will seek to so broaden the existing definition of Banking and Banking business as to bring within the scope of control and supervision those institutions in our monetary system which carry on business which is related to banking. We have succeeded in laying the foundation of a money market, but until such time as this money market and other specialised institutions in the country can give assistance on a much larger scale than now the banks will not be relieved of pressure. Some critics say that the banking system of this country is conservative in its approach to requests for financial assistance from customers. These critics hold that a young and developing country like Nigeria should have a more dynamic and aggressive banking system. The banks are already considerably over-lent and if they yield to the increasing pressure on them for financial assistance, public deposits may be exposed to a greater degree of jeopardy than is good for the name of the banking system and of the country.

I have indicated in previous budget speeches the intention of our Government to make the credit base of our monetary system truly Nigerian, by encouraging the repatriation of funds and assets held abroad by Governments, public corporations and individuals. This operation is now almost complete, thanks to the help and assistance of the Central Bank and the

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Commercial banks. Whilst it is not Government's policy to discriminate as between one bank and another in the Banking system, we are all conscious that Nigerians, as in other fields and industries, must participate more and more in the running of the Banking system of this country. It is for this reason that the utmost encouragement has been given to those banks which are purely indigenous in nature to improve not only their methods of operations but also the standard of the personnel responsible for these operations. I am pleased to report that one or two friendly countries have indicated their willingness to offer Banking scholarships tenable in various parts of the world for the benefit of indigenous Nigerian Banking personnel.

There is a large area of the country in which no banking facilities are available. The hope is that the indigenous banks—who should be more in touch with the people—will accept the challenge inherent in this situation, and by more efficient management and operation, aim at winning the patronage of Nigerians in the outlying districts of the country. If the indigenous banks can accept this challenge, they could win back into the main stream of finance the huge sums of money which we now know to be hoarded all over the country in cigarette tins, or buried in the earth, or kept in any other way, outside the Banking systems.

Now I turn to our balance of payments position which, I regret to say, remains unsatisfactory in a number of respects. The balance of payments again showed an overall deficit in 1963 and a further large fall in external reserves. The trade deficit, it is true, was again smaller last year—£26 million as against £36 million in 1962. This improvement resulted from a substantial and welcome rise in exports to a new record of £181 million; virtually all of our traditional exports—with the major exception of cocoa where the crops was smaller—recorded gains. The exceptional increases in the groundnut and cotton crops in the 1962-63 season were the principal elements in the rise in overall receipts. In addition, exports of petroleum—Nigeria's fourth largest export—continued to expand and adding over £2 million to our export earnings.

The value of imports entering Nigeria last year at £206 million was only slightly higher than in 1962. The increase, though small,

included a further rise in imports of machinery and equipment to add to the stock of capital in this country and to improve our productive capacity. Movements in imports in 1963 also illustrated the growth in Nigeria's capacity to produce locally many of the items formerly imported from overseas. I can cite declines in imports of cement, footwear, beds and furnishings as well as a number of goods items which are now produced in Nigeria. This is welcome evidence of progress in solving our long-term balance of payments problem as well as of progress in extending manufacturing facilities in Nigeria employing local resources and manpower.

Net outpayments for services again remained large with the result that the overall current account deficit was in the neighbourhood of £40 million. This amount proved too large to be financed by the inflow of private capital and by official borrowing overseas. In consequence, Nigeria's external reserves fell in 1963 by £30 million to £94 million.

It is in the area of capital flows that the outcome of last year's external transactions proved most disappointing. Turning first to official borrowing, gross receipts from new borrowings declined from the previous year's level and in addition, there were substantial repayments on earlier borrowings. Thus, for the Federal Government there were *net* repayments on external borrowings of over £6 million. The most important repayment took place in October when the £5.7 million, 4 *per cent* sterling loan issued in 1923 was redeemed in full. The punctual repayment of this loan was a demonstration to overseas investors of Nigeria's determination and ability to honour its commitments and hence contributed to the maintenance of the country's international credit standing.

The net result of all these transactions was, as already indicated, a further large decline in our external reserves. At the end of December these stood at £94 million: while this amount was equal to 5½ months' imports at current levels, which is still more than adequate to our present needs, I am frankly disturbed at the rate of decline in these reserves. Many people do not understand the purpose of holding external reserves. They ask, "Why do we need these reserves?" "Why can we not use these reserves for our pressing development needs?" If Nigeria were a completely self-contained economy, relying exclusively on its

own resources to meet its needs, there would be no need to hold external reserves. But we live in a world economy in which the produce of Nigeria's farms and forests is sold to businesses and individuals in other countries to meet their requirements in order to purchase those goods and services produced elsewhere which we are unable to create for ourselves or which others can produce better. In promoting our own development in Nigeria, we are naturally seeking to lessen our dependence on the outside world but not to the extent of eliminating it entirely. For the rest of the world will always produce and be able to provide goods which we cannot provide ourselves and which Nigerians will want to consume in return for the fruits of their labour.

In seeking to accelerate our development, moreover, we must recognise our dependence on the outside world for capital equipment, skills and experience. Thus, Nigeria belongs to the world economy, partly by necessity and partly in order to reap the benefits of international specialisation of labour. It is for this reason that we have chosen, as I have repeatedly said in my Budget speeches, to avoid the use of physical controls in meeting our balance of payments problems.

To remain a part of the world economy and to continue to enjoy the advantages of membership, requires the acceptance of certain responsibilities. For one thing, Nigeria has at all times to be prepared so to manage its affairs in such a way that it can honour its external commitments. One way of doing so is to maintain an adequate level of external reserves. These reserves have to be large enough to meet the country's current foreign exchange bills. These reserves form, moreover, a sort of insurance fund to meet unforeseen contingencies just as a person's bank balance or savings deposit is kept at a certain level to permit bills to be paid in the event of disruptions to income or sudden large expenditures. Looked at in this way, reserves do serve a useful function. Furthermore, these funds are not idle abroad: they earn interest which can be employed by Government to useful purposes inside Nigeria.

Our ability to maintain an adequate level of external reserves is an indication to the rest of the world of Nigeria's able management of its own affairs. The prospective foreign investor looks for this type of assurance that

his capital, once invested in Nigeria, will not only earn profits but that these profits can be remitted for his own use. It is for this reason that Government has set as its minimum goal the maintenance of external reserves equal to four months' imports. Similarly, the ability to maintain a certain level of external reserves is a sign to Nigerian citizens that the country's financial affairs are being managed properly and that the Nigerian currency is sound. To ensure this, the Central Bank Act provides that the Central Bank keeps external reserves—equal to forty per cent of its demand liabilities—as backing for the currency. As I have just said, the level of external reserves at the end of December 1963, was equivalent to five and a half months' imports. As at the same date, the external reserves of the Central Bank were equal to fifty-six per cent of its demand liabilities. External reserves were thus in excess of Government's stated policy and of certain statutory requirements. However, it is the rate of decline in these reserves that is cause for concern and that must be watched carefully. Our goal must be to maintain a level of reserves sufficient to inspire the confidence of all—Nigerian and foreigner alike—in the future of Nigeria. I would like to dwell further on the need for this confidence because there has of recent been increased pressure that the fiduciary element in our currency should be increased in order that more money may be made available to the general public. Quite apart from the common knowledge that a flow of money not matched with increased productivity has an inflationary tendency, I have always opposed the policy of cheap money from a second point of view.

There may be certain circumstances when an artificial injection of money into the economy may be desirable. As a rule, the injection of money into the public sector of society has the effect of stimulating the demand for consumer goods. In an industrialised or semi-industrialised society such an artificial injection of money, when economic activity is rather at a low ebb, may be desirable in order to effect a revival. This is so because the increased demand for consumer goods which the free injection of money will produce would exercise due pressure on the industries to accelerate their production in order to meet the new demand. The whole thing produces a chain reaction and the overall effect would be of greater economic activity, fuller employment



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and the resultant economic prosperity for the society.

Now take a society like ours where industrialisation has just begun. What will be the effect of such a fiduciary issue? It will stimulate the demand for consumer goods all right, but then where will the goods come from? The answer is—from outside. We will spend the money in buying more foreign goods, in buying more radio and television sets, cars, etc. In short, the money that was injected will leave the country and we shall be worse off in the circumstances.

**Chief O. B. Akin-Olugbade** (Egba South) : The Government can control the market.

**The Minister of Finance** : If you control the market you create a black market at Abeokuta. Certainly, once you control the market, then you realise your mistake.

A stage will come when we cannot buy from foreign countries. Foreign countries will not take Nigerian money and will want us to convert our money into some other currency which they will accept, but how can we convert our money if the backing is too low? The whole thing is a vicious circle.

We should learn from the lesson of other countries and from events in certain parts of Nigeria that the success of such an injection of money is only very short-lived. It gives a feeling of opulence which is only artificial. It is more of a political, perhaps propaganda, instrument rather than a sound economic policy because in the end it turns out to be a Greek gift. Sooner or later the Government will find itself in an embarrassing position where its money is worth nothing in the foreign market. Government will then resort to all the sorts of controls and severe measures such as exorbitant taxation in an attempt to arrest the situation and Honourable Members will agree with me that the introduction of controls is the surest indication that the economy is very sick and increased taxation has not been known to be well taken by the people.

Surely we do not want such a situation to arise at this stage of our development otherwise it will wreck the foundation of our whole economy. I honestly do not think that we have come to that stage of industrial development when we can experiment with pumping so much artificial money into the economy. In taking a stand on this matter I am fully aware that I

incur the dislike of the man in the street who would want money now to satisfy his immediate needs, leaving tomorrow to care for itself. But I take consolation in that famous warning of Professor Marshall—"Students of social science must always fear popular approval, evil is with them when all men speak well of them. If there is any set of opinions by the advocacy of which a newspaper can increase its sales, then the student is bound to dwell on the limitations and defects and errors, of any, in that set of opinions. It is almost impossible for a student to be a true patriot and to have the reputation of being one at the same time".

The first branch of the Central Bank was opened in Kano in January 1963, and the foundation stone of the second branch of the bank at Port Harcourt was laid by the Premier of Eastern Nigeria, Dr M. I. Okpara, on the 9th of November, 1963. It is expected that the branch will open for business before the end of 1964. Plans are in hand for the construction of two more branches—at Ibadan and Benin respectively. The branches will be equipped with strong rooms capable of holding adequate stocks of currency to meet peak seasonal demands in these areas, and in addition, they will provide banking facilities to commercial banks and the governments of the Regions. The next phase of development will be for the Central Bank to build its own sub-centres at the existing currency sub-centres which are at present run on an agency basis by a commercial bank, with the Regional Government Sub-Treasurers' or Central Bank staff holding the second panel of the dual control under which all currency stocks are held. The Central Bank will build its first sub-centre at Enugu and in due course all the other currency sub-centres will be run by Central Bank staff in its own buildings.

In my last Budget Speech I mentioned that Government was on the verge of entering into partnership with an internationally reputed security printing company for the purpose of establishing in Nigeria our own security printing and minting works which will produce our bank notes, coins, postal orders, stamps, wireless and vehicle licences, stock certificates, Treasury bills and other government and Central Bank security documents. (*Interruptions*).

**Mr Speaker** : There has been a lot of interruptions. I think this being an important

speech—the Budget Speech—there should be less interruptions.

**The Minister of Finance :** It is indeed gratifying to report that after prolonged negotiations, an agreement, providing for the setting up of the Nigerian Security Printing and Minting Company Limited, was signed in May 1963, between Thomas De La Rue International Limited, on the one hand, and the Government and the Central Bank on the other. As a result, the Nigerian Security Printing and Minting Company was formally incorporated on the 31st July, 1963, with a nominal capital of £1 million in the proportions of 55% by the Government, 40% by De La Rue and 5% by the Central Bank. Of the £1 million authorised capital, £800,000 has been issued and half of this has so far been paid up. The construction of the factory buildings is now in progress and will be completed this year. It is significant to mention here that the foundation stone laying ceremony, which will be performed by His Excellency Dr Nnamdi Azikiwe, President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, has been scheduled for the 4th of April. Installation of equipment and training of personnel necessary for production will be completed in 1965. Meanwhile, new designs for the various denominations of our bank notes have been produced and are being considered by the Government in consultation with the Central Bank. It is further envisaged that as and when the company has surplus capacity above these obligations, it will endeavour to obtain orders from commercial or industrial undertakings or banks in the Federal Republic of Nigeria and from other countries.

Apart from being a credit to Nigeria in that she will be the first country in Africa to produce and complete all its security requirements, this project will conserve foreign exchange, bring new skills and techniques to Nigeria, offer employment to Nigerians and offer better security on ballot papers, examination papers and other documents.

Honourable Members will recall that in 1962 there was the need to effect tariff changes, but it is a matter for regret that these tariff changes resulted in more widespread evasion of payment of prescribed rates of import duty and the Board of Customs has had the rather unpleasant duty of stiffening its methods in order to combat this perennial canker-worm that eats into the revenue of the country. Whilst we

expect the officers of the Board of Customs and Excise, like any other civil servants in the country, to serve members of the public with the utmost courtesy and civility, may I seize this opportunity to appeal to all loyal citizens of this country and strangers within our gates to co-operate with these officers through whose efforts the bulk of the revenue for this country is collected.

Although there has been a slight short-fall of Customs and Excise revenue below what we anticipated in our estimates for the year 1963-64, there was a sizeable overall increase above the 1962-63 figures of revenue collected. I regard this as a healthy sign at a time when every effort is being made to reduce imports and encourage our local industries.

Due caution has been taken in framing the Estimates of Customs and Excise revenue for the year 1964-65, as I shall be showing later on when I deal with the Estimates.

There has been a noticeable increase in Excise activities during the past year. A Match factory and also a Tobacco factory were opened at Ilorin and two Breweries for the production of beer were opened at Umuahia and Kaduna respectively. Another brewery for the production of beer is expected to go into production at Abeokuta shortly. The revenue which will be derived from all these Excisable projects will be considerable and will further strengthen our foreign exchange position.

In August last year Nigeria blazed the trail as the first African country ever to become a member of the Customs Co-operation Council which has its headquarters in Brussels. This Council is an international organisation of Customs Administrations and more than thirty countries all over the world are members.

The Council is charged with the responsibility for ensuring the uniform interpretation and application of the Conventions relating to the Brussels Valuation and Tariff Nomenclature, to perform such functions as may be expressly assigned to it in those Conventions and to act in a conciliatory capacity in any disputes which may arise in this respect. The Council also has the more general task of studying all questions relating to co-operation in Customs matters which the contracting parties agree to promote, of examining the technical aspects of Customs systems with a view to proposing practical means of attaining the highest possible degree of harmony and uniformity, and of

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preparing for this purpose draft Conventions and recommendations. The Council further undertakes the circulation of information or advice to Member States and co-operates with other international organisations.

Our membership of the Customs Co-operation Council is a step in the right direction as it will place our Customs Administration on the international level and, no doubt, bring improvement in its procedures and general outlook.

One of the benefits which we have derived from our contact with the Customs Co-operation Council has been the attainment of our aim to re-classify the Customs and Excise Tariff into one of the internationally accepted formats. With the help of the Council and the United Kingdom Government, our tariff has now been completely re-classified into the Brussels Nomenclature and, as some members are no doubt aware, the new tariff was launched on an experimental basis on the 1st of March, 1964. The experimental period is to last for about four months and we expect to bring the new tariff into legal operation as from the 1st of July, 1964.

I wish to stress that every care has been taken in the re-classification to avoid any intentional increase in duty and any slight modification in rates which may be discovered would be an inevitable result of the re-classification, not unexpected in an exercise of the size and type we have undertaken.

This transposition of our tariff is considered an achievement. The new tariff has brought our tariff onto the international plane and will facilitate international trade and negotiations. I am also pleased to report that the reaction of local businessmen and entrepreneurs has been most favourable.

As a result of improvement in the personnel and equipment which are available for the combat against that ever-present enemy of our country—those who endeavour to evade prohibition or payment of the prescribed Customs and Excise duties—significant successes have been achieved and among the many seizures which were made were three very large import seizures each of which was valued at over £1,000. There have also been significant seizures of exports, one of which was valued at about £600. Discoveries of attempts to export currency illegally have also increased, and

considerable revenue is being derived from court prosecutions for these anti-social activities.

New Preventive Service Stations were opened during the year to facilitate the movement of persons and goods across our borders and to check the running of contraband. Plans for the establishment of more Customs Stations in the Northern area reached an advanced stage and the erection of some of the stations will commence shortly.

The Nigerian Navy and the Nigeria Police have, again during the past year been most co-operative in our fight against the smuggler and I am most grateful to them. It is also with much pleasure that I record that my appeal to members of the public to come forward with information which may be of help to the Department of Customs and Excise in stamping out smuggling, has met with greater response and I trust that there will be no waning in this response in the years that lie ahead. We are all agreed, no doubt, that if we are to achieve any success in the various programmes of development we have embarked upon, it is incumbent on every citizen as well as every stranger within our gates to be loyal to this country by paying to the Department of Customs and Excise the prescribed dues.

Discussions with the Republic of Dahomey on mutual problems concerning traffic across our common borders have been successful and the first common Customs Station to be jointly operated by our two countries will be in operation during the next few months.

Due to circumstances beyond our control, progress in our negotiations with our neighbours in the Republic of Camerouns, Chad, Niger and Togo has been slow but fruitful discussions have continued, and I wish to assure members that these negotiations will be concluded at the earliest opportunity.

It is of the utmost importance to us all, in the interest of African Unity, that co-operation in Customs and Excise matters between our country and our neighbours should be at the highest level and there is no doubt that the prosperity of the people in all the territories, English and French-speaking, will be enhanced by the conclusion of these negotiations.

A very bold attempt has been made to recover lost ground in the training of the officers in the Department of Customs and Excise during the past year. More than thirty-five programmes of training were completed. These

included training courses in Australia, the United Kingdom and Brussels and, with the introduction of the basic training for new entrants into the Technical and Clerical grades of the Department, the position has now been attained where every new entrant into the Department receives one form of training or another before he begins to perform his duties.

During the past year, Nigeria played host once again for an international course for senior Customs officers in English-speaking countries in West Africa, under the auspices of the United Nations. Customs Officers from all English-speaking countries in West Africa attended the course and one special feature of this course was the presence of Customs Officers from Western Cameroons.

This course, which was the second in the series, has been acknowledged by all as being more successful than the previous one and we hoped that we shall have the opportunity of being of service in future for similar courses.

The Cadet Scheme under which graduates are recruited into the Department of Customs and Excise is being actively implemented and the first set of graduate cadets has already passed out of training.

Innovations during the past year included a training course in radio telephone and map reading for Preventive Service officers who have been charged with the responsibility for operating aircraft which are used for the prevention of smuggling, and a training course in the French language.

As I mentioned during my last Budget Speech, an expert in public finance and administration was provided under the auspices of the United Nations Organisation to examine the entire set-up of our Customs and Excise and make such recommendations as he considered necessary to enable the Board and the Department to continue to cope effectively with the changing pattern of revenue control which has resulted from industrialisation and also increased responsibility which will undoubtedly stem from the expansion of our economy.

The expert has since submitted his report and some of his recommendations will involve some radical changes in the composition of the Board and the staffing of the department. These changes will affect the technical service of the department more than any other division

and will, no doubt, involve some increase in expenditure. Most of us are agreed, however, that any amount spent on the effective reorganisation of the department is money well spent as the department is, and from all indications will, for many years to come, remain the main source of the revenue of this country.

The reorganisation of the Preventive Service which began slowly in 1962 had gathered momentum. Many of the top posts have been filled substantively or in acting capacities, and the improved conditions of service which the reorganisation has brought generally to the officers have resulted in noticeable increase in the loyalty and efficiency of the officers.

The examination of proposals submitted by entrepreneurs who wish to set up distilleries is in its final stages and I expect that during this session members will have the opportunity to debate a Bill for an Act for the control and licensing, for excise purposes, of the distillation of spirits.

The refinery in the Eastern Region is expected to go into production within the next twelve months and before that stage is reached, members will be called upon to debate a Bill for the control of the activities of the refinery.

In order to enable our Customs administration to play its full part as a Member of the Customs Co-operation Council and also to facilitate the handling of enquiries by enterprises in Europe and the United Kingdom about the conditions for importing goods into exporting goods from Nigeria, it is proposed to have a Customs and Excise Attaché in London or Brussels.

I have every hope, indeed, I am convinced that with the reorganisation which we have embarked upon, the Board and the Department of Customs and Excise will continue to meet the challenge of the time and to discharged fully its responsibility as the greatest revenue-earning department in the Republic. I am proud to announce that this very important revenue earning department of government is now headed by a worthy Nigerian in the person of Mr Ayodele Diyan and thus, the Nigerianisation of all the Heads of Departments and Divisions of my Ministry is complete.

Another arm of my Ministry is the Board of Inland Revenue. Because of the delicate nature of the work carried out by this important department of Government, it always

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fights shy of publicity. I shall therefore not dwell much on the activities of the Board; and in any case, the Board does not envisage any change in the system of taxation during the ensuing fiscal year.

For the past few years the Federal Board of Inland Revenue has been severely hampered in its work by the shortage of trained tax men: because of the dislike of income-tax work by honours graduates on the one hand and the commercial world's ready demand for the services of the best qualified men on the other, efforts made to recruit suitable candidates have met with anything but success. In fact, there is the tendency for the few trained people on the staff of the Board of Inland Revenue to be wooed by more attractive offers in other fields. The Board appears, however, to be nearing the turning of the long lane. Present indications are that with the return of some of the department's former employees after qualifying as professional accountants and with what appears to be its unexpected good fortune in securing the services of a few newly qualified accountants as well as of graduates from outside, the inspectorate staff and back-duty investigation machinery of the Federal Board of Inland Revenue should be stronger in the coming year than they have been in the past few years. There are also bright prospects of restarting the vigorous 3-year in-service training of Inspector of Taxes which had to be brought to a halt owing to the difficulty in filling the vacancy of Chief Instructor.

When the hopes enumerated above materialise, it is expected that this department will be in a position to step up its contribution to the revenue of the Federal Government. To facilitate this process, one of the top cadres in the Inland Revenue is being strengthened—namely, the Legal Section, which plans to embark upon a more vigorous drive against tax defaulters through the legal machinery. Fuller and closer co-operation with the Regional income-tax authorities is envisaged through meetings of the Joint Tax Board. The Federal Board of Inland Revenue continues to intensify its drive against tax evasion. In order the more effectively to combat the menace, fully qualified Nigerian accountants with the requisite knowledge and experience of income-tax investigation will continue to be drafted to the Investigation Branch of the department as they become available. The expert assistance which

this arm of the Revenue has been receiving from the British Inland Revenue through the Nigeria-United Kingdom Technical Assistance scheme, continued to be available to help make the staff of that specialised section more adept in the difficult task of uncovering hidden wealth, however expertly concealed in accounts. As the training of an "Enquiry Branch" personnel necessarily takes a long time, it is hoped that this technical assistance will be forthcoming for quite some time to come, especially as the presence of these United Kingdom personnel does not in any way hinder the progress of Nigerianisation in this or any other branch of the Federal Board of Inland Revenue, since they do not occupy posts in the department.

Something which seldom, if ever, strikes most people at first is the fact that every move by the planning authorities of this capital city of Lagos to give the city the new look, which we all have so much pride in witnessing, unavoidably adds to the incidence of tax evasion. A current example is the impending removal and resettlement of about 6,000 persons—some of them tenants, some landlords others traders and employees, *et cetera*—from the Apongbon/Alakoro Marina area of Lagos in order to accommodate the Lagos arm of the second bridge. As was the case when the Central Lagos slum clearance scheme was being given effect to, the Inland Revenue will have almost insuperable difficulties in tracing those of the evacuees who are on its tax roll. Some of them will no doubt be traced to their new abodes in due course, while many others may not be traced for some months, perhaps some years, to come, especially if they happen to leave their former homes without having fully discharged their tax liabilities. All these problems of tax collection offer an unprecedented challenge to the Federal Board of Inland Revenue, which is using every ingenuity that it can muster to meet the changing situation.

Like the Board of Inland Revenue, the Treasury Division of my Ministry has also been finding some difficulty in recruiting and retaining qualified accountants. But in spite of this handicap, the Treasury has most efficiently discharged its responsibilities as the custodian of government funds. In pursuance of the government policy of conserving foreign exchange and in keeping with our status as a sovereign nation, it has become necessary to

curtail to some extent our dependence upon the Crown Agents' services in London. Accordingly, salaries of expatriates and other officers on leave in the United Kingdom are now paid into bank accounts in Nigeria. Similarly, allotment payments by Crown Agents have been discontinued and officers now make their own arrangements for remittances to their dependants in the United Kingdom. It is also proposed that the Nigeria High Commission in London shall take over from the Crown Agents during the year responsibility for payments of fees and allowances to government scholars in universities and institutions in the United Kingdom and Eire. It has also been decided that Nigeria should cease to contribute to the general purse of the Directorate of Overseas Audit because of the decline in the need for the services of that body. I am happy to report that it has been possible for me to redeem the promise I made a year ago by the appointment of a Nigerian to the post of Accountant-General of the Federation.

During the course of my speech last year I indicated that an Ambassador was to be appointed to the European Economic Community in order to explore the possibility of expanding and/or securing our present trade with that powerful economic group. This was in accordance with the Right Honourable Prime Minister's statement in September 1962, to the effect that Nigeria would not accept association with the European Economic Community under Part IV of the Treaty of Rome but would seek an alternative course for the promotion of her trade with the Community. As Members presumably know, Dr P.N.C. Okigbo was appointed Ambassador, being pre-eminently qualified to carry on the negotiations. Last September, reinforced by a team of Permanent Secretaries and other officials from this Government, he began exploratory talks with members of the Community. The main purpose of these exploratory talks at this stage in the negotiations was to define the broad outline within which a trade agreement could be negotiated with the Community.

Although the structure of Nigerian economy would appear to be similar to the structure of the economies of the Associated States, as all of us are primary producers of agricultural products, there were marked points of difference, especially as to the rate and stage of the

development of our country. Besides, Nigeria as a single unit, offers to the Community a bigger market than any one of these territories or all of them put together. Nigeria, to a large extent, could be said to be self-sufficient as regards her internal resources. Her trade policy, which is that of an open door, cannot be compared with the restricted trade policy of the associated territories. Whereas the economies of the associated territories were hitherto very much tied to the trade of the Metropolitan countries, Nigeria's trade was open to the whole world. All-comers have a right of establishment in Nigeria. The tariffs that may exist apply to all alike. It was therefore obvious that there was need to find a solution to Nigeria's problems outside the context of the Yaounde Convention, because various provisions in that Convention, such as provisions for the right of establishment and for special institutions to govern the trade relations of the associated territories with that of the European Economic Community, are not relevant in the Nigerian set-up. (*Loud Interruptions*).

**Mr Speaker :** Hon. Members must remember the Standing Orders that if they have to confer at all they have to do so in undertones. I notice that some voices, many of which are loudly magnified by the microphone, are trying to drown the hon. Minister's Speech.

**The Minister of Finance :** In seeking to define Nigeria's position in her trade with the European Economic Community, it was also clear that full cognizance must be taken of her special circumstances in the African Continent as a whole. It must be borne in mind that Nigeria's industrial potential and market possibilities put her in a special position in her relationship with other neighbouring African countries, and in the progress towards the establishment of an African Common Market. Any negotiation with other economic groupings must recognise these facts and ensure that in seeking an outlet outside the African Continent, Nigeria does not damage its image on that Continent.

The explanatory talks also raised a number of issues such as the question of reciprocity. The officials of the Community have suggested that if Nigeria is to negotiate a special agreement which would extend the Community's free trade area facilities to Nigeria, this country must offer reciprocal facilities to the European Economic Community in the Nigerian market

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The extent of this reciprocity would itself be subject for detailed negotiation, but this must be within the context of Nigeria's external trade policy and her stand at all International Conferences where she has sought to establish that it would be unfair for the developing countries to exact reciprocity for trade concessions given to the under-developed or developing countries in view of the gross imbalance in trade which has been operating over the centuries against the under-developed countries.

Another aspect of the problem of our negotiation with the European Economic Community is our trade relation with the United Kingdom and the rest of the world. The volume of our trade with the European Economic Community is almost equal to that of our trade with the United Kingdom. In seeking accommodation, therefore, within the European Economic Community, efforts would have to be made to ensure that we do not damage our trade with other parts of the world, especially if the European Economic Community should insist on reciprocity. Members will, therefore, appreciate that our negotiation with the European Economic Community is an extremely thorny one and it promises to be somewhat protracted. Nevertheless, it is hoped that by the end of this year it would be brought some conclusion.

A matter worth mentioning at this juncture is the continued fall in the prices of agricultural products in the world market. As has been stressed in the past, one major factor that has contributed to the lag in the overall rate of our economic development is the low price for our export crops. The price position of our commodities in the world market is actually very disturbing. The overall movement of prices for primary products over the past couple of years has been generally on the downward trend, and despite several efforts and appeals by the producer countries those who dictate the prices of our exports have not seen it proper to raise these prices. I would not say that this continued fall in the prices of our cash crops is due to increased production because on the whole demand for these products continue to increase; rather, it is the rapid development and improvement of synthetics, against which the natural products cannot compete, that has been responsible for the continued deterioration of the prices for our cash crops. Our major means of earning foreign exchange is therefore

being crippled and the casual doling out of grants and assistance cannot help the generality of our people or save our economy from further ruin. What we prefer is higher prices for our cash crops so that the farmers can further improve and increase their productivity and earn more money and contribute more to the stability of the economy.

Added to this question of synthetics competing with natural products is the problem which automation poses for us. Automation emphasises the contrast between the less developed countries and the highly developed countries. And the scale on which automation is introduced in the industrialised countries will, under present conditions, exceed the pace at which less advanced countries will find it possible to move, and their relative wealth and standard of living will tend to grow even farther apart. For Nigeria, and indeed for other primary producing countries, this problem is a very serious one because agriculture, which is the mainstay of our economy, does not lend itself to automation. Our products must largely continue to be grown and harvested by laborious manual methods, and the products, sold at world market prices which make it difficult to effect material improvements in the standard of life of our farmers. Yet these products are vital to the welfare of the industrial countries.

I wish now to turn specifically to the Budget itself. It is not unusual for speculations to be rife around Budget time; but I wish to say right away that there should be no cause for any uneasiness. The tariff changes which came into effect on the 9th March, for which I seek parliamentary confirmation, are in no way gruesome. I should recall that in its drive for rapid industrialisation, the government makes very generous concessions in order to attract overseas investment and also encourage investment in the private sector. There are a number of concessions that are granted to such investors, such as a tax holiday, pioneers' status, not to mention the concession of repatriating both capital and interest as and when the investor so decides. In some industries, there has been partial or total protection from outside competition. After many years of these concessions, the government has reviewed the situation and is satisfied that the risk undertaken by these investors has been more than rewarded by the profits realised by them. It is therefore not

perfidious of government to demand that industries so protected should not begin to make their due contribution to the economy by paying a very small percentage of their profits by way of excise in order, at least, to compensate for what government would otherwise lose by way of import duty.

It is thus a budgetary corollary that while considering what measures can be taken to raise additional revenue, we should bear in mind that with the development of Nigerian industry and the resulting substitution of our own manufactures for goods which hitherto have had to be imported, it would be necessary to look increasingly to the products of our own industries as a source of revenue. In order to preserve the margin of protection which the products of these industries now enjoy, it has been necessary to increase the duty on the imported equivalents by at least the amount of the excise duty imposed. The estimated increase is about £5 million, of which about £1.5 million will be paid into the Distributable Pool account for allocation to the Regions, the net estimated gain to Federal revenue being £3.5 million.

As regards excise duties, I should state that Government was satisfied from statistical returns and consultations at official level with representatives of the management of the various industries that the industries concerned are healthy enough to bear the burden and in general the level of excise duties is low in relation to the corresponding import duty. Government has considered it unwise to impose relatively high duties from the beginning as this would both retard the healthy development of the industries affected as well as cause a sharp rise in the cost of living. From the excise duties imposed, it is estimated that some £2.5 million revenue will be realised. Whilst the Constitution does not require any revenue from excise duties (except those on cigarettes) to be allocated to the Regions, precedents have been established in the case of the existing excise duties on mineral waters and matches for part of the revenue to be passed on to the Regions. It is equitable to make such an allocation because these excise duties are in effect a replacement for import duties, in which the Regions have a statutory share. It is therefore proposed that the revenue derived from these duties should be distributed on the same basis for allocating import duties on the same commodities. On this basis, therefore, £603,000

would be passed on to the Regions and £1,907,000 would be retained by the Federal Government.

An item in the tariff changes that I would like to refer to is the withdrawal of the exemption from import duty hitherto allowed in respect of stationery imported for educational purposes by schools. The purpose of the import duty exemption was to reduce the cost to parents of providing their children with exercise books and other items of stationery at a time when all stationery had to be imported. This situation is now changed since there are factories in Nigeria, both in the Federal territory and in the Regions which, between them, can supply the whole of the country's requirements of school stationery. Moreover, it seems that it was the proprietors of the schools rather than the parents of the children who have reaped the benefit of the concession. These proprietors of schools get the import duty free stationery and sell it to school-children at the prevailing market price; the concession has, therefore, not helped the parents of the children at all. It was therefore considered appropriate that this concession should be withdrawn.

Members of this House have, on several occasions, indicated their support for legalising the locally manufactured gin, I have received enquiries from interested bodies wishing to set up business to buy these supplies of illicit gin with the aim of distilling it into internationally accepted standards. When the investigations of the proposed investors in this field are crystallised into a concrete proposal, Government will give due consideration to such proposals. In the meantime, the Nigerian Fermentation Industries Limited which will produce alcohol as a by-product will be going into production any time this month. I have purposely left out reduction of import duty on imported alcoholic beverages as this enterprise has to be protected. Notwithstanding this, the company will be paying excise duty on spirits at the rate of two thirds of the equivalent import duty.

The Recurrent Estimates for 1964-65 show a total increase of £8.4 million over this financial year's appropriation. The actual expenditure for 1962-63 amounted to a little over £60 million. Members will also note that there is an increase of £17.85 million over the actual expenditure for 1962-63 which is mostly



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attributable to the tremendous need of recurrent expenditure by most of the Capital Projects, especially those under the Social Overhead and General Administration Sectors. Progress in the productive projects of the Development Sectors has not been very satisfactory. Here again, our efforts are limited by the scarcity of available funds and Members will agree that it may become necessary to shelve many desirable projects or otherwise reduce them drastically if investment would have to be achieved.

The Estimates have been prepared with the greatest care in order to curtail unnecessary expenditure in the coming financial year. My Ministry has pruned down most of the proposals from all Ministries and allowed only changes and increases which are related to present Development Programme; and such increases allowed are the minimum requirements that will enable us to maintain the present services without reducing efficiency. Last year I said that several important measures would be initiated in order to effect economies in government expenditures; one of such measures has been the introduction of the tourist class air travel. Another is the decentralisation of the vote for internal postal, telegram and telephone services which had been under the control of my Ministry. This would ensure a better control in the use of the official telephones and thereby effect savings. Other measures introduced include the centralisation of official Ministerial tours within Nigeria under the control of the Prime Minister. There are other measures introduced which are purely administrative and I have confidence that these will result in a greater restraint in Government expenditure.

Members will note minor increases in the Cabinet Office Head which gave a net increase of over £1 million. This is principally due to Federal Government's determination to implement the recommendations of the National Universities Commission to which the Government attaches great importance. Another major increase in the recurrent expenditure comes from the Ministry of Defence and its departments which amounted to more than £1.4 million. As Members are aware, it is the Government's intention to expand its Armed Forces and the running costs of this expansion is inevitably high. Although it has often been repeated on the floor of this Honourable House

that Nigeria has no territorial ambition we should, all the same, be able to provide adequate defence for our frontiers as well as maintain internal stability and security. Two new units in the Ministry of Defence were established—the Nigerian Military Academy and the Ordnance Factory. I need not dwell further on the importance of these new institutions; it is commonsense that with the growth of our Armed Forces it becomes necessary that we should establish our own Defence Academy and that we should reduce, as much as possible, our dependence upon external sources for the supply of weapons and ammunition. The provisions here are to allow for the maintenance and running costs, including staff salaries, of these new institutions. Another substantial increase also appears in the Ministry of Communications' Estimates. This relates to higher expenditure on personal emoluments due to increase in staff partly on account of normal expansion and partly on account of the additional staff being provided in the yearly phasing for the Development Programme. A general reorganisation appears under the Ministry of Economic Development. I referred to this reorganisation last year in my Budget Speech and had spoken about the strengthening of my own Ministry to enable both Ministries to carry out their great responsibilities under the Development Programme. Any Government wishing to execute such a gigantic Development Programme successfully must require special administrative organs for the purpose. Thus, new units in the Ministry of Economic Development such as the National Economic Council and Joint Planning Committee Secretariats were established and others such as the Man Power Board were expanded, whilst the Economic Planning Unit and the Administrative Division have had quite a number of changes. All these have resulted in very high recurrent expenditure.

In releasing the 1963-64 provision, some reserve was made on each Head of the Estimates and emphasis was laid on the importance of curtailing recurrent costs, allowing for only necessary expenditure and allowing a better control over the total allocation of each Head by the officer controlling the vote. This strict measure resulted in a gross saving at the beginning of the financial year of over £2 million, out of which I subsequently released about £1.2 million. Without this device the £1.2

million released would have been in a form of Supplementary Estimate which would have to be brought before Parliament. By way of comparison, in 1962-63 I presented Supplementary Appropriation Bills totalling £3.7 million and this year I have so far presented a little over £700,000 as Supplementary Appropriation to the amount approved at the beginning of the financial year. This shows that by administrative action, the rate of our recurrent expenditure could possibly be limited to the amount appropriated at the beginning of the year with only slight additional amounts for the Supplementary Estimates in exceptional circumstances. By similar administrative action, I hope that even greater savings will be affected in 1964-65.

Members are no doubt aware of the existence of the Morgan Wages Review Commission. Without prejudice to the findings and recommendations of that Commission, I wish to state categorically that it is not Government's intention to debar workers from being adequately compensated for their labour; for I am a great believer in the Biblical saying that "a labourer is worthy of his hire". It is incumbent upon me, however, to draw the attention of this Honourable House to the possible effects of increases in wages and salaries on the current budget of the Governments of the Republic. One per cent increase in wage will result in an increase in the capital cost of the Federal Government programme to the tune of £412,510 and £137,764 by way of recurrent expenditure. A five per cent wage increase will increase the capital cost of the Federal Government programme to the tune of £2,062,550 and £668,824 in recurrent expenditure. A ten per cent wage increase will result in an increase in the capital cost of the Federal Government programme to the tune of £4,125,100 and recurrent expenditure of £1,377,648. A wage increase of twenty-five per cent will result in the capital cost of the Federal Government programme to the tune of £10,312,750 and in recurrent expenditure £3,444,120. The assumed basis for meeting the capital cost of the National Plan is that the Governments and statutory corporations should provide fifty per cent of the total, while the other fifty per cent is expected from foreign loans and grants. The experience in the first two years of the Plan shows that both are very ambitious targets and domestic contribution can only be realised if the estimated cost of each

project does not increase substantially. The fifty per cent contribution from foreign loans and grants which has, in fact, been very slow in coming, is for meeting the foreign exchange cost of the Plan and no local costs, that is, costs incurred in Nigerian currency, can be met from this source. Any increases in wages, therefore, being local costs, must be met from Nigerian domestic resources in addition to our fifty per cent contribution. It would be a matter for the nation to decide whether they would accept any increases of such magnitude as would jeopardise the execution of the Plan. Increases in wages can only be financed by Government in one of two ways, namely: either by curtailing social or other services in some directions or by reducing its savings on recurrent account in the form of budgetary surpluses normally channelled into investments in capital projects. This is necessarily so because Government revenues can only be derived from the following sources:—

- (i) taxation;
- (ii) past savings and reserves;
- (iii) foreign loans and grants; and
- (iv) domestic borrowings, including deposit and financing, or creation of paper money.

I am sure you will agree with me, in the light of what I have said earlier about the creation of paper money, that it is criminal folly to finance increases in wages by printing paper money because of the obvious inflationary effects. This will not only reduce the purchasing power of the Nigerian pound but, in fact, destroy the economic system as a whole. Foreign loans and grants are available for financing capital projects only and never for wage increases; so also are the proceeds of domestic borrowings. No government can finance wage increases from accumulated savings or reserves as these are usually kept for emergencies and current capital expenditure. In the case of the Federal Government accumulated savings or reserves have been deliberately run down for financing capital projects as a matter of policy. This leaves as the only avenue available the taxation revenue and, in my opinion, it would be self-defeating to increase taxes to finance higher wages. As I said before, my remarks are without prejudice to the findings of the Commission and the subsequent recommendations thereto, but the nation must know the consequences and implications of their demand.

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In conclusion, I wish to make a special appeal to the Members of this House and to the public in general. One of the things that has greatly helped the Nigerian economy is the fact of the stability in the country. All the governments and political parties in the country have time and again given assurances to investors about the stability of the country and safety of their investments. But these assurances should not only be given verbally and on the pages of newspapers; the stability of the country must be made visible and must be based on keeping Nigeria together. This, to my mind, can only be achieved by making all sections of the country feel that they belong to the whole governmental system.

As we go out, therefore, we should pray and fight for our party to win but let us do so according to the rules of the game. We should guide our statements and forget abuse so that by the time we finish, we should not have aroused such ill-feelings or done such things that would make our coming together impossible, bearing in mind always that it is not only political success that will sustain this country but unity and faith. I know that as political butterflies, we cannot all survive the electioneering storm, but it is my prayer that all of you here shall return to this House to continue the good work which you have done during the last five years. (*Hear, hear*).

Nigeria is a great country blessed with plenty in store for all. With patience, fortitude and wise counsel, our treasures will be worked

and placed within the reach of all. Let us therefore go out of this House in unity and with faith: unity of purpose in building one nation and faith in the might of that nation so that each and everyone of us can rightly say to himself of our great fatherland, in the words of James, Duke of Monmouth:

"I see in my mind a noble and puissant Nigeria rousing herself like a strong man after sleep and shaking her invincible locks. I see her as an eagle mewing her mighty youth, and kindling her undazzled eyes at the full mid-day beam".

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move. (*Prolonged applause*).

**The Minister of Economic Development** (Alhaji Waziri Ibrahim): I beg to second.

**Mr Speaker**: Under Standing Order 63 (3), the debate stands adjourned until after two days.

## ADJOURNMENT

*Motion made and Question proposed, That this House do now adjourn—*(THE MINISTER OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT).

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Resolved, That this House do now adjourn.*

*Adjourned accordingly at twenty minutes to one o'clock.*

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

Thursday, 19th March, 1964

The House met at 10 a.m.

PRAYERS

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE

Supply of Police Vans

**O.72. Mr D. O. Ahamefule** asked the Prime Minister, whether he will consider supplying a Police Van to Umuelemmi Police Station in Owerri Province in order to aid the local forces in moving about to maintain law and order.

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister (Alhaji Sanni Gezawa):** The Nigeria Police requires more transport than is at present available but the cost is so high that the supply has been phased. However, available transport is distributed in such a way as to ensure mobility of local units when occasion arises.

Nwaigwe Police Station

**O.74. Mr M. B. Afanideh** asked the Prime Minister, if he will consider providing Nwaigwe Police Station with a charge office building this year as the existing one is at the verge of collapsing.

**Alhaji Sanni Gezawa:** The provision of a new charge office building for Nwaigwe Police Station will depend on the availability of funds and prevailing priorities to which Government is already committed.

**Mr Afanideh:** Will the Prime Minister note that the present building is on the verge of collapsing?

Annang Police Headquarters

**O.75. Mr M. B. Afanideh** asked the Prime Minister, when he will recognise the Ikot-Ekpene Police Office as the Headquarters of the Annang Provincial Police; and when he will appoint a Senior Superintendent of Police to take charge of Annang Province.

**Alhaji Sanni Gezawa:** A Provincial Police

Headquarters in Ikot-Ekpene will be inaugurated on the 1st of April, 1964. However, a Senior Superintendent of Police will be appointed when the strength of the Police in the Province justifies such an appointment.

Tribal Political Parties

**O.76. Mr R. N. Muojeke** asked the Prime Minister, what plans he has to discourage, in the interests of national unity, the formation of political parties based on tribe; and if he will make a statement.

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister (Mr S. Lana):** There is, to my knowledge, no political party formed on the basis of tribe.

**Mr Muojeke:** What of the N.N.D.P.; is it not a tribal political party?

Carpet Crossing

**O.77. Mr R. N. Muojeke** asked the Prime Minister, if, in view of the alarming frequency of carpet crossing by some Members of Parliament with the attendant degradation of our politics in the eyes of the outside world, he will make a statement on whether or not Government intends to legislate against carpet crossing.

**Mr Lana:** It would be unconstitutional to legislate against carpet crossing by Members of Parliament as this would infringe the fundamental human rights of freedom of conscience, expression and peaceful assembly and association. It is the inalienable right of every citizen to be free to change his political belief and free to hold opinions and to receive and impart ideas and information without interference.

Mid-West Elections

**O.81. Mr B. U. Ukpong** asked the Prime Minister, how much the Federal Government spent on the elections into the Mid-Western Nigeria House of Assembly.

**Mr Lana:** The actual expenditure incurred on the elections into the Mid-Western House of Assembly has not yet been determined. This will be available as soon as all bills are received and paid. However, the amount voted for the election is £100,000.

**Ogwashi-Uku Police Barracks**

**O.82. Mr E. A. Mordi** asked the Prime Minister, why the new Police barracks at Ogwashi-Uku have yet not been occupied in spite of the fact that they were completed several months ago.

**Alhaji Sanni Gezawa :** The new Police barracks have not been occupied as the builders are required to give some finishing touches to the buildings. However, the barracks are now in process of being taken over by the Police and will soon be occupied.

**Niger Dams**

**O.184. Mr V. L. Lajide** asked the Prime Minister, if he will give an up-to-date account of what has so far been spent on the Niger Dams Project; and what progress has so far been made on the project.

**Mr Lana :** Section 8 of the Niger Dams Act, 1962, requires the Niger Dams Authority to submit to me not later than the 30th of June, 1964 and each subsequent year, a Report of the activities of the Authority during the last preceding financial year, including a copy of the audited accounts of the Authority for that year and of the auditor's report on the accounts.

The Report is in the course of preparation and will be published in due course.

**O.220. Mr V. L. Lajide** asked the Prime Minister, if the contracts for the Niger Dams Project were awarded under the "Contractor-Finance" system; and what were the terms of award.

**Mr Lana :** None of the contracts for the Niger Dams Project was awarded under contractor-finance arrangement. The second part of the question does not, therefore, arise.

**EXTERNAL AFFAIRS****O.A.U. Progress**

**O.83. Mr A. U. D. Mbah** asked the Minister of External Affairs if he will state what progress has been made by the Organisation of African Unity since the Addis Ababa Conference of African Heads of States.

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of External Affairs (Mr M. O. Okilo) :** The hon. Member will no doubt be aware of the Conferences of various organs of

the Organisation of African Unity held in many parts of Africa culminating in the Conference of the Council of Ministers of the O.A.U. recently concluded in Lagos. All commissions of the Organisation have had their first meetings and have set out fully their plans for achievement of practical co-operation in Africa. The extensive ground covered by the last meeting of the Conference of Foreign Ministers in the Lagos Conference is reflected in the resolutions adopted by the Conference. These resolutions when published will be circulated to hon. Members.

**The Minister of External Affairs (Dr Jaja Wachuku) :** I want to point out that the second question by the Member for Owerri North which is printed in the Order Paper is different from the question circulated to the Ministry.

**An hon. Member :** But the Minister is competent to answer the questions !

**Dr Wachuku :** I appreciate that but it is necessary to point out that for the purpose of accuracy. If I may help the House it may be necessary to read out the two questions to see the difference. Actually they have different answers and it may be that the hon. Member will expect a different type of answer and he will get another type.

**Mr Speaker :** Will the Minister please make the difference clear ?

**Dr Wachuku :** The question circulated to the Ministry is—

"To ask the Minister of External Affairs what effort he has made in collaboration with other African states to secure the early expulsion of South Africa and Portugal from the United Nations because of their racial policy."

The second question that is printed here says—

"To ask the Minister of External Affairs, if he intends in collaboration with other African States to secure an early expulsion of South Africa and Portugal from the United Nations in view of their racial policies; and if he does not intend to do so whether he will make a statement."

This question is quite different from the first one.

House of Representatives Debates

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**Mr Speaker :** I think the Member for Owerri North (*Mr Mbah*) has in the first instance, asked Question No. O.83 which has just been replied to and the Minister is referring to Question No. O.84.

**Dr Wachuku :** Yes, I am referring to it before it is raised because I do not want to cause any embarrassment.

**Mr Speaker :** Then, we might exclude that question until the matter is clarified.

**Mr W. O. Briggs (Degema) :** On a point of order, if the Minister is not in a position to answer this question he should let us know. The only difference is the "intention" and the "effort" in the other one.

**Mr Speaker :** These questions really require some notice as they have to be carefully answered.

**Mr A. F. Odulana (Ijebu South) :** Sir, whilst your decision is final, I am at a loss to know that, in spite of the experience of the Minister of External Affairs, an ordinary question like this cannot be answered. If he is seeking your protection on such a question, what is he there for ?

**Dr Wachuku :** I can assure this House that we are competent to answer any question that is put impromptu but for the purpose of the orderly working of this House and for the necessity for Members to do their own home work this question requires notice. But if Mr Speaker feels that I should answer the question, I do not mind and I will do so.

**Mr Speaker :** If it were just an ordinary question requiring no more than a routine answer then I would have allowed it to be answered. But such a delicate matter which requires a collective responsibility in the Council of Ministers or elsewhere, I think, will have to be given some consideration.

**Mr Briggs :** On a point of order, with due respect, the Minister has indicated that he can answer it.

**The Minister of Finance (Chief F. S. Okotie-Eboh) :** Further to that point of order, the ruling of the Speaker is not subject to any question or debate.

**Mr A. U. D. Mbah (Owerri North) :** The question is mine and it was asked in good faith. If there is any contradiction in the wording, I do not mind accepting the ruling of the Speaker but I want an assurance from the Minister that this question will be answered at a future date.

**Dr Wachuku :** Now that it is clear that the two questions are different, we will be quite prepared to ask that it should be listed again next time so that it will be answered.

South Africa at U.N.O.

**O. 159 Mr George Yilgwen** asked the Minister of External Affairs, if he will state the attitude of the Federal Government on the continued membership of the white minority government of South Africa in the United Nations Organisation in spite of the fact that her apartheid policy contravenes the charter of that organisation.

**Mr Okilo :** The Minister would like to refer the hon. Member to his answer to Ora. Parliamentary Questions Nos. 1148 and 1334 at the meeting of this House held on Thursday, 9th January, 1964.

**O. 160 Mr V. L. Lajide** asked the Minister of External Affairs, why applications to travel to Moscow from Businessmen and some Members of Parliament who attended the Leipzig Trade Fair were rejected; and whether he will make a statement on the conditions required for a visa to Russia.

**Mr Okilo :** The Member for Ogbomosh North is, to my knowledge, the only Nigerian visitor to the Leipzig Trade Fair whose application for extra endorsement for Russia was not approved. This is because he failed to produce proof of his business connection with any business organisation in Russia or evidence of his business interest there. These criteria must be satisfied in the case of businessmen.

As the Ministry does not grant visas, the Minister is not in a position to deal with the second part of the question. The hon. Member may refer this to the appropriate Ministry.

**Mr Odulana :** Will the Minister note that I do not think it is necessary for a businessman of reputation in this country to get some proof from Russia before he goes there. If he can prove that he is going genuinely for business, I think the Minister should not reject his application.

**Dr Wachuku :** The Member is making a statement.

**Mr Odulana :** I am not making a statement. All I am saying is that the Minister should not reject applications unduly. If mine is being considered all I would have to prove is that I am a genuine Nigerian going to Russia for a genuine business and not to bring guns.

**Mr Briggs :** May we know from the Minister whether these conditions laid down in the case of Russia apply also to other places in the world ?

**Dr Wachuku :** It is of universal application.

## EDUCATION

### Lagos Primary School Education

**O.85. Mr R. N. Muojeke** asked the Minister of Education, if he will state the number of children who failed to register in 1963 for 1964 free primary education in Lagos ; and how many schools he proposes to build before 1965 to absorb the ever increasing number of school children.

**The Minister of Education (Onyiba Aja Nwachuku) :** It is obviously not possible to state the number of children who failed to register in 1963 or in any other year under the free primary education scheme. However, 16,974 children registered in 1963 for the 1964 free primary education in Lagos.

It is planned to build over 400 classrooms in the year 1964-65 in order to further ease the congestion in Lagos schools, subject to availability of funds.

### Progress in Education

**O.87. Alhaji Isa Haruna** asked the Minister of Education, what important changes and improvements have been made in the field of Education in this country since 1st of October, 1960.

**Onyiba Aja Nwachuku :** The changes which have taken place since 1960 are largely consequential on the recommendations of the Ashby Report which ranged through the whole field of primary and secondary education, sixth form development, teacher training, technical education, commercial education, agricultural

and veterinary education, university institutions, national universities commission, inter-regional manpower development and international aid.

Of particular significance is the importance which the report attaches to manpower budgeting, sixth form education, teacher training, technical and commercial education below university level and agricultural education.

For the first time in the history of educational thought in Nigeria, the concept of Manpower planning, budgeting and development was introduced by Professor Frederick Harbison in his report, *High Level Manpower for Nigeria's Future*. His recommendations have led to the establishment of the National Manpower Board and the programme of activities with which the Manpower Secretariat has been engaged during the last two years.

In outlining the impact of the Ashby Report on our Education since 1960, the following are significant :—

- (i) The National Manpower Board ;
- (ii) The National Universities Commission ;
- (iii) The National Committee for the Co-ordination of External Aid for Education ;
- (iv) The rapid development of Sixth Form work ;
- (v) The Registry of High Level Manpower and Registry of students in higher institutions both in Nigeria and overseas ;
- (vi) The Establishment of the National Council for Science and Technology ;
- (vii) The Expansion of Primary Education and Teacher Training in the North ;
- (viii) The opening of Advanced Teacher Training Colleges for secondary schools throughout the Federation ;
- (ix) The establishment of three more universities bringing the Nigerian total to five ;
- (x) The development of educational statistics on a national basis ; and
- (xi) A number of various other developmental schemes still in their formative stages.

**O.88. Alhaji Isa Haruna** asked the Minister of Education, if he will state in what ways he is assisting private agency and mission schools in this country.

**Onyiba Aja Nwachuku :** First, registered educational institutions, whether secondary, technical or commercial, under Voluntary Agency authorities, may after satisfactory inspection reports by officials of my Ministry, receive grants covering the salaries of approved staff. They also receive, under certain circumstances, grants towards the payment of transportation expenses, rents and vehicle allowances for their expatriate staff.

Occasionally, at the request of the Regional authorities, my Ministry inspects some of their secondary schools or colleges and, generally, advises them where necessary, on the recruitment of foreign teachers. My Ministry also keeps Voluntary Agency institutions regularly informed of current international events of educational interest.

Finally, and perhaps the most important of all, is the payment, by the Government, for the entire cost of acquiring lands for school buildings, for their construction and, in fact, for the supply of initial furniture to such schools under voluntary agency authorities.

#### Supply of Teaching Staff

**O.89. Alhaji Isa Haruna** asked the Minister of Education what plans he is making to ensure an adequate supply of lecturers and teachers for our various schools and institutions.

**Onyiba Aja Nwachuku :** First, expansion of teacher training facilities in the country have been stepped up with the establishment of the Federal Advanced Teachers' College at Lagos, Zaria, Ondo and Owerri. These four institutions train teachers for both secondary schools and teacher training institutions. Second, scholarship facilities, for training future members of the teaching profession, have increased. There is, also the tremendous increase in the number of UNESCO, United States and of Commonwealth Fellowships for the training of university teachers.

Third, because of the dearth of Mathematics, Science and Language teachers, we regularly avail ourselves of the services offered by UNESCO and other external agencies, such as the United States Peace Corps Volunteers and Voluntary Overseas Service of Teachers under the United Kingdom and Canadian Governments.

Finally, arrangements are under way for the establishment of a National Technical Teacher Training College which will train teachers for our technical colleges and institutions.

**Mr I. A. Brown** (Uyo South West) : I want the Minister of Education to make a statement as to when he intends to set up President Azikiwe's Peace Corps in Nigeria to assist other countries.

#### Education as Federal Subject

**O.90. Mr B. U. Ukpogon** asked the Minister of Education if he will consider making education a Federal subject to ensure uniform educational standard throughout the Federation.

**Onyiba Aja Nwachuku :** I do not understand the Member for Uyo South West (*Mr I. A. Brown*). It should be noted that :

(i) the question as to Education becoming a Federal responsibility has been discussed time and again, by various bodies in the country including the Federal and Regional Legislatures, the press, the Nigerian Union of Teachers, University students, *et cetera* ;

(ii) there is no doubt that the regionalisation of Education has accelerated the rate of educational development throughout the whole Federation ;

(iii) the financial consequences of the existing situation has led all the Regional Governments to ask whether the Federal Government could not bear the additional responsibility, especially, since both the East and West spend about 40 per cent of their revenue on Education, the North 20 per cent, and Lagos only 4 per cent.

In advanced Federations like the United States, Canada, Australia, India, Switzerland, the Federal Republic of Germany and the USSR, responsibility for Education primarily rests with the regional or state governments. However, central governments have been assuming increasing responsibility not only in regard to higher education but also in the development of Science and Technology and in the maintenance of national standards.

Whether therefore Education becomes a Federal responsibility or not, the regional administration must remain because of the



[ONYIBA AJA NWACHUKU]

extent of this country, the problems of remote control and the difficulty of releasing the political power already entrenched.

In the final analysis, however, the decision is constitutional and political and I cannot, on my own, accept any responsibility to consult with my regional counterparts to take over Education at all levels.

**Mr W. O. Briggs** (Degema): Can the Minister tell us whether there is a plan to bring about a uniform standard of education in the country because it differs from Region to Region.

**Onyiba Aja Nwachuku**: I have said in the course of my answer that there are such bodies as the Joint Consultative Committee on Education and the Co-ordinating Committee for External Aid, whose business is to see that there is uniformity in the standard of education in this country. It is only in the primary school level that the standard of education varies. If one goes to the secondary schools, one will find that they take the same examination and the curriculum is the same. The same thing applies to the higher institutions.

**Professor Kalu Ezera** (Bende East): My supplementary question is general. I want the Speaker to rule whether *jeun jeun* politics is a part of Fundamental Human Rights? *Jeun jeun* politics means *chop-abinci* politics. I want to know this because the Minister of Education's name means son of God and he is one of the most able Ministers we have.

Some hon. Members are attacking him and I want to know whether this *jeun jeun* politics, *abinci* politics, or *erimeri* politics is part of our Fundamental Human Rights.

**Mr Speaker**: Order. I think in this case it were better one went to Nsukka so that the Professor might explain all these things.

**M. Ibrahim Gusau** (Sokoto West Central): Although the Minister had said that he would not consult his regional Colleagues about making education a Federal subject, his Ministry has already committed itself having established a university in Ibadan and one in Lagos. Similar ones are expected in the North and the East.

**Mr I. S. Onwuchekwa** (Ahoada Central): Will the Minister tell us if there are any plans in his Ministry to cut down the burden of

those Regions that spend up to 40 per cent of their revenue on education by giving them financial assistance?

**Onyiba Aja Nwachuku**: There is no such move. As my hon. Friend will remember education is a decentralised subject, and I have no *locus standi* to interfere in the affairs of other Regional Ministries. For that reason, there is no such move contemplated in my Ministry.

**Mr P. E. Ekanem** (Enyong South): Will the Minister of Education say how many primary school teachers in Lagos have remained for three or four months without salary?

**Onyiba Aja Nwachuku**: There is no teacher in Lagos who remains even a day without his salary.

#### Leakage of Examination Papers

**O.91. Mr B. U. Ukpong** asked the Minister of Education if he will give an assurance that his Ministry has taken effective measures to put an end to leakage of examination papers.

**Onyiba Aja Nwachuku**: In co-operation with the various examining bodies like the West African Examinations Council, my Ministry is taking every possible measure to prevent the leakage of examination papers in the future. All arrangements for the safe custody of papers in every examination centre are being checked and appropriate disciplinary steps will be taken against erring teachers or officials proved responsible for the leakage of question papers.

#### Grammar School Cadet Units

**O.92. Mr H. O. Chuku** asked the Minister of Education how many secondary schools in the Federation have Cadet Training facilities and what are their names.

**Onyiba Aja Nwachuku**: Cadet Units exist in the following 14 institutions in the country:—

1. Yaba College of Technology, Yaba, Federal Territory.
2. King's College, Lagos, Federal Territory.
3. Government College, Keffi, Northern Region.

4. Government College, Zaria, Northern Region.
5. Provincial Secondary School, Katsina, Northern Region.
6. Provincial Secondary School, Kano, Northern Region.
7. Provincial Secondary School, Sokoto, Northern Region.
8. Provincial Secondary School, Bida, Northern Region.
9. Provincial Secondary School, Zaria, Northern Region.
10. Government College, Kaduna, Northern Region.
11. Government College, Umuahia, Eastern Region.
12. Government College, Afikpo, Eastern Region.
13. Igbo Etiti Grammar School, Igbo Etiti, Eastern Region.
14. Government College, Ibadan, Western Region.

**Mr Speaker :** Order. It is now 10.30 and under Standing Orders, no further Questions will be entertained.

#### DISTRIBUTION OF PAPERS TO MEMBERS

**Professor Kalu Ezera** (Bende East): May I ask for the indulgence of the House, Sir. Most of us came into this House this morning without copies of our *Order Paper* and this is not the first time this has happened. We understand that these *Order Papers* and some other papers are handed out free of charge, may be *jeun jeun* too has reached that corner. I do not know. We are appealing to you, Mr Speaker, on this matter. We have no *Order Papers* and no copies of the *Hansard*, and we hope you will rectify this.

**The Minister of Finance** (Chief F. S. Okotie-Eboh): I really cannot understand what my hon. Friend is up to. You yourself will see that he is having a copy of the *Order Paper* in his hands, and that is the copy of the *Order Paper* for to-day. I received my *Order Paper* at about nine o'clock this morning in my office.

But this, in my view, is a very simple matter which my hon. Friend would have cleared with the Whip excepting that he wants to speak about *jeun jeun*, *abinchi* and what not. I must say that my hon. Friend is learned enough to know that too much of a thing is bad.

**Mr W. O. Briggs** (Degema): In support of what the Member for Bende East (*Professor Kalu Ezera*) said, I did not get my own copies to-day and it was by the kindness of the Clerk Assistant that I got one this morning.

Even then, the Budget which we discussed used to reach us some months before we came here. But we were in the provinces when we heard about new import duties and all sorts of things. We who are Parliamentarians, and who ought to know everything about these things do not seem to know anything about them at all. We read about them only on the pages of newspapers.

**Alhaji Aminu Kano** (Kano East): I really want to appeal to you. The fact that the hon. Leader of the House asked the Member for Bende East (*Professor Kalu Ezera*) to contact the Whip is important. I have not got my own paper. I did not get any yesterday. I complained to the Clerks. They tried, but they could not put any in my pigeon hole. I think there are a large number of unauthorised people who go and take these papers thereby depriving the hon. Members of them.

**Mr E. C. Akwivu** (Orlu South East): May I very humbly say that what is involved in this matter is the principle guiding the question of distribution of papers to Members. Usually we have made it as a practice here that every morning each Member of this House gets two copies of the previous day's *Hansard*, one for correction and the other one to keep. But since this session we have noticed that there are some of us who do not remember having collected any copy of the *Hansard* from their pigeon holes, and when they do, it is just one copy.

Is it the principle that we get two copies each morning, or get one or none at all? Are we deviating from the principle that parliamentary papers are put in the Members' pigeon holes and not handed out as if it were a privilege and no longer a right?

**Mr P. E. Fkanem** (Enyong South): I have to add that the one I have in my hand, I had to go and get in the paper office myself. In fact, this session, the Budget Session, is a very, very important session in this House and everybody is expected to criticise and contribute to the debate on the Budget Speech.

[MR EKANEM]

In the past, confidential Estimates used to be posted to Members before they came to this House. But for two years now it is given to us a day before the Budget Speech is made, thus giving Members with all the volumes of papers in their hands, no opportunity of studying the Financial Policy of the Government.

I want to say that the practice now in the Lobby is that Members of the public have usurped the privileges of the Members of this House, and I am putting it to the Government that it must be stopped.

Besides, since girls took over the distribution of these papers things have become worse. If the girls there are not useful to us, for goodness sake, please stop employing them.

**Chief F. S. Okotie-Eboh** : I have to apologise to the Members of this House—

*Mr A. F. Odulana rose—*

**Mr Speaker** : Order, I did not call the shadow Minister of Finance.

**Chief Okotie-Eboh** : He is not even the shadow Minister of Finance. He is just a trouble maker.

I am very grateful to hon. Members for the points they have made. I do not know why my hon. Friend the Member for Enyong South *Chief Ekanem*, should quarrel so much.

**An hon. Member** : He is not a chief, he is Mr Ekanem.

**Chief Okotie-Eboh** : Is he Mr Ekanem, and not a Chief? All right, he is a mischief!

**Mr P. E. Ekanem** (Enyong South) : On a point of order, chieftaincy matters are matters of importance, and I am neither a chief nor a mischief.

**Chief Okotie-Eboh** : I want to apologise to hon. Members on behalf of the workers. I am informed that there are so many factors responsible, some of them have been mentioned by my hon. Friend the Member for Enyong South (*Mr Ekanem*). One point is that for some time, the printers have been going slow. I have experienced this myself, but we are trying to look into that.

The second point is the apparent carelessness of the workers. However, hon. Members themselves do contribute to the irregularities there by inviting a lot of their friends.

**Several hon. Members** : No, no.

**Chief Okotie-Eboh** : It has also been presented to me that hon. Members' friends even come to the Members' pigeon holes to take their papers.

**Several hon. Members** : No, no.

**Chief Okotie-Eboh** : I take it that the *no* is an honourable *no*.

**Several hon. Members** : Yes, yes.

**Chief Okotie-Eboh** : I then take it that from this time on, workers here will watch and see that no friends or spare parts are brought by hon. Members.

**Mr W. O. Briggs** (Degema) : What does the Minister mean by "spare parts"?

**Chief Okotie-Eboh** : I mean *wuru wuru* friends.

**Mr A. F. Odulana** (Ijebu South) : I do not think the Minister should take undue advantage of his position in this House to insult Members. What does he mean by "spare parts"? If he wants to impute motives unduly we are at liberty to get up and fire back at him. If he wants to make his apology in a refined manner, we will accept it. But where he wants to go beyond his boundry, we will pay him back.

**Chief Okotie-Eboh** : Mr Speaker, I am grateful to the Member for Ijebu South (*Mr Odulana*) for the humour. But quite seriously, I think all of us should co-operate in this matter. We do not want hon. Members to bring some respectable friends to the House only to be chased out. We hope that we will all co-operate with the workers to see that the sort of market that usually goes on there is stopped. We would also ask the Clerk of the Parliaments to do his very best to see that all *Papers* are promptly delivered to Members through their pigeonholes.

Thank you very much.

**Professor Kalu Ezera** (Bende East) : I wish to thank the Minister of Finance and the Leader of this House for making this apology. When I raised this point I was a little bit surprised and shocked that my own leader regarded my allegation as frivolous but not until all sides of the House made the same

allegation before he could accept it. I am surprised that the Minister should think a member of his own party and a distinguished Member of this House could make a false statement!

**Shettima Ali Monguno** (Kaga Marghi): While we all happily accept the apology of the Leader of the House, we still maintain that he owes this Parliament an explanation for the shortage of documents.

Up till now, I have not received a copy of the Estimates which I ought to have received ever before leaving my constituency. I was told on inquiry that the Government Printer had not printed enough copies. I need an explanation.

**Mr J. O. Ede** (Idoma North): It is appalling that the whole fault is levelled against Members' friends who come to the House. I disagree with this allegation because if I bring anybody to the House and he happens to take anything from my pigeon-hole, and he brings it to my house, I would ask him why he had taken it. Ever since we have been coming here, such irregularity has not happened. But now, I can tell you frankly that people who are pinching Members' papers from the shelf are not Members' friends.

### PRESENTATION OF PUBLIC BILL

#### SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION (1963-64) (No. 2) BILL

Bill to authorise the issue out of the Consolidated Revenue Fund of the sum of two hundred and thirty thousand, six hundred pounds for the purpose of replacing advances from the Contingencies Fund for the Year ending on the thirty-first day of March, one thousand, nine hundred and sixty-four; and to appropriate that sum for the purposes specified in this Act, presented by the Minister of Finance; read the First time; to be read a Second time—*Tomorrow*.

### ORDERS OF THE DAY

#### PRESIDENTIAL PROCEEDINGS BILL

*Order for Second Reading read.*

**The Attorney-General and Minister of Justice** (Dr T. O. Elias): I rise to move—

That a Bill for an Act to make Supplementary Provision for the purposes of Chapter IV of the Constitution of the Federation as

respects the election and removal of the President of the Republic; and for purposes connected therewith be read a Second time.

I would like to begin by reading out, with your permission, Mr Speaker, the provision of Section 40 which is the last section of Chapter 4 to which reference is made in the preamble to the Act:

*Subject to foregoing provisions of this Chapter the procedure of any joint meeting of both Houses of Parliament held in pursuance of those provisions including the procedure for counting votes and for declaring that individual votes are void shall be in accordance with provision in that behalf made by Act of Parliament.*

This Bill is accordingly in fulfilment of the Constitutional requirement that a Bill setting out the detailed conduct of Joint Meetings of both Houses of Parliament should be brought forward to regulate such proceedings both for the purposes of election of a new President and for the removal of a President.

The Bill is divided into two parts. The first part covers Sections 1 to 6 which deals largely with the election of a new President. The second part covers Sections 7 to 9.

I would like to draw the attention of hon. Members to a few salient features of this Bill. The first is the provision in Section 1, which is general, regulating the Joint Meetings of both Houses of Parliament and specifying the officer who should preside. The order is set out as follows—

(a) *the President of the Senate;*

(b) *in his absence, the Speaker of the House of Representatives;*

(c) *in their absence, the Deputy President of the Senate;*

(d) *in the absence of the persons aforesaid, the Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives;*

*and while none of these persons is present, such member of either House as the Prime Minister may designate from time to time shall preside at the joint meeting.*

Subsection (2) of subsection (1) is also important in that it provides that until a set of Standing Orders is evolved between the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Standing Orders of the House of Representatives shall be the governing set of regulations.

[DR ELIAS]

Now, sections 2 to 6 may be taken together, leaving it to Members who wish to ask detailed questions on any of the provisions to do so later. The whole of this part of the Bill deals with Presidential Ballots, that is, the procedure for voting which is by secret ballot and also for printing not less than five hundred ballot papers, allowing for forfeitures.

There are three hundred and twelve Members in this House and fifty-six Members in the Senate so that the extra one hundred and thirty-two should be sufficient, we think, for cases where some papers have been spoilt by Members.

If hon. Members will look at section 2 (2)(e) they will find that we have made provision there for the protection of the interests of candidates for election so that they would have their own nominee along with the nominee of the Prime Minister, who are Members of this House, to watch their interests during the casting of the votes.

Then the voting procedure set out in section 3 makes it clear that if there are more than one candidate then the candidates will be voted for one by one and the candidate that scores the east is dropped out, and so on until the competitors are eliminated; and the final candidate will be the one to be declared elected by the person presiding under section (c).

As regards the question of removal of a President, section 7 is important. It provides that in accordance with section 38 of the Constitution there shall be set up a committee of twelve members, 4 nominated by the Prime Minister—2 from the Senate and the other 2 from the House of Representatives; 4 nominated by the House of Representatives, and 4 by the Senate. This committee can sit and take decisions by a majority of its members, although it is contemplated that as far as possible all members of the committee shall take part in the proceedings throughout.

In order for the committee to do its work efficiently and ensure that the preceding Resolution of Parliament by which it is set up is carefully carried out, we have thought it fit, to arm the committee with the power of a superior Court of Record and for the Rules of Evidence that are necessary in the case of High Court proceedings to be indispensable for the work

of the committee. This we consider appropriate because we do not think that frivolous allegations should be allowed to go further than perhaps the committee stage. So the committee is empowered to summon people to go as carefully as possible into the merits of the allegations and possibly throw the whole thing out without much ado.

We have also thought it necessary that the committee should be assisted in its work by a Judicial Assessor who will be one of the Justices of the Supreme Court nominated by the Prime Minister. The Assessor will sit with them and also give his consent where it is necessary to punish anyone, summoned to give evidence, for contempt. Without his consent that will not be normally possible.

We have, I think, tried as much as possible over the last four months during which this Bill has been in preparation to stop all the loopholes and ensure that as far as possible the arrangement made here will safeguard the position of the President and ensure that frivolous allegations are not made, or if made, are not allowed to go further than necessary.

When the committee has finished its work it will submit a report to this House and it will from that moment be deemed to stand dissolved. It is not a permanent committee of the House.

I beg to move.

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

**Dr P. U. Okeke** (Onitsha North Central) : I want to make a few observations on this Bill. I think that in considering this Bill, it would be appropriate here to ask that this Government be good enough to consider giving the President more powers.

I say this in all humility and with all due consideration to what that means. This country being what it is to-day and with the kind of mutual fears engendered in us by ourselves, I would like to think that if we want—

**Chief A. Akerele** (Oyo East) : On a point of order, the Member speaking is irrelevant.

**The Speaker** : Will the Member for Onitsha North Central (*Dr Okeke*) realise that this Bill is merely seeking to regulate the election and removal of a President whether with powers or not. (*Interruptions*).

**Dr Okeke** : I have not heard the ruling because the House is so noisy.

**The Speaker :** Order. I ask you to realise that the Bill is merely to regulate the election and removal of a President whether with powers or without powers.

**Dr Okeke :** Thank you, Sir. I thought that in the Second Reading I am at liberty to make some observations. There are people who have too many ulterior motives. I think we are misleading our own people in this country. We the leaders are misleading the people by reading meanings into every—

**Chief D. N. Abii** (Owerri East) : I believe that every parliamentarian knows that the ruling of the Speaker is unchallengeable. The Member for Onitsha North Central (*Dr Okeke*) is wasting our time.

**Dr Okeke :** I am a reasonable man. If anybody is not concerned, I am concerned. This is one Nigeria and we are going to live and die in this country. The Hausas, the Ibos and the Yorubas will not throw away anybody from this country. Whether we like it or not we are going to live here. We hope that this matter which is actually—(*Interruptions*).

**Mr Speaker :** Order, order !

**Dr Okeke :** I will make two more observations. The first one is about the timing of this Bill. There is the intrinsic value of the Bill. The Bill does not just say anything against anybody. It is a simple Bill discussing procedure, but the timing of this Bill, psychologically, is wrong. I say it is wrong. This Bill, ought not to have been presented to Parliament now that tension is high and everybody is making accusations and so on.

**Mr S. D. Lar** (Lowland East) : On point of order, quite frankly I think the hon. Member has not read this Bill. He is only wasting the time of this honourable House. With due respect, therefore, Mr Speaker, you may ask the hon. Member to resume his seat.

**Dr Okeke :** Fire and water cannot mix with each other, one will destroy the other. They are two incompatibles. This Bill, coming before this House at this wrong time will have a wrong psychological effect on the minds of people.

It is true that at any other time this Bill might have been non-controversial because it would have been only procedural. But bringing this Bill here at this time will make the ordinary men to misunderstand us and misinterpret our intentions because they are not as knowledgeable as we are in parliamentary matters.

The Attorney-General has explained to us that five hundred ballot papers, as inserted in Clause 2 of the Bill, will be printed. Taking into account the number of Members in the House—312, I wonder why five hundred ballot papers will be printed. The printing of 500 ballot papers will mean in effect that if tomorrow the number of Members in this House increases to six hundred we shall be called upon again to amend the Constitution. This Bill is therefore obsolete and we might as well start to amend the Constitution now to add two hundred extra to the number of the Members in the House

*Shouts of Aye, Aye ! from several hon. Members.*)

**Mr Okeke :** Mr Speaker, this is an open debate and I hope that you will protect me.

Now, I read from the Bill :

*Five hundred ballot papers capable of being folded and bearing on their reverse sides consecutive serial numbers only . . . ."*

I have two points to make on this part of clause 2. The first point concerns the number of ballot papers to be printed, and the second point is on the ballot papers being printed in consecutive serial numbers.

We are told that this will be a secret ballot and no one knows where one's vote is cast. Why then should the ballot papers be numbered ? The Attorney-General told us now that the ballot papers are going to be picked at random so that no one knows how the other casts his vote.

**Mr Speaker :** I think these details should be discussed at the Committee Stage. The Second Reading is to discuss the Bill in general.

**Dr Okeke :** Having appealed to our leaders here to find a lasting solution to our problem of unity by dividing powers judiciously among the President, the Prime Minister, the Senate and the House of Representatives I think that it is wrong for this Bill—although we are going

[DR OKEKE]

to pass—to have been presented at this time. The timing, psychologically, is wrong. I beg to support.

**M. Ibrahim Gusau** (Sokoto West Central) : In supporting this Bill, I should like to dispel the idea created by the Member for Onitsha North Central (*Dr Okeke*) that this Bill coming at this particular time to the Floor of this House may convey a very bad motive. This is far from the truth, because the holder of this high office at the moment is enjoying an honour which is due to him. It is an honour for the services which he had rendered to this country and that is why the country as a whole is unanimous in putting him in this highest position.

Why, therefore, did the hon. Member fear that there might be a motive behind the presentation of this Bill now.

The only fear, which I think anyone should entertain is that if anybody from the hon. Member's party has the mind of bringing somebody else from that party to contest the post of President, that might perhaps be the end of the philosophy of *Zikism* in the N.C.N.C. If the ideals of *Zikism* still remain in the N.C.N.C. I think there should be no fear whatsoever.

There should be mutual trust in this country and that is why I say that there is no fear whatsoever for bringing this Bill before this House at this particular time. I only want to say that if such mistrust which the hon. Member referred to in his speech is to be removed, the N.C.N.C. should maintain the ideals of *Zikism*.

Turning to the Bill itself, I have only two remarks to make. The first concerns the appointment of candidates. In the first provision, it is mentioned that the President of the Senate shall preside over the Joint Meeting of Parliament and in his absence the Speaker of the House of Representatives and in the absence of both of them, then the Deputy President of the Senate presides. In the absence of the Deputy President of the Senate the Deputy Speaker shall preside and in his absence somebody to be appointed by the Prime Minister presides.

My contention here is that supposing the presidential candidature falls possibly on one of those who are to preside over the meeting.

What would happen? Would it be appropriate for somebody who has been nominated to this high office to preside over the Joint Meeting? That is a point which I should like the Attorney-General to clarify. That is a point which I would like to be rectified by the Attorney-General.

The second point is on sections 7 to 9 which concern the removal of the President. Provision has been made for appointment of Members to the Committee for such purpose. Although the Bill has been carefully drafted, I think there is one thing which is missing. I am wondering whether it is safe to leave a thing so serious, as the Minister of Justice has mentioned, in the hands of those people who are to be members of this Committee. I think provision should be made to the effect that those appointed to this Committee should first of all take oath so that they may be as impartial as possible.

**Mr D. M. Gbolagunte** (Ibarapa) : I support this Bill, but I have one or two observations to make.

On the election of the President, I feel that when we had our Republic we elected our President into the position in which he is now because we felt that it was too late to turn to the electorate, so, we decided to the election of the President in the parliament. I suppose that the intention was that in future the public should elect the President of their choice. The country should be allowed to elect the President of their choice, because it is possible that on the Floor of this House we will always put in somebody on political considerations. But if we allow the whole country to elect the President, it will be possible to have the Leader of the Opposition in this House as President of the country.

I will give an instance. At the 1959 elections, the N.C.N.C., the N.P.C. and the Action Group went to the electorates, and at the end of the elections, the Action Group became the Opposition party. When we counted the number of votes for the Action Group in the 1959 elections we found that if it were a Presidential election with the Leader of the N.P.C., the Leader of the N.C.N.C. and the Leader of the Action Group contesting the election, the Leader of the Action Group would have been the President of the country because—and I am speaking from statistics—

we found that the number of voters for the Action Group was more than the number of voters for either the N.P.C. or the N.C.N.C. That is true. So that if we allow the masses to vote for the President, the person of their choice will be the President. But at present, it is going to be the choice of the Parliament only.

**Mr D. E. Y. Aghahowa** (Benin West): On a point of information, the hon. Gentleman is obviously misleading this House. The result of the 1959 elections are available in the *Hansard* and in other publications in this country. I am saying in all seriousness that people listening to this type of argument here might be inclined to regard the figures printed as false, and I am saying that it is very wrong for the hon. Member to mislead this House. The Action Group had the least votes in the country at the time and the N.C.N.C. had the highest votes.

**Mr Gbolagunte**: The Member for Benin West (*Mr Aghahowa*) can only disprove my point by quoting statistics.

On the removal of the President, this Bill provides for a Committee that will meet and thrash out all the arguments. The election of the Committee is possibly going to be on party basis. The Prime Minister is going to bring in four people, and one is sure that those people are going to be the people in his good books. The Senate will bring in only four people and the Parliament will bring some Members. What will happen is that the majority of the Members in the Committee will come from the parties in power in the Parliament, so that the opinion of the parties in power will be the opinion of the Committee, and the Committee may frivolously recommend the removal of the President. When that happens, a President who is not in the good books of the majority parties in power will be easily removed. I think that could cause a lot of confusion in the country. We should be very careful in constituting the membership of that Committee.

I suggest that the membership of the Committee be based on equal representation from all the parties in Parliament. If we have twelve Action Group Members, two of them should be in the Committee and if we have

four N.N.D.P. Members, two of them should go into the Committee and they will go to represent the portion of the electorates whom they represent and their voices there will be the voices of the people. I suggest that the membership should be on equal basis according to the parties represented in Parliament.

**Mr E. C. Akwivu** (Orlu South East): In supporting the Bill, I wish to say that I agree with some of the things said by the last speaker. Justice must not only be done but must seem to have been done. The composition of the Committee to investigate the conduct of the President is a matter that should be open to further examination. If one takes a hypothetical look at a situation in which the majority in the House of Representatives would nominate the four people, and the majority in the Senate would nominate their own four people and then the Prime Minister nominates his own four, there is nothing here laying down the conditions to guide the Prime Minister in deciding whom he should nominate.

To-day we have got a God-fearing Prime Minister, a man in whose sense of justice everybody has confidence. But supposing we have a rascal tomorrow?

**Mr A. F. Odulana** (Ijebu South): The Member for Orlu South East (*Mr Akwivu*) says that if tomorrow we have a rascal, and the man aspiring to be prime Minister tomorrow is Dr Okpara. Is he suggesting then that Dr Okpara is a rascal?

**Mr Speaker**: We all know that a rascal will not find his way into this office. Please abandon this idea altogether.

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Justice** (Mr R. B. K. Okafor): Mr Speaker, it is very important that a name like that of Dr Okpara, a Premier of a Region, should not be taken so insolently by the Member for Ijebu South (*Mr Odulana*). Dr Okpara was the only man who saved his party only a year ago. To-day he is no more going to do that and his party is going to die again.

**Mr Speaker**: I quite agree with the hon. Minister that Dr Okpara should not be brought in in such a way.

**Mr Akwivu**: I had not intended to invoke any chameleonic demonstrations, but be that as it may, what I am saying is that supposing



[MR AKWIWU]

times change and we have a Prime Minister on whose sense of justice we cannot rely, and we have a Prime Minister who keeps changing from minute to minute, he may play all sorts of games with the thing. It is quite likely where we visualise a situation in which a Prime Minister may decide to leave one party for another. In appointing this Committee he will so manipulate it that the Committee of Investigation makes its finding in keeping with his new alignment. I think that, as much as possible, a position as that of the President of the Republic should be one that should be divorced from any opportunity for unwholesome manipulation. I believe the Attorney-General himself may have been giving thought to this. If he has got some ideas as to how these things could be applied with all sense of fairness and equity, let him tell us, otherwise let him reconsider it and not give the Prime Minister this big stick which would enable him to over-ride the views of either the majority of the House of Representatives or the majority of the Senate, or perhaps give him an excellent and unchallengeable opportunity of allowing personal feelings and personal likes and dislikes to influence the ultimate outcome of the Committee of Investigation.

**Mr M. C. K. Obi** (Afenmai East) : I rise to support this Bill and to associate myself with the views already expressed by those who have spoken.

There is one point that I would like to make which I regard as very, very serious. I think that we ought to have been discussing here method of removing a President and not method of electing one, because in the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria somebody's name has been specifically mentioned as the President of the Federation. That section of the Constitution has not been amended. Why should we consider method of electing a President as well as method of removing him? The question of method of electing a President does not arise because somebody is already permanently named and the Constitution is not amended. This should not come in. That is just the point I like to raise.

**Chief A. M. A. Akinloye** (Ibadan North East) : I think this Bill is non-controversial and I support it. However, it is purely consequential and procedural. In any event, I would like to refer to section 8, subsection (2) of the Bill

—that deals with holding the meeting of the Investigating Committee in public.

I feel that that is very derogatory and that if the election of the President is done at the joint meeting of both Houses of Parliament, I do not think it will be right to have this Committee sitting in public.

**Mr G. O. D. Eneh** (Abaja and Ngwo) : When the constitutional instrument was prepared for the Republican Government of Nigeria, the selection of a President was made on the understanding that time was running against us. I consider that to constitute the Federal Parliament—the Senate and the House of Representatives—into an electoral college for the election of the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria is a very bad step backward.

I want to place on record that the provision contained in this Bill regarding the election of the President is being opposed. I consider that the best way of electing a President is to allow the electorate of Nigeria to select their own President (*Hear, hear.*) Anything short of this is a backward step.

A President of the Republic of Nigeria should have the confidence of the whole population. It is not a question of manoeuvring the House of Representatives and the Senate. I think that the Attorney-General should not have brought this Bill at this particular time. He should have allowed a constitutional conference to have met and to have agreed on the method of selecting a President instead of rushing a Bill now in spite of the fact that the present president of the Republic has a term of about four to five years now. What is the need of presenting this Bill now? Are we proposing to remove him from office or are we proposing to elect a new President now? Why not wait for a constitutional conference of this nature which will see that the procedure for electing a President is well defined?

I am opposing this Bill and, unless the Attorney-General gives us the reason why this Bill comes up now, we shall be prepared to oppose it.

**The Attorney-General and Minister of Justice** (Dr T. O. Elias) : I would like to make one or two brief explanations and then, perhaps, leave the debate to continue if hon. Members so desire.

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The first point is that any Attorney-General in office at this particular time, in my view, will be failing in his duty if, six months after the coming into operation of the Constitution, he fails to make this particular provision. The duty of doing it is laid upon him by section 40 of the Constitution. That is why I read that out to begin with. I explained also that this thing has been under consideration and looked into by various shades of opinion before the final form is brought before the House.

As for the composition of the Committee, I should be very grateful if hon. Members would perhaps be more helpful and suggest concrete alternatives to the provisions we have in this Bill. We shall be willing to consider them, but you will find that the arrangement we have made here, in my view, represents the fairest and the most democratic in all such systems in other places where Presidents are removed.

Secondly, the power we gave to the Prime Minister to nominate four Members is indeed more in favour of the candidate in office than anything else. If one side of the House were predominantly on one side and the other side of the House were small (and this principle is reflected in the four to be selected from here) and the same thing took place, say in the Senate, then the Prime Minister would have the advantage of looking round and seeing to it that he redresses the balance, as far as possible, by nominating other people who would represent other shades of opinion in the House. I do not for one moment imagine that hon. Members would seriously suggest that the affairs of this country and the people of this country have come to such a pass that they would go to the polls and vote for a rascal as Prime Minister.

**Mr Akwiwu :** On a point of explanation, would the Attorney-General please explain whether there is anything binding the Prime Minister to nominate a certain class of people or to consult certain views in making his nomination ?

**Dr Elias :** Mr Speaker, I should have thought that the hon. Member who has just spoken might have known better that this sort of thing is not written into Bills. When we decided here to give the power of appointing Judges, for example, to the Prime Minister, or when the same practice obtains in Great Britain, where is the law laid down in any

document telling him how to make his consultations or how the nomination should be made ? That is never done and, in any case, when you look at your Standing Orders, you will find provision for selecting a number of Committee—not less than seven of them—of this House. That Standing Order did not say that in making the selection of Members to this Committee, certain written-down provisions must be strictly followed. But any democratic Parliament, in setting up Committees of this kind, would be bound to consider all shades of opinion in the House. These things are not written into the Constitution.

**Mr Akwiwu :** On a point of order, the Attorney-General, when he introduced one about the appointment of Judges, explained on the Floor of this House, when he was pressed, that the Prime Minister, in making his appointment, no doubt, would consult certain views including that of the Chief Justice. All we want him to do is to say something like that here.

**Mr Speaker :** That is not a point of order.

**Mr S. A. Babatunde (Ilorin Central) :** I rise to support this Bill. I will not subscribe to the idea that we wait until a thing has happened before we make provision for it. Now that there is no rift, no riot or misunderstanding, we should have this provision in our Bill even though we may not use it in the next ten or twenty years. That is the way I think things should be done.

In addition, we all support the idea of making our present President a life President because the man is worth more than that. He is one of the people who will not want the affairs of this country to be run in a shaky manner. Everybody believes, whether he is a pagan, a Christian or a Muslim, that the office which the President, Dr Nnamdi Azikiwe, is now holding befits him. In the same way, we feel that our present Prime Minister is holding an office which befits him. Everybody likes these two able men, and we thank God for giving us this kind of men. A lot would have gone wrong in this country if these two men had not been made the President and the Prime Minister respectively. Therefore, whenever we make provisions for anything in any of our Bills, I will not like anybody, simply because he is a lawyer, to come here and criticise it unnecessarily. I have said it once on the Floor of this House that before the

[MR BABATUNDE]

Government brings anything before the Members of this House they would have studied it very carefully and consulted people where they felt it was necessary to do so. I therefore, do not think that it is necessary for us to wait until we are ready to use a thing before we provide for it.

I beg to support.

**Mr S. O. Kolade** (Oyo South) : I think that what is causing the whole trouble in this Bill is the reference to the four members to be selected by the Prime Minister. This is surely what is creating some fears in the minds of many Members. I think it will be better, when we come for the next meeting of this House, if the Cabinet will bring a Bill proposing that the present President should be made a life President. If we can do this, it will be the greatest honour done to this great son of Nigeria who has worked relentlessly to see that this country is independent. We all agree that this man laboured a great deal, when there were troubles here and there in Nigeria, for our independence. I agree however that he is not the only one who laboured for our independence. But I am sure that Members will agree with me that we have all read in the newspapers of countries who have made people who are as illustrious as our present President, life Presidents. I have no doubt therefore that if a Bill providing for a life President is brought before this House, the fear that Members, especially those on the other side of the House, have in their minds will have been removed, and this will make for the unity of this country.

I beg to support.

**Mr J. U. Udenyi** (Enyong North) : In supporting this Bill wholeheartedly, I have a few observations to make.

The trouble that we always have in this House is the question of who is to be the governor and who is to be governed. What we want is a foresighted man, an intelligent man and a man with exemplary character. In the appointment of anybody to this post, party politics, tribalism and favouritism should not be introduced. What we want is a man who will serve this nation without minding the Region he comes from.

On the question of the removal of the President, I feel that it is good for the electorates to remove him by votes when it is necessary.

On the question of the four men to be appointed by the Prime Minister, I would like to say that we should not allow for favouritism on this. Party politics should not be allowed to come in, otherwise it will be very difficult to appoint the men. I would therefore suggest that all parties should be represented on whatever committee we are setting up.

I beg to support.

**Chief O. B. Akin-Olugbade** (Egba South) : I got my copy of the Bill rather late, and in going through it certain questions cropped up in my mind.

In the first place, I observed that the position or the status of the President of the Republic of Nigeria now is more or less sacrosanct for five years. I am therefore wondering whether this Bill is not about four and half years too early. That is the first point.

The second point I want to deal with is the provision under Section 1, which deals with the joint meeting of the Parliament—the Senate and the House of Representatives—where a report of the Investigating Committee will be considered and a vote taken in accordance with the Constitution of the Federation.

Well, in view of the fact that it is laid down in our Constitution that the President of the Senate is more or less the man who would step into the shoes of the President of the Republic if the President is absent or anything happens to him or he is found guilty, will it not be fair for somebody other than the President of the Senate to preside at such a joint meeting? Human-beings being what we are, the President of the Senate may be very anxious to become the President of the Republic, and so manipulate things in the joint meeting to his own advantage.

One other point which has been agitating my mind is this. What do we mean by conduct or misconduct of the President? I see in the Constitution that an Investigating Committee will be set up to probe the misconduct of the President. I will, with your permission, Mr Speaker, quote section 38, subsections (1) and (2) of the Constitution which reads as follows :

(1) "The President shall cease to hold office if a motion for his removal from office is declared to be passed in accordance with the provisions of this section."

(2) If—

(a) notice in writing is given to the President of the Senate of a motion that the conduct of the President of the Republic be investigated so as to ascertain whether he is guilty of misconduct in the performance of the functions of his office or is unable to perform those functions ; and

(b) the notice is signed by not less than one quarter of all the members of the Senate or one quarter of all the members of the House of Representatives..."

The question which now crops up in my mind is this. What do we mean by misconduct? Is it the bankruptcy of the President, or the making of inflammatory political speeches of the President, or embezzlement, or misappropriation or immorality? I ask this question because the Attorney-General himself has said that there may be frivolous allegations which will be defeated by the Investigating Committee.

It was said by the Member for Orlu South East (*Mr Akwivou*), that at this moment we have a God-fearing Prime Minister but tomorrow we may have a devil-loving Prime Minister who would trump up any charge no matter how frivolous, because he knows that he has the support of the majority of the Members in the Parliament. I think therefore that before the final Bill is brought out, what is meant by "misconduct" should be explained.

One other reason why I think that the type of misconduct should be clarified is that, it may happen that the President of the Republic, who at this moment is completely emasculated because he has no power, may have power tomorrow and the Prime Minister who must be the leader of the party in the majority in the House may clash with the President.

What happens if, in order to get the President removed, the Prime Minister trumps up any charge and gets the majority of the Members of the House to support it—especially if he feels that the President is leaning towards the minority in the House. This minority might of course, have taken a stand which is acceptable to the whole country. I think the Attorney-General will help us to spell out the type of misconduct as a result of which the President of the Republic could be removed. Thank you very much.

**Mr D. E. Y. Aghahowa** (Benin West) : In the light of the request by the Attorney-General that he will welcome any suggestions here, I am respectfully suggesting to him, along the lines earlier made by the Member for Egbado South (*Mr Ajibola*), that the composition of the Investigating Committee should be representative of all shades of political opinion of this House. An alternative suggestion is that there should be a Presidential election.

It is not taking too much after the United States of America to ask for a Presidential election. In fact, anybody would really prefer a candidate loved and accepted by the generality of our people, to one who is not so loved. The only way to test this popularity is by asking for a Presidential election in which all candidates who are interested in the office would ask to be voted for.

If this is thought to be expensive I think that an alternative would be to consider setting up a Committee of this House based on the representation of all shades of political opinion. This process will bring in a sort of equilibrium and, should I say, equate the feelings of all sections of the House. It will also make it impossible for any political party that has a majority of Members in this House to direct or influence, directly or indirectly, the course which the members of this committee should really take in their consideration of the circumstances of their investigation.

The second point I would like to make is about the chairmanship of this committee. The Bill provides that the committee shall have the services of a Legal Assessor, and it further provides that the Rules of Evidence and the procedure as to indictment, according to the Rights Ordinance of Lagos, shall apply.

In other words, it is invariably open to the Prime Minister to make a layman the Chairman of this panel. If this happens, it would of course mean "talking Greek to a lay-man" because the Chairman might not understand the language of the Legal Assessor.

I will suggest, in the circumstance, that the Chairman of this panel should be a legally trained person, and one would expect that such a person should be a Judge of the High Court, either of Lagos or the Regions.

[MR AGHAHOWA]

This brings me to the point of the functions of the Legal Assessor attached to this committee. Is he there as a prosecutor or he is simply there to explain and interpret any naughty point of law that might crop up during the proceedings. Is he going to defend the conduct of the President, or to prosecute the facts being investigated? His position in the committee is so nebulous that one is left at a loss to know what circumstance have led to his inclusion in the panel.

I am saying that if he is to be an official prosecutor before the panel, then there should be the corollary that the man whose conduct is being investigated should be entitled to the services of a legal representative.

There is the other point which says that no process attaching to the committee or its proceedings shall issue out of any court with a few exceptions. I think the purpose of this is to forestall anybody going to the court, if such a person feels that the committee is exceeding its right, and stopping it by a *writ of mandamus*, or something like that.

If that is the purpose for the inclusion of this section, well it is my humble opinion that it is certainly derogatory; it negatives the right of the citizen guaranteed by our Constitution. Our Constitution gives us, at least within the armpit of the law, unlimited rights and privileges, and where the Courts are open to us, anybody aggrieved by any situation, can seek his remedy in the Courts. I think it will be reducing a person's rights under the constitution if we say that there are certain things which he can do or which he cannot do in defence of his right.

With this suggestion, Sir, I beg to support.

**Alhaji Mohammadu Sagir Umar** (Katagun West): It seems that this law is made for a particular man and at a particular time. We know that both the office of President and the office of the Prime Minister are filled now by suitable people. I am sure this Bill will be thrown away when these gentlemen are not there, or when the state of the parties in this country changes.

We should think now about it because we know that Nigeria has the right to adopt its own way of electing a President. But there is a universal way followed by almost all the countries of the world, that is that the President is elected by the whole nation.

I know that Nigeria can amend this law if the circumstances arise. But why can we not wait until that time? Why can we not do it once and for all? My suggestion therefore is that we should not make our laws at any particular time for a particular man. I think that we should better think about it and make the law once and for all.

**Professor Kalu Ezera** (Bende East): I have very great misgivings about this Bill. But having listened to the Attorney-General, I would specifically like to direct my appeal to him personally.

There are two very serious points which have been raised on the Floor of this House and which in my opinion deserve very serious consideration.

The first concerns the question of the composition of the committee referred to in this Bill. The point has been very ably made that we are making this law at least not for any expediency. We are making it, we hope, for as long a time as possible. And, therefore, to suppose that because we have a very good Prime Minister who is dearly loved by the whole House, and in fact by the whole country, should not blind us to the fact that it may not be so tomorrow or the day after.

Therefore, the point was ably made, I think by the Member for Orlu South East (*Mr Akwivwu*), that if in the next five or ten years, there is a clash, a personality clash if you like, between a Prime Minister and a President, what will happen? Surely, to balance the composition of the committee in favour of the Prime Minister is grossly unfair to that hypothetical President yet to come.

This is why I am particularly appealing to the able Attorney-General who, I am sure if this point is made out clearly, will consider it seriously.

I have again in mind what was suggested during the debate on the Judiciary. Last time fears were raised that the Prime Minister should appoint the Chief Justice. As a result it was agreed that he would appoint after consultations. That is all.

What we are asking for here is this. There is no doubt that in future, there might be a dispute—several things may lead to it. It might be a dispute between a Prime Minister

and a President. The events which are taking place in the countries around us are clearly before our eyes.

Therefore, in making this up we should always take into cognisance the exigency of the situation and also the principle of fair play—to be fair to that Prime Minister or to that President as the case may be. The composition therefore should be such as not to weigh heavily on one side or the other. I am sure that the Attorney-General will look into this.

The other point which I am not sure about is the second one which is in regard to misbehaviour or malfeasance on the part of the President. Again, this is not clearly defined. Could it be possible to lay down what constitutes misbehaviour somewhere, or perhaps in the law?

The whole thing is at present so vague, that anything can constitute a misbehaviour as indeed my able lawyers know very well. That is also a second point to look into.

My very honest feeling about the Bill is this. At this particular moment in our development, we are still groping about for ways and means to maintain stability. In fact the manifestoes of the various parties in this country are still being worked out. Some people are suggesting a division of power between a President and a Prime Minister; others are suggesting a system whereby the whole of Nigeria will have to vote for an Executive President. Surely, if we are going to come to any of these and we want the whole people of Nigeria to vote for a President, it is only fit and proper, that such a President must be assigned some powers. That, of course, will necessitate again the division of functions between a President and a Prime Minister. I am not saying that it is coming. I am only giving my general feelings.

But perhaps the Attorney-General is right that after three months or six months of our attaining independent status it is incumbent on him as the Attorney-General to lay down rules and regulations, or introduce a law which will guide us in the election and the removal of a President. But I think that these two points which have been raised on this Floor need very serious consideration. And we are appealing to him, even if it is too late to amend it now, to give us an assurance that his Ministry will look into it with a view to satisfying all shades of opinion.

*Question put and agreed to.*

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

PRESIDENTIAL PROCEEDINGS BILL : CONSIDERED IN COMMITTEE.

*Clauses 1 to 4—ordered to stand part of the Bill.*

*Clause 5—(APPLICATION OF ss. 2 TO 4 TO ANCILLARY BALLOTS).*

**Several Members : Aye ! Aye !**

**Professor Kalu Ezera :** On a point of order, the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Justice (*Mr R. B. K. Okafor*) is not sitting on his seat while saying "Aye".

*Clause 5—ordered to stand part of the Bill.*

*Clause 6—(DECLARATION AND EVIDENCE OF ELECTION)—ordered to stand part of the Bill.*

*Clause 7—(ESTABLISHMENT AND ATTENDANCE AT MEETINGS OF INVESTIGATING COMMITTEE).*

**Mr O. C. Ememe (Aba South) :** On a point of order, we are expected to know about this Bill in detail but many of the Members have not even got copies of it.

**The Chairman :** Order ! That has been adequately dealt with earlier.

**Shettima Ali Monguno (Kaga Marghi) :** I wish merely to appeal to the Prime Minister with respect to this Clause—*Establishment and Attendance at Meetings of Investigating Committee*.

He should particularly bear in mind, although he always does, the sort of people that should comprise such a committee. We want people of integrity, people whose opinions are respected not merely by their political parties but by the nation as a whole. They should be nationalistic as to take into consideration only the interest of the nation and not the interest of their particular political parties only.

**Chief D. N. Abii (Owerri East) :** As I was trying to find out what reasons might necessitate the filing of a Motion for the removal or investigating the conduct of a President, I discovered that one-quarter of the Members of the House of Representatives, or that of the Senate might put up a Motion calling for investigation into the conduct of the President.

## [CHIEF ABII]

Now this Bill wants to make it a law that when one-quarter of the Members of the House of Representatives or one-quarter of the Members in the Senate require this investigation, the investigation will be carried out. That is what is stated under this Clause.

My point, therefore, is this : now let us take the House of Representatives or the Senate for instance—it means that if we want one-quarter of the Members of the House of Representatives, one party can just make it up ; if we want one-quarter of the Members in the Senate, one region can also make it up since we have four Regions in the Senate.

My plea, therefore, is that if this Bill is to be useful as we expect it to be, the word “or” in the Constitution should be changed to “and” so that if one-quarter of the Members of this House and one-quarter of the Members in the Senate jointly put up a motion for investigation, it would then be considered vital.

If we leave it as it is now, that any one-quarter of the Members of this House or one-quarter of the Members of the Senate should bring up this motion for investigation of the President’s conduct, then we shall be wasting our time in this country.

It is my humble submission that the Bill, as it is now, is useless until an amendment of the Constitution on which this Bill is being passed, is carried out.

**Dr Elias :** May I say briefly that the point raised by the Member for Owerri East, (*Chief Abii*), would not be in line with the general pattern of this type of arrangement. It is not necessary that both Houses of Parliament should join in making a motion. That, I think, would be contrary to the Standing Orders of both Houses. Only Members of a House can either individually or jointly table a motion before the particular House.

It would be improper to expect 78 Members of this House to join with 14 Members of the Senate to make the motion. We should not mix up the idea of initiating a motion calling into question the conduct of the President with the idea of the investigation to follow later. We must not also lose sight of the fact that although 78 Members of this House might table a motion and 14 Members of the Senate might do the same, the motion must be passed by not less than two-thirds majority in this House before the Committee is appointed.

**Mr B. N. Ukegbu** (Owerri South East) : Speaking on Clause 7, even at the point of repeating *ad nauseam*, one would like to call the attention of the Attorney-General to the practice in the other Parliaments of the world. If there is a parliamentary committee, or even a joint parliamentary committee, certain principles are observed. Take, for instance the case of Westminster investigating the conduct of the Queen. I cite this example because in our own set up here, whoever is the President of the Federal Republic is to us what the Queen is to Britain.

The practice in Britain is that when there is to be Joint Parliamentary Committee, all political parties are represented. Therefore, when there is to be a Joint Parliamentary Committee to investigate the conduct of whoever may be the President, it is incumbent on the Government to ensure that all sides of the House are duly represented—that is, all shades of political opinion are reflected.

I would, therefore, put it to the Attorney-General that it is necessary for him to propose an amendment or do whatever he can to ensure that when such a Committee is to be set up, members of all political parties that are represented in Parliament, will be able to find themselves serving in this Committee.

It is always known that the Prime Minister represents the majority party in Parliament. Where the Prime Minister is given the power of nominating four Members of this Committee, it is more than likely that he will nominate Members of his own party. If Members of his own party are also in the majority in Parliament and they have to elect four Members from the Senate, and four Members from the House of Representatives, then it is likely also that they would nominate or elect Members of their own party.

It is possible then that this investigating committee, which is a Joint Parliamentary Committee, will consist of one political party only. The Attorney-General, I am sure, will realise that this will be very obnoxious indeed. Whoever is the President of a nation represents the interest of all parts of the nation and therefore, all political parties.

It will be very sour and very bad if an allegation is levelled against the President, and then the committee to investigate it comprises

one political party only. Let us, therefore, look beyond the present circumstances and conditions.

I appeal to the Attorney-General to give very serious consideration to this.

**Professor Kalu Ezera** (Bende East): Very seriously and very frankly, this Clause 7 is very unacceptable; we need an assurance from the Attorney-General to the effect that he will give serious consideration to those points raised. We have raised serious points. We have raised serious fears. We know there is no time to move an Amendment now since there is tendency to put this Bill through now.

We are appealing to the Attorney-General to speak on this. Are the points raised not tangible? Are the fears expressed not real? So we still jeel, and feel strongly, that in the interest of justice, the composition of this committee ought to be balanced. Those who are supporting the Clause in its present form are the *jeun-jeuns*.

I do hope that the Attorney-General will allay our fears and that in due course this Clause will be looked into seriously in the interest of all sides.

**Mr E. O. Araka** (Onitsha Urban): I am very much against the composition of this Investigating Committee. From this Bill, it is easily possible for one-quarter of the Members of either of the Houses of Parliament to initiate the proceedings for a joint investigating committee, then two-thirds of the Members will vote, not two-thirds of the entire Members of the House of Representatives or the Senate, but two-thirds of the Members present to cast their votes.

If, for example, there are only fifty Members present that day, and two-thirds of them vote on this issue, then an investigating committee must be set up. I want Members to note that only two-thirds of the Members present have voted, and not two-thirds of the entire Members of the House of Representatives or the Senate.

I will read the section of the Federal Constitution which deals with this. Section 38, subsection 4 (a) reads:

*if two-thirds or more of the votes cast on the motion are cast in favour of the motion, declare the motion to be passed;*

From this it is clear that it must be two-thirds of the Members that are present to vote, not two-thirds of the entire Members of the House.

We, therefore, have a situation in which the Members who are accusing the President are now given the opportunity of being the judges in their own cause. If this investigating committee is to be impartial, it should be composed of only Judges of the Supreme Court. This is the procedure in Ireland, the Constitution of which I happened to have read very well.

It is not the House that is accusing the President that should sit over the enquiry; it must be referred to an independent and impartial body and, in my own opinion, that body should be the High Court. I am not sure about the provision in India, but in that of Ireland whose constitution I happen to have read, it is always referred to the High Court. If three Judges of the High Court happen to go into the conduct of a President and find him guilty, then automatically that President ought to be removed. So I respectfully appeal to the Attorney-General to reconsider this point and remove completely the question of Members of the House sitting again in judgment over the case in which they are the accusers.

**Dr Elias**: I do not think really that I ought to come into the debate, but because of what the hon. Gentleman from Onitsha Urban has said, I think that one must not allow that to pass. For one reason, the argument would have been interesting and valid if this point had been brought up at the All-Party Conference where this was decided, or when the Constitution was passed in this House. All the provisions that are now being introduced have been embodied in the Constitution.

**Mr B. N. Ukegbu** (Owerri South East): On a point of information, I think it was the learned Attorney-General who made us to rush the proceedings on the Constitution in view of the short time that we had to the Republic day.

**The Chairman**: I must say that in fairness to the Attorney-General, if indeed any Bill, whether constitutional or otherwise, had been rushed, he was not responsible for it.

**Dr Elias**: On the point raised about the question of referring the removal of a President to the Court, I do not know whether the



[DR ELIAS]

Member for Onitsha Urban (*Mr Araka*) is seriously suggesting, quite apart from the constitutional position here which is different from the one to which he is referring, that we depart from the line taken by other constitutions that are federal and more well established—that of the United States or the constitution of India? I would like to hear other examples.

*Several hon. Members rose—*

**The Chairman :** Order, I think it will help things to be much more orderly if a Member who is rising to a point of order should wait to be recognised. Otherwise it will be a chaotic situation if we have more than one person standing up.

*Clause 7.—(ESTABLISHMENT AND ATTENDANCE AT MEETINGS OF INVESTIGATING COMMITTEE)—ordered to stand part of the Bill.*

**Mr O. C. Ememe** (Aba South): I do not know the reason why I should be robbed of my chance. I have a point to raise on Clause 7.

**The Chairman :** I believe it is the policy of the House that as much as is humanly possible the business we have in hand should be transacted expeditiously. Before the Question was put, Mr Araka sat down and Mr Ememe was not standing again, and in the gap that ensued I had no alternative but to put the Question. It is unfortunate if the Member for Aba South (*Mr Ememe*) thinks that he is robbed, but this Parliament is not a house of robbers!

*Clause 8.—(POWERS AND PROCEDURE OF COMMITTEE).*

**Mr C. O. Chiedozie** (Enugu): One more point which we want the Attorney-General to explain is this question of holding the Committee in public. The Committee will be held in public and the report will come to the House to be discussed again by the House. We have got experience about enquiries being held in public. First, it provides opportunity for the accuser to be attacked and, second, the press will carry everything said therein. That being so, how can a President of the Republic be so exposed? Experience has shown that enquiries held nowadays should be in private; even enquiries on civil servants are held in private. There is no reason which can be given to satisfy us that the proceedings

on a President of the Republic, if his conduct is being questioned, should be in public and everything about him publicised and then the report comes back to the House to be discussed. In fact before a decision is taken, the man's honour is finished. In my opinion, the enquiry should be held in private if we are going to preserve the dignity of the office of President.

**Oba S. A. Oladiran** (Okitipupa South): I disagree with the last speaker. If the President conducts himself in a manner which is questionable, an enquiry must be held and, therefore, there is no point conducting the enquiry in camera. I fully support the idea that excessive power should not be concentrated in a particular person to avoid possible misuse of it.

*Clause 8—ordered to stand part of the Bill.*

*Clauses 9-10—ordered to stand part of the Bill.*

*Bill reported, without Amendment.*

*Motion made and Question proposed, That the Bill be now read the Third time—(THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL AND MINISTER OF JUSTICE).*

**Mr E. O. Ifezue** (Orlu North): It does not only appear to me that there are very many taunts on the President, but that he is defenceless. The Government should take this opportunity to defend the President from political attacks; if possible it should institutionalise the position of the President. My hon. Friend the Member for Enugu (*Mr Chiedozie*) has made this remark, and I support him in that. It is not good to allow the President to wash his dirty linen in public.

Another point which I want to make is that whenever the President is attacked by politicians, it is the work of the Attorney-General to defend him. It might happen that on the eve of the Presidential election the President might become the subject of political intrigue. It is, therefore, necessary for the Government to seize the opportunity offered by this Bill to protect the President and insulate him from political attacks.

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Bill read the Third time and passed.*

QUEEN'S COUNSEL (ABOLITION) BILL

*Order for Second Reading read.*

**The Attorney-General and Minister of Justice** (Dr T. O. Elias) : I rise to move—

That a Bill for an Act to abolish the rank of Queen's Counsel; and for connected purposes, be read a Second time.

When we became a Republic in October last year, it was obvious that the status of Queen's Counsel would have to be abolished and the Government took a decision to that effect at that time. Later, at a meeting of the General Council of the Bar on January 25th, 1964, a formal decision was taken by that body (which is responsible for the affairs of the Nigeria Bar Association) that the status be abolished and that all lawyers holding this particular rank should no longer use the letters Q.C. after their names.

This Bill is intended to give effect to that decision. The Government has accepted it and I think that the Bill is non-controversial.

I beg to move.

**The Minister of Internal Affairs** (Alhaji Shehu Shagari) : I beg to second.

**Mr S. A. Ogedengbe** (Owo North) : As a lawyer, I have to praise the Attorney-General for bringing this Bill to Parliament. Lawyers in this country have the greatest respect for themselves and especially for the senior members of the profession. It is not necessary to-day to give an appellation to a senior member of the profession, because already the senior members are being respected and the Constitution even provides for this.

In the appointment of judges, no Region can appoint a lawyer who has not practised for at least ten years as a judge. If the Constitution has provided for this, why should we retain this so-called "Queen's Counsel" ?

My final observation is that, what is good for the goose is also good for the gander. We are now abolishing Q.C. What about K.C.B., M.B.E., O.B.E., C.M.G., and so on and so forth? I think the time has come when the Government should make up its mind and see that these foreign titles are no longer retained in this country.

With these few remarks, I beg to support.

**Mr N. D. Ukah** (Owerri North East) : The idea of the Bill and the additional Constitutional change should be examined carefully.

We all know that among lawyers there are senior members who have been recognised through hard work or outstanding performance as Q.C.s; but with our attainment of Republican status, it is desirable that we should abolish this title. After all, the Queen is no longer the Queen of Nigeria. But then the question arises: should this country deprive citizens of their rights without making a proper substitute? (*Interruptions*).

**The Deputy Speaker** : May I please appeal to hon. Members that the Standing Orders provide that Members who wish to speak may only do so when they are recognised or when they are standing. To be making very inaudible speeches while sitting down certainly makes things a lot more difficult for our official reporters.

**Mr Ukah** : Thank you, Mr Speaker. The question which arises is—

**Mr A. F. Odulana** (Ijebu South) : On a point of order, I am now standing for you to see and hear me. May I ask the hon. Gentleman speaking to leave this topic for lawyers here. He does not know law nor is he a lawyer. Actually, he is a bush teacher. He should, therefore, leave this subject for lawyers. What does he know about Q.C. ?

**The Deputy Speaker** : Order. As I said before, this House encourages the practice of freedom of speech. To practise law, one has to be a lawyer, but to make law, one does not have to be a lawyer.

**Mr Ukah** : Thank you, Mr Speaker. I think the old clown ought to know that in this House we speak freely and we teachers do not debar lawyers from speaking on educational issues.

These lawyers called Q.C.s reached their zenith through hard work, for which we praise them. But our attainment of a Republican status makes it necessary for us to change the appellations which were given to them. In changing these appellations, we must make sure that we are fair to them. We must make sure that we replace these titles with titles which befit our nation. I therefore suggest that these Q.C. lawyers should be called Senior Counsel, Federal Counsel or State Counsel.

[MR UKAH]

I do know that some of the junior lawyers are very jealous of the senior ones and so the junior ones go about complaining of the title "Q.C."

**Mr R. N. Muojeke** (Awka Central): On a point of order, I want to assure the hon. Gentleman that the junior lawyers are not jealous of the senior ones. In fact, both the senior and the junior lawyers work in harmony and co-operation.

**Mr Ukah**: Yes, I know that the junior lawyers work in the chambers of the senior ones, and they are apt to complain of more cases going to the Q.C.s.

I am, therefore, suggesting that in order to do justice to the respected members of the Bar, when we remove a title that we did not confer, we should substitute a befitting one.

**Shettima Ali Monguno** (Kaga Marghi): I rise to speak very briefly on this Bill, even though I am not a lawyer. I am sure it is not only lawyers who know what is good for this country.

Looking at it politically, I think it is only appropriate that we should abolish this title of Q.C. But I cannot help supporting the Member who has just spoken before me when he said that it is rather unfair to deprive those who have already given meritorious services of their honours. I therefore agree that appropriate substitute should be found for such people by this country.

**Chief A. Akerele** (Oyo East): I think the lawyers know what is good for them. The Bar Association had taken a decision on this matter and no recommendation has been made for any other honours. It is, therefore, not for people here to decide what is good for them.

**Mr I. O. Chikelu** (Udi Central): I rise to support this opportune Bill introduced at a time when we all expect that appellations that still remind us of our colonial days should be abolished. I associate myself with the views expressed by other Members, especially my hon. Friend the Member for Owerri North East (*Mr Ukah*) that new titles should be introduced to replace those that we are abolishing.

There is need for distinction between those who have served meritoriously for many years and those who have just entered the field as

well as those who have not done well at all. Those who are quarrelling with this distinction are the ne'er-do-wells and I hope the Minister of Justice will not take them seriously.

I also wish to express my opinion on what the Member for Owo North (*Mr Ogendengbe*) said, that there is really a need for other appellations like K.C.M.G., K.B.E., Sir and the rest of them to be simultaneously abolished. These things do not do us any good nowadays. I think also that institutions bearing appellations that tend to take us back to the colonial era should have changes in their names. For example, the word "Royal" added to the Orthopaedic Hospital, Igbobi; the word "King" added to the boys' college here in Lagos and "Queen" added to the girls' college at Yaba should be removed. We have no kings or queens here in Nigeria and so these things should be removed.

I think that when these appellations have been removed, then Nigeria will have a true picture of the sovereignty that she now enjoys.

I beg to support.

**Mr A. F. Odulana** (Ijebu South): I rise to support this Queen's Counsel (Abolition) Bill—

**Mr B. N. Ukegbu** (Owerri South East): On a point of order, we would like to know when *Alao* had become a lawyer. We would like to know when he was called to the Bar.

**The Deputy Speaker**: As far as the records of the Parliament goes, the hon. Member is known as Mr Odulana and not *Alao*.

**Dr P. U. Okeke** (Onitsha North Central): On a point of order, there has been a departure from the practice in this House whereby when a Member rises to speak he must be named by the Speaker before he starts to speak. The Member for Ijebu South (*Mr Odulana*) was not named before he started speaking.

**The Deputy Speaker**: I think that assuming the duty of the Chair to speak unnecessarily is much more a standing departure from parliamentary practice.

**Mr Odulana**: Whilst I rise to support this Queen's Counsel (Abolition) Bill, it is necessary to indicate that Queen's Counsel as distinct from the other counsel in the State are very well known to every body in this country and all over the world, but the institution of doctors with regard to native doctors is not known to us.

**Dr Okeke :** On a point of order, the Standing Orders provide that a Member speaking in this House must not be irrelevant and the court judge in the person of the Member for Ijebu South (*Mr Odulana*) thinks that he is in a native or customary court, and is being irrelevant.

**The Deputy Speaker :** The Bill deals with abolition of expatriate appellations relating to the legal profession. Naturally, it would be much more in order to dwell on that, but so there has been a consistent amount of irrelevancy in dealing with other appellations.

**Mr Odulana :** I am just giving this as an example of the institution of Counsel known as Queen's Counsel and those known either as State Counsel, Principal State Counsel or ordinary Counsel. I do not know what the Nigerian public will think of the distinction between qualified doctors from universities overseas and in this country and those known as native doctors. Those who know that they have not the qualification to practice medicine but put their names up as doctors or as native doctors should be discouraged from doing so.

I must thank the Bar Association for coming out boldly to agree to do away with this foreign honour. I congratulate the Attorney-General and Minister of Justice of the Federation for bringing this Bill here. It is a welcome Bill. The time has come when our lawyers should be able to stand on their own, without being connected with legal practitioners in other lands and be called Queen's Counsel. I agree that in the colonial days a Queen's Counsel was a mighty man with that name alone appended to his name.

But if the title "Q.C." is going to be abolished, I personally appeal to the Prime Minister of this Federation to show the example by dropping his honorary title of Knighthood, that is K.B.E. Alhaji Abubakar Tafawa Balewa is a great name all over the world and there is no reason, therefore, why that word "Sir" should be put before his name. The word Alhaji" indicates that he is a holy man who has been to Mecca several times on pilgrimage.

**Professor Kalu Ezera (Bende East) :** Is the Member for Kano East (*Alhaji Aminu Kano*) also a holy man?

**Mr Odulana :** I do not call him a prophet, I do not say that he is an angel, but I must say that he is not very far from being an angel or a holy man. For instance, in connection with what is happening in our country to-day, whatever Alhaji Abubakar Tafawa Balewa says is final.

**Dr P. U. Okeke (Onitsha North Central) :** On a point of Order, the Member for Ijebu South (*Mr A. F. Odulana*) is becoming irrelevant and is making insinuating innuendoes.

**Mr Odulana :** When I say the Bar Association, I mean all the members of that Association including the Attorney-General who brought the Bill to the House. All of them should be congratulated. So, Ladies and gentlemen,—

**Chief O. B. Akin-Olugbade (Egba South) :** The hon. Gentleman should address the Speaker and not *ladies and gentlemen*.

**The Deputy Speaker :** Well, I know the hon. Member is not in the habit of doing this. I suppose the atmosphere of levity in the House now has led him to think he is somewhere else.

**Mr Odulana :** I still emphasize that the Prime Minister should set the example of abandoning his knighthood so that he would be called Alhaji Tafawa Balewa simply.

**Professor Kalu Ezera (Bende East) :** The point I want to make is to congratulate the—

**Mr R. N. Muojeke (Awka Central) :** The Member for Bende East (*Professor Kalu Ezera*) standing now has spoken on all the Bills this morning and there are those who have not had a chance at all.

**The Deputy Speaker :** The order of speaking is determined by the Member who catches the Speaker's eye.

**Professor Ezera :** I would not reply to the hon. Member behind me there, but all I want to say is on the last Bill which deals with Presidential Proceedings. We gave the Attorney-General and Minister of Justice (*Dr T. O. Elias*) a very hard time. But this is a very welcome Bill on which we should pat him on the back, at least for bringing such a timely Bill, and to support my hon. Friend, the

[PROFESSOR EZERA]

Member for Ijebu South (*Mr A. F. Odulana*) who thought that he was at the Island Club and addressed us as ladies and gentlemen—

**Mr W. O. Briggs** (Degema): Is my hon. Friend inferring that it is only in the Island Club and native courts that we meet gentlemen?

**Professor Ezera**: That is not the point. I only want to associate myself with him for congratulating the Bar Association generally, and also to say on the Floor of this House that the *Daily Times* has set an example by refusing to call all our distinguished people "Sir".

**Several hon. Members**: What about the *West African Pilot*?

**Professor Ezera**: These two papers have done so, and we should, on the Floor of this House commend them and ask our people to relinquish their foreign titles.

Will the Attorney-General and Minister of Justice (*Dr T. O. Elias*) bring before us here during this sitting of Parliament a Bill relinquishing all titles of foreign origin excepting those that are African. We do not want to have any colonial appellations. The Prime Minister should, as the Member for Ijebu South (*Mr A. F. Odulana*) pointed out, answer "Alhaji", and the Chief Justice should answer "Chief". We can call Sir Francis "Doctor" Ibiam. If we say the title of a Queen's Counsel is bad, so also are other foreign titles.

**Mr E. O. Araka** (Onitsha Urban): I should think examples should be set by doing away with professorships.

**Mr Briggs**: Not only professorships! What about doctorate degrees? In most countries all over the world, nobody answers to honorary degrees. I am sure that Churchill has many doctorate degrees which are honorary but nobody ever calls him Dr Churchill.

In this country, it is fashionable. A person goes to the United States of America, comes back in two week's time, and he is already a doctor. I am also suggesting that those who acquire doctorate degrees without working for them should not be called doctors.

**Professor Ezera**: I do not propose at all to discuss what my hon. Friend has said about doctors. I do not think that is a matter of title

as such. We are now concerned with the Attorney-General's appeal, but I am also suggesting that colonial appellations like knighthoods should follow suit.

I am not competent to discuss the affairs of the Bar Association. They do not want to use the title "Q.C." I am in sympathy with them, but what about the gowns and wigs? We do not want to interfere. We like those affected to give serious thought to the question so that the next time we meet here, the Attorney-General will bring a Bill abolishing knighthoods and such other titles.

**The Deputy Speaker**: May I appeal to the House that this is a Bill one might describe as a one-clause Bill. What could be said in the Second Reading might as well be said in the Committee; so let us make progress.

*Question put and agreed to.*

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

QUEEN'S COUNSEL (ABOLITION) BILL  
CONSIDERED IN COMMITTEE

Clause 1—(ABOLITION OF RANK OF Q.C.)

**Mr Muojeke**: This section is acceptable except in certain respects. In the first place, it is retrospective and lawyers seem to lean against retrospective Bills or legislation. I think this section should have tried to preserve the ranks of those who had the title before this Bill is introduced.

When the rank of Sergeant at Law was abolished in England, those who had the title before the abolition retained them, but there were no new creations. Not only that, many of the Queen's Counsel who have written books with the appellation of Q.C. attached to their names, will now be compelled to expunge their titles from their future publications.

Again, many Members have spoken that the Bill is quite discriminatory. I do not see any justification why the rank of Q.C. should be abolished when lawyers are not talking about the fate of other honours which are even more derogatory, such as O.B.E., M.B.E. and so on.

**L. J. Dosunmu** (Lagos Central): It would appear that the Member for Awka Central (*Mr Muojeke*), being a member of the Nigerian Bar

Association, should know, as the Attorney-General has told this House, that this decision was arrived at by the entire members of the Association, and if he claims to be a lawyer it is disgraceful to hear what he is now saying.

**Chief Ayo Rosiji** (Egba East) : On a point of order, I think it is not correct to say that the Member for Awka Central (*Mr Muojeke*) is a lawyer ; he is a policeman !

**Minister of State** (Mr M. A. O. Olarewaju) : I want to inform the Member for Egba East (*Chief Ayo Rosiji*) that several police officers are better than lawyers !

**Mr Muojeke** : I wish to inform the Member for Lagos Central (*Mr Dosunmu*) that he was not here when the Bill was being read, and he missed completely the trend of my argument. What I am saying is that the Bar Association agreed with the abolition of Q.C. but took no decision about other honours like the O.B.E.

I want to tell the Member for Egba East (*Chief Ayo Rosiji*) that whilst he has only an LL.B degree I have both the LL.B. and the B.Sc. Honours Economics degrees. And whilst the Member for Egba East is running from one political party to another and turning politics upside down and downside up I am constant with my party the N.C.N.C. It is very shameful for a lawyer of his calibre to take delight in turning himself into a political bat.

**The Chairman** : Order ! As this is becoming a merry-go round affair I shall now put the question.

*Clause 1—(ABOLITION OF RANK OF Q.C.)—ordered to stand part of the Bill.*

*Clause 2—ordered to stand part of the Bill.*

*Bill reported, without Amendment.*

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

**Mr A. O. Ogunsanya** (Ikeja) : In speaking on this, I wish first and foremost to say that the Minister of State for Police Affairs should withdraw what he said that his police officers know more law than lawyers. My Learned Friends on the Bench opposite, who are lawyers, with the exception of the Member for Owo South (*Mr Ajasin*), know that there is no country—

**Shettima Ali Monguno** (Kaga Marghi) : On a point of order, there is no doubt that there are certain Police officers who know everything about the law in fact better than certain lawyers.

**The Deputy Speaker** : Order ! I think that the statement, when it was made by the Minister of State (*Mr Olarewaju*), was not intended to be serious. It was made in the mood of the House at the time.

**Mr Ogunsanya** : I think the Member for Kaga Marghi (*Shettima Ali Monguno*) knows more about people abroad than those in Nigeria !

**The Deputy Speaker** : May I appeal to the Member for Ikeja to drop that line of argument. I think the situation is quite clear, and no statement on the Floor of this House this morning concerning lawyers and policemen should be taken as the expression of the views of this House.

**Mr Ogunsanya** : With the greatest respect to the Deputy Speaker, may I state that we are defending his profession !

**The Deputy Speaker** : There is no provision of the Constitution which makes the profession of the Deputy Speaker that of a legal profession.

**The Minister of Labour** (Chief J. M. Johnson) : As a prospective litigant I think I can settle the argument by saying that policemen get more convictions that lawyers do get discharges and acquittals.

**Mr Ogunsanya** : I think what the Minister of Labour had said refers to customary courts and the Member for Egba East (*Chief Ayo Rosiji's*) court !

**Chief O. B. Akin-Olugbade** (Egba South) : We ought to thank the Attorney-General very much for bringing this Bill, but I think it would be the wish of this House to hear his views on the points raised by the previous speakers on knighthood and so on.

**The Attorney-General** : I would only add that the Member for Egba South (*Chief Akin-Olugbade*) should consult section 75 of the Constitution—

**An hon. Member** : We cannot hear the Minister !

**The Minister of Justice :** Members cannot hear me when they are holding private conferences over there. I was asking the Member for Egba South to refer to section 75 of the Constitution which allows those who are already holding these foreign honours to keep them if they wish to do so.

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Bill accordingly read the Third time and passed.*

*Sitting suspended : 1.00 p.m.*

*Sitting resumed : 3.00 p.m.*

#### DEFENCE INDUSTRIES BILL

*Order for Second Reading read.*

**Minister of State (Mr M. T. Mbu) :** I rise to move the Second Reading of a Bill entitled, Defence Industries Bill.

This Bill seeks to establish a Corporation to operate, maintain and control factories for the manufacture, storage and disposal of ordnance and ancillary stores and material; to provide for alteration in any such manufacture, storage and disposal at any time; and for related matters.

Early in 1963, the Council of Ministers authorised the signing of a contract with a German firm for the establishment of an Ordnance Factory. Consequently, arrangements for the establishment were pursued and work has since proceeded simultaneously with the building of the factory at Kaduna.

It is my pleasure to announce that the factory will go into production towards the end of this year. The need for an Ordnance Factory is quite obvious. It is primarily to manufacture arms and ammunition for the use of our Armed Forces and for the use of the Nigeria Police Force and the Preventive Service of the Board of Customs and Excise.

Once the factory starts production, it is expected to meet our requirements for arms and ammunition for our Forces, which means that we shall no longer have to depend on outside sources for the supply of light arms—a point, no doubt, which will favour our balance of payments and a welcome step not only for security reasons but also as a contribution towards the development of Nigeria's economy. Moreover, the Ordnance Factory would be,

by its very nature, a starting point of an elaborate organisation which this nation requires, in order to make rapid industrial progress.

The Bill provides for the establishment of a Defence Industries Corporation. The Corporation, when established, will take charge of the administration of the Ordnance Factory under the direction of the Minister of Defence. The Corporation which is being proposed is different from any other existing Statutory Corporation, in that its membership is composed mainly of Civil Servants. This is so because of the need to insulate the production of arms and ammunition from politics and to ensure efficient administration, and direct control by the Minister of Defence.

The Bill outlines the functions of the Corporation which are, briefly, the operation, maintenance and control of the Ordnance Factories for the manufacture, storage and disposal of Ordnance and ancillary stores, for the inspection and testing of weapons and ammunition. The Corporation is also empowered to appoint its staff and to regulate its services by establishing organisational structures which would enable it to perform its functions effectively.

In view of the secret nature of the business of the Ordnance Factory, members of the staff of the Corporation will not be allowed to take part in any strike.

The Bill also makes provision for the financial administration of the Ordnance Factory as it is intended that the Corporation should be self-supporting and profit-making. Provision has also been made for the auditing of accounts and the inspection of the books of the Corporation by the Director of Audit.

Apart from the manufacture of arms and ammunition, the Ordnance Factory shall also undertake other duties such as the manufacture of civilian goods which will include cutting tools, hand tools, bicycles, small electric motors, shot guns, shot gun ammunition, *et cetera*.

I commend this non-controversial Bill to all sides of the House for approval and support and I beg to move.

**Mr D. D. U. Okay (Port Harcourt) :** In supporting this Bill, I would like to say that the concentration of all military institutions in one

Region is detrimental to the interest and general well-being of the people of this country and, therefore, I would urge the Federal Government to see to it that all military institutions are scattered all over the country.

Those of us who served in the Army know what I am talking about. I was in the Army for about seven years. The Bill is non-contentious, but I would like to warn that it is not to the best interest of this country to concentrate all military institutions and installations in one Region alone.

I hope that the Minister will take this into careful consideration when other Ordnance Factories are to be established in this country.

I beg to second.

**Mr D. D. Dimka (Angas):** This Bill is a welcome one. Looking at the trend of events to-day, Members would agree with me that the introduction of this Bill is timely and therefore it should be supported by all sides of this House. It is one of the factors that will make our independence a reality. If we are politically and economically independent without having defence Industries, then our independence is meaningless and as such we cannot be proud of ourselves.

Hon. Members know full well that we are living in a troubled world and we know too that there are countries around us that have become great. To-day, we talk of world powers. Similarly we also talk of countries like America and Russia as being great. We talk of these countries not because they are economically and politically great, or because their population out-numbers that of other countries but because they have got strong defence industries which fact makes it impossible for them to be crushed by any nation, at a blow.

To-day, our country has attained such a standard that we have often been asked to render assistance to other countries in Africa and it is commendable to hear that we have rendered such assistance when required. But it is not good that if we are called upon to render military assistance to other countries, we then resort to borrowing arms and ammunition before we can render such help. Therefore it is necessary that we should establish this Defence Industries Corporation. The people of this country will not be happy to continue depending on other countries for the purchase

of arms and ammunition. We should actually have a full grip in our nation. We should also be able to guard our frontiers effectively.

In establishing these Industries, I have one or two suggestions to make. During the course of the Minister's speech, he mentioned that the Defence Industries will be established in Kaduna. I am not going to argue with the Minister. Similarly, I do not care about where it is sited, but I would like to say that where this Defence Industries will be sited, should not be publicly made known. During the Second World war, as Members will remember, defence industries of certain countries were the first targets aimed at by enemy countries. Therefore if we make the siting of our defence industries known to public, our enemies will know where to concentrate their attacks. The best thing is to keep it secret. I appeal to the Minister to see to it that the location of our defence industries is kept secret.

The second point is that the people who will be entrusted with the manning of this Corporation should be people who can really be trusted by the nation as a whole. We should not allow any type of person to be there, even the labourers should be sincere labourers. We want those people the nation can count upon as sincere.

I beg to support.

**Mr D. M. Gbolagunte (Ibarapa):** This Bill is a welcome one especially at this time of our independence. We need to manufacture our own arms and ammunition for our defence. But it should not stop there. We should also manufacture arms and ammunition for export to other countries. A few months ago, the Prime Minister of South Africa boasted that he had sufficient arms and ammunition to face the whole independent African countries. The South African Prime Minister knew very well that African countries were dependent upon other European countries for the purchase of arms and ammunition.

Hon. Members will see that to-day, the NATO countries supply the Portuguese with sufficient arms and ammunition thus making it difficult for Angolan nationalists to defeat the expatriates dominating them. We shall be free in Nigeria, once we begin to manufacture our own arms and ammunition.



[MR GBOLAGUNTE]

I feel that defence industries should not be centred only in one place because we are not sure when a neighbouring country will attack us. We have mentioned now that the defence industries will be sited in Kaduna. If it is possible, we should change the decision to site it there, because we have made it publicly known. I would suggest that if we site one in Kaduna, we should as well site one in the Western Region or in the Eastern Region, so that if the Kaduna one is attacked, those in the Western and Eastern Regions will protect us. It is not good to concentrate it in one place.

It is also good to hear that the Army will manufacture many other goods apart from war materials. The Minister mentioned the manufacture of small motors, *et cetera*. In America and England, we find that it is the Army that carry out space researches. Hon. Members would like to know that it was the Army that developed what is called "jet". It is also the Army that is now sending people to the moon. Our own Army should be revolutionised so that it can produce great scientists. At this point, I would suggest that more science graduates should be recruited into the Army in order that scientific research in the Army will be first class.

I feel that the power given to the Minister of Defence in this Bill is too much. The Minister has the power to veto any decision taken by the Corporation. The Corporation is not like any other Corporation because its decisions are supposed to be secret, but still the Minister has the power to veto its decision.

In one section of this Bill—Clause 2 (ii)—it is said—

*"No policy initiated by the Corporation shall be implemented without prior reference to and approval by the Minister and the Minister may, if he thinks it necessary, consult with the Corporation before approving any policy; but the question whether there was any such consultation or what was decided shall not be inquired into by any court"*.

This means that it is one man's decision, so that the Corporation becomes an ordinary agent and it is the Minister that does everything. I think that power is too much. The Corporation should be advisory to the Minister. The Minister should at least make concessions

because we are not quite sure if the Minister cannot just override the decision of the Corporation at any time.

I feel that the people of this country would like to have what is called "Compulsory Service". I would like to know who would use these arms when they are made. As it is I cannot shoot a bird and yet I have had a shot-gun since a long time ago. I hardly find a game to shoot.

**Some hon. Members :** What about people ?

**Mr Gbolagunte :** I do not use my gun to shoot people. We should be trained to use arms. Secondary School leavers should be enlisted into the National Service at least for one year, so that our boys will be able to acquaint themselves with the use of arms and ammunition. At the end, we shall find that the nation will be secure.

I am sure that with the exception of the Police and the Army, if we are conscripted to-day, none of us will be able to shoot even a lorry, as big as it is. We will miss it. Therefore, I suggest to the Minister to advise the Prime Minister to introduce compulsory national service in two or three years from now.

I beg to support.

**M. Albatan Yerima Balla** (Adamawa North West): This Bill is welcome because it is very important. When the Defence Industries Corporation of Nigeria starts to operate, it will manufacture ammunition to replace those of 1914 and 1939. With the establishment of this Corporation we shall be able to defend ourselves against any attack. We will now be manufacturing modern weapons to enable our Army maintain peace in Africa, but not to go to war with nuclear powers. For this reason, I welcome this Bill and my congratulation goes to the Minister, the Council of Ministers, and Members of Parliament.

Our Army is very small but very active. When the Defence Industries Corporation of Nigeria begins to function, it should manufacture not only guns but modern equipment for the Nigerian Air Force.

I give my wholehearted support to this Bill and I hope that the Minister will bring, in due course, a Bill for the manufacturing of aeroplanes.

**M. Muhammed Ningi** (Bauchi North West): If I were an ex-serviceman, perhaps I would have been called to speak on this Bill before the Member for Adamawa North West (*M. Albatan Yerima Balla*).

In supporting this Bill, I wish to suggest that experts should be invited to come and advise us on how to manufacture modern arms and ammunition. The factory should be in a secret place whereby no person will be allowed to visit the place. Wherever it is established, it should be kept under 'top secret' cover.

I beg to support.

**Chief E. O. Okunowo** (Ijebu Central): This is a progressive measure that I think it should be supported by all peace loving citizens of this country. The only thing that I would like to mention is that when the President was delivering his Speech he mentioned the need for increasing the number of our forces and, therefore, I should like to say that it is absolutely necessary to give serious consideration to the inducement of our boys to join the Army. Their conditions of service should be improved because there are thousands of our boys now roaming the streets without any employment. I am positively sure that if their conditions of service are so attractive, we shall be able to bring in more of our boys into the Army.

I support the Bill.

**Alhaji L. Daura** (Maska): I rise to support this Bill which is progressive and most welcome. This Bill seeks to put Nigeria in a position which will make it less dependent on other foreign powers.

When recruiting the staff for this Corporation I have this advice to give. The people to be employed should be so chosen that they constitute a team of people of unshaken loyalty and integrity. We want people who put the interest of Nigeria first and not those with double faces.

It is a pity that no mention has been made of the way the recruitment of staff will be made. The Bill does not indicate what sort of people are to be employed, the experts who will advise us and if so, on what terms. We have no experts who will advise the Corporation on the manufacturing of arms and ammunitions in this country. I would also like the Government to ensure that the arms that are

to be manufactured in this factory should be of the most up to date nature and not just old-fashioned ones.

The idea that the staff of this new factory are not to go on any type of strike is a very good one because if such people are to go on strike, God knows where the strike is going to take us. But at the same time, I would like the Government to be very fair and generous about the wages of such people since they have been barred from taking part in any kind of strike.

Since ammunition are going to be manufactured, there may be some explosives and as such, they will be dangerous to public safety. Therefore, the site of the factory should be so demarcated that it will be clear of any obstacle so that people may not rush into it. Adequate precaution should also be taken so as to guard the safety of the public. Workmen, if necessary to clear any doubt and ensure the security of the business, should be searched on leaving the premises.

I support.

**Mr V. A. Emenogha** (Onitsha North): Mr Speaker, I am very glad that you called me to speak on this Bill.

As the Bill is a very welcome one, everybody in this country will be satisfied to hear that this House has passed such a Bill. What remains is for us to make it really effective and useful considering what has been said in this House and outside this House.

I personally feel that there is not sufficient oneness in the country and therefore caution must be taken in appointing the members of this Corporation. We must ensure that the members do not come from one place. What should happen is to spread—

**Mr D. O. Enefola** (Igala South): On a point of order, since this is a Bill that provides for the security of this country, I suggest that the debate should be put to an end in as much as some Members are going to tell the country what we are going to do about our Army. As this Bill deals with our defence, I move, That the Question be now put.

*Question, That the Question be now put, put and negatived.*

**Mr Speaker**: May be we will allow one or two more speeches.

**Mr V. A. Emenogha** (Onitsha North): It is only for the security of the country and that of the people in all the corners of the country that I say much care should be taken in the selection of the members of the Corporation. They should be honest men. They should be God-fearing, and as I said, there should be checks and counter checks. If we just get people from one area, they may attempt some time to abuse the office, and if this particular institution goes wrong, the whole country might perish.

Some people have spoken at length about the spreading of the factories. It is really very important, and no politics should be brought into the question of siting these factories. From past history, we know during the last war how the Russians had to move their factories when they were hard pressed.

If we leave these factories in one place they could be destroyed with only one bomb. But if they are spread, our Air Force would have the time to defend them. So it is very, very important that we spread them.

Something has been said about the workers being unable to strike. These people will be made to suffer for the security of the country. If they are to make such sacrifices we must make sure that they are not treated in any way that may cause them much difficulty.

It may be necessary for the Government to relate their conditions of service to the conditions of service of some other establishments where workers are free to strike whenever they feel aggrieved. Those who are to work in this factory must be assured that their conditions of service would not be less favourable than those of their counterpart elsewhere.

I think without provisions made for their security, it is not fair to say that they cannot strike. This will amount to depriving them of their right. The nation must provide an alternative whereby they can make their hearts feel at rest.

I beg to support.

**Mr J. M. Damla** (Pankshin West): This is really a welcome Bill and in supporting it one would go out to suggest what one has in mind. May I suggest to the Government that the people who will be employed in this factory

must be paid very well; they must be paid good salaries so that they can do their work efficiently and loyally.

Our Government should not depend on the advice of one country alone. We should seek advice from everywhere. I also support the hon. Members who have suggested that the factory should be sited somewhere else because we know that there are other parts where we have more raw material for ammunition. The people who should be connected with this work should be people who are responsible, reliable and patient.

One hon. Member has said in the House that the powers given to the Ministers are too much. The Minister of Defence is a responsible person and we should have confidence in him. I am also appealing to the Government that nobody should be allowed to visit this factory. It should be a secret place and no visitors should be entertained there.

I beg to support.

**Mr S. O. Kolade** (Oyo South): With reference to this Corporation I think it is a very welcome Bill that has been placed in front of us. I will suggest however that the Government should work out some schemes by which some people will be specially trained in the manufacture of ammunition. It would be a nice thing if some people are sent overseas to acquire special skill. We do not want second-rate things to be produced here. We want first-class products which will ultimately enhance the prestige of Nigeria. That is why I suggest that Nigerians be sent overseas, including Russia, because we want the best.

We have to think about those nations of the world who are advanced in such things, so that when we send some of our people abroad for training we might be assured that what they will produce on their return, would be something worthy of the prestige and dignity of Nigeria.

The General Manager should be a responsible man. He should be trustworthy, faithful and someone upon whom we could rely. He should not be a *jeun jeun* man. He should not be somebody who will leak out secrets, or somebody who will ally himself with those who are planning to liquidate the Government. I think you know what I mean.

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Such a man should be able to keep secrets, and I think there should be heavy penalties inflicted on anyone who reveals official secret.

**An hon. Member:** The provision is already in the Bill.

**Mr Kolade:** I know such a provision is there but I am only emphasising it to the Minister.

It is said, in the Bill, that the workers will be well paid. If they are well paid, they will be good and faithful in their work. If they are governed by the Official Secrets Act and serious penalties are inflicted when offences are committed, these people will be very faithful.

It is a very welcome Bill and we support it wholeheartedly. We wish the Government good luck in this exercise and we hope that as time goes on we will see what the Federal Government has done and there will be progress all round.

I beg to support.

**Mr A. E. Effiong Spatts (Calabar):** I rise to support this Bill. The Government is taking the right step. But I will suggest that the manufacture of these things, arms, ammunitions, *et cetera*, must go along with steel manufacture. If that is not done, we might resort to getting some raw materials from elsewhere.

If this exercise is to succeed, we must rely on our own raw materials—and I think that Nigeria has got the right type of iron with which to establish a steel industry.

What I am saying is that we must not be dependent upon things coming from outside. Nobody knows what tomorrow might bring. It may be that there may be some obstacles in the way, or that certain troubles in the world might prevent the inflow of raw materials from outside. In view of this we must develop these things so as to make these materials come from Nigeria.

After ordering these materials, say from England, America or Russia, we should start at once to manufacture steel, so that we can depend solely on ourselves.

If we do this, we can be sure to progress satisfactorily. As an industrialist, I know what I am saying and I am definitely sure that nobody knows what the future of the world would be. Let us go on with the building of the Steel

Industry together. It might not be simultaneously, but let this Government know that it is absolutely necessary for us to maintain our army and bring about the production of those things that we need in Nigeria. We should have this twin-industry in Nigeria at once, and if we have it I think that we shall be able to go a long way more than the others.

With these few remarks, I beg to support.

**Mr Mbu:** Unfortunately, many hon. Members came in rather late and therefore they were not in a position to hear what I had to say by way of introducing this non-controversial Bill. I shall not reiterate everything that I said, but I would try to answer some of the points already made by Members.

I am happy that hon. Members on all sides have supported this very progressive Bill. As many Members have said, the nature of the subject before the House is one that does not allow much elaboration. I would like to say that the title of the Bill itself, is "Defence Industries Bill" and not "Defence Industry Bill".

It is envisaged that when the Government is in a position to diversify the industries connected with defence matters, or production of ammunition and other arms, the point as to the siting, dispersal and disposition would be very much uppermost in the mind of the Government.

We say this and for security reasons one would entirely agree with those Members who have made the point that it would not be in our best interest to have a cluster of industries centred in one place.

Another point has been made about the powers conferred upon the Minister of Defence in this Bill. I would not think that they are too numerous. As I said earlier on, this is a rather unusual Bill, and it is necessary that the powers of the Minister should not be questioned. If it were like any other corporation, the General Manager or other members could bring a lot of difficulties when a Minister decided to take action expeditiously. But in this respect, there should be no hindrance.

In any case it is customary that no Minister is strictly bound by the advice of any Corporation. The Corporation could offer advice but the Minister need not be bound by such advice

[MR MBU]

Points have also been made about the need for the introduction of the National Service and improvement of service conditions in our armed forces. I am glad to say that if the response which we get for recruitment into the armed forces is in any index for satisfaction and attraction, then I would say that our service conditions are second to none.

We have indeed very many young men clamouring to enter into the armed forces. I am happy to say that we cannot and we are not yet in a position to cope with all the demands.

It has also been suggested that in recruiting or in selecting members of this corporation, we must make sure that men of impeccable character and loyalty alone are recruited. This is, of course, envisaged in the Schedule to the Bill.

A glance at the Schedule to the Bill shows exactly the type and the calibre of officers that we have in mind and who alone can serve in this corporation.

It will be under the Chairmanship of the Permanent Secretary himself, whose loyalty and character is not in doubt, while there are other Members, one representing the Police, one representing the Army, and one representing the Navy. There are also representatives of the Ministry of Commerce, the Accountant-General Department, the Ministry of Finance in addition to the General Manager, who we all know, must be somebody we really trust.

All these members are subject under the Official Secret Act so that their actions can at all times be checked. Reference has also been made to training. We plan to have a first-class equipment when this industry comes into production and in anticipation of this, we have already sent abroad young men to receive the necessary training. They will come back not only with theoretical knowledge but with the practical knowledge, having trained and had the benefit of trying their skills which they have acquired abroad.

I have no doubt at all that the points made by Members have been well taken and duly noted. Thank you.

*Question put and agreed to.*

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

DEFENCE INDUSTRIES CORPORATION OF  
NIGERIA BILL

CONSIDERED IN COMMITTEE

Clause 1—(DEFENCE INDUSTRIES CORPORATION OF NIGERIA).

**Dr P. U. Okeke** (Onitsha North Central) : I just want to make a very small point, that is, on Item 15 (a) where it says, and with your permission I quote—

*(a) The operation, maintenance and control in such place or places in Nigeria as the Minister may require, or factories (in this Act referred to as 'ordnance factories') for the manufacture, storage and disposal of ordnance and ancillary stores and material intended for or capable of being used by the armed forces and such other forces or persons as the Council of Ministers may authorise, and vested in the corporation under subsection (1) of this section or hereafter erected on land the location of which is approved by the Minister."*

In the interest of security, we should not put all our eggs in the same basket because we must provide for secrecy. I will suggest that where we are going to store these arms must not be known.

**The Chairman** : The Member for Onitsha North Central (*Dr Okeke*) is repeating what so many Members have said.

**Dr Okeke** : I abide by your ruling ; I came late and did not know that that point had been made.

Instead of importing fire arms from overseas, we must manufacture our own arms.

Clause 1—*ordered to stand part of the Bill.*

Clause 2—(CORPORATION TO ACT UNDER DIRECTIONS OF MINISTER).

**Mr R. N. Muojeke** (Awka Central) : The point I want to make relates to section 2 (2). In spite of the explanation given by the Minister of Defence, this section provides that :

*No policy initiated by the corporation shall be implemented without prior reference to and approval by the Minister, and the Minister may, if he thinks it necessary, consult with the corporation before approving any policy ; but*

*the question whether there was any such consultation or what was decided shall not be inquired into by any court.*

As I have said, in spite of the explanations of the Minister of Defence, to give excessive powers to the Minister is not quite desirable in the kind of society in which we live. I know that one of the cardinal principles of the administration of justice is that any aggrieved person must not be disallowed from having any recourse to the courts; and now we find that members of the Corporation ought to be experts and if they are experts and if they win the confidence of the Minister, the Minister ought to abide by what expert advice they give him.

What is more, I know that the present leaders of the country—the President, the Prime Minister and the Minister of Justice—are people to be trusted, but what we are talking about is the future of the country if these offices happen to go to people of doubtful character.

In times of war, for example, he has the power within himself to hold the country to ransom. If the corporation gives advice, say in the course of the defence of the nation as to the policy to be adopted, the secretary can refuse and say that he does not care whether or not the country is defeated by the enemy. If the members thought that this course of action was a wise policy, then the secretary could not be taken to the court.

I think that Nigeria is a very big country and something like the Ordnance Factory is so vitally important for the welfare of the nation that anybody who is aggrieved under this section, whether or not he is a member of the staff or the corporation itself, should be allowed to have a redress in the law courts.

I beg to support.

*Clause 2—(CORPORATION TO ACT UNDER DIRECTIONS OF MINISTER—ordered to stand part of the Bill.*

*Clause 3—(APPOINTMENT AND POWERS OF GENERAL MANAGER)*

**Mr F. I. Okoronkwo** (Aba Urban): I have a few remarks to make and the first one is about the appointment of the General Manager.

I want to suggest that any Nigerian who will be General Manager should be an expert in military affairs, one who has passed through the Military Academy, because if he is to give any

expert advice the advice must be such that would lead the nation to produce conventional weapons which we need for the defence of the country.

In appointing a man like that, I am of the opinion that the Government should make it a policy that he is not of doubtful character. We do not want people who can afford to sell their mothers for money. I think this should be avoided.

*Clause 3—ordered to stand part of the Bill.*

*Clause 4—(STAFF).*

**Mr E. A. Mordi** (Asaba East): I would like to draw the attention of the House to section 3, which says:

*The general manager and other members of the staff of the corporation shall, unless exempted by the Minister, take such oaths as to secrecy and other matters as the Minister may from time to time direct.*

It is my wish that the word "exempted" should be deleted. There is no need for any exemption. The question of arms is so vital to the country that it requires extreme secrecy and therefore everybody who is connected with it, especially the General Manager and his staff should be made to take oath and a serious one for that matter.

As a matter of fact I would suggest that it should not be the type of oath taken in courts where people go and kiss the Bible or the Quoran and then go on to tell plenty of lies.

Apart from that there should be no exemption. Everybody who is a member ought to be asked to take an oath. I want to say, further, that where somebody is known to have divulged a secret, a serious penalty should be given. I am not thinking of the type of penalty given to people who are found guilty of divulging official secrets. In most cases they are imprisoned for two or three months or fined fifty pounds. That is not enough. If anybody is discovered to have divulged official secrets, he should be given the death penalty.

**Mr M. B. Afanideh** (Ikot Ekpene South): I want to suggest that before anybody is appointed he should be made to take an oath.

The people who are to work there should also be sent overseas for training so that when they manufacture these weapons they manufacture the best.

I beg to support.

**Mr A. F. Odulana** (Ijebu South): In dealing with Clause 4, I want to sound a note of warning to the Minister. With all the powers given to him under this Bill, when he wants to appoint the staff, especially the secretary who will no doubt be a big man in the corporation, one or two things should be taken into consideration.

The first thing is that as this is a new corporation there is no doubt that the foundation should be well laid. To-day in this country, we can see and hear, that there are some people who claim to possess qualifications which in actual fact they do not possess.

I have seen in this country people who put the initials B.Sc. after their names. I do not know if they got the degree in their rooms. These people have never attended any universities or colleges and they have not taken any correspondence courses.

I say categorically that these people have not got these qualifications and government does not scrutinise their papers. I think it is the Minister of Establishment who is the right person to check these papers. I want to say that the papers of these people who are going to be employed should be properly scrutinised. We do not want people to call themselves "Fellow of this and that". As a matter of fact, I know of three people who under the guise of having some degrees have got jobs in this country. When this class of people get appointed, the first thing they do is to remove their applications from their files so that nobody will be able to trace their qualifications. When you cannot trace the applications on which people claim to have got these degrees and on which basis their appointments are determined, what can you do to bring them to justice? You have no evidence and therefore you have no case. I think it is necessary to remind the Minister of Defence, who has powers over this Corporation, and also the Minister of Establishments, that these things must be taken into consideration. I do not mind experience. But where a man puts it on paper that he has passed B.Sc., LL.B. or LL.D when he has actually not passed the degree and he has been employed on the strength of that qualification, I think it is very bad. That is what I want to tell the Minister to be careful about.

*Clause 4—ordered to stand part of the Bill.*

*Clause 5—(OPERATION OF ORDNANCE FACTORIES)*

**Mr F. A. M. Amadi** (Nsukka Central): I very much like to get quite clear whether in point of fact it is the intention of the Government to enter into a commercial proposition. I appreciate that the title of this Bill is "Defence Industries Corporation of Nigeria Bill", but from this Clause 5 it appears to me that the Government is going a little bit beyond what we are all thinking about. We are all thinking of an ordnance factory for the manufacture of arms for the use of our armed forces—the Army, the Navy and the Air Force. But Clause 5 subsection (2) suggests that ordnance factories may manufacture arms for sale to the public, and furthermore, in the next section it suggests that money is expected to be coming in from this Corporation. It should therefore be quite clear if the Government intends to go into a commercial proposition. Otherwise, I do not understand why the Government should provide for the sale to civilians of things manufactured in the factories and the money so obtained paid into the pocket of the Corporation; and yet we say that we are building a factory for the manufacture of arms to be used by our armed forces. The Government should make it quite clear so that we know what Bill we are passing.

**Mr F. C. Ogbalu** (Awka North): I have something to say in connection with the sale of fire arms.

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Commerce and Industry** (Alhaji Usman Angulu Ahmed): The hon. Member is not speaking from his seat.

**The Chairman**: He has been allocated a new seat. He is one of the Chief Whips of the N.C.N.C. That is not a serious thing. I have been advised by his Party's Chief Whip (*Alhaji Aminu Kano*) that he should be removed from his former seat to this new one. So I think it is all right.

**Mr Ogbalu**: The point I wish to make is that factories have certain capacities for production, in which case if production of the arms factory is limited to production of arms which are to be used in this country alone, then it may be that the factories may be working under capacity. So from economic point of view,

I wholeheartedly support the idea of making the factories somewhat capable of alternative uses, that is, capable of providing for civilians as well as for our armed forces. In this way when we have already attained a certain capacity from the point of view of the needs of the nation, then the factories can produce for civilians' use. Otherwise, to produce under capacity would certainly involve economic loss.

Secondly, there is a provision for testing and inspection of the arms when the factories shall have been established. But there is no provision for compensation which ought to be given to those who might suffer some loss or losses if there happens to be explosions or some other damages. It is true that the Workmen's Compensation Ordinance provides for some compensation for workers. But it may happen that some other people who are not connected with the factories might be affected by an explosion. Explosions can cover quite large areas apart from the premises of the factories, and so I think that this Bill ought to have provided for some compensation both for workers and for those who are in no way connected with the factories.

With these few remarks, I beg to support.

**Minister of State** (Mr M. T. Mbu): The last speaker made one or two very good points, but he has also tried to leave the impression to the House that the members of the staff of this Corporation might not be protected by law. That is not so. They are entitled to the same protection as workers and other members of the staff of other corporations. Provisions for their protection are made under the Factories Ordinance.

*Clause 5—ordered to stand part of the Bill.*

*Clauses 6-10—ordered to stand part of the Bill.*

*Clause 11 (TAKING PART IN ANY STRIKE AN OFFENCE.*

**Mr S. O. Kolade** (Oyo South): It is a good thing that it is put in the Bill that there should not be any strike. We agree, but will the Minister please explain how these people can get some form of redress. It is true that they may be paid fabulous salary, but they may not be satisfied with the way the members of the Corporation handle their affairs. You also know how some members of some Corporations behave to the workers in the Corporation. They

may become so dissatisfied as to want to go on strike. But the regulation is here stated that they should not go on strike. Money is one thing, contentment and peace is another. When one works well and is well treated, the joy of the work is more than the money received from the work. May I know from the Minister whether there are safeguards somehow by which the grievances of these workers can be heard and whether the workers could have some redress, otherwise I do not think that it is right to force them not to go on strike whereas they have no means of redress.

**Mr Mbu**: We go by precedent in this sort of arrangement, and we do not know of other existing precedents in any country where workers under such arrangements which we are trying to carry out under this Bill are given the right to go on strike. The nature of this ordinance precludes strikes, but that does not mean that the Minister responsible will not find other remedies. The same conditions are applicable to members of the armed forces. There are remedies. They can always petition the Minister and he will look into their cases.

**Mr Kolade**: The Minister has expressed that the conditions of service applicable to the army are exactly those applicable to workers in a factory like this. But some times we have revolts and mutinies in the army when they are not satisfied. I think this Bill is not very clear. Something should be done. There should be a committee or some body that will be responsible for hearing their complaints. If this is not done and we just leave them like that, they may be annoyed and then we may discover that we are not allowing them their fundamental human rights through which they could express their feelings. I think there should be a committee or some other organisation that will look into the grievances of these workers, otherwise they might revolt.

**Mr Mbu**: I think the hon. Member is not trying to anticipate the functions of the Corporation. It is up to the members of the Corporation to look into individual complaints. But if there should be such complaints to which the members could not find remedy, they can always appeal to the Minister to look into their case. So they are not without avenues for complaints.



**Mr D. C. Ahamefula** (Okigwi South West) : With due respect to whatever explanations the Minister must have given, I feel that it is extremely high-handed on the part of the Government. We say that this is a Corporation. In other words it is not strictly a Government concern but also a commercial body. Moreover, may be as time goes on we may not get some of the experts we want within the Government service and we may go out to look for these experts. Supposing, after some time, we have a houseful of civil servants who are helping us because of their experience, and after having demanded their rights for some time the Government fails to satisfy them, could they not go on strike in order to show that their demands have not been satisfied ?

**Mr P. D. Ukah** (Owerri North East) : I disagree entirely with the last speaker. No nation can joke with its security. This is a corporation, but it is a defence corporation. It is not an ordinary corporation and, therefore, to make any provision which will make it possible for workers in such a corporation to go on strike is to open the door of trouble for the nation.

*Clause 11—(TAKING PART IN ANY STRIKE AN OFFENCE)—ordered to stand part of the Bill.*

*Clause 12—(REGULATIONS)—ordered to stand part of the Bill.*

*Clause 13—(INTERPRETATION).*

**Mr D. M. Gbolagunte** (Ibarapa) : The designation "armed forces" here means the Army, the Navy and the Air Force of Nigeria, and we have no provision for representation of the Police. I have the feeling that the Police Force is in the armed forces too because, now, our policemen are armed in doing their duties. I think they should be included in this designation as members of the armed forces.

*Clause 13—ordered to stand part of the Bill.*

*Clause 14—(SHORT TITLE, APPLICATION AND COMMENCEMENT)—ordered to stand part of the Bill.*

*Schedule—(CONSTITUTION, ETC., OF THE CORPORATION).*

**Mr I. O. Chikelu** (Udi Central) : I have gone through the list of people to be recommended to serve as members of the Council, and it occurs to me that most of them will be civil servants. I think that to satisfy the needs of the nation, Premiers of the Regions should have representations.

**Several hon. Members : No.**

**Mr Chikelu** : Mr Chairman, I am entitled to my opinion. It is expected that the security of the nation should be uppermost in the minds of those who are our leaders. We cannot expect that a Premier at a time like this will begin to tamper with our welfare. So the suggestion that they should have representations does not mean calling for trouble. In any case, I have only put this idea to the Minister and it is for the Council of Ministers to accept or reject it.

I support the Bill.

**Mr E. A. Mordi** (Asaba East) : It appears really that every member of the Corporation is going to be a civil servant. I have no quarrel about that, but I only want to say this that from the nature of things at the moment—the general position of the whole country—I would suggest that the Minister should bear in mind that when these civil servants are being appointed, some from the Ministry of Commerce and Industry and others from the Army or the Navy Board and the Air Council, care should be taken to see that the different parts of the Federation are represented. I think it will be a very dangerous thing if we find that all the members of the Board come from one Region or from one area.

I say this because, for the purposes of illustration, if we have the Chairman of the Corporation as an Easterner, the Secretary an Easterner, the Assistant Secretary an Easterner and everybody is from the East, it will not be very good.

**Several hon. Members : One Nigeria !**

**Mr Mordi** : Similarly, if we have all these people as Westerners or Northerners, it will be very dangerous. I want to say this because—

**Mr A. F. Odulana** (Ijebu South) : On a point of order, if the suggestion by my hon. Friend the Member for Asaba East (*Mr Mordi*)

is accepted, that the Chairman and General Manager should be Westerners, it will be a good change from the Railway Corporation where we have the Chairman, the General Manager, *et cetera*, from the East.

**Mr Mordi :** I am very sorry that it is a person like the Member for Ijebu South (*Mr Odulana*) who has made this remark because I know that the Lagos University Teaching Hospital is filled with people from Yoruba West.

**Mr Chairman :** Order. I do not think that this is a contribution to the Schedule.

*Schedule—(CONSTITUTION, ETC., OF THE CORPORATION)—ordered to stand part of the Bill.*

(Mr Speaker resumed the Chair)

*Bill reported, without Amendment.*

*Motion made and Question proposed, That the Bill be now read the Third time—(MINISTER OF STATE, MR M. T. MBU).*

**M. Ibrahim Gusau** (Sokoto West Central) : In supporting the Third Reading of this Bill, I should only like to add that it is proper at this juncture to express our gratitude to Western Germany. Those people who have the interest of this nation at heart will understand that Western Germany has not only contributed towards the establishment of this factory in this country, but has also contributed to the progress of the country in many other fields.

I do not need to repeat what others have said, but may I say that matters of this nature should not at times, when brought to the Floor of this House, disclose our strategic points—places where military—

**Mr A. O. Ogunsanya** (Ikeja) : But we are entitled to know.

**M. Ibrahim Gusau** : Even though we are entitled to know, I think security should come first. Once we disclose where such factories will be established in this country, we should remember that we are not the only people to know this. So, I appeal to the Government that in future they should have confidence in themselves and should not disclose on the Floor of this House matters pertaining to security.

I should like also to say that while passing this Bill into law, we should not forget that the only reason why we like it is because we would like to make Nigeria fairly self-secured. Yet, one should not forget that arms and ammunition are still being manufactured in this country. What efforts do we make to see that illegal manufacture of arms is stopped? There is no use to have an arms and ammunition factory established by the Government of the Federation and in certain sections of the country similar things are being manufactured illegally.

**Mr Ogunsanya** : Where is that ?

**M. Ibrahim Gusau** : In Eastern Nigeria. I do not want to bring politics into this matter. What I mean is that there are armed robbers in the East who have been using weapons which are dangerous to this country.

**Mr R. N. Muojeke** (Awka Central) : On a point of order, I think it is wrong to say that there are armed robbers in the East. If there are armed robbers at all, they are all over the whole country, especially in the North.

**Several hon. Members** : No !

**Mallam Ibrahim Gusau** : Seriously, I do not want to mention Eastern Nigeria because if I do so people may think that I do it for political reasons. But, honestly, it is a matter which should be looked into. Actually, everybody in this House knows that armed robbers who have not been controlled by our security officers come mainly from the Eastern Region, and everybody in this House is quite aware that those robbers have arms and ammunition similar to the ones we are now going to have. Many Members on the Floor of this House bring complaints of armed robbery by highway marauders from Eastern Nigeria. So, in supporting this Bill, I would say as well that measures should be taken to see that illegally made arms and ammunition in Eastern Nigeria are stopped.

**Mr O. C. Ememe** (Aba South) : I only wish to bring out one point in this matter and that is that we should borrow a leaf from India. Despite our leanings towards the West, the Indian Government have found it very necessary to ask for military aid from the Soviet Union. This is very important because the

[MR EMEME]

Soviet Union happens to be the foremost nation in the arms race. It is very unwise for our Government to neglect this aspect of our defence matter and try to invite only, maybe, the British whose weapons are now archaic, and send our boys to Sandhurst to learn the same old thing.

We should adopt a definite non-alignment policy in this matter of buying weapons or getting experts from overseas. We should not be biased against countries because they happen to have social ideologies which differ from ours. We should really have foremost in our mind, the defence of this nation, and we should have the best, and the best, of course, will come from the socialist countries.

Thank you, Mr Speaker.

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Bill read the Third time and passed.*

#### ADJOURNMENT

*Motion made and Question proposed, That this House do now adjourn—(MINISTER OF STATE, MR M. T. MBU).*

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Resolved. That this House do now adjourn.*

*Adjourned accordingly at twenty-two minutes past four o'clock.*

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

Friday, 20th March, 1964

The House met at 9 a.m.

PRAYERS

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

REPORT FROM THE BUSINESS  
COMMITTEE

Private Members' Motions

**Mr Speaker** : I have to inform the House that Alhaji Mohammadu Gauyama reports from the Business Committee that in accordance with Standing Order 55 (1)-(c) they have decided that the following Private Members' Motions be placed on the *Order Paper* for Tuesday, 24th March as follows :—

- (1) International Trade, No. 10 in the Order Book ;
- (2) Education to be a Federal subject, No. 37 in Order Book ;
- (3) National Transport Board, No. 80 in the Order Book ;
- (4) Parliamentary Privileges, No. 51 in the Order Book ;
- (5) Six-Year Development Plan, No. 6 in the Order Book ;
- (6) Customs and Excise Control in Sarau in Sardauna Province, No. 16 in the Order Book.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION  
(1963-64) (No. 2) BILL

*Order for Second Reading read.*

**The Minister of Finance** (Chief F. S. Okotie-Eboh) : I have it in command from His Excellency, the President, to move—

That a Bill entitled an Act to authorise the issue out of the consolidated revenue fund of the sum of two hundred and thirty thousand, six hundred pounds for the purpose of replacing advances from the contingencies fund for the year ending on the thirty-first day of March, one thousand, nine hundred and sixty-four ; and to appropriate that sum for the purposes specified in this Act, be now read a Second time.

Since the last meeting of Parliament in January, expenditure has been authorised by

me from the Contingencies Fund for two urgent and inescapable items, namely reimbursement to Universities for carrying on non-university courses taken over by them from the Nigerian College of Arts, Science and Technology and repairs to the piers of the Carter Bridge recently damaged by a barge.

It was Government's intention that these non-degree courses should be run by the Regional Universities until all the students already pursuing the courses have completed their training. £215,600 was, therefore, urgently required by the National Universities Commission to reimburse the Regional Universities for the running of the courses. The other payment of £15,000 out of the Contingencies Fund was in respect of repairs to the main bearing of one of the supports of the spans of the Carter Bridge which was damaged and moved out of position by a barge. The repairs to the Carter Bridge could, in no way, be postponed especially as the Bridge is the only link between the Island of Lagos and the rest of the Federation. There is no doubt that this expenditure was urgent and inescapable and, therefore, could not be postponed.

The Finance (Control and Management) Act requires that I report these releases from the Contingencies Fund to Parliament and to seek Parliamentary approval to reimburse the fund from the Consolidated Revenue Fund.

I beg to move.

**The Minister of Establishments** (Alhaji Shehu Shagari) : I beg to second.

**Mr Speaker** : The debate on the Bill stands adjourned until the next sitting day.

LAGOS EXECUTIVE DEVELOPMENT  
BOARD (POWERS) BILL

*Order for the Second Reading read.*

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

That a Bill for an Act to extend the powers of the Lagos Executive Development Board, and for connected purposes be now read a Second time.

Under the Lagos Town Planning Act, the Lagos Executive Development Board is empowered to undertake operations which are

[ALHAJI YAR'ADUA]

covered by schemes made under the authority of the Act. Occasionally, however, it undertakes the execution of projects not covered by schemes under the Act, at the request and on behalf of the Federal Government. A few of such projects are South-East Ikoyi Development and Victoria Island Reclamation and Site Development. The propriety of such undertakings has been questioned and the Board's authority to undertake them has been challenged in the Law Courts which results in delaying payment of compensation and the hardship to some of the claimants is considerable.

As the law now stands, there is no power in the Board to undertake such works other than those relating to town planning schemes which the Minister of Lagos Affairs may direct. If, however, the Board is to operate outside these schemes it is necessary to amend the Act to confer on the Minister of Lagos Affairs powers to authorise the Board to undertake such projects as may from time to time be deemed necessary.

This Bill, therefore, provides a means of extending the powers of the Lagos Executive Development Board so as to enable it to undertake these projects as an agent of the Federal Government.

I beg to move.

**The Minister of Finance** (Chief F. S. Okotie-Eboh): I beg to second.

*Question put and agreed to.*

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

LAGOS EXECUTIVE DEVELOPMENT BOARD  
(POWERS) BILL :

CONSIDERED IN COMMITTEE

*Clause 1—ordered to stand part of the Bill.*

*Clause 2—(SHORT TITLE AND EXTENT).*

**Mr L. J. Dosunmu** (Lagos Central): Under this clause, the Board—(*Interruptions*).

**The Chairman**: Order! I do not like "aye" before the Question.

**Mr Dosunmu**: I can ignore the growling Members. As I said, under this clause, the Board will act as an agent of the Federal Government in the execution of some of its

projects and this power is to have a retrospective effect. Under this law, one of the schemes that will be undertaken by the Federal Government is the approach to the second bridge.

In the execution of this project, the L.E.D.B. will be acting as an agent of the Federal Government. It is relevant, therefore, that on the Floor of this House I should air the views of those who will be directly affected by the execution of the scheme. In this connection, I would like to urge the Federal Government to be generous in their dealings with those people who will be affected. Those people who will be affected are the indigenous people who have been resident there for many years back. One would expect that in carrying out with this scheme little hardship would be inflicted on the people concerned.

I am pleading with the Government to do something now although it ought to have occurred to the Government many years back that alternative accommodation ought to have been provided for the people to be affected by the scheme. Government did not do anything for a long time and now that it seems they are going to start on the work soon one can enter a plea with the Government that they should provide the people with adequate and reasonable alternative accommodation in Lagos or its suburbs.

Secondly, in the matter of compensation to be awarded to those whose houses will be demolished as a result of this second bridge one would expect the Government also to pay fair and adequate compensation. I would expect the Government to treat them as Government treated those who were affected by the slum clearance scheme because they almost fall into the same category. After all, it is not their own making that Government has chosen this site as the approach to the second bridge, and it will be very hard on them if they have to bear the brunt alone.

The two pleas I am making on their behalf are, one, that they should be provided with alternative accommodation in a suitable place in Lagos (Government cannot complain that there is no adequate site to accommodate these people because there are vast areas of land at the Victoria Island where they can be moved to). Also, the number of the people affected is about six thousand and this is not unreasonably

large. Even if Government provide accommodation for them in Surulere they will have no objection. My second plea is that Government should pay adequate compensation for the houses broken so that the owners can build their own houses and settle themselves comfortably.

*Clause 2—(SHORT TITLE AND EXTENT)—ordered to stand part of the Bill.*

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

REMOVAL OF VEHICLES, ETC. (LAGOS) BILL

*Order for Second Reading read.*

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

That a Bill for an Act to provide for the removal and disposal of vehicles left on highways ; for the arrest without warrant of persons in charge of vehicles appearing to be used unlawfully as hackney or stage carriages ; and for purposes connected with the matters aforesaid, be now read a Second time.

In presenting this Bill to the House I wish to explain that the intention is to make fresh provisions in respect of measures to deal with the flow of traffic in Lagos, a matter that is becoming more and more complex each day as more vehicles are put on the road. It is common knowledge that traffic is brought to a halt far too frequently by the selfish acts of motorists leaving their vehicles in positions which prevent the free flow of traffic.

Up to the present, this problem has been tackled by bye-laws of the Lagos City Council under its permissive power. By this Bill, fresh provisions will be made by which motor vehicles left on the highways in Lagos in breach of parking regulations can be removed and taken to vehicle parks which the Lagos City Council will be required to maintain.

By means of this Bill, I also intend to deal with another problem, namely, those vehicles unlawfully operating as taxis in the Federal Territory. I have in the past received a number of delegations and petitions from the Federal Taxi Drivers' Union on the matter and have given considerable thought to a way of dealing effectively with the problem. This Bill provides for the arrest of persons acting as drivers of motor vehicles or the drivers' assistants in such circumstances as a police

officer reasonably believes that the motor vehicle is being used in contravention of any enactment relating to the use of taxis. I believe that with the judicious use of this power the problem can be effectively dealt with.

When this Bill becomes law, I intend to ask the Lagos City Council to give it wide publicity so that the car owners and taxi drivers will not complain of lack of publicity.

I beg to move.

**Minister of State** (Mr M. A. O. Olarewaju) : I beg to second.

**Mr L. J. Dosunmu** (Lagos Central) : Broadly one would not quarrel with the provisions of this Bill. My observations will mainly be directed to the application of the provisions of the Bill itself. Let me make one point clear. I do not think that it is the intention of this Bill to turn the Lagos City Council into the Motor Transport Division of the Police. The distinction must be clearly drawn.

The Minister has to drive it home to the L.C.C. that it is not the Motor Traffic Division of the Nigeria Police. If anybody commits an offence contrary to the provisions of the Traffic Law, it is for the M.T.D. to arrest such a person. The duty of the L.C.C. under this law is only as to the removal of vehicles stationed on the roads. That has to be drummed into their ears because I know that in the application of this law the L.C.C. will take it as a right to be arresting anybody who parks a vehicle along the road. That is not their business. Once the owner of a vehicle is available, once the L.C.C. can see the driver of any vehicle, their duty is done. It is for them to ask the person to remove the car immediately.

But what happens is that even when they see the driver of a car, they ask him to go into the car and then tow it to the L.C.C. That is not the purport of this law.

If a person commits a traffic offence let the Nigeria Police deal with him. I am very glad the Minister has made it abundantly clear in the Bill that he does not intend to usurp the duties of the Police.

The second observation I would like to make is that it is unfortunate that the Minister at the moment cannot say how much will be charged for any vehicle removed. The law appears

[MR DOSUMU]

to be silent on that but the only consolation one has is that he does not intend to use this for the purpose of getting revenue for the L.C.C. because in one of the provisions it is stated that the total amount to be collected will just be exactly what amount they are going to spend. So it is not going to be a revenue earning project for the L.C.C. We would, therefore, want to know how much is going to be charged for a towed car, if it is going to be five pounds or two pounds. Perhaps the Minister may wish to give us an idea of what it will be.

I entirely agree with the provisions of the law in relation to the taxi drivers. True enough, those of us who are representing Lagos constituencies here have been approached by Lagos taxi drivers with complaints that people from other parts of the Federation are taking their jobs off their hands.

**An hon. Member :** They are those from the Western Region.

**Mr Dosumu :** It does not matter. It is one country, whether they are from the West or from the East. I do not care. Does the hon. Member want to bring taxi drivers from the East to ply Lagos roads ?

Subject to these observations, I entirely agree with intention of this Bill, and it is welcome on this side of the House.

I beg to support.

**Mr O. C. Ememe (Aba South) :** The point I want to express on this Bill is that it appears the Government has now seen the futility of narrow roads in this city. The idea of towing people's cars has only been made necessary because the streets and roads are very narrow. If the Government and the Council had the interest of the people at heart, they should definitely widen these roads and this would make it unnecessary for people's cars to be towed out of the road.

I know many countries and cities in the world where streets are wide enough to carry up to eight cars abreast. I do not see why

that should not be the case in Lagos. It is a shame that when people come to Lagos, it appears to be the worst place. Lagos appears to be a slum. The only reason is that there is no planning at all as far as the city is concerned. This is the capital city and for us to come here and see very narrow roads and people driving their cars almost through their kitchen is a shame indeed, and the Government should do something very strongly about it, not just keeping on towing people's cars when they park them. I feel that the Government should take a very strong action.

For instance let us look at the Western Avenue which is supposed to be a very wide street. We have, instead, a very narrow unfinished street. Only a part of it has been so far built and the other left to chance. We must have wide streets in this city because we have enough money for this and the Government should take all the necessary steps to ensure this.

**Mr J. D. Odebunmi (Egba North) :** It is realised that Lagos is becoming increasingly overpopulated and the number of vehicles increasing at a terrific rate. So this Bill is timely and very welcome. But due precautions should be taken.

In the first place, I think it is the duty of officials, to give some notes of warning to members of the public. For instance, if a stranger comes into this country or into the Federal Capital of Lagos and by mistake parks his car on the wrong side of the road, I think he should be warned to please take that car away. But if he refused bluntly to obey that is the only time that law should take effect on him, not just any time anybody wrongly parks his car somewhere he automatically has the law against him. This is very important and I think if the Minister in charge would please inform the officials responsible to give some warning and let people take their cars away, it will be much better.

I beg to support.

**Mr I. A. Brown (Uyo South West) :** I am quite sure the parking of cars along the streets in Lagos is not the only ill that affects the security of the people in Lagos. It is true

that the very important thing the Lagos City Council should do is to prevent traders from selling along the streets. If these people are cleared from the streets, the people would have more space for parking their cars without difficulties. I think it is very unfair to allow traders to occupy spaces which should be used by motorists for parking.

In England, the United States and in fact in all other countries, people do park their cars at the side of the road, but the only thing one cannot see in such countries is people selling along the streets and converting legitimate parking spaces into market places.

We shall not allow the Lagos City Council to keep on towing people's cars in the way they have been doing—it is not done in other countries—what we have to do is to prevent people from selling in the streets. That is the most dangerous thing and an unpleasant sight we do not want to see in the city of Lagos.

As others have said, it is always very good that before somebody's car is taken away, he should be contacted and asked to remove the car. It is where he refuses to abide by such regulations that his car may be taken away. But unfortunately this has not been the position. The normal thing nowadays is for one to come out and find one's car to have disappeared. The next thing is that the car is discovered in the L.C.C. premises. This should not be the case.

What we are asking the Minister of Lagos Affairs here is that the development of the streets of Lagos should be taken away from the hands of the Lagos City Council. Because of the fear of losing the confidence of the voters of Lagos they are not prepared to develop the City of Lagos. Rather than that, they want to keep on towing people's cars instead of clearing those market women from the streets.

**An hon. Member :** Alhaji Brown.

**Mr Brown :** I am not an Alhaji.

All I am saying is that towing of cars cannot cure the ills in Lagos traffic. But to prevent people from trading along the streets, I am sure, is the only way of keeping the streets clear.

I beg to support.

**Shettima Ali Monguno (Kaga Marghi) :** We are all aware of the road development and the expansion in Lagos, and we have no quarrels against this Bill. In our opinion—  
(Interruptions)

**Mr Speaker :** Order, will the hon. Member please speak louder.

**Mallam Ali Monguno :** I was saying that, this is a timely Bill in view of the fact that Lagos is growing very rapidly and I do not think that there is anything controversial in the Bill. As such we only wish to have our support recorded.

**Dr P. U. Okeke (Onitsha North) :** This is a non-contentious Bill but I want to make just one point. I do not know whether it is a law that no one should park anywhere in the streets of Lagos. I am saying this because there must be signs, "NO PARKING" signs, at places where people should not park, otherwise how can people know where they ought to park and where they ought not to park, unless in the whole of Lagos no one should park a car anywhere. If someone should park a car somewhere, then those places prohibited must bear signs "NO PARKING". I want to make that point very clear so that the Minister will take note and put signs where people should not park cars in order to warn them before they come there.

**Mallam Ibrahim Gusau (Sokoto West Central) :** In supporting this Bill, I should like to contribute to this debate in respect of measures which could prevent accidents on Lagos roads. Everybody knows that Lagos Territory is acutely limited and traffic is so heavy that plans should have to come forward to prevent unnecessary accidents. The roads in Lagos are good, yet, there is one thing which is lacking and that is, I think it is time for us to prohibit or to limit the importation of large or big saloon cars in the country. This is one of the remedies which should be considered.

In developed countries, one finds that the number of bigger saloon cars is not as much as you find in Lagos and I know that before Nigeria became independent, importation of big saloon cars could only be made with permits and licences. So, I think the Government



[MALLAM IBRAHIM GUSAU]

should consider the limitation of bigger saloon cars in this country.

I beg to support.

**Mr A. F. Odulana** (Ijebu South): I do not see anything wrong in this Bill but one thing I want to stress is that the officials of the Lagos City Council have no discretion of their own at all. There was a time when we read in the papers, and I have no doubt about it, that the car of the Chairman of the Lagos City Council was taken away. Although he denied it, we know he denied it for a purpose. The Minister for Lagos Affairs who is the head of that Department must realise that his own car will be taken by these policemen some day.

If the law is made, people who are going to put the law into practice must have a discretion. We talked of the Nigeria Police, Traffic Departments, that they are corrupt, they are doing this and doing that, the Lagos City Council Policemen are the type of officers who have no discretion. I want the Minister to rectify this so that if anybody parks his car at a place where it should not be parked, his driver could be asked to remove the car.

If you compare the city of Lagos with other cities in the world, like London, that has difficulty of parking to-day more than anywhere in the world, it is not like this. They do not just seize the car outside, but here the Officers of the Lagos City Council have no regard for their Chairman and I am sure they have no regard for the Minister. They will have no regard for the Prime Minister's car as time goes on. Therefore, I welcome this Bill but the Officers in charge must have discretion. They must not take this into their hands so as to get 2s or 3s.

**Rev. J. A. Akinyemi** (Ilesha Rural): Much as this Bill is welcomed, there are two things which probably lacking and about which the Bill is silent and which I should like to urge the Minister to transmit on to those people who will operate the provisions of this Bill.

The first is that there is no adequate provision for pedestrians on our roads in Lagos. Look at the important roads in Lagos, say, Nnamdi Azikiwe Street, Balogun Square, and so on. In London and in some other places, all the important roads have pavements where

the pedestrians are restricted. They do not come on the main traffic road. They have their own section of the road and nobody disputes that side with them. In Lagos, there is no such pavement. One only sees it on the Carter Bridge and the road between Iddo and Ebute Metta and part of Marina. It is very very important that on the major roads in the city of Lagos we should have this pedestrians' section of the road. That is the first thing.

The second thing is that before one can operate a law, one must see that adequate provisions are made in such a way as to make the operation easy and manageable for those who are to operate it. In this connection, I have in mind that adequate parking stations ought to be provided in certain quarters along the important roads in the city. As it is at the moment, look at the whole of Nnamdi Azikiwe Street, right from the Carter Bridge on to the Old Supreme Court, except where you find the taxis just parking anyhow very near the Old Supreme Court, no provision is made anywhere for car parking. There should be such a provision. The same thing is true of Balogun Square. These things are so important that there should be adequate parking stations provided. Therefore, I hope the Minister will please advise the Lagos City Council and, if necessary, subsidize the Lagos City Council, to enable it perform its functions along these points.

I beg to support.

**Mr I. S. Onwuchekwa** (Ahoada Central): I support this Bill. The congestion in Lagos City is increasing at an alarming rate everyday, hence there is every reason for the introduction of this Bill. But the question arises, has the Lagos City Council provided alternative parking space for cars? I foresee one difficulty when this law will be fully applied? Most people will be inconvenienced.

We all know what happens during the rush hours of the morning or in the evenings. Most car owners find it very difficult to get any parking space. So, what I would suggest is that there should be a bolder plan for Lagos. Government must see to it that Lagos is planned like other cities where you have a major road with some other roads and adjacent roads at the side. Such side ways will allow people to park their vehicles without any need for such a law as this.

Again, I understand that the Lagos City Council started to apply this law without adequate notice with the result that most people were taken unawares, so that when their vehicles were removed they never knew there was any law of that sort. Now that the law will be passed the best thing to do to bring it to the notice of everybody is to put up conspicuous notices showing "No parking" so that nobody will be taken unaware.

I beg to support the Motion

**Chief E. O. Okunowo** (Ijebu Central):  
Mr Speaker—(Interruptions).

**Mr A. O. Ogunsanya** (Ikeja): Mr Speaker, one of the Members of the Government entered the Chambers of the House, and I am saying with respect that it is unparliamentary for any side of the House, however great, to shout 'Ole' which means 'thief'.

**Several Members**: Ole! Ole!

**Mr Speaker**: Order, I think the extra humour is understandable because of to-day's occasion, and I can see that this joke has not offended the hon. Member and as such I shall not take it so seriously.

**Chief Okunowo**: I have actually gone through the Bill and I have seen the way that the L.C.C. officials are going to carry out their duties. I would say that it leaves very much to be desired. If there are any fears about this Bill it is about the way and manner the officials of the L.C.C. are going to execute this Bill.

Now for instance, I was passing through Broad Street on one occasion. There was no warning at all and the next thing that my driver told me was that my car was at the L.C.C. and that I had to pay five pounds to redeem it. It is a thing I have experienced in Europe. Myself and Dr Eni Njoku were taken out by the High Commissioner in London and our car was parked in a wrong place but the Police Officers there were not hostile, they spoke to us in a friendly manner. In fact it was a very polite manner and we got our car back without any difficulty. Now in our own country here we are the enemy of ourselves. I am asking the Minister of Lagos Affairs to ensure that the officers who are going to execute this law should do so without any prejudice or ill-feeling.

To me it seems that this Bill is another avenue for our people in the L.C.C. to make more money. Yes, it is another way for them to make more money according to what the Member for Ijebu South (*Mr Odulana*) has just said and particularly we know the class of people in the Lagos City Council. We know very well the way and manner they are going to do it. Once they know that you are their political opponent you are in trouble. They are going to chase you day and night. In order that this does not happen it should be ensured that this law is not going to be used to victimise anybody.

Another point is that the L.C.C. left undone what they ought to have done. They left the substance and they are chasing the shadow. Now if you go to a place like London and pass through Exeter Street, or Regent Street, no car is parked along the roads, but here we allow people to park their cars along the roads. If the L.C.C. will build car parks, I am sure congestion now on our roads will be reduced. If you want to go to Apapa it will take you two hours before you get there.

In supporting this Bill, Sir, I would like all these points to be taken into consideration.

**Mr S. A. Babatunde** (Ilorin Central): I rise to support this Bill. The only trouble is that if the L.C.C. is towing a vehicle, a stationary vehicle, if the owner of the car or the driver can be found within ten minutes, they should let him take away the car from that place. Now, you see the owner you also see the driver and you tow away the car. There is no point that we should legislate for the City Council on what or what not to do. The Council is composed of mature and experienced men and they know how much to take and how less.

The only thing is to examine the law, and see how it will be carried out because the idea behind it is not to harm the people but to find means of safety for road users. To my mind we should not look at it from a contrary view. I praise the people who think that this law is necessary, but it should not be so rigid as to take away the vehicle when the owner or the driver is available within ten minutes.

**Mr J. U. Udenyi** (Enyong North): In supporting this Bill, I may say that it is a dry one. It is going to cause a lot of inconvenience to the

[MR UDENYI]

public. How can it be that when one is travelling and stops at a place to transact a business before one comes out one's car has been towed away by the L.C.C.? How many hours would it constitute an offence for one not to remove one's car? Again, the best thing to do is to widen the streets and avoid inconveniences. The Government have got sufficient money. Why delay it? This Bill appears to me as stinking, although I am in support.

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

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

*Main Question put accordingly and agreed to.*

*Bill read a Second time and committed to a Committee of the Whole House.*

*Sitting suspended—9.50 a.m.*

*Parliament assembled : 10 a.m.*

VISIT OF THE PRIME MINISTER OF THE  
UNITED KINGDOM

(The President of the Senate in the Chair)

**The Sergeant-at-Arms** (*standing on the uppermost step*): The Rt. Hon. Sir Alec Douglas-Home.

**The President**: Is it the pleasure of Senators and Members of the House of Representatives that Sir Alec Douglas-Home, Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, be heard in this Chamber?

(*There was general assent*).

*Sir Alec Douglas-Home, Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, entered the Chamber, led by the Sergeant-At-Arms.*

**The President**: The Rt. Hon. Prime Minister, Mr Speaker, Senators and Members of the House of Representatives, our august visitor, the Rt. Hon. Sir Alec Douglas-Home is a man who hardly needs any introduction.

He was the fourteenth Earl of Home, a title which was created as far back as 1604. He was Private Secretary to the Prime Minister, 1937 to 1939; Joint Parliamentary Under-Secretary Foreign Office, 1945; Minister of State Scottish Office, 1951 to 1955; Secretary of State for Commonwealth Relations, 1955 to 1960; Leader of the House of Lords and Lord

President of the Council, 1957 to 1960; and he was the British Foreign Secretary before he was elevated to his present post.

We all remember particularly last October, in the life of this great man when, among so many contenders, he emerged victorious as Prime Minister of Great Britain. (*Applause*). The British House of Commons should be congratulated on making it possible for this eminent statesman to have an opportunity of serving his country in his present capacity.

Since he took over as the Prime Minister of Great Britain he has proved not only to the British electorate but also to the whole world that he is equal to the task. We in Africa look forward to a continuation of the policy of the wind of change, a policy which opened a new and distinct chapter in British colonial diplomacy. This policy, we hope, will be applied to the remaining British colonial territories in Africa. It is a policy of righteousness and justice, a policy which will stand the test of time

We all in this joint Assembly feel ourselves highly honoured that, barely six months after his appointment as Prime Minister, Sir Alec has not only found time, in spite of his onerous duties, to visit this Republic, but he has also accommodated in his programme an address to a joint sitting of the highest Legislature of the land.

It is, I think, most gratifying to us, in a world which is busy redressing the wrongs of privilege, to welcome among us Sir Alec Douglas-Home, who represents the genuine resolve of the enlightened nobility to protect freedom everywhere in the world.

We warmly welcome him to Nigeria and wish him a happy stay among our people. (*Applause*).

**Sir Alec Douglas-Home**: Mr President of the Senate, Mr Speaker, honourable Members of Parliament:

Perhaps the highest single honour that a man can have is to be elected by his fellow citizens and to represent them in the Councils of his own nation. I therefore count it a double privilege that as a Member of Parliament in the British House of Commons you allow me to come here to address the highest Council of the Nigerian people.

I have come to Nigeria, Mr President, as your guest because I feel the need of counsel with your Prime Minister and his colleagues at a moment which could be decisive in the history of the world, and I have come to you in the Nigerian Parliament to share with you, if I may, my pre-occupations about the state of the world, on the basis that a problem shared between friends shrinks to half its size. As one of our great poets once said :

A good friend redoubleth joys  
and cutteth griefs in halves.

Sir, I have come here in the middle of your Budget Session, hoping to get some hints for our own Budget. (*Applause*). It is a pleasure to come, and perhaps it is not inappropriate that on a day when Nigeria meets Ghana on the cricket field I am going to say something about the Commonwealth; and perhaps I might say that having begun in the Lower House in Britain and having gone to the Upper House and come back to the Lower House, I know something about parliamentary institutions and have a great respect for them.

So my theme to-day is the quest for order in the international society, in a perplexed and a most perplexing time as the world spins on into the second-half of the 20th century. My belief is that this unique Commonwealth partnership—and I choose my word carefully because there is no other association like the Commonwealth partnership in the world—if we have the will and the wit and the wisdom to make it so, can play, and I repeat the word, a unique part and a unique role in bringing harmony and neighbourliness to mankind.

And where better to debate this theme than in the Nigerian Parliament, with the present law givers of the Nigerian nation; a new partner in the Commonwealth, it is true, in years, but a senior partner in size and in influence in this great Continent of Africa? (*Applause*). For it is, Mr President, a truth which every legislator knows and a principle which Nigeria has upheld with distinction that if the civic peace is to be held then the rule of law must be preserved within a nation; and if the civic peace is to endure then that law must rest on consent; and while the majority is entitled and, indeed, has the duty to rule, nevertheless the rights of minorities must be protected. (*Applause*). The order established by the law must be just and must be seen and must be

felt to be so. (*Hear, hear*).

As with the affairs of one nation so it is with the affairs of the world, although it is a hundred times more difficult because there are hundreds and more nations, each jealous of its own sovereignty and each determined to promote its own interests; and these are human emotions and legitimate emotions until they spill over beyond the call of reason and patriotism.

Within each democratic nation Parliament draws up rules of conduct, the police see that the rules are kept, and judges are there to punish the malefactors. But, Sir, in the international society we have not developed anywhere near that stage. It is true that we have laid the foundations in the charter of the United Nations, in the Security Council, and in the International Court; and it is true, too, that the United Nations has done and can record good work, both in the Middle East and in the Congo, and we profoundly hope to-day in the Island of Cyprus. But the world arrangements for keeping the peace are, Mr President, rudimentary in their form and subject to improvisation; and while we and our friends will always do everything that we possibly can to strengthen the effective peace keeping capacity of the United Nations the pace will be a crawl until the member-nations agree on common standards of value, on common standards of justice and apply the principles of international law without prejudice or favour. In the world as it is this can only be done if, for instance, we can reconcile the differences between the Communist World and the rest; and if we can reconcile, too, the aspirations of the old colonial powers with the new independent nations.

In these tasks my country is impatient to make progress because, Sir, unless we do it the best we can do in keeping the peace is to make do and mend. And that is not good enough in a nuclear age. Clearly enough the place where the peace has been held for the last twenty years has been in that Continent which has set the worst example of all, and that is Europe. But here, if I am to report to you truthfully, the peace is not kept by the Security Council nor by an international Police Force nor, it must be admitted, by universal goodwill. It is kept by that most dreadful of all man-made appliances—the nuclear bomb. It is in Europe that life as we know it could have been most

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easily destroyed in the last few years. There the nuclear powers are in closest confrontation on matters which are vital to their existence.

It is perhaps hard for hon. Members in the Parliament of Nigeria to realise that we in Britain go about our daily business covered everyday by quantities of missiles directed at us; and we do so, Mr President, because the balance of power is held. It was only when the balance of power was upset—when the rockets appeared in Cuba—that the whole of mankind trembled; and yet I think I can say to-day that the wisdom and instinct for preservation are prevailing.

In 1962 the high risk policies threatened to bring us to a dead end. If the Nuclear Test Ban Treaty in 1963 did not actually set us on the road to reconciliation I felt, when I was there—because I was one of the signatories for a nuclear power—I felt that at any rate, it had turned us to face in the right direction. In 1964 the United States is selling wheat to Russia to meet the needs of a communist neighbour, and that is the moral to be drawn here; and I believe that if we are wise we will never turn round and I believe that I can say that we will never now turn back on the old course of destruction. (*Applause*).

So long as the challenge by the Communists to our way of life was there, the countries of the Atlantic Community, Mr President, had no choice but to meet it, whatever the cost, you may think, in wastage of manpower and material wealth. And perhaps it is difficult, sometimes, for a country which quite rightly wishes to be unaligned to understand our problem and what it was; at least I hope I can say what it was. But India knows it now, and many a newly independent country now knows the meaning of subversion. If we have, as I hope we have, convinced all who will deal in force that force cannot pay a profit, we now have to show them that subversion which is the exploitation of your neighbour's troubles and difficulties and grievances, and generally stirring the pot of trouble—all of which you are experiencing in the Continent of Africa—cannot pay a profit either. And then, Sir, we will be able to mark not only the end of the cold war but start a period of genuine co-operation between the Soviet Union and the free world and I would like to say here in the

Parliament of Nigeria that in the view of the British Parliament that cannot be too soon.

Mr President, the clash between East and West was not in reality a local foolish conflict between Europeans who allowed jealousies to die only hard. It was about a basic thing; it was about the nature of man—whether man should be his own master or whether man should be a slave and on an international scale this problem of the dignity of man was one that stirred West Africans to the soul.

You fought against slavery and you won the right for respect for individual man and I am proud to say that in that we were your ally. And so these the thaw in cold war and the prospect of better relations between the Soviet Union and the free World are the great key changes that I see coming over the world to-day.

If in a nuclear age the Soviet Union and the West are agreed that the use of force to settle their arguments is out, then disputes will be settled by negotiation and the merits of rival courses and creeds will be settled by example.

The next and the second great key change which has a more immediate impact, perhaps upon Africa, is the end of the colonial era.

Basically, you and we in Britain have the same ideas—they are at work among your people and ours—that nations should be free in dignity and honour. And, because we have felt this freedom, and because freedom is in the blood of the British people, the seeds of freedom were in our political system from the start. If we seemed slow in granting independence to some colonial territories, Mr President, it was because we knew our own island's story.

It is easy to say freedom, it is much more difficult to practise it and we in Britain know that democracy must not only be on the lips of the people, it must be in the people's hearts. (*Hear, hear*).

In your great continent, everything has conspired to telescope hundreds of years of trial and error and experience and arrive by a short cut at full democracy. As Commonwealth Secretary, I often used to talk to my African friends about our anxieties in Britain about the pace of advance. Nigeria achieved freedom and order with impressive speed; some others have either not been so fortunate or not been so wise. But if it was a choice between going slowly and being estranged from

our friends and going quickly and keeping our friends, we in Britain unhesitatingly chose to go quickly and keep our friends. (*Hear, hear*). When we lowered our flag and when the flags of independent nations were substituted for the Union Jack, it was with the intention that the nations which substituted their flags for ours should stand independent not for a day, but forever. (*Hear, hear*).

I can never forget the speech of your hon. Prime Minister on the day when I was in the United Nations and had the privilege of introducing Nigeria to that Assembly. That speech struck a new and distinctive note, a note of self-reliance, of self-discipline, of authority and of responsibility. It was, if I may say so with humility and respect, the wisdom which proclaims the pride of nationhood yet the humility of man before the might of the universe. And all who heard it went away with faith. (*Applause*).

Just as those of us in the north and in Europe have to put behind us the habits of war, and the habits of mind which crystallised into the crisis between the East and the West, so you and we, having changed our former relations, must change our ways of thinking lest we be petrified into the old postures and find ourselves condemned to a new division between men.

Mr President, there are still problems to be solved in Southern Africa and the last, or perhaps naturally the hardest to solve. We are looking for an agreed solution and when a solution is found, it is our hope that it will be one which can be supported by all the Commonwealth. I ask you to give us some patience and understanding while we pursue our task. I ask that because I think in the whole of our colonial history, from the moment that we began to transform an empire into a Commonwealth, we have never yet failed in any solution and never yet had a solution which had not been accepted by all. (*Applause*).

The evolution of the old Commonwealth into the new is almost completed and colonialism is dead; but there is something which might destroy the friendship of the new Commonwealth, and that is "neo-colonialism". I would like to say to you in the simplest and most direct terms that that word finds no place in the dictionary of our political terms in the United Kingdom. We simply do not know its meaning (*Laughter*).

Let us, therefore, take this slander out of the shadows of the mind and expose it to the clear light of day, where it will evaporate like the hot air which it is and we will not allow it to destroy the relationship among the Commonwealth of nations, but rather turn our minds to the problems which lie ahead—the harnessing of the inventiveness and the technology of the 20th century, to satisfy the hungry, to cure the sick and to meet the thirst for knowledge, which exists in so much of the world.

I had only to spend twenty-four hours in Lagos to hear and see how you are taking charge of these problems and the experience, energy and purpose with which you are tackling them. Perhaps, Sir, one day a young Nigerian poet looking back will say—

Blessed was it in that dawn to be alive,  
But to be young was heaven.

But you in your Budget Session of Parliament know how much there is still to do; and the question is how your friends—and I hope I may put Britain high among them—can help in these tasks. The victory against poverty, or if I may put it more positively, the betterment of life for all our peoples cannot be won by one country alone. It must be a combined operation because in this matter, Mr President, the nations are inter-dependent.

The first need is for capital, the second need for confidence. The capital must be attracted if it is to fructify and in the end of the day that amounts to the degree of understanding that there is between the countries which would receive it and the countries which have it to give. The confidence is a tender plant and we believe in Britain that the Commonwealth above all is a fertile ground for these great experiments, economic, social and political, and that we should work together in co-operation.

So far, the Commonwealth countries have been against institutionalising our association. We in Britain have sometimes thought that it would be a good thing to set-up a Commonwealth Economic Development Council, but the lack of institutions does not prevent Britain from being the most important market for Commonwealth goods and a major supplier.

It would interest you to know that the Statisticians told us a short time ago that we were only going to have 55 million people in our

[SIR ALEC]

country by 2,000 A.D., but they have now come along to tell us that we are going to be 69 million—another 14 million in thirty-five years. They will eat some of your produce all right—*(Laughter)*—and we shall be an expanding market for Commonwealth raw material and Commonwealth food in the next thirty or forty years. It does not prevent the British Government giving aid to the Commonwealth to the tune of £150 million a year or private investors placing another £150 million a year in overseas countries which are developing, and ninety *per cent* of that goes to the Commonwealth.

Such is our desire to strengthen Commonwealth relations that we have in our country to-day 40,000 Commonwealth students, and I would like you to know, Mr President, that we have a great pressure upon our university places and our Colleges of Technology to which our own boys and girls wish to go and yet we are quite willing and glad to reserve one place out of ten for a student from an overseas developing country. *(Applause)*. I am happy to say that nine thousand of the total are Nigerians, and the more the better. *(Hear, Hear)*.

And the lack of formal arrangements did not prevent Britain giving help to five Commonwealth countries in the last three months when they were in need—help which we were able to bring swiftly with precision and with success. In Cyprus we hope for a solution from an international force and an arbiter. In East Africa, we will leave those Commonwealth countries the moment we are no longer needed. In Malaya we will stay until Malaysia secures her independence without doubt.

Mr President, a wise man once said that to govern is to choose, and the choices are these, as I see them. Do we accept that the sheer diversity of the modern Commonwealth gives us no more scope for co-operation? I do not believe so; I reject that thesis. I do not believe that Nigerians in their Organisation of African Unity, which we welcome, and in which particularly we welcome your part, or that Britain in NATO, need impede fuller, richer relations between us. And our second choice is this. Are we content just to soldier along rather comfortably as a family, recognising that the ties will get looser—first cousins to-day, second consins tomorrow until the relationship

becomes too thin to be recognised? I reject that too. I will be very reluctant to settle for this. All life is change; we either have to grow or we decay, and Britain believes that the Commonwealth has great scope for growth, and it is that I have come here to your Parliament to say.

And so our third choice is this. Shall we try to turn without making the Commonwealth into a closed shop or an exclusive club to put more substance into our dealings with each other? That is my choice, and I hope it is yours too. But remember that the Commonwealth is what we make of it, and not dependent on Britain alone or Nigeria alone, but on what all can make of it. Britain believes that as the world moves on to inter-dependence the Commonwealth has an unrivalled opportunity to show it the way it should go.

There are many ways—trade, aid, investment, education, technical assistance, and perhaps above all, exchange of persons between us so that we understand each other. Mr President the Commonwealth is not a public corporation; it is a family business; and as such we should get to know each other. And so, as I see it, the main function of a family of nations is to set the goal of policies, to establish just societies in our own countries and to carry out the relations of the good neighbour abroad.

The world is disorderly and the world is dangerous. There is much internal repression and far too much external aggression. Yet in every continent there are Commonwealth countries that cherish the law. So let us in our countries, in our conscience too, repudiate force in all our doings, except the force of example. Let us reject all power, except the power of persuasion.

There are many ways of government, but only one which is worth mentioning, and that is Government by the consent of those who are governed. There are many ways of cutting a dash on the world's stage, but only one relationship which is worthwhile, and that is the relationship of the good neighbour. And so I would like to see each and all in the Commonwealth set an example in these things. In the Commonwealth we are a point of contact between races and creeds, and a leaven in the body politic of the world. So let us determine in the councils of the world; in the United Nations, in the Organisation of African Unity or wherever we meet, in pacts of collective

security, or when men meet together that the voice of the Commonwealth countries shall be heard on the side of reason, sanity and common-sense. And let Nigeria and Britain set the example and stand up in the councils of the world and speak the truth.

(General Acclamation).

**The President :** Mr Speaker, will you, Senators and Members of the House of Representatives rise with me as a tribute to Sir Alec Douglas-Home as he withdraws.

(Standing ovation as Sir Alec Douglas-Home withdraws).

**The President :** Senators will now withdraw to the other place.

The House resumed : 11 a.m.

(Mr Speaker in the Chair).

REMOVAL OF VEHICLES, ETC. (LAGOS) BILL—  
CONSIDERED IN COMMITTEE

Clause 1—(REMOVAL OF VEHICLES FROM HIGHWAYS).

**Mr E. C. Akwivu** (Orlu South East) : It is gratifying to note that the authority to remove vehicles is vested in a police officer of some rank. We hope that the police will make sure that somebody who is not lower than an Inspector is always available to give the necessary instructions.

This is important because this law will be a nuisance if those charged with its execution do not exercise sufficient sense of responsibility and I believe that is the idea behind stipulating here "a Police Inspector or somebody of a higher rank".

It is not unknown that junior officers try to show off a lot particularly in fulfilling duties of this kind. They do things for the sake of doing them just to cause embarrassment to people. They get terribly forcy especially if the vehicle to be removed belongs to a Minister. These junior officers want to remove vehicles at all costs regardless of any reasonable explanation that may be given their argument being that if a man in such a position can park his car in a wrong place and if they remove it then they are taken as people of great courage.

I say that is a terribly false sense of courage and we hope that every care will be taken to ensure that the administration of this law is not abused, is not converted into another form of

illicit trade that might necessitate the inquiry of the X-Squad.

Sub-clause 2 says :

*A person acting in pursuance of the foregoing subsection as respects any vehicle may use such force as may be reasonably necessary for the purpose of removing the vehicle or gaining access to any part of it in order to facilitate the removal of the vehicle.*

This is a very dangerous proviso. Unless care is taken, we are going to have a situation in which either the windscreen or the glass to the doors will be punched just for the sake of carrying away the car. Great care should be taken in that respect. We cannot have people going about, simply because the law says so, bashing cars. They must use reasonable care and the reasonable care is a matter of discretion.

If we are not careful the Lagos City Council or the Government may find itself coming in for a lot of claims due to the irresponsibility on the part of those doing the job. I have always thought that these people have a way of using some master keys or some other responsible methods of carrying away cars. But if people are going to be authorised to use force in carrying away cars—what is the necessity for using force to remove a car, a stationary car for that matter—what force, other than bashing the windscreen or the glass to the doors would be used.

I think the Minister should redefine this or give us the assurance that this will not be a licence for irresponsibility for people of doubtful character to destroy people's cars in the name of removing the cars for unauthorised parking.

**Mr S. A. Ogedengbe** (Owo North) : This section is extremely important and I will advise the Government to do something about accident vehicles. An incident happened along Ikorodu Road, mile 6½ four days ago. There was a motor accident and up till this morning when I was coming here this car was still on the road near the Palm Grove Estate.

**Mr A. O. Ogunsanya** (Ikeja) : On a point of order, that portion has nothing to do with this Bill. That area is in Western Nigeria and luckily that is one of the jobs our Friends Opposite should see to.

**Mr Ogedengbe** : I am glad that the Member for Ikeja (*Mr Ogunsanya*) realises that the



[MR OGEDENGBE]

N.C.N.C. is dead and dead for ever in the western part of Nigeria and by the grace of God that mighty party, the N.N.D.P., in collaboration with all the progressives in this country will lead Nigeria to peace and prosperity.

**The Chairman :** This is not part of the clause.

**Mr Ogedengbe :** The Member for Ikeja (*Mr Ogunsanya*) was a bit politically provocative and I paid him back in his own coins.

I know that mile 6½ on the Ikorodu Road is in Western Nigeria but Police is a Federal responsibility.

Last week there was an accident at Idunmota, along John Street to be precise. The police will bear me out, as I do not make statements on baseless grounds. I hope the whole House will take parliamentary notice of the fact that when accident occurs in any part of Lagos, the vehicles are left for days without being removed. I know some of the reasons ; I have interviewed some police officers.

They say they do not remove vehicles without taking measurements, making sketches and having all parties agree and that it is always very difficult, if not impossible, for them to prove their cases. I think this is partly true and I think I know of some other reasons why it takes so long a time before vehicles are removed from accident spots.

Last week I paid tribute to the work of the Nigeria Police ; this morning I have to say a word or two about the Nigeria Police again. They are very good but they have some black sheep in their family. Some of the young police officers delay purposely the removal of vehicles ; they pretend to be taking measurements while they are not. What they are waiting for actually is an opportunity of grabbing something from either party.

Cases abound where the guilty person becomes the witness and the man who should be the witness has been turned into the accused. I hope the officers who are charged with this responsibility will use the order well and see that vehicles are removed from streets in Lagos.

It is true that some of us car owners park our cars anywhere, anyhow, without regard to the public ; and some of us throw our weight

around because we think we are above the law. We want this country to be a place where the poor and the rich, the Minister, the Member of Parliament and the labourer would be equal in the eyes of the law. What is good for a Minister should be good for the ordinary member of the community and we should not go about throwing our weight around.

An incident happened recently along Ikorodu Road during the rainy season. I was returning to Lagos from Ibadan and there was a long queue of cars—about seventy cars in all. One man, a civil servant thought he could jump the queue. Civil servants are good but this one was particularly bad. He drove his car straight to the bridge and ordered the policeman there to allow him to pass.

This policeman politely refused him in spite of the fact that the big civil servant identified himself to be such and such. Later on, the situation became explosive and the civil servant became rude and aggressive, he even went to the extent of assaulting the policeman. I was quite happy because the policeman gave the man back ; he used his baton on him, got him arrested and took him to the Ikorodu Police Station. The man was using a Peugeot car with the number plates WL-something. I cannot remember the number.

**Rev. J. A. Akinyemi (Ilesha Rural) :** I think it is a bad insinuation to cite WL. Is the hon. Member speaking being specific or is he merely citing an example ? I think it is wrong and even parliamentarily absurd to bring that type of thing out in that light.

**Mr B. N. Ukegbu (Owerri South East) :** On a point of order, the Member for Owo North (*Mr Ogedengbe*) should make his words more temperate because he might be inciting police officers to be rude to the people outside by what he is saying on the Floor of this honourable House.

**Mr Ogedengbe :** I have mentioned 'WL' and I have also mentioned a *Peugeot* car and given you the time. The accident occurred between the month of September and November last year. So, if any member of this honourable House could go to the Central Police Station and mention it there, I am quite sure they would supply the necessary information.

I do not come here to make a frivolous statement. The fact that the man used a Peugeot car and "WL" plate does not mean that he is an Ilesha man and I am not saying that he is an Ilesha man. My name is Ogedengbe and I am connected with Ilesha. I would never do anything mean to Ilesha.

With these few remarks, I beg to support.

**M. Muhammed Ningi** (Bauchi North West): In welcoming this Bill I would say that if we are not very careful we shall give opportunity to people to make money in a cunning way. More publication should be made in and outside Lagos in order to allow the car owners to know more about the law. It should not be left entirely in the hands of the police and it must be administered by both the police and the Lagos City Council.

More sign posts should be installed on our roads so that strangers coming into the country would know where to park and where not to park their cars.

With these few remarks, I beg to support.

*Clause 1—(REMOVAL OF VEHICLES FROM HIGHWAYS)—ordered to stand part of the Bill.*

*Clause 2—(PROVISION OF REMOVED VEHICLE PARKS, ETC., BY THE COUNCIL).*

**Oba S. A. Oladiran** (Okitipupa South): I would like to start by quoting Clause 2 and with your permission, I beg to quote—

*(a) to provide and maintain places in Lagos to which vehicles may be removed in pursuance of the foregoing section (in this Act referred to as "removed vehicle parks"), and to secure that an officer in charge of each park is at all times present in the park when removed vehicles are in it.*

What I want to say on this point is that if the Lagos City Council is going to provide a place where the cars removed are to be parked, they should, first of all, provide places where car users may park their cars on reaching their destination.

If the Lagos City Council could apply to the L.E.D.B. to provide them with accommodation where they can provide sufficient car park, I think the L.E.D.B. would help the Council. There are numerous cars now in the territory of Lagos to the extent that the car parks provided are very insufficient.

With these few remarks, I beg to support.

**Mr I. O. Chikelu** (Udi Central): Apart from the damages to cars attributable to the sun, rain, wind and other physical conditions, experience has shown that sometimes parts of cars left in the removed car parks are lost by the time the owners come to claim them. I think this Clause should make provisions for a document to be signed by the officers in charge at the time of delivery of such cars stating the mechanical conditions of the cars at the time of delivery. So that if the owners, on reclaiming their cars find any part removed, they would hold the officers in charge responsible. This is the only point that I want to make.

I beg to support.

*Clause—2 ordered to stand part of the Bill.*

*Clauses 3 to 7—ordered to stand part of the Bill.*

(Mr Speaker resumed the Chair)

*Bill reported, without Amendment.*

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

**Mr R. N. Muojeke** (Awka Central): This Bill is welcome and it says that action will be taken in the High Court. Sections 4, 5 and 6 define "court" as meaning the High Court of Lagos. This means that where a vehicle is seized and the person owning the vehicle wants to apply to the court for the recovery of the vehicle, he must take the action not in the Magistrate Court but in the High Court. Again, if the Council that has seized the vehicle wants to apply for the sale of the vehicle to any court, that Council must not apply to the Magistrates Court but to the High Court.

We know that actions taken in the High Court are very slow. They are not easily settled, pleadings will be ordered, statements of claim and defence take sometime up to ten months to accomplish before a case is set down for trial. If actions could be taken in the Magistrates Courts the question of seizure it would no doubt accelerate matters.

I appeal therefore to the Minister concerned to give the Magistrates power as well as the High Court to determine cases arising from this Bill.

**M. Sule Abba Biu** (Biu North): This is a welcome Bill and I support it. I think all sides of the House would support it too.

[M. ABBA BIU]

I have to say something on the question of taxis operating in the Federal territory of Lagos. I think the Minister has omitted something which is very important. The Lagos taxis charge too much when conveying people. I think the City Council is not paying sufficient attention to the metres being used by taxi drivers. I would suggest that proper steps are taken to remedy this situation.

I would say that instead of leaving officials of the L.C.C. to control such checking, a senior police officer should be appointed to supervise the metres being used by the taxi drivers.

The Member for Lagos Central (*Mr Dosunmu*) has mentioned that some people from the other Regions do not like to pay their correct fares when they hire taxis. The fact is that Federal taxis charge too much.

Another point that I want to make is about the traffic signs. The traffic sign "no parking" is always on both sides of the road. I think this is very embarrassing to car owners and I hope something would be done to remedy this situation.

With these few remarks, I beg to support.

**Mr D. C. Ahamefula** (Okigwi South West) : I want to speak on the desirability of making separate roads for pedestrians and vehicles. Cyclists very often use the same path as pedestrians and in many cases accidents occur.

Another point is that the City Council should provide more parks in Lagos. At present, there are very few car parks in Lagos, and if you put your car in some of these parks, you are asked to pay some amount of money. You pay this money not because your car is being taken care of, but because you merely park it there. In places like Port Harcourt and Kano there are places for people to park their cars. I do not know why people should be asked to pay for parking cars in car parks which have been provided for that purpose not because of pleasure but because of necessity.

**Mr J. O. Olaore** (Oshun North East) : While supporting this Bill, I would like to make a few remarks. Lagos is fast developing as the L.E.D.B. is doing their job of slum clearance. But while doing that, I think it is advisable to provide parks for cars around Nnamdi Azikiwe Road, Martin Street, Balogun Street and so forth, so that it will be easy for people to park

their cars whenever they go a-shopping. At present, it is not easy for people to park their cars conveniently around these areas.

Now that this Bill is being passed, some police officers will have it in their power to arrest car owners. It is one thing to make a law and another thing to enforce it properly, because the way a law is enforced might inconvenience members of the public. I am appealing to the Minister of Lagos Affairs to see that the people entrusted with the enforcement of this law will apply a touch of humanity while executing this law.

At present, for example, where motor parks are provided along the Marina, one has to pay six pence for every hour that one parks a car there. It is so expensive having to park a car there for a whole day. One finds that one has to pay between six to eight shillings, depending on the number of hours used. In spite of the fact that this car park has been provided, yet it constitutes an inconvenience for people who cannot afford to pay the stipulated fee.

Laws are made for the convenience of the people, not for creating hardship. More car parks should, therefore, be provided since Lagos is rapidly developing.

**Mr A. O. Ogunsanya** (Ikeja) : I am very happy to hear the tone with which Members of Parliament have spoken about the need for additional parking facilities in Lagos. I wish to assure Members of this House that both the Lagos Executive Development Board and the Lagos City Council have jointly, for some time now, decided to tackle this problem of providing car parking spaces.

It was in furtherance of this that, within the last couple of years, the Lagos City Council brought about the motor park you can now find along the Marina. But that has not been all. Members of Parliament, speaking as they had done this morning, have given me some sort of encouragement to the effect that when the Minister is asked with respect to provide us with money for the big scheme for a multi-storey car park, he will do so. That scheme has been on, but it is a question of finding the money to build a multi-storey car park in that part of Lagos to which the Member for Oshun North East (*Mr Olaore*) referred, that is holding up the issue.

I wish to assure Members of this House that the Lagos City Council, along with the Lagos Executive Development Board, are quite up to the task. They really know and feel with concern the necessity for more car parking spaces within the city of Lagos.

There is then the other question of getting land. That is why the issue of multi-storey car park, which no doubt must cost quite a bit, has come in.

A point has been made by another Member about taxi fares in Lagos. Some years ago, during the regime of Sir Kofo Abayomi, the present taxi metres were introduced. Like all developing countries, when you travel in taxis in Lagos, it is the bye-law of the City Council that these metres should be switched on. I am sure hon. Members will not be guilty of wanting to have a ride in a Lagos taxi without the metres being switched on. Since these taxi metres are automatic, the question of high or low charges does not arise. In so far as that is concerned, the Lagos City Council has done its best to see to it that—

**M. Sule Abba Biu** (Biu North): On a point of order, my reason for saying that these taxi drivers charge too much is, firstly, some of these taxis have no metres at all; secondly, some of these metres are not efficient. All I am saying is that I want traffic police officers to be checking these metres from time to time.

**Mr Ogunsanya**: That was the point I was coming to. There is no taxi licensed to operate in Lagos without a metre. What my hon. Friend was, no doubt, referring to are those taxis operating illegally within the city of Lagos. That is no business of the Lagos City Council, and they can do no more. But I will tell my hon. Friend this: quite a number of them ply within the municipality without the authority of the Lagos City Council. This is the business of the police authorities. The City Council should not be blamed at all for that. That was the point I was going to make. No taxi is licensed to ply within the municipality of Lagos without metres. All a person has to do is to choose a licensed taxi to travel by. But unlicensed taxis are not the responsibility of the Lagos City Council.

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Bill read the Third time and passed.*

NIGERIAN LEGION BILL

*Order for the Second Reading read.*

**The Minister of Internal Affairs** (Alhaji Shehu Shagari): I rise to move—

That a Bill for an Act to make fresh provision with respect to the welfare of Ex-servicemen; and for purposes connected therewith, be read a Second time.

This Bill seeks to establish a truly national association of Ex-Servicemen, to be known as the Nigerian Legion that will take the place of, the Nigerian Ex-Servicemen's Welfare Association. It had become clear for some time that, in spite of the good work it had done, the Nigerian Ex-Servicemen's Welfare Association no longer enjoyed the confidence of a large section of ex-servicemen. There has also been a serious disunity amongst our ex-soldiers with the result that they have banded themselves into numerous unions, bitterly opposed to N.E.W.A. and to one another.

This state of affairs has been a source of great concern to me and my predecessors. It is not in the best interests of ex-servicemen, and makes it impossible for them to achieve one of their principal objects, that is, the promotion of comradeship among themselves.

As far back as 1959, an attempt was made to restore good relations and unite the warring factions of ex-servicemen. That effort was only partially successful and since then further attempts have been made through conferences attended by representatives of all the rival ex-servicemen's organisations in the country.

At these conferences, over which my predecessor and I presided, all the representatives affirmed their desire to come together and form a single national body. The unions finally agreed upon a draft constitution for an integrated body of ex-servicemen and they voluntarily declared, in writing, their intention automatically to dissolve themselves on the passing of legislation setting up such a body.

The Bill has its root in the draft constitution I have just mentioned. It reflects the wishes of our ex-servicemen all over the country and is not therefore something imposed on them by Government.

I must say here that the name given in the Bill to the new corporation is not the one chosen by majority vote at the final conference. The

[ALHAJI SHEHU SHAGARI]

reason for this is because, on subsequent examination, that name was found to be unsuitable as it would appear to exclude from membership of the association ex-servicemen without war service.

The Legion which this Bill seeks to establish will not only be based on a broader foundation than NEWA, but it will also have a more democratic constitution than that of NEWA. As hon. Members are aware, NEWA has only Central and Regional Councils none of which includes elected representatives. The Nigerian Legion will be organised on sub-area, area and regional basis, with a national council at the top, and most of its Councils will have elected members. This represents a great advance on the past and will give the ex-servicemen a hand in the running of the Legion which should thus retain the confidence and backing of the ex-servicemen better than its predecessor ever did.

The Bill itself is a straightforward piece of legislation. There is only one comment in the main body of the Bill to which I propose to draw the attention of hon. Members. I refer to the definition of the term "Ex-Servicemen" in Section 7 where reference is made to the "Armed Forces of the Crown". It has been necessary to include the Armed Forces of the Crown because not to do so would exclude persons who served, for example, in the United Kingdom Air Force during the last war.

The second Section of the draft Bill contains the Schedules which provide for certain matters which require to be put into operation by subordinate legislation. For example, sections 1, 2 and 3 of the Schedules give me power to provide for the division of each Region into areas and sub-areas for the purposes of the creation of the different levels of Councils and the election of members to these Councils.

Finally, I wish to refer to section 4 (3) of the Bill which provides that rules for the management of the Legion's fund should be drawn up by the Minister of Finance and myself. I am sure hon. Members will agree that steps should be taken to ensure that rule and regulations are made for the proper disbursement and accounting of the funds of the new body of ex-servicemen.

This is a straightforward Bill which is welcomed by all ex-servicemen, and I hope all hon. Members will welcome it.

I beg to move.

**Minister of State** (Alhaji Ibrahim Tako Galadima): I beg to second.

**Mr J. A. Yacim** (Igala North West): I support this Bill so ably presented by the Minister of Internal Affairs. In doing so I would like to say that we the members of the ex-servicemen organisation are grateful to this honourable House. We are very happy to come across a Bill regulating what has almost amounted to racial discrimination among the community of ex-servicemen in the country.

In fact, NEWA was introduced immediately we ex-servicemen were demobilised in 1946 to 1947. This so-called NEWA was founded to cater for the welfare of disabled ex-servicemen, but this duty it failed to do. In every corner of the country one goes, one finds all disabled ex-servicemen suffering. These people are unable to care for themselves because they have been disabled. Some of them were injured in the army and some of them were given employment which they were not used to before. Some even suffer at this time from leprosy and many other diseases. What happens is that once a social welfare officer within any province sends a report of such disabled persons to the Board of NEWA, if at all these people are taken into consideration, they grant them pension of not more than seven shillings per month.

Now, when we saw things like this happening, some of us ex-servicemen from all the Regions of the country met, decided and presented our recommendations to change our name and wear the same uniform. We were unable to come together under one name until 1962 when our delegates came to Lagos and were able to come together and to choose a suitable name which has now been announced on the Floor of this House—The Nigerian Legion.

I humbly thank the Minister because this is the name suggested by the delegates of ex-servicemen in the country, and it is the name that he has brought before this Parliament under which to regulate all the needs of ex-servicemen and which I am sure are going to be seriously considered by this Parliament. What I am appealing for is that the change in name is not the only solution to the problems of ex-servicemen in the country. Unless all their problems are solved, the Minister and the

Leaders of this country should know that the security of this country lies in the hands of ex-servicemen and the police. Members of this Parliament, especially those who are not ex-servicemen do not seem to know this. Therefore, I am pleading that ex-servicemen should be treated fairly so that they can live under good conditions. We should always remember that the future of the people now serving in the army rests on the progress of this new Legion.

I am trying to remind Members that if this Legion had been introduced before, what happened in the Regions would have been to the benefit of the ex-servicemen. One of these is that in other countries where Members have visited, it is found that Commissioners are always appointed from the rank and file of ex-servicemen. In Nigeria, this is not the case. All the Commissioners in all the Regions are appointed from among the civilians, who almost always find it difficult to take salutes. Ex-servicemen are the people capable of being Commissioners in this country. A Commissioner is not a—

**Alhaji Shehu Shagari :** On a point of order, I do not know whether the hon. Member is referring to Provincial Commissioners, but as far as commissionaires are concerned, they are all ex-servicemen.

**Several hon. Members :** He is referring to commissionaires.

**Alhaji Shehu Shagari :** Well, they are all ex-servicemen. None of them is a civilian.

**Mr Yacim :** I thank the Minister for this explanation. What I am saying is that the post should be preserved for ex-servicemen because I know it is right to say that it is not easy for an ex-serviceman to demobilise and take to capitalism, just in the way people from other departments do.

I am appealing to the Minister that all classes of people should be represented on this Committee in order to make it possible for all sides of the country to come together and work for the common good of the ex-servicemen.

I beg to support.

**Mr G. O. D. Eneh** (Abaja and Ngwo) : This is a very welcome Bill. Any Bill that caters

for the interest of about 125,000 people who were demobilised in 1946, and also that is going to cater for the interest of those who are still in the Army, and who will be leaving the Army eventually, is a very welcome Bill indeed.

There is a difference between the provisions of this Bill and the NEWA Bill of 1948. In the NEWA Bill, provision was made specifically for disabled ex-servicemen, and various divisional officers were empowered to be the chairmen of the NEWA Council in their various divisions. The NEWA Council then had regional capitals in Enugu, Ibadan, Lagos and Kaduna, and these people who were chairmen of the NEWA Council in their various divisions did very good work indeed. They were able, with the co-opted ex-servicemen in their various divisions, to cater for the interest of the disabled ex-servicemen.

This new Bill takes into cognisance the election principle which is enunciated in our Constitution. That is that, in order to serve the people, one must be elected. But the provision of this Bill to the effect that the Minister in charge would split the country into sub-areas and regional areas with the result that some areas would elect their own members, is remarkable. They will elect their members from their own committee and eventually all the sub-area committees would bring up their Chairmen to the Headquarters, and eventually come to Lagos and constitute the Central Committee of the ex-servicemen. This is very welcome indeed.

**Mr Speaker :** Order. It is now a quarter to twelve, and under the Standing Orders, debate stands adjourned.

*Debate to be resumed—Tomorrow.*

#### ADJOURNMENT

*Motion made and Question proposed, That this House do now adjourn—(THE MINISTER OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT).*

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Resolved : That this House do now adjourn.*

*Adjourned accordingly at thirteen minutes to twelve o'clock.*

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

*Saturday, 21st March, 1964*

*The House met at 9 a.m.*

PRAYERS

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

REPORT FROM THE BUSINESS  
COMMITTEE

**Mr Speaker** : I have to inform the House that a Report has been received from the Business Committee on the allocation of time for the Appropriation Bill and the Estimate of Capital Expenditure. It has been printed and circulated to hon. Members and it will be considered under the eleventh item on to-day's *Order Paper*.

**The Minister of Finance** (Chief F. S. Okotie-Eboh) : I beg to move, That the House doth agree with the Committee in the said Report.

**The Minister of the Internal Affairs** (Alhaji Shehu Shagari) : I beg to second.

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Resolved* : That the House doth agree with the Committee in the said Report.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

**Chief F. S. Okotie-Eboh** : I wish to inform the House that Monday, Wednesday and Thursday will be allotted to the debate on the Second Reading of the Appropriation Bill and it is proposed, with the agreement of the Business Committee, to hold night sittings on those days to give us the number of hours required.

On Tuesday, the 24th March, we hope that the day will be reserved fully for Private Members' business. It is our intention that on Thursday, the 26th March, the House should adjourn over the Easter holiday until Tuesday, the 31st March.

NOTICE OF MOTION

SITTING OF THE HOUSE

**Chief Okotie-Eboh** : I beg to move—

That, this day, Government Business be exempted from the provisions of Standing Order 5 (Sittings of the House), provided that at 1 p.m. the Speaker shall suspend sitting till 3 p.m.

My proposal is that if hon. Members will agree, in order to save Saturday night for them to have their pass time, we should sit up till 1 p.m. this morning and resume sitting at 3 p.m. and go on till 6 p.m. I appeal to hon. Members that they co-operate with us so that we may finish our business and may be if we can finish this morning we shall have no need even to return at 3 p.m.

**The Minister of Internal Affairs** (Alhaji Shehu Shagari) : I beg to second.

**Mr N. D. Ukah** (Owerri North East) : I strongly support the Motion and in doing so I have to say that night sittings are usually very painful to hon. Members and many of them do not even attend at all. Most people want to do their business by day and we are not the exception. So, this arrangement is more preferable to night sittings and, moreover, we have very important bills which demand our very careful attention and I am sure that we shall give them due attention by day rather than by night.

**Mr I. A. Brown** (Uyo South West) : In supporting this Motion, I would like to suggest to the Leader of the House that it would be more comfortable to Members if we can start our day's sitting at 2 p.m. in the afternoon till 4 a.m. in the morning so that hon. Members will have the chance to do their shopping and attend to their family business in the afternoon.

**Mr C. O. Chiedozie** (Enugu) : There is an Amendment which I do not know whether the Minister has noticed. We are starting to-day at 9 a.m. and we ought to close at 12 p.m. and then start again at 3 p.m. and close at 6 p.m.

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Resolved* : That, this day, Government Business be exempted from the provisions of

Standing Order 5 (Sittings of the House), provided that at 1 p.m. the Speaker shall suspend sitting till 3 p.m.

PROCEDURE ON SUPPLEMENTARY  
APPROPRIATION BILL

**Chief Okotie-Eboh :** I beg to move—

That, this day, notwithstanding the provisions of Standing Order 64 the debate on Second Reading of the Supplementary Appropriation (1963-64) (No. 2) Bill, when resumed, shall be concluded, and the Committee stage of the Bill shall be taken and concluded and the Bill read the third time.

**Alhaji Shehu Shagari :** I beg to second.

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Resolved :* That, this day, notwithstanding the provisions of Standing Order 64 the debate on Second Reading of the Supplementary Appropriation (1963-64) (No. 2) Bill, when resumed, shall be concluded, and the Committee stage of the Bill shall be taken and concluded and the Bill read the third time.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

NIGERIAN LEGION BILL

ADJOURNED DEBATE ON QUESTION (20TH MARCH): THAT THE BILL BE NOW READ A SECOND TIME.

**Mr G. O. D. Eneh** (Abaja and Ngwo) : I wish to appeal through you, Mr Speaker, to the Minister of Internal Affairs that he should not allow this new Bill, the Nigerian Legion Bill, to go the way of the two previous enactments directed by the Parliament to enhance the position of the ex-servicemen. What matters must be the implementation of this Bill.

As far back as 1946, when the Legislative Council passed an enactment for the compulsory employment of discharged war veterans the ratio then was 10 per cent of all the available vacancies in every department of both Federal and Regional institutions. In addition, particularly designated posts were by law earmarked for ex-servicemen. After some years, this comprehensive provision started to be ignored by various Ministries and Corporations of Government and the law eventually died a natural death. There are still ex-servicemen who could be gainfully employed as workmen

and artisans but who are still roaming the streets of the country.

Again the NEWA Law of 1948, came into being for the benefit of disabled ex-servicemen and their dependants. By this arrangement incapacitated ex-soldiers and their dependants who knew about the functions of NEWA were awarded some allowances ranging from 10s to 30s a month. In some cases, NEWA paid for the school expenses of disabled soldiers' children. Eventually, NEWA, except in the big towns, died a natural death. The provisions in the estimates for NEWA ranging between £7,400 and £7,900 apply only for those men who live in the big towns. Members do not seem to realise that the majority of these ex-servicemen live in rural areas.

One would not like the Nigerian Legion Bill, which is placed before us now, to go the way of the other two previous enactments. All the ex-servicemen in all the corners of this Federation should be made aware of the provisions of this Bill. I would particularly appeal to the Minister to ensure that a substantial monetary provision is made annually by Parliament for the benefit of the ex-servicemen, and in order to make adequate provision, a fair estimate of the number of persons involved must be made

At the end of hostilities in 1945, the 81st West African Division was about 40,000 strong and the 82nd numbered about 100,000. A conservative estimate was, therefore, about 135,000 and they were demobilised between 1945 and 1946. It is therefore necessary to make a provision at least of the order of £2 per head for all ex-servicemen that live in the country. I therefore appeal to the Federal Minister of Internal Affairs to ensure that a provision of the order of £270,000 is made annually for the ex-servicemen's Organisation.

I beg to support.

**Mr D. M. Gbolagunte** (Ibarapa) : In my opinion it appears that this Bill is quite unnecessary because it also appears that we want to force all ex-servicemen into one single union. There are several ex-servicemen in the country who do not know about the existence of the old NEWA, and I am quite sure they are not going to know about the existence of this new Legion. I think such people will be left out of the show.

For instance, the duties of the Legion are so wide that one of them is that they will establish



[MR GBOIAGUNTE]

and maintain hostels for ex-servicemen appearing to the Legion to be incapacitated by old age or illness. I cannot imagine how a union, or a society or an organisation, or whatever name it may be called, can cater for the welfare of all the ex-servicemen in the country. I really believe that this is the direct duty of the Government and it is not the duty of the organisation to have a register of all the ex-servicemen who are gainfully employed or not. The gainfully employed ones will not be paid anything but those who are incapacitated should be paid directly as we pay our own retired officers. The union, I am quite sure, cannot satisfy the need of all the ex-servicemen.

Moreover, centres are to be provided for ex-servicemen from where they can get information. I cannot imagine people in villages going to centres in Ibadan, Enugu or Kaduna to get information. I think there should be a means of contacting all ex-servicemen by publications in the main vernacular languages in Nigeria before if any information is kept in the Headquarters these people will not know about the information until they die. Many of them roam about with amputated arms or blind and they are already forgotten. I think the Government should be able to have a register of all the ex-servicemen and then compensate them for their losses.

Camps can be provided for them as there are some who cannot live happily with their people. I know of two ex-servicemen who now live in a village of their own in my constituency because they found that they were not wanted in their area. I think such people can be settled in a camp purposely meant for ex-servicemen and such camps can be located in big towns. The incapacitated ones can be brought to the camps so that they can live happily for the rest of their lives amongst people of their own choice.

I support this Bill.

**Mr A. O. Ogunsanya** (Ikeja): I wish to mention one or two points in respect of this Bill. There is a provision for the assets and liabilities of the old NEWA to pass on to the new Legion. One thing about which I will require the assurance of the Minister would be that the obligations of NEWA in relation to the provident fund opened in favour of the present employees of NEWA should be guaranteed and, further, where the Nigerian Legion is not empowered to dispense with the services of

NEWA without the previous consent in writing of the Minister, it is desirable that they, the aforesaid servants of NEWA, should reserve the right to opt out without prejudice to their service benefits under NEWA should they not wish to continue in service under the Nigerian Legion.

**An hon. Member**: I think the Member for Ikeja is their legal adviser!

**Mr Ogunsanya**: I am legal adviser to everybody! I believe the hon. gentleman will remember that I have always been his legal adviser and that I have never yet advised him wrongly. I won a lot of cases for him when the leader of another party was prosecuting him.

It should be possible for present employees of NEWA to have the opportunity to say whether or not they will be prepared to serve the Nigerian Legion. I remember years ago when the Railway Corporation and the Ports Authority and some of these other corporations which originally formed part of government departments were being reverted to corporation service, they were given the opportunity to choose their own employers. I think in this case, this opportunity, without any loss of existing benefits, should be afforded the present employees of NEWA.

It is very desirable that the Minister should, before this Act comes into operation, look into this matter because Nigerians, in whatever gainful employment they are, should be protected as a body.

I beg to support.

**Mr P. E. Ekanem** (Enyong South): I have a good knowledge of N.E.W.A., and I am speaking here now as an ex-serviceman. I know very much the ills of N.E.W.A. After the last World War when Nigerian soldiers were to be demobilised it was compulsory for every employer of labour to employ ex-servicemen according to the quota allotted to each employer. This lasted up to 1947, but immediately after that year, ex-servicemen in this country were thrown out of employment, demobilised and made to fend for themselves.

I am only very happy that some of the Ministers in the Government to-day are ex-servicemen. N.E.W.A. was not very much

supported or it had not the confidence of ex-servicemen for one reason or the other. One of the most important reasons was that the employees of N.E.W.A. were not ex-servicemen themselves. There were those who did not suffer during the war who were employed in certain Government Departments. Although these people contributed morally or in their own way to the independence of this country, yet they did not actually face the ordeal of being soldiers.

**Mr A. O. Ogunsanya** (Ikeja) : The Member for Enyong South (*Mr Ekanem*) should show us his wounds.

**Mr Ekanem** : I have my wounds on my body.

This Bill is very welcome, but there is a provision in it about membership which says that anybody who applies to be a member can be a member. This is very ambiguous, because it then means that anybody who has never been an ex-serviceman, according to that provision, can apply to become a member. If the Bill is meant to cater for ex-servicemen, then the membership should be confined only to those who had served in the Army. Now may I ask—Is the intention of the Bill to allow the families of the deceased ex-servicemen membership?

Another point I want to tackle is the distribution of seats in the Council. For instance, we want to give one section twelve members, another section three, another two, and another section one member, and the Government is to nominate two members. Out of the two members to be nominated by the Government, one will be the Chairman and the other will be the Vice-Chairman. The Government should take care to see that those two nominees are not those who have never had any military training or served in the Army. If the Government will not take care as suggested then that portion of the law must be deleted. Anybody who is to be the Chairman of this new body must be a man who has known, if no other thing, the ordeal of discipline in the Army.

I am saying this because I now begin to see that the person who is going to be made the Chairman will be one of the Permanent Secretaries from one of the Ministries. He may be somebody who is a big contractor

somewhere, he may be somebody who is rich enough to wield his influence on the Government. I am not saying that the Government can be influenced but what I am trying to say is that the Chairman, the Vice-chairman, the Secretary and all the officers of this new body must, I repeat, must be ex-servicemen. That is the only way to compensate these ex-servicemen.

There are a lot of these ex-servicemen in the country who are now jobless, and these are the men who have fought for the independence of this country. I can say right now that but for the sacrifices made by these soldiers there could not have been independence for us. It was because the Nigerian soldiers really proved their valour in Burma, Rangoon, India and in Asia, that we were able to get our independence. These people were the first to project the personality of Nigeria to the world and these men should be properly cared for.

**Mr N. D. Ukah** (Owerri North East) : On a point of order, the Member for Enyong South (*Mr Ekanem*) should not mislead the House. Much as we all appreciate the services rendered to this country by these ex-servicemen, we do not believe that we got our independence in the battle field in India or Burma or Rangoon. We got our independence through the efforts of the nationalists of this country, foremost of whom is our President, Dr Nnamdi Azikiwe.

**Mr Ekanem** : I now want to tell the House what happened after the war. The Ministry of Labour or the Labour Department or whatever it was called at that time, was instructed to give preference to a certain category of the ex-Servicemen when recruiting them into different Departments. But now, the Labour Exchange section of that Ministry has closed the avenue through which these ex-servicemen could be gainfully employed. I hope that the intention of this Bill is to bring it sufficiently to the notice of the Ministry that these men should be gainfully employed. The Minister himself, being an ex-serviceman, should have sympathy for these people.

Now, what about the funds of N.E.W.A. ? The assets and liabilities of N.E.W.A. are to be taken over by this new body. We do not want any *jege jege* accounting system for N.E.W.A. We do not want any cooked up accounts for N.E.W.A., and we are only too happy that the

[MR EKANEM]

accounts of this new body, when this Bill is passed, will be submitted to this Parliament for scrutiny. It must be noted that any *wuru wuru* accounting system for this new Organisation will be viewed with all seriousness.

I am happy that when the Bill is passed into law it will protect, more than ever before, the interests of those who suffered for this country during the war.

I beg to support.

*Whereupon the Member for Owerri East (Chief D. N. Abii) rose in his place and claimed to move, That the Question be now put ; but Mr Speaker withheld his assent and declined then to put that Question.*

**The Minister of Internal Affairs** (Alhaji Shehu Shagari) : I wish to thank the Members for the contribution they have made to this debate.

This Bill is straightforward and it is one which has been drafted with the agreement of the ex-servicemen, and I wish to explain that there is no intention whatsoever to impose it on ex-servicemen.

The Member for Ibarapa (*Mr D. M. Gbolagunte*) says that the ex-servicemen are to be forced into the new Legion. This is not so.

Before this Bill was drafted we had several meetings with all representatives of various ex-servicemen's organisations who, out of their own volition, had agreed to dissolve the various ex-servicemen's unions which they belonged to in order to form the new organisation. So, this is absolutely voluntary and there is no intention of forcing anybody into the Legion.

The Member for Enyong South (*Mr Ekanem*) said that the provision for membership is too open. I think he read the Bill half way. If he went further he would see that a person shall be a member of the Legion if he applies to the Legion and if he satisfies the Legion that he is an ex-serviceman. He must be an ex-serviceman.

The Member for Ikeja (*Mr Ogunsanya*) spoke about the fears of some of the staff. But I do not think they should have anything to fear at all. The N.E.W.A. was an ex-servicemen's organisation ; it was not a Government Department. The new Legion is also an ex-servicemen's organisation which is also a private organisation, and not a Government Department.

That is why we do not want to make specific provision in the Act to force the new Legion to employ all those who were staff of the N.E.W.A. It is a matter for Legion and also a matter for negotiations between individuals provided, of course they opt to join the new organisation.

As the hon. Member has suggested, nobody will force them to join if they think that the new conditions are not favourable. At the same time, I cannot force the new Legion to employ them anyway.

But there is a provision in Clause 6(1) which stipulates that the liabilities and assets of the N.E.W.A. go automatically to the new organisation, the Legion. Therefore, the question of their pension rights and any other rights like the Provident Fund to which the hon. Member has made reference, will certainly be the responsibility of the new Legion. If and when they desire to leave the service, or if they want to join the new Legion, then it will be under the new conditions which the organisation is going to set up.

But hon. Members will appreciate that it would be unwise for me to lay down any hard and fast rules for the organisation which is a private one. Of course, I have the responsibility of seeing that the organisation does not in any way jeopardise the interests of the former N.E.W.A. staff or those of any ex-serviceman for that matter.

The question of appointments of new staff will also be the responsibility of the Legion and it will have to lay down their conditions. It is for the Legion to engage whosoever it wants to engage. I will do my utmost best to see that ex-servicemen are employed. Since it is an ex-servicemen's organisation it is only right that ex-servicemen should be employed in the new organisation.

*Question put and agreed to.*

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

NIGERIAN LEGION BILL : CONSIDERED  
IN COMMITTEE

Clause 1—(ESTABLISHMENT AND FUNCTIONS OF NIGERIAN LEGION).

**Mr C. O. Chiedozie** (Enugu) : What I want the Minister to explain in this Clause 1 is the

reason for changing the word "ex-servicemen" to "Nigerian Legion". Will it not be in conflict with the actual servicemen, that is men who are still in active service.

In Nigeria at the moment, we have in our Army, the First Battalion, the Second Battalion, and so on. Will it not cause confusion? Why should the name "ex-servicemen", which specially refers to those who are no more in the Army, not be in this Bill? Why should it be changed at all? The Minister should be aware that there is a strong protest against the words "Nigerian Legion" because that name does not show that these people are ex-servicemen. This designation will cause a conflict between those who are serving in the Army and those who have retired; there will be no distinction. So, I want the Minister to explain this Clause.

**Mr I. S. Onwuchekwa** (Ahoada Central): While I support the Bill in its entirety I am against the name "Legion". The word "Legion" has a bad connotation. It has a very connection.

You will remember, Sir, the biblical story, when our Lord was casting the devil out of a man. He asked the name of the man and the man said, "My name is Legion because we are many". Now, the impression created in the minds of many Christians is that the Nigerian Legion will be something devilish. And added to this, I do not see why—

**Mr J. Ukueku** (Urhobo West): On a point of order, the Member for Ahoada Central (*Mr Onwuchekwa*) is misinterpreting the Bible. The meaning of the word "Legion" should not be misconstrued.

**Mr Onwuchekwa**: The Member for Urhobo West (*Mr Ukueku*) may be interpreting the bible up side down. He cannot dispute the story I have just told. He must know that I am an authority in Religious Knowledge.

**Mr R. N. Muojeke** (Awka Central): On a point of order, if the Member for Ahoada Central (*Mr Onwuchekwa*) is an authority in Religious Knowledge, he can go to the pulpit.

**Mr Onwuchekwa**: What I am saying is that I do not see any reason why it should not be given the name "Free Council of World Veterans", which is a better name. That at

once brings to one's mind the aim of this Bill which deals with a supreme council, a council that caters for all ex-servicemen. This is better than word "Legion". The Minister, I think, should consider this and, if possible, change the name.

**Mr E. A. Odo** (Idoma West): I rise to associate myself with those Members who are complaining about the name "Legion". The word "Legion" is a shameful name for the ex-servicemen's association. So, I am appealing to the Minister to change the word to Ex-servicemen".

**Alhaji Shehu Shagari**: I appeal to hon. Members not to misinterpret or cause confusion in something that is quite straightforward. The name "Legion" is not a new thing.

In many countries, ex-servicemen's organisations are known by that name. So, this is not a new thing which I am inventing. Among the ex-servicemen's organisations, there were those who called themselves "The Nigerian Legion", and as I explained yesterday in my speech, the name was considered better. There were two names—The Nigerian Supreme Council of War Veterans, which some Members supported, and "The Nigerian Legion" which most of the Members supported.

We found however, that the name "The Nigerian Supreme Council of War Veterans" apart from being rather lengthy does not embrace all the ex-servicemen because it excludes those ex-servicemen who did not have war records and we don't want to exclude any ex-serviceman in the provisions of this Bill.

At the conference which I had with the representatives of the various organisations, although the majority of them did not like the other name—the long name—I told them that I would take this matter to the Cabinet and that the Cabinet's decision would be final. I also promised that I would present their case and the case of the others who favoured the long name. The Cabinet decided in favour of "The Nigerian Legion", which is a shorter name and which every ex-servicemen, whether he is educated or not, can pronounce. The other designation, although some people like it for a reason, we feel that it is not in the best interest of the ex-servicemen, and that our ex-servicemen's organisation should take a name which is known all over the world.

**Mr E. C. Akwiwu** (Orlu South East): On a point of information, may we know whether, in view of the assurances given by the Minister with regard to the already serving employees of N.E.W.A., he proposes to lay down some procedure whereby those of them who are being treated arbitrarily unfairly in the process of being transferred into the new body could appeal to the Minister for a redress? We would like some information from the Minister as to whether he contemplates any procedure for appeal to him where an already serving member of the N.E.W.A. does not feel satisfied with the terms in which he is being taken into the new organisation.

**The Chairman**: Surely, this is a question which is better answered at Question time.

*Clauses 1—ordered to stand part of the Bill.*

*Clauses 2-8, ordered to stand part of the Bill.*

*First Schedule.*

**Mr S. O. Kolade** (Oyo South): With reference to the Schedule, I do not know how the allocations have been done. I think the Minister would explain that with reference to the National Council. In the composition of the National Council, we are to have two ex-servicemen nominated by the Minister, six members from the North, four from the East, Two from the West, two from the Mid-West and two from Lagos. May I know why we have only two from the West and the considerations guiding the Minister in that? I think the Minister will be able to explain that.

**An hon. Member**: How many from the East?

**Mr Kolade**: Four from the East, two from the West, two from Lagos and two from the Mid-West. May I know why we have only two from the West?

**Alhaji Shehu Shagari**: When this was drafted there was no Mid-West Region and there were to be four members for the Western Region. Things have since changed and because the Mid-West wanted to have its own representation even though it was part of the West, it has been given two out of the four. Another consideration however is the number was determined on the basis of the population of ex-servicemen in these areas. I think there need not be any quarrel about this matter

because this was actually the result of consultations with the ex-servicemen's organisations themselves.

We had a conference with them in which they agreed on this number. In fact, the original draft was their own but if after we have started this, there are any representations concerning this, I will be glad to consider them. We can consider the membership, perhaps, according to Region or according to population. There will be no harm in that but the original idea is what we have in this Bill.

**Mr Kolade**: Mr Chairman, I am still on my question.

*First Schedule agreed to.*

*Second Schedule agreed to.*

(Mr Speaker resumed the Chair)

*Bill reported without Amendment.*

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

**Shettima Ali Monguno** (Kaga Marghi): Those of us who have not served in the Army cannot help appreciating the efforts made by our ex-servicemen in protecting not only the country but also the entire world, and it is almost a duty incumbent upon us to express our gratitude to the Government for bringing and introducing a Bill of this nature which caters for the well-being of our ex-servicemen in this country.

It is true too, that this Bill goes beyond that, for it gives a lot of encouragement to those who are still on active service and we hope that the Government would continue looking into unfortunate situations that concern our ex-servicemen in this country.

I beg to support.

**Mallam Ibrahim Gusau** (Sokoto West Central): In supporting this Bill, I should only like to congratulate the Government for the step it has taken. Ex-servicemen have not been very well treated in the past. Military service, until a short while ago, was also not very attractive. The N.E.W.A. too was not a successful organisation. This Bill, which is now before us, seeks to ensure that these weaknesses are removed. One can never fail to get factions in ex-servicemen's organisations since they are all concentrated in urban areas.

The number of ex-servicemen in rural areas is far too many than in places like Lagos, Enugu, Kaduna and Lagos. If this new Bill is going to remedy the old weakness I think the best thing is to have the organisation originating from rural areas. I know that there are so many factions still existing.

I know also that in a place like Sokoto we have well-organised Ex-Servicemen Union which has no direct link with the rest of the Ex-Servicemen who acclaim themselves as leaders of the ex-servicemen in places like Lagos. Even now, if this new Legion is only to cater for those in urban areas I think it would not remedy the old situation.

**Mr F. I. Okoronkwo** (Aba Urban): I wholeheartedly welcome this Bill but I disagree with the hon. Member who said that ex-servicemen did not contribute to the independence of this country.

We appeal to the Federal Government to help ex-servicemen and to rehabilitate those of them who served in the British wars for the freedom of the British subjects throughout the whole world.

I would also like to draw attention to the fact that when the ex-servicemen arrived back in this country they identified themselves with the struggle for our independence and many of them contributed immensely to the freedom of this country. I am informing hon. Members that those ex-servicemen who fought in Burma, India, the Middle East and other places helped a lot; not necessarily that they helped the British Government alone although the war they fought was not of our own making.

We were not responsible for the war they fought in those days but actually when they returned to this country I must say that they helped us quite a lot because we used them and this is the time that the Government should compensate them. Something must be done to rehabilitate them. Some of them are jobless now and the only one thing Government can do is to establish farm settlements in various parts of the country and get these ex-servicemen to work there. Some of them were technicians in the army but as soon as they were demobilised, the British Government did not employ them directly in the trades that they learnt in the army.

Now, I am sounding a note of warning and it is that the Regional Councils should not be used by any Regional Government to organise a private army because there are some Governments in Nigeria to-day, at least one, which is not a popular Government and that is the "Akintola" Government. Therefore, I would not like—

**Mr P. E. Ekanem** (Enyong South): On a point of order, the issue before the House is not that of any Government. The hon. Member speaking should not use this Bill to attack one Government or the other.

*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.*

*Main Question accordingly put and agreed to.*

*Bill read the Third time and passed.*

#### INSURANCE (MISCELLANEOUS PROCEEDINGS) BILL

*Order for Second Reading read.*

**The Minister of Finance** (Chief F. S. Okotie-Eboh): I beg to move—

That a Bill for an Act to provide for the investment in Nigerian Securities, by persons carrying on business as Insurers in Nigeria, of certain assets of the business; to make further provision as respects certain contracts of insurance and for purposes connected with the matters aforesaid, be read a Second time.

The Bill seeks to channel the proceeds of personal savings to local productive use by controlling the investment of payments by way of premiums made by a person to an insurer as respects insurance against Nigerian risks or Nigerian lives.

Two years ago, I gave formal notice that it was the Federal Government's intention to take powers to provide that at least one half of all moneys available to insurance companies on or after the first day of April, 1962, from all classes of business, must be invested in Nigeria—not necessarily in government securities, but in Nigeria.

[MINISTER OF FINANCE]

You may also recall that in my Budget Speech to this House on 2nd April, 1963, I drew attention to a proposed Bill to control the investments of payments made by way of premiums to insurance companies. I pointed out that life insurance in its various forms constitutes a most promising vehicle for stimulating personal saving and channelling the proceeds to productive use. I then gave an outline of the proposed Bill.

Since that statement was made, detailed thought has been given to the matter and more consultations have been held with representatives of both Nigerian and foreign-owned insurance companies and with insurance brokers. I would again publicly acknowledge the great help given to me in resolving the complicated issues by all those consulted who have freely given most valuable advice with frankness and understanding.

The Bill gives effect to our intentions in this matter. Clause one of the Bill deals with general risk business, by which I mean such matters as motor vehicles, fire, theft and accident insurance, *et cetera*, where chance alone dictates whether or not a claim will arise at all.

It is provided under the Clause that except with the approval of the Minister of Commerce and Industry, all policies of insurance or reinsurance of the types to which the Clause applies made in respect of risks within Nigeria will be void unless the policies are effected with insurance companies in Nigeria. The Clause goes on to provide that as regards Nigerian risks, all companies transacting risk insurance business in Nigeria must invest in Nigerian Securities an amount equivalent to at least forty *per cent* of their gross premium income from that business for the previous year.

In calculating that proportion of forty per cent, any payments by way of premiums made by the insurer under a contract of reinsurance in respect of the same period, are to be left out of account. Clause 2 of the Bill deals with policies on life insurance, that is, contracts of insurance under which benefits are expressed to become payable on the happening of an event or series of alternative events, one of which is certain to occur. Provision is made to the effect that all new policies of life insurance on Nigerian lives effected in Nigeria must be denominated in Nigerian currency. All re-

insurances in respect of such policies are similarly required to be denominated in Nigerian currency except where the sum assured in respect of one life exceeds £40,000.

The clause also provides that all companies transacting life insurance business in Nigeria must invest in Nigerian securities one hundred per cent of their premium income attributable to the policies denominated in Nigerian currency.

It is further provided that the accumulated life funds as at 31st March, 1962, held by companies transacting life business in Nigeria must be converted to Nigerian securities on or before the 1st day of April, 1966, insofar as and to the extent that those funds relate to policies denominated in Nigerian currency.

The requirement for policies to be denominated in Nigerian currency, therefore, only applies to life assurance policies on Nigerian lives; it has not been extended to policies on expatriate lives. It is in our view inequitable, at least at this stage in our economy, to provide by law that policies on expatriate lives must be denominated in Nigerian currency, as in most cases the insured will have left Nigeria before the policy matures. It is, however, our intention to give positive encouragement for all policies made in Nigeria to be denominated in Nigerian currency with the consequential investment requirement.

Life assurance encourages personal thrift and reduces the chances of the individual becoming a burden on the community or the government in his old age; it provides savings for development and hives off consumer spending power and so reduces inflationary pressures in the country's economy. From the national point of view, it is desirable to continue the existing tax concession in the form of life assurance relief. But in order to qualify for the full relief it will be a prerequisite that the proceeds from the premiums be wholly invested in Nigeria. Provision to this effect is made in sub-clause (4) of clause 2 of the Bill. In the case of policies the proceeds of which are invested outside Nigeria, the tax concession in the form of life assurance relief has now been limited to one-third of the present relief, whether the policy holder is a Nigerian or an expatriate.

Under clause 5 of the Bill the different kinds of security in which insurance companies may

invest are specified. As I said earlier on, the prime purpose of the Bill is to ensure that all moneys available to insurance companies are invested in Nigeria, but not necessarily in government securities. However, a minimum investment of twenty-five *per cent* of such moneys in government securities has now been prescribed. It would be fair to say that this requirement is not onerous at all because, by the nature of their business, Insurance Companies do not invest in a highly speculative manner and by tradition they hold a reasonably high proportion of their assets in government securities. The only other limitation on the proportion of assets which may be held in the different categories of approved securities is that investment in real estate, other than by way of a mortgage interest, must not exceed one-tenth of the money required to be invested in Nigeria.

Apart from government securities, approved securities under the Bill include stocks and shares issued by Nigerian companies, cash on deposit with Nigerian Banks, real estate, and rights to receive payments by way of premium which have accrued under a contract of insurance made in Nigeria. A large measure of latitude has thus been allowed in prescribing the range of the approved investments. This has been done in order to encourage the companies to make prudent investments in Nigeria.

In view of the present proposals, the statutory requirement under section 44 of the Insurance Companies Act, 1961, for insurance companies to invest in Nigeria a minimum percentage of the profits is repealed. Provision to that effect is made under sub-clause (4) of clause 7 of the Bill. I am, nonetheless, confident that insurance companies will continue, as at present, to invest a good portion of their profits in Nigeria.

This is a non-contentious Bill, its prime purpose being to retain within Nigeria the savings channelled through insurance companies. It is not concerned with the general regulation of Insurance Companies or with safeguarding the interests of individual policy-holders as such. Nevertheless, by specifying the types of assets in which insurance companies may invest their income, the Bill thus safeguards the interests of the individual policy-holders. Within this context, the ultimate aim of the Bill is to encourage the employment of those

assets for productive and development purposes in Nigeria. The Bill does not impose any unduly onerous or restrictive conditions which would compel the insurance companies to offer less attractive policies than at present.

I commend the Bill to the House as a progressive measure in mobilising the proceeds of personal saving for our economic developments.

I beg to move.

**The Minister of Internal Affairs (Alhaji Shagari)** : I beg to second.

**Mr J. D. Odeunmi (Egba North)** : This Bill is highly welcome because the contents, if carefully followed, will do a lot of good to the Republic of Nigeria. But there are certain points which I would like to make. It will be very interesting for this House to know how many Insurance Companies are in the country, and if it is possible to co-ordinate all of them to a central one. It will also be interesting to know how much is collected annually on Insurance Companies and what is the total gross and net income.

**Chief Okotie-Eboh** : Question time ?

**Mr Odeunmi** : It is good to get a sort of White Paper from the Minister of Finance. It will be very interesting to go over these things and to give us greater weapon to deal with the implications on Insurance Companies.

We congratulate the Minister of Finance because we know he is always working hard to get all resources conserved in the Republic of Nigeria for the benefit and development programme of the country.

We would like to see that the Insurance business is nationalised. There is no doubt, Mr Speaker, that there is a lot of money flowing from the pockets of everyone of us, from the pockets of a great number of people in the Republic to the Insurance Companies. They collect tremendous amount of money from us. However, it is always very difficult to get compensation. Any time an insurer has an accident, or feels that he is due for compensation, the claim is not easy going. But it is very easy for the Insurance Companies to get money from the people. It is a very good idea, as



[MR ODEBUNMI]

expressed by the Minister of Finance some-time last year, that half of the income be invested in Nigeria for the country's development programme. I would suggest that we get about three-quarters of it invested instead of half because, after all, the money is contributed by the member of the public of Nigeria and the proceeds should be used for their advantage. It is a very small number of people, comparatively speaking, who make claims from the tremendous amount of money poured in every year. Every hon. Member of this House here could imagine how much he has paid towards the insurance of his car and how much claim he has made; in many cases, none at all.

Another point is this. What will happen in the case of life assurance if a man finds it absolutely difficult or impossible to continue to pay his premiums? I think provision ought to be made to the effect that some of the money already contributed should be paid back to him. I know a few cases, where certain individuals have found it absolutely impossible to continue to pay the premiums towards their life insurance policies and not a penny of what they had already paid was given back to them. I think this point is important, and if the Minister of Finance will look into it, it will help a great deal.

I beg to support.

**Mr F. A. M. Amadi** (Nsukka Central): This is a very welcome Bill, and in contributing to the debate on it I would only like to make one or two observations in connection with the practice of the insurance clerks or agents, as they are generally called, who tend to defraud the public. I think the Minister should ensure that provision is made in this Bill to put an end to such sharp practices. I am referring to what a number of us here have suffered in our relation with these insurance companies whereby one sometimes get what they call a temporary receipt and cover note and remains on that indefinitely, sometimes. One is inclined to think that the money paid never finds its way into the coffers of the insurance companies. We tend to put the whole blame on the company, but I wonder whether the company is really to blame in such matters. It should be possible that once a person pays his premium, he gets a proper receipt and becomes fully

covered. I believe that in cases like the one I referred to, if the agent makes away with the money and the unfortunate insurer gets into any difficulty, he certainly gets no redress. So I am strongly appealing to the Minister to make provision against people being defrauded in this way.

Also, I am all in favour of, if possible, amalgamating all these insurance companies or, if the Government will not amalgamate the insurance companies (because it is not quite easy to do that because they are all individual companies legally) at least, let the Government go into the business on its own. After all, one of the Governments in this country has set the pace. There is the Universal Insurance Company run by the Government of Eastern Nigeria. It is a very good insurance company. In fact, it is so progressive that most people are now patronising it. Its many advantages have proved to the insurers that there is nothing to stop the Government from forming a Corporation to incorporate all the insurance companies. This certainly will be a more reliable company than most of these private ones. Perhaps that will set at rest the minds of some of these who think that the only way out of all these problems is nationalisation. If the Government goes into insurance business, it is just as good as nationalisation and, we shall have efficiency and valuable work will be done.

I think such a thought is what the Government should take into serious advisement rather than just make these rules which may perhaps be difficult to operate. After all, according to the Bill, the only executive that one finds there is the inspector. May be the inspector will delegate his powers to other people. Nevertheless, I do not see how effective this is going to be in checking the evils of the present insurance companies. We all realise and accept that there are many obnoxious aspects in the practice of the present insurance companies and insurance business in this country. I think that the Government should face this problem boldly and work out a really useful and profitable plan so that the public will not be defrauded of their hard-earned money.

It is also true that this life assurance is a very good thing. Nevertheless, I think it cannot be all that good if one will find oneself faced

with a loss when one is looking for profit. There is a case when suddenly a person who has provided for the rainy day by taking out a life assurance policy, finds himself thrown out of job. If he has not contributed to the particular insurance company for a long time, he finds it terribly difficult to regain the money he has already paid in. I think that all individuals patronising any insurance company should be protected by law, now that we have decided to make laws about these insurance companies.

**Mr J. Ukueku (Urhobo West)**: This Bill is highly welcomed by all sides of this House, and I particularly welcome it. I do want to say, however, that the premiums charged on vehicles and other things are extraordinarily high in this country. A few years ago, I imported a car from England and paid a premium of £26 in England. On landing in Nigeria I had to pay £82 on the same car. This is highly exorbitant. I think the Minister of Finance should look into this point.

Also, when one has an accident in this country and one makes a claim, it takes as long as twelve months before one can get the claim, if at all. They have to invite the Police and all sorts of people to the scene of the accident.

In view of that, I recommend that these inspectors who are to be appointed should look into these high charges of premiums. If one has an accident in England payment is made almost immediately. But in Nigeria, it is not so. These insurance companies find it very easy to take the money from people but very difficult to pay people back what is due to them.

On the question of life assurance, I agree with others, particularly that there should be a limit to the time one has to make claims. If suddenly a person is thrown out of job, he cannot claim back the money already paid. Therefore, it is my suggestion that the Minister in charge should look into this.

It is stated that the expatriate companies do not invest 100 per cent of their premiums into this country. I do not know whether this is similarly done in England. If I have a life assurance policy in England, for instance, would I invest a part of it in Nigeria and the other part in England? If that is not so, I think we should rectify the present situation so that the

expatriates should invest their full premiums in this country.

I do not know whether this Bill has anything to do with insurance against fire and burglary. Both of them are integrated. It is impossible to have one. I think it should be made possible for fire or burglary insurance to be taken out separately.

I also would like the Minister of Finance to look into the various loopholes in this Bill. As he has said, this Bill is non-contentious and so it does not require a long speech.

**Chief D. A. Ogunleye (Ede-Ejigbo)**: Too much cannot be said about our claim for the nationalisation of insurance companies in this country. The insurance companies have a means of collecting public money for the use of a certain group of people. The Government has legislated that all vehicles should be insured before they can ply the Nigerian roads. But what part of the money being collected by the insurance companies goes to the coffers of the Government? It is high time the whole insurance business in this country should be nationalised.

Besides that, it is a fact that most of these insurance companies in this country are defaulters. I want to call the attention of this House to what happened last year during the tragic flood in Ibadan. Many Nigerian companies and trading firms insured their properties with the insurance companies. When the flood came, most of their properties were damaged or carried away by the flood. Up till now most of the insurance companies have not made good their agreement with the owners of these properties. In most cases, most of these insured, especially those in private enterprises, find it very difficult to take these insurance companies to court because they have not got the money or the legal advisers.

I think it is very important that a section should be incorporated in this Bill to help our private firms and traders so that payment may be enforced whenever insurance companies fail to make good their agreement with them.

With these few remarks, I beg to support the Bill.

**Shettima Ali Monguno (Kaga Marghi)**: I personally consider that this Bill is slightly

[SHETTIMA MONGUNO]

overdue, though it would, if passed and implemented, certainly go a long way to improve the unfortunate situation into which those of us who are insured have been put by certain unscrupulous insurance companies and their agents in this country. We strongly believe that insurance is a very profitable business and, as such, the only solution to this problem, no matter how long it would take, lies in the eventual taking over by the Government of the Republic of Nigeria, of all insurance companies. Until the Minister of Finance is able to convince this House why the Government should not take over insurance business, we would like to see more and more of the profits made by these insurance companies ploughed back into the country by way of investment.

This Bill is hardly controversial. We certainly do welcome it, but at the same time, the Government should look into the possibility of taking over insurance business.

I beg to support.

**Mr O. C. Ememe** (Aba South): The business of insurance is a very important one. We have been praying to get money to invest in our development programme, and many people who are conversant with the business of insurance realise that it is a major source of saving for our capital development. Indeed when we really survey the profits made and the money handled by these insurance companies, we will be in a position to know that a great deal of our capital development can be financed by insurance business.

What we find in this country is that the public are every day being exploited by these insurance businessmen. They do it in all types of technical ways which are possible in the business world. In fact, they are so shrewd that they do not care what effect their unscrupulousness has on the masses.

Anybody who has studied the documents presented by these insurance companies will notice that it is most difficult to have claims recovered from the law courts, because they have made such provisions in their policies that the insured will always be at a loss. If you insured your house and it got burnt, if you did not take time, you would not recover anything from the insurance companies. If you insured your car and it collided with another

car, if you did not take time, you would not recover anything from the insurance companies. If you insured your life and you were not dead before the time you wanted to claim something, you might find it impossible to claim anything again from the insurance companies. There are so many technical manipulations and machinations in this insurance business that the ordinary man does not know how to extricate himself from them. We look upon the Government to do something about these insurance companies.

Members of this Parliament have consistently prayed the Government to institute an inquiry into the insurance business in this country. The Government did so, and a report of that inquiry was brought to the Floor of this House some time ago. We have known what the people have been saying to the Government about insurance companies.

The consensus of opinion of the entire Nigerian public is that the insurance companies are not doing a clear business. They are not in favour of the public interest. They are not interested in Nigeria as such. Therefore, what the people say is that these insurance companies deserve to be properly handled by the Government.

We in this House have consistently told the Government to do just one thing—take over the insurance business. There are two ways the Government could have done that: either they follow the example set by the Eastern Nigeria Government by founding their own insurance companies compete with the existing foreign insurance companies, or, if possible, drive the foreign insurance companies out of the market. The profits of this business would go to our Government.

I can observe that the Ministers are not listening. They will not listen whenever we say anything that is important to this nation. We are now discussing a very important matter, and it behoves the Ministers to listen so that they can take our comments into serious consideration.

What I am saying is that if the Government operate their own insurance companies, most of the people who have been complaining about insurance will patronise the Government business, because they know that the Government will protect their interests.

Even if the Government exploits the masses the money will go back to the masses. But when a foreign firm exploits the masses the money does not go back to the people, it goes overseas for other people's welfare. What we are therefore saying is that it is not fair for our Federal Government to fight shy of this business. We are telling the Government to have her own insurance company or, as an alternative, to nationalise all the foreign insurance companies.

We on our part, say that the Government should take the extreme measure and nationalise the whole thing but many other people propose as an alternative measure, the establishment of a Government insurance company. Well, we have now come to a compromise—the Government should have her own insurance business.

We are asking the Federal Government to do what the Eastern Regional Government has done. Maybe that will be a way out somehow. When Government starts to accumulate money from this business, it will discover the necessity of nationalising the whole business. If I may venture to say what many people have in mind, I would say that many people believe that the only reason why the Federal Government is not really keen on this insurance business is that some people in high places have their hands in these insurance companies. I do not want to name anybody; those who are so involved know themselves.

It is not wise for the whole interests of the Nigerian public to be thrown outside the country just for the interest of a few people. That is not fair and we have been saying this often and often again. There is no reason why the Government should not go into the business of insurance even if this will mean competing with the Ministers. It does not matter at all, what really matters is that the interest of the public should be adequately protected.

**Mr D. U. Okay** (Port Harcourt): On a point of order, the hon. Member is saying that there are some Ministers who have insurance companies.

**Chief Okotie-Eboh**: I wonder why he cannot be more specific.

**Mr Speaker**: That should not be a subject for debate.

**Mr S. D. Lar** (Lowland East): On a point of order, much as I appreciate the hon. Member's points of view, I just want to ask him if there are any insurance companies in Moscow. He may wish to explain that.

**Mr Ememe**: This should be a very serious matter to all Members of this House. I do not know why people should joke with it. When we are saying that the welfare of the masses are not being protected and that the simplest thing for the Government to do is to have her own insurance business, I wonder why anybody should think that that is a minor matter to trifle with.

I think that it is on the Floor of this House that we must tell these Ministers who are ruling us that they must do what the people want and not just what they want as individuals. This Bill that we are debating is a negative approach to the whole problem. It provides for an inspector of insurance to go round and find out what the insurance companies are doing.

I will tell you, Sir, that this is the kind of thing we have with the fifty-fifty profit sharing agreement with the Oil Companies, and in spite of it, the Oil Companies are still amassing their wealth. What do the oil companies do? All they do is to build a mansion for the very man who is made the inspector and is supposed to carry out the inspection of the activities of the oil companies and he forgets about inspection.

That is the thing and I can assure hon. Members that the same thing is going to happen with these insurance companies. We are going to have as an Inspector a Nigerian who, tomorrow will become the owner of a mansion and that will be the end of the inspection that he is supposed to carry out and then the insurance companies will continue to exploit the masses. What then can we do? I suggest that we should have our own insurance business. That is the only remedy. If the Ministers do not want that remedy then they are not doing what the people want, but they should do what the people want.

They are holding this Government in the trust for the people and they should therefore comply with what the people want and protect their interests.

The N.C.N.C. as a party has, during its last Annual Convention, agreed that the life

[MR EMEME]

insurance business should be nationalised and I am bringing this to the notice of the Federal Government in which the N.C.N.C. has a part to play. The insurance business, particularly life insurance, should be nationalised. The Federal Government should nationalise life insurance and should actually go into the whole business of insurance in order to safeguard the interests of the people.

A word is enough for the wise and I hope our Ministers will comply with this request.

**Mr D. O. Enefola** (Igala South) : I rise to support this Bill. The Minister in charge of this Bill should rest assured that any move towards the right direction of trying to get money for the development of this country is welcome by all sides of this House.

We are not quarrelling with this progressive Bill which tries to conserve and preserve our money for this Country, money that has always gone into the pockets of foreigners through life insurance. But what the general public feels about this insurance companies should be taken into serious consideration by the Government.

I shall give an example of what goes on in this insurance business. If the money invested in these insurance companies is utilised in the right direction that is, for the progress and betterment of this country, one would be relieved but when it is realised that the money that these insurance companies get from the public is used to further their own ends rather than to better the lots of those who are actually paying this money, the Government must do something about it.

For example, if I pay my car insurance this year it will be four years since I have been paying large amount of money to a foreign insurance company. During the four years I have never had an accident and I have paid about three hundred pounds. But if the Government was handling this insurance business and I know that this money which goes to the Government (whether I claim anything or not), would be used for the betterment of this country I would be relieved.

But for four years now I have been paying money to a foreign insurance company from which I have never got any interest or claimed anything. This is very bad and I know that there are many people in the same condition.

When one buys a car one must insure it whether one is going to claim anything or not.

I believe that this insurance business is something on which we must be serious and try to convince the Government to go into and listen to public opinion. If we want to conserve money as a result of passing this Bill we must not confine ourselves to life insurance alone, we must go into the whole business of insurance. The Government should step forward boldly and tell these foreign companies or commercial firms who deal with these insurance business that they must either try to help the public by way of investing the gain they make from these insurances into Government businesses or the Government should come out boldly and nationalise all the insurance companies. Alternatively, the Government should launch a company of its own.

My second point is that I want to make it clear that it is not the paying of the money that really matters ; the trouble is that once somebody makes a sacrifice—and all these insurances—life insurance, property insurance, insurance against fire or burglary, and the insurance of anything that one has in a house even if it is fountain pen—are sacrifices—he hopes to get something in return for his sacrifice. But when one makes these sacrifices from which he hopes to gain something in due course, he discovers that the gain which he has been expecting and which is rightly due to him is not as easy to get as he believes. It becomes very difficult to get the gain.

People go into the trouble of filling so many forms, and when the Insurance Companies try to waive off payment of any amount to them, they are compelled to engage lawyers. The ordinary citizens make all these sacrifices and when it comes to claiming anything, say when they are in need of money, the whole process becomes extremely difficult.

Even if the Government takes over the business, I would like still to say that when people decide to save money for a rainy day, they should find it easy to get hold of the money whenever they need it.

I would like to give an example with this N.P.F. which the Government now operates. There are some people who contribute to this, particularly the teachers, and when they want the money back, they go through the rigour

of filling many forms, buying many stamps, writing many letters and carrying out a lot of negotiation. This is very bad.

I therefore, implore the Government in their progressive moves and planning, to try and listen to public opinion on these claims from Insurance Companies.

I beg to support.

**Chief Okotie-Eboh :** I think that hon. Members are contributing to this debate from the general insurance point of view. This Bill does not cover all the fields that Members have been discussing. However, I shall note those points that have been made by Members, and refer them to my colleague the Minister of Commerce and Industry for consideration.

The only point that I would like to reply to, specifically, is the question of nationalisation. Hon. Members will agree with me that insurance business is a specialised one. It is not just as simple as hon. Members would make the House to believe. It is not anybody that can just undertake it. I have said, time and again, that we shall go into it very carefully.

An hon. Member said that if the Government is going to undertake insurance business absolutely, it does not matter whether the Government defrauds the public or not, the money will be ploughed back to the public.

Surely no one would like to run a Government that will be defrauding the people. That will be a very bad Government. I am sure my hon. Friend will be the first person to shout from house tops, that the Government is defrauding the people.

One important thing is that this very hon. Member also referred to inspectors and, in that circumstance, said that inspectors were dishonest. I am very much surprised that a Nigerian legislator could make such a wild allegation without substantiating it, thus trying to infer that his own countrymen cannot even be trusted with the ordinary work of inspection.

I am asking then, that if we cannot trust these people who will be engaged in inspecting these projects, who will be the people to be employed in the insurance business, if we set it up?

This will merely be asking us to widen the gap of fraud instead of limiting it to the few people who will inspect, and who the hon. Gentleman alleged—I do not agree with him—would be corrupt.

In any case, all I want to say is that it is nice for people to say that we should nationalise insurance business in Nigeria. I must say however, that we do not contemplate in this country, the nationalisation of insurance business.

**Several hon. Members :** Why, why?

**Chief Okotie-Eboh :** Because it is not our policy. Nationalisation is not our policy. It has rightly been said that one Government has undertaken insurance business in its Region. But why not allow the wheat and the tare to grow together until the time of harvest?

It is not the policy of this Government to nationalise any private industry. When the time comes for us to set up our own insurance business, we will do so like any other Government.

**An hon. Member :** But you set up the "Nigerpool".

**Chief Okotie-Eboh :** We did not set up the "Nigerpool". There are fraudulent pools in the Western Region. The hon. Member should know about that. I am not interested in the pools business. I do not fill coupons.

I think this is all that is relevant. All that the Bill seeks to achieve is to see that premiums are not taken away from the country, and that they are invested here for productive purposes. That is the purpose of the Bill and I have explained that fully. It is, in my view, a very good beginning and I commend it again to the House for acceptance.

I, therefore, move that the Question be now put.

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

*Main Question accordingly put and agreed to.*

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

THE INSURANCE (MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS) BILL—CONSIDERED IN COMMITTEE

*Clause 1—(ADDITIONAL PROVISIONS AS RESPECTS INSURANCE AGAINST LOCAL RISKS).*

**M. Sule Abba Biu** (Biu North): I would like to say that this House should reject this Bill. In 1960 the Government appointed a certain Committee to investigate something connected with the insurance business. This Committee submitted its report in June 1961. This House did not get that report until March 1964.

Really this delay shows clearly that there must be something wrong with insurance business in Nigeria. It seems that the Minister has an interest in insurance business. What I think is most appropriate, therefore is to defer this Bill for a period of six months in order to give hon. Members the opportunity to study it and sound the views of the commoners outside before passing this Bill.

I remember that in my village there are many people who own lorries. These people pay insurance premiums of more than £200 a year for each vehicle, but when there is an accident nothing is paid to them. They cannot get through unless they know any police officer who can give them good reports. Unless they can get these reports, which are never easy to get, they cannot claim even one penny.

**Chief Okotie-Eboh**: The hon. Member is not speaking on Clause 1. Clause 1 deals with additional insurance against local risks. What is the hon. Gentleman talking about?

**M. Sule Abba Biu**: There is still something in this Clause connected with accidents, so I do not think I am irrelevant. I must mention these things.

Of course, the Minister of Finance has some direct interest in this particular Bill, otherwise he should not obstruct us, I think, he should give us ample chance of discussing the Bill. After all, the lawyers have contributed a lot to help the insurance companies. For instance, in cases of claims in respect of accidents, the lawyers usually support the insurance companies and the result is that our people lose their compensation automatically.

With these few remarks, I beg to support.

**Mr E. A. Mordi** (Asaba East): It is really most unfortunate that we are treating this Bill with this kind of levity. Before I go to the point I want to mention Clause 1, it does seem to me that unless we take the contents of this Bill seriously, the whole thing might adversely affect our economy in this country.

It is most painful to note that when one goes out, every other man on the road is found to be an insurance agent. That goes to show that quite a lot of profit is being made in this country by the insurance companies. I would like to say that I do not like the way our Government is treating this Bill.

What I am going to say now is an allegation and I would like the Minister of Finance to investigate it. The draft Bill which the Minister is now reading has passed three or four times through the insurance companies in this country. This is most unfortunate. What we now have here is the result of what the insurance companies have produced for the people of this country. As a matter of fact, I am asking the people who are in this Parliament to ask for a deferment of this Bill. If this Bill is passed, surely this Government is not a Nigerian Government.

How can we in this Parliament pass a Bill which allow for only two-fifths of the profits which are being made by the insurance companies to be invested in this country. The figure is too poor, Mr Chairman.

As a matter of fact, I am reliably informed that most of the insurance companies in this country are making profits of upwards of a million pounds. What is two-fifths—forty per cent—out of a million pounds collected from Nigeria.

In fact, I have many other things to say on this Bill and if I have the opportunity, I shall say them during the Third Reading.

All I want to say now is that in view of the fact that this Bill has passed through the Board of the Insurance Companies in this country and the insurance companies have brought this final Bill to us, I am asking for a deferment of this particular Bill.

**The Attorney-General and Minister of Justice** (Dr T. O. Elias): May I register the strongest objection to the statement made by the Member for Asaba East (*Mr Mordi*) that this Bill produced by me in my Ministry after nearly six months of hard work, negotiations and consultations should be described as a Bill prepared for the Government of Nigeria by the insurance companies in this country. I think it is most unfair to make that allegation.

Anybody who is aware of how legislation is passed in other countries will agree that whenever any legislation is to come before the Legislature, there must be prior consultations with the interests concerned. It is for the Government, after listening to their points of view and to the points of view of Nigerian insurance companies to come to a conclusion. At the moment we have not less than about twelve different letters from expatriate insurance companies protesting against almost every Clause in this Bill. We have not accepted it.

**Chief Okotie-Eboh :** I would have thought that when an hon. Member makes an allegation in this House, he would be sure of his facts. If the hon. Member who makes this allegation is very sure, then he is in insurance business or he must have been misled by somebody in the insurance business. I want to inform the Member who made this allegation that Government Resolutions are not sold out as some of you teachers sell out examination papers. I do not know the reason why the Member for Asaba East (*Mr Mordi*) should be fidgeting about that.

I want to say this : as my Colleague and Friend has said, this is not a dictatorial regime. We do not impose even secret things like Customs Tariff changes on the people concerned. The Government must get in touch with the business concerned and have discussions with them, otherwise no matter how effective a Government is or how well-informed a Government can be, the man who does the business from day to day will know more of the loopholes and be able to give certain information that could even help the Government.

So, in drafting a legislation like this, Members do not expect that Government would prevent its officials, and I repeat its officials, from having discussions with the insurance companies with a view to getting such facts from them that would enable the Government to put up a Bill that would be acceptable and workable ; and I lay emphasis on the workability of the Bill.

We do not want to drive investors from here. The Government instructs its officials to discuss and consult with the business concerned because we do not want to ruin the insurance

business overnight especially when we are not prepared to nationalise the insurance business in Nigeria.

**Mr Mordi :** I thought the Chairman stopped me on a point of order. When the Minister of Finance jumped up I thought he was going to raise a point of order on the point of order raised by the Attorney-General. In fact, I have not finished my statement.

**The Chairman :** When the Member for Asaba East (*Mr Mordi*) resumed his seat, I thought he had finished his statement. He made the point that the Bill be deferred at a Committee Stage, whereas after the Bill had passed the Second Reading, the Bill cannot be deferred. The Member for Asaba East could only suggest the deferment of a Clause. However, if he has more points to make, I am willing to give him another opportunity when the Minister of Finance has finished.

**Chief Okotie-Eboh :** I do not wish to take more time of the House. All I want to say is that no Minister can allow his Bill to be dictated from outside and no Government can allow that kind of thing. Everybody knows that the Bills are drafted by our respected, honest and able Attorney-General. The language of the Bill certainly is not the language of an insurance broker, nor is it the language of a school master.

I want to say on the Floor of this House with all sense of responsibility that this Bill was not imposed upon us, nor was it drafted for us nor has it anything as such to do with insurance brokers, except the usual consultations which we must have with the business concerns. I would, therefore, ask my hon. Friend the Member for Asaba East (*Mr Mordi*) to be careful in making such allegations and, if he is in good mood, to withdraw the statement which he has made.

**Chief P. Dame-Oboh (Ishan West) :** On a point of order, as far as this Insurance Bill is concerned, every hon. Member can make an allegation against one of the Ministers or all of them for trying to support the insurance companies in defrauding the country.

**Mr W. O. Briggs (Degema) :** On a point of order, the Member for Ishan West (*Chief Dame-Oboh*) is speaking from the N.C.N.C. Bench which he had regarded as "N.C.N.C. lie-lie"



**Chief Okotie-Eboh :** Again, I would like to say that—

**Mr J. O. Ede (Idoma North) :** On a point of order, why is it that any fact brought out by a Member on the Floor of this House is termed an allegation by the Leader of the House? This is a pity and I do not know when the time will come when he will accept a Member's word as being an actual fact and not an accusation or allegation.

**Chief Okotie-Eboh :** All I am saying is that if an hon. Member is going to make a serious allegation here, he should be able to prove it or he withdraws it. But if he does not, then he will know that allegations or false allegations are not the preserve of school masters alone. (*Interruptions*).

**The Chairman :** I wonder why people get precipitated as soon as teachers are slightly provoked. I do not think we should pay too much attention to any slight provocation of teachers; after all, I was a teacher myself.

**Mr Mordi :** The Minister of Finance had once been a teacher himself, though, of course, he was a junior teacher then.

It is really unfortunate that what some of us say in this House are being branded as allegations. It is not my intention to make any false allegation here. I feel that any hon. Member in this House is supposed to cater for the interest of, at least, his constituency and of the nation as a whole. We are national representatives here and it is a duty incumbent on us to speak the truth whenever we are faced with it.

I do not intend to be offensive, but I am quite convinced that much as negotiations and consultations had been carried out in respect of this Bill, the other side—that is the interest of this nation—had not been sufficiently protected. That is my point and I want to say that it is not impossible to find that there are some sort of private interests connected with those negotiations and consultations. I am saying this with utmost sense of responsibility. If it is possible, let the Prime Minister make an investigation into this, because I am sure that well over three or four Ministers are interested in insurance business in this country.

**Chief Okotie-Eboh :** On a point of order, I accept the challenge of my hon. Friend and I want to tell the House that three Ministers have

something to do with this Bill, namely, the Minister of Commerce and Industry, myself and the Attorney-General. I challenge my hon. Friend to say on the Floor of this House whether any of us has any remote interest in insurance business in Nigeria. If he cannot, then he should withdraw the statement. I say again that we are going to ask the Prime Minister to investigate this matter and my hon. Friend should allow that the matter to be handed over to the Police. I say again that I have made this statement on the Floor of this House that we have no immediate or remote connection with any insurance company in this country, and I will ask that the matter be referred to the Police. If it is proved that my hon. Friend was lying to this House, he should be charged.

*Clause 1—(ADDITIONAL PROVISIONS AS RESPECTS INSURANCE AGAINST LOCAL RISKS)—ordered to stand part of the Bill.*

*Clause 2—(ADDITIONAL PROVISIONS AS RESPECTS ENDOWMENT INSURANCE).*

**Chief Okotie-Eboh :** I rise to move the following Amendment standing in my name on the Order Paper—

Clause 2, page C97, line 11, at end insert “and by the amount of such other payments, if any, as may be prescribed”.

Clause 2, page C97, line 35, after “is” insert, “or that that person and any relevant re-insurers together are,”

Clause 2, page C97, line 39, after “premium” insert “or of such proportion of them as may be prescribed”.

Clause 2, page C97, line 43, at end insert “In this subsection ‘relevant re-insurer’, in relation to a contract of endowment insurance, means a person who, under a contract of re-insurance relating to the contract of endowment insurance, has undertaken to make payments corresponding to any payments by way of benefit payable under the contract of endowment insurance”.

Clause 4, page C99, line 3, leave out “allocate” and insert “secure the allocation of”.

I beg to move.

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Clause 2, as amended, ordered to stand part of the Bill.*

**Clause 3—(APPOINTMENT AND FUNCTIONS OF INSPECTORS).**

**Mr C. O. Chiedozie (Enugu) :** The point I want to bring to the notice of the Minister in connection with Clause 3 is this question of the appointment of inspectors. I feel that the responsibility of the inspector is too much. He will be a registrar of the insurance companies as well as the inspector to detect things that are going on in the insurance business.

I would suggest the appointment of a national insurance control board or control commission, charged with the duty of finding out the anomalies in insurance business. The crux of the whole matter lies in this Clause 3—the way to check abuses on the part of insurance companies. If the companies are going to be checked properly in order to avoid all these things that we are complaining of, it should be the responsibility of only an inspector.

We are not doubting the integrity of the Minister, but we believe that the establishment of a control board charged solely with the responsibility of finding out and checking the abuses, anomalies and inconsistencies practised by insurance companies will be the best way out of the present difficulty. In the meantime, the Government should first of all establish this board before thinking of taking over anything of that nature. The Government should create a very strong board to check the activities of insurance companies.

**Mr E. A. Mordi (Asaba East) :** My hon. Friend, the Member for Enugu (*Mr Chiedozie*) has made the points that I wanted to make. I feel that an insurance board should be established to take responsibility for all what we are now talking about. But in creating this board, care should be taken to see that an expatriate is not appointed into it. I am saying this because, already some expatriates are lobbying to be appointed as inspectors.

The Government, I am sure, sent some Nigerians to undertake a course in insurance and they are now back fully qualified. One of them has got his fellowship in insurance. Whenever it is necessary to appoint an inspector, a Nigerian should be appointed as such. An expatriate should never be appointed to the post of inspector.

I therefore, strongly associate myself with the suggestion made by the Member for Enugu (*Mr Chiedozie*) that a national insurance board be created.

**Chief Okotie-Eboh :** I wonder whether hon. Members have read Clause 3—Appointment and Functions of Inspectors. This Clause makes it quite clear that—

*“There shall be an inspector for the purposes of this Act, whose office shall be an office in the department of government for which responsibility is assigned to the Minister.”*

Is the hon. Gentleman now suggesting that when a department of government is assigned to a Minister for purposes of control, a board should at the same time be set up over the head of the Minister? That is no point. It is a department of government, like the Inland Revenue, under me. You have this department under the Minister of Commerce and Industry and it will submit its report to the Minister who will take the final decision on any matter.

**Mr F. I. Okoronkwo (Aba Urban) :** I agree with those hon. Members who have made points regarding the appointment of an inspector, and I would like the Government to look into those points.

In the first place, I am suggesting, as well, that Government should appoint an accountant to each insurance house in order to supervise the work of this inspector. If this is done, it will enable the Government to detect the anomalies going on in these insurance companies. I want the Government to make the appointment of an accountant as one of the provisions in this Bill, because the inspector alone cannot detect all the anomalies prevalent in insurance companies.

At the same time, I am calling upon the Senators to defer this Bill for six months.

**The Chairman :** I have already indicated that hon. Members cannot move the deferment of a Bill during Committee Stage, but hon. Members can only deal with Clauses in particular.

**Mr O. C. Ememe (Aba South) :** The point that I want to stress here is the practice normally undertaken by businessmen, particularly shrewd businessmen. Insurance companies very often keep two types of books

[MR EMEME]

This, I am sure, is relevant to this matter. An inspector is probably going to inspect their books, and probably the books to be inspected will not be the real ones. In fact, this practice has been going on. One of these books is shown to the inspector and the other book, which is the actual book containing the operations of the company, is hidden away. Under these circumstances, I do not know how the Minister will detect whether the companies keep two books or not. This is actually the practice.

Therefore, I must say very clearly that all these negative approaches cannot help this country. The Government should go into the business directly. They should not only appoint inspectors.

**Chief Okotie-Eboh :** I do not know of any company keeping two books except the one belonging to the "voice of Moscow".

*Clause 3—(APPOINTMENT AND FUNCTIONS OF INSPECTOR)—ordered to stand part of the Bill.*

*Clause 4—(SUPPLEMENTARY ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS).*

**Chief Okotie-Eboh :** I beg to move that—

"At page C99, line 3, leave out "allocate" and insert "secure the allocation of".

*Question, That the word proposed to be left out be left out, put and agreed to.*

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

*Clause 4, as amended, ordered to stand part of the Bill.*

*Clause 5—(NIGERIAN INVESTMENTS).*

**Mr F. C. Ogbalu (Awka North) :** I have lost my opportunity to make general remarks on some points already raised. I have now got to talk on this particular Clause. This particular Bill requires expert advice, as the Minister of Finance has already said, because it is always the custom of economists to prick the utopian bubbles. I think a lot of sentiments which have been expressed in this House have been based on emotions. For example, somebody said that this Bill ought to have been presented a long time ago. The point is that this Bill could not have been presented at any other time than a time like this, because, in the first place, there must be gilt-edged

securities and government bonds for the insurance companies to purchase. The insurance companies cannot just invest their money in long-term projects. They want short-term projects in which to invest their money.

Since the establishment of a money market—

**Mr O. C. Ememe (Aba South) :** On a point of order, the Member for Awka North (*Mr Ogbalu*), I think, is probably a representative of insurance companies and his speech clearly seems to indicate that.

**Mr Ogbalu :** I am speaking from the point of view of an economist.

**Mr Ememe :** What degree have you got in economics ?

**Mr Ogbalu :** I have got B.Sc. (Econ.) London.

The point I am trying to make is that the introduction of this Bill could not have been feasible without the necessary background being covered. That is one cogent point.

Furthermore, the Minister of Finance complained that when the Federal Government launched its development loan, the public could only contribute £2.4 million, leaving the Central Bank to give about £17.6 million. The main reason for this was that these insurance companies could not have invested in the long-term projects. They wanted gilt-edged securities—sort-term loans in order to invest their money.

In the first place, many Members have been talking as if insurance simply means gain all the time. It is not one-way traffic. This does not mean that I am defending the insurance companies as such. The point is that the two sides of the problem have to be considered.

This Bill has something to do with the Stock Exchange, Government Bonds and also with the money market. All these things point to the fact that the introduction of this Bill is timely and there could not have been a better time.

I am congratulating the Minister of Finance for bringing this Bill at this time. Some Members think that this Bill is a comprehensive one, but I would say that that is not the purpose of this Bill. The Minister of Finance has taken the trouble to explain this, but it is unfortunate that some Members do not—

**Chief P. Dame-Oboh** (Ishan West): The Member for Awka North (*Mr Ogbalu*) is not in a position to know the mind of Members.

**Mr Ogbalu**: As I have said, it is the function of an economist to prick the utopian bubble. Some of the expressions made on the Floor of this House are mere utopian bubbles, and if I am given the time to explain them one by one—(*Interruptions*). Economists do not yield to bickerings. I am not prepared for that. So the point I am making is that the Minister should be congratulated for this important Bill. I am a reasonable socialist, and I advocate nationalisation. I was trained for this particular subject and I am not going to yield to any unnecessary and unwarranted side attacks.

I beg to support, but next time I shall show that this is not a comprehensive Bill. When a comprehensive Bill comes to the Floor of this House, I shall be able to discuss insurance with authority.

*Clause 5—(NIGERIAN INVESTMENTS)—ordered to stand part of the Bill.*

*Clauses 6-7—ordered to stand part of the Bill.*

*Bill reported, with Amendment.*

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

**Mr D. M. Gbolagunte** (Ibarapa): I just have one or two statements to make. The aim of this Bill is to let the money in Nigeria stay in Nigeria instead of being ploughed in another country.

I would like to bring it to the notice of the Minister that the workers under the insurance companies operating in this country are not well paid; they are not paid as high as people who are working in the civil service. The Minister should advise these insurance companies to pay their workers attractive salaries. By doing so, more money will stay in Nigeria.

Another point is that we should encourage our people to take out life assurance policies. It should be easy for people travelling in this country to do this because the vehicles that are carrying them are covered by Third Party Insurance policies. In the United Kingdom, a traveller can take out life assurance policies for say £2,000 by paying only six pence at the railway station. Therefore, I

would like all our railway stations to have simple forms to be filled in by travellers on the payment of 6d. They can insure themselves for £2,000 or more, and if anything happens, they are covered.

I would like to cite the instance of the Lalupon disaster. The Lalupon disaster was a great loss to the country because the dependants of the victims in the accident could not be compensated simply because they did not insure their lives. If the victims had insured their lives, the insurance companies would have paid compensation to their dependants.

I suggest therefore that our railway stations, possibly our motor parks and airports should have life assurance forms which travellers can fill.

**Mr M. C. K. Obi** (Afenmai East): As far back as 1960 Members of this House demanded that the insurance business should be nationalised and the Minister of Finance gave us an idea of the Federal Government's policy, which I believe he is pursuing.

If insurance business is nationalised, we would like the general public to be protected by making sure that the money that accrues from the business is used for economy of this country. This is a right step in that foreign insurance companies operating in this country are forbidden to repatriate their money. The Minister should be congratulated on this step.

The other point that I would like to make is this. Now, the interest of the public is not properly protected. The Attorney-General should do something in this regard by going into the policies of various insurance companies and making sure that the interests of the public as well as of the companies are protected. If this is done, this cry for nationalisation of insurance may cease. For this assignment, I would appeal to the Attorney-General to make sure that the policies of the insurance companies operating in the country are in the best interest of the public.

I beg to support.

**Mr A. U. D. Mbah** (Owerri North): A lot has been said on this Bill. I think it is really a step in the right direction for which we have to congratulate the Minister.

[MR MBAH]

I only want to say that a step is not enough, because I think it is the popular opinion that this Government should start insurance business of its own with the aim of nationalising it. This is what we are saying. I think that the Government will be going wild if it is not amenable to public opinion. The public opinion on this issue is that this is a right step. By the next meeting, or before next year, we expect the Government to go into insurance business, and our hope is to nationalise it eventually. That is what we are saying.

There is need to insure workers and particularly those exposed to risks. From time to time, we hear of death by accident and we need to know how much the families of those people are paid for losing, perhaps, very important members of the family. We hear cases of broken boilers, electrocution, people falling from trees or roof tops while working for Government, and killings of water-guards. Our security guards should be insured.

The next point I want to make is about the Armed Forces. Right now there are cases of policemen being shot here, there, and yonder. It is a different thing if policemen or soldiers are killed in war time, that is when we say they die in active service, but I think in peace time when the country is exposed to all sorts of lawlessness in certain parts of the country and as a result some policemen are killed, something must be done by way of insuring their lives against such deaths.

I come to the airlines. The Attorney-General should make it compulsory for all airlines to introduce a scheme of insurance to insure the lives of all travellers. This must be compulsory because of cases of crashes every now and then. Passengers, whether travelling to London, Kaduna, Enugu, the Mid-West or the Western Region should be insured. This is the point I want to make.

Reference has been made to inspectors—I think the Minister of Finance was worried about it. I will not go to the extent of accusing people of being dishonest but our experience in this country has been that when we send out inspectors, be they labour inspectors or otherwise, to inspect working conditions they bring their report back to the office and nothing is done about it. This is the problem we are facing and if we can be assured by Government

that it will take into account the various views expressed by this House I think there will be no problem. The Minister of Finance should take the suggestions in good faith, that by taking over the insurance companies this country will accumulate more wealth and the idea of taxing poor people to death, I think, can be minimised.

**Chief Okotie-Eboh :** I do not think that on the Third Reading one should belabour issues that have already been well treated during the Second Reading, but if I may make one or two remarks. My hon. Friend has said that I should go into insurance business. I have no such intentions at all—

**Mr Mbah :** I said the Federal Government should go into the insurance business with a view to nationalising it.

**Chief Okotie-Eboh :** If the Member for Owerri North means the Government I think I have stated the policy of the Government, that we have no intention now, nor in the immediate future, to nationalise the insurance business.

**Several hon. Members :** Why ?

**Chief Okotie-Eboh :** Because nationalisation is not our policy. Members should know that we have our policies. I earlier said that already a Government of the Federation has a corporation doing insurance business and they have not taken over all insurance businesses from the hands of the insurance companies there ; and I want to warn Members that they cannot eat their cake and have it. You cannot ask for investors to come here and once they are here you advocate the nationalisation of such industries, especially when you yourself cannot effectively do it.

**Chief D. N. Abii (Owerri East) :** May I humbly remind the Minister of Finance that my party's stand in this is not that insurance should not be nationalised, because in the Eastern Region to-day we have got a Government-run insurance company. So we want the Federal Government to start one like that so that all the monies we pay for life assurance will remain in this country.

**Chief Okotie-Eboh :** The Member for Owerri East knows that in our party he is junior to me, so he cannot tell me what the policy is.

**Mr Mbah :** On a point of information, nationalisation is interwoven with socialism which our party stands for. But I wonder whether the Minister of Finance is a socialist.

**Chief Okotie-Eboh :** My hon. Friend says that he wants us to legislate that the monies paid for life assurance should remain here. That is exactly what the Bill is to provide and may be when I finish the Attorney-General will come and explain to Members the legal side of the Bill. But I want to say that even pragmatic African socialism does not speak of nationalisation in all its ramifications.

**The Attorney-General and Minister of Justice (Dr T. O. Elias) :** One of the purposes of this Bill is to compel all insurance companies to invest one hundred per cent of all their funds from life insurance in this country and forty per cent of all other forms of insurance funds in this country.

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Bill read the Third time and passed.*

#### BILLS OF EXCHANGE BILL

*Order for Second Reading read.*

**Chief Okotie-Eboh :** I rise to move—

That a Bill for an Act to amend the law relating to Bills of Exchange; and for purposes connected therewith, be now read a Second time.

The main purpose of this Bill is to enable bankers to pay or collect cheques and certain other instruments without concerning themselves with endorsements in cases where payment is made to a banker or the proceeds are collected for crediting to the account of the ostensible payee.

As Members are aware, the use of cheques is growing tremendously in Nigeria. Nearly one million cheques were exchanged in the Lagos Clearing House alone during 1963. Transfer of cheques to third parties is not a usual practice in this country and it has been estimated that over ninety *per cent* of cheques drawn payable to order, otherwise than for cash, are credited to the accounts of the payees.

The Bills of Exchange Act 1917 (Cap. 21) provides, among other things, that cheques and other Bills of Exchange payable to order shall be endorsed before they are paid. Many cheques are returned unpaid by paying bankers

to collecting bankers for one irregularity or the other, but it has been found that not less than seventy-five *per cent* of all cheques so returned are returned for lack of, or irregularity in, endorsements which, in our present day commercial usage are, in most cases, no more than mere but unnecessary and expensive formalities.

The present Bill seeks to do away with this cumbersome practice by providing that endorsements shall not be necessary on cheques and other instruments that are collected for, or credited to, the accounts of the payees. Doing away with the need to endorse cheques, except in the relatively small proportion of cases where negotiations have taken place or where the cheques are presented for cash over the counter, would mean not only a saving of time and labour to the banking business but also great convenience to the general public who would be relieved of the need to endorse cheques that are to be credited to the accounts of the payees.

I beg to move.

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

**Mr D. M. Gbolagunte (Ibarapa) :** This is a Bill and we all support it. But I want to say that many of the banks have not got a sufficient number of workers—the Barclays Bank is exempted in this. These other banks do not employ a sufficient number of hands with the result that when you go to any of the banks to present a cheque it will take about an hour to get it through. I think this Bill will help to reduce the time we spend in the banks; all the same the banks should be asked to employ more hands in the interests of the public.

I beg to support.

**Shettima Ali Monguno (Kaga Marghi) :** I wholeheartedly support this Bill and also agree with what the Member for Ibarapa (*Mr Gbolagunte*) said. I was at the Central Bank yesterday to cash a cheque issued by the Ministry of External Affairs and it took me over an hour to get the cheque cashed due to unnecessary formalities. I even heard at one time that there were complaints from the staff that they wanted more people to help them. I hope the Ministry of Finance will see to this.

I beg to support.

*Question put and agreed to.*

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

*Bill reported without Amendment.*

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

**Chief D. A. Ogunleye** (Ede-Ejigbo): Before this Bill is passed into law, may I sound a note of warning to responsible citizens of this country who issue dishonoured cheques. I remember visiting a bank in London and I was shown forty-five cheques from Nigeria which were dishonoured. I think it is very important that before issuing cheques we should make sure that we have enough money in the bank. Most of our people and, perhaps, the Ministers are among those who issue dishonoured cheques.

**Mr D. D. U. Okay** (Port Harcourt): I support this Bill. It is usually said that exchange is no robbery.

Many importers in this country have discovered that when a bill of exchange is sent from England to some banks in this country it sometimes gets into wrong hands. There are even times when cheques are issued and the wrong people go to the bank to cash the cheques.

I find that this Bill is having an easy passage and I would like to warn that the Ministry of Finance should be very careful in implementing it.

The banks should employ more hands in order to check cases of fraud. There have been cases of forged cheques presented to the banks for cash. There are even cases when some cashiers, in their attempt to defraud a bank, make arrangements with outsiders to present cheques with forged signatures and no attempt is made to get somebody to identify the man who presents the forged cheque.

I think we are giving this Bill a very easy passage and I am wondering what the public will think about it.

**Mr M. B. Afanideh** (Ikot Ekpene South): I rise to support the Third Reading of the Bills of Exchange Bill.

May I suggest that any person who presents a dishonoured cheque should be charged to court. I think the Federal Government should make provision in this Bill for the arrest and punishment of people who present dishonoured cheques to the banks. If this is done, it will prevent people who do not have money in the banks from issuing cheques. If we want to protect the good name of our country overseas, I think this step is necessary.

**The Deputy Speaker**: I think whilst in the Chair, I must take the opportunity to avoid anything that might create some misleading impression in the minds of the public. There is sufficient law in our Criminal Code dealing with Criminal irregularities in the use of cheques.

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Bill read the Third time and passed.*

#### REGISTERED LAND BILL

*Order for Second Reading read.*

**The Minister of Justice** (Dr T. O. Elias): I rise to move—

That a Bill for an Act to provide for the more effective registration of land and titles and for matters connected therewith be read a Second time.

I shall not begin by pretending that this is a simple Bill but, by way of introduction, may I say that this matter has been engaging the attention of the Federal Government for a fairly long time.

At the moment, we have two pieces of legislation regulating registration of land and of titles to land in Lagos. The earlier is the Land Registration Act of 1924 and the later is the Registration of Titles Act, 1935. There has been a great deal of complexity in this matter and it was this that led the Government in 1957 to invite a gentleman by the name of R. S. Simpson, who was at that time the Colonial Office Land Tenure Specialist, to undertake a study of our Land Registry and to make recommendations for the spreading of the practice of compulsory and universal registration of interest in land. He submitted his report the following year and this report was later laid on the Table of this House in October 1958.

The Minister of Lagos Affairs at that time, then appointed a Working Party, one of the members of which is the Member for Lagos

Central (*Mr Dosunmu*). The Working Party's function was to try and produce a Draft Bill which would enable us to have a much more simplified system of Registration of Land and Titles in Lagos. That Bill was later mentioned in this House and referred finally to me for further work to be done on it.

The Bill that we now have is based for the most part on that draft. What we have done is merely to tidy up a number of the provisions and to suggest one or two improvements of detail.

If hon. Members would look at the whole of Part I they would find, I think, the new system proposed for this subject so far as Lagos is concerned. We have provided that the Minister of Lagos Affairs should have the discretion to declare certain areas of Lagos as adjudication areas, and once an area is so defined by the Minister certain consequences follow. Those interests in land that have already been registered under the Registration of Titles to Land, Cap. 181, will not require any formal claim by those possessing them, and they would be transferred to a new register established under this Act. Those interests that have been registered under the Land Registration Act, Cap. 99 of the Laws of Nigeria, will also be registered after certain officers to be appointed have investigated the matter and have satisfied themselves that the titles are in order. Then the Adjudication Officer will cause a list to be prepared.

Where the titles under the Land Registration Act are not considered satisfactory, or where the interests involved are unregistered or mere possessory titles, then a formal claim by those who own such land is necessary and the Adjudication Officer will ask two categories of officers to go into the matter—firstly, a Demarcation Officer and, secondly, a Registration Officer. When these have gone into the matter and satisfied themselves the matter will be referred to the Adjudication Officer who for that purpose will sit at a special hearing as a kind of Land Claims Court.

The next section of Part I to which attention should be drawn is Clause 4 which makes provision for the cases that I have just referred to, that is unregistered interests in land as well as interests that are merely possessory or acquired by long usage. In Clause 4 we propose later and Members would have seen it on the Order

Paper—to make a slight Amendment making it possible also for certain equitable interests to be also treated in this way.

Now, in Clause 5 there is a provision that, if claims in respect of such land in an adjudication area are brought before any court in the Federal Territory, they will be transferred to the Adjudication Officer to be dealt with in the manner just outlined.

In Clause 6 the list that has been prepared under the Registration of Titles Act, and in Clause 9 the list that would have been prepared under the Land Registration Act, will both be put together and the Adjudication Officer is under a duty to cause this to be published and later to transfer all those interests that have been verified and found to be satisfactory to the new register of titles established under this Bill.

I think it is relevant for us to consider briefly the arrangements made in Part IX as regards *caveat*, what in the original Bill was styled "caution". *Caveat* is any notice given by anyone who has any interest that is restrictive of the user of the land to be registered. The word "caution" is a little confusing, and *caveat* is more appropriate.

Now, when the notice has been given that there are certain interests which might be individual or even family then, of course, certain other consequences follow as in sections 132 and 133. In the first place the Registrar to whom such a notice has been given in writing will then ensure that the registration does not go on until such interests whether land, lease or charge have been clarified and the giver of the notice, the *caveator*, has had his interests properly protected.

In other cases people may prefer to go to court rather than go to the Registrar, and wherever that happens the matter will be decided by the court before the registration can be completed.

It is important for us to note the effect of any title or interest in land that has been so registered. At the moment there is not the same degree of security of tenure or of interest as there is under this Bill. Any title that has been accepted becomes completely unassailable, and not even the customary rights granted to those who have been squatters on another's land would be allowed to affect the root of a title.



## [MINISTER OF JUSTICE]

If hon. Members will remember the difficulties as are at present existing in regard to land litigation in the Federal territory, and probably elsewhere, they will appreciate that the need for clarification of title and the need for putting an end to unnecessary litigation in the court has never been more urgent than now. It is useful for us to know also that we have attempted to put a kind of time limit to the period during which the ownership of land may be acquired by peaceable, overt and uninterrupted adverse possession.

If the land concerned is State land, what used to be Crown land, then a maximum of 20 years is the period allowed. If the Crown does nothing about any of its possessions in any part of the Federal territory for 20 years, not even claiming rents or asserting acts of ownership, after 20 years, the possessor will become—the owner.

In the case of private land, we have fixed the period of 12 years. I do very much hope that this will really help to settle a very difficult part of our land law.

Now, may I refer briefly to the provisions of section 137 in this connection, that no title to land may be acquired by adverse possession and no easement or profit a pendre thereover shall be acquired by prescription, once that land is subject to the present Bill.

Then it is important for us to look at the provisions of the next section (what is now wrongly printed as section 132 but which should be section 138—it is a mere typographical error) with regard to the new thing that we have introduced into this Bill, that is the Registered Land Assurance Fund.

This is a fund contributions to which will be made up of such fees as are paid by those who are registering their land for the first time, and the fees will not be any higher than are being paid at the moment for the less secure titles available.

The system has been tried in other places which have adopted the Tores system—in Australia, New Zealand and many countries of South East Asia, the former Malaya, for example. The idea is to make it unnecessary or Parliament to be asked to establish this und from the general revenue of the Federal

Government, and to allow the registration of titles and the people for whom it caters to bring about this fund. The purpose of the fund is to pay compensation to all those who have been indemnified as a result of some irregularities in the registration of title. It is provided, in particular, in section 138 (2) of the Act, that no claim will be admitted or allowed by the Registrar for such indemnity unless the claimant satisfies him that he has exhausted all rights of action against his predecessor in title (that is the person from whom he obtains his own) and the claim is thereafter certified for payment by the Registrar and approved by the Minister of Lagos Affairs.

In section 151 (2), we have also provided that when instruments are to be registered under this Bill, a duty should be laid upon the applicant for registration or his lawyer to issue a certificate to the effect that the instrument itself is correct for the purposes of the Registered Land Act and such certificate should be signed by the party claiming such interest.

There are other parts of the Bill upon which, perhaps, Members may want some further explanation, but I think one need not say more on a complicated Bill than I have attempted to outline, so as not to complicate the picture.

Reserving my position as regards the two Amendments which are already on the Order Paper, I beg to move that the Bill be read a Second time.

**The Minister of Transport** (Mr R. A. Njoku) : I beg to second.

**Mr L. J. Dosunmu** (Lagos Central) : I think that after the Attorney-General and Minister of Justice has introduced this Bill with such wonderful clarity, it becomes absolutely necessary that the debate on it should be very limited. Of course, the Attorney-General, with the advantage of being an authority on Nigeria Land Law, has been able to take this House through what appears to be a very complex Bill. I, on behalf of this part of the House, subscribe to the views of the Attorney-General.

**An hon. Member** : How many of you are there ?

**Mr Dosunmu :** As many of us as remain here. Those of us who are Lagosians—

**An hon. Member :** Who are Lagosians and who are not ?

**Mr Dosunmu :** Those of us born and bred in Lagos and have no roots elsewhere are Lagosians.

At any rate, those who are native foreigners in Lagos and who acquire property in Lagos should be greatly relieved by this Bill, because as the Attorney-General has said, it gives them security of tenure in respect of their property.

Except to waste time, nobody can usefully add to what the Attorney-General has said. I congratulate the Government for finally summing up courage to bring forward this Bill. Hon. Members will also agree with me that it was as far back as 1956 that the Government started considering this Bill, and if towards the end of the life of this Government it sums up courage to bring it forward, it should be congratulated for doing so.

As a matter of fact, the Government can rest assured that all interests affected as a result of this Bill have been adequately consulted—the Nigeria Bar Association, the Commercial Houses and all the interests that are directly affected.

The only point that I want to make is this. Having made such an elaborate provision, one would plead with the Government to make sure that the necessary materials to carry out the provisions are available, and with the assurance of the Attorney-General that the whole stage is set.

I confidently support this Bill.

**Mr B. N. Ukegbu** (Owerri South East) : There is only one little thing that I want to say about this Bill, and that is, that the Attorney-General who has written a book that is accepted as a masterpiece on the Land Laws of this country, should be congratulated for trying to put this into practice in Lagos.

But as the Bill is declared to be non-controversial and we are going to pass it in this House, one would like to know what insurance the Attorney-General and Minister of Justice, is taking out to ensure that this Bill will be passed in the Senate. As we see, we once rushed a Bill in this House and it was turned

down in the Senate. We would therefore hope that this one will not be turned down in the Senate. The Attorney-General should make—

**The Speaker :** Order, order. I think that the debate is on the Registered Land Bill, and I do not think that the powers and procedures as between the Senate and the House of Representatives have become a question for debate.

**Mr Ukegbu :** I thank you. I was only trying to digress a little, and I will leave that point now.

I hope that this honourable House will be courteous enough to let me—

**Chief D. N. Abii** (Owerri East) : The hon. Member says that he wants to digress a little. May you kindly put the Question now, Sir ?

**The Deputy Speaker :** I think that neither the Standing Orders nor the mood in the House this morning is in favour of digression.

*Question put and agreed to.*

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

REGISTERED LAND BILL—CONSIDERED  
IN COMMITTEE

*Clauses 1-3—ordered to stand part of the Bill.*

Clause 4—(CLAIMS AND ATTENDANCE).

**Dr Elias :** I rise to move,

That in Clause 4 page C49 after line 16 insert new subsection "(6). Any instrument which may be void or voidable under any other Act by reason only of the fact that it has not been registered or presented for registration within the time prescribed under any other Act, shall be deemed to create an equitable interest affecting land ; and a claim may be made in respect thereof and shall have effect, and may be dealt with accordingly on any adjudication".

**The Minister of Transport** (Mr R. A. Njoku) I beg to second.

*Question, That the subsection proposed to be inserted be there inserted, put and agreed to.*

*Clause 4—as amended, ordered to stand part of the Bill.*

*Clauses 5-162—ordered to stand part of the Bill.*

Clause 163—(RESTRICTED APPLICATION OF OTHER ACTS).

**Dr Elias** : I rise to move.

That in Clause 163 page C92 after line 23 insert new subsection "(3). In its application to the Federal territory, the Conveyancing and Law of Property Act 1881 of the United Kingdom shall, to the extent to which other provision is made by this Act, cease to have effect; and in particular, the provisions of sections twenty-six, twenty-seven, twenty-nine and fifty-seven and of the Third and Fourth Schedules of the said Act (which together prescribe certain forms) shall, save as to the form of marriage settlement, be repealed".

**The Minister of Transport** : I beg to second.

*Question, That the subsection proposed to be inserted be there inserted, put and agreed to.*

Clause 163,—as amended, ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clauses 164 and 165—ordered to stand part of the Bill.

*Schedule agreed to.*

(Mr Speaker resumed the Chair)

*Bill reported, with Amendments.*

*Motion made and Question proposed, That the Bill be now read the Third time—(THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL AND MINISTER OF JUSTICE).*

**Mr W. O. Briggs** (Degema) : I notice that this Act has superseded quite a lot of Acts. Anybody who has been dealing with land cases will see the necessity for it. But I would urge the Attorney-General and Minister of Justice to consult his counterparts in the Regions so that a similar law could be passed, because this Bill, particularly the Crown Land and Registration of Titles Act throws many lawyers into confusion. These are very important Acts as far as lawyers dealing with land cases are concerned, and until the law is extended to the Regions, we shall be dealing with the old laws which are not of federal application.

One further thing is the question of acquisition of land by adverse possession—Section 154. It allows twenty years in the case of the Crown and twelve years in the case of private

individuals. I would suggest that there should be no discrimination in the two types of possession. I think the same period of twelve years should be applied in both cases.

*Bill read the Third time and passed.*

SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION (1963-64)  
(No. 2) BILL :

ADJOURNED DEBATE ON SECOND READING  
(20TH MARCH)

*Motion made and Question proposed, That the Bill be now read a Second time.*

*Question put and agreed to.*

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

**Mr A. O. Ogunsanya** (Ikeja) : On a point of order, I want to say that the Members of this House feel that Bills should not be brought before us when we are in a hurry.

**The Minister of Finance** (Chief F. S. Okotie-Eboh) : I must take this with a very serious exception. If the Member for Ikeja (*Mr Ogunsanya*) is in a hurry, I am not.

**The Deputy Speaker** : Order, order ! If anybody determines hurriedness it is the Members themselves who shout 'Aye', even before the Question is put.

#### Capital Expenditure Estimates : Considered in Committee of Supply

HEAD 624—LAND TRANSPORT SYSTEM

**The Minister of Finance** (Chief F. S. Okotie-Eboh) : I beg to move—

That the expenditure from the Development Fund of Two Hundred and Sixty Thousand Pounds for the purposes set out in the draft Third Supplementary Estimates, 1963-64, under Head 624—Land Transport System, be approved.

**The Minister of Education** (Onyiba Aja Nwachuku) : I beg to second.

**Mr I. S. Onwuchekwa** (Ahoada Central) : This Head makes provision for a sum of £100,000 for Onitsha-Ihiala-Owerri road. If

one visits that road now, Mr Chairman, one will see that the way it is being constructed leaves much to be desired. It is being constructed in a piece-meal manner and at a snail speed. It is difficult to know the number of lives that have been taken since the work on that road started. If one goes to this road one finds heaps of sands piled up on both sides of the road. I think that when we approved that a road should be constructed, it should be constructed very quickly.

If direct labour will not do the work as quickly as we want, I feel it is better that the work be handed over to contractors. A contracting company like the one which constructed the Onitsha-Enugu road or the one that constructed the Lagos-Benin road via Shagamu could undertake such a work and very quickly too. When direct labour delays a work like that, it makes people to feel that the Government has no power to do any work quickly. I therefore advise that when next a piece of road work is to be undertaken it should be undertaken very quickly.

**Mr I. O. Chikelu** (Udi Central) : I want to address myself to Head 627.

**The Chairman** : Order, order ! May I say that the Member for Udi Central (*Mr Chikelu*) is irrelevant.

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Resolved* : That the expenditure from the Development Fund of Two Hundred and Sixty Thousand Pounds for the purposes set out in the draft Third Supplementary Estimates, 1963-64, under Head 624—Land Transport System, be approved.

#### HEAD 627—COMMUNICATIONS

**The Minister of Finance** (Chief F. S. Okotie-Eboh) : I beg to move—

That the expenditure from the Development Fund of One Hundred and Five Thousand Five Hundred Pounds for the purposes set out in the draft Third Supplementary Estimates, 1963-64, under Head 627—Communications, be approved.

**The Minister of Education** (Onyiba Aja Nwachukwu) : I beg to second.

**Mr I. O. Chikelu** (Udi Central) : This huge sum voted for external communications is welcome, but the principle of charity beginning

at home is being very badly neglected. I think that this country has not been done any great honour as far as internal communications are concerned, before going to external ones. Whether the money has been spent or not, the people in the rural areas—

**The Chairman** : Order order ! The amount had been spent and it was spent on external communications and not on rural communications.

**Mr Chikelu** : I take the correction from the Chair in good spirit, but I want it to be placed on record.

**The Chairman** : Order, I am not going to record irrelevancy.

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Resolved* : That the expenditure from the Development Fund of One Hundred and Five Hundred Pounds for the purposes set out in the draft Third Supplementary Estimates, 1963-64, under Head 637—Communications, be approved.

#### HEAD 630—HEALTH

*One Hundred and Forty-one Thousand Five Hundred and Sixty-five Pounds for the purposes set out in the draft Third Supplementary Estimates, 1963-64, under Head 630—Health, approved.*

#### HEAD 631—TOWN PLANNING

*One Hundred and Seventy Thousand Six Hundred and Fifty Pounds for the purpose set out in the draft Third Supplementary Estimates, 1963-64, under Head 631—Town Planning approved.*

#### HEAD 634—INFORMATION

**The Minister of Finance** (Chief F. S. Okotie-Eboh) : I beg to move—

That the expenditure from the Development Fund of twenty-five thousand pounds for the purposes set out in the draft Third Supplementary Estimates, 1963-64, under Head 634—Information, be approved.

**The Minister of Lagos Affairs** (Alhaji Musa Yar'Adua) : I beg to second.

**Shettima Ali Monguno** (Kaga Marghi): We very seriously suggesting that the Minister of Information should look into the question of publicity, particularly with reference to external publicity, of this country. We are seriously suggesting also that he should appoint more than one individual to take charge of the entire Western hemisphere.

**The Chairman**: Order! Order! The Estimate here deals with the Nigerian National Press Limited. Does the hon. Member wish to speak on this now?

**Shettima Ali Monguno**: No, Mr Chairman.

**Dr P. U. Okeke** (Onitsha North Central): I thank you very much, Mr Chairman, for giving me a chance to speak now.

Under this Head, I just want to make one point and that is that the National Press, while I am complimenting the staff for their coverage of news, should be much more careful in covering the proceedings of this House.

Only yesterday they published in the newspaper *Morning Post* a speech which was purported to have been made by me in this House to the effect that I said that that Ibos were very fond of imputing improper motives. I want to take this opportunity to deny this allegation. I never on the Floor of this House said that the Ibos were very fond of imputing improper motives. I could never have said anything like that; not even about Yorubas or Hausas or any human being anywhere in the world, unless I was making a general statement. And I would implore the Chairman of the National Press, while I am complimenting and commending the *Paper* for its coverage of the news, to tell the editor to be more careful in covering the news, and especially in reporting proceedings of this Parliament.

There are other matters that one would like to raise. We will do so when the appropriate time comes.

**Mr M. B. Afanideh** (Ikot Ekpene South): I wish to bring to the notice of the House that it is the responsibility of the Minister of Information to ensure that speeches made by Members in this House are given adequate publicity. But it is regrettable to say that the other day the Member for Eket East (*Mr Eminue*) made a statement which was not announced on the radio

**The Chairman**: Order! Order! The subject of the debate on this Motion is "Nigerian National Press".

**Mr Afanideh**: Thank you, Mr Chairman.

If there is anybody that is responsible for the seeming disunity in this country it is the *Press*. One day we say that some *Press* publish certain facts, another day they are distorted. I want to know whether the pressmen just publish news without instructions.

I wish the Government to take a very serious view of this issue because on the 11th of this month there was a publication about a particular Region over a very delicate issue. So, I think that it is the duty of the Federal Government to warn the pressmen to be accurate in whatever they report. By publishing false news the *Press* is trying to stain the reputation of Nigeria to the outside world.

I beg to support.

**Mr D. M. Gbolagunte** (Ibarapa): The National Press to me does not appear national. And I think that it is not frivolous to say that it should be scrapped. The *Morning Post* should no more publish news because it is sectional. And I am sincerely saying this. I am not being frivolous. Whenever one reads the *Morning Post* and reads the other papers on the same item of news, one finds that the *Morning Post* is biased. I am sorry to say this but I do not want to be sectional. When one reads the *Morning Post* one will find that it supports the N.P.C. all the time. It does not even support the Government that it is supposed to support but a section of it. I am sincere.

**The Chairman**: Order! Members will appreciate that we have moved with considerable speed and I think that we can air our views briefly. Members should be a bit more tolerant. Besides, we have still got the debate on the Second Reading of the Supplementary Appropriation Bill, and the Estates, to consider.

The Motions we are now considering deal with monies that have already been spent. So, whether we say them now or not there are really going to be opportunities to say more.

**Mr Gbolagunte**: I will not waste time. But my point is this—

**Dr P. U. Okeke** (Onitsha North Central): On a point of order, if we have no time to

discuss this matter let us come back at night. There is no point in rushing over our business.

**Mr Gbolagunte :** As I said, the *Morning Post* is supporting a section of the Government and I expect that if the newspaper will continue to publish news those news should be so chosen that no statement will be brought into it to show to the public that it is supporting just one section of the Government.

We expect that reports of any action of the Government will be published therein, but it should not be in such a way that it will be to the detriment of either a section of the Government or the Opposition party in particular.

One would expect that the report of the proceedings in this House will be recorded. But one always finds that the reports neglect discussions from the Opposition side. If somebody makes a statement on the Government side they emphasize it, but if anybody makes a statement on the Opposition side they reject it. It will not be published.

We are all trying to serve the interests of our people and we want our people to know that the *Morning Post* exists for the whole country, and not for a section of it.

I beg to support.

**Mr F. I. Okoronkwo (Aba Urban) :** We want it to be placed on record that the National Press is no longer a national press. It is serving the interest of one particular section of the country. Not only that, the National Press is sowing the seed of disunity in Nigeria to-day.

If one goes through the publication of the National Press one will realise that that newspaper, the *Morning Post*, is not serving the interests of the country, but rather, that it wants to sow the seed of disunity. This is a *Paper* financed by the Government and it should represent the interest of all sections in the country.

Not only that, it should not publish provocative articles against one particular Region or the other.

I am calling on the Minister of Information to investigate the affairs of the National Press. If this press does not serve the interest of the country we should close it. We have many political newspapers in this country and—

**Shettima Ali Monguno :** On a point of order, we will take this issue very seriously. But at the same time Members should be specific in their allegations.

**Mr Okoronkwo :** This newspaper is serving as a political organ in the country to-day.

It is no longer, as I have said, a national newspaper. For instance, you will see the newspaper which is financed with Government fund coming out, because of party politics, to drag leaders of the N.C.N.C., N.P.C. or the Action Group to the mud. Therefore, we want this paper to be closed entirely. It is no longer a national newspaper. It has done a lot of havoc to the unity of Nigeria. It is an N.N.D.P. newspaper and an N.P.C. newspaper. It should be closed down.

**The Chairman :** Members who persist in being contumacious must not expect co-operation from the Chair. If you want to take your chance fairly, you have to be fair to the Chair so that you will have your own chance.

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Commerce and Industry (Alhaji Usman Angulu Ahmed) :** On a point of order, the Member for Aba Urban (*Mr Okoronkwo*) said that the *Morning Post* is catering for the N.P.C. If there is any paper in this country which is causing disunity in Nigeria, it is the *Pilot*. (*Interruptions*).

**The Chairman :** Order! Please, may I appeal to Members not to be too sensitive. Of course, when we are going on beyond 12 o'clock and on to 1 o'clock, one can understand people being sensitive, but, please, a lot of restraint should be applied. Will the Member for Aba Urban (*Mr Okoronkwo*), please wind up.

**Mr Okoronkwo :** I am calling upon the Minister of Information to investigate why the National Press is no longer the National Press. That is all that I want the Government to do.

**M. L. Alhaji Daura (Maska) :** I have heard many Members making baseless allegations against a particular newspaper, and that is the *Morning Post*. That is an independent newspaper. (*Interruptions*).

**Mr B. N. Ukegbu (Owerri South East) :** On a point of order, the *Morning Post* is not a newspaper which belongs to any political party

[MR UKEGBU]

and may I know whether it is not good for the Government to declare it unconstitutional for a Government to establish a newspaper in this country? Let the National Press be closed down and the *Morning Post*—

**The Chairman :** Order! That is not a point of order.

**Alhaji Daura :** I assure hon. Members that that newspaper is an independent paper. It favours no party whatsoever. If there is any other paper which tends to bring disunity to this country, it is either the *Pilot* or the *Outlook*.

**Mr W. O. Briggs (Degema) :** I am really very happy and touched to find that—what I am going to say is not very popular—Members on my opposite left, that is the N.C.N.C. Bench, are to-day advocating something which was advocated some years ago—in 1960—by the Action Group Opposition. It was very, very unpopular at that time.

I think when a Bill is brought into this House, every Member of this House must think seriously about the Bill and its future implications before either opposing or accepting it. One must not do something here because this particular party or that particular person is the one who brought it.

We said this thing before and it was unpopular, so unpopular that the N.C.N.C. Bench together with every other Bench but ours opposed it. To-day, they are making the very point with the same passion, which we made in 1960 and which was opposed so vehemently.

The same thing applies in the case of insurance business. We said that it was to be nationalised and it was this same House that opposed it. To-day, I see that most people in this House are now saying that insurance business should be nationalised. (*Interruptions*).

**The Chairman :** Order!

**Professor Kalu Ezera (Bende East) :** On a point of order, the National Press has not, indeed, lived up to expectations, no doubt. My point of order is, if it is closed, what happens to the 3,000 Nigerians employed there?

**The Chairman :** That is not a point of order. You were debating the issue.

**Mr Briggs :** What we said on that occasion was that all parties should get their own papers

for party political propaganda and that it was not in the best interest of—

**Mr Ukegbu :** On a point of order, for the Member for Degema (*Mr Briggs*) to say that we opposed it in 1960 is wrong. We did not oppose it at all. We were in favour of a paper owned by the Government being abolished. No Government should use Government fund so set up a newspaper—

**The Chairman :** Order! Would the Member for Degema (*Mr Briggs*) please wind up?

**Mr Briggs :** If the hon. Member is doubting what I said, he should look up the *Hansard*. It is clear we said that if parties wanted organs for their political propaganda, they should get their own papers and that it was not in the best interest of the country at large to use the country's money to propagate and project the ideology and points of view of one particular Party; or another because Governments do change, and as in this case, there is coalition and it is difficult for the Editor to speak for one side or the other.

That is all that I have got to say but I think that during the Third Reading, I will have to say something about the principle of bringing into this House sanctions for money which has already been spent. It is, no use spending money without the authority of Parliament, spending money by Warrant. I wish the Minister of Finance would listen to this because he gives Warrants for the Ministry to spend money without the authority of Parliament and after it has been spent, he comes to this House and asks for the authority of the House for spending it.

There is no point discussing it. I feel it is something like stealing, and I am hoping they should not steal money from the Treasury like that. When they want to spend money, they should bring it to this House for the House to sanction it before the money is spent.

**Chief Okotie-Eboh :** I had thought that this was not a matter that should be dragged on. The arguments can be well taken if Members say that the editorial policy is not acceptable to them. But it is quite a different thing from what my hon. Friend said that they said some time ago.

The argument of the editorial policy should be completely taken away from the field of the establishment of the Press. I say that the

establishment of the Press is not a bad thing. If the editorial policy is bad hon. Members should please say so. If Members want to give employment to people they do not have to expect that they will be making a profit at the outset. The newspaper business is as good as a factory in the field of employment.

I want the Member for Ikeja (*Mr Ogunsanya*) to know that this is no law; this is business, and when we are talking about business the Member for Ikeja is about a hundred miles away. I want to say further that the policy of Government on finance is guided by the Finance Bill and this Bill provides exactly what we are doing that if Government is forced to the wall to make expenditure approved by the Council of Ministers, the Minister of Finance must bring it for approval by the House because it is not given to human beings to be able to forecast exactly contingencies regarding expenditure.

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Resolved* : That the expenditure from the Development Fund of Twenty-Five Thousand Pounds for the purpose set out in the draft Supplementary Estimates, 1963-64, under Head 634—Information—be approved.

#### CAPITAL EXPENDITURE ESTIMATES

##### HEAD 637.—GENERAL

**Chief F. S. Okotie-Eboh** : I beg to move,

That the expenditure from the Development Fund of One Million, Three Hundred and Twenty-Nine Thousand, Six Hundred and Eighty-Three Pounds for the purposes set out in the draft Third Supplementary Estimates, 1963-64, under Head 637, General, be approved.

**The Minister of Education** (*Onyiba Aja Nwachuku*) : I beg to second.

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Resolved* : That the expenditure from the Development Fund of One Million, Three Hundred and Twenty-Nine Thousand, Six Hundred and Eighty-Three Pounds for the

purposes set out in the draft Third Supplementary Estimates, 1963-64, under Head 637—General, be approved.

(Mr Speaker resumed the Chair)

*Resolved* : That this House doth agree with the Committee in the said Resolutions—(THE MINISTER OF FINANCE).

#### CUSTOMS TARIFF (DUTIES AND EXEMPTIONS)

**Chief Okotie-Eboh** : I beg to move,

That the Customs Tariff (Duties and Exemptions) (No. 2) Order, 1964 (Legal Notice No. 6 of 1964), a copy of which was laid before this House on 12th March, be confirmed.

**Onyiba Aja Nwachuku** : I beg to second.

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Resolved*, That the Customs Tariff (Duties and Exemptions) (No. 2) Order, 1964 (Legal Notice No. 6 of 1964) a copy of which was laid before this House on 12th March, be confirmed.

#### CUSTOMS TARIFF (DUTIES AND EXEMPTIONS)

**Chief Okotie-Eboh** : I beg to move,

That the Customs Tariff (Duties and Exemptions) (No. 3) Order, 1964 (Legal Notice No. 25 of 1964), a copy of which was laid before this House on 12th March, be confirmed.

**The Minister of Lagos Affairs** (*Musa Yar' Adua*) : I beg to second.

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Resolved* : That the Customs Tariff (Duties and Exemptions) (No. 3) Order, 1964 (Legal Notice No. 25 of 1964), a copy of which was laid before this House on 12th March, be confirmed.

#### ADJOURNMENT

*Motion made and Question proposed, That this House do now adjourn—*(THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION).

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Resolved*, That this House do now adjourn.

*Adjourned accordingly at three minutes to one o'clock.*



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

Monday, 23rd March, 1964

The House met at 10 a.m.

PRAYERS

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Company Law Review

**O.96. Mr R. N. Muojeke** asked the Minister of Commerce and Industry, how soon he will publish the report submitted by the committee appointed to review our existing Company Law.

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Commerce and Industry (Alhaji Usman Angulu Ahmed)**: The Minister is not aware that the Company Law Revision Committee has as yet submitted a report. When a report is submitted, steps will be taken to embody this in a Bill for the consideration of the House.

New Industries

**O.97. Alhaji Isa Haruna** asked the Minister of Commerce and Industry, what new industries have been established in this country since the 1st of October, 1960.

**Alhaji Usman Angulu Ahmed**: With the permission of this House I should like to give a joint answer to Oral questions O.97, O.26 and O.215 which are very similar in context.

Because of the large number of industries that have been established during this period it will be too cumbersome to call out all their names here. I am therefore giving you only the numbers as follows:—

	Federal Territory	North	West	East	Mid-West	Total
1960	28	4	9	8	2	51
1961	12	7	16	10	5	52
1962	12	5	13	17	3	51
1963	14	16	8	14	3	55
1964	5	10	10	12	1	38
(to March)				Grand Total		<u>247</u>

**Mr M. C. K. Obi (Afenmai East)**: I would like to know from the Minister why the Federal Government concentrates industries on Lagos Territory to the detriment of the other parts of the Federation.

**Alhaji Usman Angulu Ahmed**: Well, it depends on the person who wants to invest to dictate where he will invest his money. The Ministry has no power to force any investor to go to any particular place to invest his money.

**Mr S. O. Fajimi (Iwo West)**: Are all these industries established by the Federal Government or by Regional Governments?

**Alhaji Aminu Kano (Kano East)**: May I know what is the guiding principle for establishing these industries? I have in mind a place like Kano where we have six million people all looking for jobs, and yet industries are located somewhere else. I would like to know what the guiding principle is.

**Alhaji Usman Angulu Ahmed**: That is entirely a new question.

Tin and Columbite

**O.98. Alhaji Isa Haruna** asked the Minister of Commerce and Industry, what is the total tonnage and value of our Tin and Columbite purchased in the world market in the year ended 31st March, 1963.

**Alhaji Usman Angulu Ahmed**: Nigeria's exports of Tin and Columbite for 1962 and the first quarter of 1963 are as given below:—

JANUARY TO DECEMBER 1962

Commodity	Quantity	Value £
Tin .. ..	347 tons	236,686
Columbite ..	2,265 tons	1,123,485

1ST QUARTER JANUARY TO MARCH 1963

Tin .. ..	3 tons	1,786
Columbite ..	408 tons	188,900

Industries in the North

**O.161. M. Muhammadu Ningi** asked the Minister of Commerce and Industry, what industries he has so far established in Bauchi, Bornu, Adamawa and Sardauna Province.

**Alhaji Usman Angulu Ahmed**: As I have often stated, the subject of industrial development is on the concurrent list. The Regional Governments with the enormous natural resources and land available to them, must carry greater responsibility in setting up industries in their areas of jurisdiction. The task of the Federal Government is that of

creating the right atmosphere for investments by means of fiscal and other concessions to industries.

Studies are still being made of possibilities to establish industries in all parts of the country. As soon as such possibilities are discovered, efforts would be directed to exploit them to the fullest.

#### Cement Industry for Gombe

**O.162. M. Muhammadu Ningi** asked the Minister of Commerce and Industry, whether he will consider establishing a cement factory at Gombe in Bauchi Province.

**Alhaji Usman Angulu Ahmed** : No, Sir. But it may interest hon. Members to know that the Government of Northern Nigeria have been giving active consideration to such a possibility. The Federal Government will, of course, give any assistance necessary.

#### Sugar Production

**O.163. Mr D. Senu-Oke** asked the Minister of Commerce and Industry, how many sugar factories are there in Nigeria at present ; and what is the total tonnage of sugar produced by each factory from October 1st, 1962 to October 1st, 1963.

**Alhaji Usman Angulu Ahmed** : At present no sugar factory exists in Nigeria. One is being erected at Bacita, Ilorin Province, to come into production by October this year and when in full production this factory will have capacity to produce 40,000 tons annually.

#### Cement

**O.164. Mallam Yusha'u A. Mohammed** asked the Minister of Commerce and Industry what is the quantity of cement produced in Nigeria from January, 1960 to December, 1963.

**Alhaji Usman Angulu Ahmed** : The, estimated quantities of locally produced cement for the past four years, are as follows :—

Year	Quantity
1960 .. ..	155,000 tons
1961 .. ..	322,758 tons
1962 .. ..	467,000 tons
1963 .. ..	600,000 tons

Total .. .. 1,544,758 tons

**Alhaji Aminu Kano (Kano East)** : Are these quantities of cement able to meet our internal requirements, or do we still import ?

**Alhaji Usman Angulu Ahmed** : We still import certain quantities of cement to meet up our demands.

**Alhaji Aminu Kano** : But last year, we were told by the Minister that between 1960 and 1962, we were able to produce two-thirds of our internal requirements. I wonder why, up till now, we have not been able to produce sufficient cement to meet all our internal requirements.

#### Industrial Projects

**O.165. Mr George Yilgwen** asked the Minister of Commerce and Industry, how many industrial projects have been established in Nigeria since October 1960 ; and how many of these are owned by the Government and by foreign investors respectively.

**Alhaji Usman Angulu Ahmed** : As has been often stated, except those seeking concessions from the Government, industries are not normally required to register with the Ministry. It is not, therefore, easy to know the details of ownership, capital structure, etc., of these industries.

However, during the period under consideration, about 247 industries, each employing ten or more persons, were established in the country. Out of these, the Federal Government have investments in six.

#### Northern Produce Officers

**O.166. Mr George Yilgwen** asked the Minister of Commerce and Industry, how many Northerners are holding the posts of Produce Officers in his Ministry ; and for how long has each been in the service.

**Alhaji Usman Angulu Ahmed** : No Northerner, as far as my records show, holds the post of a Produce Officer in the Federal Produce Inspection Service. No applications have been received from a Northerner for appointment to this post. My hon. Friend is aware that Nigeria had a unified Produce Inspection Service before 1954.

When the Regional Services were set up it was discovered that the salary scales in the

[ALHAJI USMAN ANGULU AHMED]  
Regions were more favourable. This accounted for the election by many officers to transfer from the Federal Service to the Regional Services.

#### Larger Industries

**O.167. Mr D. Senu-Oke** asked the Minister of Commerce and Industry, if he will consider in consultation with the Minister of Labour and Social Welfare, exploring the possibilities of establishing industries requiring large labour forces in order to help solve the problem of acute unemployment in this country.

**Alhaji Usman Angulu Ahmed :** The question of employment has engaged the attention of Government for some time now, and consultation on the matter are already in train.

As hon. Members are aware, the National Man Power Board is pursuing this problem very vigorously. The Board has already engaged experts to advise on the subject. These advisers are undertaking extensive tours of the regions and are having detailed discussions with the Regional Governments with a view to finding a solution.

#### Industrial Investments

**O.168. Mr D. Senu-Oke** asked the Minister of Commerce and Industry, in how many of the industries already well established in this country has the Federal Government direct shares, what is the investment in each case ; and whether he will state which of these industries yield satisfactory dividends.

**Alhaji Usman Angulu Ahmed :** With the permission of this House, I should like to give a joint answer to oral questions O.27 and O.168.

The Federal Government have investments in industries as follows :—

Name	Location	Amount
1. Nigerian Cement Co. Limited	Nkalagu, Enugu Eastern Region	£ 450,120
2. Dunlop Nigeria Industries	Industrial Estate, Ikeja, Western Region	50,000
3. Nigerian Sugar Company Limited.	Bacita Estate, Ilorin, Northern Region	505,000
4. Flour Mills Nigeria Limited	Apapa, Federal Territory	60,000

Name	Location	Amount £
5. Nigerian Fermentation Industries Limited	Apapa, Federal Territory	50,000
6. Paper Mills Limited	Jebba, Northern Region	900,000
7. Nigerian Petroleum Refining Co. Limited	Alesa-Elеме, Port-Harcourt, Eastern Region	1,032,200

**Mr A. U. D. Mbah** (Owerri North) : May I know if it is the intention of the Government to sell some of these Government shares to the public ?

#### African Common Market

**O.255. Mr F. C. Ogbalu** asked the Minister of Commerce and Industry, what efforts his Ministry has made towards the establishment of an African Common Market ; and if he will make a statement.

**Alhaji Usman Angulu Ahmed :** An African Common Market, as Members may be aware, involves, apart from the freeing of trade and factor movements, the adoption of measures to co-ordinate social and economic policies of participants in order that a single market may prevail for goods as well as for factors of production. To this end, several conferences have been held and conventions entered into.

A few of these are :

(i) Nigeria Dahomey Convention of 1962.

(ii) The Nigerian Government Agreement with the Riparian States in the Niger Basin in 1963.

(iii) There was the Nigeria-Togo-Dahomey Agreement for the establishment of joint customs posts.

(iv) The Nigeria-Cameroun Bilateral Trade Agreement in 1963.

Besides the Federal Government is laying the vital foundations to improve telecommunications with neighbouring African States.

#### WORKS AND SURVEYS Niger Bridge

**O.99. Mr R. N. Muojeke** asked the Minister of Works and Surveys, whether he proposes to provide the Niger Bridge connecting Onitsha and Asaba with a Railway Track.

**The Parliamentary Seceratry to the Minister of Works and Surveys** (Mr Dominic M. Mapeo): The Niger Bridge has been disigned for road traffic only, and it would not be practicable to change the design to include a railway track at this late hour.

#### Aba-Oron Road

**O.100. Mr M. B. Afanideh** asked the Minister of Works and Surveys, if he will consider replacing the narrow bridges on the Aba to Oron Road with wider and more modern ones, as the existing ones are causing many accidents.

**Mr Mapeo**: There is a programme to replace sub-standard bridges under the 1962-68 Development Programme, and the bridges along Aba-Oron Road are included in this programme. One important bridge along the route has been designed and the survey of the others is being undertaken. On the release of funds, the bridges will be re-constructed to modern standards.

The narrowness of the bridges may be a contributory cause to the many accidents, but it is not the only cause of these accidents. The mere fact that this hazard exists and the attention of the road-user has been drawn to it by road signs, should alert the road-user to his responsibility to use the road with care and consideration for other road-users.

#### Zaria-Kano Road

**O.169. Mallam Yusha'u A. Mohammed** asked the Minister of Works and Surveys, when the tarring of Zaira-Kano Road will be completed.

**Mr Mapeo**: It is hoped that work on the tarring of the Zaria-Kano Road will be completed in March, 1965.

#### Major Road Contracts

**O.170. Mallam Yusha'u A. Mohammed** asked the Minister of Works and Surveys, how many major road contracts were awarded by the Federal Government from April 1962 to February 1964 in Northern, Eastern, Western and Mid-Western Nigeria and Lagos respectively; and what is the total amount of the contracts which went to each of these territories.

**Mr Mapeo**: Between April 1962 and February 1964, four road contracts were awarded in Northern Nigeria to the total value of

£838,101-15s-1d, two in the Eastern Region valued at £102,343-14s-10d, one in the Western Region valued at £1,289,000, two in the Mid-Western Region valued at £308,600 and three in Lagos valued at £244,918-15s-7d.

**Mallam Yusha'u A. Mohammed**: May I know the total amount?

**Mr Mapeo**: So far, we have only broken them into regions, and we have given each regional total; but if the hon. Member wants to know the total, he can total them up himself.

#### Ogunpa River Bridge

**O.172. Mr E. D. Akinbowale** asked the Minister of Works and Surveys, whether a permanent bridge will be built over the Ogunpa River at Odo-Ona near Ibadan to replace the temporary and unsatisfactory one now being used before the next rainy season.

**Mr Mapeo**: A permanent bridge is being built over the Ogunpa River at Odo-Ona and it is hoped that the construction will be completed by the middle of the next rainy season.

#### Tarred Roads

**O.173. Mr E. J. Ogunkanmi** asked the Minister of Works and Surveys, how many miles of roads were tarred between October 1962 and January 1964; and if he will give a list of these roads.

**Mr Mapeo**: A total of 177½ miles of Trunk Roads "A" have been tarred between October 1962 and January 1964. This consists of 79 miles on the Tegna-Daura Road, 23 miles on the Sokoto-Jeredi Road, 29¾ miles on the Funtua-Chafe Road and 45½ miles on the Shagamu-Benin Road.

#### Kazaure-Kano-Daura Road

**O.230. Alhaji Ibrahim Na Maitama** (Kazaure): Asked the Minister of Works and Surveys, if he will consider the desirability of tarring the road through Kazaure town to Kano and Daura.

**Mr Mapeo**: The road through Kazaure to Kano and Daura is part of the Tegna-Daura Road, the whole of which is at present under reconstruction, including tarring. If the Honourable member means the road through the native town of Kazaure, this is not a Federal road.

**Abakaliki-Enugu Road**

**O.231. Mr J. O. Igwe** asked the Minister of Works and Surveys, if he will consider the reconstruction and proper maintenance of the Trunk Road 'A' from Abakaliki to Enugu which links Northern Nigeria and the Cameroon Republic with the Eastern Nigeria.

**Mr Mapeo :** Funds are not available for the reconstruction of the whole of this road but work has commenced on road rehabilitation and the replacement of sub-standard bridges. An engineer will shortly be posted to the Eastern Region to join the one already sent there in an effort to assist the Eastern Region Ministry of Works in coping with the maintenance of the road.

**Inspection of Federal Roads**

**O.232. Mr S. A. Oyewole** asked the Minister of Works and Surveys, when he will tour the whole of the Federation in order to ascertain the extent of the damage done to Federal roads during the rainy season of last year; and what he has done to prevent a recurrence.

**Mr Mapeo :** The Officials of my Ministry have already ascertained the extent of the damage done to Federal roads during the last rainy season and the hon. Minister of Works and Surveys has personally visited some of the sites. The attention of the hon. Member is drawn to the Ministerial Statement which was given to this House on Thursday the 19th of September, 1963.

**Ikorodu Road Bridges**

**O.233. Mr S. A. Oyewole** asked the Minister of Works and Surveys, when he will complete the repairs of the bridges on Ikorodu road in order that lorries may be able to use them.

**Mr Mapeo :** The repair works on the bridges along Ikorodu Road are scheduled for completion on or before the 31st of March, 1964.

**Project Contracts**

**O.234. Mr S. A. Oyewole** asked the Minister of Works and Surveys, if he will give the names of firms which were awarded contracts for the following projects :—

(i) Approach Roads to Yaba from Western Region

(ii) Lagos to Ikorodu Road

(iii) Benni Sheik to Maiduguri Road

(iv) Otta to Idiroko Road

(v) The International Airport, Ikeja

(vi) The Army Barracks, Ikeja.

**Mr Mapeo :** No projects known as "Approach Roads to Yaba from Western Region" and "Lagos to Ikorodu Road" exist as such in the 1962-68 Development Programme. Presumably, the hon. Member is referring to Agege Motor Road and, the Yaba Roundabout-Ikorodu Road for which contracts have not, as yet, been let. Contract for the Benni Sheik-Maiduguri Road has been awarded to Walsh Construction (West Africa) Limited, and the contract for Otta-Idiroko Road has been awarded to Messrs Dumez (Nigeria) Limited.

Contracts for the Army Barracks, Ikeja have been awarded to Messrs J. Beck Limited. Peddrochi, G. Cappa Limited and E. J. Delaney. No contract has yet been let for the International Airport, Ikeja.

**JUSTICE****Divorce**

**O.49. Mr E. A. Mordi** asked the Minister of Justice, how many divorce cases were handled in the Federal Territory in 1962 and 1963; and what efforts are being made by his Ministry to reduce family break-up tendencies.

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Justice (Mr R. B. K. Okafor) :** The figures are being collected by the various courts and they will be published before the House rises.

On the second part of the question, it is not the responsibility of the Ministry of Justice to prevent the break-up of families.

**TRANSPORT****Opobo Port**

**O.101. Mr M. B. Afanideh** asked the Minister of Transport, when he will reopen the Opobo sea port to serve the needs of the people of the Old Calabar Province.

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Transport (Mr F. E. Offor) :** The hon. Member's attention is invited to the

answer to question No. W.104 appearing at page 107 of the report of the debates of this House for the 9th of August, 1963.

#### Railway for Old Calabar

**O.102. Mr M. B. Afanideh** asked the Minister of Transport, when he proposes to construct a railway line through the Old Calabar Province, which will link Onitsha, Owerri or Aba with Ikot Ekpene, Uyo and Oron, as the lack of rail services in the area has impeded the establishment of major industries.

**Mr Offor :** In accordance with a Motion passed by this honourable House, the Minister has instructed the Nigerian Railway Corporation to conduct a feasibility and traffic survey of the projected rail line to connect Western Nigeria with Mid-Western and Eastern Nigeria. The survey which commenced on the 26th January, 1964, will determine the amount and areas of traffic potential. The division and execution of the project and the exact route, will depend to a large extent on the results of the survey.

#### Onitsha Harbour

**O.103. Mr R. N. Muojeke** asked the Minister of Transport, what proposals he has for the improvement of Onitsha Harbour in view of its ever increasing commercial importance.

**Mr Offor :** Plans for the improvement of Onitsha Harbour during the second phase of the current Economic Development Programme include the construction of a stepped wharf, warehouses, administrative buildings and cargo handling devices.

A sum of £15,000 has provisionally been inserted in the Economic Development Estimates for this purpose, but it will be appreciated that an expenditure of this order would only be incurred if the necessary preliminary investigation shows that there is adequate justification for it. The Minister hopes to be able shortly to commission such an investigation.

#### Aircraft Manufacture

**O.104. Alhaji Isa Haruna** asked the Minister of Transport, if he has any plans to manufacture aircraft in this country.

**Mr Offor :** No, Sir. An effort made by an overseas firm to establish an aircraft industry for the manufacture of small aircraft in Nigeria

with Government participation, was carefully examined by the Ministry of Transport and the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, but was not accepted because it was found that the industry would not be viable. However, the Minister proposes to look further into the matter.

#### Fokker Friendship Costs

**O.105. Mr H. O. Chuku** asked the Minister of Transport how much does one Fokker Friendship plane cost; and how much it costs to maintain it annually.

**Mr Offor :** The average cost of each of the Fokker Friendship aircraft on delivery in 1963 was £371,853. On a planned annual flying of 1,500 hours for each aircraft the total operating costs amount to about £312,000 per year out of which some £66,570 represents maintenance charges.

**Mr W. O. Briggs (Degema) :** May I know from the Parliamentary Secretary, whether it is possible for him to tell when the report of the Osindero Inquiry will be published, the Osindero Report on the £250,000 in connection with the Fokker Friendship planes.

**Mr Offor :** As soon as possible.

**The Minister of Finance (Chief F. S. Okotie-Eboh) :** I hope that the last answer should not be regarded—

**Mr Briggs :** Will the hon. Minister sit down. He is not Mr Speaker.

**Chief Okotie-Eboh :** The hon. Member has no right to ask me to sit down. After all, ten thousand of them cannot tell me to sit down.

**Mr Briggs :** In every statement the hon. Member makes he always refers to money. That is the trouble with him.

**Mr Speaker :** Order, Order.

#### Airways Profits

**O.1106. Mr H. O. Chuku** asked the Minister of Transport, how much profit was made by the Nigerian Airways each year from March 1961 to March 1963; and if no profits were made, what were the losses in each of these years.

**Mr Offor :** In the year ended 31st March, 1961, the total profit after taxation amounted to £481,946. In the year ended 31st March, 1962

[MR OFFOR]

the profits subject to taxation amounted to £364,456, and in the year ended 31st March, 1963, there was a loss of £334,681.

### Bauchi Aerodrome

**O.174. Mallam Muhammadu Ningi** asked the Minister of Transport whether, in view of the rapid growth of trade in Bauchi province he will improve the Bauchi aerodrome.

**Mr Offor** : Bauchi aerodrome already has a runway of sufficient length and width to accommodate aircraft of the Fokker Friendship type. Further development will depend on the growth of traffic.

### NOTICE OF MOTION

#### BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

**The Minister of Finance** (Chief F. S. Okotie-Eboh) : I beg to move—

That, *this day*, notwithstanding the provisions of Standing Order 5 (Sittings of the House), the House shall sit at the following times :—

From 10 a.m. till 1 p.m. ; from 3 p.m. till 6 p.m. ; and from 9 p.m. till 12 midnight.

**The Minister of Transport** (Mr R. A. Njoku) : I beg to second.

**Mr J. S. Tarka** (Jemgba) : I think it is not fair to this House that Members should continue these night sittings. I say so because most Members do not turn up for the various night sittings. We have a whole year to ourselves to debate the Budget. It is most unreasonable that the Minister should insist on Members sitting at night simply because he wants the Budget to be passed very quickly.

I know that it is in the interest of certain Members of this House who are going to perform their holy pilgrimage that this Budget meeting should end as quickly as possible to enable them to go and perform their religious duties in Mecca.

But I feel that even after they have performed their religious duties, we will still be able to sit in this House and continue with the various Government business that are on the programme for this session.

I think that the Minister should reconsider his decision and allow the House to sit only in the day time so that the business of the House

will be conducted in a most appropriate manner and so that Members will turn up in full for proper debates.

**Mr S. D. Lar** (Lowland East) : We shall never take the hon. Gentleman seriously because he has always complained of night sittings of this House.

**An hon. Member** : But he was your leader ?

**Mr Lar** : It does not matter whether he was my leader or not. This Budget is very important and we would like as many hon. Members of this House as possible to attend and contribute to the debates.

The Opposition has always been accusing the Government of rushing the business of the House and they have always been accusing the Government of not allowing Members to speak. I think this is the time that the Government has given to us so that everyone of us will have the opportunity to speak. I cannot understand the idea of the Member for Jemgba (*Mr Tarka*) always objecting to night sittings.

**Mr Tarka** : The Member for Lowland East (*Mr Lar*) cannot understand because he has changed from the policy of one side of this House to that of another side of the House.

**Mr Lar** : It does not matter whether a Member changes from one place to another. The trouble with the hon. Gentleman is that he never likes night sittings because he wants to have the time to go to his girl friends.

**Mr A. O. Ogunsanya** (Ikeja) : The Leader of the House originally warned us about this and those of us on this side of the House are not afraid of working hard. As a matter of fact, if there is a need as in the British Parliament for us to be here till 4 a.m., we are all ready to do so.

I am a Member of Parliament for *Ikeja*. I am not for others. *Ikeja* people sent me here to work hard and if I fail to work hard I will merit nothing.

The only thing is that the Leader of the House must assure us that his colleagues will be here with us. I see that the people who are here now are the people who are always here with us. When they tell us that we must come here at night, they too must come.

I am going to keep a roster of Ministers who come to this House regularly and at night. I am going to keep a list of Ministers who have not been sent by the Government out of the country but are in Lagos while the House is sitting and at the end of the sitting if their attendance is not all right they have to resign.

**Mr E. J. Ogunkanmi** (Oshun South East): We welcome night sittings. We agree to sit even till 4 a.m., but there must be a note of warning to the Leader of the House that even if these Ministers are present in the night, they should give us the opportunity of speaking. Sometimes, when these Ministers are here with us they are given the priority to speak and they take the whole of the time.

We are appealing to the Leader of the House to warn his colleagues that when they come in the evening or in the night, they should give us the opportunity to speak.

**Chief O. B. Akin-Olugbade** (Egba South): I should like to raise one more point. When the Member for Ikeja (*Mr Ogunsanya*) was speaking he said that the Ministers who are here now are the ones who usually come to the House, but he should have brought out one exception. This is that the Leader of the House himself does not usually attend night sittings. We have had two night sittings since this Budget Session, but he has not attended any.

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Resolved:* That, *this day*, notwithstanding the provisions of Standing Order 5 (Sittings of the House), the House shall sit at the following times:—

From 10 a.m. till 1 p.m.; from 3 p.m. till 6 p.m.; and from 9 p.m. till 12 midnight.

#### ORDERS OF THE DAY

##### EXCISE DUTIES (AMENDMENT) ORDER

**The Minister of Finance** (Chief F. S. Okotie-Eboh): I beg to move—

That the Excise Duties (Amendment) Order, 1964 (Legal Notice No. 25 of 1964), a copy of which was laid before this House on 21st March, be confirmed.

**The Minister of Transport** (Mr R. A. Njoku): I beg to second.

**Mr B. N. Ukegbu** (Owerri South East): Last Saturday some Motions were made on

the Floor of this House about duties that were imposed. We were not given any time to talk about them and they were rushed through.

This question of excise duty is here again and I should be pleased if the hon. Minister of Finance would take the opportunity of explaining to Members what are the justifications for the imposition of these severe excise duties on things that are manufactured here, whereas the declared policy of the Government appears to be to encourage industries to manufacture in this country.

Why should severe excise duties be imposed on these locally manufactured goods? These duties are not borne by the manufacturers themselves, but are borne by the poor people, that is by the consumers. I appeal to the hon. Minister of Finance to—

**Mr N. D. Ukah** (Owerri North East): On a point of order, we cannot eat our cake and have it. It is agreed by everyone here that protection should be given to indigenous manufacturers. The Government is now giving that protection by means of imposition of duty but the hon. Member for Owerri South East (*Mr Ukegbu*) is...

**Mr Speaker:** This is not a point of order.

**Mr Ukegbu:** What I was going to bring out for the consideration of the Minister of Finance and his colleagues is to review the whole question of imposition of excise duty and exemption from customs duty for the protection of the consumers.

If we have set up a tyre manufacturing industry—and we have the *Dunlop* Tyre Factory at Ikeja and the *Michelin* Tyre Factory at Port Harcourt—and because of this we impose severe import duties on other tyres, we want to be assured that the goods to be manufactured by these companies operating in Nigeria are sufficient to satisfy the needs of the people without sky-rocketing the prices.

I have for instance, bought an imported tyre for my car at about £32 but the same tyres sold by the Michelin would cost me nothing less than £40. This means that if I were to buy the locally made tyres, I would be compelled to pay £8 more. That is not the only instance of locally manufactured goods, which are protected costing more than imported goods, owing to high excise duty. The result



[MR OKEGBU]

is that the whole system of imposition of excise duties and protective tariffs become very confused. I am sure that even the Government itself does not know where it is going. It is the people who are the consumers that are suffering. Therefore, it will not be—

**Dr B. U. Nzeribe** (Orlu West) : On a point of order, the Member for Owerri South East (*Mr Ukegbu*), my friend and neighbour—

**Mr Ukegbu** : On a point of order, Mr Speaker, I am not his neighbour.

**Dr Nzeribe** : I think that the comment he is making is built on a kind of fallacy. If the Governments want to protect infant industries and at the same time want to make revenue why not do it. The example he is giving on the Floor of this House is very illusive because a tyre for his car is luxury and should be taxed to the limit because he has got enough money to pay to the Government.

**Mr Speaker** : This is not a point of order.

**Mr D. N. Chuku** (Awgu North) : On a point of order, doctors differ and patients die ; that is why the Member for Orlu West (*Dr Nzeribe*) is arguing very much against the Member for Owerri South East (*Mr Ukegbu*). If industries should be protected, they should also be allowed to thrive. We are not talking about industries that cannot pay their way through.

**Mr Ukegbu** : I think that all hon. Members, when they are outside this House, will realise the importance of what I am saying. There are many industries being established and they are asking for protection.

I say that the whole thing will get out of hand in a very short time. The Match Industry at Ilorin is in production and it has protective tariff, cement is also being protected ; this is most unfair to consumers because *Omimi* himself knows that the cement industry at Nkalagu has within a very short time been making a tremendous profit.

The industry which was established with about two million pounds is now making over a million pounds profit every year. But it is the people that are suffering. The people can buy a bag of cement for 10s-6d, but they are compelled to buy it for 12s-6d, and the poor people are not able to build themselves decent houses. I know that the question is

a complicated one but it is in the interest of the consumers, the millions of people outside, that the Government should do real planning and bring up a system that is properly co-ordinated. The Government should not do these things piecemeal, by protecting tyres to-day, matches tomorrow and textiles the day following. While these things are done piecemeal, staff salaries are becoming less and less because the whole thing is getting out of hand. I, therefore, appeal to the Minister of Finance to stop this piecemeal protection of industries.

**Mr F. C. Ogbalu** (Awka North) : I share the views expressed by the Member for Owerri South East (*Mr Ukegbu*). It is quite true that the Government wants to raise revenue by means of imposition of excise duty. I feel that even though this infant industry has been given protection and has been having periods of holiday, it will be too premature now to begin to impose high excise duties. The lower the excise duty is, the better it is for the consumer.

I support the idea expressed by the hon. Member who spoke before me, but I only want to emphasise that those who are engaged in manufacturing in this country should make further progress. If by lowering the excise duties we shall have more consumers then there is no use making tremendous profits at the expense of the consumers. For example, if a profit of a million pounds is made in our cement industry, it simply means that the fate of consumers is not taken into serious consideration.

In the first place if the consumer had the alternative of obtaining cement elsewhere, he could have patronised that alternative. I join therefore to appeal to the Minister of Finance that he should look seriously and for the time being allow a reduced excise duty to be in operation till such a time that these industries have strongly established themselves and thereby make use of large scale economies of production and look for a wider market.

At present the market is limited and price is always very high and consumers find it very difficult to meet up the prices fixed in the market.

**Chief Okotie-Eboh** : I am very grateful to my hon. Friends for making one or two points

on this Motion, thus enabling me to educate some members of the public as to why these impositions of excise duties are relevant and necessary at this particular time. It is surprising to know that even my Economic Friend and Adviser is no more an adviser to me this time. He has changed completely.

**Mr B. N. Ukegbu** (Owerri South East) : On a point of order, the hon. Minister of Finance is not paying me and therefore I do not see any reason why I should continue to help him.

**Chief Okotie-Eboh** : I was not referring to the Member for Owerri South East (*Mr Ukegbu*), I was referring to the Member for Awka North (*Mr Ogbalu*). I must say that I do not pay him at all for his advice.

The whole arguments of hon. Members and perhaps those of my hon. Friends, the Member for Owerri South East (*Mr Ukegbu*) and the Member for Awka North (*Mr Ogbalu*) could be squarely put as being purely sentimental. Their arguments seem to be appealing to the Government to consider the position of the consumer, but the Government in considering the position of the consumer must also consider its own position. Hon. Members would not like to see a position in which the Government would be robbed in broad day light of what is its due.

For many years now, we have given all sorts of protection to Nigerian Industries. We have given them tax holiday, pioneers certificates and many other forms of protection.

**An hon. Member** : Which industries ?

**Chief Okotie-Eboh** : I said Nigerian industries. I cannot say all Nigerian industries. I am only saying about those industries that merit this protection, and surely we give them the protection they require. I am saying this, so that hon. Members may know exactly what we are doing.

These industries are given protection and I want to say that if these industries are producing tyres and cement, we shall give them protection by imposing higher tariffs on imported cement and tyres. This is a good thing. It will enable the consumer to buy locally produced tyres and cement at reasonable prices.

At the same time, the Government must realise that the industries overseas have been established for many years and that they have recouped their capital. Even some countries

establish industries on what is called "socialist basis" and such industries are in a position to dump their goods here in Nigeria to the detriment of Nigerian industries.

**An hon. Member** : But customs duties are imposed on such goods.

**Chief Okotie-Eboh** : That is so, but if the hon. Member knows any elementary economics at all, then, he will know that the cost of products produced in any factory is calculated on the basis of all the expenses incurred in the factory concerned.

Hon. Members should realise first of all, that they have to calculate or recount their depreciations and this depreciation is put on the cost of the product. Therefore, if a factory has lived for one hundred or two hundred years, the owner of the factory overseas would have recouped his money or capital and could afford to sell his products at half the cost and therefore dump his goods into Nigeria to the detriment of Nigerian industries.

**Mr W. O. Briggs** (Degema) : What prevents the Minister imposing excise duties ?

**Chief Okotie-Eboh** : If you would listen, I will tell you. It may not be that in countries like Japan where the cost of production is relatively low and where there are lots of cottage industries and where they prepare parts of these materials, the volume of production will be so much that the turnover will enable them to make more profits as compared with the limited market in Nigeria.

This is one of the reasons to be reckoned with. Having explained the position, I would like to say that so many factors are taken into consideration before imposing import and excise duties. This is done to protect local industries and prevent the dumping of goods into this country by countries that have already grown beyond all proportion and are able to produce more efficiently and economically, and as such, could afford to lose some money, should they want to ruin any factory.

We do not want overseas big companies to come here and drive our small Nigerian industries out of existence. These overseas companies can afford to throw away thousands of pounds within a limited period and if allowed, they would dump their goods here to ruin and throw out our local industries.

[CHIEF OKOTIE-EBOH]

This excise duty now is imposed for two reasons. If one studies the fiscal law of Nigeria, one will find that the Federal Government exists on import duties. The preponderance of our revenue which is about 80 per cent is collected from import duties, and export duties are paid to the Regional Governments.

Therefore, if hon. Members want to cancel the entire import duties or, if hon. Members make it impossible for goods to be imported here, obviously, the Federal Government will not exist.

Having given hon. Members the background, they will find therefore, that those who drew up the fiscal law, were careful enough to appreciate that if the Federal Government were to depend solely on import duties and therefore fail to share in the excise duties, when Nigeria is sufficiently industrialised and no importation is allowed into the country, then the Federal Government would be bankrupt. That being the case, we have to impose such excise duties on locally produced products and at the same time impose such import duties that will still give the necessary protection to the locally produced materials.

**Mr W. O. Briggs (Degema)**: The two materials will be at par.

**Chief Okotie-Eboh**: They will not be at par. We even want the import duties to be higher so that the man who buys locally produced goods would still have an advantage over the man that is importing from overseas. That gives the balance of the position.

I want to say with all sense of responsibility—and hon. Members here will even agree with me—that of recent, even those protected industries, after they had recouped their capital and paid dividends to the owners of the money overseas, they still sold their products even higher than the imported ones. This is a statement of fact and is exactly the case I am making.

We are doing these things in order to protect both the Government and the consumer. We selected materials, for instance, the cement industry. The Nkalagu Cement Industry, under the protection that has been given to it by the Government has since recouped its capital ;

but its cement is sold at almost the same price as imported cement, and yet it does not pay excess tax.

Why should we allow the Factory to benefit at the expense of the ordinary man in the street and the Government ? So we have selected such industries in order to see that while we are protecting them, they too must contribute to the revenue of this country. We do not want to allow people who invest their money overseas and in Nigeria to continue making profits at the expense of the ordinary man and the Government.

**An hon. Member**: How does it protect the ordinary man ?

**Chief Okotie-Eboh**: I suppose that the hon. Member knows that the consumer is protected generally by the vigilance of the department of Commerce and Industry and my Ministry. We cannot control but we can only protect the consumer to the extent that he requires. But if hon. Members want the control of prices, they will agree that the whole business would be driven underground and there will be what is called black market.

**Mr D. C. Ahamefula (Okigwi South West)**: On a point of order, now that the duty on imported tyres has been increased, will the Minister of Finance give us the assurance that the cost of locally produced ones will not go up ?

**Mr Speaker**: This is a question.

**Chief Okotie-Eboh**: That is exactly the last point I want to make. I do not think that there will be any justification for the two tyre producers in Nigeria to increase their prices beyond the excise duties imposed. In doing the exercise, I have simultaneously increased, at the same rate and a little bit more, the duties on imported tyres, so that the margin of production which we gave them before is still there.

The Member for Owerri South East (*Mr Ukegbu*) was saying that there would be no sufficient tyres. I want to assure him that the Dunlop and Michelin are producing more than enough tyres for Nigeria. They are, at the same time, exporting from Nigeria and their tyres are of the best quality. I am sure hon. Members will agree that both Michelin and Dunlop are the best tyre producers in the

world. I do not see anything wrong with their tyres. I hope that I have explained clearly the position to hon. Members.

**Mr W. O. Briggs** (Degema) : On a point of Order, I would not like the Minister of Finance to think that we are all ignoramuses here.

**Mr Speaker** : This is not a point of order.

**Mr L. O. Tobun** (Epe) : I just want to add a word to this matter. When the Minister of Finance said that he wanted to educate us on the implications of this matter, I got an idea. The idea I got was this. Here is an industry, let us take the cement industry for example. A bag of imported cement was being sold for about 10s-6d and then the local one 11s-6d. But the local one should be protected, according to him ! The cost of a bag of imported cement is 12s-6d now. Simultaneously a bag of cement locally made costs 12s-6d, and this is being done in the belief that the local industry is being protected ! However, he forgot to tell us one thing, and that is what Members have been asking him : Where is the protection for the consumers ?

The fact is that the expatriate firms come to establish industries in Nigeria—the tyre industry, the cement industry, or any other type of industry for that matter. They come here in Nigeria to trade and they are given encouragement and concessions such as non-payment of tax and not doing certain things for a period which other firms do, and they make money in a little way. But these people would not come here to remain only for say, five years and pack away. They may remain here for a long time so they must make their profits like industries in other places. But these firms want to make the money in three years. They cannot make it. If they do, they must be cheating the people.

My point is that I agree that the local industries should be protected, but they should be protected in a way that the consumers should have the feeling that they are in their own country and that the prices of the things they buy are not exorbitant.

For instance, in England, where cement is manufactured locally too, will the Minister of Finance tell the House that if any cement is imported into that country the price will be the same as the one locally made ? It will not be the same. The price of the latter will be lower.

That is where they get encouragement—they are locally made and people buy them cheaper than those imported.

The point is that these people cannot make the profit in one day. They will be here for twenty years, thirty years, hundred years.

**Mr S. D. Lar** (Lowland East) : In as much as I appreciate the explanation given by the Minister of Finance, there is one point that Members are worrying about.

We all agree that the Government should protect indigenous industries. But there is one point. We do not see the difference between the cost of imported goods and the locally manufactured ones. That is the only problem and that is the only field of misunderstanding. We want the Government to do something about it.

There are also some irregularities about the goods imported and those locally made. Let me give an example. It appears that there is a Nigerian Michelin tyre and a Michelin imported tyre which are of different qualities. Those manufactured in Nigeria are the inferior type and those manufactured outside Nigeria are superior. The same thing applies to the Dunlop. Do these companies take Nigeria as a second-class country or what ? We want the same quality. If they think that the Michelin tyres produced outside Nigeria are of good quality, let them produce the same thing here. That applies also to so many other goods. One would have expected the price of imported cement to be a little bit higher than the price of cement manufactured in this country. But to our disappointment, this is not so. That is the problem to examine. Let the Government look into that and tell us why this is so.

Thank you.

**Mr I. S. Onwuchekwa** (Ahoada Central) : I disagree with the last speaker, that there are two types of tyres manufactured : those manufactured in this country and those manufactured abroad, especially with reference to Michelin tyres.

If you go to the market, you will find that they are just exactly the same thing in price and quality. Members will all agree with me that Michelin tyres are the best in this country. I would not like any Member to mislead the House.

**Mr Lar** : Is it not true that the hon. Member speaking has some vested interests in Michelin ?

**Mr Onwuchekwa** : I have no vested interests, but this factory is sited in my constituency and I have had the opportunity of watching them in production. This the Member has not had.

**Mr F. I. Okoronkwo** (Aba Urban) : I do not know whether the hon. Member is briefed to speak for Michelin here. Those who use Michelin tyres are aware that the qualities are not the same. He should, therefore, not mislead the House.

**Mr Onwuchekwa** (Ahoada Central) : I know that most of the Members who spoke before me do not use Michelin tyres at all, especially the Member for Aba Urban (*Mr Okoronkwo*). He uses other tyres and he wants to protect those tyres.

The point that Members are making is this. We quite agree that the Government must protect itself by imposing excise duties. But the consumers as well must have the guarantee that they themselves will equally be protected. They should buy such products at lesser prices than those that are imported from abroad. That is the point that Members are making, and we would like the Minister of Finance to give an assurance to this House that the consumers themselves will be equally protected. That is the point at issue. We all like the Government to protect local industries and at the same time to impose excise duties in order to protect itself and to have some means of existence. But the consumers themselves must have equal protection so that they do not have to buy goods at prohibitive prices.

I beg to support.

**M. Sule Abba Bui** (Biu North) : In contributing to the debate on the Second Reading of this Bill, I have to thank the Minister of Finance—(Interruptions).

**Mr Speaker** : Order. We have not started the Second Reading of the Appropriation Bill yet.

**M. Sule Abba Bui** : I am sorry. In contributing to this debate, I have to say that—

**An hon. Member** : He does not know what he is saying.

**Mr E. D. Akinbowale** (Ijebu North) : It appears that the Member for Biu North (*M. Sule Abba Bui*) is not prepared to say anything. I suggest he had better resume his seat.

**Mr Speaker** : If the Member is not ready, he had better resume his seat.

**M. Sule Abba Bui** : I am more ready than any other Member.

**Mr Speaker** : I wish you were more ready.

**Mr B. A. Ajayi** (Ekiti South East) : The exposition of the Minister of Finance is very clear on this issue. We know actually that an infant industry should be protected, but the point is that if the infant industry is protected, prices of goods produced should be cheaper than those imported. If tariffs are imposed with a view to increasing the cost of goods produced locally, then the purpose is defeated. Importation of goods into the country is supposed to be discouraged and goods locally made are supposed to be cheap to such an extent that there will be a rush to purchase them. But when Government imposes very heavy tariff, then the Government scares the people away from buying local products, and they will turn to foreign products.

Unfortunately, in this country, Michelin and Dunlop tyres seem to be inferior to those imported into the country—so that we in this country are supposed to buy cheaper things at dearer costs. That is the point that is being brought to the notice of the Minister of Finance. The explanation is quite clear.

**Chief Okotie-Eboh** : I am very grateful to Members for these points, and I think I shall examine them carefully. But I want Members to appreciate that the quality of manufactured goods in Nigeria cannot be compared with that of the imported ones at the initial stage of the industry.

**Several hon. Members** : Why ?

**Chief Okotie-Eboh** : I will tell you why. The reason is this. When these factories start—

**An hon. Member** : Do not condone inferiority.

**Chief Okotie-Eboh** : Let me explain please. When these factories like tyre start, we allow

them certain quota of experts who have the technical know-how to come to this country to train our people. During the formative years when they are training our people so that they can do the work properly, it is not yet possible that Members should expect the same maturity or the same quality.

**Several hon. Members :** Why ?

**Chief Okotie-Eboh :** This is a fact. All right, if you tell a tailor to train somebody on how to sew dresses, do you expect the tailor to produce the same thing as his apprentice ?

**Mr W. O. Briggs (Degema) :** On a point of order, it appears that what the Minister of Finance is saying is that because of the initial teething troubles the factories turn out goods of inferior quality. In that case, if we agree that their goods are of inferior quality, then why should they charge as much as goods of higher quality ? They should charge lower.

**Chief Okotie-Eboh :** I am not saying that the goods are of inferior quality. I did not admit that. But what I am saying is that there is a possibility of certain elements of inferiority when the factories have just begun production.

**Mr Briggs :** So inferiority element is there ?

**Chief Okotie-Eboh :** I do not know the difference between the quality here and the quality of matured technicians. But what I am saying is this, that there is no justification whatsoever for the protected industry here to sell its product as high as imported one unless there is dumping ; this is what I am saying.

Several of my hon. Friends here have told me that tyres sold for £45 here could be sold by importing firms for £38 or so. That is possible, but we must prevent that if we want the industry here to grow to the standard of excellence that we expect it to be. Until we do that, we shall be allowing people who want to get foreign currencies and those whose factories have already matured and have recouped their capital and are not worried about little or no profit to dump their products here at the expense of the locally produced materials.

**Mr Briggs :** On a point of order, how does that help the local industries ? How can the dumping be prevented ? Can it be prevented by rise in excise duties ?

**Chief Okotie-Eboh :** The dumping can be prevented by the imposition of a higher rate of import duty, and that was what I said.

If Members will care to read page 22 of my Budget Speech, I have discussed this matter fully there. With your permission, Mr Speaker, I shall read :

*"As regards excise duties, I should state that Government was satisfied from statistical returns and consultations at official level with representatives of the management of the various industries that the industries concerned are healthy enough to bear the burden and in general the level of excise duties is low—and I lay emphasis on that—in relation to the corresponding import duty."*

This is what I am saying.

**Mr A. F. Odulana (Ijebu South) :** On a point of order, when the Nigerian Brewery started the production of star beer in this country, they were selling it at 1s-5d per bottle and it was increased to 1s-7d, 2s-9d, 3s up to the present cost. Can the Minister, during the course of his explanation here this morning, tell us why the Brewery charged so low at the initial stage ? These new industries want to start with 100 per cent and then come down to 50 per cent.

I was in the business with the Nigerian Brewery at that time and I knew what they charged.

**Chief Okotie-Eboh :** I will tell my hon. Friend that the answer is simple. If he, being in the business at that time, would check on the wages paid by the Nigerian Brewery at the time he was referring to, he would see that it was rising like that to its present day cost. Does my hon. Friend expect that the Nigerian Brewery will continue to pay higher wages to him as their agent—

**Mr Odulana :** That is not the argument.

**Chief Okotie-Eboh :** It is the argument. Members must listen to sensible discussions. How can Members expect a beer industry to survive when the industry pays two shillings and sixpence a day and the beer the industry manufactures is being sold at two shillings a bottle ? And how also can Members expect that industry to survive when the man who was earning two shillings and sixpence a day is now demanding ten shillings and sixpence

[CHIEF OKOTIE-BOH]

a day? Commonsense dictates that the industry will not exist if we continue to increase wages and continue to build more houses and buy more materials without a corresponding increase in the selling price. What kind of business is that?

I think I have fully explained the position. I want to lay emphasis on this, that the Government is not going to control prices. If we control prices, we will drive the business underground and only a few people will make the money at the expense of the generality of the consumers. This is what I am saying. I think we remember what happened during the war about the control of salt.

**Mr F. I. Okoronkwo** (Aba Urban): While we support the Government in protecting the local manufacturers, we are against the expatriate manufacturing companies in Nigeria making excessive profits at the expense of the masses of this country.

Many Members have spoken on the question of tyres. Has the Government of the Federation taken time to find out the quality of imported tyres and that of the locally manufactured ones?

**Mr I. S. Onwuchekwa** (Ahoada Central): On a point of order, what is worrying many people in this country is colonial mentality. We should not look down on the goods manufactured in this country

**Mr Speaker**: That is not a point of order.

**Mr Okoronkwo**: The Member for Ahoada Central (*Mr Onwuchekwa*) is becoming a stooge of capitalist concern in this country. He has identified himself as one of the enemies of the people of this country.

We are here to protect the interest of the electorate. The goods we manufacture in Nigeria to-day are costing more than the imported ones. This is what we are against. If the goods are manufactured in Nigeria, then they should be cheap. Let us take, for instance the question of tyres. Rubber is produced in Nigeria, manpower is also from Nigeria. Why then should the tyres manufactured in Nigeria be more expensive than the imported ones? I think that something is wrong somewhere. That is why we are calling on the Government to investigate the cause.

Excise duty and import duty are making life very difficult for our people in this country. These duties are making life difficult also for the businessmen who are engaged in transport business in Nigeria.

I am therefore calling upon the Government to investigate the reason why the goods manufactured in this country cost more than the imported ones.

With these few remarks, I beg to support.

**Mr J. S. Tarka** (Jemgba): I think that the Minister of Finance is getting the whole argument confused. He started by saying that local industries should be protected. At the end of his argument he was saying something which was not in the interest of the consumers of the locally produced goods. I would ask the Minister at this stage to withdraw this Bill and to re-examine the various aspects of it so that when it is brought back to this House, he would be in a position to answer the various points raised in this House.

Members on all sides of the House have advanced arguments to protect the interest of the man who buys the locally produced goods. It is in the interest of this country that the locally produced goods should be of the very best quality so that they can be sold not only in this country but also abroad at very good prices. Unfortunately, the locally produced goods, as the Minister of Finance has openly admitted, are of inferior quality as compared with the imported ones. We feel that the Government is in duty bound to see to it that the locally manufactured goods are produced in such a way that they not only fetch good market, but also yield dividend for those people in this country who make use of them.

The Government seems to be protecting the interest of investors in this country. Early this morning, a junior Minister came out and spoke to the effect that the Government has no right to control the siting of industries in this country. The Minister of Finance has now spoken in the same vein that the Government cannot control the prices of imported goods and cannot control also the technical know-how in the various establishments of the industries. I think this is most unfair not only to this country but to the people who buy from Nigeria. Our markets abroad will be in disrepute in the

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eyes of the people who buy from us if we do not see to it that what we produce are of the best quality.

As the Minister of Finance admitted, a Member from this side of the House mentioned to him that prices of certain imported goods are much lower than the prices of those manufactured locally. The Member termed this to mean that Nigeria is a dumping ground for the various goods that are sold at such a low rate.

I think it is only wise that while we try to protect the interest of our local manufacturers, we should also try to see to it that the prices of the goods that are manufactured, as well as their quality, are adjusted and controlled. This should be done in order to ensure that the consumer does not suffer in the end.

An instance has been cited in respect of the price and quality of the locally produced Michelin tyres. It is well-known that Michelin tyres are of good quality; in fact some people think that Michelin tyres are the very best tyres on Nigerian roads. But of recent, the locally produced Michelin tyres seem to be of inferior quality. Although the Minister has said that it is not his responsibility, he should see to it that producers in this country produce the very best. It will be in the interest of Nigerian markets abroad; it will be in the interest of the indigenous consumer, and it will be in the interest of the good name of Nigeria to produce the very best.

The question of price control, I know, is against the policy of the Federal Government. We ought to start thinking seriously about a planned economy now. If we have a planned economy, we must be driven into the question of price control from time to time.

I think the Minister should make it clear to this House what the stand of the Government is in respect of duty which is imposed on the imported goods, such as tyres. We know that the Government has from time to time increased duty on imported goods and the result is that the increase in duty is passed on to the consumers. The same thing is being done in respect of locally manufactured goods.

What is the Government going to do to see to it that the best is produced at the very minimum cost to the consumer in this country? It has been said, as the Minister admitted, that

he has got no right to control the technical know-how of the various firms, but that it is the responsibility of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

**Chief Okotie-Eboh :** I have not told you that !

**Mr Tarka :** You said it in undertone, you were afraid of saying it aloud. The Minister of Finance should be honest enough (as I think he has always been) even in this case to tell the truth to this country. He should withdraw this Motion for the time being and study the various aspects involved in it, so that when he brings it back to the House he would have studied it carefully and noted the various implications. I think with these few remarks he will reconsider his own stand.

Another important point is that all the Governments of the Federation are the biggest consumers of these locally made goods and the public lose money in the process. What is the use of buying one hundred thousand tyres for the various government vehicles in this country only to discover that within three months they are out of use as compared with the imported tyres which last longer.

**Mr Speaker :** The Minister of Finance.

**Mr A. O. Ogunsanya (Ikeja) :** On a point of order, I think that the Minister of Finance, as Leader of the House, having introduced this Motion, can only speak again after we have discussed on it. With the greatest respect to him as our leader he should listen to us and reply once, not several times. We know his ability to make notes and reply. We want to speak on this, it is a burning issue.

**Mr Speaker :** I think it is more to the interest of this House that the points are dealt with very, very carefully and clearly, and this can only be done if the different points are answered in stages. In this case I think we can allow the Minister of Finance to reply either once, twice or more.

**Chief Okotie-Eboh :** I am very grateful to you, especially when there is repetition of points by speakers. If hon. Members would speak without repeating the points already made by others, if I have to reply, then it would be a different matter.



[CHIEF OKOTIE-EBOH]

I want to start by replying to the points made by the Member for Jemgba (*Mr Tarka*) I am sure he has seen the disapproval of the House that no tyre manufactured anywhere can last for two years under regular service. The hon. Member obviously told his tale out of school when he said that I spoke to him in undertone on certain matters. I am not used to talking to people privately and exposing it. That is the type of attitude no gentleman would exhibit in the public at all.

The next point I want to make is that I want to say quite clearly—(Interruptions).

**Mr Speaker :** Order, order, I hope Members do realise that I get quite a lot of difficulty with both of the Front Benches, that is my right and my left. This must stop to allow progress to be made.

**Chief Okotie-Eboh :** I want to say on the Floor of this House with all sense of responsibility that goods manufactured in Nigeria generally are of very high quality, and they can compare with goods of their type produced anywhere in the world. And for anybody to suggest that our goods are inferior just because he buys one or two tyres and they get burst overnight is unfair.

That happens also to tyres manufactured anywhere in the world, and it is no reason to say that our goods are of low quality. As a matter of fact in my Budget speech, in the very first portion of it, I talked of the pride we should take in Nigerian-made products, and at the same time—

**Mr A. F. Odulana (Ijebu South) :** On a point of order, the only set of inferior goods imported into this country which the Minister cannot defend is that of second-hand clothing!

**Mr L. O. Tobun (Epe) :** On a point of order, I do not agree with the hon. Gentleman from Ijebu South. This is a serious matter—

**Mr Ogunsanya :** On a point of order—

**Mr Speaker :** Only one point of order can be raised at a time.

**Mr Tobun :** People speak about inferior tyres, but I want to say that the cause of this inferiority lies with the untrained Nigerians who are doing the manufacture out here. The *Michelin* tyres come from abroad and pass through trained hands, but out here our men are not yet trained—

**Mr Speaker :** This is not a point of order.

**Chief Okotie-Eboh :** I consider this matter very serious and I think that hon. Members should take it as such, because we in this House are representing millions of people and it is important that matters like this should be dealt with very seriously.

The hon. Member spoke about Government purchasing locally-made goods. This is so, but Government will advertise and call for tenders for such goods so that they can look at the competitive prices of the materials concerned.

**Several hon. Members :** We are not opposed to that policy, but the price and quality of such goods.

**Chief Okotie-Eboh :** Quite honestly, I do not know of any product of Nigerian origin that is higher than the imported ones. If Members know of any, let them come and tell me.

**Mr Speaker :** If the Minister would only pay less heed to some of the interruptions then better progress could be made.

**Chief Okotie-Eboh :** I say prices in some cases may not be equal to those of imported goods ; I said so earlier. But when it is so all we can do is to bring that fact to the knowledge of the manufacturers. At the same time people should reject buying such materials because if you can buy an imported tyre for £38 and the locally manufactured tyres for £45, why must you buy the ones produced here ?

**Mr W. O. Briggs (Degema) :** But the Minister of Finance is encouraging the public to buy locally made tyres ?

**Chief Okotie-Eboh :** I am not encouraging anybody to buy at the expense of his own pocket. Naturally, I expect that the Government will look into this matter and if hon. Members have specific cases, they can bring them to the notice of the Government and we shall contact the manufacturers. The quality that we want in Nigeria is the quality that will compete with other qualities anywhere in the world. That is what we want.

If an industry is protected and the industry is taking advantage of the protection to cheat the public, then such matters should be reported

to the Government and we shall take the matter up with the manufacturers. All I said was that we were not going to impose price control.

Another thing is the mentality of our own people. Hon. Members will be surprised to hear that yesterday, although it was Sunday, I visited the Textile Factory at Ikeja. When I went round the factory, I saw that the bafts produced there were better and cheaper than those imported. I was surprised that the manufacturers did not mark them "Made in Nigeria". I asked the General Manager of the Textile Factory why they did not mark the bafts "Made in Nigeria" because the bafts and any other textile produced here were better than any one we could find anywhere in the world, even the ones produced in Japan. They are produced here from our raw cotton and from the initial to the final stage. But the General Manager surprised me when he said "Oh, Minister, if you can tell the Members of the House to help us. The consumers, as soon as they see 'Made in Nigeria' on any baft, they refuse to buy it". It is a fact. (*Interruptions*).

Will hon. Members please listen. This baft is cheaper and better but our people will only buy it if there is no "Made in Nigeria" stamp on it. What I am telling this House is a serious matter. At the moment, the public believes that if an article is stamped "Made in Nigeria", then the quality is bad but if there is no "Made in Nigeria" stamp, the quality is good and people will buy.

**Mr E. D. Akinbowale** (Ijebu North): On a point of order, *Star Beer* is made in Nigeria, people buy it and they like it.

**Chief Okotie-Eboh**: I am grateful to the Member for Ijebu North (*Mr Akinbowale*).

This is what I am asking Members of this honourable House to help me to do. *Star Beer* is good and it is cheaper but, if any visitor comes to your house and you offer him *Star Beer*, he will say "*Star Beer*!, Oh no, I want *Heinekens* or *Bergedorf*".

**Mr A. F. Odulana** (Ijebu South): On a point of order, may I help the Minister of Finance. How was it possible to make the flour produced at the Flour Mills, Apapa acceptable to the people of this country for consumption? In like manner, when these

bafts are made in Nigeria the Government knows what to do. Increase the duty on imported bafts, if possible by 100 per cent and Nigerians would be forced to buy the bafts made in Nigeria.

**Chief Okotie-Eboh**: I do not want to enter into any controversy. All I am saying is that we protect industries because we want industries to grow in Nigeria and we want these industries to produce the best material for the people of this country.

If these industries, although protected in several ways, still want to make profit at the expense of the people of this country, then we shall cite specific instances and we shall take the matter up with the manufacturers. I think the points I have made have covered the Motion which I have brought before this House.

**Mr A. O. Ogunsanya** (Ikeja): I want to say first and foremost, that the Minister of Finance is a very hardworking Minister but, it seems his Economic Adviser is either not hard working or that he is not there at all.

I think in this connection the fiscal policy of the Government has got to be re-examined. If it is sound by the various piecemeal legislations, excise duties and customs duties that the Minister brings to this honourable House, it gives us the impression of planlessness. We want to know first of all, how many of these *Orders* the Minister has in his pocket to bring before us during this sitting of Parliament.

I want to say bluntly that the Minister of Finance has a tough duty this morning to convince any hon. Member. We are not convinced and it seems to me, that the sum total of his economics here is nil. His arguments are uneconomic, they are unsound, and, in this, we have no compromise. We are the representatives of the people of this country. We want the Minister of Finance to take this safely back this morning. Let the Minister take the Motion back safely and we—

**Mr D. N. Chukwu** (Awgu North): On a point of order, some hon. Members who claim to know economics do not know even exactly what they are after. The Minister of Finance is telling us nothing but the truth. "Made in Nigeria" products—

**Mr Speaker :** This is not a point of order.

**Mr Ogunsanya :** I know that the few capitalists and industrialists we have in this House are very nervous. My hon. Friend happens to be one of them.

**Mr Chukwu :** On a point of information, Mr Speaker—

**Mr Ogunsanya :** I am not yielding. I want the Minister to reconcile what he said with his extra duty on second-hand tyres. I know he is hardworking and I know if he is given any chance to go home and come back, he is going to talk more economics than Professor Jevons but, at the same time, let him reconcile his statement with the duty he has put now on second-hand tyres. The ordinary people who cannot afford to buy new tyres, the junior civil servants, the ordinary contractors like my hon. Friend who has just gone out, and people who cannot afford a new tyre costing upwards of £20 sometimes in the middle of the month all buy second-hand tyres.

The Minister of Finance has put more duty on these second-hand tyres and within the last few months the duty has been trebled. How can the Minister reconcile this? This is unpopular.

We have always supported the Minister but I think all these increases in duty should be brought to this House at the same time. He should let us have the time to go through them and we shall give him our views. After all said and done, when these duties are imposed they do not go into the pocket of the Minister of Finance?

I do not see why the Minister should feel more enthusiastic about imposing more duties than we are disposed to permit him. He gets nothing out of it personally. And, when a man is doing something for his country, it is only when the people's own representatives in Parliament agree that he can implement a proposal.

The Minister of Finance will confess that he has received series of petitions from humble Nigerians in Lagos and other parts of this Federation who make their livelihood out of second-hand tyres. This sort of thing has to stop. The Minister, I know, has a way of acting quickly, and he will not deny that he has brought this Order to Parliament without any introduction.

This is not going to have any smooth sailing. There are too many of these orders published piecemeal. They should be brought together, and, if possible, a date should be set down to talk about them. The Minister of Finance, I know, will have some plausible explanations for this, but it would not satisfy us.

We know the Minister of Finance has no need for second-hand tyres. He can afford to buy new tyres at any time, but the real duty touches the whole fiscal policy of the Government. I know he will not listen, and the fact that he is not listening makes it necessary for us to press our point. When he has withdrawn this for to-day without explaining successfully to us he will be able to tell us more about it next time.

The technique of the Minister at this Sitting of Parliament is not to read his usual introductory, well-worded, factual statement before bringing things in because he hopes that we will not realise what he is passing. It was done last Saturday, and to-day we have been forewarned. So, the Minister is, of course, being taxed in getting this through.

**Chief Okotie-Eboh :** We should realise that we have to debate the Budget.

I want to say that since this *Order* was published a lot of the Member for Ikeja (*Mr Ogunsanya's*) clients in Lagos and Ibadan—

**Mr Ogunsanya :** Second-hand tyre dealers, with respect, are not my clients. They are citizens of Nigeria, and when I find that the Government is imposing an unreasonable duty on them it is my duty as a Nigerian to point it out in Parliament. They are not my clients. On the other hand the Minister of Finance is my client.

**Chief Okotie-Eboh :** As I was saying, I happen to know some of these clients of my hon. Friend who are dealers in motor tyres.

**Mr J. S. Tarka (Jemgba) :** On a point of order, the Minister of Finance is imputing improper motives. He is not correct.

**Mr Speaker :** I do not think so.

**Chief Okotie-Eboh :** I am sure that many hon. Members here have been startled to hear the revelation from the mouth of my hon.

Friend that there are people importing second-hand tyres into Nigeria. Why should people import second-hand tyres into Nigeria when we have got our own—

**Chief O. B. Akin-Olugbade** (Egba South) : I heard only this morning that some people who have ordered second-hand tyres could not clear them from the Customs Warehouse because they have no money to do so. The answer is to ban the importation of these second-hand tyres into this country. There are so many Nigerians who have invested thousands of pounds into factories retreading tyres.

**Chief Okotie-Eboh** : I am grateful to the hon. Member because what he is telling me is what I know too well. Members would realise that the Minister of Finance is really in very great difficulty with people who, after dodging real duties which ought to be paid into the coffers of the Government of this country brief hon. Members to come and defend the indefensible. We have been told by one hon. Member that the Customs Warehouses are full of second-hand tyres at a time when we want to develop this country. How does one reconcile this irreconcilable? We want to develop this country. We want to industrialise this country, and we have set up industries for producing tyres. Why then should people overseas continue to ship into this country without duty, these so-called second-hand tyres.

If our factories can supply tyres enough for Nigeria naturally those tyres will become second-hand in due course. If the quantity is enough for the cars running in this country then the second-hand tyres that would emanate from those tyres will be enough for the people to make their shoes. I will not allow anybody to import these so-called second-hand tyres into this country under any camouflage whatsoever.

**Mr Ogunsanya** : Will the Minister of Finance please explain, therefore, the purpose of the *Order* in respect of imported second-hand tyres?

**Chief Okotie-Eboh** : This is no Question Time, but I would tell the Member for Ikeja (*Mr Ogunsanya*) that the purpose is to stop the importation of second-hand tyres. As a member of the G.A.T.T. it is not our duty to ban the importation of goods because we have

conventions which we must respect. We cannot ban the importation of goods from certain countries that are receiving goods from Nigeria. This is the difficulty we are in. Therefore, all we can do within our right is to impose such protective duties by way of import duties that will prevent them from bringing them here.

So, I am grateful to hon. Members for their disapproval of the importation of these second-hand tyres, and I can assure my hon. Friend that if there are people who are already in trouble because of the new position the matter should be raised with me. If it is possible, I shall recommend to Government to give them the necessary relief that will enable them clear what they have now, as I did in the case of second-hand clothing. But that is not the reason why my hon. Friend should advocate that we should perpetuate this type of importation of good tyres by the backdoor by calling them second-hand tyres under the guise of fundamental freedom.

**Mr E. C. Akwivu** (Orlu South East) : Will the Minister please explain whether or not it is true that the excise duty of 10 per cent imposed was because a particular tyre producing factory in Nigeria insisted on having a protective duty?

**Chief Okotie-Eboh** : No, Sir.

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Resolved* : That the Excise Duties (Amendment) Order, 1964 (Legal Notice No. 25 of 1964), a copy of which was laid before this House on 21st March, be confirmed.

APPROPRIATION (1964-65) BILL  
(FIRST ALLOTTED DAY)

ADJOURNED DEBATE ON SECOND READING  
(18TH MARCH)

*Motion made and Question proposed, That the Bill be now read a Second time.*

**Mr A. Akomolafe** (Ekiti North East) : In five successive years during the life of this Parliament the Minister of Finance has treated us to economic and financial discourses, the type of which we have this morning, which with due deference to his industry and exertion have accorded some credit to him. But good as these thesis may be, their faults and pitfalls

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just now not taken into reckoning, they have not quite been what the nation required to know about the plans of its Government for its economic and financial development and progress. They do not appeal to the common man and, to the student or scholar, they form a good subject for much hole-picking.

Quite conscious of this, not unlikely, the Minister therefore has not employed any of his usual high sounding tags—**Stability** in 1960, **Sovereignty** in 1961, **Mobilisation** in 1962 and **Modernisation** in 1963; he has preferred to be plain and matter-of-fact, even though bald and tawdry and has named it "National". And, besides, an empty long talk on financial system, the whole speech has been empty, and lacks any objectivity. That is why I venture to help him with an *alias* for a nomenclature—the 'Stagnation Budget' or on another hand, as the hon. Minister himself has said that he is on his way out, we might properly take this as his 'Valedictory Budget'.

**Chief Okotie-Eboh**: The Member for Ekiti North East (*Mr A. Akomolafe*) cannot send me out.

**Mr Akomolafe**: The entire speech, or at least more than a quarter of it, is a review of our economic progress, especially since the inception of the Development Programme presented in April 1962, and it is largely a duplication of Sessional Paper No. 3 of 1964 laid on the Table of this House and entitled the "First Progress Report of the 1962-68 Development Programme". At page 2 of the Speech, the Minister has said:—

*"This Budget should, therefore, be a survey to depict the most important facets of our national economy to map out the changes in the economy since our attainment of sovereignty and the subsequent introduction of the Development Programme and to indicate the further developments which may be expected in the next few years"*.

The question of our adverse balance of payment, over which the Minister so complacently glossed, is both depressing and dis-illusioning. It shows we are living in a fool's paradise, notwithstanding the false courage the Minister would like us to take. The Government is taking us for a ride, and an expensive ride indeed.

This is a situation which has persisted all along the five years and one to which the Opposition never failed to direct the attention

of the Government in very strong terms. While I would not like to waste valuable time in quoting past figures, yet I would wish to direct attention to the figures at pages 12 and 13 of this Speech: namely that we have an overall deficit of over £26 million. Let us ask the question why we have these adverse balances. I shall venture a number of suggestive causes:

The first is reduction in investments; the second is insistence by investors or loan capital creditors on credit systems, or tying loans to expenditure; the third is refund of loans or payment of high interest on loans; the fourth is faulty financial administration whereby foreign investors are able to export their profits in liquid forms, or where the country's money is exported to pay for a large number of expatriate officers in various categories; the fifth is insufficient control of imports, and the sixth is insufficient control of, and hold on, the markets for our exports, *et cetera*, to mention a few. And I may say that all these have full evidence in the Budget Speech and in the first Progress Report on the Development Plan.

You may ask: What are the remedies to these ills? They are contained in the ills themselves, and quite simply, a reversal of the policies bringing up these undesirable situations.

One more point about this. Since our current Six-Year Development Programme will involve the importation of large quantities of machinery and expert skill, it become highly important that the Government should include in its programme a special study of how to reduce possible outflow of money consequent on these projects to the barest minimum.

The failure of external aid is an eye-opener. At page 13 of the Budget Speech, the Minister said:

*"It is in the area of capital flows that the outcome of last year's external transactions proved most disappointing. Turning first to official borrowing, gross receipts from new borrowings declined from the previous year's level and in addition, there were substantial repayments on earlier borrowings"*.

The Progress Report amplified this in Chapters 1 and 4, more specifically at pages 4 and 48-49. That is why I said that the

Minister's Budget Speech, presumably prepared after he had got the draft of the Progress Report, was just an absolute duplication of the Progress Report. At page 4 of the Report, under the heading *External Finance : Prospects and Implications*, the following is recorded and, with your permission, I shall read :

*"All the external financial assistance offered was tied to expenditure on agreed capital projects in the National Plan and in no case could the loan money be drawn in cash. Thus, each lender with its own procedures had to be satisfied on the merits of the particular project under consideration. The loan negotiations were thus protracted and time-consuming"*.

This is serious and important. What that actually means is that the people who are prepared to give the loans have realised the undesirability of giving their loans under straightforward conditions and have therefore decided to impose conditions unbearable to the sovereignty of this country and to the positive development of our projects, before giving us any loans.

Further details of this are also contained in the Capital Estimates 1963-64 at pages 1 and 2 where the total external loans received reads £26,287,540 out of a total Development Funds Receipts of £56,372,540, the rest being made up of contributions from revenue, capital grants and internal loans.

From the Progress Report at page 48, we have external loans being five million out of forty-one million total capital expenditure, that is 14 per cent, *"thus falling far short of the percentage assumed in the plan"*—to use the exact words of the Report—whereas an estimated external loan receipt of about at least over £30 million was expected over this period.

Why this great disappointment in this inflow of external capitals?, one may ask. Several reasons suggest themselves, a few of which may be mentioned as follows :

(a) fears in the minds of investors about the viability of projects for which loans are required ;

(b) close study of political trends in the country requiring the loan ;

(c) wrong economic attachments or associations.

Mr Speaker, it appears nonsense when truth is being taught to a person who will not listen and learn.

Again, I shall not venture on my own to pinpoint which of these causes has been responsible for our difficulties, or whether it is a combination of all the ills. *Verbum sat sapienti*. But what, according to both the Budget Speech and the Progress Report, have been the effects on our economy? Consequent inroad into our reserves—both external and internal. To quote the Minister of Finance again, with your permission, Mr Speaker, it is said :—

*"The net result of all these transactions was, as already indicated, a further large decline in our external reserves."*

This is set out more explicitly in the Progress Report at page 48 :—

*"The substantial shortfall in external finance in 1962-63 meant that Nigerian resources had been employed in place of external finance during the first year of the Plan."*

This is most unfortunate. External reserves are most invaluable for the external financial stability of a nation, for our credit-worthiness and for the stability or stabilisation of our currency. The Minister of Finance himself is aware of this as he says at page 13 of his Speech :—

*"The net result of all these transactions was, as already indicated, a further large decline in our external reserves. At the end of December these stood at £94 million : while this amount was equal to 5½ month's imports at current levels, which is still more than adequate to our present needs, I am frankly disturbed at the rate of decline in these reserves."*

I only wish, in all humility, that people would understand the danger to a country at this period of its development to eat into its external reserves. This situation must be urgently corrected and it must be dealt with immediately and quickly. What happens is that the external loans have failed and there is no other means through which the Government could finance its development ; it has, therefore, resorted eating up its own cake and still wishing to have it by demanding our external reserves.

Another method of financing the deficit of the Development Programme during the period

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under review is by internal savings and loans. Of course, this, to some extent, is a really commendable source to the Minister of Finance. On page 6, beginning from the last paragraph to the third paragraph of page 10, the Minister deals with this subject very copiously, even though a little longishly. I shall therefore mention :—

(a) the commendable saving schemes—savings certificates and premium bonds ;

(b) the valuable role of the Central Bank in controlling these certificates and bonds and administering its bills, development loans, and so on.

But may I say, strictly, that publicity in respect of these schemes is still inadequate and an intensification and effective handling, repeat effective handling, can substantially increase physical results. The common man is still largely ignorant of what part he can play to contribute his widow's mite to the economic development of the country. There is no sufficient evidence that the loud speaker vans and other media of publicity have been effectively employed *ad maxima*.

Another note is that unless the Central Bank is relieved of the burden of these schemes to a great extent, that is by making it bear much less the cost of redeeming the pledges, it will certainly work hardship on itself. The public should be made to bear most of these burdens. Shares could be sold instead of being redeemed. The projected Development Bank might come in here very usefully.

Furthermore, from the Report and from the Minister of Finance's Budget Speech, I note that our Statutory Corporations have also not borne their own share of the burden. Out of a total expenditure of £13,259,715, only £5,559,007 was derived from them. This heavily falls short of an annual average of £13 million assumed in the Plan.

This is not a surprise. The squandermania of our Corporations is a password. Sinecure posts, nepotism, loose financial control, excessive tours, experiments or programmes not properly planned, bad purchases and purchase agreements—these are a few of the diseases of these Corporations. Several times papers have called for a look into the running and affairs of these Corporations. I think it was time something was done about them. They need tighter controls.

It is incredible that in spite of its various imbalances, the Government will still be able to plough into the Development Plan over £3 million, even though this falls short of the annual estimate of £4.5 million.

In reviewing the Development Plan, the Government has increased its overall estimate of the Plan from £676.8 million to £745 million, an increase of nearly £70 million, accounted for by increases in economic, social and administrative sectors mainly ; and being also caused by experiences in actual costing in these early periods of action.

Mr Speaker, a change is not unexpected in a scheme of such gigantic nature, but one wonders whether there has been sufficient elasticity in the planning *ab initio*. This might obviate much embarrassing changes. Who knows that much more may not be forthcoming !

Let me ask also if there has been sufficient foresight in this Plan ? What is the estimate for each period of the Programme for which a review will be issued ? At what stage of the Programme is it expected to reach its peak, and what is the estimate for this peak period ?

I have made it quite clear that I did not see the sense in a Six-Year Development Programme. It ought to be part of a 15-year or 20-year development programme broken up into periods. I feel it should be a long-term plan broken up into periods. Mr Speaker, with your permission, I would like to refer this honourable House to something which I said about this programme when it was introduced in 1962. I said then that the Minister of Finance in his Budget Speech rightly described this programme as "the beginning of our long journey," to use his own language. I quote inside my own quoting :

*"A take-off point in our development. It took Russia some time to emerge to a modern nation. Japan, after over thirty years of planning, interrupted by the Second World War is just taking her place in the comity of nations. I feel therefore that we as a nation ought to have a much longer view of our journey ; we ought to have a panoramic survey, and make a detailed plan for a long period divided into short periods"*.

I could say much more about this, but I am sure that that will remind Members of this

House what I said about this Development Programme when it was being produced. We now have an evidence, a proof of what I said then. If we have a longer plan, and the shorter plan is a detailed exposition of the longer plan, we will be able to fit the smaller one into the greater one and we will have a better and more realistic perspective of the journey the nation is trying to make.

Now, let me illustrate further one or two points about the whole wrong planning or the absolute planlessness of this programme, or the part of it done so far, as reflected in the Budget Speech.

It is evident from what we have seen that the educational system has not in any way been geared to our economic development.

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister** (Mr S. A. Lana) : That is not true.

**Mr Akomolafe** : I think the Government should listen to me because they will reply later.

I wish first of all to commend the Government for setting up the Manpower Development Board, a cry of which has been long on the Floor of this House. I think that the Government also ought to be commended in the selection of a fitting head as the Secretary to the Board. I do hope that the Board will correct the incongruities in our educational system now that we have a proper person at the head and a proper set-up which can correct the bad set-up.

I now want to prove that the fifteen-year-education programme, for instance, from the primary to the university level, does not agree with our need for manpower, and, therefore, if taken on that plane of our manpower requirement in the lower level, in the intermediate level and also in the higher level, will require at least twenty years to be able to work to fit in with the Six-Year Development Programme which we have in hand. In other words, the Six-Year Development Programme would be a failure in respect of manpower if we are going to develop our internal resources, unless we depend solely or to a great extent on external resources of manpower.

Furthermore, we have good institutions in our present primary and secondary schools in the East and in the West, and the North I

understand is progressing rapidly with its primary school system. But this fault is still there that the number of the products passing out of our secondary schools and who are qualified for technical and university institutions is far short of our need for manpower if we should have enough men for manpower on the highest level to man our development programme. So also is our emphasis on priority educationally. There is also not enough diversification, with the result that we are having strange contradicting situations in this country—unemployment in the midst of great dearth of manpower !

I had on the Floor of this House some years past, suggested a recording and an analysis of student potentialities of our men and women overseas. This will also direct more effectively the scholarship activities of the Government. The unfortunate thing just now is that many flowers are blushing unseen and wasting the talents in countries overseas of our potential people whom we need to man the development of our country.

If for this only, how much there exists a need for an accurate population census of this country ! Our manpower development would be geared to an overall population and to an overall estimated population increase of the country. A paper which I just read, produced by an expert, says that if our population increases at an estimate of 2 per cent per annum or at an estimated increase of 3 per cent per annum, in 1963 we will still be having just about forty-one million. In other words, there is no means, no iota of means by which at this time we could expect that our population should be what it is. In other words, any planning, economic or manpower that is being done will definitely be wrongly done because we have wrong principles, wrong foundations and wrong premises.

**Mr Speaker** : Order. Really I cannot allow these arguments, which are controversial, on the census issue.

**Mr Akomolafe** : Thank you very much, Mr Speaker, I have finished with that.

Another example is the transport plans which, as analysed on pages 26 and 31, have been completely inadequate and unsuitable. I have always advocated a long-term transport and road programme for this country, and a careful



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aerial and other surveys of major highway road system, making access easy to all parts of this country and greatly enhancing the economy of the country. I have talked about the possibility of Government devoting a substantial slice of the money for the Six-Year Development Programme for a good road system to go to all parts of the country and connecting all branches to make communications very easy in this country.

One more point, and that is about the town and country planning which will be found at pages 37 and 40 of the Progress Report. This appears very haphazard, sluggish and very unco-ordinated. For example, the L.E.D.B. is supposed to be the Chief Town Planning Authority for the city of Lagos. We may forget the undesirable past, and we now look into a good future because of the newly internal reorganisation on that Board. In this I wish to congratulate the Prime Minister for making his stand clear and putting his foot down in the employment of a Nigerian as the head of that Department, in the person of the Chief Executive Officer. I am having the hope that he will be encouraged and supported, and that the appropriate Ministry will give him all the support and encouragement which he needs. This man is one of the best of the brains of this country and we expect that he will do so much.

**Chief Akin-Olugbade** (Egba South): I think the Member for Ekiti North East (*Mr Akomolafe*) should thank the Minister of Lagos Affairs too.

**Mr Akomolafe**: Well, I thank the Minister of Lagos Affairs who is directly responsible for this Board. I think that by thanking the Prime Minister I am also thanking the Minister.

But, may I ask: Why has the Minister of Lagos Affairs decided to duplicate the Authority. Since L.E.D.B. is the accredited Town Planning Authority, it should have an absolute free hand in executing its plans, managing the estates, and should not share this authority with the Ministry. The Minister should delegate his authority in this respect to the Board. The Board, for instance, which has full control of the city of Washington does its work on behalf of the Federal Government of the United States.

Another question is, why do we have a standstill in the Lagos Central Planning Scheme? The Government should provide

funds for the L.E.D.B. to execute the scheme to the glory of the Federal capital of our country.

Before I wind up, let me ask why the geological survey did not take cognisance of the great potentialities in Ekiti in Ondo province?

The latest Audit Report has shown the red lights to the Government and the Government should be warned. Pages 3 to 6 of the Report need serious scrutiny, especially that part on the misuse of funds and of public property.

**Mr Speaker**: The hon. Member has exhausted his time but, with the permission of the House, he can have one minute in which to wind up.

**Mr Akomolafe**: Thank you, Mr Speaker.

I want to ask, why were the Director and his Deputy allowed to leave the country within four months of each other's departure? And if they did, and if the man who was appointed to act for the Assistant Director did very well, I do not see why he has not been promoted to that post.

At the close of his speech, the Minister of Finance made a solemn appeal and in that appeal he said, and I quote—

*In conclusion, I wish to make a special appeal to the Members of this House and to the public in general. . . . This to my mind can only be achieved by making all sections of the country feel that they belong to the whole governmental system.*

I regard this as a solemn and sacred appeal. The events of the past two years have been most saddening, heart-rending, and depressing. It is an ill-wind that has blown nobody any good. No part or sector of this our great community can claim any righteousness or a holier-than-thou attitude. We have seen and witnessed political prostitution in its worst order. Colours have changed more rapidly than one can decipher and have blurred political visions. Sufferings, privations, sorrows, betrayals, vindictiveness—everything that makes the blood curdle and congeal has sabotaged the political strength of our great country. The effect has not been restricted to one single part of the country alone. Nor has it been limited to one single phase of our life, but has eaten into our whole structure, our very element.

**Alhaji Daura (Maska)** : On a point of order the hon. Member has definitely exhausted his time because he has spoken for more than half an hour.

**Mr Speaker** : Order ! Really we cannot allow this to go on. But this being Budget speech and the rights of the Opposition being usually strictly adhered to, perhaps we might give the hon. Member another minute.

**Mr Akomolafe** : These are times which try men's hearts. My appeal is to the hon. Prime Minister for whom I have the greatest respect. And I am asking him to use his Godliness ; his calmness and his integrity to summon in the country all forces, all elements of goodwill, to put their heads together and right the wrongs which now plague the country and rob it of its giant strides to progress.

*These things shall be : a loftier race  
Than e'er the world hath known shall rise,  
With flame of freedom in their souls  
And light of knowledge in their eyes.*

I beg to support.

**Chief D. N. Abii (Owerri East)** : I rise to support the Bill which seeks to appropriate £62,275,980 for the services of the Republic of Nigeria for the year 1964-65. In doing this, I must confess that I am in difficulty to choose appropriate words enough to express how I feel that this country should be grateful to the Minister of Finance. I think that he has proved himself able to merit the gratitude of the people of this country. And on this gratitude, of course, I do not lose sight of the fact that the glory does not belong to him alone. It belongs to the man who has the wisdom to appoint him to the post. And that man is no other person than the Prime Minister of this country, Sir Abubakar Tafawa Balewa.

It may be questioned why I dwell on thanking the Minister of Finance. I think that it is necessary to praise a man when he deserves it. For ten years this Minister has paddled the ship of our State. He has proved himself acceptable. And if we were to take stock it would be possible to find that he has been able to establish the credit-worthiness of this country. He has been able to bring about the creation of the Central Bank. He has been able to make other parts of the world, many bodies of the world including the World Bank,

to accept the credit-worthiness of this country and he has been able to attract loans to us.

It is not only that. To-day, we are boasting of a money market in this country. It was Okotie-Eboh who made it possible for many teachers here to know that a stock exchange does not exist in the books of arithmetic only.

To-day, the Minister of Finance has also been able to establish in this country the Nigerian Industrial Development Bank. And I think this will not be forgotten also if we want to see why we should be grateful to the Minister of Finance and the Federal Government in general.

Some time ago people were thinking and asking questions about where the shilling is made. Where are these notes which we call the bank notes made ? To-day it is becoming a reality in Nigeria that we will be coining our shillings, three-pennies and other pieces. And we shall also make our own notes. In other words, it is good to praise this Government that has made it possible for the Nigerian Security Printing and Minting Company to come into existence.

I am not very fond of praising people. I shall, therefore, leave the adequate glory to be paid to the Federal Government through the Minister of Finance by other Members who have better words with which to praise them.

May I now with your permission, Mr Speaker, go into the Budget speech. This being more or less the last Budget to be presented by this Government it is necessary for you, Mr Speaker, to allow us to speak to our hearts' content, especially when we know that we practically have no Opposition in this House to-day.

It is necessary for a man who wants to do well to be able to analyse oneself. I remember that we have got that in one of the pamphlets passed to us this morning. Self-analysis is very necessary. So, I humbly ask the Ministers to listen to us. Many Members, both on this side and on that one, will be speaking truthfully to them this morning.

I start by saying that the national budget given to us by the Minister of Finance in which he proposes to budget for £62 million plus is not really a national budget. It needs an addition. To me it should be called a national

[CHIEF ABII]

budget of poverty. If Nigeria is 55-60 million people and our Federal Government, the highest government of the country, is only able to budget for £62 million, it means that we are hoping to make development within the next year to profit each person in this country to the tune of one pound only. In other words, our national income is extremely low. If a country has 55-60 million people and they can budget for only £62 million that country is rather too poor. And in his own statement the Minister says that when a country is happy—

**Mr S. D. Lar** (Lowland East) : On a point of order, I do not want the Member for Owerri East (*Chief Abii*) to mislead the House. This £62 million is for the Federal Government and there are Regional Legislatures—

**Mr Speaker** : Order ! This is a point of interruption.

**Chief Abii** : Thank you, Mr Speaker. As I was saying, if the Federal Government is only able to budget £62 million for the whole people of this country, I feel, really, that the only interpretation of it is that the country is poor. You will agree that in a paragraph in his speech he said that where a country is happy, the citizens prosper and where the country suffers, the suffering is shared by all men of the country. Exactly, that is what it is. The question is, is the Government of this country happy ? Are the Nigerians now claiming to be prosperous ?

**Several hon. Members** : No !

**Chief Abii** : To be honest, the majority of our people are living at a low subsistence level. They are certainly living below subsistence level and our aim in all this development is to raise their standard of living. Then, do we ask ourselves the question, is the standard of living of our people rising or is the standard of living stagnant or is it still going lower ?

If you look at the whole people of this country, you can divide them into two ; one group is on the higher segment, the other one is on the lower segment. This higher segment is trying to rise as high as possible and the people who are below are not even climbing up. They are going down. That is the necessity for my speech this morning. I feel that the Govern-

ment has got to take stock. We have to plan to raise the national income of this country and to do it we must be very serious with ourselves, every-one of us. Not only the Government is concerned but also the people who are working. All of us are concerned, and for that reason, I then charge the Government of not having planned their economy. Our economy is not planned.

If it is not planned, we shall not hold the people responsible for the situation, in the country to-day. You may ask me what are my suggestions to the Government. It is necessary in a Parliament of 312 people, for the Government to take up certain matters that will concern the whole people of the country, they should sound the views of the Members of Parliament. A lot of things are being carried out without our knowledge and what we see is the effect of them. The effect of them is not always pardonable.

For example, the Minister of Finance has said that the factors of production are mainly three—land, labour and capital. Capital we had not but Government has made it possible for us to get capital ; we can attract loans and we are doing it. People come here and invest but what has the Government done for labour and land.

The best sites of our piece of land in Lagos have been given to foreigners. They are given to foreigners to build their houses and live in. There are nationals of Nigeria who can produce the money and develop this piece of land and hire it out to people who come from outside, but the Government feels that it is more economical to give land to foreigners than to give it to people who will develop it. I must say that if that is the plan of the Government, it is wrong and I live to be convinced that it is more profitable to the people of this country to give their land to foreigners than to develop it by themselves. The effect is that to use land productively we are not able. Government has not utilised it.

What of labour ? We have labour. A respectable Member of this House this morning told you that about 6,000 people in one province alone in the country are unemployed. What has the Government done for them ? The truth is that most of our people are unemployed and that is where the Government

has the greatest trouble to face. The greatest trouble is that our labour, for purposes of production, has not been organised. We have not organised our labour and that is why we are running helter skelter; everyday we rush in here to raise duty, excise duty. We come hear and argue this and argue that, without finding out whether this duty, when raised, this excise duty when imposed, will bring happiness to the people. We are thinking only of the industries. I shall come to that but as I said, the labour is not organised and that is where we have the trouble. The people are allowed to clamour for a rise in salary. It is a rise in salary that will solve their problem?

**Several hon. Members :** No !

**Chief Abii :** It is not.

I may tell you this. In the old days, people were known to be rich and self-sufficient because of their wealth. By this I mean men of the family, their cattle and everything together, the land they have, and so we classify this family as a rich family. To-day, what is happening? Most of these old rich families are the poorest to-day because they have so many people dependent on them.

In this country when we talk of a family, what do we mean? The family is so extended that you cannot claim to own the poor salary you may get if you are a worker. Everyday, we have a Commission of Inquiry to look into salary. Why do we do that? It is because we have not organised our labour. A worker needs certain things to be happy in his work and when a man goes to work without happiness, he can never produce what he is expected to produce. If a man goes to work without knowing where he will sleep when he comes out from work, can that man be happy?

**Several hon. Members :** No !

**Chief Abii :** If a man goes to work without being able to know that at the end of the month he will earn enough to feed the family will he be happy at work?

**Several hon. Members :** No !

**Chief Abii :** Will a man who goes to work without being able to know that the primary school fees of his children can be paid, be happy? Exactly, all these are the main troubles of our people to-day. The main trouble of the workers in our country is that

they have no house. If they have a house, the rent is Shylock's. They have not enough money to feed and the greatest trouble to them is where to get the money to pay for the primary school fees of their children.

In this case, I feel strongly that the Government must sit down with the Minister of Labour to plan. The Minister of Labour is not doing his work. He goes out very often on messages. He has not sat down to plan labour.

A few days ago a Motion came up here for control of rent. Government said no. But, Mr Speaker, may I tell you if you want the workers in this country to be happy, if you do not want them to clamour for increase of salary everyday, you must make haste not only with the low income housing scheme which the Government has very well started, you must make haste to control rent. Rent is controllable. I happened to be a Member of a Committee in the late '40's—a Committee of Investigation in Enugu Township.

We had a Committee of Investigation that went through the whole houses in Enugu. We assessed the houses, assessed the cost of each and the age of each. Then it was possible to sit down and look at these houses, plan out the possible number of years of each of them and the interest on them and we were therefore able to control rent. If Government can do the same thing in Lagos there is no reason why rent control should not be possible. There is nothing impossible in it and I want to assure the Government that it is possible to control rent.

It is no use coming here and saying we cannot do it, we cannot do it. We have to start from somewhere and if we do not start in time, the people will be worrying us from time to time. So, I am appealing to Government to start right now. We have done it at Enugu and we can do it here in Lagos. I do not see any reason why the scheme could not succeed. So, I am strongly recommending to Government that a Committee of Investigation be appointed by the Minister to enable the Government find out the cost of the houses, their ages and where money was borrowed to build a house the interest due to the lenders should be worked out and, if all the facts are known, it will be very easy for Government to control rents.

[CHIEF ABII]

Mr Speaker, Sir, if you want workers to be happy ; if you want to raise the national income of this country, you will have to look into the sources of expenditure of the workers. If you can reduce the expenditure there will be no need to increase salaries every time ; and the greatest expenditure to anybody in this country is on education. In this country we want our children at least to go to primary school and to be able to read and write.

What we do in this country is to save too much for university education. This is good and necessary but the most important thing in the country to-day is primary education. How can somebody go to secondary school without first passing through primary school ? How can somebody go to University without first going through secondary school ? University education is specialisation in life and not everybody can specialise. If the Federal Government takes over primary education throughout the whole country it will be easy to regulate both secondary and university education ; but they are not able to do this.

Then people might ask : "Where are we going to get the money from ?" The cost will be met because if the Federal Government takes over primary education in the Republic the workers will agree not to ask for any increment at least for five years. I will give an example. Take the case of somebody who is earning £1,200 per annum. He has to pay tax ; he has to pay house rent and he has to pay the school fees of his children in primary schools. But if Government pays for the education of his children and house him and his family in a low-cost housing area and pays him £1,000 per annum he will not grumble.

Increases in salary do not go to workers as such. And if we want to help the worker, which is our duty, we must sit down and find out what part of his salary he saves and help him along the whole line of expenditure which comes his way every now and again. In this country to-day there are people with ten members of the family. And out of these ten only two may be working while the other eight are roaming about the streets. The position is that whatever these two people are able to earn will be shared by the other members of the family.

I strongly recommend that rent be controlled in Lagos ; that primary education be free

throughout the whole country and that the Federal Government take it up right away. If we are able to do that, there is no reason why we should not take over education at all stages throughout the Republic.

I would like to speak a little on the made-in-Nigeria campaign as planned by the Minister of Finance. He has told us of the necessity of buying what is made in this country ; and this morning, Mr Speaker, you saw the reaction of Members over the Excise Duty Resolution. I want to say that in this country to-day industries can be classified into three : the state-owned industry, the privately-owned industry and the third one the state-private-owned industry. Now, if I may ask : which one are we going to protect ? An industry can only be protected when it produces acceptable goods. Nobody can protect an industry that is already making one hundreds *per cent* gain. If that is done then we shall be confusing the issue. It means that we shall certainly be taxing the people unnecessarily.

I will give an example of what I mean, the Nkalagu Cement Factory. About two years ago the dividend declared was one hundred *per cent*. To-day, a bag of cement from Nkalagu is 12s-6d and we pay about 9s or 10s for imported cement. Now, the question of protection has come and we are raising the duty on the imported ones. What are we trying to do, if I may ask ? we want our own made-in-Nigeria goods to sell and we sell such cement for 12s-6d a bag. My own idea of economics is that price is determined by scarcity and demand. If we close down Nkalagu demand of cement will be high and there will be no need to control prices or there will be no need to tell the producer of cement not to raise his price. He will certainly raise it either openly or secretly and then people will come here and tell us that they are protecting. Are we protecting it for for the majority or for the few who are part-owners with the Government ?

Another question is : what is the aim of Government in going into industry ? Does Government go into industry to make profit ? For whom ? Government never goes into industry for gain ; government goes into industry to give example to people and when that industry begins to yield profit it is sold to the public. I therefore call upon the Government to-day to declare its shares at Nkalagu

open to the public and when that is done then Government can put its protective tariff. But before that is done Government must be able to control selling prices.

It is my considered opinion that if an industry is yielding a profit of fifty *per cent* in the first five years or ten years of its inception that is good enough. If an industry is yielding a profit of one hundred *per cent* in the first five or ten years of its inception and then you go and give it protection I wonder what sort of protection that will be. In fact, I think what the position will be is that we shall be taxing the whole people for the good of a few people who are the owners of the industry. So the question of protective tariff is very dangerous and that was why many of us were very annoyed this morning.

How can that type of Resolution come up before a Parliament? Is it necessary for companies just to approach Government and ask Government to protect them? I think the proper thing to do is to discuss each industry in Parliament so as to be able to know which of them deserves protection. Mr Speaker, Sir, I humbly appeal through you to the Federal Government to be good enough to let us know which industries deserve to be protected. Let us know why these industries should be protected so that we shall be able to tell our people that such and such an industry deserves protection because of such and such a thing. Otherwise it is my considered opinion that such Bills are only trying to steal our rights from us in this Parliament.

There is one thing which is very bad and into which I want to delve now but I have to go into it—

**Mr Speaker :** It is now one o'clock and sitting is suspended until three o'clock.

*Sitting suspended—1 p.m.*

*Sitting resumed—3 p.m.*

**Chief D. N. Abii :** As I was saying before we went on break, I left an important point out in what I was trying to say, namely, that industrialisation in this country is not planned. In saying so if one takes an example of this cement production in the Republic, one finds that there are different companies and different factories operating here and there in all the Regions. Sooner or later there is going to be a sort of cut-throat competition arising amongst them.

I think that if industrialisation had been planned, such a production of an important thing in the country should have been taken up by one company which should be able to open factories in all the Regions so that the price could be assessed easily. If the price is too high for the people it will be very easy to note that and control can be effected. But to-day we have different companies starting cement production here and there at Abeokuta, Nkalagu and Kano. This shows exactly that our industrialisation has not been well planned. I think that a planned industrialisation is an asset to the economy of any nation.

Before the recess I said I was going to enter into a very important aspect of my speech and that concerns the Audit Report. I think it is not a wise thing to leave talking about it when we are discussing this Budget Speech. It is a very revolting report and I think the Government will be good to issue a reply to a lot of what is exposed there. The report is, as is shown, certainly a Ministerial squandermania; but it is not good to believe that all that is put down there is correct. So, I am demanding that the Ministry concerned should issue a reply so that Members will know what is happening.

If it is true, then it appears that some Ministers allow a lot of evil practices to go on in their Ministries, or even that some Ministers draw basic allowances without using the cars for which they draw such allowances. I do not believe it because such a matter is not easy to be discussed. If anybody is drawing allowances for a car, that car, of course, must be used for the business of the Government. If it is not being used, why then draw basic allowance?

If you take a careful look at the Report again, Sir, there is a kind of report there also mentioning some people who are owing. If in the Audit Report somebody is found to be owing, usually he is asked to pay for it. If he does not pay, he is surcharged. There seems to be no surcharge policy in this Government. That is why if an officer is owing and the debt is allowed for many years, the next thing we shall see shall be something like a write-off. Then I ask: Whose money are we writing off? I feel that a stronger or tighter arrangement to control the finances of the Government must be made.

The Prime Minister has done his best. He has given instructions to the Ministries

[CHIEF ABII]

controlling a lot of these things, but it seems that what he is trying to control is the movement of the Ministers inside the country. What of their movements outside the country? God has been very good to us in this country, that is why during these five years since this Government has been in existence there has been no accidents to our Ministers who are always going in and out of the country. They are always in the air! Some of them have no time even for their families. I am very sorry for their wives! I humbly ask the Prime Minister to control not only the movements of the Members of his Cabinet within the country, but their outside movements also.

If you go into that Report again, Sir, you will find that quite naturally, anybody given a choice will take the best. People go out of this country and go to London. They choose the best chalet in the hotels. These chalets contain the most tightly airconditioned rooms. This is good enough, of course, but our men choose these rooms and you will be surprised that they do not sometimes stay in these cold rooms. Yet we pay for the use of the air-conditioned rooms which they do not use at all.

I think the best thing is to recommend to the Government to buy double or twin blocks in London and let our people go to stay in them so that after a time these blocks will begin to pay us. There should be a stop to this question of running all the time to London and the cheaters there go on killing our people by charging fantastic rents. It is better for us to own some houses in London. If some of us can own houses there individually, why cannot our Government get a place and build houses and save us from this bad economy?

I can note that you, Sir, are trying to check the time. I want to end by reminding this House of the fact that sometime ago I was one of the people who cried here that the Lagos University Teaching Hospital needs an inquiry. If you listen to the people outside, Sir, you will agree with me that it is high time that the Prime Minister instituted an inquiry into the administration of this Hospital. It is an institution now filled up by a gang of rogues.

**Mr Speaker** : The Member for Owerri East (*Chief Abii*) has exhausted his time.

**The Minister of Finance** (Chief F. S. Okotie-Eboh) : I take very serious exception to the expression of the hon. Member who

has just spoken, calling people who have no right to defend themselves a gang of rogues on the Floor of this House. I think this is cowardice of the first rank. Let him say this outside and he will see what they will tell him.

**Chief Abii** : Mr Speaker, I think the Minister is saying that—

**Mr Speaker** : Order. The Member for Owerri East (*Chief Abii*) has exhausted his time.

**M. Ibrahim Gusau** (Sokoto West Central) : I rise to support the Motion and in doing so I wish to congratulate this Government for the spirit of self-determination which it has shown particularly through the Minister of Finance by naming this Budget the "National Budget". It is always true that this Government has shown its determination to keep the unity of the Federation. With the present tense atmosphere in our country, the Federal Government still believes in the unity of this country. That is why I appreciate the sincerity of the Government when the Minister of Finance named this Budget, the National Budget.

Turning to the Budget itself, the greatest concern of this nation is still two fold—internal and external resources upon which the economic growth of this country depends.

Talking about internal resources, if one looks at the progress report of the Six-Year economic development programme one will realise that the projects emphasised in the first programme, are still being pursued by the Government, but there is still room for improvements.

I know that in the regional development programme, primary production has been given priority. The aim is to find better and modern ways of producing raw materials, which we can export to other countries, and thereby realise the enormous amount of money that we need for the development of this country. As I said earlier, we still have much room for improvement.

There are some farm products which we can export but which have not been given sufficient encouragement by the Government. Wheat is one of these. The production of wheat is gaining a very good footing in the North. Northern Nigeria is producing wheat in such large quantities that if the Federal Government encouraged it it would satisfy local consumption and at the same time ways and means could be found for exporting it to other needy countries.

Tobacco is another farm produce we could export. The production of tobacco is one of the most important industries in this country to-day. I am happy to say that competition is going on in the tobacco industry in this country to-day. But I maintain that, if encouragement could be given by this Government, tobacco can be exported as well. I am appealing to this Government to see to it that the tobacco industry is not confined to local markets alone, but markets abroad should be found for it. This will greatly help our economy.

The economic growth of this country can also be promoted by external resources. If one looks again at the progress report of the six-year development programme, one finds that, though certain countries helped Nigeria, yet there is still room for improvement in this sphere as well. We can only get external aid from abroad by making our own foreign policy acceptable to the outside world.

Before I go to our foreign policy, may I congratulate the Minister of Finance for the tribute he paid to the Kennedy Administration with regard to the help we got from that Administration. I refer to the Kennedy Administration purposely because if the late Kennedy were alive, we would still have felt that the United States of America was prepared to help us further. He set an example which we all hope any United States Administration will copy

The late Kennedy did not only fight for the equality of the races, but also struggled to see that developing countries enjoyed his Administration. I am particularly happy that the Minister of Finance paid such glowing tribute to the late Kennedy. We all hope that President Johnson will follow in his footsteps.

May I also say that we expect to get more help from the United Kingdom. I think it is just unfortunate that, when the British Prime Minister addressed this House, no Member in any side of this House was able to say a word with regard to Anglo-Nigeria relations, or to pay a tribute to the United Kingdom. Otherwise, I would have told him that we expect to get more help from the United Kingdom.

France helps the French-speaking independent African countries a great deal more

than the United Kingdom helps her independent English-speaking African countries. And for that reason, we should have been given the opportunity to inform the British Prime Minister, when he was here, that we expected to get more from the United Kingdom than we have so far got from them. I am sure, however, that we could have got more from the United Kingdom than we have got so far if we had tolerated them. Indeed, if we had the opportunity we could have told him that Nigeria will always remain green.

We could have also told the British Prime Minister that that policy of the United Kingdom is a wrong policy. If the United Kingdom had followed the example of other colonial powers such as France we would really have got more aid from them than what we have got.

The British Prime Minister came, addressed this House and went away, it is true. But I hope that the High Commissioner for the United Kingdom in this country will read what I am now saying and pass the information to his Government. We equally want our policy to be understood by them just as the British Prime Minister wants his own country's policy to be understood by this country.

With regard to resources coming from abroad may I tell the Federal Government that the reason why we cannot get as much as we expected is because our foreign policy is a poor one. Many countries from where these resources could have come do not understand our policy. So, I would appeal to the Government to make its policy clearer otherwise we cannot get more than we are getting now from abroad.

I would like to turn now to the conference which is at present going on in Geneva. That conference is a decisive one. It is one upon which the fate of dependent countries depends.

The United Nations has convened a trade conference in which more than one hundred and twenty countries are represented. This trade conference has to discuss trade terms between the developed and the developing countries.

I do appreciate the usefulness of the preliminary conference of Commonwealth countries, which took place before they went to Geneva. But may I say that I expected the African countries to hold a conference of Trade Ministers in order to present a united front at



[M. IBRAHIM GUSAU]

this international gathering. Unless this was done, the problem of neo-colonialism which the British Prime Minister said could not be found in their dictionary would remain in the dictionaries of not only Nigeria but also in those of all developing countries.

Neo-colonialism has a meaning and we know it. We can find it in the dictionary. There are many words which cannot be found in the dictionary but which can be found to exist all the same.

One can find NATO for instance. NATO used to represent a phrase but to-day it has become a word. It has become a word with full meaning. It can be found in any dictionary anywhere in the world.

Neo-colonialism can also be found in any dictionary anywhere in the world. Neo-colonialism is derived from the way developed countries treat developing countries. Developed countries have the tendency of exploiting the developing ones. The developing countries produce the raw materials while the developed ones buy up these raw materials and turn them into finished goods.

So, I refer to this very meeting which is taking place in Geneva. As I said, it is a decisive one. Unless the developing countries like Nigeria are well-armed and present a firm and united front so that the terms of trade may be in their favour, the developed countries will succeed in tricking them in one way or another. This is why I said that while I appreciate the usefulness of the meeting of Commonwealth Trade Ministers I would have expected that Trade Ministers of African countries could have met to discuss their common attitude to the Geneva conference. This could have been convened despite the fact that there is no African common market in existence at the moment. They could have placed themselves in a position to present a formidable front of African views which could have helped us a great deal rather than to present individual views to the conference.

May I now turn to Customs posts at the borders. Here, my main point is to appeal to the Minister of Finance. We have all come here and it is our duty to protect the interest of the community.

If one goes to a place like Sokoto, one will find Customs Officers. Some of these officers

are armed and some are not. But I do not think that in discharging their duties they follow the right directives given them by this Government.

We do not like smuggling of goods and we do not advocate it, but at the same time, we do not like how traders in Sokoto market are being treated by the Customs Officers. These officers always go to Sokoto market and anything which they find with the traders is suspected to be smuggled and the traders are taken to the charge office. These traders are not found with the goods along the border and the officers act only on the suspicion that the goods handled by the traders in the market must have been smuggled.

I think that the Minister might himself be taken to the charge office for anything found in his possession because there is rarely anything that cannot be suspected to be smuggled. If the common perfumes which can be bought along the streets of Lagos or Sokoto were found with the traders in Sokoto market, the traders would be taken to the charge office I appeal to the Minister to investigate this matter.

We Members of this House always support the Minister's move against smuggling, but at the same time, we do not want innocent people to be implicated.

I appreciate the spirit of the Government with regard to the Budget, but may I say that there is one thing which has damaged the good intention of this Budget. I am sorry to say this, but it is a pity that one of the Ministries has been rightly or wrongly severely condemned. I think this is of great concern to all hon. Members of this House. I say that this is of great concern because once a Ministry or a public corporation has been accused, it is not only the concern of the accuser nor of the accused, but also of all the Members of this House and of the public as a whole.

I am referring to the White Paper published by the Western Nigeria Government. It is unfortunate for it to have been published at this time because if one speaks about it, it may be said to be for political reasons. I think that being a Member of this House, one has every right to comment on any excesses on the part of any Ministry or any public corporation for that matter.

In this White Paper, allegation of tribalism and nepotism is made and things of this nature should not have been brought to light if there is no reason for it. I say that it is of great concern to us and I hope I will be understood. I do not say this because I happen to speak from the N.P.C. bench or because I come from any particular section of this great Federation. I have said it because unfortunately the allegation was originally made by some people belonging to a party in power in this Parliament.

When the document was published and distributed to us (and I am sure everybody knows about it in the country now), leading members of that particular party confirmed it and worse still, they said that it was exclusively their own matter. I am sorry to say this, but I do not think I will be taken as a tribalist for saying it. I have friends even among the section of the House that is involved and I can never stand on the Floor of this House to incite a feeling of tribalism or regionalism.

The only reason why I have brought up this matter is that once a Ministry or a Public Corporation has been accused of tribalism or nepotism, I think it is the concern of all the Members of this House. It is not the concern of only a particular section of the country, or of the House or of any particular party.

Another reason why I have brought up this matter is that instead of our hearing of a denial of this allegation, it has been confirmed by the leading members of the party affected and for these two reasons I think I am right in demanding an explanation from the Ministry concerned.

I am referring to the Ministry of Transport which controls the Nigerian Railway Corporation, the Nigeria Airways and the Nigerian Ports Authority all of which have been accused of tribalism and nepotism. These are the three Corporations which have been accused. I do not need to say any more. The matter has been brought to light and I think it must be regarded as the concern of us all, and not that of any one section of this House and I want the Minister or the Government to give an explanation about this White Paper which was published by the Western Nigeria Government.

The thing does not only affect the Western Nigeria Government. The Western Nigeria Government only published the document because it appears to have mostly affected a tribe in Western Nigeria. They are, therefore, only partly affected, but it is of greater concern to the Federation as a whole.

This particular White Paper has been reproduced in my name on behalf of the Northern Nigeria Government. I want the Minister of Transport to make a statement on the Floor of this House on the allegations contained in this so-called White Paper of the Western Nigeria Government.

I beg to support.

**M. Yakubu Allana** (Akwanga): I rise to support the Appropriation Bill authorising the sum of £62,275,980 for the services of the Federal Republic of Nigeria for the year 1964-65. In doing so, I have some observations to make.

I should like, therefore, to start with our Trunk 'A' Roads. The first Trunk 'A' Road that comes to my mind is the one starting from Makurdi to Jos via Fadakarci. This road had already been surveyed since last year. We thought that the work would start in 1963, but up till now nothing has been done yet.

As everybody knows, this road is the only road which most of our people use in transporting their goods from this part of the country to another.

This Trunk 'A' Road is very bad especially during the rainy season. When rain falls, the road becomes very slippery and always causes accidents to our vehicles. The Federal Government has already surveyed the road and we only want the work to be started as soon as this year.

The President in his Address to Parliament said:

*"New Trunk 'A' Roads will be built to a design speed of 60 miles per hour, and legislation is contemplated further to regulate traffic on Trunk 'A' Roads in order to ensure greater safety."*

I hope something should be done in this matter so that all our roads will be rated first-class among other African roads.

My second point is about postal facilities. The country is now a Republic. (*Interruptions*).

**Mr Speaker :** I very much object to Members standing on the Floor of the House and having discussions. They can go to the lobby to discuss with each other if they like.

**M. Yakubu Allanaana :** It is high time that every area or village in this country had its own post office. It was in this House last year that a Motion was passed urging the Federal Government to reduce the volume of units from 20,000 to 12,000. This would enable every rural area to have a post office.

I hope that the Minister in charge of this work will agree with me and upgrade the present postal agency in Nassarawa-Eggon District to sub-post office. The Minister himself is aware that Nassarawa-Eggon District is a large area in Akwanga Division. It has a population of about 95,000 people. It is only right therefore that it should have a post office or a sub-post Office.

I appeal to the Minister therefore to use his good offices to find a place for this in the Six-Year Development Programme.

The problem of unemployment in this country is getting out of hand. I listened very carefully to our President's Speech and I heard him promise that steps will be taken with the co-operation of the regional Governments to remedy this unhealthy situation. In order therefore to reduce unemployment, the Federal Government should give consideration to the establishment of industries. Industries should be established in every Division of this Republic so that all school leavers from various colleges and institutions could be absorbed. I think this will help a lot.

Farmers in this country are not given the encouragement they deserve. They are the people who toil everyday to get us food. The Government should do something to improve their present method of farming.

I understand that some farmers who applied for loans from the Government met with disappointment. Their applications were rejected. I know that farmers are not extravagant people, and any money given to them will be used to increase the yields of their crops. I do appeal to the Government to give more loans to the farmers. A cotton industry should be established in Akwanga Division.

In conclusion, I suggest that education in this country should be a federal matter. I am saying this with the approval of the people whom I represent in this House. The present system of having different standard of education in different parts of this country is not good.

With these few words, I beg to support.

**Mr E. D. Akinbowale (Ijebu North) :** For the past few years the hon. Minister of Finance has presented to this honourable House various voluminous Budget Speeches with various interesting titles, ranging from "The People's Budget" to "The National Budget". Two things however are peculiar in this year's budget. They are, firstly, its being less voluminous, which suggests probably that the Minister of Finance is getting tired and secondly according to the Minister of Finance, its being a survey aimed at depicting the most important facets of our national economy and mapping out the changes in our economy since our attainment of sovereignty. This year's budget also touched on our Development Programme and indicated the further developments which may be expected in the next few years.

But right from the start we are told only of promises of long-term loan assistance from various bodies for only one of the projects which is regarded as the corner stone of our present Development Programme. I refer to the Niger Dam Project and associated works.

After this we are told of individual offers of assistance from various sources. It seems to me that none of these projects even at the initial stage can be executed by the Federal Government without outside financial assistance.

Although it is stated somewhere in the Minister of Economic Development's Report that of the £76.8 m. in this capital expenditure planned for the Six-Year Development Programme, external assistance will be sought for only one-third of the projects. But apart from the internal loans raised from various sources only few other visible sources of earning revenue have been listed. Unfortunately the revenue thus earned is consumed up by recurrent government expenditure, and a lean balance, if any is left.

In raising these loans however, the Central Bank, which, happily, is the Minister of Finance babe is to be congratulated for floating several kinds of loans from time to time. The response of members of the public, individually and collectively has been, however, heartening.

At this juncture may I ask the Minister of Finance if the suggestion that I made about this time in 1961 has been followed. I refer to my suggestion to recall all investments abroad by our Regional Governments particularly the Northern Regional Government. These investments abroad were made during our colonial days. If these investments were recalled they would help to reduce what we are forced to borrow from time to time.

We know that we are a young nation, and that by and large the country is viable if all our organisations are in capable hands. But at the present squandermania is destroying our viability.

It may be political inexperience on my part and it may also well be that I am not sufficiently informed of what is going on in other countries outside Nigeria, but I still like to observe that if the nations that are liberally disposed to grant us loans either on long or short term basis and with high or low rate of interest have not been saving, they will have nothing to give us.

Although we are credit worthy, yet I fear whether this generation of ours or even our immediate successors in this Parliament will be able to repay in full these huge and staggering loans. They are not gifts at all.

These lending nations are watching Nigeria and her performances. They are watching the state of affairs in this country and this is why external finance is not forthcoming as expected. In this connection, I refuse to agree with the Federal Minister of Finance when he painted a rosy picture of this Bill by saying *inter alia* :

*"The low level of the external finance complement to the investment effort was due to the large number of continuing projects from the last Economic Programme and the fact that prospective lenders needed time to make up their minds"*.

It is not because the prospective lenders needed time to make up their minds, but rather it is because these foreign lenders see the dreadful figure that we are cutting as a young nation and are not keen to add more to our ills and our already heavy load of financial burden.

If I may say so, I counsel extreme caution, as otherwise, the Federal Minister of Economic Development's statement in his first Progress

Report, that once a project is started it must be completed, may not be a reality. The Minister of Economic Development, I think, cleverly omitted to say whether the completion will be by the next Federal Government or anyone immediately succeeding.

If the Minister of Economic Development's first Progress Report is anything to go by, no one should expect to see the plan accomplished on a regular equated basis, but whatever is accomplished in each of the six years should be worth reporting.

Perhaps it is the same all over the world, but I think the Minister of Economic Development should not have described the plan as being on doubtful basis. This tends to dampen the enthusiasm of our people about this apparently laudable Six-Year Development Plan.

According to the Minister of Economic Development, it is doubtful if the estimated period of six years will not be exceeded, especially as the first year has been wasted only on preparations. It is also doubtful if the target of £676.8 million will not be found inadequate in spite of the fact that we in Nigeria have not been able to raise one-sixth of the estimated expenditure.

Furthermore, the projects listed and shown to us may not be those to be seen when completed, according to the Minister of Economic Development. Fortunately or unfortunately, a great number of us who knew about the beginning of the projects might not be around to check up when the projects are completed. Whatever happens, the projects must be completed and with apologies to the Minister of Finance we must go out of this House in unity and faith and I wish to add, hoping that these projects shall be accomplished by all means by our successors, immediate or remote.

I beg to support.

**Mr J. A. Akor** (Ahoada North East): I rise to support the Second Reading of the 1964-65 Appropriation Bill. In doing so, I would like to express my deep appreciation for the proposals which are outlined in the Budget Speech. The Speech, itself, is comprehensive, inspiring and full of encouragement.

The greatest urge for any new emergent sovereign nation like ours, is the desire to be economically rich, as this will bring about

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the happiness of the people and ensure good living. We all know that there is poverty in this country. The problem facing the Federal Government to-day is how to improve the standard of living of the people of this country.

This problem can be tackled in many ways. The Government could overcome these economic difficulties, if the following procedures are adopted:—

(1) The Federal Government should have effective control over all key industries and insurance companies;

(2) it should tighten up control over all foreign firms and see that a large proportion of their profits is invested in Nigeria;

(3) all foreign firms should be obliged to employ Nigerians in responsible positions;

(4) our Nigerian civil servants and experts should be given greater executive posts and administrative powers in the management of the country's public corporations;

(5) the Federal Government should establish new industries which will make use of our raw materials like palm oil, palm kernel, cocoa, rubber and groundnuts;

(6) the Federal Government should legalise at once the production of our local gin or illicit gin as it is presently called and see that its brewers are given encouragement and assistance;

(7) the Federal Government should find more markets for our locally produced goods and, at the same time, intensify its activities in chasing smugglers;

(8) and the Federal Government should impose heavy taxes and duties on luxurious imported goods like radio and television sets, cars and other commodities.

I feel that these and many other plans when implemented, would go a long way to solve not only some of our economic difficulties, but also offer employment to the masses who are grumbling that they are not enjoying the rights, privileges, and benefits arising from independence.

Now, I come to the question of agriculture. I am pleased to note that agricultural development is seriously engaging the attention of the Federal Government. I would like to say that it is only the Federal Government that is capable of revolutionising agriculture in this country.

Therefore, if agriculture is thought of as the mainstay of this country's economy, then the Federal Government should take active part in revolutionising it.

We quite appreciate the efforts of the Regional Governments in trying to develop agriculture, but I feel that their limited financial resources cannot bring about the rapid changes in agriculture which the present occasion now demands.

The Federal Government should create a situation whereby farming could be made attractive and paying. Agriculture, if practised in the modern way and on a large scale, will go a long way to solve some of our imminent difficulties. Not only should the Government undertake a bold agricultural scheme, it should as well encourage farmers by giving them assistance by way of loans and grants-in-aids in order to improve on their farming.

The Federal Government should also award scholarships to undergraduates who want to study agriculture and on the successful completion of their courses, Government should give them every assistance and encouragement in order that they may be able to establish their own practical agriculture in the modern way. This, I think, would make it possible for our young school leavers to be easily employed. In trying to solve our economic problems, nepotism, bribery and corruption in the field of employment should be discouraged and as well as the method by which an applicant is required to produce recommendation paper from a Minister before he or she is considered for employment. This method causes a lot of hardship to applicants who have no Ministers from their own area.

I should seize this opportunity to thank the Prime Minister, Sir Abubakar Tafawa Balewa, and his Ministers for their achievements within the past four years. The whole nation is highly impressed in the way the Prime Minister and his Cabinet Ministers have been handling the affairs of this country. Moreover, they deserve our warm congratulations on the successful creation of the Mid-Western Region.

In some way, the much-spoken-about unity of this country lies in the hands of our leaders, who should refrain from making utterances which may likely cause disunity. In fact, no one section or Region should think of ruling

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the country alone for ever. Any leader thinking about this will be sowing the seed of disunity.

I therefore call upon our leaders to come together with one accord and one mind to achieve our common purpose, which is the unity of this country.

I beg to support.

**Mallam Umaru Galkogo** (Minna North): I rise to support the Second Reading of the 1964-65 Appropriation Bill delivered by our able Minister of Finance. I should like, in the first place, to congratulate the Minister on the way he has been running the affairs of his Ministry.

I appeal to the Minister of Communications to see that Kagara is provided with telephone services this financial year because it is the headquarters of my constituency. I shall also be grateful if the Minister of Works will take over Minna to Kuta road in view of the importance of Shiroro gorge.

With these few remarks, I beg to support.

**M. Muhammed Ningi** (Bauchi North West): I rise to support the Motion. In doing so, I should like to thank the Minister of Finance for the able way in which he has presented his Budget Speech for the year 1964-65.

We have been talking of developments and establishments of industrial projects to meet the heavy demands of the people of this country, especially those living in the rural areas.

The rural areas seem to be neglected. The people living in the rural areas do not enjoy federal amenities at all. They have no better roads, no water supply, no postal agencies, and moreover they do not enjoy medical facilities. May I appeal to the Federal Government to see that something is done in the rural areas before the life of this House expires because nearly 90 per cent of the Members come from the rural areas.

In the field of education, I do not support the idea that primary and secondary education should be under the control of the Federal Government. They should be left entirely under the control of the Regional Governments.

I am happy that the Federal Government has now agreed to look after the affairs of the Insurance Companies. Before now, nobody knew how these companies invested the large sums of money they collect from vehicle owners, and it is always difficult for the vehicle owners to get their claims whenever an accident occurs. But now the Government will protect those men who are cheated by firms under the systems of hire-purchase.

In concluding, I would like to suggest that the prices of foodstuffs should be brought under control.

I beg to support.

**Mr N. Nwangbo** (Ishielu): In supporting the Second Reading of the Appropriation Bill, I wish to make the following observations.

I am happy to note that the Federal Government is not unaware of the appalling condition of most of the Federal trunk 'A' roads. Indeed, this contributes to a large extent to accidents on our highways.

To this end I wish to direct the attention of the Minister of Works and Surveys to the appalling condition of the Enugu-Abakaliki road. This road is really too bad. The bridges there are extremely too narrow and out of date. There are very many dangerous corners, not to mention the general condition of the surface of the road.

Nevertheless, I should thank the Federal Government for the work of bridge reconstruction now going on on the road. Needless reminding the Federal Government that this road is not only an important one from the point of view of Abakaliki Province, nor that it is a Trunk 'A' road, it is also an international highway. It forms part of the main West African international road.

Again, the stretch from Enugu Airport to Enugu forms the main approach into the Eastern Region from the outside and the present condition of that section of the road is a disgrace, not only to the Region but also to the Federal Government. It is therefore of great necessity that the Minister should do something immediately for an effective and permanent reconstruction of this very important road.

I need to mention here the housing problem in Abakaliki Police Station. The condition there was such that the staff quarters had to be

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converted into an office, while the greater part of the constables in the Central Police Station live in hired houses outside the police barracks. This is really too bad. Why can the Government not use the money with which it rents houses for building staff quarters? Something ought to be done immediately to improve this ugly condition.

I also wish to remind the Minister responsible for Police that Abakaliki is due for women police constables.

May I also direct the attention of the Federal Government to the ugly practice of public begging in the country. The condition of this poor and unfortunate members of the community needs to be pitied. At the same time the practice of begging in major public places all over the country constitutes, in itself, a disgrace. The Government should find a possible means to rehabilitate the beggars.

The Federal Government should be congratulated for the vigorous way it has pursued the trade policy of the country. This is the only sure way of protecting our local industries, thereby reducing the present imbalance of trade. Steps should be taken to make our people buy goods made in Nigeria. Up till now, our people still look on our Nigerian goods as inferior to the imported ones. What surprises me is that despite the heavy duties paid on all these imported goods, our locally made goods still cost more. This, of course, is due to the cost of raw materials used. These raw materials are mainly imported, and until we begin to use our own materials here for manufacturing our goods, the condition will ever remain like this. I am therefore appealing to the Government that it is high time we explored the possibility of making use of the basic raw materials which, I feel, are available in the country.

For the past two years, it appears that there has been over-production of our local foodstuffs such as yams, cassava, rice, *et cetera*, especially in the Eastern Region. This, no doubt, is the result of the agrarian policy of the Eastern Government under the Premiership of Dr M. I. Okpara. In the face of this, food is cheaper and the farmers will not get enough money compared with their laborious farm work.

As a result of this, there is the general outcry by farmers of shortage of money in circulation. This set of people work harder than any other set of people in the country. With the little money that they are able to get, they educate their children and pay tax, yet they do not know anything about increases in salaries which workers always agitate for. If the Federal Government could think it wise to control the cost of cotton, cocoa, *et cetera*, why can they not do the same thing as regards yam, rice, cassava and other foodstuffs?

In the interest of our poor farmers, and also as a means of encouraging them, heavy industries should be sited only in towns or places that produce foodstuffs in large quantities so that the workers engaged by these industries will help consume the foodstuffs produced. At this juncture, I would say, as regards the future siting of industries, that emphasis should be placed on areas that produce foodstuffs in large quantities and, therefore, I would like Abakaliki to be considered for this.

An important point I would mention is the production of cement in this country. It appears there is greater demand for cement than the supply, yet one of the greatest problems facing the cement industries in the country is that, apart from limestone—the only principal raw material available in the country—other materials are being imported. This is one of the major factors that contribute to the high cost of the Nigerian made cement.

The Nkalagu Cement Factory—Nigeria's largest cement factory—can boast of being able to produce about three hundred and fifty thousand tons of cement a year. If this number is added to the ones produced at Port Harcourt, Abeokuta and Apapa, these will surely meet the demand for cement in the country. When demand is met, the question of the present exorbitant cost of cement will be taken up by the Government with a view to devising ways and means of bringing down the price.

Another important point here is the prospecting for limestone for the cement industries. In the process of doing this, large areas of land and at times crops are being destroyed. Whenever the owners of the land and crops meet these companies, they are told that they have got licence from the Federal Government.

Therefore, I am appealing to the Federal Government to see that in future before any prospecting for limestone is undertaken in any place, the Federal Government should pay compensation to the owners of land and for their crops.

Now that Nigeria is to make her own money, the Government should make it unlawful for anybody to be in possession of counterfeit Nigerian notes and coins. Since the withdrawal of the old West African Currency Board notes and coins, I do not think that any law has been made to the effect that anybody found in possession of counterfeit coins should be punished. As a result of this, I am appealing to the Attorney-General and Minister of Justice to take note of this.

Finally, I wish to say that there is great demand for more money to be in circulation in the country to cope with the increased population. Nowadays people feel that there is shortage of money in circulation. I do not know really whether that is true, but I am appealing to the Minister of Finance and the Government to see that more money is put in circulation so that our farmers will rest assured that when they produce enough products, they will get more money, and this will induce them to produce more.

With these few remarks, I beg to support.

**Minister of State (Mr M. T. Mbu):** I rise to support the Second Reading of the 1964-65 Appropriation Bill. In doing so, I would like to add my quota of praise to the laudable work which the Minister of Finance is doing and which has earned so much praise from all sides of the House. It is refreshing to us his Colleagues that one of us should deserve such commendation from a critical House. We can only wish him many, many more years of useful service to the country.

In his Budget Speech last year, the Minister of Defence said, *inter alia*, that in the field of Defence, what we were doing was not only the remedying of neglects of the past but the re-remedying of neglects of the past but the refurbishing of an Armed Force inherited from the Colonial era. The process of consolidating and expending, as resources permit, in order to meet the defence needs of a sovereign and independent nation is naturally a slow one. In some cases, we have had to embark on

entirely new grounds such as in the creation of an Air Force and in the establishment of an Ordnance Factory, but I am glad to inform Members that in every front the past year has seen an appreciable progress in the right direction.

Work on the establishment of an Ordnance Factory which began this year has continued to make satisfactory progress, and it is expected that production of arms and ammunition will commence by the end of the year.

**An hon. Member:** I hope the Federal Government is not aiming to fight.

**Mr Mbu:** We want to protect the people.

A Bill for the establishment of a Defence Industries Corporation and for the management of the factory was passed by the House only last week.

A Nigeria Defence Academy was opened on 19th February, 1964.

**An hon. Member:** Where?

**Mr Mbu:** In the Federation of Nigeria. This institution is intended to provide for all pre-commissioning training for our Army and Naval personnel initially and for the Air Force in due course. Already 60 cadets are undergoing training at the Defence Academy, and I am sure Members will be glad to know that we have now reached the stage when we can ourselves provide the training which we had hitherto relied entirely upon the kindness of friendly countries to provide for us. I need not mention that apart from the considerable savings that would result in undertaking such training within Nigeria, we are, in accordance with Government policy, reaching that stage of self-reliance so essential to the security and strength of a nation.

The Nigerianisation of the Armed Forces has also been pressed forward vigorously and relentlessly throughout last year and by the end of the year the Army would be under the command of a Nigerian. At present, all senior staff appointments at Army Headquarters and all the Battalions and Brigade Headquarters are commanded by Nigerian officers, and I am confident that our aim of creating by 1965 a wholly Nigerianised Army will be achieved.



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Hon. Members will agree with me that no Army is worth its salt if not adequately equipped with modern weapons. To this end, the Government has vigorously embarked on the re-equipment of all the Battalions in the Nigerian Army with modern and automatic weapons and arrangement is being made to purchase heavier supporting weapons during the current financial year.

Mr Speaker, my speech would be incomplete if I do not mention the noble role still being played by the Nigerian Army serving as part of the United Nations Forces in the Congo.

**An hon. Member :** When are the Nigerian soldiers coming back home ?

**Mr Mbu :** When the assignment is complete.

It is a worthy praise to the Nigerian Army that one of its officers is at present commanding the whole of the United Nations Forces in the Congo. It is also a testimony of the confidence reposed in our soldiers by other African countries that requests for assistance of Nigerian soldiers should be made to our Government. Hon. Members have probably read about the recent agreement which we entered into with the Government of Tanganyika for our troops to go to that country. We are proud to be able to accede to this sort of request from a friendly government ; it confirms our belief in African Unity.

As with the Army, so with the Navy : the watchword has been the early Nigerianisation of the entire Nigerian Navy. Many Nigerians already occupy top posts in the Navy, and on Wednesday the 25th of this month, the command of the Nigerian Navy will pass into the hands of an indigenous Nigerian. In Nigerianising the Navy, we have not lost sight of quality and comments from disinterested sources have praised the high calibre of Nigerian Naval officers.

As indicated last year, we are purchasing new ships for the Nigerian Navy. Work on the construction of a frigate being built for the Nigerian Navy in Holland is proceeding satisfactorily and it is expected that this modern frigate will be in service by 1966. Several offers of secondhand ships at reasonable prices, had been made to us but it is the policy of my Ministry that only the best is good for us. If the Nigerian Navy is to be a modern, effective striking force, we cannot rely on out-dated vessels.

Members will probably be aware that pending the completion of the frigate now under construction in the Netherlands, the Government of the Netherlands was kind enough to loan this country a frigate which has been re-named N.N.S. "Ogoja". I take this opportunity once more to thank the Government of the Netherlands for this kind gesture. This ship is providing opportunities for training for our ratings and officers pending the completion of the new frigate.

Negotiations have almost been completed for the construction of two fast patrol craft for the Nigerian Navy, and I expect that the award of a contract will be announced soon.

In line with our independent, Republican status, a Bill will be introduced during the current session of the House to replace the existing Naval Code. I shall speak more fully on the Bill at the appropriate time, but its aim is to delete all references to United Kingdom legislation as is the case with the existing Navy Act, and substitute a self-contained Nigerian Naval Code.

The establishment of the Nigerian Air Force (and here I am glad to congratulate our Friend and Colleague, the new Minister for Air Force) is well under way.

**An hon. Member :** Can the new Minister fly ?

**Mr Mbu :** He can fly. Only a few days ago the first batch of four Nigerian Air Force pilots returned from Ethiopia fully qualified. In April, another eleven will qualify in Canada. The response from young qualified Nigerians to advertisements to join the Nigerian Air Force has been very encouraging and leaves no doubt at all that the Air Force will be adequately staffed. The Government of the Federal Republic of Germany continues to train the bulk of our Air Force recruits under the terms of an agreement with that Government. Offers of training courses have been received from a number of other friendly countries and are being considered. These offers show the goodwill which this country enjoys internationally.

Basic training in Nigeria started last year and it is expected that flying training in Nigeria will begin later this year. Already orders have been placed for aircraft. The German

Air Force Assistance Group is doing a very commendable work in establishing the Air Force, and I appreciate their efforts in this regard.

When the Nigerian Air Force is fully established, it would be fully combatant and would not only provide a dire need for our armed forces' mobility, but would also serve as a reservoir for highly trained personnel capable of serving the country's needs in much wider fields.

I will now deal with two issues which have become the subject of critical comments by some hon. Members. These comments refer to :—

(1) The system of recruitment of our armed forces personnel ; and

(2) Siting of military units and/or installations. I will deal with the two issues separately.

*System of recruitment :*

The policy of my Ministry is first and foremost aimed at ensuring equitable representation of all parts of the country in the recruitment of our Armed Forces personnel. But the criteria for all such recruitments are : fitness and merit. In these days when the political atmosphere is replete with cries of tribal inequities in public corporations, our Armed Forces must remain sacrosanct from tribal prejudice in order to ensure the unity of the country. What some hon. Members sardonically refer to as the quota policy of recruitment of our Armed Forces Personnel has in fact undergone '*capitis deminutio*' in the interest of national unity. What we do about recruitment of our Armed Forces Personnel we do because we believe it helps to consolidate the Federation. We shall not only do less but shall never consciously do what we believe doing hurts the Federation. We shall correct our errors when shown to be errors ; and we shall adopt new policies so far as they shall appear to be true policies based on national unity. Our present policy in respect of recruitment will therefore continue until such time as national service becomes necessary.

I now come to the siting of military units. Without being coy it is simply incorrect to say that all units or installations are concentrated in one single area. For security reasons

we in fact try to avoid a cluster of installations in one area. Moreover, installations are determined by considerations of strategy, economy, geography and other relevant factors such as availability and cost of land.

**Mr F. C. Ogbalu** (Awka North) : My point of order is based on the principle which is enunciated by the Minister. The Minister is well aware that the Awka people were responsible for supplying arms in time immemorial to all parts of the country and they have developed the necessary aptitude, the necessary skill and, in fact, if given the licence they could make even machine guns as well as any other conventional weapons. I think the Minister ought to have taken that into consideration in the siting of industries.

**The Deputy Speaker** : That is no point of order, but an expression of views.

**Mr Mbu** : I would like to assure the Member for Awka North (*Mr Ogbalu*) that we shall tap all the resources available in the country in so far as siting and recruitment of personnel in our Armed Forces are concerned, and if Awka people should qualify they would certainly come under the list for consideration.

Feasibility studies are undertaken by both military and civilian experts who advise my Ministry on the best possible location, taking all the relevant factors into consideration, and if Awka qualifies for this we will certainly come to Awka.

To give only one example—when the decision was taken to establish the Nigerian Air Force, experts were invited from overseas countries to tour various parts of the country with a view to recommending the best locations for the Nigerian Air Force units. Their recommendations were, by and large, accepted and I can assure hon. Members that the deployment of our Air Force, when completed, would be in the best interest of the defence arrangements of the Federation.

Naval units, for obvious reasons, are restricted to the coast or inland waterways. Army units are also scattered all over the country.

I hope this brief explanation will allay the fears of those Members who may have a misconception of our activities and make all appreciative of the efforts we are making

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to provide our country with an up-to-date and efficient Armed Forces within the means at our disposal.

**Mr I. A. Brown** (Uyo South West): On a point of order, I wonder what the Minister will say to this, that when the experts visited Calabar Province they knew that the Province was an old Army barracks and I thought the Minister was going to tell us something about it.

**Mr Mbu** : In these days we talk of modernisation, not of obsolete barracks.

May I take this opportunity to appeal to hon. Members once again to be more circumspect in discussing on the Floor of this House such matters as the shape, size, and organisation of our Armed Forces, which have a bearing on our security.

Let us in the name of unity and justice and by our actions and utterances help in building a truly great and united Nigeria. We owe it to the present generation and to posterity to make the Federation one and indissoluble. Thank you.

**Mr B. A. Ajayi** (Ekiti South East): I rise to support the Appropriation Bill and in doing so I must pay tribute to the Minister of Finance for his very excellent and lucid Budget speech.

We have listened several times to his Budget Speeches but I think the House will agree with me that this one known as "The National Budget" is the most comprehensive, the most realistic and the most objective speech ever made by the Minister to this honourable House.

In previous years the Minister had concentrated on overseas loans; it was his hope that our economic development should be based mostly on foreign loans, but in this National Budget he has changed his ground. It has dawned on him now that "Heaven helps those who help themselves", and he has now appreciated the need and necessity to come home and raise as much as he can for the development of the country.

I have just a few observations to make on the very comprehensive Budget speech. The first is on our balance of payment. Reading from the Budget Speech the Minister of Finance expressed concern about our adverse balance of payment. He said that the deficit was due

to the import of capital goods. I disagree with the Minister in this respect for it is not necessarily because we import considerable capital goods that we have these persistent adverse balance of payment. It is largely because we import luxuries and many other things which we can produce in this country.

It is a fact that the Government has done its best to tax such things like beds, furnitures, shoes, and so on, but if one takes a careful look at the imports of this country as given by the Nigerian Trade Journal from October to November—that is the latest statistics at our disposal—one will find that Nigeria between January and June 1963 imported foodstuffs to the tune of eleven *per cent*. This, in my opinion, is rather exorbitant.

Nigeria is an agricultural country and we do produce a lot of food. An hon. Member has just said that we produce a lot of food in this country. We have a variety of food with good nutritive value and we can prepare dishes which are presentable on any table anywhere in the world. How do we, therefore, come to 11 *per cent* on food within that period.

A careful analysis of this figure shows that stockfish takes 3.2 *per cent*. We have rivers with fishes all over the country and the potentialities are great.

I was reading sometime ago about a particular fishing industry in Northern Nigeria, at *Panyan*, as they call it, which was started round about 1951. It was developed by the Northern Nigeria Government up to 1954 but the large project had to be curtailed because there was no sufficient finance to expand the industry and construct roads which will facilitate transportation.

What is the Federal Government doing about this? Instead of developing the fishing industry in this country, especially the one at *Panyan* which is said to be about 133 acres, we are still importing stockfish from the Scandinavian countries.

Another item is flour which is .9 *per cent*. An hon. Member this afternoon mentioned the fact that we should be able to grow wheat, and a lot is being done about this in Northern Nigeria. Why should we import flour into this country when we can grow wheat. Wheat is an annual crop and the growth is much easier than when we plant palm trees or cocoa which take years before we can reap the fruits.

I think the Government should set up a big farm that could produce sufficient wheat for consumption in this country. This will save us the trouble of importing wheat flour into this country.

I know that the Government is trying its best to see that we curtail our imports. I will have to disagree with the Government however, in the case of beer. The Minister of Finance was saying this morning that if Members have visitors and they are offered *Star Beer*, they would say they want *Heinekens* or *Bergedorf* beer. I think the .4 per cent import on beer into this country is quite adequate but I am surprised to hear from the Minister of Finance that more breweries will be opened in Kaduna, Enugu or Port Harcourt. I am wondering whether the Minister of Finance is trying his best to make us a nation of drunkards particularly in a country like Nigeria where there are a lot of Moslems and teetotallers. What efforts have we made to refine our own palm-wine, *pito* and *burukutu*? I think that if we refine them and make them presentable on the table they will cost far less and, although we cannot set tariffs or duties on them, the difference in cost would be sufficient saving for the Nigerians who will patronise the brewers. I hope the Minister of Finance will take note of this aspect of our economy.

I appreciate the fact that our export has reached a record figure of £181 million. That is truly very good but I thought that we could still step this up. For example, our trade with certain countries rather than being bilateral is unilateral.

In the case of a country like Norway we imported stockfish to the tune of £2.7 million whilst we exported goods to the value of £633,000. The difference is staggering. We also imported goods to the tune of £621,000 from Iceland but we exported goods below £100,000. These two instances are mostly on the fish industry and this makes nonsense of our import policy because we can get a lot of fish through our Fisheries Department and supply the public locally. Rather than do that we have stockfish dumped into this country and we cannot even send a corresponding export to make up the balance.

In the case of a country like Japan, it is worse. Japan dumps all its cotton goods into this country. We have no appreciable trade

with Japan. They dumped cotton goods to the value of £11.58 million and we could only send to them £1 million worth of goods. We have the coal problem at Enugu and we were told sometimes ago that it would be possible for Japan to take our coal. We have the bargaining power.

I think by negotiation it would be very easy for us to ask Japan to take so much of our coal while we take cotton goods up to an identical value. If they refuse, we can turn to Lancashire or wait until such a time when our own local industries will grow and we will not have to import cotton goods from Japan. Had we regulated our imports and stepped up our exports, our balance of payments would have improved.

I now come to the point of savings. This is a peculiar feature of our National Budget. It emphasises the need for saving. The machinery which Government has been using for savings cannot effectively operate in backward areas.

The man in the village or the hamlet or the man in the street does not know what the Government means by Treasury Bills; even if he has the money he does not know what it is used for. He also does not know how the Stock Exchange operates. Premium bonds and saving certificates are meaningless to him and the only effective way by which the Government can make use of the savings from the backward areas is to use the machinery which are at its disposal. One of this is the Post Office.

It will be necessary for the Minister of Communications to reduce the units which are required before a Post Office can be opened. The Government has reduced the minimum units required to 18,000 but I would suggest that the Government should reduce it further. If we attach a Savings Bank section to every Postal Agency, it would be possible for all the people in the villages to save. A man with £5 cannot walk twenty miles in order to put it in bank, that is too far away, but a man who has a Post Office Savings Bank in his village finds it much easier. He will be fully prepared to walk to any part of the village where the Post Office is to save his money. If we try as much as possible to establish post office and postal agencies with savings bank facilities then it would be possible for us to let everybody save.

[MR AJAYI]

The savings which the Minister of Finance had hitherto claimed as satisfactory are from the few rich people in the cities and towns. The villagers and the poor people whose widow's mite matter very much cannot save simply because the facilities are not available.

I would suggest that more post offices with savings bank facilities should be established in order that we might be able to have more savings. The new system which the Minister of Finance has adopted and through which every civil servant can save some amount every month is a satisfactory one.

I think from this it should be possible to realise some money.

I strongly appeal, if it will not interfere with the individual's fundamental human rights that the Federal Government and the Regional Governments should try as much as possible to legislate in support of such a Scheme. It is not anything bad if one is forced to save a little bit of one's money when in one's old age one would be able to get it back. We are bound to be a little extravagant, but if we have a means like that it will make us more serious about how we spend our moeny.

The other point is about security printing. This is a sign of maturity and an exercise of our sovereignty. It is a very good step and every Nigerian should be proud of it. But there is great need for precautionary measures if really we are not to regret the establishment of such a thing in Nigeria. There are lots of men of integrity in this country, and these people's honesty cannot be doubted. These are the people who can take charge of delicate and secret things as anybody in the world.

The fact that examination questions leak out not only in schools but even in the Police Force should make us try as much as possible to do all we can to ensure absolute secrecy that there is no room whatsoever for any leakage. In this connection I think it would be wise to counter now, as much as possible, counterfeiting in this country. Once we set out to make our own coins, notes, and so on the danger—

**Dr P. U. Okeke** (Onitsha North Central) : On a point of order, it is an offence against the Standing Orders of this House for Members to sleep. The Member for Afenmai East (*Mr Obi*) is fast asleep.

**The Deputy Speaker** : Order ! As long as I am aware Members have lived up to some reputation in this House. Sleeping in this House has never been a regular practice, but I believe there are times when people have to shut their eyes in meditation.

**Mr Ajayi** : I was saying that we should do our best to stop contereiting. Here, apart from the law which, in fact, can deal effectively with contereiters I think it would be necessary—

**Mr M. C. K. Obi** (Afenmai East) : I want to tell the Member for Onitsha North Central (*Dr Okeke*) that I was not sleeping.

**The Deputy Speaker** : Order ! I hope the Member for Afenmai East (*Mr Obi's*) retort has not exposed him to doubts.

**Mr Ajayi** : Many of those who counterfeit do not know the gravity of the offence, and many people in the street feel that once Government has exhausted the notes at its disposal all Government needs to do is to print more, and so many counterfeiters—

**An hon. Member** : Are you referring to Ijebu counterfeiters ?

**Mr Ajayi** : Counterfeiting goes on every where in Nigeria. It is not restricted to any locality.

**An hon. Member** : It is common among the Ijebu people !

**Mr Ajayi** : It used to be, but it is now found everywhere in the world.

**Mr S. D. Lar** (Lowland East) : This is a serious allegation. The Member for Ekiti South East (*Mr Ajayi*) said that counterfeiting operates everywhere in Nigeria and in the world. Will he tell this House where counterfeit money is being made in Nigeria, because counterfeiting is illegal ?

**Mr Ajayi** : I have not made any wild allegation, but if the Member for Lowland East (*Mr Lar*) is anxious to know instances of where counterfeit coins are made I think he should contact the Police. They will be able to tell him.

What I am saying is that we should educate the public to know that for every pound note issued, the Government is for that amount committed, and here the Minister of Information will be of tremendous help.

If we really want this security printing we must take necessary precautions and ensure that we find men of integrity and honesty to man the business.

I now go to the E.C.N. We are happy because the Minister has promised that £10.7 million will be available for this Corporation. This is a very good news. It is my hope that in future we would not have the recurrent breakdown of power—recurrent black-outs and failure of electricity as we had last year. I also hope that the Corporation will be able to plan ahead of time. It is no use completing a scheme in say five years only to find shortly after that the scheme cannot cope with the industrial growth of the country. One should at least give sufficient room so that even at full capacity of that particular scheme there would still be room for the next five years.

The E.C.N. charges are very exorbitant in the provinces. I know that this is a Corporation which wants to make profit, but all the same it must consider the poor people in fixing its charges. To charge about five pence per unit is rather too high, and, worst still, institutions which are places of learning are being treated as commercial houses; so that what a commercial house pays per unit is what our institutions pay. We have raised this point on the Floor of this House several times, and it is now high time that the Electricity Corporation did something about it.

In my own constituency or Division we have been in difficulty with this particular Corporation for the past five years. Posts, wires, and lamps have been installed in two places, Ado Ekiti and Ikore Ekiti, but up till now they have not been completed for use.

One can imagine the anxiety of the people who are hoping that electricity would soon come to them. It is also necessary to imagine the loss involved as a result of the money used in buying those poles, wires and lamps. The money so wasted is buried there, and it is, therefore, unproductive. I do hope that the Minister of Mines and Power will be able to explain the reasons for this delay and for this undue waste of public money.

As for roads, sometime ago the Minister of Works promised that within the life of this Parliament many Trunk 'B' Roads will be

transferred to Trunk "A". I have my doubts if the Minister of Works has done anything in this direction.

I beg to support.

**Mr P. O. Akpan** (Uyo South East): I rise to contribute to this debate. I first of all want to talk about the external finance of this country. The Minister of Finance said that we went out for external loans not because we were destitute but because it would give us the opportunity of associating ourselves with other countries. I quite agree with him. He also said that we have not been able to get enough money through external sources to finance our Economic Development Plan. I therefore suggest that the Federal Government should initiate some more methods of encouraging internal savings in order to benefit individuals and consequently the Government since the prosperity of the nation depends on the progress of the individuals.

I welcome the £15.5 million loan to Nigeria for the economic development of this country, and particularly for the £10.7 which the Electricity Corporation has got for the purpose of developing the means of supplying electricity to all parts of the country. I must strongly urge the Government to give serious consideration to the supply of electricity to rural areas in order to enhance the industrial and economic growth of those areas.

Electricity is a very cheap source of power. Therefore, everything should be done to make it available to as many as possible in the country. There are some indigenous firms some individuals and establishments who would have set up some industries by now in certain parts of the country, but who have not been able to do so because they are not supplied with electric power in their areas of operation. You agree with me, Sir, that such projects could have helped to employ more school-leavers, and therefore reduce as much as possible the problem of unemployment in the country.

It is my view that loans should be made available to the licensed buying agents direct by the Federal Government. At the moment, it is the Regional Governments and the local banks which give loans to these people, and with these loans, they enslave their political consciences; the result is that in many areas, these licensed

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buying agents tend to sabotage even the cause of their people because they are tied down by this economic strain. They cannot express opinions about certain issues. They cannot even ask for the right of their people because they are always threatened with the withdrawal of their licences. So I want the Government to come to the aid of the people.

I refer in particular to the licensed buying agents in Calabar province. If one goes into the African Continental Bank, and examines the loans—

**The Deputy Speaker :** The question of licensed buying agents, I am sure the Member will agree, is a regional matter. Licensed buying agents are appointed by the Regional Marketing Boards which come under Regional Governments.

**Mr Akpan :** What I was trying to say is that the Government should take over this aspect of the business. I shall leave that point and go to another one.

I like the Government, in the interest of the unity of this country, to consider the possibility of appointing many people to the Federal Boards and Corporations in order to improve the economic status of this country. At this juncture, I would like to express shame at the revelation of trablism, nepotism and administrative irregularities in the Railway Corporation, the Electricity Corporation and the Nigerian Ports Authority. It is shameful to realise that the Minister of Transport and Aviation plunged himself into this shameful policy.

**Dr P. U. Okeke (Onitsha North Central) :** On a point of order, my hon. Friend, the Member for Uyo South East (*Mr Akpan*) must realise that he is no longer on the Opposition Bench, and that the Minister of Transport is a Government Minister. Unless the Member has been commissioned to attack the Minister, his remarks are very inappropriate.

**The Deputy Speaker :** There is freedom of speech in this House. What one says, and how one says it is a matter of individual discretion.

**Mr N. Nwangbo (Ishielu) :** The White Paper that the Member is discussing is the Western Government paper, and we are not in the Western Region.

**The Deputy Speaker :** We are not even informed that the Member is discussing a White Paper.

**Mr Akpan :** As I was saying, I am surprised that the Minister allowed himself to be dragged into this—

**Mr F. I. Okoronkwo (Aba Urban) :** The Member for Uyo South East (*Mr Akpan*) was bought from the Action Group into the U.P.P. and has been sold again. He is so confused that he does not know what to say other than to discredit the Minister of Transport.

**The Deputy Speaker :** It is for the Chair to discipline the Member if it is felt that he is confused.

**Mr Akpan :** Thank you very much, Sir. I know very well that if this were something concerning second-hand clothing, the Member for Aba Urban (*Mr Okoronkwo*) could have done better.

**Mr A. Akomolafe (Ekiti North East) :** A serious charge of buying and selling human beings has been made against the Member speaking, and he has not refuted it. Does he want to tell us that he was bought from one party into another and from a second into a third one? It will be interesting to know for how much he was bought.

**The Deputy Speaker :** I certainly will not call upon the Member to engage in any lengthy explanation. I think the statement was not intended to be serious.

**Mr Akpan :** I call upon the Prime Minister to sack the Minister of Transport for this gross abuse of office. He has fallen short of the standard expected of a Minister of State. I also call upon the Prime Minister to dismiss forthwith the Chairman of the Nigerian Railway Corporation for the stench—

**Mr G. O. D. Eneh (Abaja and Ngwo) :** I do not understand how this Member comes to talk about a White Paper which has been published by the Western Nigeria Government, and you will realise, Sir, that this very man was formerly a Member of the Action Group who later left that party for the U.P.P., the N.C.N.C., and now he is in the N.P.C. I do not know what moral justification he has for attacking anybody in this House.

**The Deputy Speaker :** Order, order. Please may I appeal to the House that by Wednesday and Thursday, there will be so many Members who will be wanting to have an opportunity to speak but time will be so limited that many will have to go away frustrated. Now, here we are engaging ourselves perhaps not as fruitfully as we should do, raising altercations that do nothing but waste useful time during which many Members could have spoken. May I appeal to the House and to the Member speaking to be more cautious in the wordings of their expressions so as to waste the minimum amount of time.

**Mr Akpan :** Mr Speaker, I still feel that we have not got enough money in circulation. I strongly urge the Government that a little more money could be allowed into circulation without any inflationary effect. I want the Government to take into consideration the views expressed by Members, because after all, it may not be the fact that if more money is put into circulation it is going to cause inflation. It is the principle of counterfeiting of coins that might even cause inflation.

At this point, it may be sensible to say something about security in the Minting industry in Nigeria. I want to emphasise the point that every precaution should be taken to prevent crooks from getting access to the machines in order to avoid the printing, minting and counterfeiting of the Central Bank money, because this sort of thing could lead to inflation. At the present moment, some people in the country have various ways of making currency notes, and how they got at the machines baffles everybody. I would, therefore, demand an explanation from the Minister of Finance as to how this has come to be.

During the change over from the West African currency notes to the Central Bank, a lot of people came to be associated with savings in the banks. I can say that the sudden wave of fraud and theft in the commercial banks with which clerks and cashiers are associated, have completely shaken the confidence of the public in these banks. I want the Government to devise ways and means of checking the excesses of these cashiers. I suggest that the Government should set up a committee of enquiry to look into the management of these banks. Perhaps this is what the Minister of Finance envisages in his Budget Speech, page 11 paragraph 8. With your permission, Mr Speaker, I beg to quote—

**Mr F. C. Ogbalu (Awka North) :** On a point of order, I think the hon. Gentleman has finished his speech. He has taken his seat without being asked to do so.

**The Deputy Speaker :** Order. As far as I can see, he is still continuing.

**Mr Akpan :** I beg to quote :—

*“The Banking Act, 1962, was passed not very long ago. But my advisers are already agreed on the need to effect one or two changes to this legislation, with a view to providing better control and supervision of Banks and other related financial institutions. Active thought is being given to this problem and our hope is that in the next year or so, a bill will be placed before Parliament which will seek to so broaden the existing definition of Banking and Banking business as to bring within the scope of control and supervision those institutions in our monetary system which carry on business which is related to banking.”*

It is my view that the Government should consider very seriously this threat to our economy.

When people changed West African currency notes and coins into Central Bank notes and coins, they came to be in a position to appreciate the use of savings, but years later, there came to be so much theft and fraud in the bank that some people, particularly the illiterates, had to run away from their banks.

On the Board of Inland Revenue, the Minister of Finance complained of the work of the Board being hampered by the fact that honours graduates and trainee accountants are usually lured into other jobs with better conditions of service. I suggest that the conditions of service of the professionals should be made to compare favourably with the conditions existing in other employments, otherwise, nobody would like to remain in an inferior position when a superior one is available to him. So, the first thing the Minister should do is to try and improve the conditions of service in the Inland Revenue, otherwise the department will continue losing the members of its staff.

I hope that the Joint Tax Board has not forgotten the purpose for which it was set up—the purpose being to evolve a uniform tax policy for the whole country. I hope it has not



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been dealing solely and wholly with tax evasion thus neglecting its main task. At the present moment, the most operative tax policy is found in the Eastern Region of Nigeria. We in the East pay the highest tax. After one has paid one's tax under the P.A.Y.E., the Government also taxes the interest yielded by one's savings in the bank. I would like the Government to make sure that this Joint Tax Board looks into the question of evolving a tax policy which will be operative in the Federal territory, the Western Region, the Mid-Western Region, the Eastern Region and the Northern Region, instead of allowing the respective Governments to evolve their own tax policy and increase taxes just at will.

On Nigeria's relationship with the European Economic Community, I would like to express my deep appreciation to the Government for the appointment of Dr Pius Okigbo to negotiate with the Community. It is, however, disquieting to note that certain members of the Community still dictate the prices of our primary products. I can only ask the Government to do everything in its power to make this Community realise that the prerogative of fixing the prices of our products is ours and ours alone. After all, the products are ours. Why are we not allowed to fix their prices?

I note with happiness the Government's new attitude to the cry of many Members from all sides of this House about legalising the so-called illicit gin. With your permission, Mr Speaker, I would like to quote what the Minister said on this illicit gin at page 22 paragraph 5 of his speech—

*"Members of this House have on several occasions indicated their support for legalising the locally manufactured gin. I have received enquiries from interested bodies wishing to set up business to buy these supplies of illicit gin with the aim of distilling it into internationally accepted standard—...."*

**Dr P. U. Okeke** (Onitsha North Central): On a point of order, the Opposition Bench is empty. The Members of the Opposition are no longer there and it will be necessary to pay the opposition Leader. They have all disappeared—

**The Deputy Speaker**: Order, order: Whether or not the Opposition Members are on their seats, what governs the question of quorum is quite clear, and if we constitute

the quorum with or without the Opposition, I am sure we will go on. We know they exist but we cannot ask them to be present by force.

**Mr B. A. Ajayi** (Ekiti South East): On a point of correction, the Action Group is here.

**The Deputy Speaker**: Whether it is the Action Group that is here or not, we have more than the quorum to carry on.

**Mr Akpan**: I will now continue with my quotation from the Minister's speech as follows:

*"When the investigations on the proposed investors in this field are crystallized into concrete proposals Government would give due consideration to such proposals"*.

I want the Government to speed up these negotiations in order to make for the progress of the industry for the general good of this country. There was a time when this gin was regarded as a poisonous drug to be dreaded, but I am delighted by the statement of the Minister which augurs well for the future. I cannot help but congratulate the Minister and his Government for heeding the advice of Members.

Finally, I would like to say a word about education. It is the general feeling of all the Members of this House that education should be made a Federal subject. I would like to associate myself with this view of Members. This in my opinion will evolve a uniform standard of education throughout the country and consequently the Regional Governments could have used, or rather will be in a position to use, their available funds for other purposes. What we find now is that there are so many schools in the Regions with the result that the Government's hands are tied, the schools are not given enough grants and consequently there is no money to pay the teachers, and where they are paid at all, they get their salary once in a blue moon.

**Mr P. O. Eleke** (Okigwi South East): On a point of order, the Member for Uyo South East (*Mr Akpan*) is discussing Regional matters.

**The Deputy Speaker**: As far as I know, he is arguing the case for the federalisation of education.

**Mr Akpan :** Thank you, Mr Speaker.

In my opinion, if education is made a federal subject, the Regional Governments will be able to use the money they spend on education for other projects.

**Mr B. A. Ajayi** (Ekiti South East): On a point of order, the Member for Uyo South East (*Mr Akpan*) is anticipating a Motion coming up tomorrow about education being made a Federal subject.

**The Deputy Speaker :** It is unfortunate that there seems to be conflict in subject matters, but if the Member for Uyo South East (*Mr Akpan*) is anticipating, certainly, he has not been the first man to anticipate.

**Mr Akpan :** Thank you, Mr Speaker. I am not anticipating any Motion. What I am trying to say is that—

**The Deputy Speaker :** Order. The hon. Member has only one minute more to wind up.

**Mr Akpan :** The Regional Governments find it difficult to pay grants, so that the schools cannot pay the teachers as a result of which the secondary schools are forced to charge high fees in order that the other schools can be maintained. But if education is made a Federal subject, this would ease the burden on the Regional Governments, and the Federal Government which is in a position to get money from external sources will be in a position to maintain the schools.

**Professor Kalu Ezera** (Bende East): On a point of order, this House is entitled to know where the Members on that side, the *jeun jeun* politicians, the N.N.D.P. Members, have gone to. Have they gone to plan another trouble or what? We would like to know where they have gone to.

**Mr N. N. Onugu** (Nsukka East): In rising to contribute to the debate on the Budget Speech, I have a few observations to make.

In the first place, I want to congratulate the Minister of Finance for the able way in which he has presented this year's Budget.

I wish to remind the Federal Government that the prosperity of this country depends largely on the establishment of industries. The Government should consider as a matter of priority, the siting of industries in rural areas.

Such a step would have the double advantage of arresting the influx of people into the already over crowded towns and helping to solve the unemployment problem.

I have had occasion in the past in this honourable House to mention the existence of large quantities of mineral deposits like salt, gold and lignite at Ezimo in Isi-Uzo Country of Nsukka Division. Up to this time of my speech the Federal Government has done nothing to tap these mineral resources which could have brought prosperity and life more abundant not only to the people of my constituency but also to the whole Federation. Let me therefore appeal again to the Government to take positive measures to exploit the use of these resources.

**Mr P. E. Ekanem** (Enyong South): On a point of order, much as I appreciate that the hon. Gentleman who is now contributing to this debate is making his maiden speech, I would like to draw attention to standing Order 26 which says that a Member shall not read his speech. The hon. Gentleman is reading his speech.

**The Deputy Speaker :** Order. On the contrary, I think it is certainly true that the Member for Nsukka East (*Mr Onugu*) has made many speeches in this House. It is also true that according to the Standing Orders Members should not read their speeches, but I think Members can evolve methods of reference to their notes. As far as the Chair can observe, the hon. Member's method of reference has not departed seriously from those of others.

**Mr Onugu :** The Minister of Education should be congratulated for the bold steps he has taken to establish Inter-Regional Secondary Schools in the Federation. This is a good way of promoting our unity and knowledge in the different parts of the Federal Republic. I very strongly request the Government to establish one of these schools at Obollo-Afor which is the last strategic town before you get to the North. If it is established in this town, it will serve both the people in the East and parts of the North including Oturkpo Idoma and Igala Divisions.

I want to praise the good work of the Federal Minister of Communications in giving telephone facilities to many parts of the Federation. I

[MR ONUGU]

also want to ask the Minister when work on the erection of a new Post Office at Nsukka will begin. Nsukka is not yet served with twenty-four hour telephone facilities. But, for your information, Nsukka to-day assumes both commercial and academic significance and the need for telephone facilities in such a growing community cannot be over emphasised. The Minister should also consider it expedient to provide telephone services to the three County Council Headquarters in Nsukka Division, namely, Isi-Uzo, Igbo-Eze and Uzo Uwani.

I beg to support.

**M. Garba, Turakin Paiko** (Minna South) : I rise to support the Second Reading of the 1964-65 Appropriation Bill presented by our able Minister of Finance. I would like to assure the Minister that by the way and manner in which he has been presenting his budgets in this Parliament, he has earned great respect not only in the eyes of everybody in this country, but all over the world.

It is the desire of everyone of us to see that our country is rich and in fact the richest in Africa because of our population, size and mineral resources. It appears to me that the Government is not paying due attention to the economic growth of this country by not inviting the gold miners to come and reopen the gold mines in Minna which were closed during the last World War. I am sure if this gold mine is opened again in Minna, the Government will be able to increase its resources and at the same time increase employment facilities in the country.

I am appealing to the Government to stop awarding contracts to foreigners, however small or big the contracts may be. Once these contracts are awarded to foreigners these people only employ our people to be labourers, bricklayers and carpenters. Since our people are the ones doing the real work, why should the Government not award such contracts to Nigerians? I think it is a waste on the part of the Government. Even the interests derived from these contracts are sent home by these foreigners. They usually take the capital to their own countries for investment. They never invest such monies in Nigeria.

The next point is a very important one. Although the Minister of Health is not here now, I am appealing to him to institute a

commission of enquiry into the affairs and activities of the medical officers working in the Lagos University Teaching Hospital. The medical officers working there, I am sorry to say are corrupt, and only interested in chasing the ladies who go there for treatment.

Yesterday, I took a very sick patient to that hospital and the medical officer on duty then between three and six o'clock in the evening showed no interest at all. The condition of the patient notwithstanding, the medical officer could not pay any attention. I hope something would be done in order to remedy this.

If the Minister feels that the work in this Ministry is too much for him, I would appeal to the Prime Minister to appoint a new Minister of State in that Ministry to assist him in his work.

Before I conclude, I would also like to advise the Minister of Communications to see that within this financial year telephone services are supplied to every Divisional Headquarters in Northern Nigeria, more especially, to Kagara, Agaie and Lapai, which are within the Niger Province and all these towns are situated on Trunk 'A' roads.

I beg to support.

**Mr U. U. Eko** (Obubra) : I rise to support the Second Reading of the Appropriation Bill for 1964-65. It is regrettable to see that our balance of payments remains unsatisfactory. Apart from a trade deficit of £26 million, there is also a fall in our external reserves of £94 million. Our financial position is, therefore, not healthy and our finances not buoyant. Something must be done to improve our financial position for our credit-worthiness depends, to a large extent, on our healthy external reserves.

To begin with, the Government should explore, as a matter of urgency, all avenues open to it to procure trade agreements with other countries of the world irrespective of black alignments. Government should also look for new markets for our primary products. Unless this is done, our major means of earning foreign exchange will be crippled. Membership of the GATT should be reviewed in the light of developing trends. Our Nigerian made goods should be protected from foreign competition. Prices of goods made in Nigeria should be regulated to enable the poor man to patronise same. The national savings

campaign should be intensified for saving is an important element in the maintenance of monetary stability.

Government should take care that its funds are not misappropriated. It is sad to reflect that according to the Audit Report for the year ending, 31st March, 1963, losses amount to £36,135. These losses are sustained because regulations for the prevention of fraud and irregularity are not observed. In one case, there was no receipt for £10,000 spent on a Government Delegation. In some cases—

**The Minister of Finance** (Chief F. S. Okotie-Eboh): On a point of information, my hon. Friend should not take the Auditor's Report as a thing that is all correct. I should be laying before this House the facts as we know them and I do not want, if there is going to be any debate on it, that it should be anticipated until Members hear our own side of it. Who told the Member for Obubra (*Mr Eko*) that that report is true?

**Mr Eko**: In some cases, unspent balances are not repaid and cases of carelessness and double payments abound. What is worse, Heads of Government Departments do not heed recommendations or queries from Audit Reports. This is a most unsatisfactory state of affairs. Heads of Government Departments must be extremely vigilant over expenditure in their different departments and those who are unable to observe Government regulations should be severely disciplined.

It is gratifying to note that the Central Bank is helping a great deal in the promotion of trade and that the Nigerian Industrial Development Bank has been established to provide long- and medium-term finance in the private sector of the economy. It is also noteworthy that the Nigerian Security and Printing Company will soon be established. This project will conserve foreign exchange and offer employment to Nigerians.

It is gratifying to note that Nigeria has been playing a leading role in the Organisation of African Unity. The Government should fight vigorously to see that the Headquarters of the Organisation is situated in Nigeria. While the Government will press, in collaboration with other African countries, for equitable representation of African States in the Security Council,

the Government should also press for the admission of Red China to the United Nations.

Many Embassies are not supplied with up-to-date information about Nigeria. The Minister of External Affairs, with the co-operation of the Minister of Information, should take steps to supply information on every aspect of Nigerian life for the benefit of Nigerian students abroad.

In order to preserve our independence, it is very vital that our internal security should be strengthened. It is in this wise that the expansion of our armed forces is very necessary. The establishment of our Defence Industries Corporation is welcome, but care must be taken that only men of character and integrity are appointed members of this Corporation. The establishment of our Civil Aviation Training Centre in Zaria is another mile-stone in our progress, but care must be taken that in order to preserve the unity of this country, Defence Training Centres should not be situated in one Region alone.

It is gratifying to note that the Government intends to build new Trunk 'A' roads and new bridges. These new roads should be evenly distributed to all Regions of the Federation. While new roads are to be built, the old ones should be properly maintained. A case in point is the Federal Trunk 'A' road between Enugu and Abakaliki. This major road is presently bad. It must be noted that this is an international highway forming part of the main international West African route. An effective and permanent reconstruction of this road is desirable, now, now. The Minister of Works should please take note of this.

It is also gratifying to note that in the award of contracts indigenous firms of engineering contractors will be encouraged. Only indigenous firms of engineering contractors who have been proved to be efficient and reliable should be encouraged, otherwise it would mean throwing our money into the drain.

It is significant that agriculture has been given a prominent place in the Development Programme. The Government should provide more grants to the Regional Governments for agricultural expansion. It is high time that the results of research in the fields of agriculture, fishery, veterinary and forestry sciences were made available to farmers and fishermen. It is high time too, that the Constitution was revised to make education a Federal subject.

[MR EKO]

To-day, educational standards vary in the various Regions, particularly, at the primary school level. The Federal Government should take over the responsibility for primary education, so that common standards can be maintained throughout the country. Regional Governments are spending much of their revenue on education and the Federal Government will do well to come to their rescue. Efforts at improving educational standards will not bear much fruit unless the conditions of service of teachers are adequately improved.

Fees charged in Lagos secondary schools are too exorbitant, and as a result, the average worker in Lagos finds it difficult to send his child to a secondary school. Secondary education in Lagos should not be reserved for the privileged class. The Minister of Education should please have a look into this ugly situation with a view to putting a ceiling on the fees to be charged in Lagos secondary schools.

The launching of a nation-wide campaign for the eradication of small pox and malaria is most welcome. The building of health centres in Lagos will go a long way to bringing medical and health services within easy reach of a large number of people. Be that as it may, efforts should first be made to see that patients attending hospitals in Lagos should be attended to and treated in good time.

The need for expanding external communications is urgent and efforts should be made to establish direct telecommunication links with other African countries. Equally urgent is the need to convert Ugep postal agency into a sub-post office; to start forthwith a rural telephone service to connect Abakaliki with Ugep, Ediba and Itigidi, and to establish a mobile postal service for Ugep, Ekuri, Ediba and Usumutong postal agencies.

A survey of the mineral potentialities of Obubra Division is long overdue. The towns following Ugep and Apiapum in Obubra Division should be supplied with electricity. There is also an urgent need for the provision of a police van for Obubra police station in order to facilitate apprehension of criminals and keep in constant touch with Ugep police post which is only thirty-four miles away. The building of police quarters at Ugep should be embarked upon at once since funds have already been allocated for that purpose.

The Surulere housing scheme has not solved the problem of housing for workers in Lagos. Consequently the proposed metropolitan low-cost housing scheme will not do so either. The only course open to the Government is to control rents. This is the only way workers of Lagos can be satisfied. Time and again on the Floor of this House, Members have advocated rent control for Lagos but Government seems unconcerned. The Government cannot be indifferent for so long to the sufferings of workers in Lagos. It is now time that Government must come to the help of workers and set up a Rent Control Board.

The problem of unemployment is an acute one. The only way to offset unemployment is for the Government to set up more industries. Meanwhile, there should be equal opportunities for those who are looking for jobs. To do this, there should be competitive examinations for those who are looking for jobs so that there will be fair treatment for all irrespective of region of origin or tribe.

Sir, I beg to support.

**Alhaji Muhammadu Gauyarma** (Hadejia North): I wish to speak on the Appropriation Bill for the 1964-65 Budget. I am eager to contribute my comments which are full of facts for this year, this current year which is faced with trials, the trials of elections at which in the words of Darwin, only the "fittest will survive". It is the survival of the fittest, that only champions of the good cause of our great nation, champions who practise true democratic principles could survive to win the elections emerge triumphant and drive away the forces of evil.

The ideals of true democracy always carry with them and embrace the ruling of give and take and these are the principles we must accept and follow so as to be guided aright. Yet, Sir, it is becoming real that certain factions of a major political party, the N.C.N.C., are failing to co-operate with the peace-loving factions of the other major political parties in the country, the N.P.C. and the N.N.D.P. As a result, that particular party plunged itself into dilemma for failure to democratise itself.

Having been given the opportunity to express my comments, I wish to speak on a matter to which I have referred to several times in this House. I want to congratulate the

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Prime Minister for his foresight in appointing Dr K. O. Mbadiwe as Minister of Aviation. Sometime ago, I had cause to complain that about twelve aeroplanes were lying down in a state of disrepair at the Ikeja Airport. These twelve planes were meant for our Federal Flying School. While they were grounded, the instructors continued to draw their pay and the students slept off each day at the school because there were no planes for training flights. I think it was because the Minister at that time was very busy with the Fokker Friendship planes as well as issuing press releases !

There was also a major foul play then that a sum of £50,000 was made as profit and similarly, that the sum of £6,000 was also made by Jim Larkin, the American/Nigeria projector for external publicity in New York, out of a contract of £36,000 undertaken last year. This was alleged to have taken place in the Ministry of Information.

Now that energetic "Knock Out" Mbadiwe has taken over full responsibility for Aviation we want to know more about the grounded planes at Ikeja. We also want to hear a statement in this House that Government has not abandoned the training school. We also want to know the relationship between the Aviation Workshops at Ikeja and the Nigerian Airways Corporation.

**Chief F. S. Okotie-Eboh :** On a point of order, Sir, I do not want to disturb hon. Members when they are speaking on the Budget, but I think that these false allegations being made by a responsible member of the Government party should stop, because it is not true that anybody got £50,000 and £6,000 from Jim Larkin and others, and I want my hon. Friend, the Member for Hadejia North (*Alhaji M. Gauyarma*) to please desist from making these false allegations.

**The Deputy Speaker :** It is unfortunate that the Member for Hadejia North repeats the fact, even though it is an allegation. It is an allegation all right, but when it is read in our *Hansard*, which is circulated all over the world, the Member for Hadejia North will not be there to explain that he was merely saying so to elicit an explanation.

**Alhaji Gauyarma :** I was saying that we would like to know the relationship between the Aviation Workshop and the Nigerian

Airways Corporation. I want to say that there is duplication in these two establishments and the staff there are grumbling because of the discrepancies in salaries. The Aviation Workshop is losing staff to the Airways Corporation because of higher salaries and yet they are located in the same compound.

I think it is high time we had a uniform rate of salaries for pilots in service of the Federal Government. As it is now, we have a pilot in the Air Force, we have another one in the Civil Aviation and we have yet another one in the Airways Corporation, and each of these pilots is on a separate scale of salary. I do not think this is good at all. And I know that our energetic Dr K. O. Mbadiwe will solve this problem.

**The Deputy Speaker :** It is now six o'clock and pursuant to the Resolution passed this morning, sitting is suspended till 9 p.m.

*Sitting suspended : 6 p.m.*

*Sitting resumed : 9 p.m.*

**Alhaji Muhammadu Gauyarma :** In continuation of my comments on the debate on the Appropriation Bill, I wish to say that sometime ago, I spoke about the problem of labour and dockworkers in our ports. I think the new Minister in charge of ports will try to clear the air about those ugly stories concerning contracts and contractors and about shares held by people who ought not to hold them. What I am saying is that every effort should be made now to give the dockworkers their due rights.

I want again to speak about our Immigration Officials. Why is it that it takes them such a long time to clear the passengers at the airport ? Can something positive not be done about this ?

We read of complaints every day against this group of workers. I think those in authority should set to work in order to give us a good name particularly among visitors coming into Nigeria.

There are those of us who hold our respected Prime Minister in very high esteem indeed. But we are worried about many things which we read, and yet hear very little of, after a short time. What about the story of an inquiry into the Fokker Friendship airplanes purchased by the Airways Corporation ? What about the story that some files were hidden and that the Prime Minister ordered that the files hidden be produced ?

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What about the serious allegation made about "percentages" demanded from investors before they could be allowed to come into Nigeria? This accusation came from a Member on the Government side of this House. What has happened about the inquiry that followed this allegation?

We like to defend the reputation of this House and the reputation of this Government.

**Alhaji Aminu Kano** (Kano East): The Minister of External Affairs is coming in with a stick in his hand. I think it is illegal.

**Mr Speaker**: It is unusual. But, of course, nowadays one cannot probably rely on having nothing in hand. I would ask the Minister of External Affairs please to put this little stick away; which afterwards would not matter if he kept it. Still he can put it away.

**Alhaji Muhammadu Gauyarma**: We like to defend the reputation of this House and the reputation of this Government. But in doing so, we also want the air to be clear about so many things that we read about.

In regard to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs we read about how even a Minister of Cabinet rank is suppressed, put to stress and sabotaged; how much more about our people in ambassadorial status; and also other officials? It is sure, Sir, that too much domination is in that Ministry, which is very bad.

With the Minister of Finance adding more weight and becoming very much fatter, it is surprising that Members' meagre consolidated annual allowances are being denied them. It is becoming difficult for them to have their payments made whereas we come here to serve our people. We also want to face them squarely and say that we have been faithful in our duties. But when stories like the one which I have just mentioned get around, it is difficult to tell our people that we are really serving them properly.

I know how difficult it is to say most of these things. But they have to be said. This is an election year, therefore let us clear the air before going back to our people to ask for fresh mandates to serve them once more and again.

**An hon. Member**: Is the Gentleman coming back?

**Alhaji Muhammadu Gauyarma**: Surely. I sincerely hope that some statement, some assurance, would be given to this House before we rise, on the issues I have spoken about. Such a statement will increase our prestige indeed and we shall go forth as worthy servants to our people.

This is my remark on unity. We must not take things for granted always. One can afford to fool some people for some time, but not all the people all the time. I gather also that in the Kingdom of Heaven there is no room for devils and deceivers, that too much of every thing is bad and that false accusations will not take us anywhere. So it is better for our junior partner in the coalition, the N.C.N.C. to cool down, keep quiet and stop agitating the minds of the people of our Federal Republic.

**Dr Jaja Wachuku**: The N.C.N.C. is not a junior partner in the coalition. The Member speaking does not know the basis of the coalition.

**Alhaji Gauyarma**: I am sure our brothers, the Ibos resident in the Northern Region, are not happy over all these noises voiced out from their home Region. If even the drama persists over the dream called "Ibo Vision to Rule Nigeria," which has now vanished and is out of date since the awakening of other sister regions who came to realise their rights, how much more would we expect from our glorious and blessed vast Northern Region?

If even the topic comes to the question of supremacy, it is evidently clear that very certainly the North must continue leading, because we inherited the tactics and have the democratic rights.

From times immemorial, for centuries and decades, even ever before the advent of the British in this country, there were clear evidence and proofs that the Northern section of the Federal Republic of Nigeria received light from the Eastern and Western parts of the civilised world at that time.

As far back as 700 A.D. Northern Nigeria dealt with Persia, Asia, Arabia and the Sudan, through the eastern route of commerce. The North also dealt with the West, with empires like Spain, Europe, Turkey, Morocco and some other parts of North Africa. At that time,

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our now "Mr Know Book Ibos" hid under leaves in forests, sheltering in their destined homes.

**Mr Speaker** : I do not think it is in order to say all this.

**Alhaji Gauyarma** : For the sake of unity, the unity of our nation, let our partners take things easier and follow suit with the major partner in the Federal Coalition Government.

The stand of the N.P.C., as I observe it and as published previously, is that the North has arrived and that the North has emerged triumphant and will continue to arrive. To be a bit more serious, I put it to our southern friends and brothers in the words of Caesar "We came, we saw, we conquered." That means that the North has arrived, has seen and has conquered.

**Dr Jaja Wachuku** : On a point of Order, will the hon. Member tell us where he came from. He said that he came, he saw and he conquered.

**Alhaji Gauyarma** : I come from the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

**Mr F. A. M. Amadi** (Nsukka Central) : Will the hon. Gentleman explain what he means by that he saw and he conquered. What did he see and what did he conquer ?

**Alhaji Gauyarma** : One other point I want to comment upon concerns the go-slow in Lagos. I wish the second bridge proposed would be speeded up to link Lagos with Apapa.

I also wish to say that farmers should be encouraged and that farmers' banks be established throughout the Federation to help farmers in the rural areas to develop better farming methods and means of better production.

My other point is about the newspaper ; the *Pilot* and others. I wish them to be careful and to standardise their cartoons. They should be careful about putting to the public, internally or externally, pictures such as "Man Pikin Good for Chop".

**Dr Jaja Wachuku** : But it is from the Northern 'Nigerian Citizen'.

**Alhaji Gauyarma** : I am making it clear that this practice is out of date. I am sure that

such cartoons, if taken into films, would expose our people and destroy the good image of our nation in the face of other nations.

I wish to comment, having read about the allegation of squandermania, that the Government must come out to clear the air about such allegations, otherwise, they would develop and confuse the minds of the public to whom we render faithful service.

Now on the question of roads, I like to say that the Trunk 'A' road from Kaduna to Tegna, at miles 80-82 is very dangerous. Work there must be speeded up to avert the dangers of fatal accidents which snatch from us very many lives and destroy many lorries. Work must be speeded up to remedy the situation which I have already referred to in my Motion, formerly tabled and debated in this honourable House.

Now I come to the Ministry of Mines and Power—(Interruptions).

**Mr Speaker** : Order ! Order ! Will hon. Members please maintain silence ? The Member speaking should speak louder so that Reporters will be able to hear him clearly.

**Alhaji Gauyarma** : Hadeja, Mallam Maduri and Gumel are very much in need of light. They happen to be on the waiting list of towns to be supplied with electricity, but up till now nothing is heard about installation of power.

If I can remember, even the Minister of Mines and Power has made a promise to see that the work is effected. In spite of this nothing is forthcoming. I am therefore drawing the Minister's attention to this fact. I appeal that the Minister's promise should be fulfilled especially as he made it before the N.A. Councils.

I beg to support.

**Mr J. U. Odey** (Ogoja East) : I rise to support the Second Reading of the 1964-65 Appropriation Bill. The Speech of the hon. Minister of Finance is rather a treatise of economic problems and theories. It is very well prepared and well delivered in this House. My first comment relates to the development plan. I feel that sufficient progress has not been made in the Six-Year Development Plan.



We seem to engage much of our attention in making ourselves a show piece to the world. We seem to pay more attention to things external and forget those things which pertain to the interest of the people of this country.

In this, I have in mind the vast sums that are set aside for external telecommunications. I notice that vast areas in the country have not yet been supplied with telephone services. Even whole divisions in certain areas have not got a supply of telephone service. Very many of them have been pleading and asking the Government for the supply of this service. Here, I have in mind my own division which has been promised this service as far back as 1955, that is, almost ten years ago and till now nothing has been done. The people are quite willing and prepared to pay for the service yet the service is not forthcoming.

**An hon. Member :** What is the Division ?

**Mr Odey :** Obudu is my Division. By this time the Minister of Communications should be able at this time to say at least that they have supplied all Divisional Headquarters with telephone services. We only hear that telephone services are supplied externally. These External telecommunications will only serve a very small number of people. I am appealing to the Government that it is now time to supply all the Divisions with this service. During this financial year, he should get all the Divisions served.

On the development of local industries, I would like the Government to encourage the local production of foodstuffs and also to check the inflow of surplus production from other countries. I think it is proper that the Government should make a thorough survey of a place that can be used. Here again I have in mind a place which is called the Obudu Cattle Ranch. It can be used just as Vom is used in Northern Nigeria. Several thousands of cattle are bred in this place and some amount of butter is prepared. The Federal Government, in conjunction with the Eastern Nigeria Government, can do a lot to develop some industries in this place, dairy and canning industry, can be undertaken. The place is quite cool. It is even cooler than Jos and cool temperate crops can be introduced at the Obudu Cattle Ranch. You can see it adver-

tised in the journals. You can go for a holiday there for it makes a very good place for holiday resort.

The area is large and if the Federal Government feels like developing any area of it, it can easily clear some area of it because it spreads for very many square miles.

On education and our overseas students, I think it is the agent for Eastern Nigeria abroad who has commented that the number of Nigerian students who become mental and have nervous break-down is increasing. It is getting rather alarming. Formerly the Government always made sure that students were financially secure before they were allowed to go to study abroad. I would like to suggest that the Government should survey and know the causes of these things, after all there are many post-secondary institutions all over West Africa and if need be, some of them should be repatriated.

The cause should be found why some of these people become mental so that a check can be applied.

I support those who clamour for the federalisation of education, especially at the post-primary levels. A few Members have already commented on the deplorable nature of the Enugu/Abakaliki Road. It is a trunk 'A' road. The work that is going on there is rather going at a very slow pace and in fact we would urge the Government to step up the work because the rainy season will soon set in and the condition will deteriorate. We ask the Government to improve the road which is between Yahe and Ikom and beyond to the Cameroon boundary. It should be improved and tarred.

I praise the Government for the new buildings in progress in the Police and Warders Barracks at Ogoja and Obudu. Obudu has a boundary with the Tiv Division in the Northern Region and the Cameroons. It needs a stronger Police Force so that it can cope with any border incidents that are likely to arise in that area. In fact many of them do arise and quite a number of them are likely to occur again. I am speaking from experience.

I beg to support.

**M. Ibrahim Muku (Bida West) :** (*Interruptions*).

**An hon. Member :** An Alhaji is sitting on the N.C.N.C. seat.

**Mr Speaker :** Order ! Really it is difficult to say whether someone else is indeed occupying the seat of the Member for Owerri East (*Chief Abii*).

**Mr E. A. Odo** (Idoma West): I rise to support the Motion and while doing so I have to make a very brief remark. This is the third year of Nigeria's Six Year Development Plan. I therefore wish to remind the Government that the development in Idoma Division and Benue Province has been retarded.

I beg to draw the attention of the Government to the trunk 'A' road from Oturkpo to Makurdi and from Makurdi to Jos. The road is the most important in Nigeria because of its connection with all important towns and villages such as Kaduna, Enugu, Onitsha and Yola and other towns in the country. The road is entirely neglected. I am appealing to the Government to take immediate action now and see that the road is tarred and all the narrow bridges on the road are constructed.

I have to remind the Government to set up the proposed iron and steel industry at Orukpa where the best coal in Nigeria is found. The coal at Orukpa is six to eight feet deep and about forty million tons underground compared with Enugu coal which is thirty-eight million tons and five to seven feet deep according to the report of the geological survey.

I have to draw the attention of the Minister of Transport to Oturkpo Railway Station which is in Idoma Division. Goods worth about £100,000 are transported from this Station daily, but the Station is entirely neglected by the Railway Corporation. There has been no improvement made in the Station for a long time now. Passengers and Railway staff suffer during the rain due to lack of shelter. I am sure that the Minister concerned will not hesitate to urge the Railway Corporation to do something about the Station and staff quarters.

I beg to call on the Government to amend the Constitution of this country immediately and review the composition of our Regional representation in the Nigerian Upper House. At present, the idea of twelve Senators representing each Region is undemocratic. I am

sure any sincere hon. Member in this House will share the same view with me. I wish to suggest that such a large Region like the Northern Region should be represented by thirty-six or more Members in the Senate. There should be fourteen representatives from the East, twelve from the West and six from the Mid-West.

**Several hon. Members :** What about Calabar ?

**Mr Odo :** This is a good proportion according to the population of each Region.

Also, I would suggest that employment in the Civil Service should be based on the proportion of the population of each Region. This method should be applied to all our Corporations.

I am calling on the Government to urge the Minister of Transport to resign due to his dishonesty in squandering Government funds under his control.

**The Minister of Transport** (Mr R. A. Njoku): On a point of order, Mr Speaker, I think that Members ought to be reminded that when they speak here they should speak to the fact and speak with every sense of responsibility. It does not do for any Member to get up on the Floor of this House and make wild and unfounded allegations against anybody.

**Mr Speaker :** Order ! I think Members should turn their attention to constructive criticisms directed to the fiscal and economic policy of the Government.

**Mr Odo :** The Minister is also guilty of nepotism and tribalism. Such Ministers who are not up-to-date in the performance of their duties should be removed.

Finally, I have to call on all our political leaders to use their good sense to maintain the good name of our dear Nigeria which we are proud of. All types of lawlessness should be removed from our society. All political parties should try to adopt the N.P.C. ideology. It is the daily prayer of the N.P.C. that unity, peace and tranquillity should reign in our great country. Those N.C.N.C. Members who proved themselves to be the enemy of Ibos in Northern Nigeria should stop their provocative actions and utterances. From time imme-

morial, Ibos who live in the North have never complained of ill-treatment up till now. But some N.C.N.C. Members who proved to be the enemies of the Ibos in the North incite the Northern people by various types of abuses. We in the North are praying for peace in Nigeria, but the people of Eastern Nigeria are busy—

**Mr G. O. D. Eneh** (Abaja and Ngwo) : On a point of order. The speech of the Member for Idoma West (*Mr Odo*) is becoming irrelevant. He is speaking about Ibos and so forth instead of the fiscal policy of the Government. I do not know why Ibos should come into his speech now.

**Mr Speaker** : I quite agree with the Member for Abaja and Ngwo. The Member for Idoma West is going a long way from the fiscal policy of the Government.

**Mr Odo** : We are praying for peace and tranquillity in Nigeria but the Eastern people are recruiting 5,000 people to go and fight in the North. (*Interruptions*)

**Mr Speaker** : Order, Mr Odo !

**Mr Odo** : I wish to tell them that these 5,000 people will not be able to face the force of the North. With these few remarks, I beg to support.

**Alhaji Bello Dandago** (Gwarzo East) : I was told that my voice is the voice of wisdom. I hope it will be. In supporting the Second Reading of the Appropriation Bill, I have to thank our Police Force for the maintenance of peace in the country generally during the current year.

**Mr P. E. Ekanem** (Enyong South) : They prevented me from entering the House with my walking stick !

**Alhaji Bello Dandago** : They might have suspected what you wanted to do with it ! Our Army have won for themselves and for us in the country, the highest honour through their services abroad because of their gallantry and Nigerian discipline.

We are getting a bit impatient about the agricultural research programme of the Federal Government. The immediate task of any Government is to feed its people. I know that agriculture is a Regional subject, but the research side is something Federal.

I know it takes time to research but we are getting a bit impatient. What are these people doing especially about agricultural research ? What is the result of their laboratory work ? Nothing so far. We should like them to carry out some research and tell us the result, so that the Regions may be benefited by their laboratory work.

I do not know whether I will commend the Ministry of Internal Affairs or the Police for the peace in the country. At any rate the country as a whole has been peaceful.

This year, we are dealing with the National Budget. It is nicknamed "National". We have had a lot of nicknames in the past. We had, for instance, the "Mobilisation" Budget, the "Modernisation", Budget, *et cetera*. But what is conspicuous about this year's "National" Budget is the degree of losses of revenue from almost every Ministry.

In the Public Account Committee Reports, there are losses and misappropriation of fund, year in and year out. The most unpleasant thing about it all is that even if somebody's attention is drawn to these losses this year, the same thing will be repeated next year.

The same applies to audited reports ; they are replete with losses, misappropriation of funds and so on. These things go on unchallenged. So, it seems to me, if I remember my Algebra right, that the whole thing amounts to plus times minus which is equal to minus.

The Minister of Finance is doing his very best against odds. This system of collective responsibility which operates in the cabinet should not be extended to issues affecting national revenue. Collective responsibility should only operate when every Ministry does its best to help the Government to minimise losses of this nature.

One thing I cannot understand is the arithmetic of the Minister of Finance. This P.A.Y.E. system is not paying us. It is telling on us. You see your salary printed boldly in a Budget or in an Annual Report but when you look into your pocket you do not see the money. Everything has been taken back by the Inland Revenue Department. I do not understand the arithmetic of the Minister of Finance.

**The Minister of Finance** (Chief Okotie-Eboh) : It is plus times minus, which is equal to minus. (*Laughter*).

**Alhaji Dandago :** Is it? I think it is telling especially on the higher income group. The Minister knows their social system in the Federation. No matter what Region, no matter what tribe, it is fundamentally the same. In fact, the Member for Owerri East (*Chief Abii*) mentioned something about it some time. I am thinking that the Minister of Finance will reconsider the position and cut down the rate a bit especially on salaries above £1,000. It takes a lot of money there. The result is that we don't see the money in the Budget.

**Chief Okotie-Eboh :** To whom more is given, more is expected.

**Alhaji Dandago :** Where we don't understand the logic is the heavy custom duty on cars. If cars are manufactured in Nigeria, there and then we would understand—

**An hon. Member :** Luxury !

**Alhaji Dandago :** It is not luxury ; it is a necessity nowadays.

**An hon. Member :** A big car is a luxury.

**Alhaji Dandago :** The Minister is not expecting me to ride on a donkey (*Laughter*). He does not expect me to ride on a Morris Minor. I think I can understand the Minister if we are making cars in Nigeria but whether I buy a Morris Minor, or a Pontiac or a Chevrolet it is the same foreign car. Some people suspect that the authorities do not want us to buy big cars ; they want us to buy Morris Minor.

**An hon. Member :** A Morris Minor will not contain you.

**Alhaji Dandago :** The lower the duty, the more cars will come into the country and the more revenue will accrue to the Government. I come now to the Ministry of Transport. I have always said that Kano Airport had existed long before the Ministry of Transport came into being. What I am saying is simple : give it back its full international landing right. It is a simple request. I am thinking that we should adopt a policy of live and let live. I noticed in the Speech of the President that there will soon be a jet airliner in operation from Lagos to London. I am happy to notice that the President did not say, Lagos to London direct. He did not say that. The absence

of the word "direct" suggests to me probably that there should be quick touch and take-off at Kano.

**Chief Abii :** We agree.

**Alhaji Dandago :** As a port with a favourable geographical position, it is the gateway to Europe, to the Middle East, *et cetera*. I understand there has been a change of portfolios recently and somebody who was doing the job has taken it over again.

I have been asked by the Kano people to congratulate the Minister now in charge of the affairs ; they still remember the occasion when the Minister rode on a white charger, a snow-white horse to open a terminal which is not in full use to-day. We are asking the Federal Government to make use of Kano Airport by allowing international planes to land and to take-off from there.

As a matter of fact, we always have sufficient passengers there and there is good business at the Airport. Therefore, let the Airport hotel be opened. Certainly, I am not interested in the managership of the business.

I think it would be right for one to accuse the Ministry of Transport which until recently was responsible for the Airways. In the Airways Corporation, there was a loss of one hundred and seventy-seven thousand, one hundred and ninety-four pounds in one half year. This is not a good business. Surely, there must be something wrong. I do not doubt the ability of the Minister. I will be first to acknowledge that he is a first-class man, but all I am saying is that the best brain may fail if it is over-burdened. I think the gentleman is over-burdened. Supposing we take away the Railway side of the business from the Minister of Transport and give it to somebody else.

**Mr A. U. D. Mbah (Owerri North) :** On a point of order, whatever the case may be, the Member for Gwarzo East (*Alhaji Bello Dandago*) is a very responsible representative of his party and if, indirectly he wants to table a vote of no confidence, let him come out.

**Alhaji Dandago :** Some people are confusionists. The Member for Owerri North (*Mr Mbah*) did not understand the point I was making. What I suggest amounts to a sense of

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partnership. As a coalition Government, we may reshuffle the Cabinet, we may rearrange and we may even regroup.

**Chief D. N. Abii** (Owerri East) : On a point of order, does the Member for Gwarzo East (*Alhaji Bello Dandago*) want to give another portfolio to the Minister of Transport ?

**Alhaji Dandago** : If need be. But the question has not arisen.

**Mr P. E. Ekanem** (Enyong South) : I have got the Member for Gwarzo East very well. I think we must face facts. He is not suggesting a vote of no confidence in the Minister of Transport.

**Mr Speaker** : Order, order. The alhaji can say that in a better way.

**Alhaji Dandago** : It is not my business to quarrel with anybody on the Floor of the House. If it comes to that, it should be outside this House. What I said was that the Minister of Transport is over-burdened. When we notice that a certain Ministry or Corporation is making a loss, as citizens of Nigeria, we are bound to ask and to suggest ways and means of stopping this sort of thing. There are losses everywhere. I have not suggested that the portfolio should be given to another man. It is a pity that the House has taken a different mood otherwise I have a lot to say.

**Several hon. Members** : Go on.

**Alhaji Dandago** : Let us break the Ministry into pieces. We must speak out our minds on the Floor of this House. One can speak against it and give one's views and one can support it and give one's views. That is why we are here.

Recently, there was a party meeting in my town. Somehow that party meeting was joined with an official tour. The result was that some coaches were used. I think the party meeting had no connection with the official tour. That is what I want to say.

**Mr F. C. Ogbalu** (Awka North) : On a point of order, I think the Railway Corporation is established to make money. If the Corporation finds avenue of making money, let it make it. As long as the coaches are paid for, it is legally and constitutionally binding and can be approved by the entire Parliament.

**Alhaji Dandago** : I am not against any person. I am against a policy.

**An hon. Member** : That is the quality of the honest man.

**Alhaji Dandago** : Another point I want to make is that somebody lodged in a place where there was no telephone. It is a well-known fact that there are a lot of people on the waiting list of P. & T. who would like to have telephones in their homes and offices. Within sixteen hours a telephone was installed in the place where the man lodged. This type of business would not bring unity to our country. I think there is no expression without an impression. In fact, I was not there, but my attention was called to it that people who had been long on the waiting list could not get a telephone installed for them whereas somebody was able to have a telephone installed for himself within sixteen hours of request.

As I said, I would like the Minister of Finance to look into Customs Duties because the P.A.Y.E. system is not paying us. The masses are suffering while the few people at the top are enjoying. The public sees the money voted in the Annual Budget but they do not see the money in their pockets.

With these few remarks, I beg to support.

**Mr F. U. Ibe** (Okigwi North East) : I am supporting wholeheartedly the Second Reading of the Appropriation (1964-65) Bill. In doing so, I must have to congratulate the Minister of Finance for his Budget Speech which is so commendable.

Any student of history knows that the history of any single nation must have two phases. The first phase which must contain the development of its principle, has a place in this year's Budget entitled "The National Budget".

In his speech, the Minister of Finance traced our national history from its embryonic stage to the period when it blossomed into freedom.

**Mr D. O. Enefolo** (Igala South) : On a point of order, may I draw the attention of the Leader of the House to the absence of the roster keeper (*Mr Ogunsanya*) who said he was prepared to work. He is not here now.

**Mr Ibe :** May I say that the principle of independence was not the only objective for which our nationalist leaders fought. They fought also to replace, among other things, exploitation by an economy of welfare and progress for all. The great acceleration made in Nigeria's constitutional history is a happy thing worthy of note.

In the financial and economic spheres, however, we all here representing the various national constituencies must express gratitude for what this Government has so far done for the nation as a whole.

Without fear or favour, I must say however, that the economic progress so far made has not made itself manifest in any shape or form for all, especially to the poor labouring class of this nation. The Government is happy, no doubt and prosperous too; but the majority of our people are not at all as happy as would be expected. Some concrete proposals should have been made in the Budget in order to rectify this pitious situation of the poor people so that the whole nation might be happy.

If it is agreed that only the whole is real, then the happiness of this nation can only be achieved when all the contradictions between the "haves" and "have nots" are resolved.

No one will quarrel with the title given to this year's Budget Speech in view of the convincing reasons the Minister of Finance gave to support it. But, it had been thought that with independent Nigeria becoming a Republic, the basic principle of our economy would be to seek for a better means of distribution of wealth and the complete removal of want.

It is quite clear that Nigeria now stands for the vested interests of the wealthy class. I therefore call on our good Prime Minister to do something now before it is too late, especially as everyone in this country knows that the Prime Minister himself does not belong to the wealthy class. There should be some check on the accumulation policy in this country.

With your permission, Mr Speaker, I would like to quote Glover Cleveland :—

*He mocks the people who proposes that the Government shall protect the rich that they in turn may care for the labouring poor.*

There is no need for us to come here to make laws without an enlightened public opinion.

During the colonial period, there used to be domestic servants, such as cook, stewards, *et cetera*, employed by expatriates but to-day, these domestic servants are without jobs because most of the expatriate officers have left this country. How can the progress of this nation be determined without the Government providing enough for those who have too little?

The Government has a lot of problems to face, it is true, but all the same, the Government has to shoulder the greatest responsibility in helping to give enough and more patronage to the labouring poor and local manufacturers in this country.

As for made in Nigeria goods, everyone gives the high price of the goods produced locally as the chief reason why the imported articles are preferred. There are many Made in Nigeria goods which do not even receive the patronage of the Government, though the prices are lower than those of imported goods.

Is it not amazing to note for instance, that the Nigerian Breweries Ltd., Aba, refuse to buy bottles from the Nigeria Glass Company at Port Harcourt. Instead, bottles are imported at 11d each from German Glass Company to Nigerian Breweries Ltd., Aba, while bottles cost 4½d each at the Glass Company, Port Harcourt.

The most probable reason for this is that the Glass Company at Port Harcourt is a baby industry owned partly by the Government of the Eastern Nigeria and this part of the country is much discriminated against. The Minister of Commerce and Industry owes this House an explanation for this state of affairs. Let him tell us why the Nigerian Breweries Ltd. do not buy bottles from the Glass Company at Port Harcourt.

I do not agree that the capacity of the Glass Company is insufficient to meet all requirements of glass bottles and containers in this country. Already, the monthly output of this Company is 900,000 and yet, there have not been quick sale. Even then, the Company is aiming at producing up to 30,000,000 bottles a month.

Another aspect on which I would like to speak is the way in which amenities are being distributed to various parts of the Federation.

[MR IHE]

This Government will be failing in its duty if it should site industries where they are most insuitable.

The Government still has to fulfil its promise to instal electricity at Okigwi this financial year.

It is a pity that the bridges on the trunk 'A' road between Okigwi and Awgu have not till now been built. I cannot understand why these bridges have not been built, except to speculate that the money estimated for them has been diverted for building bridges in the far North.

I heartily congratulate the Railway Corporation for accepting my suggestion to regularise the local train services between Enugu and Port Harcourt and for the arrangement for the Kano-Port Harcourt and Lagos-Port Harcourt limited trains to stop at both Otampa and Ovim-Amaba railway stations. I still urge that this welcome arrangement should be made permanent.

It is regretted, however, that the railway crossing projects at Ozara, Ezere and Echiele Otampa have not yet been completed, and in some cases, not even started. We appeal to the Minister of Transport to see that these are done this financial year.

Praises must go to those who deserve them. In this connection, I have in mind the Minister of Communications. My people have asked me to congratulate the Minister for all the essential help we received from his Ministry. His Ministry has made it possible for a post office to be built at Imenyi-Amaba. This post office was officially opened by the Minister himself last January. We do believe the hon. Minister will still help us to have all the full amenities required in that post office. We also ask him to help us further in our efforts to have the Otampa post office built. My people have contributed much money, which has been deposited with the authorities concerned.

I cannot understand why the Minister in charge of Police has not been able to see that the police station at Isuikwuato is built. This is now overdue. If there is no money, then why is it that new police stations recommended and approved at the same time as the Isuikwuato police station, have been built? There

must be funds for the building of our own police station also. We hope that this police station will be built during this financial year.

The Minister of Mines and Power has yet to fulfil his promise to instal electricity at Okigwi. He has been trying to let us know that the Eastern Region Government had not recommended that Okigwi should have electricity. This is not true. The Premier of Eastern Nigeria, Dr Okpara, has told the Okigwi people that the recommendation had been made. We, therefore, have no other person to hold responsible for failure to instal electricity at Okigwi than the Minister of Mines and Power. We are appealing to him to ensure that Okigwi has electricity at no distant date.

Before resuming my sit, I want to say something about the right of our people to own property in this country. If it is agreeable under our Constitution that property can be owned by people in any part of the Federation, why then does the Government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria keep silent over the issue of people's property being confiscated in some part of the country?

There is no doubt that the talk of unity in this country has lost its principle and essence. However, if any Region would take other people's landed properties from them simply because such people are not indigenous sons or daughters of such a Region, then very considerable compensations must be determined and paid to the people concerned.

Is it not an irony of history, which we must condemn with one voice, that some of our leaders to whom are entrusted the destiny of this nation, men who ought to be the promoters of the national interest, the bearers of our mission, only disrupt, by their practices at regional level, our national unity? This is, indeed, food for much thought.

Sir, I beg to support.

**Mr S. A. Ogedengbe** (Owo North): In rising to contribute to the Second Reading of the Appropriation Bill, I would, first of all, like to praise the Government before dishing out my criticisms of certain aspect of our finances.

It is very gratifying that our currency is very sound. I was very proud to be a Nigerian last year, when I was away to the United Kingdom during the summer. When I arrived

there, I had about six pounds Nigerian currency notes with me. I was just on the point of regretting my bringing this money to England, where I thought it would be quite useless, or at the least, I would run into great difficulties trying to change them to British money, when a friend suggested to me that I should just walk into any bank and get it exchanged. Walking across the road, I entered a bank. When I presented the six pound notes, six British currency notes were given to me in exchange, except for the paltry sum of six pence which I paid as commission. That is very gratifying indeed.

Everywhere I went, people were ready to accept Nigerian money. On my return journey to Nigeria, I called at a certain West African port. When I saw the way people were handling the money of that country on board our ship, honestly, I was sorry for that country. People were anxious to obtain only twelve shillings and six pence or even ten shillings for one pound of that country. It came to a stage when people came to us demanding only seven shillings and six pence for one pound of that country. But we would not even honour their one pound note for even a penny.

So we have to praise the Nigerian Government for the soundness of our currency. We do hope too that our currency will continue to be even sounder than it has been in the past.

I would like to say a word or two about our industries. We have many factories in Nigeria to-day, but unfortunately, it appears that many of us do not patronise articles produced by these factories. When I was in England, I went to the Nigeria High Commission and the offices of the Agents-General of the Regions. I was not very much impressed by what I saw. The officers, no doubt, were working very hard, but I was not impressed by the way the people were trying to portray Nigeria to the outside world.

I visited some of the houses of the High Commissioners and Agents-General, but I did not find a single article of furniture from Nigeria in any of their houses. That is very demoralising, especially when you realise that if you go to any African or European embassy anywhere in the world, except that of Nigeria, you will see many things from their own countries. We should do the same thing everywhere we have an embassy.

At Government parties and cocktails (and we have a lot of them in Lagos) I am shocked to see that the Government still continues to import Heineken's and Carlsberg beer, when we have breweries at Iganmu and Aba.

I am ashamed too that the Government is still importing khaki and white shirting for certain civil servants, when we have a textile factory in Lagos, a textile factory in the East, and three textile factories in Kaduna (the fourth will even be ready very soon). Why then do we import these things?

I was amused the other day when the Government said that we must patronize the articles manufactured at home in Nigeria. After all, being the Government of the country they should set the example: example is better than precept. It is quite good for the Government to preach that we should patronize our locally manufactured goods, but do they themselves do what they are preaching? We have some industries here manufacturing some cigarettes, but the Government still import cigarettes from the United Kingdom.

The other day at a cocktail party I saw people serving cigarettes, imported cigarettes. If one goes to India one will see what the Indian Government is doing. It clearly shows that we still have a very long way to go. The Indian is ready to use a fourth rate article manufactured in India as against a first rate imported one. The Government of India is prepared to use a fifth rate article manufactured in India instead of importing another. After all, we say that we have an imbalance of trade, while we open our market for everybody to come and dump in things here.

Many of the industries overseas must either export or die. Where do they export their things to? Nigeria is one of the places. I think the Government should do something drastic about it. If the textile mills are not capable of producing sufficient articles, the Government should step in and improve the situation. We have plenty of cotton in the North. We should not allow Japanese and Manchester cotton to come here. Self love should not be self neglect. We must have our own things.

If one goes into any cold store in Lagos one sees imported cold meat all over the place.



[MR OGEDENGBE]

A European friend of mine came to my place some time ago and while we were eating he asked if the meat we served was imported meat. My wife was surprised that he should ask such a question. We asked him if he had ever been to the North, and he said yes. Then we asked whether he did not see enough cattle all over the North, in Kano and Maiduguri, and he said he did but pointed out that the quality of the cattle was poor. They get very lean before they get to Lagos and the other parts of the country, he said. I agreed with him, but told him that I preferred that to any imported meat. I reminded him that in the United Kingdom in a butcher's shop one finds chicken displayed with definite labels "English" The average housewife never buys any other thing when there is any such display. She buys the English one first before any foreign one. They are very proud of what they can produce. I am insisting that the Government should do this type of thing. Imported meat should be barred from this country. We have lots and lots of meat in this country.

Turning to margerine and oil, we have so much oil in this country that if anybody thinks he is so Anglicised or Europeanised or Americanised that he cannot eat our groundnut oil and palm oil, he should be told that the sonner he leaves us the better. The fewer we are the greater the share of honour.

Recently the hon. Minister imposed some duties on some goods. I am a layman and not an economist.

**An hon. Member :** But the hon. Gentleman is a lawyer.

**Mr Ogedengbe :** Yes, I am a lawyer by the Grace of God.

There are certain anomalies in these duties, and I do hope that the Government will rectify them as soon as possible. In textile goods—and I refer to grey baft and bleached shirting—only a week before the last there was no excise duty at all on these goods, but wisely the Government imposed 2*d* duty per square yard. This is reasonable. The Government should bar imported textile goods, but we must not place the Government in a situation where it will not be able to fulfil its financial obligations.

Before the imposition of 2*d* duty per square yard, there was an import duty of one shilling per square yard on imported textile goods—grey baft and bleached shirting. But when the excise duty of 2*d* was imposed two weeks ago, the one shilling per square yard duty on imported shirting was left alone. There should be a corresponding increase of at least 2*d* on the one shilling per square yard. Otherwise, we will be creating a situation where the locally manufactured shirting will be so expensive that in competition, foreign countries will dump their textile goods in Nigeria and the people will be obliged to buy them in preference to our own. I do sincerely hope that the Government will rectify this as soon as possible.

The second anomaly in the duty was in connection with the dyed and printed goods. Before the duty which was imposed about a fortnight ago, there was an import duty of 5*d* per square yard on any dyed and printed textile. On those produced locally there was no excise duty. But a fortnight ago the Government imposed a 6*d* per yard excise duty on the locally manufactured dyed and printed goods, leaving as it is the import duty at 5*d*. There is now a difference of one penny. The Government ought to add at least one penny to the 5*d* to bring it at par, otherwise a situation will be created where imported dyed goods will be cheaper than the locally manufactured ones.

Lastly, I have to mention knitted goods. The Government has imposed a duty of 10*d* on yarn from which fabrics are made and which in turn are manufactured into singlets, and a duty of 3*d* on fabrics, but has not imposed any duty on singlets. The Government has created a situation where the manufacturers would be obliged to pay heavily for the raw materials but, at the same time, would be expected to sell at a lower price. I am pleading that the Government should remove forthwith the 10*d* duty on yarn and 3*d* duty on fabrics.

I would not suggest, however, that the Government should leave this intact and impose a duty of 10*d* on singlets. If I do that I will be failing in my duty. We in Parliament can afford to pay this, even through the nose, but those people we represent outside cannot, and singlets mean a lot to every Nigerian. This is an appeal to the Government, and happily the hon. Ministers are here present. Although the Minister of Finance is not here, but there

is collective responsibility and I do hope that my appeal will not fall into deaf ears.

About wastage in the Ministries : some hon. Ministers may not be wasteful but appear to be wasteful. Before Members go back to their constituencies, they should please go round Lagos and they will see Ministerial cars—Ministry of so, so, Ministry of so, so ! Even tonight, when Members will be going away, they will still find these cars outside here. What are they doing ? Are they working ?

**Chief D. N. Abii** (Owerri East) : Is the hon. Member not happy when he sees them ?

**Mr Ogedengbe** : Eyes are made to see things and one can see beautiful things as well as ugly ones. Now, this is an ugly sight. If Members go to Yaba market, for instance, they will see these cars parked in different places.

**Mr P. E. Ekanem** (Enyong South) : They go to see their girl friends.

**Mr Ogedengbe** : I do not know whether they have girl friends. I do not suppose Ministers have girl friends.

**Mr Ekanem** : They do.

**Mr Ogedengbe** : Do they ? Well, I do not know of that. What I am saying is that if the hon. Ministers have their cars, as they draw mileage and basic allowances (which are fantastic), there is no earthly reason why they should waste public funds by indiscriminately using public transport.

I am not suggesting that Ministers should not use Ministerial cars, if they cannot avoid it, but it is wrong to make it a practice. When Members come here every now and again, they find these people, not only Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries, but even girls. Many girls pass in the cars and run from place to place in Lagos. This is awful, and I do hope that the Ministers will take heed of this because they are setting very bad examples to the community.

**Mr E. C. Akwivu** (Orlu South East) : The Member for Owo North (*Mr Ogedengbe*) would do more than that if he had the chance.

**Mr Ogedengbe** : I would not do it. I challenge my hon. Friend ; if I am made a Minister I cannot do it.

**Shettima Ali Monguno** (Kaga Marghi) : The Member for Owo North (*Mr Ogedengbe*) is allowing his lovely speech to degenerate by directly talking to a Member on the Floor instead of addressing the Chair.

**Mr Ogedengbe** : Thank you, my hon. Friend. I will now speak to the Chair. Now, I will advise Ministers to please set a very good example. The Member for Gwarzo East (*Alhaji Bello Dandago*) made mention of a disgraceful incident in the North recently where somebody lodged in an accommodation without telephone, but a telephone was installed in the place within 16 hours.

**Chief Abii** : What is wrong with that ?

**Mr Ogedengbe** : There is something wrong in that. He was not representing the Government ; he was not there on official duty. Something is wrong there. He was attended to as a citizen of this country. I hope we are not creating a country where might is right.

**Mr Akwivu** : He was a member of N.N.D.P.

**Mr Ogedengbe** : No member of the N.N.D.P. would be so unreasonable. He is a member of the N.C.N.C.

Now, a word about the Ministry of Transport. I have my greatest respect for the hon. Minister of Transport, but it appears that either he had allowed very irresponsible things to be done under him or—

**The Minister of Economic Development** (*Alhaji Waziri Ibrahim*) : I think I should just correct an impression regarding the use of officials cars by Ministers as has been pointed out by the Member for Owo North (*Mr Ogedengbe*). It is really not true that Ministers misuse the cars. These Ministry cars are also used by officials, and I very much doubt if Ministers really do go to these market places or some of the places which the hon. Member has mentioned.

One thing about Ministers is this. We are entitled to use official transport at all times on duty, except for purely private or party business, and the condition is that we either use our own cars and claim allowances or we use the cars provided to the Ministries and do not claim allowances.

[ALHAJI IBRAHIM]

So, when Members see Ministers using cars for official purposes, they are really entitled to them, but I think we should not be singled out particularly for criticisms because, honestly speaking, if Members go into a close examination of the situation, they will see that it is not Ministers who use these cars in the places which they are said to be seen. Officials do use the cars.

**Mr Speaker :** Order. At least, these are minor details which, perhaps, we must leave till the Committee Stage. I think we should discuss general policy.

**Mr E. J. Ogunkanmi** (Oshun South East) : On a point of order, nobody will justify what the Minister has just said.

**Mr Ogedengbe :** For the development, whatever policy we may adopt in this country, transportation is very important, whether it is transportation of human beings or transportation of goods.

The Nigerian Railway Corporation is bound to play a very important part in the industrial development of our country. Unfortunately, as it is to-day the Nigerian Railway Corporation is a very wasteful Corporation. For example, last year when I went to Enugu I saw a very expensive rest house there built for members of the Board of the Railway Corporation. The rest house is air-conditioned, but the charge is only 12s per night. Is that not very wasteful? This is very wasteful because when these members of the Board go to Enugu to hold meetings, they stay in this luxurious accommodation as the Railway rest house at Enugu, but they pay very negligible amounts for it.

It is the same thing in Zaria. In Zaria there is another very flamboyantly furnished rest house for the Nigerian Railway Corporation.

I happen to know a bit about the working of that Corporation. The position is that any Member of Parliament should not hold an office of emolument in the State. The Chairman of the Nigerian Railway Corporation, apart from earning the salary of the Chairman of the Corporation, is also a medical consultant to the Railway Corporation on a salary of £1,500.

**Mr Akwivu :** This shows that the hon. Gentleman does not attend the meetings of the

House. The Minister of Transport explained this very issue last week. That is how these people go about with their tribalism forgetting that the Chief Justice of the Federal Supreme Court who is a Yoruba man does not allow any non-Yoruba to be appointed as a judge in the Federal Supreme Court.

**Chief O. B. Akin-Olugbade** (Egba South) : On a point of order, the Chief Justice of the Federation has no power to appoint judges of the Supreme Court.

**Mr Speaker :** We cannot discuss the conduct of the Chief Justice here.

**Mr Ogedengbe :** Thank you Mr Speaker. I am speaking about the fiscal policy of the Government and how the Chairman of the Railway Corporation is wasting public funds. The Railway Corporation has no hospital yet. It is just in the process of erecting a hospital, but last year, the Corporation employed three doctors on a special salary scale of over £2,000.

**An hon. Member :** What are their places of origin?

**Mr Ogedengbe :** Of course, they are all from the Eastern Region. I do not mind where they come from, they must have been employed because of their qualification. I do not quarrel about that, but my quarrel is how the Corporation could employ three doctors when it has no hospital.

**The Minister of Transport** (Mr R. A. Njoku) : On a point of order, I think I am bound to tell the hon. Member speaking that the Railway Corporation has had a dispensary—a very large dispensary as such for many years, and a few years ago, the Principal Medical Officer there had four doctors under him. The Principal Medical Officer then was Dr Sodeinde; so that it is not true to say that the Railway Corporation had no dispensary or hospital last year.

I also said some time ago that the Chairman of the Railway Corporation is giving free services as a specialist pathologist. He is one of the best qualified Nigerian pathologists. He is doing that job free, in other words, he is saving the Railway Corporation the sum of £1,500.

**Mr Ogedengbe :** I am not making any mistake and I am not suggesting that the hon.

Minister of Transport is misleading the House, but what I am saying is this—

**Dr P. U. Okeke** (Onitsha North Central) : On a point of order, the Member for Owo North (*Mr Ogedengbe*) is a lecturer in the Law School. If he feels that he could spread tribalism in this way, what would be the fate of those boys in the Law School? It is a pity that a man like that who is a lecturer will go over to the Law School to spread tribalism to young boys. The hon. Member is not doing this country any good.

**The Deputy Speaker** : That is more of a pointed remark.

**Mr Ogedengbe** : I hope hon. Members will realise that I am not here to-day as a lecturer, but as a Member of Parliament and I am representing a constituency in the country. As Edmund Buck rightly said in those days in the British Parliament—

*"I am in Parliament really not representing my constituency, but I represent the whole country"*.

**An hon. Member** : But you are tribalistic in your speech?

**Mr Ogedengbe** : I am not speaking about tribalism. I merely referred to the wastage at the Railway Corporation. I have not referred to any particular tribe or person. All I said, was that the Corporation employed three doctors and that I know that those doctors are Nigerians. I do not want to know the part of Nigeria they come from so far as they are Nigerians.

But my point is that these doctors were employed without a hospital. The Railway Corporation is still erecting a hospital now and yet it has employed these doctors on a salary of over £2,500 each. I stand to be corrected or challenged. In any case, I hope that the Cabinet would take more interest in the activities of every Minister and every Corporation under a particular Minister.

As Nigerians and as human beings, some of us are black-sheeps. If a black-sheep is made a Chairman of a Corporation or a head of any organisation, he will behave to type irrespective of his place of origin.

Not everything in Nigeria is good. Therefore, the Cabinet ought to watch more closely the activities of those chairmen of corporations in the Federation.

Coming to the question of civil servants, I would say that without the co-operation of the civil servants every plan is doomed to fail. Happily in this country, we have always had the co-operation of our civil servants. I praise them for the onerous duties they are discharging to this country. But there is a colonial anomaly in the civil service set-up which I am pleading that the Government should rectify. A civil servant on a salary of say £2,500 is given an accommodation where he pays only £150 per annum—

**Dr Okeke** : On a point of information, there are some doctors in the Teaching Hospital who are making from £7,000 to £8,000 plus allowances a year. The Minister is here to confirm that. I do not know what the Member for Owo North (*Mr Ogedengbe*) is talking about.

**The Minister of Health** (Chief M. A. Majekodunmi) : On a point of order, I do not see the relevancy of the hon. Gentleman's talk.

**The Deputy Speaker** : Quite frankly, if we pursue the rules of relevancy very strictly, I am sure, quite a few of us will be speaking with our eyes shut.

**Mr Ogedengbe** : When native doctors come to Parliament and try to talk as native doctors—as the Member for Onitsha North Central (*Dr Okeke*) is doing we can understand.

**Dr Okeke** : On a point of order, I do not think that it is parliamentary for an *Apongbon* lawyer to come here and insult full-fledged doctors.

**The Deputy Speaker** : Now that we have had a good round, I am sure we shall now listen very intelligently to what is being said.

**Mr Ogedengbe** : Whilst still on civil servants, I said that certain civil servants on salaries of over £2,500 live in Government quarters and pay rents at the rate of £150 per annum.

**The Deputy Speaker** : Will the Member for Owo North (*Mr Ogedengbe*) please wind up in half a minute.

**Mr Ogedengbe :** An executive officer, say on a salary of £720 per annum—

**The Deputy Speaker :** The hon. Member will now resume his seat. He has exhausted his time.

**Mr J. A. Yacim** (Igala North West) : I rise to support the Appropriation Bill. In doing so, I would like to make some observations.

I would first of all thank the Prime Minister and his Ministers for their effort and patience in making Nigeria a Republic. At the same time, I have to thank the President of the Republic for his Presidential Speech.

I would like to appeal to Cabinet Ministers to listen carefully to my comments. The electorate that we are representing in this House will be pleased to read the biography of every Minister stating clearly that Minister's conduct when he was holding a ministerial post.

**Mr P. E. Ekanem** (Enyong South) : On a point of order, I think the Member for Igala North West (*Mr Yacim*) should direct his request to the Ministers of Establishment and Information.

**Mr Yacim :** As I was saying, many allegations have been levelled against some Ministers that they are tribalistic and this and that. If a biography has been written on a Minister, everybody will be able to establish whether or not that Minister is guilty of the accusation. I think when people read the *Hansard* and newspapers and see the various accusations levelled against Ministers, to be sincere, this will not speak well of us. It will also spoil the good work of some faithful Ministers.

**An hon. Member :** Is the hon. Member speaking English ?

**Mr Yacim :** No, I am speaking Agbor.

**Mr Ekanem :** I understand you, go on.

**Mr Yacim :** I want to say that some Ministers are irresponsible—

**Mr O. C. Ememe** (Aba South) : On a point of order, I do not know whether the Member for Igala North West (*Mr Yacim*) is speaking in military terms because we do not seem to understand some of the terms,

**Mr Yacim :** Some Members are all out to bring about confusion in this country and this will not be good for the unity of the country. We as representatives of our people should bring to the attention of the Government the problems confronting them instead of talking in a way that will bring about disunity.

If we are to have unity in this country, we should not engage in making irresponsible statements. Some irresponsible statements have been made in the newspapers against eminent leaders of a certain political party in this country. It would have been better if these statements were made by a back-bencher and not a Minister. Although we have democracy in this country, yet we should not be sending direct attack—

**Chief D. N. Abii** (Owerri East) : On a point of order, Mr Deputy Speaker, will you kindly protect us from the irrelevancy of the hon. Member speaking. We have come to listen to the fiscal policy of the Government and the Member speaking is talking whatever he likes. He is irrelevant please.

**The Deputy Speaker :** Order. Quite frankly, what I had thought was that the Member for Igala North West (*Mr Yacim*) was trying to establish a thesis that economic programme could hardly go on without unity. But I suppose we do accommodate freedom of expression.

**Mr Yacim :** Thank you. Truth is always very bitter. We must keep our home in order before we tell an outsider to unite. Where I was born, I was taught to respect people.

**An hon. Member :** Where ?

**Mr Yacim :** I was born at Nkalagu.

**Minister of State** (Alhaji Hashimu Adaji) : It is not true that the Member speaking is from Nkalagu. He is from Igala and Igala people are noted for respect and obedience.

**The Deputy Speaker :** Order. I have said that we guarantee freedom of expression here, but quite frankly, I think we have started delving into tribal politics and tribal freedom ; it might end up in a revolt.

**Mr Yacim :** I accept the Deputy Speaker's ruling. I would only add that an irresponsible statement or release made by a Minister is a

serious matter. The Prime Minister should take this matter up at the Cabinet Meeting ; such a Minister should be dismissed from the Cabinet.

Turning to the question of security I am appealing to the Ministers concerned, especially the Minister of Defence, to ensure that the people who are to be entrusted with the security of this country are carefully selected. The people so appointed, if even they are labourers, should be people of intelligence and high integrity.

They should not be money mongers, people who can be got round with two shillings, to make them reveal official secrets. All I am saying is that people who are flippant or have loose tongues should not be appointed to look after our security, lest the whole nation will be insecure.

I now come to the matter of providing good roads. Some time ago when I raised this matter the Minister of Works and Surveys promised that work for the construction of good roads would start as soon as possible.

I am only raising this point again in order to remind the Minister that he should not go back on his words. Work should be started immediately, particularly on the road from my constituency to the Eastern Region. This road needs tarring.

I want to inform the Minister that there are two bridges in my area which have been flooded since August of last year. These bridges need urgent repairs and something should be done about them soon.

The other point is that of orphans. I have raised this matter before and it is one in which I have a particular interest. These children need care and comfort for they have no one to look after them. They have either lost their mothers or their fathers or have been abandoned somewhere by their parents. In the East, the West and the North these orphans—children without homes and parents—abound and if the Government is to render any assistance at all I think these unfortunate children deserve assistance most.

Orphanages should be built to care for these children and efforts should be made by the

Government to trace the parents of some of these children so that they can be sent back home to their parents. Alternatively if the parents cannot be traced someone may be persuaded to adopt any of the children as a foster-father or foster-mother.

My next point is on the medical institutions in this country. We have hospitals and dispensaries ; we also have doctors, nurses, midwives and dispensers. Every year the Government votes money for the running of these hospitals and dispensaries but whenever a patient goes there for treatment he is told that there is no drug available. In almost twenty dispensaries that we have in my own division—

**The Deputy Speaker :** Hospitals in your division are outside the competence of the Federal Government.

**Chief Majekodunmi :** I should be very glad to take over the hospitals in the division of the Member for Igala North West (*Mr Yacim*).

**Mr Yacim :** I am not referring to the hospitals belonging to the Regional Governments, I am talking about the Federal hospitals, particularly those in Lagos. All I am saying is that when money is voted for the running and maintenance of the hospitals it should be properly used to purchase large quantities of drugs and other things required for the efficient running of the hospitals and dispensaries.

Another point which I would like to comment upon is the Six-Year Development Plan of the Federal Government. When this Plan was introduced two years ago, copies of it were distributed to hon. Members and we took the trouble to explain to our constituents all the amenities and the projects which the Federal Government intended to undertake. We all know that this Plan is for six years, but whether it is a Two-Day Plan or a Twenty-Year Plan, I am appealing to the Federal Government to see that every division in the country benefits from it.

There are many divisions in Nigeria without electricity, pipe-borne water and industries.

Up to date, no industry has been sited in Igala Division by the Federal Government. This is a very serious matter and I am appealing to the Federal Government to do something about it. No Federal Government-sponsored

[MR YACIM]

project has been sited in the whole of Kabba Province and Igala Division in particular. I quite appreciate that all the Governments of the Federal Republic are working as a team and we have always been speaking of a united Nigeria in this honourable House, but I would like to stress that the Federal Government should not concentrate the siting of industries in the important towns like Lagos, Kaduna, Onitsha, Port Harcourt and Ibadan alone. Without the rural areas we cannot have the big towns, and I appeal to the Federal Government to see that every division in the Federal Republic gains something from the Six-Year Development Plan.

I will now speak on the development of agriculture in this country. It seems to me that Nigeria is becoming an "egg nation". Whenever we hear that an agricultural station is opened in this country, all we find the station producing always are eggs, eggs, eggs. The average Nigerian does not need more than two eggs a day. Why do our agricultural stations keep on producing eggs every time? We have our own staple foods like gari, rice, yams, beans, and cassava which have not been developed. Our agricultural officers should concentrate their research on these Nigerian foods. All the things that I have just enumerated have a lot of food value and the Federal Government will do well to direct our research stations to really work hard on them.

Apart from research into our foodstuffs, the Government should think seriously of training our young school leavers as farmers. The Federal Government should think of what is going to happen in this country in another ten to twenty years. The children of this country should not be taught book work alone; they should be allowed to till the land. The Government should establish farm settlements and teach the young people of this country how to cultivate the land. Since this Session of Parliament started, Members from all sides of this House have been speaking about the evils of unemployment. I am sure that if the Federal Government can establish these farm settlements, they will go a long way to solve our unemployment problem. Not all our children are going to be parliamentarians; they are not all going to be teachers; they are not all going to be traders; there are some of them

who will be very good in agriculture, and the Federal Government will be making a very big mistake if they allow these children to be wasting their time looking for white collar jobs in the big cities and towns of this country.

How are we going to feed the nation? The only way by which we can feed the people of this country is by establishing farm settlements in each province of this country. I am sure that if the Government can do this, a lot of our school leavers will be absorbed by these settlements. If we do not plan ahead, I am afraid we will be looking for trouble in this country. It is the lack of something to do that leads some people into becoming habitual criminals. It is unemployment that makes some people to disobey their elders. It is the lack of something to do that makes some young men roam about the streets, living only on fruits like mango that they pick as they go about.

We all know that the Federal Government is doing its best for the people of this country. We have listened to Ministers giving us accounts of their stewardship. But I want to warn that amenities should be evenly distributed. At the moment, there are four Regions in the country: the West, the East, the Mid-West—

**Mr F. C. Ogbalu** (Awka North): The Middle-Belt State.

**Mr Yacim**: There will be no Middle-Belt State.

As I was saying, we should provide for the future of this country. The Government has done a lot, but they should do more. We should plan for the future of our children. It will be very serious if we just allow this type of people to make all these things impossible for us to achieve.

**The Deputy Speaker**: The Member for Igala North West has one minute in which to wind up.

**Mr S. D. Lar** (Lowland East): On a point of order, may I humbly request for an extension of time for the Member for Igala North West?

**Mr Yacim**: The final point that I wish to make, though time is against me, is about our children who are suffering now. They are either dismissed from their schools for certain

reasons or are left without any school at all because certain schools have been closed down. In most cases students are dismissed as a result of their taking part in some demonstrations. But the fact is that when students resort to demonstrations it always happens that one of their teachers has incited them to do so. So, I am appealing to the Government that whenever a matter such as this does occur in future, a proper investigation should be conducted before dismissing these students from their colleges. They should be given sufficient protection.

**The Deputy Speaker :** Dr Okeke.

**Dr P. U. Okeke** (Onitsha North Central) : I am just wondering whether I have actually caught the eye of the Deputy Speaker.

**The Deputy Speaker :** If the Member for Onitsha North Central (*Dr Okeke*) is in doubt of his identity, I think he might as well sit down.

**Dr Okeke :** I have no doubt about my identity, so I will use the opportunity given me, no matter how late it is this night.

I would begin by paying tribute to the Minister of Finance. I join others to pay a glowing tribute to the Minister of Finance who has done his work very well. After reading the speech, I really felt that I have sat at the foot of a learned professor for three hours of inspiring lecture, and this confirms my suggestion that the Minister of Finance has earned for himself a good D.S.C. degree in Economics with a major in Finance and Banking and a minor in Smuggling and Taxation ! He did all these by dint of hard work and private tuition without having to go to England where degrees are obtained very cheaply.

Seriously speaking, this country has been very well blessed to have a person like Chief Okotie-Eboh as our Minister of Finance in these formative years. His presence in this Parliament is a symbol of stability. He indeed inspired confidence in investors in and outside this country. He has given our economy a good start, and that will attest to his ability as a good businessman who has become the Minister of Finance of this Government. He brought in his business acumen to bear on the job of Finance Minister of this great Republic.

I follow very closely the history of the Budget Speeches which the Minister of Finance has made on five occasions. With your permission, Mr Deputy Speaker, I would quote from page 1 of his speech :—

*"It was therefore only reasonable that Budget which would represent the common yearnings and aspiration of the people must necessarily be the "People's Budget"."*

It is now five years since the Minister of Finance gave us the "People's Budget". This one he has called the "National Budget". We must take stock of our investment in freedom to see how much prosperity we have brought to our people since independence. We must find out how much of the promises we have made are being fulfilled and how much unfinished business we still have in our hands. I fully agree with the Minister of Finance when he said in his Budget speech, and, with your permission, I would quote from page 2 :—

*"If the government is happy, we prosper ; if it suffers financial or economic harm, its misfortune will definitely react on all of us. By the same token, if the citizens of a nation enjoy honest opulence, the State prospers, but should the citizens be overwhelmed with poverty, the condition of the State will be worthy of pity. It is the full realisation of this fact that will help to engender in us a true sense of national pride—pride in everything Nigerian."*

The question about prosperity which will bring happiness to people is the question that comes uppermost in my mind. Are our people happy to-day in this country? One answer is that the majority of our people are not happy. The majority of our people who live in the rural areas are not happy. The people of the rural areas who produce 65 per cent of our wealth in this country are not happy. They have not shared adequately in the fruits of their labour because we treat them as people who live in the bush. But 90 per cent of all of us here come from the same place (the bush), and yet these our people who live in the rural areas and produce 65 per cent of the nation's wealth are not made happy. Those of us in Lagos, Kaduna, Enugu, and Ibadan have shared the wealth among ourselves. These things are the disturbing factors in our economic policy, and I shall touch upon the reasons



[DR OKEKE]

in my contributions during this debate on the Budget.

The first reason is the excessive acquisition of property by civil servants and people in high positions in all the Governments of this Federation. The second reason is the neglect of the people in the rural areas who produce 65 per cent of the wealth of this country. The third is the rising unemployment in this country to-day which is quite unprecedented.

I want this Government to be very serious in discharging its duties to the nation. I submit that the Government should impose a limit to the amount of property which can be acquired by a civil servant or any Minister at any given time during which these people hold positions in the Government. The rate at which people in high positions acquire properties as soon as they assume office is very alarming. The way they display these is equally disturbing to the common man in the country. Justice must not only be done, it must appear to be done; it must seem to be done.

When people take positions in the Government and, by virtue of their positions, ride on top of the people, there must be something wrong. This is very disturbing.

**Mr S. D. Lar** (Lowland East) : I think if the Member for Onitsha North Central (*Dr Okeke*) is allowed to make these wild allegations unchecked, he will give very wrong impressions. In any case, some of these Ministers were very wealthy before they came into politics. We must not give the impression that our Ministers are acquiring unnecessary wealth. This is a wild allegation.

**The Deputy Speaker** : This is a honourable House and Members are well guarded with privileges, but Members must please make sure that what they say are said with a deep sense of responsibility.

**Dr Okeke** : Thank you for your ruling. I am saying this with all sense of responsibility, and I shall stand by all I say even outside this House where I am not protected by parliamentary immunity.

We are coming to a stage where this country is divided into two classes, but these classes are not determined by the industry of the people in

them. We have the have-nots and the haves. The best government is that which caters for the greatest good of the greatest number; otherwise why is government established among men? The weak must be protected. If the government protects only the strong, they will always ride the weak. If the law of the jungle operates, on the other hand, the strong will always be on top.

Does it not seem that our governments throughout the Federation protect not the weak, not the masses, but the strong public servants and men in high places on top of the ladder?

**Chief Okotie-Eboh** : Which ladder?

**Dr Okeke** : Economic ladder. Instead of protecting the masses and bringing the prosperity which the Minister talks about and which will bring happiness to the nation, the Government protect those who are already very strong. These are the legacies which this Government has left Nigeria after five years of independence. This is a sad legacy.

What has the Government done for the people outside Lagos; those people who produce 65 per cent of the wealth of this country? A time of reckoning is fast approaching. Our youths are restive, and we have to convince them that we are doing something for them. We the leaders of this country have to tell the people that we are catering for their interest after five years of independence, and we must have to convince them that under our own rule, they have been better cared for than when the British ruled.

The people see more cars, but who rides them? They see more houses, but who live in them? They send their children to school, but after leaving school what do they experience?

**Several Members** : They get jobs.

**Dr Okeke** : The other day, I was going through a market and a group of mothers confronted me—

**Chief Okotie-Eboh** : If the Member for Onitsha North Central (*Dr Okeke*) would listen, I would give him an Itshekiri parable. It says that a man who abuses all the women in his village does not exempt his mother.

**Dr Okeke** : I say that the parable is well taken. If I can interpret it, it means that all of us here are equally guilty.

**Several hon. Members :** Guilty of what?

**Dr Okeke :** Guilty of what I have been saying.

**The Deputy Speaker :** I did not want to make any comments, but for the purpose of avoiding any misinterpretation, I think I must. It would appear that the parable was intended to express the fact that the hon. Member must make it clear whether or not he is not an example of what he is saying.

**Dr Okeke :** We have established free primary education in this country. One of the women I met in the market who was selling oranges asked me what the government has done since the British left this country. I did not know what to tell her. After their children passed their standard six examinations, they expect the children to get jobs, but they get none at all. We have given these children very inadequate education, and we tell them that they are not qualified and cannot therefore be employed. In the past, with this type of qualification, children got jobs. That was the time the system of our education was fashioned by the British. Now, our standard six does not fetch any job for anybody.

I very much wonder what we are going to do for these children who leave school and expect us to give them jobs.

Now we are here, but we do not know what they are going to do. Under the British system many did not go to school, they remained on the farm and were helping their parents. Now we have taken them from their parents, we have given them education but they have no job. Now we are asking them to go back to the farm.

On page 21 of his Budget Speech the Minister of Finance says that they should go back to the farm. With your permission I will quote the portion which is as follows :—

*For Nigeria, and indeed for other primary producing countries, this problem is a very serious one because agriculture, which is the mainstay of our economy, does not lend itself to automation. Our products must largely continue to be grown and harvested by laborious manual methods, and the products sold at world market prices which make it difficult to effect material*

*improvements in the standard of life of our farmers. Yet these products are vital to the welfare of the industrial countries.*

If these products are very vital and these farmers who work out these products are there using primitive methods. What have we done to improve their lots? We say they should go back to the farm.

Yes, they can go back to the farm but where is the water for them to drink on the farm? Where is the road through which they can pass to go to the farm? Is there any enjoyment for them in the farm? Can anybody tell me that we here have any other reason to enjoy clean water, lights and ride in fine cars than those people who make the wealth for this nation? If we really want to invest in the happiness of the people of this country as the Minister of Finance is happy now, if we want to invest in our people's happiness, if we want them to share in the fruits of independence and if we want to give them an inkling of light in a big area of darkness that we are fighting to eradicate we will put in our economic programme, water for every village in this Federation. We must make water borehole for every village.

**The Deputy Speaker :** Order, order! I thought that the Member for Onitsha North Central (*Dr Okeke*) was trying to argue strictly within the scope of the Constitutional competence of the Federal House, except providing water for villages is a matter much more relevant to the Regional Governments.

**Dr Okeke :** As many of our youths are leaving schools without job, to avoid a disturbing factor in the next two or three years, why should we not establish a civilian conservation Corps? Let us establish some kind of industries where these youths that have not been privileged enough to get employment, who have not got the physical ability to work can get something to do. Why then do we not get a programme where we can absorb them temporarily? This is a transitional period, a period in which those who are leaving standard six and some secondary schools have not the technical ability to go into useful employment. This is a transitional period and we must get something for our people to do, people who will worry this Government in the next few years because they have no job. A hungry man is a very angry man.

[DR OKEKE]

While we do all these things I have mentioned we should readjust our educational system and bring our education in line with the job we have in this country in this twentieth century.

Now let me touch upon loans. We have been financing much of our projects on loans ; with the money borrowed from America and England and from other countries that can afford to give us loans.

**Chief F. S. Okotie-Eboh :** On a point of order, I am only asking the Member for Onitsha North Central (*Dr Okeke*) to define the type of loan he is talking about ; whether it is long-term, short-term, hard or soft loan.

**Dr Okeke :** I mean loans without strings. I am not a D.Sc. Economics like the Minister of Finance who is a D.Sc. Sapele.

We want loans but these loans should serve a purpose and the purpose should be trade. We do not want any aid from anybody if the purpose is not trade. The international world trade must be shared adequately by Nigerians, but it seems to me that we get these loans as palliative. They give us more loans and more loans will attract more loans. It moves on like a snow-ball, until we depend too much on loans. We must fight to get a share in the world trade because those people who are giving us loans charge interest on them, and if we favour these loans and get these loans to balance our payments then, we will forever depend on these loans.

It seems that these loans are becoming a permanent feature in our economy. We must try to break the circle—the vicious circles. I will tell you how, as I proceed.

On page 2 of his Budget Speech the Minister has been telling us to boycott the boycottables. He has been saying that we should buy the Nigerian locally made goods. I want to warn this country of home-made economic imperialism. Why did the British Government come to colonize Nigeria in the first place ? They maintained order in this country for economic purpose and to-day we have taken the Government from the British people and we are maintaining order but we have missed the economic concomitant.

**The Deputy Speaker :** The Member for Onitsha North Central (*Dr Okeke*) should wind up now.

**Dr Okeke :** I have only one minute more and I will now wind up.

The essence of industry is distribution.

In this one minute left for me, I will have to pay tribute to the cement that binds this nation, the Prime Minister. This man is the wax that has held this country together. I will also pay tribute to the father of this nation, the President of the Republic. May their wise counsel prevail and may God give this country a new lease of life and give wisdom to our leaders to see the right and do that right in the interest and for the well-being of the masses of this Republic.

Thank you, Mr Speaker.

**Mr E. J. Ogunkanmi** (Oshun South East) : I rise to support the Bill presented by the Minister of Finance. In doing so, I have some contributions to make.

The Government forgets to make provisions for the poor farmers who have nowhere to go to except to stand at the mercy of this Government. There are no provisions for them to raise loans in order to improve their farm products. They live on poor food. And this Government has not thought it fit to come to their help. The Government Members go to the farmers only twice in a given period : when they want to beg for their votes and when they meet them in the bush to collect taxes from them.

**Chief F. S. Okotie-Eboh :** I rise on a point of order. I am making this point of order on behalf of our people at home. We do not want people to insult them here and say that our people at home : our brothers and sisters, fathers and mothers, eat poor food. How can they eat poor food and produce such an opulent man ?

**Mr Ogunkanmi :** There must be provisions made for these farmers in order that they may live and enjoy life just as the Minister of Finance does.

The Minister of Works made some promises in this House that our roads would be widened ; the bridges would be rebuilt. The roads are still over-shadowed with trees. These trees

continue to contribute to half of the dangers on the roads.

The Minister of Works made this promise since 1960. But this is 1964 and nothing has been done yet. I wonder whether this will be in hand for ever.

The Minister of Mines and Power has not thought it fit to extend electricity to many parts of Nigeria. I must mention my constituency first of all. Places like Ikire, Ode-Omu, Gbongan and Apomu need electricity. Many people want to set up industries in these places but cannot do so as there is no supply of electricity. The Minister every year makes promises of supplying electricity to many places. But year in and year out nothing will be done. He should look into this.

The problem of mass unemployment must be looked into also. The school leavers look for jobs almost throughout the year. We have five universities in Nigeria at the moment and I think that danger is ahead. If the Government tells the secondary school and the Modern school leavers that they have no jobs for them I wonder what they will tell the graduates that the five universities will be producing. So, something must be done to solve the problem of mass unemployment in this country.

The Government must not forget to industrialise this country. More money should be provided for building of factories and things like that. These will offer jobs to the school leavers and the graduates.

I must make mention of what I call the undue punishment meted to some people in some areas of Nigeria. I have in mind particularly the Tiv Division. I am afraid the leader of the U.M.B.C. is not here. There is always trouble in the area where the U.M.B.C. has a foothold. The poor people in that area are being heavily taxed; many of them are being jailed by the leaders there. I think that the Government must do something to check the excesses of these leaders. We cannot fold our arms while we see these people being jailed and sometimes killed ruthlessly.

**Chief Okotie-Eboh :** Tell the Member for Jemgba (*Mr Tarka*).

**Mr Ogunkanmi :** I am sorry the Member is not here now. I beg to support.

**Mr P. O. Eleke (Okigwi South East) :** I rise to support the Appropriation Bill.

I congratulate the Federal Government and the Minister of Finance in particular on his frank and honest budget speech. The speech reflects our new national status of a Republic and gives full expression to our national unity. The speech also gives the true picture of the financial problems that are now facing this nation.

The emphasis laid by the budget speech on the need to reduce costs in Government offices receives our hearty support. It is gratifying to hear that, in view of the public scandal that has already been created in government offices in the name of public services in Nigeria. We hope that the Federal Government will see to it that all the waste pipes in government offices are properly sealed up in accordance with the austerity measures which this country has adopted.

It is a matter for regret that our balance of payments is still a thorn in the flesh as it was last year. In order to arrest this ugly situation, we need to redouble our efforts by curtailing our imports to the barest minimum. We should not spend on unnecessary imported luxuries which fling our money overseas.

Secondly, we should industrialise this country. This will not only give us the opportunity to improve our balance of trade position but it will also provide employment to our people whose man-power is being wasted on account of lack of employment. Indeed, the greatest problem that faces this country to-day is unemployment. The sooner this problem is solved the better it will be for Nigeria.

Thirdly, we must reinforce our fight against smugglers who endeavour to evade the payment of the prescribed customs and excise duties. New preventive service stations should be opened at strategic points along our borders.

While still on this point, I have to pay tribute to the Nigerian Navy and the Nigeria Police for the good fight they have put up against smugglers. They have made imports and export seizures from the smugglers. I have always suggested that contraband goods seized from the smugglers should be sold and the proceeds paid into the coffers of the Government rather than destroying those goods.

[MR ELEKE]

I disagree with that section of the Budget Speech which said that it would disturb the economy of the country if increase in wages is given to workers now. I think workers deserve increase in wages if they work harder. "Equal work for equal pay" is an old adage. If no wages are to be given to workers now, rent control and price control should be taken up by the Federal Government at once; otherwise the workers will be discouraged and inefficiency will prevail. There is, however, need for harder work by our civil servants. The old colonial idea of regarding civil service as no man's business should now give way to more intelligent and greater responsibility on the part of Nigerian workers. Nigeria now is a Republic and we must think and work as free men and not as hirelings.

Our mineral resources need to be tapped to the full. All over the country there are scattered about mineral deposits waiting to be tapped. We want the Government to encourage prospectors to come into the country and tap these mineral deposits.

It has been said that Nigeria is going to mint her own money, and that Nigeria is going to join other countries in changing over to the decimal system of money. May I humbly ask why this is necessary? Our coins are new, and our currencies have just been printed. Why do we want to print them all over again? Is this for fun or for prestige?

The Minister of Finance frankly told us that the continued fall in the prices of our agricultural products in the world market is indeed alarming. The price position of our commodities has been on the downward trend for some years now, and this has been a subject for serious comment by the members of the Nigerian public.

**The Deputy Speaker :** Order! May I say that if we can see the eyes of the Member speaking more frequently it will be easier for us to know whether he is reading or referring to his notes.

**Mr Eleke :** Thank you Mr Deputy Speaker I was saying that our cash crops are the main

sources of our income, and when the prices are as low as they are now, then our very existence is threatened. However, we thank the Federal Government for the persistent efforts and appeals they have made to those who dictate the prices of our products overseas, and we humbly ask the Federal Government to try yet harder. This state of affairs affects our individual as well as our national economy and it is surprising that those who buy our products dictate the prices. I think after we have attained Republican status we should be dictating the prices of our products.

Many of us have been advocating for the take over by the Federal Government of some of our important Regional roads and argued that the Regional Governments have not enough money to maintain these roads. In this respect, I have in mind two important roads in the Eastern Region, and they are the Okigwi-Ezinachi-Etiti-Ahiara road and the Umugeala-Owerri-Ekwerazu-Ahiara-Aba road. They are very important roads in the Eastern Region.

Finally, Sir, I have to remind the Minister of Mines and Power of his promise to supply Okigwi with electricity and to say that that promise has not been fulfilled up till to-day. I also have to remind the Minister of Communications of the several appeal I have made to him so that he will supply Mbano and Etiti County Councils headquarters with telephone facilities. They are prepared to share the cost on a 50-50 basis.

Sir, I beg to support.

**The Deputy Speaker :** Order, order. It is now twelve mid-night.

**Shettima Ali Monguno (Kaga Marghi) :** On a point of correction, Sir, the other clock is five minutes fast and—

**The Deputy Speaker :** Order. The Chair decides which clock is right.

It is now twelve mid-night and pursuant to the Resolution of the House this day, sitting is adjourned till ten o'clock tomorrow morning.

*Adjourned accordingly at 12 mid-night.*

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

Tuesday, 24th March, 1964

The House met at 10 a.m.

PRAYERS

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

MINES AND POWER

Power for Ikire and Apomu

**O.180. Mr E. J. Ogunkanmi** asked the Minister of Mines and Power, when he proposes to give electricity supply to Ikire and Apomu in order to develop the town for commercial purposes.

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Mines and Power** (Alhaji Ahmadu Fatika) : These towns are not included in the list submitted recently to the Electricity Corporation of Nigeria by the Western Nigeria Government for possible inclusion in the New Towns Development Scheme, Phase II, and the hon. Minister is, therefore, not in a position to say when they will be supplied with electricity.

**Mr Ogunkanmi** : Why were these towns not included in the list submitted to the Electricity Corporation of Nigeria? They should have been submitted long before now, and it is improper that the Minister is not aware of this.

**Alhaji Ahmadu Fatika** : It is the Western Nigeria Government which should do the submitting, not the Federal Government.

Oshun Mineral Resources

**O.181. Mr E. J. Ogunkanmi** asked the Minister of Mines and Power, if he will send Geological Surveyors to Gbongan, Ode-Omu, Tonkere and Ago-Owu in order to locate the mineral resources of these fast growing towns.

**Alhaji Ahmadu Fatika** : The localities mentioned by the hon. Member have recently been geologically surveyed and the results of the survey will be published shortly.

A preliminary aeromagnetic survey of the country was undertaken in 1962, through Canadian Technical Assistance. This survey indicated that several areas merited more

detailed investigation. Tonkere is included in one of these areas and more work is being undertaken there.

Gbongan Power Supply

**O.182. Mr E. J. Ogunkanmi** asked the Minister of Mines and Power, when he proposes to switch on the electricity supply in Gbongan; and when he will supply Ode-Omu with electricity.

**Alhaji Ahmadu Fatika** : The hon. Minister has been informed that Gbongan town is to be supplied from the Erinle Transmission Line transformer and that there has been an unfortunate delay in receiving certain essential spare parts. The Electricity Corporation of Nigeria have informed the Minister that these parts are now expected in two months' time and that Gbongan should be supplied with electricity four months from now.

Ode-Omu is not included in the list of towns submitted to the Corporation by the Western Nigeria Government for possible inclusion in the New Towns Development Scheme, Phase II. The hon. Minister is, therefore, not in a position to say when this town will be supplied with electricity.

DEFENCE

Military Training in Western Germany

**O.183. Mr D. Senu-Oke** asked the Minister of Defence, how many Nigerians he has sent to Western Germany for Military Cadet Course in the last two years; and how many of them come from the Northern, Western, Mid-Western and Eastern Nigeria and the Federal Territory of Lagos.

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Defence** (Alhaji Aliyu Bissalla) : This information cannot, for security reasons, be divulged on the Floor of the House.

May I once again warn hon. Members to be more circumspect in asking questions which have a bearing on our security.

**Alhaji Aminu Kano** (Kano East) : This is a very serious question. I agree with the Minister that, for security reasons, we should not press to know the number of Nigerian cadets who were sent to Germany, America or even Israel, but we should like to know the co-ordination in terms of weapons being used.

[ALHAJI AMINU KANO]

I fear that if we send our cadets to Germany for training, the weapons they are trained to use may be modern guns, while if we send them to Britain, they are trained to use the old bren guns. I want to know if there is any co-ordination in terms of weapons being used for teaching our cadets. This is certainly not a secret thing.

## FINANCE

### The Financial Year

**O.73. Mr M. B. Afanideh** asked the Minister of Finance, if he will consider changing our Financial Year from April-March to January-December.

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Finance** (Prince A. Lamuye) : There does not appear to be any special significance in the traditional financial year running from April to March, and my hon. Friend, the Minister, would be prepared to consider a change if it were shown that solid advantage would result. Any change which might be contemplated would have to be considered in the closest consultation with the Regional Governments.

### Mid-West Ports Revenue

**O.111. Mr E. A. Mordi** asked the Minister of Finance, how much revenue was collected by the Federal Government from Mid-Western Nigeria ports of Warri, Sapele, Burutu and Forcados in 1961, 1962 and 1963 respectively.

**Prince A. Lamuye** : Revenue collected by the Board of Customs and Excise at Warri, Sapele and Burutu in the financial years 1960-61, 1961-62 and 1962-63 was as follows :

	1960-61	1961-62	1962-63
	£	£	£
Warri ..	1,315,636	1,158,144	977,412
Sapele ..	3,858,725	3,300,536	3,443,682
Burutu ..	889,544	650,431	438,639

Forcados is not a Customs port and no Customs revenue was collected there.

**Mr Mordi** : Will the Minister explain the reason for the drop in Warri in 1962-63 and in Burutu in 1961-62 ?

**Prince Lamuye** : I require notice for this question.

## Foreign Loans

**O.112. Alhaji Isa Haruna** asked the Minister of Finance what countries have contributed most to our development programmes by way of loans, what are the conditions of repayment in each case ; and in what projects have the loans been invested.

**Prince Lamuye** : As the answer to this question is very lengthy, I will, with your permission, Mr Speaker, cause it to be circulated in the Official Report.

*The following is the Answer.*

### INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

(i) The International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (the World Bank), has offered a loan of £10.7 million to the Electricity Corporation of Nigeria for financing the Transmission Lines project. The loan is being made direct to the Corporation with a Federal Government guarantee and will have a repayment period of 20 years with 2½-year grace period during which there will be no amortisation repayment. The loan will bear an interest rate not exceeding 6 per cent. The new loan brings the Bank's total loans to Nigeria since the inception of the current Development Plan to £15.5 million, *i.e.*, including the £4.81 million loan to the Nigerian Ports Authority for financing the Apapa Wharf Extension. This latter loan will be repaid over a period of 16 years at an interest rate of 5½ per cent on the reducing balance. The Bank has also indicated its willingness to provide an untied loan for the Niger Dams to the tune of £24 million. The terms for this are still under negotiations.

(ii) The International Finance Corporation (IFC) is providing a Loan capital of £.5 million to the newly established National Industrial Development Bank.

(iii) From the U.N. Special Fund, a specialised Agency of the United Nations, we expect a minimum of £5 million in grants for the implementation of various projects which include an Air borne Geophysical Survey, the establishment of a faculty of Engineering at the University of Lagos, the establishment of Advanced Teacher Training Colleges in the Regions and Lagos and the provision of funds for a Savannah Forest Research Scheme.

U.S.A.—At the inception of the Development Plan, the United States Government promised assistance of about £80 million. Out of this promised sum, we have since been able to negotiate two loans under U.S.A.I.D. Programme of Assistance: the first loan of £4.23 million for the Ibadan Water Supply and the second loan of £3 million for the Calabar-Ikom Road in Eastern Region. The terms of the loans are a repayment period of 40 years including a 10-year grace period with an annual credit fee of  $\frac{3}{4}$  of 1 per cent. Out of the total promised sum of £80 million, the U.S.A. Government is also prepared to release up to £5,000,000 towards the financing of the Niger Dams. The terms of this loan are still under negotiations. Two grant-aided projects under consideration by the USAID are the appraisal surveys of the Lagos Sewerage and Drainage Scheme and Lagos Water Supply Scheme.

U.K.—Apart from the £10 million Commonwealth Assistance Loan and the £5 million outright grant for educational projects in the Regions, the United Kingdom Government has again provided a further £2 million special loan for the purchase of British goods and Services. Of this new loan £1.5 million is committed to financing the Railway track-relay project and already a contract for the project has been signed with a British firm. The terms are a repayment period of 25 years including 5 years grace period. Interest payable is  $\frac{3}{4}$  per cent above the Bank of England rate, working out at approximately 6 per cent. Of the £10 million Commonwealth Assistance Loan, some £4,307,000 is now firmly committed as follows: Eastern Region Water Supply (£1,370,000), Eastern Nigeria Plant, Vehicle and Equipment (£423,770), Kaduna Water Supply (£950,000), Electrical Generating Equipment for E.C.N. (£440,000), Lagos Water Supply, Phase 1 (£500,000), and Wireless and Ancillary Equipment for Nigeria Police Force (£23,000). In addition the United Kingdom has promised up to £4 million towards the financing of the Niger Dams, the terms of which are still under negotiations.

ITALY.—The Italian Government has made an offer of £9 million towards the financing of the Niger Dams. They are still being negotiated.

WEST GERMANY.—Of the West German Government promised assistance of £8.5 million, £5.4 million has been earmarked for the Second Mainland Bridge and the balance of £3.1 million is being considered for allocation to the following projects:

- (i) Cottage Hospitals in the Northern Region;
- (ii) Industrial Estates in Eastern and Western Regions.

The terms of the loan for each project are being negotiated separately.

NETHERLANDS.—The Netherlands Government has made an offer of £2 million towards the financing of the Niger Dams. The terms are also under negotiations. In addition, the Netherlands Government has agreed to guarantee suppliers' credit up to £2 million for financing agreed projects within the Plan. The projects to be so financed have not yet been agreed upon.

ISRAEL.—The Israeli Government offered a loan of £3 million. £2 million was on-lent to the Eastern Nigeria Government, £1 million of which was for financing the building of 2 hotels and the balance to be used for her Development Programme. The remaining £1 million was made available to the Federal Government which has since on-lent a total amount of £682,996 to the Government of Western Region for financing Water Projects and to enable that Region to pay outstanding debts to suppliers in Israel. The Loan Agreement provides that 50 per cent of the loan funds should be used for the purchase of goods and services of Israeli origin and the balance to meet local costs. Repayment is to be made over 14 half-yearly instalments. Rate of interest is  $\frac{1}{2}$  per cent above the Bank of England rate, working out as 6 per cent approximately.

SWITZERLAND.—The Swiss Government has provided a Credit Guarantee of £1.7 million. Of this, £1,124,000 has already been used by the E.C.N. for the first and second extensions to the Afam Power Station leaving a balance of about £575,000 which can only be taken up by the E.C.N. as in the previous cases. The terms of this loan are a repayment period of 10 years at an interest rate of 6 per cent on the reducing balance.

**Mr A. U. D. Mbah** (Owerri North): Even though we have accepted that it will be circulated I want to know from the Minister of



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Finance why he depends on the Western world alone for loans. Why can he not go to the Socialist world too?

**The Minister of Finance** (Chief F. S. Okotie-Eboh): How did my hon. Friend know that we have not gone to the other side belonging to his friends?

**Alhaji Aminu Kano** (Kano East): With the reply which has just been given by the Minister, are we to be assured that these loans come from both sides?

**Chief Okotie-Eboh**: We do not know which sides my hon. Friend is referring to.

**Alhaji Aminu Kano**: I am referring to Western Democracies and Socialist Democracies.

**Chief Okotie-Eboh**: Even if we have some loans from Kano, we will accept.

**Alhaji Aminu Kano**: The hon. Minister of Finance is trying to evade my question. He has not answered it, and I do not want it to be laughed away. Are we to be assured that these loans are coming from both sides, and if not, why?

**Chief Okotie-Eboh**: The policy of the Government is very clear on these matters. If we have any offers from both sides surely we will accept them.

**Dr P. U. Okeke** (Onitsha North Central): We are putting our eggs in one basket. If that basket fails us, we have lost everything. We are a young and growing country. We are developing, and to rely solely on one side is bad. Supposing that side fails us tomorrow, what will happen?

**Prince A. Lamuye**: I wonder how hon. Members have come to all these things. We have got the answer here which will be circulated and by the time hon. Members read this answer they will know how much loans we have and where we got them from. The Development Programme is just in the third year and by the time we get to the final year, Members will know everything they want to know.

## Second-hand Clothing

**O.246. Mr F. C. Ogbalu** asked the Minister of Finance, if he will consider reducing further the duties on second hand clothing.

**Prince Lamuye**: No, Sir. The Minister does not at present contemplate a further reduction in the import duty on second hand clothing.

**Mr F. I. Okoronkwo** (Aba Urban): I would like the Minister to know that since the duty on second hand clothing was increased the Government is not making any further revenue from that trade due to the fact that the people no longer import more of it. Not only that, the business has now gone underground.

**Chief Okotie-Eboh**: Thank God that that is the case.

**Dr B. U. Nzeribe** (Orlu West): One rather embarrassing situation arising from this increase in duty on second hand clothing is that we do not know whether the Government intends to make revenue out of this, or whether they intend to protect our local industries; or is it simply an arbitrary measure on the part of the Government?

If it is, does the Government know that there is depression at Aba which is the centre of second hand clothing and that the Member for Aba Urban (*Mr Okoronkwo*) is in danger of losing his seat?

**Chief Okotie-Eboh**: I think the whole country will be happy to note that as a result of the measures taken, Nigeria is no more regarded as the dumping ground for these second hand clothes, and if my hon. Friend, the Member for Aba Urban would like to transform himself into a second-hand man, thank God for that.

*Mr Okoronkwo rose—*

**Mr Speaker**: Order! We should not allow this second-hand question to delay us.

**Chief D. N. Abii** (Owerri East): On a point of order, does the hon. Speaker mean that supplementary questions are second-hand questions?

**Mr Speaker**: I should have thought that the hon. Chief Whip should have understood what I meant. These questions are repeating exactly the same questions that had been asked.

**LABOUR AND WELFARE**

**Hooliganism at Soccer**

**O.113. Mr R. N. Muojeke** asked the Minister of Labour and Social Welfare, how he proposes to wipe out the increasing acts of hooliganism and lawlessness, such as fighting and throwing of stones, among supporters of rival football teams in the football fields.

**The Minister of Labour and Social Welfare** (Chief J. M. Johnson): I am not aware of the occurrence of widespread acts of hooliganism and disorderliness among the supporters of rival football teams. The services of the Police Force are always available during football matches to maintain law and order.

**Mr A. U. D. Mbah** (Owerri North): Will the Minister of Labour assure this House that he will stop sending Nigerian footballers abroad to be humiliated until he is able to raise a formidable team?

**Sports Administration**

**O.188. Mr S. O. Kolade** asked the Minister of Labour and Social Welfare, if he will make a categorical statement as to whether the Government is going to take over administration of all forms of sports in the country.

**Chief Johnson**: The Federal Government has no intention of taking over the administration of all forms of sports in the country. The National Sports Council, comprising among them members drawn from Lagos and Regional Sports Councils, has been established to co-ordinate at the national level the activities of all sports organisations in the country.

**Dr P. U. Okeke** (Onitsha North Central): May I know from the hon. Minister what it is that Ghana has that we have not got in football which makes them defeat us always?

**Chief Johnson**: May I also know from the hon. Member what Nigeria has which makes her keep on defeating Ghana in all other forms of sports except football, that Ghana has not got?

**Mr C. O. Chiedozie** (Enugu): Will the hon. Minister tell us whether it is not necessary now to consider appointing a Minister in charge of sports alone?

**Mr Speaker**: That is not a question for the Minister of Labour and Welfare.

**INFORMATION**

**B.B.C. News**

**O.175. Mallam Yusha'u A. Mohammed** asked the Minister of Information, whether he will stop the relaying of B.B.C. news by the Nigerian Broadcasting Corporation.

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Information** (Mr S. A. Yerokun): The Nigerian Broadcasting Corporation stopped relaying B.B.C. news since 1962.

**M. Saidu Sango** (Zaria Central): Is the Minister aware that all these television and radio programmes are relayed from the B.B.C.

**Mr S. A. Yerokun**: The Minister is not aware.

**Voice of Nigeria**

**O.176. Mallam Yusha'u A. Mohammed** asked the Minister of Information, if he will consider making the *Voice of Nigeria* a twenty-four hour service.

**Mr Yerokun**: A twenty-four hour *Voice of Nigeria* service may be something to aim at in the future, but at present the financial, technical and human resources are not adequate to mount such a service. The *Voice of Nigeria* is still in its infancy. Starting only two years ago as a two-hour daily service, it has grown to a six-hour daily service and will be eight hours within the next month.

I assure the hon. Member that his suggestion has been noted and that as the years roll by the Nigerian Broadcasting Corporation will strive towards reaching that ideal service for its external broadcasting.

**Dr P. U. Okeke** (Onitsha North Central): Is the Minister aware that the "*Voice of Nigeria*" is not even heard in Onitsha.

**Mr Speaker**: That is a new question.

**O.177. Mallam Yusha'u A. Mohammed** asked the Minister of Information, what countries receive the *Voice of Nigeria*, whether he has received information that the reception is clear and what arrangements he is making to improve and extend the service to countries which are not receiving it now.

**Mr Yerokun :** Reports of good reception of the *Voice of Nigeria*, since the commissioning of one of the four 100 kilowatt transmitters in late December 1963, have been received from countries scattered all over the world: Indeed reports have come from the following places:—

London  
California  
New Jersey  
New York  
Chicago  
Toronto  
Hong Kong  
Sweden  
Tokyo  
South Africa  
The Two Congos  
Brazil  
Venezuela  
Indonesia

When the remaining three 100 kilowatt transmitters are commissioned and put into operation, the *Voice of Nigeria* will be heard all over the world. (*Hear, hear.*)

**Mr A. F. Odulana (Ijebu South) :** Will the hon. Minister please explain in brief what transaction we have with the Government of South Africa as to direct the *Voice of Nigeria* there, knowing that we have nothing in common with them any more.

**Mr Yerokun :** That question requires notice.

## MINES AND POWER

### Petroleum Profits

**O.107. Mr R. N. Muojeke** asked the Minister of Mines and Power if, in view of the fact that our share of the profits from the exploitation of crude oil is paltry, he would take steps to see that the oil companies increased our share of the profits.

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Mines and Power (Alhaji Ahmadu Fatika) :** The Federal Government is currently looking into it.

### Power for Agbani

**O.108. Mr S. Nnaji** asked the Minister of Mines and Power what arrangements he was making to provide electric lights for the growing inhabitants of Agbani Crown Land, about 16 miles away from Enugu.

**Alhaji Ahmadu Fatika :** Agbani Crown Land was not included in the list of towns selected by the Eastern Nigeria Government for possible inclusion in the Electricity Corporation of Nigeria's New Towns Development Scheme, Phase II. No arrangements have, therefore, yet been made to supply the inhabitants of this area with electricity.

### Ugwuorie Minerals

**O.109. Mr S. Nnaji** asked the Minister of Mines and Power how soon the Government would start to tap the Ugwuorie-Hill Mineral deposits.

**Alhaji Ahmadu Fatika :** There are no known mineral deposits of economic value in Awka Division, apart from clays. The honourable Member is reminded that constitutionally, the responsibility of the honourable Minister of Mines and Power lies in searching for mineral deposits and publicising any found. There his responsibility ends: making arrangements for exploiting mineral deposits lies outside his portfolio.

### Mineral Survey of Wukari

**O.178. Mr C. Tangul Gaza** asked the Minister of Mines and Power, whether he had any proposals to carry out a mineral survey of Wukari Division.

**Alhaji Ahmadu Fatika :** The Minister has none at the moment, Sir, but he is giving the matter the most careful thought.

### Power for Southern Oyo

**O.179. Mr S. O. Kolade** asked the Minister of Mines and Power when electricity supply would be extended to Awe, Fiditi, Akinmorin, Jobele, Ilora, Ilu-Aje, Imini, Ijaiye Ojutaiye and Iware in Oyo Southern District Council Area.

**Alhaji Ahmadu Fatika :** The Western Nigeria Government has submitted a list of towns to the Electricity Corporation of Nigeria for possible inclusion in the New Towns Development Scheme, Phase II. None of the towns mentioned by the honourable Member are included in this list and the honourable Minister is, therefore, not in a position to say when they will be supplied with electricity.

## MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

## Lagos Teaching Hospital

**The Minister of Health** (Chief M. A. Majekodunmi): I would like to refer to a statement made in this House on the 17th of March by my hon. Friend the Member for Onitsha Urban (*Mr Araka*), dealing with certain aspects of the administration of Lagos University Teaching Hospital.

In the course of his speech, my hon. Friend alleged that a Canadian Professor employed in the University Teaching Hospital was being paid a salary of £8,000, whilst, as he put it, the official salary was £3,400. He also referred to the case of a Senior Lecturer from the same country who should be paid £2,300, but was being paid £7,000.

These statements are grossly inaccurate. The facts are that we have in the Lagos University Teaching Hospital a lady from Canada who is a Professor and head of the Department of Anaesthesia. She is a Professor in her own right from her own University. She is on loan to us, and the whole of her salary, which is about £8,000, is borne completely by the Canadian Government External Aid Department.

All that the University of Lagos Medical School provides her with is a house which is partly furnished. The Canadian Government External Aid Department also pays the cost of her leave passages, so that the Medical School and the Teaching Hospital have nothing to pay in this respect.

There is also a Senior Lecturer in the Department of Anaesthesia who is a Canadian too. His salary and leave passages are paid by the Canadian Government External Aid Department.

**Mr D. C. Ahamefula** (Okigwi South West): On a point of order, are the monies paid, as the Minister has just said, not external aid to Nigeria?

**Mr Speaker**: That is not a point of order.

**Chief Majekodunmi**: As I was saying, there is also a Senior Lecturer in the Department of Anaesthesia who is a Canadian. His salary and leave passages are paid by the Canadian Government External Aid Department. The Federal Government and the

Board of the Lagos University Teaching Hospital are very grateful to the Canadian Government for its generous assistance which has helped tremendously in the development of the University of Lagos Medical School. (*Hear, hear*).

Another point made by my hon. Friend was that major contracts were being given out to contractors without any tenders at all being put up in the papers and that gigantic buildings were being put up and major works were being carried out without advertisements in the Press.

I wish to state that the only building which has gone up on the site since the Medical School was set up in 1962 is an annex to the School of Nursing and it was the Federal Ministry of Works and Surveys which acted on behalf of the Management Board of the Teaching Hospital in getting contractors for this building. (*Interruptions*).

*Several hon. Members rose—*

**Mr Speaker**: Order, order! Ministerial Statements are not subject to debate.

## NOTICES OF MOTIONS

## INTERNATIONAL TRADE

**Mr R. N. Muojeke** (Awka Central): On my rising to move this Motion—(*Interruptions*).

**Mr Speaker**: Order, order! There is too much high-toned conversation going on to the extent that the voice of the Member speaking is completely drowned. Will the hon. Member please speak louder and Members co-operate?

**Mr Muojeke**: On my rising to move the Motion which stands in my name, may I state at once that the Motion is non-controversial. It is simple, straightforward but nevertheless momentous.

It reads as follows—

*“That, while commending the Government’s financial and economic policies, this House views with grave concern the widening gap between the terms of our export and import trades, and urges the Government to review the operation of our international trade.”*

It is undoubtedly true that our financial and economic policies are the healthiest and the

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soundest at least in the whole of the African Countries where the black man governs himself. This result is achieved by the fact that Nigeria's Minister of Finance has ungrudgingly made available to us his great business acumen and practices, his all-embracing financial knowledge, and above all, his integrity, honesty, industry and patriotism. To him therefore, we give our infinite thanks and congratulations.

The norm or model to be aimed at by every country in its international trade is to maintain a state of equilibrium, a state where one's imports balances with one's exports. When the totality of such exports exceed that of imports, then the country is doing really fine; but when imports are greater than exports, then the country is doing very badly indeed.

In this state of affairs, one looks like a bankrupt living beyond one's means—living like the proverbial prodigal son. It is then we say that the country's trade balances are adverse.

Now our Minister of Finance in his usual frankness tells us that our trade balances are not rosy. These are his exact words as can be seen on page 12 paragraph 4 of this year's Budget Speech. With your permission Mr Speaker, I beg to quote—

*"Now I turn to our balance of payments position which, I regret to say, remains unsatisfactory in a number of respects. The balance of payments again showed an overall deficit in 1963 and a further large fall in external reserves."*

If one adds the rider that this wide gap has been chronic and has been defying all the traditional attempts at treatment, it becomes the bounding duty of every Nigerian to suggest as candidly as he can, without fear and without bitterness, the most appropriate ways and means of bridging this yawning economic gap.

But before we can suggest how to do it, it is necessary to know which countries are at present responsible for this most terrifying aspect of our menacing trade gap.

If hon. Members look at the latest copy of the Nigeria Trade Journal of October to December 1963—page 171, they will see that from our current trade statistics the most prominent countries which distort our economy beyond recognition are the following countries—Hong Kong, India, Czechoslovakia, Japan

and Norway. Thus, between January and June 1963, our imports and exports balances in relation to these countries are as follows—

		<i>Imports</i>	<i>Exports</i>
Hong Kong	..	2,398	100
India	..	1,446	14
Czechoslovakia	..	614	58
Japan	..	11,582	1,010
Norway	..	2,750	633

All these, as can be seen, are in thousands.

One important revelation must be made at once, that is, that while tiny United Kingdom bought our produce to the tune of 38,851, the giant called the United States of America could only buy 10,375 within the period under review.

Before I go further to suggest how to restore our economic equilibrium, I must state here that I am so international both in my outlook and learning that I am not here to preach that Nigeria should hate this or that country. I shall base my arguments on the simple economic truism that economic survival like charity must begin at home. This is not because I love other countries less, but because I love Nigeria more.

One special and most distressing aspect of our adverse balance of trade is that most of our imports are not durable goods such as plants and machinery but perishable consumer goods such as snake toys, toad toys, rat toys and cheap textile goods, watches and talisman. In other words our propensity to consume is greater than our propensity to build.

We prefer to run on a frolic of conspicuous consumption without the corresponding concupiscence or propensity to ride on a spree of conspicuous productivity. Here is the most distressing rub of it all.

May I now suggest some methods by which we can hope to narrow this widening gap in our trade. Firstly, we must nip the propensity to conspicuous consumption in its entire bud. Since our politicians and the middle classes are very close to the man in the street, they ought to start to cut their ostentatiously expensive living practices drastically. The most practical way of doing this is to ride in smaller cars say—Volkswagen. The former British Prime Minister—Mr Harold MacMillan used to go to the British House of Parliament in taxicabs.

**Mr D. O. Enefola** (Igalala South): On a point of order, the Leader of the N.E.P.U. said that if he won election and came to power he would ride on an ass, but now the hon. Member is riding in a very big car.

**Mr Muojeke**: Last year too, the present British Minister of Transport went to the House of Commons on a bicycle. These are the people who lend us money which we squander in buying terribly expensive cars such as the 1966 model of Mercedes Benz, Pontiacs, Buicks and Oldsmobiles. If our parliamentarians could learn to live less expensively, less flamboyantly and consume less it would be a useful practical lesson to our people.

**Mr E. J. Ogunkanmi** (Oshun South East): On a point of order, the hon. Member is misleading this House. What about the Member for Benin East (*Mr Oronsaye's*) car with all those horns on it?

**Mr Muojeke**: I shall remind this honourable House that only last week the British Prime Minister who came to visit us did not come in a chartered or special plane. He came and went back in a merchant aircraft. This is a lesson for us all.

Towards the realisation of these suggestions, the Government must, firstly, ban the importation into Nigeria of any car that costs, in the aggregate, more than £1,000. Any car above this price is certainly expensive for anybody in a country which is still underdeveloped. In this aspect of our economy a concrete example is better than a million precepts.

Secondly, I am suggesting the creation in Nigeria of a system of forced savings. This means that we must compel all our middle and upper class citizens to save compulsorily. The Premium Bond system is a wonderful economic corrective but it appears that most of our middle and upper class citizens do not know how to channel their fat salaries and emoluments into productive investments.

The Government must inculcate in them the necessary and constant habit of saving through an enforced savings scheme. England, America, and even Russia used this economic mechanism in one or the other period of their economic growth. Nigeria cannot hope to be an exception.

One commentator, when he was commenting on how to assist the underdeveloped countries, called this the problem of problems, because the underdeveloped countries cannot save compulsorily as richer countries did or are doing in their economic growth.

Thirdly, I want to suggest what may be described as the barter system of aid. Rich countries like the United States of America, Britain, Western Germany and Russia, continue now and again to give us few pennies and shillings as aids in different forms; sometimes with strings attached or not attached. But what we need very much is trade not useless aids. If they give us £20,000,000 without asking us to pay it back, either now or in the future, well that is good, we shall receive it thankfully.

If, however, every penny they lend to us is to be repaid, then our Government should see to it that the loan is repaid not in cash but in kind. They should accept our products for the repayment of their loans. That is what I call the system of aid to underdeveloped countries by barter.

Fourthly, this Government should create a system of minimum number of operatives or domestic servants. I suggest that every expatriate that earns more than £750 a year in Nigeria be made, in the interest of Nigerian economy, to employ a minimum number of Nigerian cooks, stewards, drivers and gardeners. In this respect he will be leaving a small part of his salary in Nigeria. What we witness here is that expatriates in Nigeria receive fat salaries and emoluments but they do not bother to employ our people.

In fact, they have no stewards and they go about marketing for themselves and every penny they receive from us is remitted to their countries, leaving our country the poorer. This is the worst way of exploiting Nigeria and it must be stopped forthwith.

My fifth suggestion is the introduction of enforced patronisation of Nigerian products. Many of our Nigerian ventures frequently fail and the products of our nascent and infant industries are sometimes more expensive in our own local markets than those of imported ones. This is due to the practice of cut-throat competition set up by some expatriate concerns. The only way to save our growing industries is to patronise them.

[MR MUOJEKE]

For instance, in our schools and colleges, whether government or private, the uniform used by students must be made of textiles made by Nigerians and in Nigeria. This is the way we can help our textile industries. But we cannot say that we have established a textile industry in Kaduna and allow our students in many colleges and universities to be using imported textile fabrics. Do we hope that that textile industry in Kaduna will increase its production. I do not think so.

I suggest that in the universities the hoods, caps, and blazers must be made of textiles manufactured in Nigeria by Nigerians. I must remind this honourable House that in the fifteenth century the English people, in order to boost up the silk industry in their country legislated that undergraduates must wear hoods, gowns and caps made from silk and that is why we see in their universities gowns and hoods made of silk.

Last week we were told that the Government was not ready to set up a rival Insurance Company and also that it was not fair to nationalise Insurance Companies. I am not quarrelling with this Government policy but now that we have an indigenous Insurance Company it will be unpatriotic if the Government, instead of insuring its vehicles with the indigenous Insurance Company, the Eastern Nigeria Universal Insurance Company, prefers to insure its vehicles with Insurance Companies owned by expatriates.

It is very, very unpatriotic. It is a way of killing that Universal Insurance Company of the East and tomorrow the Federal Government will come back to tell us that the Universal Insurance Company of the East has failed and as a result, it is economically unwise to set up a rival insurance company in the Federation.

The sixth suggestion is what I would call effective reciprocity. We know that the rules of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (commonly called G.A.T.T., are not of any real value to primary producers such as Nigeria.

All the industrialised countries should be approached in order that they can grant us real and effective concessions in their tariffs and trade restrictions against the rest of the world. They should also regard the continuance of our own protection as being the necessary pre-

condition to our shifting from agricultural to industrial economies—industrial economy is now the indisputable prerequisite for our economical survival and prosperity.

The seventh suggestion is what I would refer to as partial preferences. From those countries where the gap between our imports and exports is enormously wide in their favour such as Hong Kong, India, Czechoslovakia, Japan and Norway, our Government should try to wring suitable agreements which would enable them to buy our products at preferential prices. With these countries, our bargaining power is supreme. For example, if India refuses to give our products preferential treatment, we shall stop, what I might call, the disgraceful process of the *Indianisation* of our Civil Service. We shall be justified in repatriating all her nationals who now invade our mercantile houses, colleges, universities and the civil service. From Japan, we shall neither borrow nor buy anything unless that country admits our products such as palm produce, cocoa, coal and groundnut at preferential prices.

The eight suggestion is Commodity Price Agreements. We know that because the industrialised countries were unable to sell their commodities at reasonably high prices, save at rock-bottom prices, they definitely struck some agreements in respect of those commodities such as wheat, tin, sugar and coffee.

In the same way as our commodities of palm produce, cocoa, groundnut, and coal are being sold at rock-bottom prices, we can induce the developed countries who now and again shout that their desired aim is to grant us loans and overdrafts repayable at exorbitant rates of interest, to use those so called loans and overdrafts in purchasing from us our commodities at reasonably higher prices.

The ninth suggestion which is the last, is the removal of commercial bottlenecks and artificial restrictions. Our Marketing Boards do not find ready accommodation for our export products such as palm produce, cocoa, groundnut, *et cetera* because of the monopolistic restrictions placed by the foreign shipping monopolies and combines. The result is that our agricultural products spoil at the ports before their embarkation.

It has been suggested and asserted that at the ports of disembarkation in the overseas markets, they deliberately downgrade our

products under one pretext or the other. These commercial bottlenecks ought to be completely wiped away by now.

Last week, I asked a question on the Floor of this House and the Government replied by saying that it was not prepared to reveal the steps it was taking to fight these monopolistic combines. I pray Government to see that those steps it is taking are comprehensive, prompt and decisive.

One would have liked to dwell on this momentous and interesting Motion for hours but since I have an able Seconder and since the Motion itself is simple and interesting and like a good wine it needs no bush, I therefore ask this House to commend it in its entirety to our hardworking, industrious and responsible Government.

I beg most respectfully to move.

**Dr B. U. Nzeribe** (Orlu West): In the first place, I would like to state clearly that whilst seconding this Motion, I cannot be held responsible for some anomalies in the text because I seem to believe that what the original Mover of the Motion has in mind is that there is an increasing gap between the—

**Mr J. O. Ede** (Idoma North): On a point of order the Mover of this Motion has not mentioned anomalies in his speech. I see no reason why the Seconder should mention any.

**An hon. Member**: It seems that the Member is a stranger because the newspapers reported that he was dead. He should do something about it.

**Mr Speaker**: A dead man cannot be a stranger here.

**Dr Nzeribe**: It seems to me that the Mover of the Motion means to regret the widening gap between the sum totality of goods and services imported into Nigeria and the sum totality of goods and services exported out of Nigeria which in the language of the economist is known as "Balance of Payments" and not "Terms of Trade". Terms of Trade have traditionally been against developing nations for the past years. This has been accepted by working economists and therefore, Nigeria is not an exception.

For example, we all know that a tin of palm oil sold by a Nigerian farmer about ten years ago brought in more goods into his family than

a tin of palm oil sold by a Nigerian farmer to-day. When allowance is made for depreciation by the Marketing Board, for example, we still believe that the terms of trade are not very good for the Nigerian farmer whether he sells groundnut, palm kernel, rubber and so on.

If hon. Members look at the Balance of Payments of Nigeria, they will find two very conspicuous factors. The first is in terms of visible imports and exports—merchandise *et cetera*—goods which we import and goods which we export. Nigeria for the past two years has performed wonderfully very well. The gap has been narrowed appreciably and all economists will agree with me that Nigeria is one of the best developing nations when it comes to the question of import versus export in visible terms.

For example, in 1937 Nigeria's balance, which was described as favourable in terms of practical economics—meaning that we did export more than we imported—was positive; we had a surplus of about £400,000. In 1938, we had about £89,000; in 1940 we had about £400,000; in 1950 we had a negative of £3.8 million; in 1961 we had £4 million; in 1962 we had £2.8 million, and in April alone last year, we had £2 million. There is no cause for alarm in this, because Nigeria was importing capital goods. This is natural. When a nation is developing and it is importing capital equipments in order to industrialise the country that country should not only owe but must import capital goods on credit. Therefore, there is no cause for alarm. If you look at the picture from this point of view, Nigeria was performing admirably well. But this is in terms of visible imports versus exports.

Another factor which was responsible for this was the fact that Nigeria experienced bumper harvest in certain export crops, like groundnuts, over the past two years. So in quantity and value Nigeria was getting more than before. The price of palm produce increased in the world market. Contrary to what my friend thought, the price did not decrease; it increased. Also the price of cocoa was very good and favourable to Nigeria during the past two years.

Above all, the Nigerian petroleum industry brought in a lot of money. For example, from 1947 to 1957 Nigeria exported no petroleum oil at all. But in 1958 we exported 220,000 tons. In 1962 the figure had gone up



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to 275,000 tons, and during the first part of this year we have already exported four million tons of petroleum oil. All these go to help Nigeria to perform very well on the world market in terms of exports versus imports.

Now, what my Friend, the Mover of this Motion was, perhaps, trying to say is the danger signal which is now very visible on our balance of payment sheets resulting from invisible exports and invisible imports. That is in terms of unseen goods and services. For example, the Minister said in his statement here that in our Six-Year Development Programme the expected foreign loan or gift or contribution has not occurred appreciably. What Nigeria has expected to come from Britain or America or Germany or Russia or from China or from wherever it ought to have come, has not come. That means that the movement of private and official capital into Nigeria has not kept pace with the expectation of the Government.

For example, in 1959 the net private capital invested in Nigeria was £24 million. In 1960 it came down to £19 million only. In 1961 it was £30 million, and in 1962 £20 million. Now, during this period Nigeria, was paying out money; that is, paying dividends, interests, pensions to retired civil servants in Nigeria and the lump sum compensation to expatriate officers. Also, during this period, Nigeria was paying its contributions to the international Monetary Funds, the World Bank and so on, so that the invisible imports and exports left a very wide gap.

The danger here is that the foreign external reserve of Nigeria has been terribly drained. I do not know how to explain this simple language, but is just like playing a game of draft. If two people are playing a game of draft and A wins all the draft seeds and refuses to give some to B, then the game stops. The same thing is applicable to international trade. If our foreign reserve is drained because of the invisible export and import gap, then the danger is that in the next few years Nigeria will stop entirely in taking part in international trade.

For example, last year, I was told from reliable quarters that the drain on Nigerian external reserves was £30 million. If the same drain occurs this year and perhaps again next year, then that is the end of Nigeria's international relations with other countries. That is where the danger lies and that is why the

Ministry of Commerce and Industry and the Ministry of Finance must really look into the position of Nigeria in international trade. As we all know, technically, the Central Bank of Nigeria must at least have forty *per cent* backing; that is that the foreign reserve must at least be forty *per cent* of the total amount of money in circulation. Otherwise, the confidence of the world in Nigerian currency will have to cease right away. If this happens, foreign investment will equally cease.

Also, you know that in international trade the amount of external reserve is very, very important in order to cushion up the fluctuations in temporary imports and exports. So, the real danger lies in the fact that the invisible imports into Nigeria and the invisible exports away from Nigeria are leaving a very wide gap and not necessarily in terms of current imports and exports—that is, in terms of goods and services currently imported or exported.

Therefore, I stress that the remedy must be in primarily fighting this section of the export trade, and I will agree with the Mover of this Motion that Government must initiate certain measures which will stop this widening gap. The investment climate must be improved. Two days ago, on the Floor of this House, Members were talking as though the foreign investor is a philanthropist. The foreign investor is not a missionary, he is not a philanthropist and he does not have the interest and love of Nigeria at heart. Missionaries come to Nigeria to convert Nigerians to the religion of their choice, and philanthropists give money to the blind or the deaf or the maimed. But a businessman is only interested in profit. Whenever he gives employment to our people or marries a Nigerian housewife or not are simply incidentals. He comes here primarily to make profit. If any businessman comes here to tell us that he loves Nigeria and that he wants to help Nigeria, I advise you to cast a second look at him. The investor cannot come to Nigeria if his capital will yield him more capital if he invests it in America or China or even Russia, other things being equal.

The Government must try to make investment climate conducive to investors, and industrialisation must be looked upon as a very painful process. You cannot eat your cake and have it. We cannot ask somebody

to bring his money into Nigeria and then we give him conditions that are in our best interest alone.

Many a time people have talked about the order and tranquillity of Government being the only investment criteria that attract foreign investors. That is not true. Most American investments are made in Latin America and Latin America is notorious for its unstable governments. So, I would say that other factors must come into play. This is no place for us to go into the details, but Government must improve investment climate and, if possible, even give subvention—that is, give money to investors and let them invest it here. Unless this is done, all talks about taking money from investors and giving them to others to go and invest are a waste of time.

I agree with the Mover of the Motion that the Government must really control importation of non-essential imports. It is ridiculous, for example, that a country like Nigeria imported, about three months ago, about £5 million worth of food in one month. A country supposed to be a primary producer, a country like Nigeria where the main industry is agriculture, imported in a month £5 million worth of food! This is ridiculous. It is also ridiculous to see that a country like Nigeria would import about £30,000 worth of cake and biscuits. Why should the Minister of Finance and the Minister of Commerce and Industry allow cake and biscuits to be imported into Nigeria? This is ridiculous. These are non-essential imports and should be stopped. They should not come to Nigeria at all.

Take for example fish. Nigeria imported in 1963, £600,000 worth of fish, and yet here at the Bar Beach tons and tons of fish are allowed to decay because there is no immediate market for them. If you go to the catering rest houses and some of the hotels managed by expatriates, you find a very ridiculous trend of events. Orange is served from the can, tomato is served from the can. But these things are grown in Nigeria. Why should they be imported into Nigeria in large quantities? The same applies to cotton piece goods, as mentioned by the Mover of the Motion. You remember the history of India when Ghandi began his peace movement. I think we should have pride in our national products and adorn ourselves in native attire.

I thought that the rugs used in a House of Parliament in Nigeria should be of local materials. Rugs are being made in Nigeria now, but are not used. This is ridiculous, Mr Speaker. I agree with the Mover of this Motion that particularly in public places the Government should take pride in advertising our own products. In foreign embassies, for example, they take pride in using Nigerian textiles and upholstery; they decorate their houses with Akwete cloth. But in Nigeria we import from England, and pride ourselves in having imported special rugs from Belgium and other countries.

In a developing nation one of the chief rules the Government should enforce is to set a standard. The Government should be an agent for others to follow. When the movement to go back to the land was mooted about two years ago, what happened was that the Prime Minister opened his own farm, and the fact that the Prime Minister opened a farm was a sort of inspiration to those people who had otherwise looked down on agriculture. The Premier of the Eastern Region, for example has a large acreage of agricultural land, and the fact that the Premier is an agriculturist made it something honourable for people to become farmers. I would like to see the Minister of Finance, the Prime Minister of Nigeria, the Premiers, the Governors, the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the Members coming in here and dressed in Nigerian made costumes. There great pride in it. This will give impetus not only to our own product at home, but also will promote industries themselves.

Another thing is the very ridiculous type of freedom, so-called liberty, so-called democracy and so-called *laissez-faire* in economic system. Do you know that last year 80,000 people left Nigeria by approved routes and that over 8,000 people left Nigeria to study abroad. I am not against any person leaving Nigeria to study abroad, but I am against 80,000 people taking the limited foreign reserve which we have and gallivanting all over the world. Most of these people were teachers, government officials, delegations travelling and visiting places of no importance, going round the world from place to place for nothing, and as they travel they drain our external reserve. When this pool of money is exhausted our trade with the outside world will stop. So

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persons travelling to Russia, India, Japan and so on drain our money. You find that the man actually is helping to deplete our foreign reserve. Throughout the world to-day people are keeping a very strict eye on their foreign reserve. For example, you cannot travel away from Ceylon more than once in seven years unless someone else pays your transport. The same thing applies in India. That means that a person has permission to withdraw from the external reserves of these countries once in seven years, because any time you travel you spend money there and you behave as though you are paying another country.

I remember, during the early periods of development, all Latin American countries had a sort of differential rate of foreign exchange. If a person wants to go to America to study he is given 2.8 dollars for a pound. But when he wants to go to America on a visit or to see his friend or to spend a holiday or to rest or to do business transaction, why give him the same rate? Let him pay tax. This will automatically cut down the volume of invisible transactions and travels to unnecessary destinations.

During last year the Federal Government and the Regional Governments were spending about £900,000 on scholarship and bursaries. I have just discovered that over two-third of this money was spent in foreign institutions. I do not say that people should not go to study abroad. One might easily misinterpret another person. People can go over to Cambridge or Oxford to study. But what is the sense in sending a Nigerian undergraduate to go and study overseas when the course is available here in Nigeria? It is a luxury there. There is not need asking a student to go abroad to study history which he can study at the Nsukka, Ibadan or Ahmadu Bello Universities. Anybody who wants to go to foreign countries to do these courses that are available here should be allowed to pay premiums. Let him pay tax on that. This will immediately stop the mass exodus of Nigerians to overseas to study.

We should encourage export of our products. Traditionally Nigeria exports palm produce, groundnut, hides and skins, cocoa, rubber, and so on. There are a lot of virgin fields which need to be tapped. This is one of the curses of colonial training. We have not become enterprising enough to explore new avenues.

There is a large potential market in the outside world for Nigerian timber and fruits. The world to-day is in need of so many kinds of capital goods which have not been explored, and if the people cannot explore them it is the responsibility of the Government to take the initiative. The Minister of Commerce and Industry should not at all feel satisfied with simply writing pamphlets and circulating them throughout the country. The Government should be more active and be a yeast to the dough. It should get the people to work.

In a country like Nigeria where the people are simply emerging from the old order, the Government has got the resources and the know-how to be in the vanguard to explore new markets and sell the idea to the people. The wealth of a nation depends on the people; when the people become wealthy they pay more tax to the Government and the Government in turn becomes wealthier. So Government should really make more efforts and go into the unknown markets to explore avenues for Nigerian produce.

Finally, I think Nigeria is very fortunate in that with the possible exception of the Congo and South Africa, this country is the luckiest nation in Africa. With all the diversification in its resources Nigeria is very fortunate indeed. Therefore, we should not paint a very ugly image before the outside world that our international trade is bleak and cheerless. We should be very proud. What we need is for the Government to be more active, more enterprising and more speculative in a way, to find out things and to spend money to explore other fields. Money spent on research is money well spent. We hope that Government will take these suggestions that we have made in good faith.

I beg to second.

**Minister of State** (Alhaji Usumanu Maitamari): I beg to move the Amendment standing in my name on the Order Paper as follows:

Line 1, leave out from "That" to the end of the Question and *add*—

"this House notes with appreciation the Government's financial and economic policies undertaken with a view to lessening the gap between Nigeria's export and import trade."

Nigeria's trade with the outside world is constantly under review. Efforts have been made and will continue to be made to close or, at least, narrow the gap as soon as possible.

In order, therefore, to secure a larger share of the world's trade and consequently reduce the trade deficit, attention is being concentrated on a five-point programme. These are :

- (i) Diversification of Nigeria's exports ;
- (ii) Development of new markets and the strengthening of Nigeria's position in traditional markets ;
- (iii) Securing stable prices for Nigeria's exports ;
- (iv) Import substitution through industrialisation ;
- (v) Increasing Nigeria's invisible trade.

Blessed with a climate ranging from equatorial forest in the south to semi-desert in the extreme north, Nigeria produces such tropical crops as cocoa, palm produce, rubber, timber of various species, coffee, groundnuts, cotton, benniseed, soya beans, gum Arabic, hides and skins. We are dependent on the world market for the export price of these commodities. On the other hand, our Marketing Boards guarantee the price paid to farmers who are thus encouraged to increase the volume of production in order to earn more. In fact, for the past ten years the volume of many of these commodities entering into international trade has increased tremendously. But what do we find? All the developing countries of the world observe that whilst their export commodities (primary produce) have increased, the total income derived from these commodities has either remained static or has, in fact, declined.

On the other hand, the cost of manufactured goods imported by these developing countries has trebled or even quadrupled in the last few years. The result is that in terms of real income, the producer in these countries is becoming poorer. We in this country have not accepted this position as an immutable law of nature. The Government is doing all it can to improve the position. In fact, the industrialisation programme in the Six-Year Development Plan is designed to produce those commodities and industrial goods on which we spend so much of our export earnings.

Moreover, the Government is exerting its influence at International Commodity Conferences. For the past six years the Cocoa Study Group, under the auspices of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation, has undertaken studies on cocoa consumption and production with a view to promoting an international agreement on this commodity. At the last meeting of the Study Group, a recommendation was made to the Secretary-General of the United Nations to convene a conference to negotiate an International Agreement on Cocoa. Accordingly, a conference was held in Geneva during September-October last year, but I regret to inform Members that an agreement could not be reached because of the differences between producers on the one hand and consumers on the other on certain fundamental issues such as the minimum price to be written into the Agreement. With regard to groundnuts and other oil seeds, talks are still going on among African producers, especially of groundnuts, for the formation of an African Groundnut Council.

Nigeria's invisible exports are few. We, unlike the developed countries, have made no investment outside the country on which we and our children can depend for part of our income. The Government is anxious to increase Nigeria's share in the shipping and insurance businesses. A Tourist Association has been formed and it is hoped that this will be a profitable source of income to the country.

We live in a competitive world and the Government realises that very little can be achieved merely by telling the world that Nigeria is a big country with a lot of possibilities for industrialisation. Officers in my Ministry, with the active co-operation of other Ministries, are working hard to project the image of the country abroad. It is envisaged that in the coming year Commercial Attaches and Counsellors will be posted in commercially strategic places for the promotion of the export trade of this country.

This is but a brief account of what the Government is doing to reverse or, at least, to reduce the adverse balance of trade. This policy is in consonance with our Six-Year Development Programme. This Programme requires hard work and co-operation from all. It is my prayer that we shall not fail.

I beg to move.

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

**Mr J. D. Odebunmi** (Egba North) : I rise to support the Amendment and in doing so, I have the following observations to make.

It is appreciated that geographical differences—differences in climate, differences in soil and human power, and differences in other aspects result in the production of different products or materials in different parts of the world. What therefore is lacking in one country is produced in another and exported from that country to the other.

Moreover, nowadays many countries import goods that they could produce themselves for countries tend to specialize in the production of those goods for which they have the greatest advantage over other countries.

For instance, Great Britain grows less wheat in order to be able to specialize in manufacture. This is what is known as Comparative Costs and is the basis of all international trade. Then the question is, in what commodities does the Republic of Nigeria specialize?

The answer is simple. For many more years to come before the potential mineral resources of our great country can be fully tapped, Nigeria will remain a predominantly agricultural country. It is absolutely essential therefore—

**Dr Nzeribe** : On a point of order, I do not intend to embarrass the hon. Member who is speaking but this type of belief is wrong. Nigeria can and could export industrial goods. For example, now we are exporting tyres. I do not believe that Nigeria is going to remain a predominantly agricultural country for many years to come. It is wrong.

**Mr Speaker** : That is a point of debate.

**Mr Odebunmi** : There is no doubt that Nigeria is a predominantly agricultural country. Therefore, I am imploring that we should explore all possibilities of improving and expanding our agricultural resources. Modern mechanised farming should take the place of the present old-age, primitive form of farming the hoe-in-hand, backache form of farming. Before a man reaches an appreciable age, if he is a very serious farmer, he becomes almost

worn out. He hardly could walk straight on the street.

All over the world, in civilised countries particularly, the wealthiest and the most respected people are farmers. Prominent amongst the commodities for which our land and weather are most suitable are cocoa, palm oil, palm kernels, sugar-cane, millets, kola nuts, yams, cassava and groundnuts. These, if fully developed and fully produced, would serve not only as the bulk of our exportable goods but also as our greatest revenue-yielding commodities, thereby helping to give us a favourable balance of trade. Whichever Minister is responsible for agriculture should work hand in hand with the Regional Ministers of Agriculture.

I once made a suggestion on the Floor of this House and, with the permission of Mr Speaker, I would like to say it once more, that an appreciable sum of money be devoted only to getting tractors and other mechanical appliances for the total improvement of our agricultural set-up in this country. For instance, there is nothing to prevent each Region from being supplied with tractors and these tractors could be got on loans. The money will certainly come back. They will improve the lot of agricultural products in this country and make us very great exporters of raw materials to the deserving countries.

More money, more time and more brains ought to be devoted to the tapping of our mineral resources as well. All these if put together will surely unearth most of the hidden treasures in our soil.

Ghana, formerly called Gold Coast, is fabulously rich in gold deposits. Gold, no doubt, has favourably influenced the financial position of Ghana, but is Ghana not our next-door neighbour? Is it not the same strip of land joined by ordinary artificial boundary? What could prevent Nigeria then from being very rich as well or equally as rich in gold deposit as Ghana? I am imploring our Government on the Floor of this House once more to engage in a much greater drive of tapping our mineral resources with special devotion to gold, thereby helping to improve our balance of trade.

What are the advantages of international trade? In the first place, it enables people to obtain goods made in other countries.

In the second place, it extends the principle of specialisation and division of labour to the industries of a nation. Each country produces those commodities for which it has the greatest comparative advantages, thus enlarging the total production of all trading countries.

In the third place, increased specialisation enables greater economies of scale to be achieved through competition between one country and another. The increased specialisation leads to improvement in the quality and the quantity of commodities, improvement in method of production and transport, so that violent fluctuations in price are avoided and the chance of farming greatly diminished.

In the fourth place, it reduces the movement of currencies from one country to another. This is a practical way of trade by barter for one type of good is exchanged for another. Therefore, the old individual trade by barter gives way to international trade by barter.

I will now speak on our balance of payments. I have observed from the Nigeria Trade Journal that we have an imbalance of trade with some countries. For example—Iceland. We imported from Iceland goods totalling £671,000 but we exported almost nothing to Iceland. We imported goods to the tune of £614,000 from Czechoslovakia but we exported only goods worth £58,000 to Czechoslovakia. We also imported goods worth £11.6 million from Japan but we exported goods worth only £1 million to Japan.

The same thing happened in the case of Norway. Our imports totalled £2.8 million but we exported goods worth only £633,000. This imbalance of trade should be rectified so that our country will be favourably placed. As we all know, a country's balance of trade is the difference between the value of imports and exports as recorded at the country's ports or frontiers.

I am glad to note that the Minister of State in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry realises that our invisible goods are very limited. Our invisible exports with other countries are, comparatively speaking, limited. We have to put in more effort to increase our invisible exports and, we must do all we can to decrease our invisible imports. The step taken by our Government to nationalise most of our industries is a step towards diminishing the invisible imports.

To increase our invisible exports we should encourage more of our men to get qualified to take up appointments in other parts of the world. I would like to mention a few of our invisible exports.

We have our soldiers and police men serving with the United Nations in the Congo, our Magistrates and Judges are serving in East Africa and we have Nigerian graduates teaching in Ghana and other countries of the world; there is also the interest accruing from our investments abroad, all these constitute part of our invisible exports.

There are also the expenses of travellers and visitors to our country, foreign Ambassadors and their staff, the goods they consume and the services rendered by our men to the foreign Embassies, all these constitute part of our invisible exports. We also have the remittances sent to Nigeria by Nigerians abroad through their services abroad or their trade, all these are part of our invisible exports. I hope the Government will take note of all the points I have enumerated.

The Minister of State in the ministry of Commerce and Industry (*Alhaji Maitambari*), during his speech also made a remark which is thought provoking. He said that the producers in this country are becoming poorer. If hon. Members go to the rural areas they will find that trade is not moving as before. Our people are really becoming poorer, farmers do not sell their goods as profitably as before and the Government should look into all these things.

I beg to support.

**Mr D. S. Udo-Inyang** (Opobo North): In making my contributions to this Motion, I am going to be brief. I do not wish to repeat the points that the Mover and the Seconder of this Motion have commented upon.

I have to congratulate the Government for its efforts in the field of external trade. I think from what we heard in the Budget Speech and from what we read from the Nigeria Trade Journal, the efforts of our Government are very commendable. I quite appreciate that at the initial stage of building up a nation's economy we have to import a lot of heavy machines and we have to depend a lot on technical know-how from other countries.

[MR UDO-INYANG]

We are bound to spend a lot of money but as we heard from the Budget Speech, the Government is trying every year to narrow the gap between our exports and imports and it is hoped that within a short time, the gap will become narrower and narrower until the Government will be able to produce for this country a favourable balance of trade. So, hon. Members should not be worried or upset by our present unfavourable balance of payment. The reason for this is very clear.

I would like to draw the attention of the Federal Government to one thing that worsens our position in external trade and that is books. From my personal experience of schools, a small school with only 120 students pays very heavily for books in a year and if we spend as much as that in a small school, I am wondering what would happen in all the institutions in Nigeria. I think the Government should take this matter up.

I know that at this stage of our development we cannot help importing text books or science books required in our universities or in our secondary schools. I think we have come to a stage when we should be able to produce at least all the text books required for our primary schools. If we can do this, it will go a long way to improve our balance of payment and it will be a right step in the right direction.

I will suggest to the Government that in order to improve our external trade the printing of primary school text books in Nigeria should be encouraged.

In external trade and in an attempt to improve their balance of payment, some countries have developed their tourist industry. I think Nigeria is well known and it is supposed to be the largest country in Africa.

People from abroad, when they come to Africa besides visiting a country like Egypt, especially when they come to Africa south of the Sahara would like to visit Nigeria. It is unfortunate that up till now the Government has not taken sufficient steps to develop the tourist industry in this country. We should not expect tourists to visit only Lagos. Lagos is like any other capital anywhere in the world.

Some travellers would like to see our holiday resorts in Nigeria. Most Europeans would like to come here and spend their holidays.

I know that when they come here, they would bring a lot of money and that would help our balance of payments.

I think we are in the same position as a small country like Ireland. What they do is that most of them acquire land and build tourist industry. Many people go to Ireland to spend their summer holidays. Anybody who has ever studied Irish economy would see that tourist industry is their main item of attracting foreign money.

If this country can build such a tourist industry, I know negroes in America and the West Indies would very much like to come here and spend their holidays. I think this is a better way of making money in this country.

I would seriously suggest to the Government to see to this idea of developing the tourist industry in such a way that would attract tourists from all over the world.

One thing that can be done to improve our economy and our foreign trade is the injection of money. From what we have seen in the Budget Speech, the Government fights shy of this issue. The Government has said that if the money is artificially injected, it will cut the demand for foreign goods. That depends on the type of people to whom the money is made available.

For example, if the money is artificially injected into the hands of people who are in the upper sector of our economy, they would go and buy radios, television sets and luxurious cars, and in that case the Government would be wrecked. People who need more money are the people in the rural areas. The standard of living of these people is deplorably low. The men in the rural areas have no appetite for foreign goods. They do not know what is called luxury. All that they need are the basic necessities of life. If the Government could inject money into their hands in the first place, they would be able to improve their health and they would be good producers in the country. Their health is poor and as a result of this, they cannot produce very much.

We have very able men as producers in our country and if this country is at war, may God forbid it, I think we would find it very hard to recruit very healthy and able young men to fight for us. So, I would suggest at this stage

of our economy that it is necessary for more money to be injected into the hands of the people in the rural areas.

When that is done, it would stimulate economic life in these areas. At the moment, as one hon. Member has said, the economic life of the rural areas has almost come to a standstill and the people are becoming poorer and poorer. If this is so, they might be unable to produce some of our primary goods which we export to foreign countries.

The Member for Orlu West (*Dr Nzeribe*) who seconded this Motion said that when we go to a place like the Government Rest House, Kaduna we see chickens and tomatoes being imported from foreign countries and then we ask why this is so. The reason is that in the rural areas our farmers are too poor. The proper method of marketing has not been taught and they cannot bring their goods to the Government Rest House. Even though we have farmers who can produce tomatoes and rear chickens and other things required in the Catering Rest House, they would not be able to bring them to the town because of poor means of transport.

If our local farmers can be organised or can be helped by informing them where they can sell their goods, they will be very happy indeed. That will be a way of reducing or stopping the Government Rest House from importing all the goods that we can produce in this country.

Some hon. Members have spoken against our people going on tour overseas and that by so doing they worsen our balance of payments. I think this is not so because travelling itself is an education. People in this country require not only formal education but general education which can only be gained by travelling. I am suggesting that people who can afford the cost should be allowed to travel abroad. It helps the country a great deal.

With these few remarks, I beg to support.

**Shettima Ali Monguno** (Kaga Marghi): Although, I am not an economist, my logic says that the less we import from outside, the better the situation will be. To this end, we are hopeful that the Government would not only protect our industries but also work along the lines with other countries in order to find new and more favourable markets for our local products.

Having listened to what the Minister of State in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry has said while moving the Amendment to the original Motion, there is hardly anything that I can add other than to hope that a United Nations Conference on trade and development now meeting in Geneva would find ways and means of helping our trade.

I would like to appeal to those of us who have the interest of the country at heart to do away with luxurious articles. It is not a good idea to think that because one has no *Cardillac*, *Mercedes Benz*, or one of the luxurious cars, one is not important. It would be wrong also to think that the longer the car that one rides, the higher one is considered. If we are really interested in seeing to the narrowing of the gap in our balance of trade, it is for those of us within the same country to help the efforts being made by the Government.

Let us ask ourselves whether or not we are really showing interest in these things. Everyone of us has a duty to guide aright those who are using more of the goods imported into this country than those produced locally. It is only when we have done this and are thinking in terms of "Made in Nigeria" that we shall have moved towards solving those problems which we are now all anxious to see solved.

I beg to support the Amendment.

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

*Question, That the words proposed to be added be there added, put and agreed to.*

*Question, as amended, put and agreed to.*

*Resolved:* That this House notes with appreciation the Government's financial and economic policies undertaken with a view to lessening the gap between Nigeria's export and import trade.

#### EDUCATION TO BE A FEDERAL SUBJECT

**Professor Kalu Ezera** (Bende East): I rise to move—

That, in view of the urgent need for a measure of uniformity in the educational patterns of the country, and in view of the fact that a centralised portfolio for education will not only help to relieve the wide-spread hardships facing teachers all over the country but will also help immeasurably to enhance



[PROFESSOR EZEBA]

the unity of our heterogeneous country, this House strongly urges the Federal Government to sponsor an amendment of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria for education at all levels to become a federal subject.

I do not propose to speak too long on this subject as, indeed, I am sure, the Motion as it stands commends itself to all opinions and particularly all lovers of the unity of this country. Those who may disagree may do so not because they do not love this country but probably because of other reasons.

I just want to say that the need for federalising Education has become very rampant at this material time of our development. The vast progress made by the Regional Governments in the field of Education is highly commendable, and I want also to take this opportunity to say that the Federal Ministry of Education itself has done quite a commendable job in its own sphere. I have said this time and time again that the Minister of Education, Onyiba Aja Nwachuku, has helped this Ministry greatly, and what he ought to do now is to travel abroad and listen to Nigerian students in London and Europe and see how much high they hold him with regard to the award of scholarships. I think it is only fitting and proper that on the Floor of this august House we should pay this great son of ours a noble tribute.

But having said this, the fact still remains that the various Regional Governments of the Federation are carrying a heavy burden. The statistics are, as was given in this House, as follows: the Eastern and Western Regional Governments spend about 40 per cent of their revenue on Education; the Northern Regional Government spends about 20 per cent of its revenue on Education, and the Federal Territory of Lagos spends about 4 per cent. This is, in fact, an abysmal figure, but we are expecting that the Regional Governments would continue in this way. The Mid-Western Regional Government has just started, and it is going to run into difficulty if it gives this high percentage to Education.

The burden of Education on the Regional Governments has become very high, especially since these Governments want to shift their emphasis, and rightly so, to other spheres of

economic development. It, therefore, becomes necessary for the Federal Government to come to their aid.

Quite apart from this, the hardship of teachers in most of the Regions is highly unimaginable. If the Federal Government comes to their aid, this hardship would be highly reduced. But from my own humble opinion, the most cogent reason for the Federal Government to step into Education is in order to enhance the unity of this country.

We have from time to time spoken about unity, but we have done so glibly. I think this is one particular demonstration in which the Federal Government can go all out to tell the peasant teachers in Maiduguri or Onitsha that the Federal Government is the Government which they can look up to in times of difficulty and not to Enugu, Kaduna, Ibadan, or Benin.

Now, it is vitally important that we establish this type of link. In the realm of international co-operation it is called the theory of functionalism. In other words, the Government can adopt the system where it does not only preach that we are Nigerians but also can adopt a functional approach. This functional approach might come through this way by using Education as a lever whereby to tell everybody in all parts of the country that they should look up to the Federal Minister of Education, Onyiba Aja Nwachuku, as the symbol of our unifying system of education, and that can come through Education.

Quite apart from the patterns of Education, I do not want to say that we should control Education as such. We should by no means do that. I am speaking mainly from the aspects of subsidies, and that will go a long way to enhance the unity of this country and also relieve hardship.

There are two other points I wish to make, and I would like to make them briefly. As soon as I have made them I shall take my seat, since this is not necessarily a controversial Motion. Firstly, I shall go to the one which concerns the fine work which the Minister of Education is already doing in the field of scholarships. Now, it might interest the House to know that in the award of scholarships 50 per cent of the total scholarships given by the Federal Government goes to the North,

10 per cent goes to the minority areas (Niger Delta), and a certain percentage goes to Lagos. But what is important to note is that the 50 per cent that goes to the North is converted into cash and given to the Northern Government in order to enhance their educational budget. That, therefore, makes it possible to have the liaison between the Centre and the North.

We would like to see this type of system established between the Centre and the other Regions—East, West, and Mid-West.

Now, the other aspect which makes it discriminatory is that after the 50 per cent which goes to the North has been converted into cash and given to the Northern Government, whatever percentage that remains is under an open scholarship for all concerned including Northerners, Lagosians, and Niger Delta people. Therefore, this places the people from the Western Region and Eastern Region in a disadvantage, and gives the whole system a tint of discrimination. I am sure that the Minister of Education does not mean this. Nevertheless, it has an unpleasant taste of discrimination against these two Regions.

**The Minister of Education (Onyiba Aja Nwachuku):** On a point of order, I have not worked out the percentage of the total scholarship awards that we give to the Northern Region, but I am sure it is not up to 50 per cent.

**An hon. Member:** Work it out, please.

**Onyiba Aja Nwachuku:** I cannot work it out here. I must give the accurate figure.

**Professor Kalu Ezera:** I commended the Minister of Education. All I am saying is that we extend this same thing to the other Regions in order to ensure the unity of this country.

There is another aspect of this matter which I would like to appeal to the Minister to look into, and now that the Prime Minister is here, we are very grateful that he has been able to spare the time to come here. I have in mind the National Universities Commission which, somehow, could have another unifying influence. This is under the Prime Minister's portfolio, and not under the Minister of Education.

It is reliably understood that the National Universities Commission has recommended a quota for the Regional Universities in the following order: The Ahmadu Bello University

is to receive 50 per cent support for their budget, the University of Nigeria to receive 30 per cent and the University of Ife to receive 30 per cent. These three universities are regarded as Regional institutions, and yet this quota clearly seems to be in favour of one against the others. There is no justification for this.

**Onyiba Aja Nwachuku:** On a point of order, the point now being made is outside the terms of this Motion. I am wondering where the Member for Bende East (*Professor Kalu Ezera*) got his facts. It might be that, as a lecturer in a university, he has access to the report which—

**Several hon. Members:** Bring all the facts then.

**Onyiba Aja Nwachuku:** The facts cannot be told to Members now because what the hon. Member is saying might be mere recommendation. If we are to favour any university by way of awards, it might be because that university takes more than 50 per cent of its total intakes from Southern Nigeria. In other words, whatever we give is still part of the scholarship scheme. The number of students from the South far exceeds the number of students from the North.

We have not come to a decision as to how much should be paid to any Regional university in the form of subsidies, but it is true that we will be wholly responsible for the two universities which are Federal institutions—that is Lagos and Ibadan.

As for the Regional universities, all the money made available to them in the form of subsidies is being distributed according to need by the National Universities Commission. We have not decided how much will go to each of the universities.

**Professor Kalu Ezera:** Whenever it is decided, we are appealing to the Minister to consider these points, and we know that he has a good Government.

**Mr L. J. Dosunmu (Lagos Central):** We expect the Member for Bende East (*Professor Kalu Ezera*) to give us facts whenever he makes a statement in this House. He said that a decision has been reached whereby 50 per cent goes to the Ahmadu Bello University and 30 per cent each to the other Regional universities. He is now succumbing to the contradiction by the Minister of Education.

**Professor Kalu Ezera** : I am not succumbing. I said it is reliably understood that this quota was recommended to the authorities. All I am saying now is that when it is considered necessary by the Minister to be incumbent to tell the House, he should take into consideration this concept of unity which we are preaching.

Similarly, I do not believe that it is fair for the Federal Government to take only two Federal institutions and subsidize them hundred *per cent* and then leave the other Regional universities to the Regional Governments. It does not make for the unity of this country. This is the spirit of this Motion, and I am sure that all Members will agree with me on this matter.

I strongly support anything that will tend to strengthen the unity of this country, and I think that without necessarily controlling the curricula—

**M. Ibrahim Muku** (Bida West) : The other day, the Member for Bende East (*Professor Kalu Ezera*) was advocating the break-up of the Federation. To-day, he is saying something about federalising the educational system.

**Professor Kalu Ezera** : I think this is not the time to reply to that. When it is time for fireworks, I shall give the Member what he deserves. I do not want Members to impute motives. When I said what I said, I did so with the greatest sense of responsibility, and on my own.

Somebody said that I was speaking for Enugu. At this stage, I am sure I am able to hold any portfolio in this country, including the Prime Ministership of the country.

All I want to say is that this Motion is non-controversial, and I would appeal to the Minister to give it consideration. The Regional Governments are heavily burdened by the task of carrying on with education at all levels. If the Federal Government goes to their aid, it will not only help to relieve them of this burden, but it will also spark off the unity which we all preach.

I beg to move.

**Mr F. A. M. Amadi** (Nsukka Central) : I rise to second the Motion so ably proposed by the Member for Bende East (*Professor Kalu*

*Ezera*). In doing so, I would like to say straight away that I intend to carry the whole House with me.

I am not convinced that my hon. Friend has actually dealt fully with the points as we ought to do on this Motion, the operative section of which says that we want the Federal Government to sponsor an Amendment of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria for education at all levels to become a Federal subject.

I have no apologies. My attitude in this subject is that of Cato, who, in the Roman Senate, always ended his speech by saying *Delenda est Carthago*. I feel that I must always say that education—

**Some hon. Members** : This is a new Motion.

**Mr Amadi** : I will always support a Motion of this type in this House, and as far as I can, I will bring one asking that education be federalised. The motto of this country is "Unity and Faith" in the Federation. It is my conviction that the key to this unity is education.

We are all assembled here representing millions of people, and discussing what, in our opinion, is to the best interest of these millions of people in a language which is foreign to everyone of us. This communication of ideas would have been impossible without some munified system of education.

It is well known that the most impressionable period of a person's life is his childhood. The children can easily be moulded into sinners or saints, into patriots or traitors, into creators or destroyers, into active participants in the game of life or dull dreary drifters who sit on the fence moping and moping.

By 1945 Nigeria was regionalised by imperialists. To perpetuate their policy of *divide et impera* they also introduced regionalisation into education. What had we before then? We had a unified system of education and it worked well and most of us studied under that system. But, of course, it was in the interests of the imperialists to divide the people, and the best way to divide them was to divide their minds, and that was very effectively done in schools. Therefore, I hold that a policy which regionalises education in one country is a short-sighted policy. It does not take into

account the fact that to make a country one it must give the children the same opportunity for education.

As a result of the Constitutional Conference held before the country attained independence, some departments like the Police and the Posts and Telegraphs remained Federal subjects. Have we ever asked ourselves why we left these departments as Federal subjects? I suppose it is because it is important to the unity of this country to have a unified Police Force and a unified communications system.

These are physical unifications. What about the spiritual and mental unifications—the unification of the mind which is the only lasting unification people can have? That is what we want and that I wish to see restored. Nothing is more unifying than education. Similarity in the content of education will engender similarity in mental outlook and prove conducive and concordant to spiritual values. These generally accepted views are the foundations of the educational systems of most progressive countries.

Let us look at other countries. Take Britain, for example. Some people will tell me that they have got one system in Scotland and another system in England, Northern Ireland and Wales if they like, perhaps. But they forget that Great Britain is a combination of governments. Scotland was a kingdom by itself before it was united to England to form part of Great Britain. It is different in Nigeria. Nigeria was one country which was divided for a set purpose, and that purpose we want to destroy by being united again; and the stepping stone to this is the unification of education.

I shall pursue this further by referring these doubting Thomases to a section of the English Education Act which was passed in 1944 and which placed the central authority for the administration of educational system in the Ministry of Education. The duties of the Minister of Education in England are “to promote the education of the people of England and Wales and the progressive development of institutions devoted to that purpose and to secure the effective execution by Local Authorities, under his control and direction, of the national policy for providing a varied and comprehensive form of education.” It says “England and Wales” and I made it clear why this Act applies to England and Wales.

We are not a federation of previously existing governments, but a federation by necessity. But what do we find in our own educational policy? This is very interesting. I do hope, Mr Speaker, that you will permit me to quote from the Government Notice 2737 of the 23rd of December, 1959 which sets out the matters for which the Federal Minister of Education is responsible. The Government Notice says:

*“Federal education advisory service and inspectorate, education in Lagos, education of Nigerians in Fernando Po, Federal institutions of higher learning, Federal scholarships, Overseas studies, advice on school broadcasting, vocational guidance, academic research, Man O’War Bay training centre, antiquities, Federal Museums and national monuments, archives,”* and so on.

It is just a long list of things like that. No co-ordination, no system and no policy. I refuse to accept that as a fitting system of education for this great country.

Furthermore, the whole of this catalogue of items are supposed to be managed by the Minister of Education. How is he going to manage them? There is nothing like his power to organise the education of the teeming millions of the children of this country. But it is just left in the hands of a Permanent Secretary to do what? To supervise, and that is all. The Permanent Secretary supervises education and no more. And that is what we have for the generations that will take our place in this great country, and we think that we are doing fine. I do not think so.

It will be interesting too to point out that in this question of supervision, it is difficult to find out anything about educational policy. Nobody will find it anywhere. If one tries to find out anything about our progress in these declared items, one cannot find it anywhere else. If we consult the Digest of Statistics we will find that we can only get statistics for as late as 1960. In other words, since attaining independence, we have not done anything in field of education. There are no records. That shows how much we are doing and the plan we have for the education of our people. That is why we say that we must centralise education.

[MR AMADI]

Let us have somebody responsible for education and he will do something for the welfare of the people. What people? I will not tire this House with figures, but I would like to refer quickly to the statistics I can only find for 1960 where in the East they have got more than 1,400,000 primary school children, more than 3,800 commercial students and more than 18,000 grammar school students. In Lagos where we have got more than 74,000 primary school children, more than 4,000 grammar school students and 761 secondary modern students; in the North where we have got more than 280,000 primary school children and more than 6,000 grammar school students; in the West where we have got over 1,000,000 primary school children, 25,000 grammar school students and 75,000 secondary school students. These leave us with a total of more than 3,000,000 children in our schools in 1960. With the advancement in education we can guess what it should be by now. And we are leaving the fate and the fortunes of these millions of children in a planless condition.

My hon. Friend, the Member for Bende East (*Professor Exera*) who is the Mover of the Motion has already indicated the heavy colossal sums of money involved in this educational programme. I would only like to impress upon our able Minister of Education, because, incidentally, what I am saying has nothing whatsoever to do with his efficiency. After all, he is doing excellently well within his scope. But the point is that he has not been given free hands to do this work well.

I am appealing strongly to the Federal Government to take some steps to see that the constitution is amended. Whatever the step may be, let it be taken to see that the Constitution is amended so that the subject of education will become a Federal one. If it requires another constitutional review, well and good. If we could afford to have more than three constitutional reviews from 1947-50, there will be no harm done to have another one now. After all, we are nearing the fifth year of independence.

There is one point which I feel is the stumbling block to the whole affairs. I think the obstacle to this is the fact that Regional Governments are, perhaps, very jealous of their powers. No Regional Authority wants to forgo the power of looking after education in its own Region.

This is incomprehensible. There are other ways in which the various Regional Governments could help their people. They would be doing more good to the people if they could allow education to be a Federal subject. At any rate, this would not take the control of schools out of their hands. Instead of giving a subsidy, the Federal Government should have a properly co-ordinated policy for the education of our youths.

The only single document on education which we have is the Ashby Report which has been appropriately called, *Our Investment in Education*. This Report which has been accepted by the Government forms an indispensable part of its Six-Year Development Programme. What he says on page 4, paragraph 3, is rather pertinent to my argument and perhaps, also illuminating. With your permission, Mr Speaker, I would like to quote:—

*The chief deficiencies of the educational system are a lack of balance, and a tendency for the aspirations of those who plan education to out-run the money and teachers available. In an ideal educational system there is a balance between Primary, Secondary and Post-secondary education.*

This lack of balance can only be righted by a centralised system of education. After all, sometime ago, the Minister of Education told us something about the establishment of inter-regional secondary schools. I have not heard anything more about this inter-regional secondary schools, where they have been established and how many boys and girls from the various Regions are attending them.

We educationists do not hold the belief that children go to school mainly in order to enter into Government jobs. No. We feel that a child goes to school so as to learn how to have a maximum development of mind, body and spirit—*mens sana in corpore sano*.

The Ashby Report states that it would be a short-sighted policy to have the educational system of the country controlled solely by consumer needs for manpower. If we are to carry out the gracious system of education, therefore, we must shun pettiness and parochialism. These are to be some of our guiding principles. Education cannot be put into water-tight compartments. By the present policy of making education regional, we are

sowing the seeds of dissension and we are trying to put education into water-tight compartments.

Money is being wasted or spent extravagantly in some parts of the Federation whilst others are dying because they have not got enough money to run their various educational institutions. The present policy therefore, should be federalised.

If I may point out, for instance, a school like King's College, Lagos. That school has twenty-six graduates, but we know that there are some other schools in the regions which have barely two or three graduates; and yet, here is a single Grammar School like some other schools with twenty-six graduates. There is not one single master or a single Grade I teacher in this College. Every lecturer in the school is a graduate. I do not think that should be a fair position in a country where the people are thinking of the equality of opportunity. It is not the fault of the Minister of Education. He has got plenty of money to spend. He has got his graduates and he puts them in the schools that he has.

The same thing happens at the Queen's College, Lagos. There are twenty-two graduates in this school. There is no master and no Grade I teacher. Every lecturer here is also a graduate. This is a clear instance of privilege. If we had a single system, surely the Minister of Education would not put twenty-six graduates in one school when he has other schools of the same standard without that number of graduates.

There is also another evidence of wastage—the multiplicity of Ministries and the officials of the various Ministries. We have got five Ministers of Education instead of one; we have got five Permanent Secretaries and so on and so forth. These are some means of spending money which one would not regard as being wise. Centralised education, quite apart from the academic and economic values, could save quite a lot of money which could be used in building many industries in this country and thus provide more work for the unemployed.

So, Sir, I feel that in spite of anything else anybody might have to say on this Motion, this is a very welcome Motion. It is a Motion that needs confidence and support so that some

of us will be remembered by posterity for doing one of those most important things which every Government should do, that is, having introduced the Federal system of education.

I beg to second.

**M. Ibrahim Gusau** (Sokoto West Central) : I rise to move an amendment in my name :—

In line 5, to leave out from "Government" to the end of the Question and add—

"to establish higher institutions of learning all over the country".

There is an omission of the word "equitably" in my Motion. If you look at the draft, Sir, you will see that that is what I wrote and I hereby insert it because I wrote it in my draft. It should read as follows :—

"to establish, equitably, higher institutions of learning all over the country".

To begin with, I should like to say that the Mover of the original Motion did not make a direct statement with regard to his Motion. I am glad to say that though he has been ill-informed, he had a correct statement from the Minister of Education.

The Amendment in my name is being moved for two reasons. First, I thought that the Member for Bende East (*Professor Kalu Ezeru*) who is the original mover of this Motion should be kind enough to sympathise with at least Northern Nigerians. I mention Northern Nigerians because for many years now million of Northern Nigerians have been labouring for their brothers and sisters in the South. This, of course, is not their fault but the fault of our colonial masters who ruled Nigeria before. In the past all the resources of Northern Nigeria were used here in the South. And that is the reason why we have better roads and better communication facilities in the South.

**Mr N. D. Ukah** (Owerri North East) : On a point of order, Sir, if we remember the causes of the amalgamation of Northern and Southern Nigeria, one of those causes was that the Administrator at that time wanted an equal scheme of development for the country. Having been brought up by Missionaries and traders who were more advanced and richer than—

**The Deputy Speaker :** Order ! I am afraid we are wading into the controversial history of the past on which, I am sure, we have eminent authorities in this House ; and it would be unfair to expect the Chair to hold a balance between experts.

**M. Ibrahim Gusau :** As I was saying, the reason why I moved this Amendment is that I thought the Member for Bende East would be kind enough to think of this minimum reward ; of the past maltreatment of Northern Nigeria by our colonial masters. And if hon. Members would look for a moment at the constitutional history of Nigeria, as it concerns Education in particular, we shall see that—

**Dr P. U. Okeke (Onitsha North Central) :** On a point of order, my hon. Friend, the Member for Sokoto West Central (*M. Ibrahim Gusau*) is implying that the colonial masters were kinder to the South than to the North and—

**The Deputy Speaker :** Order ! May I appeal to our literary experts here that the colonial masters have come and gone. We are Nigerians, and I appeal to everybody to let us argue on contemporary facts.

**M. Ibrahim Gusau :** The original Motion seeks an Amendment to the Constitution so as to make Education a Federal subject. I think everybody will agree that the Regional Governments bear heavy burdens of education. There is no federal country all over the world where Education is made a Federal subject because it is very difficult. Even in the Regions every Member of Parliament will bear me out that Education is not centralised. In the Regions we see that Local and Native Authorities are responsible for their syllabuses. Even in Great Britain, which is not a Federal country, the educational policy of England is different from those of Scotland and Wales and different even from that of Northern Ireland. So, it is very difficult to suggest that Education should be made a Federal subject.

The Federal Government has already committed itself to the establishment of certain higher institutions of learning in one particular area of the country and that is the reason why I moved this Amendment. If the Federal Government had not established one university in Ibadan and another one in Lagos I would

not have moved this Amendment. Having done this, I think it is only right to move that the Federal Government should establish equitably higher institutions of learning all over the country.

**Professor Kalu Ezera (Bende East) :** On a point of order, Sir, the Member for Sokoto West Central (*M. Ibrahim Gusau*) is misleading this House. The Federal Government did not establish the University of Ibadan during the time that Nigeria had been regionalised. The University of Ibadan was established about 1948 prior to the 1950 Constitutional Conference, and this country was fully regionalised under the 1954 Constitution. Therefore, for anybody to say that the Federal Government established two universities, one in Ibadan and the other one in Lagos is not true to fact. The fact is that the Federal Government, under the present Constitution, established only the University of Lagos.

**M. Ibrahim Gusau :** Instead of my hon. Friend, the Member for Bende East (*Professor Kalu Ezera*) defending this Government, he has brought to light that the University of Ibadan has already been established and—

**The Minister of Labour (Chief J. M. Johnson) :** On a point of information, I would like to submit with respect to my hon. Friend, the Member for Sokoto West Central (*M. Ibrahim Gusau*) that the administration of Lagos is the responsibility of the Federal Government just as the administration of each Regional Government is the responsibility of their respective Regional Governments.

**M. Ibrahim Gusau :** While agreeing with the statement of the Minister of Labour, I would like him to understand that educational responsibility for Lagos is in doubt because in many places in each Region one finds that responsibility for Local Government is by the Regional Government but the entire educational responsibility for Lagos is that of the Federal Government. So, it is a huge commitment. We want to know, what is the educational responsibility of the Lagos City Council ?

**The Minister of Education (Onyiba Aja Nwachuku) :** The Lagos City Council pays 30 per cent of the total expenditure on education in Lagos. And we have a local education authority established in Lagos. This authority

caters for primary education in Lagos. So, it is not absolutely the responsibility of the Federal Government to run educational institutions in Lagos.

**M. Ibrahim Gusau** I quite agree with what the Minister has just said. But I still maintain that the Federal Government has committed itself to what it is not responsible for. I cannot easily understand how universities can be established by the Federal Government in two close places while the rest of the Regions are left uncatered for. If the Federal Government was careful it should have submitted the Ibadan University to the Western Region Government. That should have been done. But the Government has committed itself by retaining the University.

**Mr S. O. Kolade** (Oyo South) : On a point of order, my Friend the Member for Sokoto West Central (*M. Ibrahim Gusau*) was here when the Bill on the University was being passed. He never spoke against it.

**The Deputy Speaker** : Order ! In our Constitution, we guarantee freedom of thought and freedom of conscience, and so on. I should think that any Member would be free to change his mind.

**M. Ibrahim Gusau** : May I—

**Chief A. M. A. Akinloye** (Ibadan North East) : May I with respect and for the purposes of record say that the Western Region Government asked for the transfer of the University of Ibadan to the Regional Government but it was refused at that time by the Federal Government. If that had been done at that time I think that my Friend, the Member for Sokoto West Central (*M. Ibrahim Gusau*) would have had no cause to say what he is now saying.

**Onyiba Aja Nwachukwu** : The Federal Government could not have accepted that approach. As a result of the Ashby Commission's report, all the then Colleges of Arts, Science and Technology were assimilated to the Regional Universities. We made over the Ibadan branch to the West Regional Government ; Enugu branch to the East and the Zaria branch to the North. So, we could not have given the West two shares.

**Chief O. B. Akin-Olugbade** (Egba South) : I have to thank the Minister of Education for

confirming what has been said by the Member for Ibadan North East (*Chief Akinloye*).

**M. Ibrahim Gusau** : I still maintain that the Federal Government has committed itself. After all, we bear no grudge against the Federal Government for having established a university in Ibadan. We at the same time bear no grudge for the Government for the one established in Lagos. The Federal Government can establish more if they like. But, at the same time, we want an equitable share for the North, the East and the West. (*Interruptions*).

**The Deputy Speaker** : Order ! May we allow the Member for Sokoto West Central (*M. Ibrahim Gusau*) to continue his speech ?

**M. Ibrahim Gusau** : As I was saying, we expect an equal share either by giving grants to the Regional Governments to establish institutions or by establishing identical institutions in various Regions. We do not mind any procedure adopted as long as they are shared equitably. All we want is that since the Federal Government has committed itself to what it is not responsible for, it should give equal treatment to all parts of the Federation.

I beg to move.

**Mr S. D. Lar** (Lowland East) : I rise to second the Amendment. After listening to the speech of the Mover of the original Motion—

**Mr A. F. Odulana** (Ijebu South) : On a point of order, this Minister here is chewing something.

**The Deputy Speaker** : Order ! Order ! I think that the hon. Minister may be adjusting his teeth. (*Laughter*).

**Alhaji Bello Dandago** (Gwarzo East) : This is a sign of unity. They grow kola-nuts in the West and we eat the nuts for them. (*Laughter*).

**Professor Kalu Ezera** : That is a solution to the balance of trade problem. (*Laughter*).

**Mr S. D. Lar** : I rise to second the Amendment that has been ably moved by my Friend the Member for Sokoto West Central (*M. Ibrahim Gusau*).

After one has listened very well to the speech of the Mover of the original Motion one will see that his aim is just like that of the Mover



[MR LAR]

of the Amendment. Why I am seconding this Amendment is this that, as my Friend the Member for Sokoto West Central has said, what we want is that the Federal Government should establish institutions of higher learning all over the country.

Already, as far as primary education is concerned, I do not think that there is any difference in standard anywhere in the country. What we want is that the Federal Government should establish institutions of higher learning all over the country.

Why I disagree with the mover of the original Motion is this. He said that his aim was to make the standard of education uniform all over the country. But I think that this has been achieved. Already all our secondary school leavers take the same West African School Certificate Examination. This shows that there is no difference in the standard of education here. And at the same time we see people from the West, East and the North attending the same universities. This applies also to the teacher training centres. What we want is that the Federal Government should establish institutions of higher learning in all the Regions.

**The Deputy Speaker :** Order ! It is now 1 o'clock and sitting is suspended till 3 o'clock.

*Sitting suspended : 1 p.m.*

*Sitting resumed : 3.00 p.m.*

**Mr S. D. Lar** (Lowland East): What is needed in this country with regard to education is not uniformity of standards as such, because already there is this uniformity. This is proved by the fact that all our secondary school leavers in the country do the same examination. And in any case, most of our students in the country attend the same universities. So, anybody who says there is no uniformity of standards of education is deceiving this House.

I am speaking in favour of the Amendment, as set out—

Line 5, leave out from "Government" to the end of the Question and add— "to establish equitably higher institutions of learning all over the country."

I do hope the Minister of Education will accept it on behalf of the Government and establish institutions of higher learning all over the Federation.

Before the Regionalisation of the Federation in 1954, there was a system of central education. I am sure the Minister will agree with me that the Government then found it difficult and they found that the progress of education was slow and some other Regions were suffering greatly as a result of the centralisation.

A glaring example of this situation would be the position of things in the Northern Region. Prior to the Regionalisation of education there were only about two or three Government Secondary Schools in the whole of the Region. But now as many as twenty such schools can be seen scattered all over the place. This is because education has been regionalised and this gives the Government more time to concentrate on the subject.

Therefore, any attempt to centralise education in this country will be highly opposed. I hope the Minister of Education will agree to accept this Amendment.

I beg to second the Amendment.

**Mr S. O. Kolade** (Oyo South): I am in favour of the Motion that Education should be Federalised.

**Mr Lar :** On a point of order, we have not disposed of the Amendment. We have to dispose of that Amendment first.

**Mr Kolade :** I am opposing the Amendment and I say that in view of the urgent need to the nation for uniformity in the pattersins of education in the country, and in view of the fact that a centralised portfolio of education will not only help to relieve the widespread hardships facing the teachers in the country, but will also immeasurably help to enhance the unity of our heterogeneous country, this House strongly urges the Federal Government to sponsor an amendment of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria for education at all levels to become a federal subject.

I want to emphasise one point, and that is unity. Unity should start with our educational system. What I want and indeed what we need mostly is to rearrange all our educational systems with reference to primary schools. At present there is jealousy in the wrong end with each Region thinking that its own system is the best. I am surprised to see that in the same country, in Western Region people go to elementary school at the age of six years, whereas

in the North it is at the age of seven and in Lagos and East it is five. I think in the same country we should have a uniform standard everywhere.

**The Minister of Economic Development** (Alhaji Waziri Ibrahim): On a point of order, we have not got a quorum yet.

**Mr Speaker**: Under the Standing Orders, we can carry on.

**Mr Kolade**: As it is now, we start our primary education at different ages in the different parts of the country. The Minister should take this into consideration and make it uniform. I do not believe in federalising the system of primary education because primary education should be based on environmental set up. But what I am after is the age problem. There should be a uniformity in the ages all over the country.

Another point is the number of years that children spend in elementary schools. In the North it is seven, while in the West it is six and in the East and in Lagos eight years. In the North they read what they call primary seven.

**Mr M. B. Afanideh** (Ikot Ekpene South): On a point of information, the hon. Member is deceiving the House. I am a school master and what the hon. Gentleman is saying is not true. School children spend six years in the East and not eight.

**Mr Kolade**: I am also a school master myself. I do not think the Member for Ikot Ekpene South (*Mr Afanideh*) knows what he is talking about. He does not even live in the East, may be.

I am advocating that there should be a general pattern in the whole Federation so that the children will go to school at a particular age and leave at a particular age all over the country. There should be the same number of years through out the country with reference to the time children stay in primary school. Why should they stay seven in the North, six in the East and even eight in the Federal Territory of Lagos? There should be uniformity, so something should be done about it.

Time has come when some form of languages should be introduced in these primary schools in order to have a general pattern of education,

especially with the main vernacular languages; Yoruba, Ibo and Hausa. Some of these languages could be introduced because we are trying to see that these children are united from youth. If some simple languages are taught them in primary school then they can go to the secondary schools to study more about such languages. If I can understand Ibo and Hausa, including my own Yoruba, I think I should be able to adjust myself in which ever region I may stay. This can bring about the unity of the country.

**Alhaji Waziri Ibrahim**: Does the hon. Member know that Kanuri is one of the widely spoken languages in Bornu? Therefore when he is taking into account the bigger groups in the country he should realise that after Hausa, Kanuri comes in and then Fulani.

**An hon. Member**: He does not know.

**Mr Kolade**: I think Members of the Northern House of Assembly have decided to approve Hausa as their official language, and nothing has been said about the Kanuri language in the Northern House. I think if it starts like that we shall introduce some languages which will bring these children together. When they grow up they will be more united than some of us here to-day.

With reference to the primary school system, time has come when we should revert to the old Government standard six examination. There is still one anomaly. The primary school system in the East is slightly different from that in the West and the children take varying examinations at the end of their primary school course. I think the time is due when we should go back to the old Government standard VI examination. When the children take this exam we shall then be sure that the certificates will be valid whether in the Western Region, in the Northern Region, or in the Eastern Region.

The examination set in the various Regions are not standardised. If all the children are made to take the same examination we shall be able to know that the primary six certificate from one Region is equal to that from another Region. At present the questions are not standardised. The Eastern Region questions might be simpler in one year and that of the

[MR KOLADE]

Western Region simpler in another year. Yet we profess that they have finished their Primary six.

When the system was practised during the colonial era the standard was better and those of us who went through the course are what we are to-day because of the hard work through which we passed. But now the standard is falling.

All the Ministers of Education in the various Regions should meet together with the Minister of Education in the Federal Territory to think of what could be done to bring up the standard of education generally. I am suggesting that there should be a Federal Board of Education comprising all the Regions and important educationists in the country. They should be able to meet and think of how to bring up the standard of education in the country. At present the standard is not good.

Then there is the disparity in certificates with reference to teacher training institutions. Sometimes in the North certificates from the other Regions were not being accepted. They were thinking perhaps that the certificates were of inferior quality. The East might not accept the certificates from other Regions too.

In the past, those who took the old Higher Elementary Certificate examination sat for the same paper throughout the country. Nowadays, except with very few federal papers, the rest of the papers are of regional origin. The standard of questions also is not the same. How can the teachers feel that they have got the same certificates?

**Mr S. D. Lar** (Lowland East): I think that what is lowering the standard of education is that most of the school masters do not give time to their teaching work. They are involved in politics. They spend their time campaigning vigorously. They should be blamed for this situation.

**Mr M. B. Afanideh** (Ikot Ekpene South): I protest against the statement of the last speaker. The truth is that a teacher who is really good and who has had his training in a good training college should be able to cope with all class work. I can assure any Member in this House that if such a teacher teaches the children according to the hours provided by the time table, there is nothing that will make

the children fail in their examinations. It is not because the teachers are taking part in politics. That is wrong.

**Mr Kolade**: I am suggesting that the time has come when we should have another constitutional conference in this country, with particular reference to the country's education system. The way our education system is being handled is not very encouraging. There should be a conference comprising all the Ministers of Education from all the Regions, together with important educationists in this country. They will think out how we can co-ordinate our efforts so that these jealousies and unhealthy rivalries in education will stop. Then shall we be able to have a central body to direct our educational system.

Personally I feel the primary school system should be left in the hands of the Regional Governments because primary education should be based on the local environment of the various Regions. At the same time I should like to remind the Minister of Education not to forget my point on differences in ages of children and the number of years they spend at school.

I beg to support.

**The Minister of Education** (Onyiba Aja Nwachuku): My getting up to speak now does not mean that Members will not have the opportunity to continue to contribute to the debate on this Motion.

It is a pity that those who have so far spoken have covered various but divergent areas of education. The Motion says one thing and those who have contributed to the debate are saying a different thing. They have brought into this Motion, higher education, uniformity of standard, Nigerian languages, differences in ages, teachers' certificates, and so on. But that is not what the Motion seeks. What it seeks is to make education a Federal subject. Instead of contributing to the Motion as it stands, Members went into details. These details are outside the province of the Motion which we are debating.

The Member who moved this Motion is not alone, as Members can see, in his desire that education should be made a federal subject. For sometime now various bodies, including the press, the Nigerian Union of Teachers,

university students, our Regional and Federal Legislatures, to name a few, have advocated a change in the set-up. In fact, there are at present three other current Motions tabled by Members of this House, all asking that education be made a Federal responsibility. I think when we dispose of this Motion, those other Motions will be taken as having lapsed.

There is, no doubt, that a centralized education set-up would ensure uniform standards all over the Federation. Against this Motion, however, there is a lot to say. First, there is the fact that the existing system occurs in practically all the advanced federations of the world, where substantial legislative powers in educational matters are allocated to the component states of the federation concerned. The system obtains in the United States of America, Canada, Australia, India, Switzerland, the Federal Republic of Germany and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

Nigeria, in maintaining the present set-up, is therefore adhering to a system which has been tested and found to work in older federations. It is quite true that, in practically all these countries, the Federal government is taking increased responsibility in educational matters, and that we do as well in Nigeria, where the Federal Government exclusively maintains two of the five universities in the country, and through the National Universities Commission, gives substantial assistance to the remaining three—the Ahmadu Bello University, the University of Nigeria, Nsukka and the University of Ife.

**An hon. Member :** What of the Mid-West ?

**Onyiba Aja Nwachuku :** No University has come into being in the Mid-West. If they happen to build one there, then it will join the queue.

The Federal Government has also taken steps to ensure that there is a considerable measure of co-ordination in the educational activities of the Governments of the Federation. Well, the Member for Oyo South (*Mr Kolade*) said that there was no co-ordination. I would like him to listen to my reply to that point he has made. We have co-ordination by setting up such bodies as the Joint Consultative Committee on Education and the Bureau of External Aid for Education.

**Mr S. O. Kolade (Oyo South) :** How many times do they meet in a year ?

**Onyiba Aja Nwachuku :** They meet as often as possible. They do not have to meet everyday, but they meet when occasion demands.

Arrangements are being made to set up, in the very near future, National High Schools in the Regions, entirely financed by the Federal Government. But the hope of my hon. Friend, as expressed in the Motion, that it would make for uniform educational patterns is debatable.

In fact, we have a uniform system of education in the upper classes in Secondary Schools and even in Teacher Training Colleges. The Grade II Teachers Certificate, which some Members said is not accepted throughout the Federation, is, in fact, accepted. The standard is the same. If you have a Grade II Teachers Certificate, you will be allowed to teach in any of the schools in the Federation where Grade II Teachers are required to teach.

**An hon. Member :** What of standards in the Grade III Teachers Certificates ?

**Onyiba Aja Nwachuku :** We are doing away with Grade III teachers piecemeal.

It is not considered necessary or desirable to have a uniform educational system in Nigeria because each system has its own merits. On the contrary, we should recognise, accept and, in fact, encourage any diversity in our educational practice so long as it does not lead to any deterioration in standards. Nor do I appreciate the basis for the inference that the concurrent status of the subject under our Constitution has led to the wide-spread hardship said to be facing teachers all over the country. The truth appears to be that the enormous expenditure on the universal primary education is hard on the finances of the Regions.

The hon. Member advocating the centralisation of education seems to lose sight of the fact that regionalisation has brought about very healthy rivalry in educational activities amongst the Governments of the Federation, and, as we all know, healthy rivalry makes for higher standards. I have no doubts in my mind that any move to centralise education may be opposed by one or two Regional Governments as an encroachment on their constitutional rights.

[ONYIBA AJA NWACHUKU]

Furthermore, education is one of those social services which touch the masses intimately and experience has shown that such services are much more effectively administered when decentralised.

I do not know whether my hon. Friend has paused to think of the problems with which we shall have to be faced if education is made an entirely Federal matter. This would mean that all the educational planning would be done from Lagos, and in view of the distance from Lagos to the Regions, this would be a very difficult thing to do because the planners, who would normally be based in Lagos, would not be easily accessible to the Regions and may therefore not be able to come to grips with the on-the-spot realities of the situation.

It may be argued that, prior to 1952, education was centralised, but it must be realised that, since then, tremendous strides have been made in educational development in the country and that it would be unrealistic to compare the position now to that prior to 1952 when it was possible to run the set-up from Lagos.

There is another ground on which Government cannot readily support this Motion. This Motion is a constitutional amendment with tremendous political, financial and economic consequences. Such a step cannot be taken lightly. It would be tantamount to bull-dozing a constitutional amendment through the back door. Such a procedure is not in harmony with the letter and spirit of our Constitution. To amend the Constitution as simply as that without a nation-wide discussion from the Regions, would be creating a dangerous precedent if this Motion were passed, because anybody wanting a major change in the Constitution could try to obtain it by moving a Motion for debate on the Floor of this House, and citing this case as an authority in support.

I, therefore, invite Members to reject the Motion and the Amendment in their entirety. This House can, however, endorse the view that the Federal Government can go on taking additional responsibility on a national level in educational matters as and when it becomes necessary to do so. This will enable her to play an increasing role in the educational development of the country as she is already doing now without usurping the responsibility

for education from the Regional Governments, something which I am almost certain they will stoutly oppose.

All the Regional Governments are very conscious of their autonomy and will stoutly oppose any attempt we may make to take away education from them. I hope that all sides of the House have agreed with me that it is a very wise thing to reject both the original Motion and the Amendment.

Sir, I beg to oppose.

*Amendment put and negatived.*

**Mr M. A. Ajasin** (Owo South) : I am opposing the Motion ; perhaps, I am the first Member to oppose it, and I am supporting the Minister of Education.

**Mr C. O. Chiedozie** (Enugu) : On a point of order, with all humility I am wishing that when Private Members Motions are tabled, I would like Mr Speaker to see to it that only four or five of them are on the *Order Paper* so that we will be able to finish with them. This is an appeal to you, Mr Speaker.

**Mr Speaker** : The normal thing to do if one wants a Motion to be disposed of is to move the closure.

**Mr F. A. M. Amadi** (Nsukka Central) : On a point of order, in view of the fact that my hon. Friend the Mover of this Motion is here and I am the Seconder, and in view of the explanation made by the Minister of Education, I am asking the leave of the House to withdraw the Motion.

**Mr Speaker** : I think it is wiser to wait on the Mover of the Motion to withdraw it.

**Mr Ajasin** : As I said, I am opposing the Motion. I shall not be long in my speech because many of the points which I should have made had been mentioned by the Minister of Education.

Many of the Members who spoke in favour of the Motion actually went wide of the real Motion on the *Order Paper*. In fact, three reasons are stressed why the Federal Government should take up the responsibility for education.

It has been stated that there should be uniformity of standard ; the welfare of teachers and the unity of Nigeria have also been mentioned. These are the three things stated in

the Motion, but instead of their following these three things, they discussed some other things.

If we are to think of the responsibility of the Federal Government, any of these three things can be accomplished without education being a federal subject. The Minister of Education has mentioned the point about uniformity of standard and I would just like to say this that at present the standard of education in the primary, secondary and university levels are about the same all over the country.

In the primary level, we have a six-year course in the Western Region and a six-year course in the Eastern Region. It is only in Lagos and the Northern Region that we have seven and eight years respectively. In course of time, through the Advisory Councils set up by the Ministries of Education, it could be arranged that the six-year course be followed throughout the country.

In the case of secondary education, as I said here during the debate on the President's Address, the West African Examinations Council has already laid it down that there should be no complaints about that. All secondary schools now are running a five-year course. It is only the new ones that run a six-year course.

In the case of university, a student enters by passing the G.C.E. in two subjects at the Advanced Level.

**An hon. Member :** Three.

**Mr Ajasin :** No, the minimum is two Advanced Level subjects and four Ordinary Level subjects. The student goes there for three years for the basic degree of B.A. or B.Sc. There are, however, some concessions at Nsukka, Ibadan and Ife. Here concessional entries are allowed whereby the student would do four years instead of three years, and that is the same standard. This means that the student passes the entrance examination to the University after passing the School Certificate examination in Grade I or Grade II. So, there is already uniformity as far as that is concerned.

**Mr Amadi :** On a point of order, the hon. Member is misleading this House. First of all, in the primary level, we have a six-year course in the East and West and an eight-year course in the North and Lagos.

In the secondary level, the hon. Member himself has admitted that some schools have a six-year course, while others have a five-year course.

In the university level, it is four-year course in Nsukka and a three-year course in Ibadan.

**Mr Ajasin :** What I said was that we have a three-year course for the students with G.C.E. Advanced Level in two subjects. It is a four-year course if the student has not passed that, but had passed the school Certificate in the first division or in the second division. And then he has to pass the entrance examination to the University.

Now, on the welfare of teachers which had been mentioned, I wish to say that it is not by making education a Federal subject that the welfare of teachers can be looked after. What we want is that teachers should be better paid than they are paid now. That will be through this Commission—the Morgan Salaries and Wages Commission. When the Morgan Commission report is released, we hope something will be done for teachers as had been done in the past by other wages and salaries commissions. Other wages and salaries commissions had recommended increments in teachers' salaries in the past.

At present, what is wrong particularly in the Eastern Region and in some parts of the other Regions is that the monies voted by the Government are sometimes made use of by the voluntary agencies and local education authorities, instead of their paying these monies to the teachers.

So, it is not the question of whether or not education should become a federal subject, while these monies are not paid to the teachers. The real trouble is that many local authorities convert into other uses, the money made available by the Regional Governments.

**Mr D. N. Oronsaye (Benin East) :** On a point of order, with your permission, Mr Speaker, I beg to refer to Order 31 (1)—

*"After a question has been proposed a Member rising in his place may claim to move 'That the question be now put', and, unless it shall appear to the chair that such motion is an abuse of the rules of the House or an infringement of the rights of a minority, the question*

[MR ORONSAYE]

*'That the question be now put' shall be put forthwith and decided without amendment or debate notwithstanding that the mover had no opportunity to make his reply*".

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

**Mr Speaker :** I think this is an infringement of the rights of a minority.

**Mr Ajasin :** As regards the unity of Nigeria, I think it is not by making education a federal subject that unity can be achieved. We have all mentioned here on different occasions the things that are responsible for disunity and the things that should be taken out of the politics of this country to make for unity. We have all mentioned that the fundamental human rights entrenched in the Republican Constitution should be observed by all the Regions in this country. In this way, there will be unity.

And then, there is the question of creating more states. It is not by making education a federal subject that the much vaunted unity of the country can be achieved.

If education becomes a federal subject what will happen in the country would be that the progress of education will be retarded. The Federal Government will begin to ration out education. It will set down the number of primary schools that it will be able to open in the North, in the East and also in the West. That is what the Federal Government will do. It will have to cut down the number of schools to be opened because of expenses.

The Federal Government will also lay down the number of secondary schools to be opened all over the country and after sometime too, one Region would begin to vie with the other on the question of population. One would say that because of its population it wants a certain number of secondary schools and some others would say they want such and such number of primary schools, and so on. I think it will not help at all if we make education a Federal subject.

Apart from that, the Minister of Education has already said that education should have to be decentralised which is better. For instance, Trunk Roads 'A' are not maintained from Lagos, because the maintenance money for these roads are given to the Regional Governments. Hon. Members will therefore see that it is the different Regional Ministries

of Works that maintain our Trunk 'A' Roads. Similarly, it is the different Regional Ministries of Education that are responsible for education in this country.

**Mr J. B. Eboigbodi (Asaba West) :** On a point of order—

**Mr Speaker :** What point of order please? Hon. Members should take example from the Member for Benin East (*Chief Oronsaye*) who quotes the relevant order before he raises any point.

**Mr Ajasin :** If education is made a Federal subject, it would be very difficult for the Federal Government to control. This difficulty will make it to be decentralised again as it is now.

However, I would like to remind the Minister of Education what the Mover of this Motion actually wants to be done. What the Mover of this Motion stressed on is the question of grants to the Regions.

**Some hon. Members :** No ! No.

**Mr Ajasin :** That is the point the Mover of this Motion actually stressed towards the end of his speech. Grants should be given annually to the Regions to enable them carry on with the running of primary and secondary education.

In the case of higher education, I would like to say that it should be the responsibility of the Federal Government. We have very few universities and these few universities cost the Regional Governments a lot of money. The Regional Governments cannot afford to continue maintaining them.

Meanwhile, the amount of money at present being spent by the Regions on universities, can be devoted to the development of primary and secondary education. That is what we are asking the Federal Government to do.

In conclusion, I would like to support the Amendment to this Motion in the sense that higher education should be the responsibility of the Federal Government. All our universities should be taken over by the Federal Government whilst primary and secondary education remains the responsibility of the Regional Governments.

*Question put and negatived.*

NATIONAL TRANSPORT BOARD

**Mr C. Chiedozie** (Enugu): I beg to move the Motion standing in my name—

That this House calls upon the Federal Government to create a National Transport Board in this country.

Everyone knows that our Constitution is a federal one and that this country wants unity in diversity. In other words, Nigeria, being a country with a Federal Constitution, it is necessary that we should try to co-ordinate our transport system. Therefore, we need a co-ordinating agency.

Hon. Members are well aware that to-day modern means of transport has brought the whole world together. Wonderful progress is being made all over the world in the field of transport. In Russia, which is a communist country, there is a uniform system of transport. Its federal government controls transport. This makes it possible for the federal government to unify the whole of Russia as far as transport is concerned. In view of the vastness of Russia, its system of transport is placed under one agency.

In England, all of us know historically that grave mistakes were made by allowing transport systems to be run by private enterprises. To-day there are so many anomalies in their system of transport that are regrettable.

Nigeria is a very lucky country because already the Railway Corporation is assisted by the Federal Government. But what about the road transport? Now aviation is a separate Ministry on its own and we also have the Inland Waterways. As a matter of fact, there is necessity for co-ordination, if we are not going to regret in future because Nigeria is a vast country. We are heterogeneous in our approach to our problems, but now we want to be homogenous in everything.

Let us take our Railway Corporation for example. Some time ago a railway line from Jos to Zaria was closed because of lack of foresight on the part of those people who constructed it. That was a real waste. Therefore, a National Transport Board must be created to see that wastages, duplication and reckless competition are avoided in this country. That railway line is now out of use.

The same thing happened to our gauge. Some time ago, our gauge was 2ft. 6in. whereas

our present gauge is 3ft. 6in. It is quite debatable whether or not this is a very good gauge because the European standard is 4ft. 8½in and that of Russia also is 5ft. 6in. A reasonable gauge will be able to accommodate a very big train carrying a lot of coaches and I wonder whether our own which is only 3ft. 6in. will be suitable.

It appears that as time goes on, we may decide to have a wider gauge and the old ones will be wasted. This is why a National Transport Board, charged with the responsibility of seeing about the welfare of the people of this country as regards transport should be created.

It is true that the Minister of Transport is doing his best no doubt, but I feel that we have a very poor system of transport. There is no uniformity. The essence of this Motion therefore is to make for uniformity in our system of transport.

In motor transport, we have what is called Trunk 'A' Roads and it is maintained by the Federal Government. We have also Trunk 'B' Roads which are maintained by the Regional Governments whilst some other roads are constructed by the local authorities. If there is no uniform system of transport, the result will be a disorganised and unco-ordinated system of transport which eventually will lead in the long run to misapplication of our economic resources, because many roads will be condemned and will be out of use. A lot of money will then be required to reconstruct these roads.

There must be a board that should look after the whole roads in the Federation. There must be a co-ordinating body.

Hon. Members are aware of the fact that under the Federal Constitution, the Regional Governments have powers to construct roads, but such roads when constructed here in Nigeria, should conform to a set pattern, so that our productive economy will be enhanced. It is often said that when roads are constructed anyhow, they hamper the movement of economic resources.

It is being felt also that as far as Nigeria is concerned, the transport system should have been a federal subject altogether in order to see that it is run to help the country as a whole. This will help to unite Nigeria. I am coming to that point.



[MR CHIEDOZIE]

I take air transport as an example. It is being felt at the moment that the Minister of Aviation will be co-ordinating the establishment of aerodromes and so on in the country. This does not mean that aerodrome can be built anywhere and anyhow.

Airways has come to be another system of transport and the Minister should see to it that aerodromes are not built in places for political reason. There is a very great necessity for co-ordination. Unplanned economy is always a chaotic one; so an unplanned transport system is always disastrous.

Railway lines should be constructed to link viable, potential and economic areas. They should be constructed not to jeopardise the interest of motor transport and motor transport itself should not be made to compete with railways in view of the high capitalisation in railway construction. Where one has Railways competing with motor transport such competition will be disastrous.

It is not that we do not want competition, but in view of the high capitalisation of the railway system, it may not be able to compete with motor transport. Therefore in some places, we must allow the railways to carry on. That is what I am advocating and that will soon come to pass. We are going to do a lot of railway line construction in certain parts of the country.

Members will agree with me that the transport system in this country is anything but satisfactory. There must be an agency looking at the construction of our roads. We all agree that our road system in Nigeria is not all that good. The Ministry of Works is doing very well, there is no doubt. After all this is a developing nation and some of the difficulties that we are having, are the legacies we inherited from the imperialist days. None of our Ministers should be blamed for this. Our Federal Ministers are doing very well in their fields of endeavour. We are human beings and to err is human.

As far as our road transport is concerned, many Members have a lot of things to complain about. Look at the number of accidents on our roads everyday. The roads are constructed, but they do not obey certain conventional rules—they are faulty, and are very narrow. I think the reason for this is that some of the Regional Governments have

inadequate resources to construct roads. They just construct roads anyhow; they want roads here and there.

Our road system requires improvement and it cannot be done unless there is a co-ordinating agency which will plan our roads for us. This co-ordinating agency would have the map of Nigeria before it so that it might be able to decide where the roads are to be constructed. If our roads are well planned, our future generations will not condemn us for being short-sighted in our policy.

Transport system in the world is very important. If we neglect our transport system, I think, we shall have to regret it in future. Our roads are not straight and where they are straight, they are very narrow. Our bridges are not well constructed. If we have a co-ordinating agency, it will plan all these things for us. When some roads and bridges are constructed, in course of two years, they are bad. This is a waste of money. If there is to be anything like unity, we must start with our transport system. If there is no unity in that, I think we will wake up one day to be attacked by our future generations.

A National Transport Board would protect our passengers travelling by motor, train and air. It is good to have an authority that will plan our roads and bridges for us in view of the fact that every Region constructs its own roads and bridges; even local authorities construct roads too. The Federal Government is responsible for the construction of Trunk 'A' Roads.

We must bear in mind the welfare of passengers when they travel. It should be the responsibility of the National Transport Board to protect these passengers and see that they do not suffer cut-throat competition.

Transport costs vary in the East, in the West and in the North. The Board should see to it that the costs are the same everywhere. It appears that where there is a lot of demand there will be a sort of high price; so there must be control.

Welfare facilities should be provided in our transport system. The railways must provide good coaches because the ones they have now need improvement. The Minister of Transport is doing his work very well, but there is a lot more to be done. If one enters a first-class

coach which is about nineteen pounds, say, from Lagos to Enugu, one would not enjoy anything there. In those days one white man would occupy one room but to-day, six people occupy a room and everybody pays nineteen pounds for it. Much improvement is needed here and if a National Transport Board is established, it will look into these complaints.

It is our belief that the Railway must enjoy a monopoly but it must be controlled and Airways too must be controlled. As regards Airways, the National Transport Board should see to it that air transport is accelerated so that our people can be made to appreciate the importance of air transport.

In all our flights, there must be safety devices. Sometime ago I was in one of our flights and I asked the pilot what would happen if an accident occurred because there were no safety devices, he told me that we would all die. We must have parachutes in our flights to protect our passengers in case of accident. It does not mean that we can provide everything but we must have the essential things.

If the National Transport Board is established it would be made to look after our requirements. After all, Nigeria is a big country and we have got the money. We want passengers to feel comfortable when they travel in our planes. Some people travel for happiness or to a holiday resort and they must be protected.

Legislators from the East are aware that the launches that are plying Asaba-Onitsha are not very good. We use to stand and the sun will be beating us. If a National Transport Board is created, it would have to look after this as well. When we were coming for this Budget Meeting, it was only one launch that was plying Asaba-Onitsha because the other one was under repair.

**An hon. Member :** What sort of Board are you recommending ?

**Mr Chiedozie :** It will be an advisory board. The board will look into condition of people working there. For example the condition of service of air hostesses and those workers under the Marine will be looked into. If a National Transport Board is established it will advise the various Ministries on matters concerning them. This National Transport Board would also act in an advisory capacity. At least we have the National Economic Council which advises

the Ministry of Economic Development on development. What I require is something like a super-board to advise on the problem of transport in the country. The National Transport Board will act as a co-ordinating agency and it is very necessary. The National Transport Board will work for technical efficiency and see that aerodromes are constructed in suitable areas. That is also very necessary. I take the Enugu aerodrome as an example. For many years the Enugu aerodrome has been under construction. It is not the fault of the Minister of Transport or the Minister of Works and Surveys. I am not blaming anybody. I am only trying to emphasise the importance of constructing aerodromes of first-class standard. I met one European from the United Kingdom who told me that the aerodrome would be constructed in six months.

At the Enugu aerodrome the aeroplane will not land if the breeze is too much. The wind there is of a high velocity. I can remember once when there was high wind and the pilot had to fly us back to Kano and then returned to Enugu when the high wind subsided. It was in the air that the pilot told us of the poor condition of Enugu aerodrome. It is therefore very necessary for a National Transport Board charged with the responsibility of seeing to the speedy construction of an aerodrome with high technical efficiency. I am not criticising the Ministry of Works as such because this is not the proper time. I leave that until the Budget debate. I have very high praise for the Kano Airport. In fact it is one of the best in the world. The Lagos Airport is also very good. The construction of that at Enugu is very disgraceful. The thing is very rough. I am saying all this because if we have a National Transport Board they will see that these things are properly done.

When we have co-ordinated transport system we will be able to utilise our mineral resources given to us by God. We have got gas ; we have got coal—all of them power supplying resources. Now, one of the pit-falls of lack of planning is the resultant unemployment. Coal is now becoming a dwindling industry because there is no integration in our economic affairs with reference to transport, in order to utilise the coal. But in other parts of the world the transport system is planned and co-ordinated to utilise the resources given by God in such

[MR CHIEDOZIE]

a way that no one is left out. If there is co-ordination, the railways should be able to make use of our coal industry.

The National Transport Board will be able to point out the type of skilled and qualified people we require. We want men with the technical know-how. The National Transport Board should be able to point out to the Minister of Transport the kind of scholarship awards to make. We want people to study motor, railway, air, road and marine engineering. We wish about one thousand students studying in these fields, and the National Transport Board will be in a better position to advise the Minister of Transport on the fields of study to award scholarships. If we train these men and obtain their services, our productive efficiency will be very high. If you look at Lagos you will see that it requires a co-ordinated transport system.

In view of the population density and in view of the expanding nature of this territory, the City of Lagos requires a Transport Board to see how to co-ordinate the transport system. The Board will also see to it that reliable transport system by road, river, air is co-ordinated. It will attract foreign capital which is another important aspect. If we have a co-ordinated transport system it will enable foreign investors to go to the interior parts of the country where we have lots of natural resources. If we continue to allow local councils to construct our roads anyhow, it will not attract foreign investors into the rural areas. A good transport system is one of the most attractive things to foreign investors, and in this case the National Transport Board will see to it that better things are done.

It will make the unity of Nigeria more realistic. The greatest unifying agent you can find in the world to-day is the transport system, because it connects every corner. There will be no discrimination and it will penetrate into the impenetrable. It will help us to tap more fully our potential resources and make us very powerful in Africa. That is what we want. It will lead us to inter-African continental transport system. We are talking of unity. How can we have that if Nigeria is not co-ordinated in a way to be able to make our transport system attractive.

Again it will reduce the present rate of accidents on our roads. It will help to protect

acute monopolistic practices which are very dangerous to consumers. Definitely the consumers are cheated. If we have a Transport Board, they will find these bad practices out and report them to the Minister of Transport. There will be better bridge construction. It will increase our overall standard of living and increase our national welfare. We want a well-planned and co-ordinated transport system, and this can be done only by a National Transport Board charged with the above responsibilities and consisting of men and women of integrity and independent judgment, men of practical ability and understanding and above all, men of scientific and technological capability.

Nigeria has a very high population density, about 50 million people. These people can only be brought together by a modernised and well co-ordinated transport system. The National Transport Board should channel our diversity into a homogeneous entity. Regional individualism in transport matters will spell disaster for us. Instead of accelerating our economic Six-Year Development Plan, its impact will be remarkably retrogressive.

This Motion is non-contentious. Let the Government accept it. We might regret in future if there is no co-ordinating agency in our transport system.

I beg to move.

**Mr F. C. Ogbalu** (Awka North): I rise to second the Motion so ably moved by the Member for Enugu (*Mr Chiedozie*). The people who are supporting this Motion are not motivated by any sense or appreciation of failure on the part of the Federal Government or on the part of any Minister or on the part of the present system, but we feel that by having a National Transport Board the efficiency on our roads in this country will be enhanced.

I agree that the Federal Government by the present system has succeeded in maintaining and enforcing a standardised system of registration, licencing both of drivers and learners, in offences on our highways, and in general control of vehicles throughout the whole Federation. I hope that is efficient. The fact is that we should be able to co-ordinate these things whether in the Northern, Eastern or Western Region.

On this question of road co-ordination, we must have to point out that there are about four agencies which are responsible for our

road system in this country. In the first place, we have the Local Councils which are responsible for small inter-village roads. The next one is the County Councils which are responsible for inter-town or inter-district roads. Then we have the Regional Governments, responsible for Trunk 'B' roads, and the Federal Government responsible for the Trunk 'A' roads. We find that without a Transport Board it is difficult for these roads to be co-ordinated. But if we have got a Transport Board, then it will be easy for the Federal Government to initiate or at least, to give indications as to where roads should normally be built. We find that in the Regions, for example, some roads are merely constructed out of unnecessary competition and when the Federal Government wants to take over roads from the Regional Governments, there is no special Board to recommend to the Federal Government which roads should be taken over. The Federal Government merely has to depend on the Regional Governments. And here again, there is always some internal competition as to which roads should be recommended without consideration to the economic value of such roads.

This is the thing that is paramount in the minds of the people. So, if we have got a National Development Board responsible for the work of co-ordination, it will be easy for such a Board to survey the entire Federation and find out where new Federal roads have to be built and how the existing ones have to be maintained.

Take, for example, the question of narrow bridges. Some of them are inherited from the Regional Governments because they are unable to construct wide roads with strong bridges. But if there is a National Transport Board created by the Federal Government, it will be easy for such a Board to advise even the Regional Governments when it undertakes to take over some Trunk 'B' roads from the County Council authorities.

There is another important point on the question of the work of co-ordination in which the Federal Government is in a position to play a very important part. This concerns the system through which parks are located. Some of the existing motor parks in the country are left in wretched conditions. It is true that I am not calling on the Federal Government

to undertake the building of parks, but with the creation of a National Transport Board it is possible for standard parks to be recommended to the Regional Governments in areas where parks are needed.

There is also the question of efficiency of our transport system. We find that the type of lorries that ply our highways are certainly goods lorries in most cases. They are not suitable for human transportation. At present there is no discrimination between the lorries used for goods transportation and those used for human transportation. I think that with a National Transport Board, it would be possible to so arrange our transport system that a new and efficient method could be introduced. It is true that this is a question of economic ability on the part of the those who run transport cars and lorries. If they have money they can go in for better lorries or cars. I believe that with the National Transport Board it will be possible at least to take out of our highways some of the useless lorries that ply them at the moment.

I now come to the question of licensing. It must be agreed that the system of licensing in this country has not attained a perfect position; that is to say, that there are different standards in various parts of the country. It is true that the vehicle officers obey the same laws, but at the same time, the system of licensing is grossly unsuitable in the sense that many people get their licences without proper training, without proper road education and without actually mastering driving, with the result that we have many accidents on our roads. With the creation of a Transport Board it will be possible to regulate the system of issuing licences to drivers.

Then let us take the question of car theft. Car theft is increasing gradually in the country. A time will come when cars and lorries can easily be stolen without detection. A National Transport Board will certainly help to prevent this type of situation.

I am quite aware of the fact that we have got, for example, the Railway Corporation and some other Corporations which are serving as some sort of Boards. But at the same time we want an agency that will co-ordinate the activities of all these means of transport.

There is the question of touting in our motor parks. I think if a National Transport Board is created, touting can be effectively

[MR OGBALU]

checked. What I mean is that there are some able-bodied people who do not care to find real employment but depend on serving as intermediaries between the passengers and the transport owners. This practice unduly inflates the amount that passengers pay. It is a very unhealthy situation because we need able-bodied manpower to carry out some of our other development projects, and if these people waste their time and lives in serving no useful purpose, then it is to the detriment of the economic progress of the Federation.

There is another point that I wish to make and that is on the question of our river transport. With all due respect to the Minister of Transport, I think that we still have plenty of room for the development of our river transport. We have got quite a number of rivers, and many of them are navigable. In this connection, however, I wish to congratulate the Eastern Regional Government for the establishment of the Opofo Boatyard industry which has been able to provide efficient and seasoned boats for some of the creeks and rivers in this country. My point on this is that we should take, for example, the River Niger which runs from the North to the South. I quite agree that the volume of transport that this river is capable of carrying is quite enormous, and important attention should be given to some of the river ports which will help us in enhancing our transportation system. Let us take Onitsha which is the most important of all the river ports. It seems that this river port has been neglected for many years now. There has not been much improvement on it since the British left this country. It is the same old Marine plying the usual boats without provision for say, warehouses and some other things like that, which will enhance river transport.

The same thing applies to the other rivers. Take the Cross River, for example. I think it is good enough for navigation too. My point is that there should be a thorough investigation into the use of our rivers. We can use our rivers efficiently in order to carry our internal transport.

The able Mover of this Motion has made a lot of points in connection with the question of Aviation, the location of airports and the question of railways, and especially how they

are going to be co-ordinated. I only wish to add that we need a comprehensive road programme by the Federal Government.

This comprehensive road programme will also contain proposed railway lines connecting the East and the West. Another one is an Onitsha to Enugu railway line, that is a railway to connect Enugu with Onitsha which is the gateway to the East. And that will have to connect Enugu to Ibadan too. By this we will have an efficient network of railway lines. In connection with roads which are supposed to be feeders to the railway lines, I think the Railway Corporation will be losing a great deal if there is no National Transport Board to help to locate some feeder roads by which route goods from the interior can be transported to places where there are stations. I think that is another reason why there should be a National Transport Board.

In some other aspect it is quite obvious that we have got co-ordinating factors in the Federation, like the Higher Education Commission and the National Economic Council, *et cetera*, co-ordinating the activities of the Federal and Regional Governments. In like manner, I think there should be a National Transport Board to co-ordinate the activities of the Federal and Regional Governments as far as transport is concerned. In this Board there will be representatives from the East, West, North, the Federal territory and the Mid-West. Such a Board will certainly be an effective organ for the Ministry of Transport.

I do not intend to propose that this National Transport Board should take over the functions of the Ministry of Transport—nobody proposes that, for the necessity of a Ministry of Transport is well acknowledged throughout this country—but we want an agency that is nationwide which will take a general view of the whole Federation and will serve as a useful instrument to the Federal Ministry of Transport.

Take, for example, the experiment made in Lagos in the case of bus transport. The fact that the City Council has taken over most of the transport services in Lagos has added to the efficiency of transportation in Lagos. If there had not been this take over by the Council, it would have been difficult for transport to be smooth enough in Lagos.

I think that Government participation in regulating the transport system in this country is a necessity. This is not an interference with fundamental human rights, and in any case we are in an era of a welfare state, so I do not think that any citizen will grudge the Federal Government's participating in the transport system by way of regulation and by way of trying to make living worthwhile for the citizens of this country.

We can never fail to point out that the number of accidents on our roads is increasing and that the nation demands that these accidents must be minimised. And to minimise them, in spite of other safety devices which have been put forward by the various Governments, a Federal Government agency will be a necessity in order to carry out this function.

I beg to second.

**The Minister of Transport** (Mr R. A. Njoku): I must say that I have listened very attentively to the points which have been made in a very eloquent style, both by the Mover and the Seconder. And the more I listened to them the more confused I became as to exactly what they want us to do.

In the first instance, the Mover wants co-ordination of the various systems of transport. This is a very good thing indeed. And he wants this Board to be able to look after all the various systems of transport, and he went on to enumerate some of the functions of this body—to look after the railways; to make sure that we have better railways, better coaches, and better stewards on the coaches; they will have to plan roads—I should imagine that some of them will have to be highly qualified and experienced engineers; they also have to deal with air transport—some of them will have to be very experienced pilots, I should imagine; they have to do with not only the construction of Trunk 'A' and 'B' roads but also of the feeder roads which are generally now looked after by the local councils; they will have to protect passengers from exploitation; they have got to check wastage and abuses on the various systems of transport; they have also got to make sure that passengers of aircraft travel in safety. I was quite amused though to find out that the Mover, although he has flown a number of times, never realised that

he had his life-jacket under his seat; and he would need this Board to tell him where to find the life-jacket.

**Mr Chiedozie**: On a point of order, the jacket is only to be used when you are flying; what of when you have landed?

**Mr Njoku**: That is just by the way. I have listened to this and I have given all the points made a very sympathetic consideration.

The Seconder expanded some of the functions which this body would have to fulfil, if it is set up. It will have to conduct a survey, plan the roads, and even have to do the licensing of motor vehicles and undertake vehicle inspection; it will have to see that cars are not stolen, and so forth.

It seems to me, in the first instance, that it will be impossible to set up such a board. It will be quite impossible because what this board is supposed to do is the job of four or five Ministerial bodies.

Quite apart from this, I have given very close consideration to this particular proposal, and if we were to have a National Transport Board I suppose it will have to be represented more or less as follows: representatives of the Federal Government; the Regional Governments; the Nigerian Railway Corporation; the large commercial users of vehicles; the important road transporters; the Nigerian Ports Authority; the Nigerian Road Federation, and so forth. Well, if you have to do this it means we have to realise that most of these bodies already are Boards in their own right. The Railway Corporation and the Nigerian Ports Authority, for instance are Boards in their own right. Then we have to get a super-Board that will comprise membership from all these sources.

Now, what will be the functions of this Board? Some of the functions mentioned by the Mover and the Seconder are executive functions and others are advisory. There again, we are at a loss as to whether they are proposing an executive Board or an advisory Board. It seems to me that quite candidly in order to establish the sort of Board that will fulfil all or most of these functions, the membership of this Board will run into hundreds; and as one Member has already said, I think we already have too many Boards. I do not think we are keen on creating any more Boards, and I must also say that we have given very serious consideration to this proposal.

[MR NJOKU]

There was a body of experts from America who were recommended by the International Bank from the Stamford Research Institute. They came here a couple of years ago and investigated the question of economic co-ordination of transport development in Nigeria. So, we have been giving some attention to this matter. They produced a report and they recommended against the setting up of a new Board for this purpose.

They recommended, naturally, the co-ordination of transport, which is one of the main policies of my Ministry, and the setting up within the Ministry of Transport of an expert body called The Transport Planning Unit. This body, since the recommendation of the Institute has been received has been set up and now within the Ministry of Transport we have a Transport Planning Unit in which we have a Transport Economist from Canada who was recommended to this Government by the United Nations. He is very busy now training the cadre of transport experts and we hope that in the next few years he will be replaced by a Nigerian who is now under-studying him.

The work of this body will be to study and evaluate further transport developments throughout the country in relation to the total development so that its function embraces not only Federal system of transport, that is, systems of transport for which the Federal Government is responsible, but also other systems of transport. As hon. Members know, the economy of this country is now planned on a national level and this particular body is looking at the whole problem of transport development on a national level.

In addition to this body of experts, we have also a Transport Co-ordinating Committee in the Ministry of Transport which is composed of representatives of the Ministry, the Railways, the Ports Authority and the Transport Economist. This also has to fashion the policy with regard to transport and last of all, and perhaps the most important, we have a permanent sub-committee of the Joint Standing Committee of the National Economic Council.

This sub-committee comprises representatives of the Federal Government and the Regional Governments, as well as the Transport Economist. It is their duty, after consultation with the various representatives, to fashion out

what they consider the most economic way of developing the various transport systems of this country.

I was quite pleased to hear the Member for Awka North (*Mr Ogbalu*) talking about this type of body. I am quite sure he will be pleased to know that already we have set up this Committee. Besides, there is another committee and there is a body of experts in the Ministry of Transport. It seems to me that these facilities which we already have, the existing machinery which we have in the ministry and the two other Committees, are adequate to carry out the work of planning and developing the transport system of this country.

Much as I must say that I enjoyed the points which have been made by the Mover and the Seconder of the Motion, I must say that we feel that such a body which they advocate will be unweildy, that it will duplicate a lot of work which is being done in the various Ministries and by the various Governments, and that it will be wasteful of manpower and the scanty financial resources which we need for the carrying out of the Six-Year Development Plan.

Therefore, I am afraid I cannot but oppose this Motion on these grounds.

**Mr Chiedozie** : Having heard the Minister's explanations which are excellent, I beg to withdraw my Motion.

*Motion by leave withdrawn.*

#### PARLIAMENTARY PRIVILEGES

**Chief D. N. Oronsaye** (Benin East) : I beg to move—

That, in view of the present status of Nigeria, this House calls on the Government to set up a Parliamentary Committee to review, as a matter of urgency, the present inadequate parliamentary privileges for Members of Parliament.

The text of the Motion is simple enough. It assumes, for instance, that Nigeria has a new status, that the present parliamentary privileges are not adequate for Members of Parliament. The Motion requires a review of the present privileges by a Parliamentary Committee. The questions that arise are:—

- (3) What is the present status of Nigeria?
- (2) What is "privilege"?

(3) What are the present parliamentary privileges and why are they not adequate?

I will now answer these questions fully so that the House will see the need for calling on the Government to appoint a Parliamentary Committee immediately for this urgent work.

Nigeria is now a Republic. By this transformation, all vestiges of colonialism or foreign influences disappeared completely. When the able Minister of Finance delivered his speech on the National Budget, his mention of the national character is very important.

Everything in Nigeria at present must point unmistakably to the Nigerian national character. Here in this honourable House, we are aware that our Mace has changed; our opening prayers have changed; our oaths have changed. The republican status has brought a new era essentially Nigerian. Why we say it is essentially Nigerian is because of what we heard said a few days ago, that it is necessary for Members of this honourable House to realize that every country has its own national character. Nigeria being one of the most important countries in the world must have her own national character completely exhibited in unmistakable terms.

"Privilege" in law means an immunity or exemption conferred on social grounds in derogation of common rights. The term is derived from *privilegium*, that is, a law specially passed in favour of or against a particular individual or a particular person. In Roman Law, *privilegium* was, in most cases, a law specially passed against a particular person. In modern Law, however, *privilegium* is a law passed in favour of a particular person. "Privilege" in English and Nigerian Law is either personal or real, that is to say, it is granted to a person, for example, in England to a Peer, or to a place, for example, in Nigeria, to a University.

The present Parliamentary privileges are to be found in Volume IV of the Laws of the Federal Republic, Cap. 102.

**Mr P. E. Ekanem** (Enyong South): Let hon. Members hear the provision.

**Chief Oronsaye**: I will read some sections of the Law but it will take a long time to read the whole Cap. 102. If hon. Members will

hold on a bit, I will read some sections. It is necessary for Members to read sections 1-32 together with Legal Notice No. 155 of 1960. The Standing Orders of both Houses of Parliament are part and parcel of this Chapter in Law. The provisions that I have referred to above are, of course, supplementary to the privileges provided in the Constitution. Hon. Members know the provisions in the Constitution.

The present privileges are not adequate. With your permission, Mr Speaker, I will read section 31—

*Notwithstanding anything in any written law, no process issued by any court in Nigeria in the exercise of its civil jurisdiction shall be served or executed within the Chamber or precincts of a Legislative House while that House is sitting or through the President or any officer of a Legislative House.*

This needs expansion. It should embrace non-seditious, *et cetera*, criminal proceedings. I think when we talk of the extent, it should embrace the whole of Nigeria. When we talk of the type, it should embrace not only civil proceedings, it should also include criminal proceedings which are non-felonious. It should also extend to thirty-six days before the meeting of the House starts and also fourteen days after the House has adjourned.

That is to say, that at present the Parliamentary privileges that Members have in this House is that if anybody sues an hon. Member for perhaps a frivolous claim, he cannot serve a summons on the hon. Member within the precincts of this House but he can wait at Tafawa Balewa Square, Marina Road—

**Some hon. Members**: Or Victoria Island.

**Chief Oronsaye**: Or Victoria Island and serve it. The same thing goes for a criminal offence. As a matter of fact, I know of some hon. Members who were held up because they were not having their driving licences with them. May be an hon. Member hurried out from his flat and because he was not carrying his driving licence he was dragged to court and he was late in coming to the House. This sort of thing should not happen in a Republican Nigeria.

It will be necessary for the privileges to cover not only the whole of Nigeria but it should also cover a period of time, say thirty-six days before



[CHIEF ORONSAYE]

the House is due to meet. Why I say thirty-six days before the House is due to meet is because there should be enough time to arrange bail and other formalities so that the hon. Member will have time to attend the meetings of the House.

As a matter of fact, in England and some other countries, it is forty days and the forty days are arranged in such a way that it virtually means that it is impossible to serve any summons on a Member of Parliament because the House is meeting virtually all the time.

In 1960 when the Action Group was still strong in the Western Region—

**Mr D. M. Gbolagunte** (Ibarapa): On a point of information, the Action Group is still very strong in the Western Region although there are some political bats who go from party to party but the electorates are still behind the Action Group. The few remaining Action Group members are strong, even stronger than the many N.N.D.P. members.

**Chief Oronsaye**: Anyway the coming election will prove who is stronger in the Western Region. The point I am making is that all sorts of intrigues existed in the Mid-West against members of other political parties.

In January 1960 when this House was to meet for the first time, arrangements were made, because of a case concocted against two of the three Members from Benin, and it was planned that they were to be served with summons just a few days before they were due to leave for the meeting of the House of Representatives. It was necessary then to manoeuvre in order to avoid these arrests, but if the privilege exists as it ought to, a plan like that is impossible.

In the Customary Courts, there is what is called private prosecution; and any person can just get up and sue another person and it will be called a criminal summons. In 1961, such a summons was planned against another Member of the House, but for the vigilance of some people he would have been served with the summons some two or three days before he was due to come to Lagos for the meeting of the House of Representatives. This is what happens when an arrest of this nature is made. All the people who are to sign all the papers that will grant the accused bail will

disappear. They will go into secret hiding so that the purpose of getting the person arrested will be achieved.

We know that some of these things are still being practised and once Members are given these privileges such cases will not prevent them from coming to the premier Parliament of the Federal Republic to carry out their duties.

In civilised countries these privileges are as old as the history of Parliament itself. It is to protect those who are coming to serve their nation from being frivolously or otherwise help up.

I would like to quote section 32 of the same Cap. 102. Section 32 happens to be one of the Amendments to the Legal Notice No. 155 of 1960. With your permission Mr Speaker, I beg to quote.

Section 32 reads—

*No prosecution shall be instituted for an offence under this Ordinance except by the Director of Public Prosecutions of the Federation upon information given to him in writing by the President of the Federal Legislative House or by the Director of Public Prosecutions of a Region upon information given to him by the President of the Regional Legislative House.*

In my opinion, section 32 should be deleted altogether. The powers and privileges of a body are necessary to be put into its place and that body should be called "A Privilege Committee" to be appointed by this House. What should happen is that the Standing Orders of the House should be revised to include one committee called the "Privilege Committee."

At present, we have a number of committees in this House such as the Business Committee, the Public Accounts Committee, the Public Petitions Committee and so on. Although, some of the committees are not being used for the purposes for which Parliament should use them, particularly Public Petitions Committee. But one committee should now be added and this type of committee is known in all Parliaments.

It will be the duty of this Committee to enforce the privileges, in other words, it is not matters connected with Members of Parliament that should be taken to court. What this

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Committee will do includes taking action against hon. Members who offend against sections 19, 20 and 21 of Cap. 102.

**An hon. Member :** In the court of where ?

**Chief Oronsaye :** Parliament is a court by itself. The Parliament is the highest court in the land. The court in any country has never disputed the authority of Parliament. So, Parliament will get this Committee to be used for these purposes. It will be used for admonition, not only of Members but of Parliament workers and others.

**An hon. Member :** What about imprisonment ?

**Chief Oronsaye :** It will be used for reprimand or for commitment to the custody of the Sergeant-at-Arms or for committing the person to a fine or of committing the person to imprisonment.

These matters should not be allowed to be dealt with by the courts but by the Court of Parliament. This is something that is very well-known in all the modern Parliaments of the world. What this Motion seeks therefore is not the one provided in the Standing Order No. 60 ; it requires the Government to set up a special Parliamentary Committee.

From all I have said, it is clear that the need for a review is very urgent. These matters are matters which require very careful study and very careful scrutiny.

I am aware that the learned Attorney-General is very fully aware of what I am talking about. I am satisfied that he will do everything to improve the privilege of the Members of this honourable House and the Senate and therefore, with these things left to him, I beg to move.

**Mr R. N. Muojeke (Awka Central) :** In seconding this Motion, I would say that the Mover of the Motion has made my work very light indeed. The Motion itself does not ask for too much. What the Motion asks for is very simple ; to appoint a Committee to look into the question whether, the privileges as we have, are sufficient for us in this Republican Nigeria. That is all.

If one remembers what is taking place in this country, one would agree with me that the Motion does not ask for too much. Two weeks ago, we were told that the Premier of the Mid-Western Region was searched just in the very House of the Mid-West Parliament as he was getting in. The first thing was that he was held up by security officers.

If we allow this kind of things to continue, one day, the whole world might be told that our Prime Minister, on his way to the Federal House, was waylaid on the way by a person who might describe himself as a security officer. I think this would be disgraceful not only to the person who searched the Prime Minister, but to the Members of Parliament and Members of the Regional Houses.

Last week again, some Members of Parliament were held up by policemen without allowing us to off-load. We did not know what was the reason. We did not know who gave the order and we did not know the names of the policemen.

We have reached the age where Members of Parliament must be respected as such. It would appear that as soon as we leave our constituencies and come to the Federal Parliament we come to shoot people with bows and arrows. This kind of thing should not be tolerated in this present day Nigeria. The most annoying part of this situation is that our newspapers took delight in publicising that a Minister's house was surrounded and his household (wife, children and domestic servants) were being rounded up by Police Officers who were looking for things I do not know.

Throughout my eight years in England I have never heard that a Member of Parliament was held up. I think that, at least, is a good example to follow, and, therefore, our learned Attorney-General and Minister of Justice should accept this Motion in all its entirety and set up a committee to see what is happening in other parts of the world, whether or not our Parliament is quite different from those in the United States of America, England, and the rest of world.

I must say that it was unfortunate that sometime in 1962, because of a peculiar circumstance in the Western Region House of Assembly Members of that House disgraced themselves.

[MR MUOJEKE]

This is one of the reasons why this Motion should be accepted. What happened then was an unfortunate incident, and we cannot use that incident as a model. It must be borne in mind that we are responsible Parliamentarians; even at a time of crisis people feel that we have come to Parliament to fight or cut our heads.

As I have said, the Attorney-General and Minister of Justice is liberally minded, and he is one of the men in this Government whom we look up to. We implore him to see that we accept this Motion, at least for the benefit of the Members of Parliament.

I beg to second.

**The Attorney-General and Minister of Justice** (Dr T. O. Elias) : I have listened very carefully to the Proposer of this Motion and to the Seconder, but I regret to have to oppose the Motion.

May I draw attention to the wording of the Motion which reads as follows :

*"That, in view of the present status of Nigeria, this House calls on the Government to set up a Parliamentary Committee to review as a matter of urgency the present inadequate parliamentary privileges for Members of Parliament"*.

I think it is entirely not in accordance with the procedure of this House that the Motion should have been worded in this way. The Motion calls upon this House to call upon the Government to set up a Committee of this House. That is a contradiction in terms. No Government has any right to dictate to this House how to set up a Committee of this House. The Motion should have been properly worded as follows :

*"That, in view of the present status of Nigeria, this House sets up a Parliamentary Committee to review as a matter of urgency the present inadequate parliamentary privileges for Members of Parliament"*.

**Chief Oronsaye** : On a point of order, I wish to tell the Attorney-General that he is free to put the wording in whatever form that will suit him.

**Dr Elias** : I am afraid the Mover of the Motion has got me wrong. I was not merely engaging in any argument of semantics, but I was addressing myself really to the law

which he requires us to follow here. If we were to adopt this Motion we would be going against the law. That is the point I am making. It is not for the Government to set up a Committee of this House, and that is precisely what the Motion asks us to do. That is the first point against the Motion.

Of course, he has anticipated me. Perhaps there has been some whispering somewhere about section 60, subsection (1) of our Standing Orders which requires that a Motion asking that a Select Committee of this House be appointed shall be made after notice has been given, Motion made and Question put. So, that procedure, I am afraid, must be followed.

Now, the second point is that he has again gone into the field by quoting Cap. 102 of the Laws of Nigeria which is entitled "Legislative Houses (Powers and Privileges) Act." May I say quite honestly that this particular Act came under review some nine months ago as part of the general arrangements we are making in my Ministry to review our laws and bring them up-to-date, and we came reluctantly to the conclusion that the existing Act on the subject is quite adequate to the needs of a Republican Nigeria.

He threatened at first to read the whole thing, and rather very generously of him, as always, he desisted from doing so, because we would need the rest of the evening to go through this delicate peace of legislation.

Now, may I draw the attention of hon. Members to one or two other sections which the Member for Benin East (*Chief Oronsaye*) should have quoted to us in this Act. The first section to which I think we should draw our attention is section 28. Section 28 is as follows :

*"28. The powers of the President of a Legislative House conferred by this Act shall be supplementary to any powers conferred on him by the Nigeria (Constitution) or by Standing Orders."*

I know the Mover of the Motion is always in the habit of quoting the law, so if he finds that I am reading the section slightly differently from what he has, he must know that I am taking into account two other Acts of this Parliament that have made consequential changes. I am, therefore, reading them with the changes as they should have read if the corrections had been made.

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Section 29 reads as follows :

*"29. Where a member of the House of Representatives is—*

*(a) arrested or detained in custody upon the warrant or order of a court ; or*

*(b) sentenced by a court to a term of imprisonment, the court shall, as soon as practicable, inform the Speaker of the House of Representatives accordingly".*

Section 30 reads as follows :

*"30. Neither the President of a Legislative House nor any officer of a Legislative House (this includes the Senate) shall be subject to the jurisdiction of any court in respect of the exercise of any power conferred on or vested in him by or under this Act or the Standing Orders of the Legislative House, or by the Nigeria Constitution".*

He has already read out section 31 which exempts Members from civil processes in case of service within the precincts of a Legislative House. And as to prosecution, no one can prosecute a Member here without the fiat of the Attorney-General. To that extent, his reading of the section should have been to mention the Attorney-General in place of the D.P.P. which has already again been amended consequentially by an Act of this House.

If you look at the provisions which we have in this Act, and if you look at the provisions of the rules of the Houses of Parliament in England, you will find that substantially we have those ancient privileges and immunities that have been traditionally conferred upon the British Members of Parliament.

One has to look at the Constitution. What, in effect, the Motion really amounts to is that we should have something similar to the powers that have been specially conferred only upon the President of the Republic, because as the hon. Mover of the Motion was speaking, you would notice that he concentrated entirely upon the instances which he quoted of Members wanting to come to a meeting of this House and being held up by Police Officers. Surely, the short answer to that is that hon. Members should try to behave honourably. We do not want Members of Parliament who follow only the law of the jungle, and liberty such as is granted under this Act, very ample in my view, should not be mistaken for licence.

If you look at section 161 subsection (1), you will find the special provisions which we have made in respect of the President of the Republic, and in respect of whom alone, in democratic countries, the privileges being asked for by this Motion are usually granted.

Section 161 (1) (a)—

*"No criminal proceedings shall be instituted or continued during his period of office against a person to whom this subsection applies ; that is against the President or a Governor of a Region.*

*(b) such a person shall not be arrested or imprisoned during that period either in pursuance of the process of any court or otherwise, and*

*(c) No proceedings in which relief is claimed against such a person in his personal capacity shall be instituted or continued in any court during his period of office ; but in ascertaining whether any period of limitation has expired for the purposes of any proceedings against a person to whom this subsection applies, his period of office shall be left out of account."*

I realise that the Mover of this Motion would like to limit it to some thirty-six days before and forty days after Parliament should have risen. But in my view, I think the provisions that we have in this Act are sufficiently adequate for the needs of Parliamentarians who really are conscious of their privileges and dignity and who are prepared to abide by the law like any other individual.

If Members of Parliament want any greater protection, I am afraid we shall be creating a special class of citizens for which there is no room under the Constitution, and especially the provisions regarding fundamental human rights.

I beg to oppose.

**Chief Oronsaye :** In view of the Attorney-General's explanation, I beg to withdraw the Motion.

*Motion, by leave, withdrawn.*

SIX-YEAR DEVELOPMENT PLAN

**Mr A. U. D. Mbah (Owerri North) :** I rise to move the Motion standing in my name on the Order Paper—

That this House, while appreciating the efforts of this Government and congratulating

[MR MBAH]

it for launching the Six-Year Development Plan and tackling the problems of unemployment and low standard of living, implores the Government to intensify its efforts in this direction, in co-operation with other Governments of the Republic, so as to ensure maximum yield from the full realisation of the programme of the Development plan to the country.

This Motion is non-contentious, and I think it would be unanimously accepted. In moving it, I have to refer to the first attempt we made in 1946 under the old colonial regime to introduce what was known as the Ten-Year Development Plan. This Plan was revised in 1951 to cover five years, from 1951 to 1956. There is no doubt that this Plan benefited foreign interests more than our indigenous people. The Plan followed the pace of the colonial office regarding the allocation of Colonial Development and Welfare funds.

The next attempt at planning was in 1955-60—the economic programme which was the result of the International Bank Mission.

It is true that the National Economic Council was established in 1955 and yet the Council has not been able to fulfil the purposes for which it was established. As a matter of fact, the scope of the Council should be widened to embrace other interests such as the trade unions and the private sectors. For the Council to be more realistic and productive, it should be able to attract the services of those who are in a position to help it in its planning. It is no use going to the Council for the sole purpose of regional rivalry. I think the Government would be better off if they could afford to accommodate the other interests which I have mentioned.

Turning to the question of planning, I can say that the 1962-68 National Development Plan is the first major attempt to plan the economy of this country which had been haphazardly planned in the past. A plan involving the expenditure of about £700 million is designed, I hope, to benefit our people more than anyone else.

We are already beginning to notice the progress made. A few days ago, the Minister of Economic Development published a White Paper on the progress so far made. I think that was a very bold attempt and we are really

very grateful to him and his Ministry for the useful information contained in that document. We appreciate their efforts and we are really grateful.

We have been told of the difficulties in financing the economic programme, and in the list of the countries which have indicated their readiness to help us we have noticed that the countries of the Western Bloc are prominent. I think the Minister would be doing this country a world of good if he could broaden his outlook by embracing countries outside the Western Bloc.

The greatest threat facing Nigeria to-day is unemployment and the growing propensity of our public men to grab wealth at the expense of the masses. Unless a Commission is forthcoming, and in time too, we will be sowing the seeds of revolution. Whether we are united or disintegrated, the threat follows us and calls for immediate action too. Let us examine realistically this problem of unemployment. I hope the Minister of Economic Development is listening?

**Several hon. Members :** He is not here.

**Mr Mbah :** He is here.

We have over three million children in primary schools and some of them will have to attend secondary schools and universities. We have invested huge sums of money on education. We propose to invest more. We have established within three and half years of Independence five universities. It is estimated that from Eastern Nigeria alone about 800,000 primary school leavers, 15,000 secondary school leavers and 2,000 university graduates will be looking for employment between the period of the Development Plan. If you add these figure to what is expected from other Regions, including Lagos, it is estimated that two million primary school leavers, 60,000 secondary school leavers and 15,000 university graduates will be looking for employment for the period of the National Development Plan. On the whole we must be prepared to find places for 2,075,000 people. How do we meet this demand? That is the real problem.

I am encouraged by the fact that the Government is aware of the problem. The Minister of Economic Development had on several occasions acknowledged the problem. Now, how do we tackle the danger which we have recognised? Let me first of all analyse the types of unemployment that usually occur :

(a) Seasonal unemployment, which may be due to variations either in the demand for or in the supply of goods and services.

(b) Intermittent or casual unemployment, that is when the amount of work to be done varies from day to day and when, due to the unspecialised nature of the labour required, it becomes unnecessary to keep together a permanent labour force.

(c) Technological and structural unemployment, that is a permanent shift in consumer's demand or a permanent change in the techniques of production or a change in the location of industry.

(d) General unemployment, that is unemployment that is common to all. We may add the last group as the unemployables.

Having analysed the different types of regional or sectoral unemployment, let us switch over to the category of persons that can really be classified as unemployed. We must measure unemployment accurately and be able to define what is being measured. There is an international definition which serves as the basis for employment statistics of different countries, including Nigeria.

Persons in unemployment consist of all persons above a specified age who, on the specified day or for a specified week, were in the following categories :

(a) Workers available for employment whose contract of employment had been terminated or temporarily suspended and who were without a job and seeking work for pay or profit.

(b) Persons who were available for work during the specified period and were seeking work for pay or profit, who were never previously employed or whose most recent status was other than that of employee or who had been in retirement.

(c) Persons without a job and currently available for work who had made arrangements to start a new job at a date subsequent to the specified period.

(d) Persons on temporary or indefinite lay off without pay.

The following categories of persons are not considered to be unemployed :

(a) Persons intending to establish their own business or farm, but who had not yet arranged to do so, who were not seeking work for pay or profit.

(b) Former unpaid family workers not at work and not seeking work for pay or profit.

Having analysed the situation on what we mean by employment and unemployment, the question arises—What machineries have been established by this Government to collect these vital data and statistics in order to enable Government initiate a bold and scientific employment policy? In fairness to the visible efforts of the Ministry of Economic Development, I cannot say that the Government is altogether groping in darkness.

I have always said that the effort of the Department of Statistics is not enough. Although it is doing its best, but this best is not enough. My advice is that a well-established machinery will help the Ministry in this gigantic task. Whatever happens, the Government will do well to establish or strengthen the existing machineries for the great task ahead. The Ministry should have Regional offices fully staffed and equipped.

We want a White Paper on employment policy, employment opportunities and targets. It is no use coming here every day and talking about unemployment without a policy. We have no policy. In the absence of adequate and correct statistical data, it would be difficult to ascertain the extent to which unemployment prevails in this country.

In my previous speech, I mentioned that other countries such as India, Phillipines, Ceylon, Italy and Latin America conducted labour force or extensive sample Survey before launching their own economic programme. The most unfortunate thing about our Six-Year Development Plan is that we launched our Plan before thinking of Manpower Board, Surveys, and so on and so forth. This is really a big problem. I know that this is creating enormous difficulties. I am, however, aware that the Ministry is making the best out of a very difficult situation. The Manpower Board has done quite a tremendous job. I commend their efforts and hope the Government will give the Board all the necessary encouragements to achieve more success.

[MR MBAH]

There should be Labour Exchange all over the country, and employers have to be compelled to make use of the Labour Exchange for recruitment. This is to minimise or eradicate corruption which is rampant all over the country. In this respect, there should be a close collaboration between the Ministry of Economic Development and the Ministry of Labour.

To solve the problem of unemployment, the Government should provide for the establishment of more industries and ensure that the industries are spread out.

I have said on several occasions in this House that we cannot continue to concentrate industries in the few big townships. The rural areas are in need of industries. We are causing mass exodus of people from the rural areas to the towns because we choose to concentrate industries in places like Lagos and other big cities which are already congested. The excuse that the Government cannot dictate to investors where to site industries is now worn out and does not impress anybody. The proper thing is for the Government to provide sufficient funds for industrial development so that it can decide where to locate industries. If our Governments do not know how to turn a desert into a modern city, let them go to Israel and learn.

I am really disappointed that this Government can only afford to invest, in two years of the Development Plan, only £2½ million in certain industries. This is too small from this Government. Take the Nigerian Sugar Company, with a share capital of £4 million as an example. The Federal Government holding is valued at £540,000. This is too small.

I now come to agriculture. The development of agriculture is another source of employment. Out of the £25 million provided for agriculture only £5 million has been allocated to the Regional Governments. This should be increased. The Federal Government should own plantations and experimental farms. The farmers should be subsidised. There is need for proper soil survey, use of modern equipments, irrigation and proper knowledge of crop rotation. This can improve the quality of our domestic crops such as yam, cassava, coco-yam, guinea corn, millets, maize, rice, beans and kolanuts.

There is also need for improvement in our export products such as cocoa, palm oil, palm kernel, groundnut, cotton, benniseed, petroleum, timber and rubber. We should not mortgage our trade to Britain or the Western world alone. What about entering into more trade agreements with the Socialist countries? We want a fair price for our produce, and this can only be obtained if there is competition. That is the point.

Palm produce in particular is not fetching adequate yield for the producers. The Government should improve the situation. The Ministry of Economic Development should conduct from time to time detailed surveys of investment plans of both the Federal and Regional Governments, their agencies, local governments, private and public corporations. This should serve as a guide for any national planning. The Ministry should publish a quarterly review of the progress made in the Development Plan. This should also contain the various data and statistics which I have suggested here.

The other point which I would like to make is about the new Mid-Western Region. The Minister should assure this House of Government's proposals to assist the new Mid-Western Region, financially, economically and otherwise. The new Region is trying to settle down and in the course of time, we will be hearing of this Region's development plan. For them to succeed, this Government and, in fact, all the other Government should give the Mid-Westerners the fullest co-operation.

In my earlier statement, I referred to the growing propensity among public men to acquire wealth and property at the public expense. No sensible person can dispute the fact that in this country there is a wide gap between the *haves* and *have-nots*; and between the lower income group and the higher income group. This gap must be bridged in order to avoid the dangers of class distinction.

Another point which I want to raise, is the question of the type of society we want in this country. This Government should tell us exactly where it is leading this country to. Are we going capitalist or Socialist?

We still have to examine what we mean by mixed economy which is contained in the Government's Statement.

**Mr C. O. Chiedozie** (Enugu): I wish the hon. Gentleman speaking would allow some time for the Seconder.

**The Deputy Speaker**: What happens to the Motion is purely a matter for the Mover.

**Mr Mbah**: We do not want a society where individuals own the railways, the airlines, the Broadcasting Houses and so on. No. We do not want this.

Since time is against us, I want to appeal to the Government that it is its duty to raise the standard of living of our people. I know efforts are being made in this direction. I feel that the Government should increase the purchasing power of the wage-earners, build more houses, control all house rents and control the prices of goods. If the Government does these things, we will have nothing to lose in view of the poverty and want around us.

I beg to move.

**Mr E. A. Mordi** (Asaba East): I rise to second the Motion ably moved by the Member for Owerri North (*Mr Mbah*). As a matter of fact, he has done such justice to this Motion that I could justifiably stand up and merely say, "I beg to second". But there are one or two things which I would like to point out.

The first point is that, looking at the first Progress Report published only recently and now laid before the House, we will notice, though explanation has been given for it, that within these two years—that is one-third of the period having transpired about £70 million has been invested in the Development Programme; whereas it is expected that about £676 million would be used up by the time the whole Programme is completed. It appears to me that so far, only a small proportion of the money has been spent.

The Minister or whoever is responsible for this Report has tried to indicate the reasons for this type of plan but one point is clear; that is that we are running behind the Development Programme as far as time is concerned.

Another point which is clear in this Report, is that there is fear and suspicion that External aid is not as forthcoming as was expected originally. This means, therefore, that we will not get enough money to carry through the Programme. In the event of the money not being forthcoming or in the event of this

Programme not proceeding, this country will be landed in a very difficult position.

As far as unemployment and the low standard of living in the country are concerned, the Mover of the Motion has actually enlightened us on the likely repercussion this country will suffer if these two problems continue to exist. I therefore, wholeheartedly support the proposition he has made to the Government. But it does seem to me that there are one or two things which must be done by the Federal Government and the Regional Governments, if these two problems are to be solved effectively.

One of them is the co-ordination of the activities of the Governments. If this step is taken, it is bound to reduce the present tendency to rivalry between the Regional Governments and the Federal Government in the setting up of identical industries.

**Mr Chiedozie**: On a point of order, I wish to warn the Member for Owerri North (*Mr Mbah*) to stop distracting the hon. Gentleman speaking.

**The Deputy Speaker**: May I please appeal to hon. Members that there is a definite division of labour in this House and the question of controlling Members' conduct should be left to the Chair.

**Mr Mordi**: In connection with the Mid-Western Region, it is necessary to point out to the Minister of Economic Development that when this Programme was drawn up, the Mid-West Region was a part of the Western Region. Now, that we have got a Mid-West Region, it is extremely necessary that the new Region must have a place on the Development Programme. I think this is absolutely necessary. It requires a lot of readjustment.

I also want to say that the type of negligence which the Federal Government gave to the Mid-West during the interim administration was not very satisfactory. Only a few days ago, a question was asked here on how much money the Government spent during the interim administration. I was surprised to hear that nothing was spent. I hope this type of thing will not be extended to the question of our Development Programme.

I beg to second.



**The Minister of Economic Development** (Alhaji Waziri Ibrahim): There is no time within which to talk at length on this Motion. So, I would like to make a small amendment which is just a grammatical error namely,

In line 4, to leave out "of" and substitute "in".

Now, there is nothing wrong with the Motion and I wish to take this opportunity to repeat what has been said here on several occasions that one of the main objectives of the Six-Year Development Plan is to create new jobs for our people by giving technical and professional training in our universities and technical secondary schools and by establishing new industries in addition to agricultural development programmes. If the implementation of the Six-Year Development Programme leads to the growth of the Nigerian economy, it should also lead to better standards of living for all of us.

While the Federal and Regional Governments are doing their best to fight the problem of unemployment, all of us, hon. Members and the general public alike, can assist in solving the problem, and that is by encouraging the school leavers to go back to the farm. Instead of moving to urban areas school leavers should join their parents in expanding the farms and they should be encouraged to understand that working on the farms is just as honourable as, and more in the interest of the country, than working in offices.

I beg to move the Amendment.

**The Minister of Health** (Chief M. A. Majekodunmi): I beg to second.

*Question, That the word proposed to be left out be left out, put and agreed to.*

*Question, That the word proposed to be inserted be there inserted, put and agreed to.*

*Main Question, as amended, put accordingly and agreed to.*

*Resolved:* That this House, while appreciating the efforts of this Government and congratulating it for launching the Six-Year Development Plan and tackling the problems of unemployment and low standard of living, implores the Government to intensify its

efforts in this direction, in co-operation with other Governments in the Republic, so as to ensure maximum yield from the full realisation of the programme of the Development plan to the country.

*And it being 5.45 p.m. Mr Speaker proceeded to interrupt the Business, pursuant to Standing Order 5 (3).*

*Debate to be resumed—Wednesday.*

## ADJOURNMENT

*Motion made and Question proposed, That this House do now adjourn—(THE MINISTER OF FINANCE).*

### PHARMACISTS

**Mr C. O. Chiedozie** (Enugu): I want the Minister of Health to make a statement on the present stand of the Pharmaceutical Association of Nigeria on the following matters:

1. Recognising them as professionals and place them on salary Scale A.
2. Providing them with adequate equipment for hospital pharmacists in the Federation.
3. Establishing drug manufacturing laboratories and a pharmaceutical industry in the Federation.

Moreover, I want to ask whether the Minister of Health is not aware that there is an urgent necessity for establishing pharmaceutical industries in this country and whether he is not aware also that the importation of foreign drugs accentuates our trade imbalance. I would also like to ask whether the Minister of Health is not aware that in view of the distinctive and peculiar nature of the pharmaceutical profession he should accord them recognition as professionals and place them in salary Scale A.

The Minister of Health should make a comprehensive statement on the above questions.

**The Minister of Health** (Chief M. A. Majekodunmi): I am grateful to my hon. Friend, the Member for Enugu (*Mr C. O. Chiedozie*) for giving me an opportunity to clarify the Federal Government's position with regard to the claims of the pharmacists

to be graded in Scale A. I wish to inform the House that the representations of the pharmacists to be graded in Scale A have been considered by the National Council on Establishments of which the Prime Minister is the Chairman, and that Council has decided that insufficient evidence had been adduced to justify a grading in Scale A for pharmacists.

Since the National Council on Establishments is a body on which all the Governments of the Federation are represented, it is clear that the Federal Government cannot take a unilateral action in this matter. We have, however, informed the pharmacists that the door is not completely closed to further negotiations, and as soon as sufficient facts are adduced to justify a grading in Scale A for pharmacists the question will be referred again to the National Council on Establishments.

I hope to be able to make a statement later on in this Session on the details of the steps which we are taking to establish a pharmaceutical industry in this country.

#### CONVENIENCE OF MEMBERS

**Alhaji M. Muhtari Sarkin Bai** (Dambatta) : I should like to raise a very important matter in which every hon. Member should be interested. It is true that Members of this House do not enjoy parliamentary privileges as adequately as they ought to. In countries like Canada and Northern Ireland, every Member has an office and a secretary attached to that office, and Members also enjoy catering facilities as they do not have to go somewhere else to have their lunch. They take their lunch in Government premises. But in Nigeria there is nothing like that.

Government Whips in this House have no office. This is very shameful. All of us have one office and this is very small. I think the time has come when every Whip should have an office and a secretary attached to that office. Hon. Members—

**The Deputy Speaker** : Order ! I must say quite frankly that I am in doubt as to whether this matter can be allowed to go on in the manner in which it is brought. I think in view of the Motion we have debated to-day, under Standing Orders I do not think we can really raise the matter on Adjournment. If

we are asking for something under a different heading I think it may be accommodated. But I do not think that could be brought in under "Parliamentary Privileges".

**Alhaji Muhtari Sarkin Bai** : I think the fact that the Minister of Finance has agreed to answer my question entitles me to express my views on the matter.

**The Deputy Speaker** : Order ! What the Chair is insisting on is the question of regularity and standing Orders. Your notice states "Parliamentary Privileges" and we have to-day debated a Motion on that and rejected it.

**Alhaji Sarkin Bai** : Members may be surprised to hear that as a Government Whip I have no permanent accommodation anywhere in Ikoyi. Each time I come to Lagos I am shifted from one place to another. And this time I was severely hit by chicken pox. Many Members wanted to come and greet me but could not find where I was. If I had a permanent house I think that everybody could have come there and greeted me.

Another point is that Members of this House have no access to Government offices. It is very shameful. I think that in all fairness Members should be allowed to step into any Government office so that they may know what is going on there. I am sure that this will help them in contributing effectively to the debates in this honourable House. This is very important.

I would call upon the Minister to make a provision whereby Members will live in Lagos comfortably, either when they are here in the House or when they are in their flats at Ikoyi or anywhere else. He should also make similar provisions to enable Members to step into any Government office to find out what is going on there.

**M. Sule Abba Bui** (Biu North) : On a point of order, I thought that the Member for Dambatta (*Alhaji Mohammed Muhtari Sarkin Bai*) could have also mentioned something about allocating rooms to Members. He has merely spoken for the Whips only.

**Professor Kalu Ezera** (Bende East) : On this question, I would like to elaborate and speak so as to underscore what the Member has said. This concerns the question of telephones in the Member's flats.

[PROFESSOR EZERA]

We are treated here as small boys. Most of us are not small boys. Why should a Minister have five telephones in his House while there is no single one in the Member's houses? There is none. (*Interruptions*).

**The Deputy Speaker :** Order ! I do not know in which direction the noise is going, whether in approval or in objection.

**Several Members :** In approval.

**The Deputy Speaker :** Well, if in approval, I think that the point will be much more forcibly made if the Member is allowed to continue in silence and decorum.

**Professor Kalu Ezera :** I am not attacking the Ministers. I am only appealing to them. All I am saying is that I want to underscore what the Member for Dambatta (*Alhaji Sarkin Bai*) has said, We have no telephone links any more. We cannot get in touch with our constituencies. The only existing restaurant near the Parliamentary flats has been closed down.

I have no words to express my displeasure on this question of telephones. I think that we deserve, and rightly so, at least a telephone in each flat or in each block of flats so that we can dial directly and get our constituencies. We want to appeal through you, Mr Speaker, to the Leader of the House to restore our telephones tonight.

**Mr W. O. Briggs (Degema) :** I will start on this question of telephones. Whereas before—

**Chief P. Dame-Obob (Ishan West) :** In addition, we want to see television sets.

**Mr Briggs :** In confirmation of the points raised on the question of telephones, whereas before at Ikoyi we could telephone to our constituencies and to wherever we wanted at any hour of the day, now we cannot telephone before 8 a.m. and we cannot telephone after 10 p.m. And most of us have businesses at home. Most of us like to speak to our constituencies. Now if one wants to use the telephone one has got to beg the telephone operator for an outside connection before one can speak on the telephone during the hours between 10 p.m. and 8 a.m. If the operator does not connect one it means that one cannot use the telephone during those hours.

Then the last thing is this. I do not know who is responsible for catering in the Members'

refectory. I do not know whether it is the Government or a private firm. Whichever it is, I would like the Leader of the House to investigate the prices of drinks there. They are terrible. The price of a bottle of *Star* beer is 3s-6d I do not drink *Star* beer but I can see what the price is. The same thing for other drinks and even sandwiches. I would like the Leader of the House to investigate the price of all these commodities.

**The Minister of Finance (Chief F. S. Okotie-Eboh) :** I would like to express my very sincere regret, and I think I speak for my Colleagues at hearing that our respected Friend, the Member for Dambatta, (*Alhaji Sarkin Bai*) had been ill. I thought that he had gone to Kano. I did not know that he was ill. If I knew I would have looked in to see him too. But I am happy that he has recovered and I wish him full recovery so as to enable him to do his usual work in this House.

The Government Whip has spoken about several amenities that are not available in the Legco flats. But I want to say that I will investigate these allegations. I also want to tell the Member for Bende East (*Professor Kalu Ezera*) that no Minister has three, four or five telephones. Where a Minister has two telephones one must know that one of them is a secret telephone. That is all. Otherwise what can one do with two or three telephones? All Ministers have one telephone each. But I honestly feel that while Members are here they should have good telephone services.

I understand that there is no night service at the P.B.X. I will look into the matter. Even if there is an efficient P.B.X. I think it will be good for the time being. But that will be looked into.

As regards the offices, I think that my hon. Friends will agree that this is not our real Parliament Building. We will bear that in mind when we are erecting the new Parliament Buildings. We shall provide Members with offices. Even Ministers have no offices here.

And as regards the prices of drinks, I think that the refectory needs to be checked because even this afternoon I wanted something from the refectory. Even simple things like sandwiches cannot be got there. I think that we will ask the Clerk of the Parliaments to look into it. If they are profiteering there we can close it down.

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[Adjournment]

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[Adjournment]

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And as regards the restaurant, I understand that it is the committee of the House that recommended that it should be closed down. But I think that the matter should be taken up by the Committee again. If the Committee recommended it then I think that they should look into it again.

As regards television, I will recommend to the Clerk of the Parliaments that in the sitting rooms, not in every Member's room, there should be a television set.

**Mr E. A. Mordi** (Asaba East): I want to inform the Minister of Finance that—

**The Deputy Speaker** : Order ! is now 6 o'clock and under Standing Order 5(10) I am bound to put the Question, That this House do now adjourn.

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Resolved*, That this House do now adjourn.

*Adjourned accordingly at six o'clock.*

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

Wednesday, 25th March, 1964

The House met at 10 a.m.

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

HEALTH

Pharmacists' Strike

**O.248. Mr J. O. Taiwo** asked the Minister of Health, if he will make a statement on the recent strike of pharmacists in the Federal territory of Lagos.

**The Minister of Health** (Chief M. A. Majekodunmi): I have already made a statement on the Federal Governments' policy with regard to this question during the debate on Adjournment yesterday and I have nothing to add to that statement.

**Shettima Ali Monguno** (Kaga Marghi): If I understood the Minister correctly yesterday, he did make a statement on the strike.

Department of Pharmacy

**O.249. Mr J. O. Taiwo** asked the Minister of Health, when he plans to create a separate and distinct department of Pharmacy in the Civil Service as is the practice in all advanced countries of the world.

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Health** (M. Hamza Gombe): There is already in existence in my Ministry a pharmaceutical division headed by the Chief Pharmacist whose duty is to advise me on all pharmaceutical matters.

Tear Gas

**O.314. Mr F. A. M. Amadi** asked the Minister of Health, what harmful effect tear gas could have on a person subjected to it.

**M. Hamza Gombe:** Tear gas seldom has a permanent harmful effect on a person subjected to it. It causes temporary smarting of the eyes and discourages further opening of the eyes as long as the gas is around the subject.

**Mr R. N. Muojeke** (Awka Central): What of old women? Is there no difference in the cases of old women?

**Mr Speaker:** That requires notice.

Status of Pharmacists

**O.315. Mr C. O. Chiedozie** asked the Minister of Health, whether he does not consider it more compatible with their duties to classify the Nigerian Pharmacists as professionals; and if he will make a statement.

**Chief Majekodunmi:** I would like to refer my hon. Friend to my answer to Question No. 248.

**Mr P. E. Ekanem** (Enyong South): On a point of order, we really want to know whether these Chemists and Druggists (or Pharmacists as the Minister calls them in his Ministry) are professionals or technicians. That is the question to which we want a simple answer from the Minister.

**Mr Speaker:** That is not a point of order

**Mr C. O. Chiedozie** (Enugu): I want the hon. Minister of Health to assure us that he is quite aware of the seriousness of the situation with reference to designating Chemists as professionals.

**Mr D. N. Abii** (Owerri East): I humbly ask the Minister to be kind enough to give us his reply to the Question No. 248. He has not said anything about the strike.

**Mr Speaker:** We have passed question No. 248 and he has given his reply to the question.

Yaba Mental Hospital

**O.316. Mr A. A. Odurinde** asked the Minister of Health, what plans he has to expand the Yaba Mental Hospital in order to provide more adequate facilities for the treatment of mental patients in the country.

**M. Hamza Gombe:** Plans for the building of a new Mental Hospital are already completed. Construction will commence as soon as funds become available.

**O.317. Mr A. A. Odurinde** asked the Minister of Health, how many patients have been admitted to the Yaba Mental Hospital since its inception.

**M. Hamza Gombe :** Accurate figures are not available. The number is estimated at 5,000 commencing with 48 patients in 1907 and 540 in 1963.

**O.318. Mr A. A. Odurinde** asked the Minister of Health, how many patients were successfully treated at the Yaba Mental Hospital between 1st October, 1960 and 31st December, 1963; and how much did it cost the Government to provide drugs, food, equipments and clothing for the patients.

**M. Hamza Gombe :** Between October 1960 and December 1963, 1,380 mental patients were successfully treated out of 1,546 who received treatment during the period. The total cost of drugs, food, equipment and clothing for the period was £93,500.

#### Drug Addicts

**O.319. Chief D. N. Oronsaye** asked the Minister of Health, how many drug addicts were treated successfully in Lagos hospitals in 1963; and whether he will give a list of the drugs to which people have been addicted.

**M. Hamza Gombe :** The number is 24 (23 males, 1 female). 21 were Indian Hemp addicts and 3 were alcoholics.

#### Artificial Respirators

**O.320. Chief D. N. Oronsaye :** asked the Minister of Health, why he does not put into effective use the artificial respirators in his hospitals in Lagos.

**M. Hamza Gombe :** The artificial respirators in Lagos have been put into effective use whenever they have been required.

**Chief Oronsaye :** It is when they were put in use that it is required by this honourable House; for the hon. Minister of Health had stated before that they were not in use.

#### Yaws

**O.321. Chief D. N. Oronsaye** asked the Minister of Health, how many cases of yaws were dealt with in Lagos from January 1959 to December 1963.

**M. Hamza Gombe :** Cases of Yaws treated in Government Hospitals and Clinics :—

Year (Jan.- Dec.)	No. of Cases	No. of Deaths
1959 .. ..	2,083	Nil
1960 .. ..	1,502	Nil
1961 .. ..	1,131	Nil
1962 .. ..	1,271	Nil
1963 .. ..	1,922	Nil

These are usually cases of late Yaws—osteitis, hyperkeratosis, "Crab-Yaws". Primary infective cases are rare in Lagos.

**Chief Oronsaye :** In view of the figures just given, will the Minister, please tell this House what effective measures he has taken to get rid of this disease known as yaws from Nigeria?

**Chief M. A. Majekodunmi :** There has been an intensive yaws campaign not only in Lagos but throughout the whole country and a unit of the World Health Organisation in collaboration with the Federal Government has been going round the country giving injections against yaws.

**Chief P. Dame-Oboh (Ishan West) :** I would like to know why the figure rose in 1963 and I would also like to know whether the figures so far obtained were from Lagos only or from the whole country?

**Chief Majekodunmi :** If my hon. Friend listened carefully to the answer, he would find that the cases of yaws dealt with in Lagos are not cases of fresh yaws. Those are the after effects of yaws, and my Parliamentary Secretary did, in fact, say that these were all cases of chronic yaws which are being treated in Lagos.

**Mr O. C. Ememe (Aba South) :** Is the Minister aware of the fact that the field workers who go about giving injections for these chronic yaws actually misuse the medicine given to them by selling it to the public instead of giving it free of charge?

**Chief Majekodunmi :** If my hon. Friend is aware that crimes are being committed anywhere in the Republic, it is his duty to report to the Police.

#### COMMUNICATIONS

##### Call Box for Nsukwa and Illah

**\*O.114. Mr E. A. Mordi** asked the Minister of Communications, whether as a matter of special consideration he will establish Telephone Call Box in Nsukwa and Illah in view of the remoteness of these places.

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Communications** (Mr S. F. Nwika): Both Nsukwa and Illah are being considered for provision of telephone service during the later half of the current telecommunications development programme.

**\*O.115. Mr E. A. Mordi** asked the Minister of Communications, if he will arrange for the conversion of Illah and Nsukwa Postal Agencies into Sub-Post Offices to enable them serve their immediate areas which are well over 16 miles from the nearest Post Office.

**Mr F. S. Nwika** : Nsukwa Postal Agency is not very progressive. The unit of business transacted there for the last 3 years are as follows :—

1961	..	..	..	4,327
1962	..	..	..	4,372
1963	..	..	..	4,615

The units of work transacted at Illah Postal Agency for the same period are as follows :

1961	..	..	..	15,557
1962	..	..	..	17,435
1963	..	..	..	19,957

Illah Postal Agency will however qualify for conversion after 1st April, 1964.

**Alhaji Daura** (Maska) : Will the Minister please tell this House about the distribution of sub-post offices in the Regions ?

#### Ubulu-Uku Post Office

**\*O.116. Mr E. A. Mordi** asked the Minister of Communications, what was the number of units of business transacted in Ubulu-Uku Sub-Post Office in 1963, and if in view of the fact that the figures far exceed the 40,000 units, he will give its conversion into a full departmental post office priority consideration.

**Mr Nwika** : Ubulu-Uku Postal Agency was converted to a Sub Post Office on 16th December, 1961 and the units of business transacted for the past 3 years are as follows :

1961	..	31,819
1962	..	42,989
1963	..	45,800

Provision has been made in the 1962-68 Development Programme for the conversion of the Sub-Post Office to a full Departmental Post Office.

**Dr B. U. Nzeribe** (Orlu West) : When one looks at the questions asked about post offices,

one will see that every Member of Parliament is asking about conversion of postal agencies into post offices or sub-post offices which indicates that the matter is very dear to the hearts of hon. Members. Last year, we all asked that each constituency should have at least one sub-post office.

**Mr Speaker** : Which is irrelevant at this moment.

#### Nimo Post Office

**\*O.252. Mr F. C. Ogbalu** asked the Minister of Communications, what plans he has for establishing a telephone exchange at Nimo Post Office in Awka Division ; and if he will make a statement.

**Mr S. F. Nwika** : A small telephone exchange, which was installed at the Nimo Post Office 6 years ago, is still in use. Consideration is being given to the possibility of giving improved service to Nimo from a larger exchange situated in Abagana.

#### Okon Postal Agency

**\*O.253. Chief R. A. Orok** asked the Minister of Communications, when he will open the postal agency at Okon Clan in Ikot Ekpene Division which was built through communal effort.

**Mr S. F. Nwika** : No request has been received from the Okon Clan for the establishment of a Postal Agency at Ikot Ocho. If the community applies to the Territorial Controller, Posts and Telegraphs Headquarters Enugu, the establishment of the agency will be examined.

#### Abakaliki Post Office

**\*O.322. Mr B. O. Ikeh** asked the Minister of Communications, if he is aware that the Abakaliki Post Office is understaffed ; and what steps he is taking to remedy the situation.

**Mr S. F. Nwika** : The staffing position at Abakaliki Post Office is under regular review and it has been confirmed that the existing staff is adequately related to the volume of business transacted at the Post Office.

Another review will be conducted soon and if an increase is warranted additional staff will be provided.

**Mr C. O. Chiedozie** (Enugu) : Is the Minister aware of the fact that many Post Offices in this country are understaffed and that that is why there are delays in the delivery of mails ?

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**\*O.323. Mr B. O. Ikeh** asked the Minister of Communications, why a Post Master, Grade III has not been posted to Abakaliki Post Office.

**Mr S. F. Nwika** : There is no grade known as Postmaster, Grade III. Presumably Head Postmaster, Grade III is meant.

A head Postmaster, Grade III should be in control of class III office with a total staff of 21-75 officers.

Abakaliki is a Class II office with a total indoor staff of 14 officers and cannot therefore be controlled by a Head Postmaster, Grade III.

A Postmaster, Grade I, a senior service officer, is in charge of Abakaliki Post Office and he exercises all the necessary functions such as a Head Postmaster, Grade III is expected to exercise in a larger office.

**\*O.324. Mr B. O. Ikeh** asked the Minister of Communications, if he will consider providing telephone facilities for the headquarters of the county councils in Abakaliki Division, if the county councils concerned agree to bear 50 per cent of the costs.

**Mr S. F. Nwika** : It is the intention of this Ministry to provide telephone facilities for the headquarters of all County Councils during the current development programme.

The question of the percentage of the costs to be met by the council concerned will be resolved when the planning work for these projects has been completed.

**Auto-Exchanges**

**\*O.325. Dr P. U. Okeke** asked the Minister of Communications, how many automatic telephone exchanges operate in the Federation; and where they are located.

**Mr S. F. Nwika** : There are at present 31 Automatic Telephone Exchanges operating in the Federation.

These are situated in the following towns :

Akure	Enugu
Apapa	Gusau
Aronduogu	Ibadan
Awka	Ife
Daura	Ikeja
Ebute Metta	Ilesha
Ede	Ilorin

Iwo	Oji River
Jos	Okigwi
Kaduna	Onitsha
Kafanchan	Opobo
Kano	Oshogbo
Lagos	Port Harcourt
Makurdi	Samaru
Minna	Zaria
Nnewi	

**Mr B. N. Ukegbu** (Owerri South East) : Will the Minister tell us why an automatic telephone exchange has not been established at Owerri up till now ?

**Telephones**

**O.326. Dr P. U. Okeke** asked the Minister of Communications how many telephones are in use in Nigeria.

**Mr S. F. Nwika** : On 31st December, 1963, when the last records were taken, there were in use in Nigeria 26,843 telephone exchange lines and 56,439 telephone instruments.

**Dr Okeke** : How does this number compare with the number of telephones in comparatively civilised countries of the world ?

**Chief D. N. Abii** : Is the Minister aware that the number of telephone applications in his Ministry is so high that we should consider the Ministry as inefficient ?

**Mr N. D. Ukah** (Owerri North East) : When will the Ministry publish the long sought for White Paper on the development of postal communications which will make it easy for Members to apply for postal and telephone facilities for their respective constituencies ?

**Ogbete and Uwani Post Offices**

**O.327. Mr C. O. Chiedozie** asked the Minister of Communications when work on the building of Ogbete and Uwani post offices at Enugu will start.

**Mr Nwika** : Funds for the building of the two post offices have been released and contracts awarded. Construction work has already started at the Ogbete site. Work at the Uwani site is expected to start soon.



**Nsukka-Enugu Link**

**O.328. Mr F. A. M. Amadi** asked the Minister of Communications whether he will now link Nsukka and Enugu by direct telephone lines.

**Mr Nwika** : At present Nsukka has 4 Direct Trunk Lines to Enugu and the number of these lines will be increased as the volume of traffic grows. There is a proposal also to build an automatic telephone exchange at Nsukka, thus making it possible for subscribers to dial Enugu direct.

**Funtua-Katsina**

**O.329. Alhaji L. Daura** asked the Minister of Communications whether he will consider linking Funtua and Katsina by telephone with the following major towns : Bakori-Malumfashi, Dutsinma and Kankiya.

**Mr Nwika** : Plans are in hand to provide telephone service at Malamfashi and Kankiya which will enable calls to be made to both Funtua and Katsina.

Consideration will be given to the provision of telephone service at Dutsinma.

**Alhaji Bello Dandago** (Gwarzo East) : In view of the fact that Gwarzo is in a favourable geographical position with Malamfashi, will the Minister be good enough to extend postal facilities to Gwarzo ?

**Osoro Postal Agency**

**O.330. Mr J. K. de-Omomadia** asked the Minister of Communications when Osoro Postal Agency will be converted to a sub-post office.

**Mr Nwika** : The current total of units of business transacted at Osoro Postal Agency is 20,416 which will qualify for conversion to a sub-post office shortly.

**Oba S. A. Oladiran** (Okitipupa South) : For the purpose of clarity, may we know the difference between Osoro in Western Region and Osoro in the Mid-West Region which the Member for Urhobo East (*Mr J. K. de-Omomadia*) has just referred to because the Minister of Communications himself is from Osoro.

**Oleh Sub-Post Office**

**O.331. Mr de-Omomadia** asked the Minister of Communications whether he will consider converting the Oleh Sub-Post Office to a full post office, in view of the fact that Oleh is the Headquarters of Isoko Division.

**Mr Nwika** : Oleh Postal—

**Several hon. Members** : *Ole !*

**Chief D. N. Abii** (Owerri East) : On a point of order, *Ole* means a thief in Yoruba.

**Mr Speaker** : But not in Urhobo.

**Mr Nwika** : Oleh Postal Agency was converted to a sub-post office on 14th September, 1963. It has not yet qualified for conversion to a departmental office as the current units of business transacted amounting to 20,314 are below the minimum required for upgrading to departmental post office.

**O.332. Mr J. K. de-Omomadia** asked the Minister of Communications what is delaying the replacement of the equipment in the telephone call office at Oleh, which has not functioned since it was opened on the 11th July, 1961.

**Nwika** : The original equipment will be replaced by a more powerful type during the first quarter of the year 1964-65.

The delay has been due to a shortage of the improved type of equipment.

**Mr A. F. Odulana** (Ijebu South) : Now that the Minister has told us that the delay is due to shortage of equipment, I think he is waiting for those scrapped in Great Britain. There is no doubt that the telephone boxes used in this country are those that have been regarded as scraps in Great Britain and the Minister of Communications is still making arrangements to buy them.

**Mr Speaker** : This supplementary question is too long.

**Shettima Ali Monguno** (Kaga Marghi) : On the question of equipment, is the Minister aware that it takes as long as six months to get a telephone installed in Maiduguri. Has the Minister any explanation for that ?

### ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT Six-Year Development Plan

**O.193. Mr V. L. Lajide** asked the Minister of Economic Development if he will give a comprehensive list of all the industrial and constructional projects he has for the Six-Year Development Programme including those already executed, those outstanding and the value of each.

**The Minister of Economic Development** (Alhaji Waziri Ibrahim): All the projects in the Six-Year Development Programme are listed in the National Plan Documents which have already been circulated to all hon. Members. Up to date information regarding the execution of the Programme has also been circulated to hon. Members as Sessional Paper No. 3 of 1964.

**O.247. Mr F. C. Ogbalu** asked the Minister of Economic Development what major projects the Federal Government has undertaken or will undertake for each region in the Six-Year Development Plan, and if he will indicate how much money has been allocated to each.

**Alhaji Waziri Ibrahim**: The major projects to be undertaken by the Federal Government during the Six-Year Development Plan period are set out in Sessional Paper No. 1 of 1962. These are not allocated or sited on regional basis as such.

**Dr B. U. Nzeribe** (Orlu West): Is the Minister aware of the fact that the Federal Government is discriminating against the rural areas even though the Constitution allocates to the Regional Governments the development of the rural areas?

**Mr F. C. Ogbalu** (Awka North): The second part of the question has not been answered by the Minister and that is about how much money has been allocated to each region.

**Alhaji Waziri Ibrahim**: I am afraid that, apart from the allocation from the revenue pool, the only other allocation that has been made to the regions has been the sum of £4 million for agricultural purposes.

**Alhaji Aminu Kano** (Kano East): The Minister has not answered the important question about the neglect of the rural areas in this Development Programme. The big cities are being developed. What about the rural areas?

**Alhaji Waziri Ibrahim**: The hon. Member knows very well that the development of the rural areas is the responsibility of the Regional Governments.

**Several hon. Members**: No!

**Mr Speaker**: Order! It is now 10.30 and under Standing Orders, no further Questions can be entertained.

### NOTICE OF MOTION

#### BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

**The Minister of Finance** (Chief F. S. Okotie-Eboh): I beg to move—

That, *this day*, notwithstanding the provisions of Standing Order 5 (Sittings of the House), the House shall sit at the following times:—

From 10 a.m. till 1 p.m.; from 3 p.m. till 6 p.m.; and from 9 p.m. till 12 midnight.

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

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Resolved*: That, *this day*, notwithstanding the provisions of Standing Order 5 (Sittings of the House), the House shall sit at the following times:—

From 10 a.m. till 1 p.m.; from 3 p.m. till 6 p.m.; and from 9 p.m. till 12 midnight.

### ORDER OF THE DAY

#### APPROPRIATION (1964-65) BILL (SECOND ALLOTTED DAY)

ADJOURNED DEBATE ON SECOND READING  
(18TH MARCH)

*Motion made and Question proposed, That the Bill be now read a Second time.*

**M. Abubakar Ibrahim** (Muri South West): I rise to support the Appropriation Bill and to give consent to the envisaged expenditure called for by this Bill.

The 1964-65 Budget is a very solvent and progressive one. It is nationalistic in scope and outlook. The Bill is highly welcome particularly as it permits Members of this Parliament the airing of views on the past and the present and to advise and guide the future activities of the Federal Government.

[M. ABUBAKAR IBRAHIM]

It is most gratifying to note, that since the attainment of independence and nationhood, Nigeria's international performances, national achievements and national solidarity have reached levels far beyond normal expectations. This is an achievement that would register on the pages of history where sane and modest attainments, in their greatest form and colour, are chaptered.

It is for this very reason that I would like to seize this opportunity, to first congratulate the Prime Minister and his entire cabinet for their untiring efforts in the field of national reconstruction, and to register my implicit confidence in Sir Abubakar's leadership and all the Governments of the Federal Republic.

No nation is yet known in recorded history to have summarily solved all her national problems. National problems do in fact evolved with time. We are to-day in a world that changes from minute to minute and to every minute's change we are bound to give a fitting approach otherwise we fall two minutes behind schedule.

It is in this light that I see the need for a change, not in principle, but in attitude towards both our internal and external policies.

Although some of the points I want to touch have been touched, nonetheless, my own comments will also add to the trend of popular opinion in this House.

I would like to talk of the following subjects, Nigeria's East-West trade relationships, Nigeria's role in the affairs of the O.A.U., Nigeria's Economic progress and lastly, but by no means the least, Nigeria's national unity.

It is indeed the duty of every Member of this honourable House to quickly bring to the notice of the Government, any policy that is running rusty. I feel the time has come when the Nigerian Government should go President de Gaulle's way.

After centuries of partnership and closest co-operation between France, England, U.S.A. and the entire West, President de Gaulle has rightly and very carefully established further and stronger eastern economic ties with China and is cautiously establishing similar trading grounds for France with Latin America. The polishing of France's external trade policy is naturally sour to the tastes of the West, but

nevertheless it is in strict accordance with France's national interest. So also would I like the Nigerian Government to polish her external trade policy.

A little further and stronger eastern inclination by the Nigerian Government will not only help to brighten Nigeria's internal and external trade, but will at the same time help to stimulate the inflow of aid from the West.

We are a free nation, politically free, but economically tied up to the aprons of the more developed countries of the world. This situation is unfortunately inevitable, because, we are a part of the economic world, and as such our economic progress depends largely on external resources.

It is true that our Government is founded on a basis of democracy, freedom of will, freedom of thought and freedom of action. It is equally true that the Government having been founded on such basis, will be naturally more in conformity and agreement with other governments so founded and so instituted.

But, this is a time to try hearts and to break heads. It is an era of diplomacy and mutual agreements. It is the 20th century—an era when a wise and honest gentleman falls in mutual trust and completes agreement with a notorious criminal so as to justify a certain end, an era when political thugs are employed to beat up political opponents so that political power may be achieved.

It is only logical, therefore, that we should abide by the dictates of the time, that is to say, extend Nigerian trade and Nigerian markets on a full-scale basis, to Russia, China, the Communist countries and the Far East. This will widen the scope of our national import and export trade, and thus help to stabilize the prices of our raw materials and minimise trade imbalances. It will also, subsequently, improve the national economy and the standard of living of our people.

May I also appeal to the Federal Government to consider seriously the calls for the establishment of a West African Common Market with a view to the subsequent formation of an All African Common Market as an effective economic instrument towards the economic emancipation of Africa. Attention has on several occasions been drawn to this all-important aspect of economic strategy. And

I feel that Nigeria cannot afford to lose her rightful chance of taking the lead in the formation of the Common Market.

Few of these calls are contained in the plea made by President Nyerere of Tanganyika Republic to which our Minister of Economic Development (*Alhaji Waziri Ibrahim*) made reference in an address delivered by him to the 12th Session of the F.A.O. Conference in Rome on the 19th of November, 1963.

In his address, the Minister said, and with your permission Mr Speaker, I quote :—

*“President Nyerere’s warning that the ultimate choice before us may be one of isolation should be examined very seriously. If I may return to our experience in Nigeria, we at present operate a free market economy with a liberal foreign exchange system. The foreign capital inflow into our country on public and private accounts has been less than expected.*

*Meanwhile, the relative prices for our exports continue to deteriorate. We are the losers. The point in President Nyerere’s message as I got it, is that we in Nigeria cannot continue on this basis indefinitely. If and when our present policies completely fail principally through the present unregulated world marketing system, we will have to choose isolationism with other countries in similar circumstances. I cannot myself see any other way out of the mess in which we have put ourselves”.*

Another of these calls was made by the Nigerian Ambassador to the European Economic Community, Dr Pius Okigbo, on a similar economic foresight. It was published in a Nigerian Daily Newspaper of the 13th of this month. It states—with your permission, Sir, I quote again :

*“The search for new markets must be made an important plank of policy in the West African Nations”.*

To me, this should be Nigeria’s economic stand among African States and the world. Nigeria’s Economic Minister and Nigeria’s Economic Ambassador to Europe, where the largest economic interests of Nigeria lie, are the most authoritative economic counsel of the day. Their opinions on Nigeria’s economy should not be, in a way, taken for granted.

The Government is undoubtedly liable to consider their wise counsels.

Now, I say finally on this matter, that Nigeria should open the gates of her trade wider to the Eastern countries and, of course, without spoiling the established relations with the West. I believe our able Government is competent of doing so.

I should now like to point out, very briefly though, some itching propositions that, I think, do not need any logical arguments to support them.

These are in connection with Nigeria and the O.A.U. Nigeria plays host now to all emergent African States. As such she can be regarded as a home for all African refugees, especially those from South and East Africa, whose countries are not yet member-states of the O.A.U. This is so because they are still colonies, where there still remains the yoke of imperialism and suppression.

We all know the Africans who are fighting to free fellow Africans and their fatherland in the Portuguese, Spanish, Boer and even the British-possessed territories in Central Africa. They are always subjected to the most inhuman treachery and at times murder in cold blood.

It is a human right and a dutiful wisdom for such nationalists to seek refuge when they are under certain inhuman persuasion. It is equally the duty of other independent African countries to shelter such nationalists whenever need be.

Nigeria should be no exception to this dutiful service to fellow Africans and human creatures. We have heard, and with heavy hearts, of an occasion when a nationalist-refugee entered this country. He did so without entry visa, which, of course, is natural. He was jailed and repatriated.

If this is true, then we owe an apology for such an action. I think it is an infringement of the Government’s policy of, to put it in the words of the President, absolute dedication to the total emancipation of the African territories which are still under foreign rule.

One of the aspects of moral support that Nigeria can give to these dependent countries is, I think, the offer of free shelter to their

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victimised nationalists who escape and seek refuge in Nigeria.

I earnestly hope that the Government of the Republic of Nigeria will henceforth guard the interests and welfare of the victims of colonial oppression.

It is worthwhile remembering that, for the interest of Nigeria in African solidarity, these victims of colonial butchery are the future masters of their country's destiny. They, no doubt, will form part of the O.A.U. when independence is won. They will regard Nigeria then with high esteem for her contributions towards their political emancipation. Nigeria will then rest on laurels for their support in all the councils of the world.

My second point in this regard is in connection with the formation of an African High Command of the O.A.U. I should warn that this will be a very dangerous and deadly venture. Unless it could be proved beyond any reasonable and human doubts that the internal security of Member States would be adequately protected in the legal instruments establishing the High Command, the establishment of such a Command will prove to be one of the worst human mistakes ever made.

There must be perfect guarantee against the use of the High Command by one nation for aggression. I very much doubt if there will not be.

The possibility of political intrigue and military subversion by the use of the High Command cannot also be completely lost sight of. The inadvisability of establishing such a High Command runs parallel with the inadvisability and impossibility of establishing a United Nations High Command on similar intentions.

Fanatics of political power are born and reared. The world would then be unlucky to have one of such fanatics at the command of such a military force. I should not imagine that the present world balance of power will not suffice to maintain world peace and relative rest of human mind.

I appeal to the Prime Minister to, please, let sleeping dogs lie. I, personally, am vehemently in opposition to the idea of establishing an African High Command. I am sure I enjoy the

support, on the same opinion, of both sides of this honourable House.

One other brief but very important point that needs mentioning is that connected with groundnut prices. This may apparently be a regional matter. However, since the Federal Government realises a lucrative sum of over £3,000,000 on the export of groundnuts and its products, it is only proper that Members of this House should be given the right to express their grievances. These can be transmitted through co-ordinated avenues to the Regional Authorities concerned.

The present system of groundnut pricing in the country is most obnoxious and primitive. It should, therefore, be revised forthwith. At present groundnut prices vary from one groundnut buying station to the other. This variation generally troubles our farmers who move from one station to the other looking for the highest offer on their produce. It also forms a very favourable ground for black-marketing. It disrupts local economic set-up at a wonderfully large degree.

Our farmers have for long remained the victims of exploitation under this system. This results to great hardship to them. In the long run, they find themselves unable to pay their taxes.

Farmers, particularly those in my own constituency, find the obnoxious set-up of groundnut prices very undesirable. The solution to this is to nationalise and universalise the price of groundnuts on a similar lines with the price of seed cotton. When this is done both local revenue losses and the hardship in which farmers always find themselves would be minimised if not completely wiped out.

Turning to the subject of national unity, I shall, on the very onset quote, with your permission, the words of Sir Alec Douglas-Home, while addressing the Joint Sitting of Parliament on the 20th of March, 1964 :

*"Do we accept that the sheer diversity of the modern Commonwealth gives us no more scope for co-operation?"*

*"Are we content just to soldier along rather comfortably as a family, recognising that the ties will get looser—first cousins to-day second cousin tomorrow until the relationship becomes too thin to be recognised?"*

Sir Alec rejected both these theses and chose the third thesis of the wise man which says:

*Shall we try to turn without making the Commonwealth into a closed shop or an exclusive club to put more substance into our dealings with each other?*

These words are very prophetic and idealistic. They prophesy the trend of recent events on the subject of unity in this country, and, at the same time, idealise the course of future effective action.

Much has already been said on this subject; therefore, I do not intend to waste the time of the House. I would, however, like to mention one thing, and that is, if the unity, and hence the prestige, of Nigeria is to be maintained and cherished, then I would appeal very solemnly to this honourable House and the nation to refrain from political, tribal, religious and inter-regional provocations. In the shortest term, we should have respect for one another.

The ties of our national unity have been very dangerously thinned by the recent census controversy. The census controversy has very suddenly awakened the past and fast fading antagonistic seeds of disunity sown by our colonial overlords.

To-day antagonistic phrases and words such as northernisation policy, *kobo-kobo*, *gambari*, *iyanniri*, *ara oke*, northerner, westerner, easterner, mid-westerner, *bakodaya* and a host of similar words and phrases have been aimlessly introduced only to shake, to the very foundation, the painstakingly established unity of this great country.

Threats and counter-threats, press and radio attacks and counter-attacks, and public pronouncements and denouncements and counter-pronouncements and counter-denouncements, have become the order of the day. It is true that such had existed in the country before now, but never had it been in so large a magnitude. The nation is bound to tremble with fear when such bitterness is carried as far as to the highest legislative Assemblies of the Nation.

It is in this regard that I fall in complete agreement with my hon. Friend, Professor Kalu Ezera, when he said that the greatest problem which faces Nigeria as he saw it, was the problem of unity, and that all talks on

other internal matters, therefore, would be moonshine, unless we settled aright the whole problem of unity.

Although we shall conflict with my hon. Friend, as his speech further disclosed, nevertheless, our principle remains the same. Complete and lasting harmony among the regions, tribes, ethnic groupings and political parties of the Federal Republic must be ascertained before real and lasting progress could be made.

Indifference of one towards the other must be dwarfed into insignificance. The problem of unity in this country must be once and for all given a most positive approach. No price is too high for our national unity. We must now cast aside forever all theoretical speculations on this subject and embark upon the most practical solutions of the problem.

It is, at this juncture, that we are naturally faced with the question, what are the most practical solutions to the problem of unity in this country? If I would be done the honour of answering this question, then I would answer it in three simple English words—coming closer, together. Yes indeed, Coming closer together.

It is in the process of doing so that every stone of unity is left not unturned, thus giving no room in the future for friction or fusion. It is in this process that we would like to see the President of the Republic of Nigeria, notwithstanding his political immunity, take sides in the open, with the joint endeavour of the Prime Minister of the Republic, as head of a would-be Republic's Supreme Council on National Unity Matters. This would-be Supreme Council will embrace all regional premiers, together with Presidents of Regional Upper Houses, including that of Lagos.

Together they will introduce workable practical solutions, such as the setting up of Unity Committees, Boards and Councils to cater for such practical things as control of press publications and radio announcements on the subject of unity, checks, by extensive propaganda, on inter-regional and inter-tribal antagonistic statements and utterances, and the formation of Regional Parliamentary Associations for forstering national unity. Such Associations would exchange friendly inter-regional parliamentary visits with a view

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to strengthening inter-regional unity, creating special Unity Schools and Learning Institutions, organising goodwill inter-regional and inter-tribal missions of farmers, musicians and people in all spheres of Nigerian life, and if need be, inaugurating a special National Unity Day to be marked by merriment and a very high degree of solemnity.

To me, these and many others are the most positive and practical steps to be taken in order to bring us closer together and Foster permanent unity and lasting harmony in this great country.

I beg to support.

**The Minister of Transport and Aviation** (Mr R. A. Njoku): I rise to support the Second Reading of the Appropriation Bill which has been so ably and lucidly presented by my able Friend and Colleague, the hon. Minister of Finance.

In doing so, I propose to speak briefly about the activities of my Ministry during the past year and its plans for the future. It would be vain to expect to be able, within the limited scope of a supporting speech, to do full justice to the vast contribution which a large Ministry like mine can make, has made and will continue to make to the economic development of this country.

Therefore, I shall content myself here with giving the bare facts and figures, unadorned with rhetoric or sentimental comments. If the achievements are really there, you can always rely on the facts to speak for themselves.

I shall begin with the corporations and state-owned companies for which I am responsible. I refer to the Nigerian Ports Authority, the Nigerian Railway Corporation, the Nigerian Shipping Line and, until two weeks ago, the Nigeria Airways.

Hon. Members will be pleased to hear that most of the major projects provided for in the 1962-68 National Development Plan in the various arms of my Ministry, have been embarked upon, and are making satisfactory progress. I shall refer to them in the course of the speech.

First, the Nigerian Ports Authority. The rapid expansion of commercial activities and industrialisation which is taking place in this country has necessitated the provision of

greater berthing facilities for ships in our principal ports. The most important single project which the Nigerian Ports Authority is undertaking under the current National Development Plan is the Apapa Wharf Extension, which will provide four additional berths for ocean-going ships. The project is estimated to cost £5½ million, and of this the offshore costs are to be met from the 13½ million (£4,725,000) United States dollar loan which the Authority obtained from the World Bank, while the local costs are being met from the Authority's own resources. Work on the Extension was commenced in 1963 and it is expected that the first of the four additional berths will be commissioned before the end of this year.

A new Fisheries Wharf which will cost £160,000 is now being built at Apapa for berthing fishing vessels, and will also be commissioned during this year. A similar Fishery Wharf will also be built at Port Harcourt where the construction of two new warehouses has already commenced.

As shown in its latest Annual Report covering the period 1st April, 1962 to 31st March, 1963, the Nigerian Ports Authority has made a net surplus of £550,000. This is an outstanding achievement, made as it was, in the teeth of the world-wide trade recession which occurred during the middle of the year and resulted in a decrease of nearly 5 per cent in the annual tonnage passing over the Authority's quays.

During the year which ended 31st March, 1963, 200 tankers loaded, at the port of Bonny, a total of 3,400,000 tons of Nigerian crude oil. On the last day of that financial year, the 35,000-ton Shell Tanker, *Vibex*, loaded 19,500 tons of crude oil at the loading berth and a further 11,500 tons from a topping up tanker. This was the first 35,000 ton tanker to enter Bonny, and *the largest ship to enter a Nigerian port*. The second phase of the Bonny Bar dredging project, financed by a loan of £4 million raised by the N.P.A. from the London Money Market, will be completed during the next financial year, thereby providing a channel 35 feet deep at Bonny and permitting the full loading of tankers of approximately 32,000 tons. To enable vessels to discharge and load large consignments at Port Harcourt, the dredging of the Bonny river to the depth of 29 feet up to the new refinery at Okrika and of 27 feet from there to Port Harcourt, has been taken in hand.

The construction of training moles at the Excravos river mouth, which started in 1958, was completed last October on schedule. This was a gigantic project which cost the Government a total of £12 million. When the dredging of the channel is completed this month, vessels drawing up to 21 feet will be able to cross the bar to the *Mid-Western* ports. In order to enable maximum benefit to be derived from the project, arrangements are afoot to start the dredging of the river approaches as soon as the channel dredging is completed. To this end, hydrographic survey of the river approaches to the Delta ports has been carried out by the N.P.A. Yet another port facility being provided for the Mid-West Region is a first-class deep water berth with ancillary facilities, shortly to be completed at Koko. The Authority's floating dry dock at Warri has been kept busy throughout the year.

I now come to the Nigerian Railway Corporation. The Corporation has made satisfactory progress in the past year and has excellent plans for the future. The Corporation has been adversely criticised in this House because it has not made a profit in the past few years. I am sure that if hon. Members know the full facts they will commend the Corporation for its achievements so far. In the first place,—and this is very important—unlike many other national railways in other parts of the world, the Nigerian Railway receives no subsidy from the Government. On the contrary, the Corporation pays to the Federal Government every year a substantial interest on the value of the assets which it took over on its establishment in 1955. On 31st March, 1963 the Corporation paid the Federal Government £1,300,000. In addition the Corporation paid £809,000 as interest on the loan for the Bornu Extension. The Corporation's working loss on the Bornu Extension in 1963 was £241,000. So that if the Corporation had not embarked on the Bornu Extension it would make an annual profit of well over £1 million. The decision, however, which the Government took that the Railway Corporation should undertake the Bornu Extension is a wise one. It is to the overall benefit of the economy and the development of the entire Republic. But it is unkind and unreasonable, I should suggest, to accuse the Corporation of failing to make profits before the new extension becomes viable. I am confident that in the next few years the opera-

tions on the Bornu Extension will show a profit and that the entire operations of the Corporation will show a substantial surplus.

Nevertheless, the Corporation continues to make commendable efforts to cut down its administrative costs. During the past year, for instance, it reduced its overall working expenses by £581,000. It also succeeded in cutting down its staff costs by £467,000 and its deficit by £123,000. On the other hand, its net working surplus rose from £596,000 to £852,000.

The Bornu Railway Extension has made satisfactory progress and is now nearing completion. As hon. Members are aware, the Extension has been open to all traffic up to Gombe, a distance of 102 miles from Bauchi, since April last year. Formation earthworks, including all culverts, on the remaining portion of the extension from Gombe to Maiduguri have also been completed. Track laying has also proceeded apace and it is expected that the whole extension up to its terminus in Maiduguri will be open to all traffic by the end of this year.

Traffic on the portion of the extension in use has been encouraging. Livestock and goods traffic on it rose by 29 per cent, while passenger traffic has also shown appreciable increase. Overall passenger traffic carried by the Corporation for the year ended 31st March, 1963 totalled 12,000,000 which shows a rise of about 1,000,000 over and above the figure for the preceding year. Receipts from passenger traffic over the same period went up by £32,000.

The Railway Corporation has decided to start the manufacture of wagons in Nigeria. Of the 800 new wagons to be commissioned in the coming year 650 are to be assembled in Nigeria while the remaining 150 will be completely built locally in the Corporation's workshops with as much local material as possible.

The Corporation has also pressed forward with its track relay programme. The relays through Western District stations have been completed. In the Eastern District, the 192 miles track relay of the Enugu-Makurdi line is shortly to be completed. In the Northern District the 40 miles between Zaria and Kaduna will be relayed with welded rails from locally



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made concrete sleepers. The Nigerian Railway Corporation has decided that the introduction of this most modern track relay method should start with Northern Nigeria.

In order to improve its services to the general public, the Railway Corporation has embarked on a programme of modernising its equipment and has started examining the possibility of opening new lines.

As a result of the motion unanimously passed by this honourable House, I have directed the Nigerian Railway Corporation to start feasibility and traffic surveys for the construction of an East-West railway, linking Western Nigeria with her neighbouring Regions of Mid-Western and Eastern Nigeria. A similar survey is also taking place between Gusau and Sokoto in Northern Nigeria. A team of experts from the Corporation started this survey on 24th January, 1964.

Representations have been made to me that coaches used on the Eastern Line are too old and not as clean as they should be. It has also been said that catering facilities are not provided on some of the trains on the Eastern Line. I have investigated these complaints and issued instructions that railway coaches on the Eastern Line as well as on other Lines should be kept reasonably clean at all times by redecoration when necessary and by ensuring that cleaners attached to all trains do their work efficiently. Dieselisation will also improve the cleanliness of the trains. I have been assured by the Railway Corporation that coaches used in the various Districts are interchangeable and that the older coaches are not confined to any particular District. Catering facilities on the trains are provided by the Nigeria Hotels Limited. This Company naturally provides these facilities where the demand justifies the provision. If enough people are prepared to spend their money on food and drinks while travelling by train, they can be sure that catering facilities will be provided.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I must here register very strong objection to the unwarranted aspersions cast on the Chairman of the Railway Corporation and myself by the Member for Uyo South East (*Mr Akpan*) the other day on the Floor of this House. It was unfortunate that the hon. Member should base his attack on false allegations gleaned from a spurious and malicious document. Before one condemns or

justifies, one must hear both sides. If the Member for Uyo South East (*Mr Akpan*) had heard the other side of the story, I am sure that he would not have made those damnable and irresponsible statements which emanated from him on that occasion.

I now pass on to the Nigerian National Shipping Line whose part in the economic development of this country is vital, and has, no doubt on that account, attracted some public comment in the local press lately. In the year ended 31st March, 1963 the Nigerian National Shipping Line made a net profit of £110,000. This striking profit figure was arrived at after all necessary deductions had been made, including the interest on the outstanding balance due to the shipbuilder of its two newly built ships.

The company continues to meet the commitments which it accepted, when purchasing these vessels, from its own resources, unaided by Government loan. The company has now been in operation for five years. During this time it has earned a gross profit of £1¼ million which has been ploughed back into its fleet expansion programme.

In the year 1963 alone the company carried 600,000 tons of cargo. The company plans to operate a fleet of 20 ships by the end of 1965. With this in view, it is at present negotiating the buying up of one of the rival shipping lines on the West African route. Through that, it will increase its fleet of owned ships by 4 and its share of the whole West African Lines Conference trade from 14 per cent as at present, to 20 per cent—which is not a bad figure when it is remembered that the Conference at present comprises 8 shipping lines.

I would like to speak briefly about Nigerianisation and training in these Corporations and Companies. I have had occasion many times in the past to mention what strikingly rapid progress has been made in Nigerianising their personnel. I do not propose to dwell on that here again to-day. Suffice it to observe that all the Corporations and Companies for which I have responsibility have now been substantially Nigerianised. In all of them the important post of Secretary is safely and firmly in the hands of capable Nigerians—one of them a Northerner.

**An hon. Member :** Only one ?

**Mr Njoku :** Yes, only one, but there are only three Corporations. 75 per cent of officer cadre posts in the Nigerian Railways, including those of General Manager and Chief Mechanical Engineer, and 65 per cent of senior service posts in the N.P.A. including those of General Manager and three departmental heads, are now held by Nigerians. During the past two years, as many as 447 indigenous Railway staff have completed their training while 872 others are still in training. This financial year the Nigerian Ports Authority has awarded not less than 65 scholarships to train Nigerians in the various aspects of ports operation. Apart from indigenous departmental heads, the National Shipping Line now has a Nigerian Deputy General Manager. The Shipping Line has embarked on a far-sighted programme designed to give indigenous staff the appropriate introduction into the intricacies of the shipping business. Young Nigerians are being trained overseas to become Navigating and Engineering Officers. There are at present about 50 Nigerian officers and cadets serving at sea on the company's vessels. Indeed all the company's vessels are now manned entirely by Nigerian ratings, a total of some 240 men.

Before I conclude my account of the progress and plans of the Corporations and State-owned Companies under my Ministry, I wish to acknowledge here how much indebted I am to Honourable Amechi, Minister of State in my Ministry, for the invaluable assistance he has given me until recently with the Civil Aviation Division. He is now Minister of State with specific responsibility for Ports. His former responsibility has grown into a full-fledged Ministry, now under my Honourable Friend and Colleague Dr Mbadiwe. I wish him luck in his new assignment.

Now to say a few words about the other divisions of my Ministry. I refer to the Government Coastal Agency, the Inland Waterways, the Maritime and the Administrative Divisions.

To begin with, the Government Coastal Agency. I am sure that all hon. Members who have travelled overseas know of the activities of the Government Coastal Agency which is the sole consignee for the imports of all the Governments of the Federal Republic.

During the period under review the amount of business handled by the Agency increased considerably. In the financial year 1962-63, it handled a total of 500,000 packages valued at £10,000,000 and arranged 5,000 air and sea passages for Government passengers. The number of organisations using its services also rose up to 1,000. With the opening of ports in the Mid-West, the Agency looks forward to an extension of its services there in the coming year.

In the past, the Inland Waterways Division has been hampered in its activities by shortage of technical staff. However, there are now signs that the situation will swiftly improve as newly recruited staff, including a new Director, are arriving from Holland—that well known natural home of hydrological engineers. At the same time, indigenous staff are completing their training and returning to take up vacant posts as Marine Officers and Marine Engineers. Local training facilities are now available at Lokoja for the training of young Nigerian Engineers and Surveyors in Hydrological Survey Works.

During the shipping season the Division intensified its system of buoyage and patrol activities and other arrangements for providing river craft with up-to-date information on the navigability of the Niger and the Benue. Five launches were engaged on this patrol and 160 buoys were laid on 31 crossings over which commercial craft were piloted by the Division's Launches during low water seasons. During the year under review revised river charts based on aerial photographs taken in 1962 were completed and issued to river operators.

Special attention has been paid to the improvement of transport in the Niger Delta and Creek areas. Six concrete pontoon piers have been built at Ngo, Yenegoa, Opobo Town, Egwanga, Brass and Nembe. Additional four piers are to be provided at Bakana, Buguma, Abonema and Tombia in Degema Province. Creek clearing operation has also been maintained in the Sudd region.

The first set of the Hydrological year books covering the period 1955-1957 has been compiled. Another for the period 1958-1962 is under preparation.

In the Maritime Division the period under review has witnessed the introduction, under the newly enacted Merchant Shipping Act,

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of various regulations for improving the existing standard of shipping and the service conditions of seamen. This has been coupled with the establishment of a Nigerian Registry of Shipping which now has over 170 ships of various descriptions on its register. As a result of these significant developments, Nigerian ships plying the oceans of the world can now proudly fly the national colours. The survey of ships' structure, safety, communications and other equipment by the Division also continues unabated. Indeed, the increased activity of this Division is reflected in the growth of the local marine shipbuilding and repairing industry. The Division now conducts examinations for all grades of Deck and Engineer Officers in Nigeria, thus saving indigenous officers the expense and inconvenience of travelling overseas for these examinations. Nigeria has become a member of the Inter-Governmental Maritime Consultative Organisation and a signatory of the International Convention on Safety of Life at Sea.

Thanks to the efforts of the Administrative Division, the general administration of my Ministry has made good progress during the period under review. This has been greatly assisted by the full integration, with the Ministry, of the old Department of Civil Aviation and the Headquarters of the Department of Inland Waterways which has now transferred from Lokoja to Lagos.

With my chief official advisers in the various Divisions under the same roof with me, I have been enabled to better discharge the responsibilities of my Ministry which controls the life-blood of the economic development of this country. In this connexion, I wish to pay a special tribute to my Permanent Secretary who is due to retire this month on reaching the age limit. I first came into contact with Mr Daramola many years ago in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry when I was in charge of that Ministry. Since then, I have known him for his unstinted devotion to duty, and his unwavering loyalty especially in times of stress. I shall miss him badly but cannot but wish him the very best of luck in his well-earned retirement.

It is very difficult indeed to give a comprehensive account of the activities of a large Ministry like Transport in the course of a thirty-minute speech. I wish I had more time

to discharge this pleasant duty. Before concluding, however, I would like to thank all Members for the great interest they have taken in the work of my Ministry. I welcome their suggestions and criticisms, especially when the latter are constructive. I have endeavoured to meet the wishes of Members whenever their requests fall within approved Government policy and funds are available, and I want to assure them all of my continued co-operation.

I beg to support.

**Mr P. O. Akpan** (Uyo South East): On a point of order, I want to say that the Minister of Transport made some remark about me, but he has not been able to tell us the whole fact. I am very very disappointed—(*Prolonged interruptions*),.

**Mr Speaker**: Order, order. Please do not turn the House into a gathering of market women. The Member for Uyo South East (*Mr Akpan*) will have better time for making his comment on the statement by the Minister when we come to the Committee Stage under the Head of Transport.

**M. Waisul Karni** (Dikwa North): On a point of information, I must express my distress at the attitude of the Chair for doing things outside the provisions of the Standing Order. I have observed that on several occasions Members who want to speak are not given the chance to do so, instead those whose names have been given to the Chair are sort of given more preference. The extent to which you can measure the competence of one to contribute to debates depends on the frequency with which he has to speak. Those of us who are learning the art of debate would like to remove from the minds of the public the impression that we are just seat warmers. We are not that at all; it is only the Speaker and his Deputy who have made us seat warmers.

**Mr Speaker**: Thank you very much for drawing my attention to this.

**Chief A. M. A. Akinloye** (Ibadan North East): A careful analysis of the financial position of the Federal Republic of Nigeria will reveal a picture of a sick person affected by many diseases. In fact the Minister of Finance in his usual clever characteristics has endeavoured to present a tasteless, sour meal in a well-dressed silver plate. He tried to

make up or cover the disappointing financial position with a great daring, optimism and oratory.

The Federal Government must be fully aware of the comparatively low level of the country's national income and standard of living. The Minister has failed to tell this House what necessary positive measures the Government intends to take to improve this position. The Budget has been christened by the Minister of Finance as the *National Budget*. It is indeed a poor reflection of our nationality as the budget reveals a steady decline in our external reserves, the same picture of unsatisfactory balance of payment and a threat to the fulfilment of the Development Plan.

From the Speech it is clear that there is a great task ahead to close the gap of the one hundred and five million pounds of external finance required for the Development Plan. All that they can give this House on this serious threat is empty optimism. The Minister has rightly said that what is most important at this stage is the need for us to know how much external finance in total is forthcoming in the remaining years of the Plan period. There is need for an immediate answer to this.

In this regard we have to note the relatively poor response of some developed countries of the world, particularly those with whom we are closely connected by Commonwealth ties. The purpose of any development plan ultimately is to develop a country and to raise the standard of living of the people of that country. One would have thought that where the plan is sound and well-thought of, as in the case of our own plan, the developed countries of the world will show ready sympathy and give prompt assistance.

No amount of harsh criticism can be too much for the United Kingdom Government for the stingy nature of its assistance. What a great irony! Millions of pounds are spent in perfecting the atom bomb and space conquest and in fighting the so-called communism but the poor hungry mouths are even refused a crust of bread.

May I ask why our Development Plan is not popularised in the Eastern countries and assistance of external finance not asked for from Governments like the Soviet Union or the People's Republic of China or from other such countries?

Assistance, whether from the East or West, should be welcome, particularly so, since some of our friends from the West have disappointed us. To quote from the speech of the Minister of Finance, "we seek external assistance not because we are destitute and helpless but rather because such assistance is an instrument for the promotion of international co-operation and partnership." Our grateful thanks should go to the United States Government, West German Government and other such Governments that have offered so much assistance towards our Development Plan.

Our balance of payments position is unsatisfactory. The effect of such a situation is a serious threat to our external reserve, our national savings or bank deposits.

The Minister of Finance himself admitted that the unsatisfactory position of our balance of payments worries him but the Federal Government has advanced no positive measures to arrest this grave and serious situation. Any inroad into our external reserve must be considered a serious threat and only to be justified on the grounds of special import of machinery and equipment into the country.

A survey must be carried out to determine how far the local production of certain commodities now produced in the country such as cement, foot-wear, beer, matches, and so on, meet the country's requirements. If they do, then this Government must take the bold step of banning all imports of such commodities into the country.

For the period January to June 1963, according to the Nigerian Trade Journal figures, £1.4m. worth of beer was imported into the country. Is it not time to stop the importation of beer into this country and save our hard earned currency? For the same period, £1,174,000 worth of cement was imported into this country. There is no sanity in a trade with a foreign country resulting in a continuous adverse balance of payments against our own country.

For the period January to June 1963, the total amount of imports was £95,783 million as compared with exports of £96 million. One is horrified to see that in our trade with Japan for the period January to June 1963, our imports amounted to £11,592,000 and our exports only £1 million. That has been the pattern of our

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trade with Japan all the time. We call on the Federal Government to do something immediately against this gross imbalance of trade.

It is distressing to learn of the continuous fall in the price of agricultural products in the world markets and the continued development and improvement of synthetics to replace agricultural products.

The Minister of Finance has rightly said that what we need and indeed what all developing countries of the world need, is not the doling out of aid, but higher prices for our products. The spectacle to-day in the world presents a vicious circle particularly in the relationship between the developed countries and the under-developed ones. Developed countries hold a killing control on all the economy of the under-developed ones.

Our economy is crippled by the developed countries who dictate low prices for our primary produce and sometimes develop substitutes in the form of synthetics to replace them.

This cry of havoc is not a new one. At the Trade Session of the F.A.O. Conference held in Rome in November 1963, President Nyere raised a hue and cry when he said :

*"No amount of financial aid can be a substitute for a fair price for our exports whose prices can be adjusted over-night to wipe out the benefits of such aid."*

The Minister of Economic Development and Leader of the Nigerian Delegation to that Conference in his speech further expatiated on the same topic. This economic problem whereby these developed countries keep down, by dubious and subtle means, the under-developed countries is a major world problem which must be so tackled.

The economic and social development of the developing countries is not only of prime interest to those countries but also of fundamental importance to world prosperity.

The gap between the poor and the richer countries is continually widening. United Nations statistics show that between 1953 and 1961, industrialised prices rose by 10 per cent whereas raw material prices fell by 8 per cent, reducing the under-developed countries' income by \$14,000 million annually.

This \$14,000m. represents the amount cleverly stolen from the under-developed countries annually. What thanks can one genuinely give to these god-father countries who took \$14,000m. with one hand and gave out as a dash with another less than a tenth of that amount ?

The solution lies in the call on the developed countries to shoulder their responsibility for the nations of the world clearly, and find effective means of enforcing the declaration of the Inter-Parliamentary Union.

I quote, Mr Speaker, with your permission—  
*"Raw material prices should not only be stabilised but the terms of trade should be reversed in favour of developing countries."*

A word about Nigerian made goods. We pride ourselves to-day in our 'Made in Nigeria' goods but we warn that these goods must not only compare in prices with imported ones but also in quality. It is only then that we can be justifiably proud of our Nigerian made goods. We note that a revenue of £2.5 million is expected from the excise duties. If the industry can bear it, there is no reason why it should not be imposed, but we warn the Minister not to kill the goose that lays the golden egg.

There should be good reasons for increasing import duties. High import duties are sometimes used as deterrents against mass importation of certain commodities into the country. But surely, import duties should not be increased on commodities which are not luxuries, which do not amount to anything substantial in our imports and for which we have no ready substitutes.

I have in mind the increase on duty of over 300 per cent on imported second-hand tyres. The increase is arbitrary and unjustified. I understand that the Board of Trade has made representations to the Federal Government to allow the clearance of the goods already in transit on the old rate of import duty and for consideration of a review of the new duties. I hope that this appeal will not fall on deaf ears.

The encouraging feature of the Budget this year is the establishment of the Industrial Development Bank. We want to warn, however, that this institution should not be turned into another tribal court. Its activities should be enjoyed by deserving claims.

It should be allowed to work entirely outside the control of politics.

We congratulate the Central Bank for the useful services it is performing for the nation. In fact, the stability of the Central Bank is indeed the financial stability of the Republic. We are gratified to note that a branch of the Bank will now be built at Ibadan—better late than never.

Finally, may I congratulate the Minister of Finance for his great efforts in doing such a difficult job as assigned to him so well.

I beg to support.

**Mr S. Nnaji** (Udi East): I rise to support the Second Reading of the 1964-65 Appropriation Bill. In doing so, I have some few observations to make.

This country became a Republic only six months ago and it is like a baby struggling for existence. Our country has a very big task to face but if we can abide by our motto "Unity and Faith" and make it our watch-word, we are sure to overcome our problems.

This country is now in her most tempting period but if we can take things coolly and behave responsibly, we are sure to match progressively to our goal.

May I warn that no Nigerian should be regarded as a stranger in any part of the Federation. I am happy that the hon. Premier of the North, Sir Ahmadu Bello is aware of the situation and has issued a stern warning against the awkward moves of certain Native Authorities in the North. Since we preach "One Nigeria", we must put it into practice.

We have victoriously emerged from a colonial regime to a Republican status. It will be a big shame if we do not prove by our actions that we are mature and able to man our own affairs. If we can forget petty tribal feelings and show love and unity we are sure to prosper.

As representatives of the people, we must show ourselves as responsible and united people so that the people we represent can copy our good behaviour. I am convinced that if we can be realistic in our approach to national issues we will achieve success and greatness.

I am convinced that no nation can rise to greatness without the support of other friendly

nations. We are indeed grateful for the financial and other assistance given to us by friendly nations and they can be assured that we shall make good use of their assistance.

May I also comment on the need for us to patronise goods made in Nigeria. I realise that it is not wise to buy goods made in Nigeria if they cost more than imported goods. Now that the Minister of Finance has increased the import duty on goods which are not manufactured in Nigeria, I am sure that the people of this country will be able to buy goods made in Nigeria.

I would also like to warn the manufacturers that they should sell their goods at moderate prices. They should not because the Government is trying to protect them increase the price of their products. If the manufacturers insist on increasing the prices of their goods, we shall have no alternative but to ask the Government to control the prices of those goods.

I notice that in the year 1963, the currency in circulation reached the record figure of £91.7 million as against £87.4 million in 1962. It seems to me that the circulation is restricted to the big towns. One could just imagine the condition of the poor petty farmers in the rural areas.

Last year, a tin of palm oil was sold for £1 but I am surprised to find that a tin of palm oil is now being sold for 10s or 11s. In the rural areas the poor farmers are being cheated. The price paid for their farm products is not enough. It is even poor to the extent that these people cannot afford to pay their rates and taxes. I therefore call upon the Minister of Finance to give the situation very serious consideration in order to save the poor farmers from financial hardship.

I will now go to the system of acquiring land both within the federal territory and in the regions. The Federal Government is free to acquire land anywhere in the Republic but I must warn that the owners of the land should be consulted and adequate compensation should be paid to them. without delay.

In the Eastern Region, I know of a vast area of land acquired by the Federal Government along the Enugu-Agbani Road since last year for the purpose of opening a Mobile Police Station. Work is going on on the land now but the Government has not taken any steps to pay

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the land owners the money due to them. This is not a happy situation at all and I strongly urge the Government to pay the land owners as soon as possible.

I also notice from the Budget Speech that the plans to provide a second bridge for Lagos costing £5.4 million is being pursued vigorously. The provision of this bridge will certainly affect some people. The Minister of Lagos Affairs should now begin to think of how and where to resettle the people to be displaced. I would, also appeal to the Government to pay them adequate compensation.

The proposal of the Federal Government to construct more Trunk 'A' Roads is welcome. This is very good as it will help to absorb some of the job seekers. May I point out also the need for the Federal Government to take over some of the Trunk 'B' Roads under the control of the Regional Governments. For the past four years Members have always called on the Federal Government to take over some Trunk 'B' Roads from the Regional Governments but no Trunk 'B' Road has been taken over.

The Federal Government is at the moment building an Inter-Regional Secondary School at Afikpo and I would like to tell the Federal Government that the shortest road to the site of the school is the Enugu-Agbani-Afikpo Trunk 'B' Road.

The condition of this road is deplorable and impassable during the raining season by any lorry or car. I strongly appeal to the Minister of Works to arrange for the takeover of this road linking Udi Division with Afikpo Division.

I wholeheartedly support the plan of the Federal Government to widen all the new roads and bridges to be built. The Government should think seriously of rebuilding the narrow bridges on the Trunk 'A' Road from Asaba to Lagos. The widening of this road is very necessary. This road is a very important and busy road and if its condition is improved it will surely reduce the high rate of accidents on that road.

I notice with keen interest, the Federal Government's intention to improve the health of the people of Lagos but may I suggest that the Federal Government should extend this

very important amenity to the Regions. I know that health is a Regional subject but we have Inter-Regional Secondary Schools which are provided by the Federal Government.

I, therefore, call on the Federal Government to introduce Inter-Regional Hospitals, equipped and staffed by the Federal Government. The Federal Government should open at least two hospitals in each of the Regions.

I beg to support.

**Alhaji Atiku Kano** (Dawaki Tofa): I am very grateful to you Mr Speaker, for giving me this opportunity to make my maiden speech.

I hope the Minister of Transport will give his serious attention to the dilapidated condition of Kano Railway Station and the consequent loss of revenue to this country. Kano Railway Station makes a large contribution to the revenue of this country. It was built in the year 1912 and except for minor repairs in 1925 during the visit of the Prince of Wales, the station has been neglected. Since then, some inadequate addition has been made to provide a waiting room and public conveniences.

This station has an average monthly revenue of over £200,000 which makes it a revenue earning station in the country. Certainly, £200,000 a month is a very big amount. It has a very large staff and in addition, trains are frequent in this station. It serves as a service station to other trains between a distance of one hundred and forty-two miles.

The present site makes an expansion impossible and in view of the growing commercial importance of the area, it would be economically useful to change its location.

I do not want the Minister of Transport to say that there are any technical or economic difficulties against moving this station to a better site. In the long run, this move will pay better dividend. There are other places which will allow for future possible expansion in the area such as Mundadu, six miles south of the present station which can adequately provide receiving, dispatching and distributing lines as well as goods forwarding and delivery shed. There is enough space in this site for staff quarters.

The present station can be used for passenger trains, thus eliminating the risk of accident at Railway sidings and crossing. Having served

on the Board of the Nigerian Railway Corporation, I am in a position to say that this step will be in the best economic interest of this country. The new station should be built in the same way as Offa and Iddo Stations.

I now want to draw the attention of the Government to the need for a comprehensive mineral survey of this country. One often hears about the availability of mineral deposits of one kind or another in certain parts of the country. I should like the Government, therefore, to devote its attention to the urgent need of this survey in order to enhance the economy of this country.

Another point is that it would be a worthless effort if we are to sit down and draw up an economic development plan with the only hope of carrying it out with loans from abroad. We have to think more of raising money from our own resources.

There are some projects which I do not consider to be of immediate importance in the public interest and which can wait until a convenient time when we can afford them. No development plan can successfully be instituted without sufficient means of transport. I think I should praise the Federal Government in this respect. However, a lot can still be done to improve our transport system.

Many people have complained about the bad condition of our roads. Much has been done here also, but a lot more can still be done to improve the condition. The new road from Lagos to the North has been considerably improved. I think the Government can save lives and properties if the road is wide enough to accommodate two vehicles. Some roads are too narrow with the result that they cannot conveniently accommodate two vehicles.

The communication system should also be improved as it has a very important part to play in the economic development of the country. Many times business is held up because of the bad system of communication which we have. I see no reason why the Government should not provide a trunk dialling system to connect all important towns in the country such as Kano, Kaduna, Enugu, Port Harcourt, Oshogbo, Ife and the rest of them.

I want also to make a special appeal to the Government on behalf of the fifty-six million people of this country. The traffic hold-ups in the Federal territory of Lagos is very appalling. Everyday of the week, traffic is always at a complete standstill. We are losing economically as a result of this poor transport system. The road connecting the mainland, island, Apapa Road and Western Avenue need urgent attention. This brings me to the poor impression we give to visitors because of the bad condition of the approach road to this beautiful island city of Lagos.

If one goes to Ghana, one cannot help being greatly impressed by the approach road to Accra with its beautiful dual carriage and beautiful flowers in between. But our own approach road is neglected and it is likely to give visitors a very poor impression of this island. I hope the Federal Government will do everything possible to give the approach to Lagos a new look befitting this island.

With these few remarks, I beg to support.

**Mr D. M. Gbolagunte** (Ibarapa) : I rise to support this Budget Speech. I would start by praising the Prime Minister at least for the first time in my life here. I praise the Government for its hard work during last year. I also congratulate the Republic of Nigeria for the new status it achieved last October.

In doing this I want to praise also all the members of our civil service in the different Ministries who worked so hard to give Nigeria a successful year. I will not forget also to praise our representatives in the United Nations. I particularly want to praise Chief S. O. Adebo. If one goes to the United Nations, one will be very proud of the doings of Chief S. O. Adebo there. He has been following the steps of his predecessor, Ngile-ruma who is also one of the great men in the United Nations.

**Mr A. F. Odulana** (Ijebu South) : On a point of order, the Member for Ibarapa (*Mr Gbolagunte*) is now praising the Prime Minister. He has his reason for it. The Prime Minister sent him to the United States of America last year and he nicely enjoyed it through the kind courtesy of Chief S. O. Adebo.

**Mr Gbolagunte** : I was saying that Chief S. O. Adebo is a very good representative of Nigeria in the United Nations, the highest



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organisation in the world. I also said before I was interrupted that he must have been following the footsteps of his predecessor, Alhaji Ngileruma, who also has a very good reputation in the United Nations. But apart from that, there are so many other Nigerians in the United Nations who have represented Nigeria so proudly. I remember people like the Member for Kaga Marghi (*Shettima Ali Monguno*), the Member for Kano East (*Alhaji Aminu Kano*) and others who went from the Floor of this House. If one were in the United Nations one would be prouder than one would be to-day here because those people actually represented us very well.

**An hon. Member :** What of the Minister of External Affairs, Dr Jaja Wachuku ?

**Mr Gbolagunte :** I do not exclude the Minister of External Affairs, Dr Jaja Wachuku for his good deed. I would not forget also to praise the other Ambassadors who are representing Nigeria in different parts of the world. We must also praise our soldiers who went to the Congo to represent us very well there. In fact, we are all proud of them.

Finally, my praise goes to everybody in Nigeria who made last year a success. I also praise the Government for the creation of the Mid-West State last year. It was a bold step. But I feel that when next—and that very soon—another State is to be created we should be very careful in giving it a name. The name “Mid-West” which we gave to the new Region is most misleading. With my little knowledge of geography I think the old name “Western Nigeria” is a misnomer because it is actually not to the West of Nigeria. And now, worse still, we take part of it and call it “Mid-West”.

**Mr Speaker :** Order. The debate on the Second Reading of the Appropriation Bill should be directed to the financial and economic policy of the Government.

**Mr Gbolagunte :** I am coming to that, Sir. More States should be created in this country to enhance the unity of the country.

The Minister of Finance called this Budget the **National Budget**. I think he should have called it the “Valedictory Budget”, as somebody suggested, because many Members will not be coming back here after the next election, especially the carpet crossers.

The Minister of Finance mentioned something about our primary products in the country. I would appeal to the Government to intensify their work on the production of staple foods in the country. We have staple food like rice which should be much more developed than we are doing now. At Pategi we have certain research institutes for rice ; but that is not enough. We should grow rice in several other parts of Eastern Nigeria and Western Nigeria. We should grow varieties of maize, rice, yams, cassava and sugar-cane. Improved varieties of food crops should be introduced into this country. Here I want to mention that the different departments working on our foodstuffs are not doing enough to help this country.

I remember when I went to Mexico, I brought back certain improved specimens of guinea-corn. We have only one type of guinea-corn in this country. The Government of Mexico gave us 14 different specimens which I passed on to the Quarantine Section of our Research Department, but the Quarantine Section seized them and destroyed them when, in fact, they should have made use of them for experiment purposes. They could also have improved the development of our food crops in this country through these specimens. In Northern Nigeria people live on guinea-corn, and instead of improving on their own type there the specimens brought into this country were destroyed. This Department may feel that it is trying to protect the guinea-corn of the country, but that is a wrong way of doing it.

The revenue of this country will be improved if we try by all means to manufacture cocoa in this country. The price of raw cocoa is being dictated from abroad. This should not be so. If the Government of this country will try by all means to manufacture cocoa into a finished product in this country, we shall all be benefited. In fact, we shall no longer depend upon the world market price if only we can start to manufacture cocoa in this country. I think the Government should do something on that line.

It is unfortunate that our forests are being exploited without any plan to bring them back to their normal position. The forests in my own constituency in Olokemeji area are

being exploited, but unfortunately there is no plan for afforestation. I know very well that the same thing is happening in Akure, Ondo, and other places where this type of exploitation is rampant. People just cut down the trees in the forests without any plan for re-planting. This is a threat to the future forests of Nigeria if what is happening in my own area is happening in other areas, as I feel that our forests in this country will be destroyed within the next fifty years. The Government should see to it that proper care is taken of our forests.

I notice that there is mineral and geological survey all over this country, especially mineral survey for petroleum products. This is very good, and it is a very healthy position to notice that we have got oil wells in several places in this country. I think the Western Region is altogether neglected because there is not a single well producing anything in Western Nigeria. This is a threat to the economy of Western Nigeria, and I think the Federal Government should help by making more researches there.

I wish to suggest that there should be a reduction in the price of petrol in this country. I understand petroleum products are now being refined in this country. If that is so, I do not see any reason why a gallon of petrol should still remain at four shillings or three shillings and nine pence. A gallon of petrol should go down to about two shillings and nine pence. And now that it is alleged that the Federal Government of Nigeria is taking part in the sale of petroleum products in co-operation with Agip, the price of petrol should go down so that users would have to pay less.

On our external assistance, the Government, as somebody mentioned before, should not limit us to one side of the curtain. We should not be limited to the Western side of the curtain. We should go to the Eastern side too. From the list we have got we have received aids from the World Bank, the United States of America, the United Kingdom, Western Germany, Netherlands, Italy, Switzerland and Israel. I cannot understand why we have not received any aid from Russia, Japan, China and, in fact, Jordan. We should go to all those places to ask for aid. We may seem to be a beggar nation, but the idea is that we want to co-operate with these other people.

Once we get some money from them there will be a sort of international relationship.

On our internal finance, I see that the Government is trying to educate the public to save money. But the means by which they are doing it are not good enough. Quite often I used to see many vans running around in my constituency carrying Savings Bank campaign teams. But these teams will not campaign in the language the people understand. What are those vans coming out for? In fact, not many people buy the premium bonds because they do not know what they stand for. I think the Government should go all out and campaign in the real languages the people understand. They do not know what the premium bonds stand for and, so, they cannot buy them. They cannot even save money because the postal agencies in their constituencies do not do savings business. The postal agencies should be made to do savings business with the people.

The Minister has mentioned something on decimalisation of our currency. As a teacher, I welcome this because it will ease the work we do in the classrooms. Teaching will be very easy and we shall have to do away with the duo-decimal system which has given us a lot of headache in the past.

I will now go back to the question of our roads. A lot of money has been spent on our trunk 'A' roads, but unfortunately the road leading to the Federal territory from the Regional capital of Ibadan through Ikorodu is the worst death-trap in the country to-day.

Yesterday, I took pains to count twenty-two cars that have run off the road into the bush. This has been caused by the bumpy nature of the road. It is not always the fault of the drivers, but mostly it is the fault of the road. Those of us who have travelled on the road will agree that it is not worth being called a trunk 'A' road. During last year, bridges on the roads were washed away. We need to spend more money on the roads so that they may be well built. This particular one is bumpy, narrow and, unfortunately, a death trap.

I notice something else in the country, but this does not concern our financial policy. There is now a lot of religious intolerance in this country. I am sure this will not make for peace in the country. We want peace for, if there is none, our financial policy will not work well.

[MR GBOLAGUNTE]

During the last Muslim holidays, some schools did not observe the holidays because they felt that the holidays belonged to the Muslims alone, and not to the Christians.

**The Speaker :** Surely this is not fiscal policy.

**Mr Gbolagunte :** I was only trying to say that without unity and co-operation there can be no financial success. I do not want to flout your ruling anyway, Mr Speaker.

Our national stadium should now be rebuilt. We spend a lot of money on sports, and yet we are always disgraced.

Before I take my seat, I want to mention that although a lot of money is spent on education in the country, the teachers deserve more consideration so that their condition of service may be improved. As somebody mentioned on the Floor of the House yesterday, there is a lot of disparity in the scale of salaries in the different Regions of the Republic. Apart from this, the salaries of teachers are not remunerative enough for them to remain in the profession.

I appeal to the Minister of Education and the Minister of Finance to see to it that the conditions of service of teachers are improved in the whole country.

Finally, Nigeria needs unity and this can only come about when we desist from damaging our reputation from one corner of the country to the other. The internal finance of the country is not sufficiently buoyant because a section of the country has not been calm for some two or three years now. There is always confusion, and there are troubles and all sorts of allegations there.

**Several hon. Members :** Where ?

**Mr Gbolagunte :** In the Western Region. Eventually, we find that there is no money in the Region. People who had jobs before are now unemployed and, in fact, they are almost destitute. If we want peace in the Region, we should appeal to the people at the head of affairs in the Western Region so that the people may go about their duties and get sufficient money for their living. Unfortunately, that Region is no longer at rest and the people cannot go about freely to earn their living.

A few days ago, a new party was formed in the Region and that party came in with a very strong group of thugs to molest the people. People are not allowed to move about in the Region ; how then can they get the money with which to pay their taxes to the Government ?

For this reason, therefore, I appeal to the Minister responsible for Police affairs to protect the lives of the people in the Region.

**The Speaker :** Perhaps the hon. Member has not realised that he is going a little bit too far.

**Mr Gbolagunte :** I am only asking for protection for the people so that they may be able to go about their work and be able to pay their tax to the Government.

We want the people working in the different offices of our country to do their best and work conscientiously. I want to mention the slow speed at which people work in the post offices and other places. It takes about thirty minutes or an hour to buy a stamp in a post office. This happens in Lagos and in the Regions too. I hope the Minister of Communications will see to it.

Finally, I still have my praise for the Prime Minister and the Minister of Finance for the work they did last year. They should continue to do more and should not allow themselves to be carried away by detractors who ruin others to gain money.

I beg to support.

**Mr J. M. Damla (Pankshin West) :** I rise to support the Second Reading of the Appropriation Bill. In doing so, I have to congratulate our able Minister of Finance who has been handling the finances of our country. I also wish to congratulate the Prime Minister on the way in which he has been maintaining the unity of this country.

I hope I will not be ruled out of order for raising the following point. Last year, a Federal Government delegation was led to the Soviet Union by you, Mr Speaker, and at the same time that country's delegation came to Nigeria. I think the time has come for the Federal Republic of Nigeria to invite the Soviet Prime Minister, Mr Khrushchev to

visit Nigeria. I believe that by so doing, we shall have proved to the world that we are really non-aligned.

I also understand that the State House was built since 1896. I think the time has come for it to be rebuilt and modernised. It should be reconstructed in a way befitting the dignity of Nigeria. When the House was built by an English architect, no one thought that an African would occupy it so soon. If the Federal Government could spend £20,000 on the Dick Tiger-Gene Fullmer fight, I see no reason why Nigeria should not spend more than that on our State House.

There are difficulties in our attracting external loans for our Six-Year Development Plan. In my opinion, the Federal and Regional Governments have adopted the policy of "please do it for me". We are from the start reluctant to make sacrifices and we do not fully patronise the "Made in Nigeria" goods, either in materials or in manpower. We are too selfish and too regionally inclined in running the affairs of the country. We have chosen the Federal form of Government, and the more the Regional Governments co-operate with the Federal Government the more prosperous the country will be. But this our leaders find difficult to do because some of them are too tribalistic in their approach to the problems of the country and they are so selfish that they even want to drive out people of other Regions from their own Regions. Because of this their tribalistic attitude, it is difficult to speak with one voice in the country.

Another point which I want to make is that our Governments have adopted slow-march policy. Our National Council for Economic Planning should wake up; they should sit more frequently to be able to produce a well prepared project for our friends overseas to see. Another way of saving time and money is by making those engaged either by the Governments or Local Authorities to be more alive to their responsibilities. We should realise that we are no longer working for the whiteman, and unless we change our attitude and try to discharge our duties efficiently, quickly and selflessly it will be very difficult to run the affairs of this country in the proper way.

I now come to the question of defence in this age of suspicion, threats of assassination

of our leaders; this age full of people who have no confidence in the ballot but in the bullet. The Government should be highly congratulated for strengthening our defence and security forces. What I have to suggest is that the most capable men should be drawn into our security branch and they should be well paid so that there will be no tendency of their giving out wrong information and crying wolf where there is none and *vice versa* until the country is taken away before anybody knows what is happening. We must make sure that the people in the security branch are patriots who will always speak the truth and nothing but the truth. I hope to say more on this subject when we come to discuss the relevant Head.

Another point that I want to make concerns the publicity of this country abroad. I suggest that all our Embassies, High Commissions and Consulates overseas should be well equipped with pamphlets containing informations about Nigeria. The photographs of our leaders should be conspicuously displayed in all these places. We should also have our National Flag well displayed in front of all our Embassies, and our national newspapers and other publications that can publicise this country should always be found in all our Embassies. The Federal Government should also try and post Information Officers from the Ministry of Information to any country where we have an Embassy.

My next point touches upon the question of unemployment. Unemployment makes many people to face a dangerous and uncertain future and, above all, it is the root cause of lawlessness. We should not allow unemployment to compel our honest youths to commit crimes. In order to help the workers and to reduce unemployment it will be necessary to provide more industries in the country which, when fully developed, will reduce the cost of living and absorb our children who are now unemployed.

I must say that I have not seen any sign of development by the Federal Government in my constituency, Pankshin West. This uneven distribution of amenities in this country should be discontinued. Something should be done to improve the situation, even if it means an amendment to our Constitution, because we

[MR DAMLA]

cannot continue to allow amenities to go to only one section of the country, especially to places where the Ministers come from, without giving the other sections anything. It will be very unfortunate if the Government does not allow all the constituencies in the Federation to have their own share of the amenities it is providing during this Six-Year Development Plan period when we are going to spend a huge sum of money to the tune of £678.8 million.

I also want to speak about our roads. The Federal Government should take over all the Trunk 'B' roads connecting the Regions to the Federal territory. Roads like the Jos-Kaduna and the road from Bida to Akwanga and Wambe to Jos should be improved. These roads are very dangerous and too shameful to be called Trunk 'A' roads which they are. They look like roads under the Native Authorities.

I would like the Government to institute a commission of inquiry into the illegal manufacture of arms and ammunitions in the Eastern Region of Nigeria. It will be very dangerous to allow a section of the country to manufacture illegal arms and ammunitions as is now happening in the Eastern Region.

**Mr N. D. Ukah** (Owerri North East) : On a point of order, what the Member for Pankshin West (*Mr Damla*) is saying is grossly irrelevant to the point under discussion and it is an attempt to mislead this House to say that the Eastern Region is constituting itself into an illegal arms Region. What actually happens is that large quantities of bows and arrows are being imported into the East from the North.

**Mr Damla** : I am merely demanding an immediate inquiry into the illegally made arms and ammunition in the Eastern Region.

We have heard a lot said about secession by the Members of the N.C.N.C. on the Floor of this House and also in the Eastern House of Assembly. I do not know whether these people want to secede and go to Fernando Po, but if they wish to do that there is no reason why we should not allow them. The only thing we have to do is to amend the Constitution so that any Region which wants to secede can do so.

**Mr J. U. Udenyi** (Enyong North) : On a point of order, Sir, the speech of the Member for Pankshin West (*Mr J. M. Damla*) is irrelevant, and what he is saying is unconstitutional.

**Mr Speaker** : We know very well that this is not part of the fiscal policy of the Federal Government. Will the Member for Pankshin West (*Mr Damla*) please turn his attention to the fiscal policy of the Government.

**Mr Damla** : I want to inform this honourable House that it was Dr Chike Obi who first made this statement in the Eastern House of Assembly.

**Mr F. C. Ogbalu** (Awka North) : On a point of order, the Member for Pankshin West is persistently flouting the rulings of the Speaker. The point before us is the fiscal policy of the Federal Government and not matters connected with the Eastern Region.

**Mr Damla** : I will also appeal to the Prime Minister to withdraw forthwith the appointment of the Minister for Ports, Mr M. Amechi.

**Mr F. I. Okoronkwo** (Aba Urban) : On a point of order, Sir. I want to say that the Member for Pankshin West who is a carpet crosser has no right to ask the Prime Minister to withdraw the appointment of any Minister.

**Mr Damla** : The reason why I say that the appointment of the Minister for Ports should be withdrawn is that we are now in the Budget Session and the Minister is busy in his constituency.

**Mr Speaker** : Order. Really, I cannot allow this to continue. These irrelevancies waste a lot of our time, and with so many Members wishing to speak I do not think it is advisable to continue like this.

**Mr O. J. Eminue** (Eket East) : On a point of order, Sir, I think it is important to note that Parliament is in session now and all Ministers are expected to be here.

**Mr Speaker** : Order. Parliament is not the only sphere of duty of Ministers. As long as there are some who represent them I think that at times they can get away to attend to other ministerial duties.

**Mr Damla :** People who talk loudest about unity in this country are the very people who encourage disunity by their actions and utterances. If one reads the White Paper distributed to us some time ago one will see that most of our Boards and Corporations are being controlled by only one tribe and that is the Ibo.

**Mr V. A. Nwalieji (Nsukka West) :** The Member for Pankshin West (*Mr Damla*) has made too many allegations and I do not know whether he is able to substantiate any of them. I do not know whether a Member who knows only his constituency and no other town in the Federation can say all these things.

**Shettima Ali Monguno (Kaga Marhi) :** On a point of order, I think it is provocative for an hon. Member to limit the knowledge of another Member to his constituency. As a matter of fact I think the Member for Pankshin West knows far more about Nigeria than the Member for Nsukka West.

**Mr Damla :** Thank you, Mr Speaker. We come here everyday to speak about unity and there is this tribal organisation which is very powerful. I think the best thing to do in the interest of unity in this country is to ban that tribal organisation, the Ibo State Union, and also the Ibo National Day.

Sir, I beg to support.

**The Minister of Internal Affairs (Alhaji Shehu Shagari) :** The debate on the Appropriation Bill provides an opportunity each year for a ministerial statement on the work done by a Ministry and its associated Departments during the previous year. It also provides an opportunity for thinking ahead and aloud with hon. Members.

Hon. Members will remember that I had, last year, clarified Government's stand in the matter of Nigerian citizenship and explained in detail the manner in which applications for the acquisition of Nigerian citizenship, are dealt with. It is therefore unnecessary to repeat what I had already said except to emphasise that very stringent conditions are stipulated in considering applications for Nigerian citizenship and to assure hon. Members that the Advisory Committee on Citizenship is very strict and careful in making its recommendations to me for the granting of Nigerian citizenship to non-Nigerians.

So far, 1,195 applications for citizenship have been lodged with my Ministry. From April 1963 to date, three more persons were naturalised thus bringing the total number of persons who have up to date been granted Certificates of Naturalisation as citizens of Nigeria to four. The nationalities of these three persons were :

- (a) one Lebanese ;
- (b) one West Indian (St. Vincent Island) and ;
- (c) one West African.

Six more persons have been registered as citizens of Nigeria during the year thus bringing the total number of persons registered to forty. Four out of these six persons who have been registered as citizens of Nigeria are foreign women married to Nigerians and the remaining two are persons of Sierra Leonian origin. The majority of the people so far registered are persons of Sierra Leonian origin whose parents served this country under various capacities with the old Nigerian Government and Firms such as Messrs U.A.C., John Holt and Co Ltd., *et cetera*, and then settled in this country after retirement. These persons were brought up in Nigeria and have all identified themselves with the Nigerian way of life ; some of them have never visited their country of origin and have lost contact with it.

Only a few days ago this honourable House passed a Bill for the establishment of the Nigerian Legion which will take the place of the Nigerian Ex-Servicemen's Welfare Association. I sincerely hope, as do the ex-servicemen themselves, that the disunity which has made it difficult for Government to cater adequately for their needs will now disappear with the formation of the new Legion.

I have noted the points made by Members during the debate on the Bill and I assure Members that the points they have made will be taken into consideration in dealing with the problems which confront Ex-Servicemen from day to day.

When the President delivered his Speech at the opening of the session, he made reference to the possibility of instituting a system for the registration of marriages celebrated in Lagos under Customary Law and Muslim law. The proposal to start a registration

[ALHAJI SHEHU SHAGARI]

system for marriages performed under Native Law and Customary Law was first mooted in 1959 and was initiated by the Welfare Division of the Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare. Since there is no Native Court in Lagos, the Welfare Department has had to deal with problems arising from the breakdown of marriages performed under Native Law and Custom.

We found that one of its greatest problems is the tendency for one of the parties to the marriage to deny that there was a formal marriage under Native Law and Custom and so to attempt to evade responsibility for the maintenance of the issues of such marriages. I am sure that hon. Members will be surprised to know that, unlike Lagos, registration systems of various types in other parts of the Republic enable records of some sort to be kept of such marriages and of the amount of dowry paid in each case. Apart from the purely utilitarian aspect, it is thought that registration of marriages under Native Law and Custom would raise the status of such marriages which at present is regarded as inferior to marriages performed under the Marriages Act—a type of marriage which is essentially foreign to the Nigerian way of life.

**Mr W. O. Briggs** (Degema): What of ordinary union?

**Alhaji Shehu Shagari**: We do not recognise that. It is only recognised in Degema.

In this connection, Lagos has a peculiar problem when one considered the hundreds of tribal units which live here. Each unit has its peculiar custom for celebrating marriages and my Ministry now proposes to tackle this problem so that some satisfactory system of registration of marriages contracted under Native Law and Custom can be evolved.

I hope to complete the civilisation of the Immigration Division of my Ministry within the coming financial year and in this connection adequate provision for additional staff has been made in the Draft Estimates. It is hoped to fill this additional staff provisions in the Estimates with officers of some seniority and experience so as to improve the standard of service at our various points of entry into the country. This will also avoid some of the delay which is at present experienced by visitors and should leave a favourable impression on those who come to visit us.

Shortly a pamphlet which will set out in simple language the requirements of our recent Immigration Law and Regulations will be published for the guidance of the general public and commercial and industrial interests.

The removal of the Broad Street Prison from the heart of Lagos continues to occupy my attention and I am making every effort to accelerate the building programmes in Kirikiri in order to effect within the year the complete evacuation of Broad Street Prison.

For the first time ever, a Training School for both recruits and Cadet female officers of the Department was opened during the year in a temporary accommodation in Kirikiri. The School is being run by an expatriate woman Superintendent of Prisons, assisted by a Nigerian woman Assistant Superintendent of Prisons. The first women Prison Cadets commenced their training in October 1963, and are due to be passed out in June 1964, for a further period of attachment to prisons and for practical training. A permanent school building is at present under construction and it is hoped it will be ready for accommodation within the next three months.

The Pools Inspectorate Unit in my Ministry has now been firmly established and has already earned the praise and confidence of the stakers. Hardly a day passes without our receiving letters of gratitude from stakers who have received their winnings through the intervention of the Unit. The activities of the Unit, ably assisted by the Police, have injected some sobering effect on fraudulent Pool Promoters and we have also succeeded in obtaining Court convictions in a number of cases. I have taken a personal interest in this matter so as to ensure that only honest Pools Promoters are allowed to continue in business.

**Mr D. N. Chuku** (Awgu North): On a point of order, this hon. Member from Igala is troubling us here. I am praying the Speaker to ask him to go to his seat. He does not even allow us to listen to the Minister speaking.

**Mr Speaker**: Will the hon. Member please go to his seat.

**Alhaji Shehu Shagari**: I was just at the end of my speech when the Member for Awgu North interrupted. So, I beg to support.

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[Appropriation (1964-65)

25 MARCH 1964

Bill: Second Reading]

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**Mr G. O. D. Eneh** (Abaja and Ngwo): In supporting the Second Reading of the Appropriation Bill, I wish to express my appreciation of the efforts of the Federal Minister of Finance and the entire Federal Cabinet to ensure that this Republic enjoys a buoyant economy. The same grateful thanks are also extended to the various Regional Governments for their success in attracting capital for mounting various industries which are now featuring all over the Federation.

One will not fail to realise that seven years ago, our federal revenue depended almost completely on import and export duties. They stood at 80 per cent in 1955. I am glad to see that now a substantial percentage of our dependence on these two traditional avenues—import and export—has been reduced drastically.

As a result of excise duties on Nigerian-made products, a sizeable sum of £14 million is now locally available and this stands a chance of tremendous expansion.

Added to this is £8 million from taxes, £7.4 million from mining and £6.1 million from the Posts and Telegraphs services. One will not fail to praise the officers and other ranks of the various Ministries who made it possible to achieve these sums. Interest and repayments accounted for £7.6 million. In all, revenue from internal sources amounted to £50.7 million while import and export duties accounted for £80.8 million. This external revenue now represents approximately only 61 per cent of our total revenue instead of the traditional 80 per cent some years ago.

I have always criticised our dependence on import and export duties because these two factors are based on events which are normally outside our national control. A break out of hostilities anywhere in the world could adversely affect our economy, hence it is necessary that this nation must build a self sustaining economy impregnable to world circumstances.

While on this question of making the nation dependent on its internal resources to a greater extent, may I appeal to the Government to ensure the protection of industries mounted in Nigeria already. I shall use two industries in the East to illustrate my point. The Turners Asbestos Cement Company Limited at Enugu is capable of supplying the asbestos roofing materials of the whole of Eastern Nigeria and

beyond. But what do we see? Various firms operating in the East have continued to import asbestos products to the effect that the Turners Asbestos Cement Company Limited had to suspend increased production and disband a good number of its workers.

Why should our Government co-operate in building up the economy of any other country to the detriment of Nigeria? The same thing is applicable to Niger Steel at Enugu. The products of these two industries are second to none, and this explanation holds good for various industrial establishments in this country.

This Parliament should rise up as one man and condemn in unmistakable terms the attitude of some Nigerians to things Nigerian or things made in Nigeria. If one goes to the Kingsway Stores anywhere in Nigeria, one will see that the cost of articles there are higher than those in the average Nigerian store, but the average Britisher patronises them because of national pride—the money goes back to Britain.

In various countries that make goods, national economy demands that their goods whether inferior or superior to others must be patronised. India makes it compulsory that Indians reject certain goods and the Government refuses to grant import licences on some categories of merchandise.

No nation aspiring to greatness can ever do without a steel plant. The ships that ply the high seas, the railways and trains, motor cars and lorries, knives, armaments of all description, buildings and bridges—all these cannot be made without the use of steel. If any Member checks the quantity of rods used by the Federation annually, he will agree with me that the question of a steel mill for Nigeria should be above politics.

This country is blessed with millions of tons of iron ore deposits both in the North and the East. The £30 million steel mill proposed for the Federation is an industry of high magnitude capable of absorbing thousands of Nigerians in gainful employments. A policy statement on this matter is really imperative. 300 million tons of iron ore, the iron content of which ranges between 34 per cent and 43 per cent should not be left idle. A meeting of the



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National Economic Council should be summoned without further delay and expert reports presented.

One would not fail to connect the steel mill with the coal at Enugu. Consequent upon the use of diesel by the Railways, the strength of the members of the Coal Corporation Workers Union has been reduced from 8,000 to 4,000 strong. The majority of the retrenched miners come from Udi Division and incidentally Abaja-Ngwó County of Udi Division. The plight of the retrenched miners can be better imagined than described. If the National Economic Council has any regard for the coal industry at Enugu, the natural site for the Steel industry should be Udi, but if a large river is a necessity, an alternative site in the interest of the Mid-West, East and North, would be Onitsha. The transportation of iron ore from Enugu escarpment in Abaja-Ngwó of Udi Division to Onitsha would be made either by road or by aerial rope way and the transportation of iron deposits from Lokoja in the North, should be along the River Niger.

The cost of cars and lorries in this country bears no relationship to what obtains in other parts of West Africa. In order to satisfy the Government that an equitable solution is found, a parliamentary delegation should tour countries in West Africa to compare and contrast the prices of various types of cars sold elsewhere, and in Nigeria. This will enable the Government to take a firm stand on this matter. I abhor the practice whereby foreign firms dictate the prices of our agricultural products and also dictate the prices of their own products such as cars and lorries.

If I were the Minister of Commerce and Industry, I would refuse to issue any licence for the importation of goods from Japan until such time as the Japanese consider our goods good enough for their own market. The same policy should be applied to India and other countries wishing to flood our markets with their own goods.

Nigeria being an agricultural country, efforts should be made to take the public into confidence in negotiations with the European Economic Community and other such bodies. The average man in the street appears aggrieved at the Government's inability to stem the tide in favour of the farmer in the sale of his

produce. The prices of all cash crops—palm oil, palm kernel, cocoa, rubber, cotton and oil seeds—are falling and the Nigerians do not seem to appreciate Government's explanations. The Government should take time to explore every avenue of getting the people to know the facts about world trade.

In spite of Government's efforts to improve the lot of every Nigerian, the average Nigerian peasant is a poor man, and the conditions under which the majority live are deplorable while a few live in palaces. What can we think of a peasant whose nearest source of drinking water is a river five miles away, the nearest postal agency is fifteen miles away, the nearest telephone exchange is forty miles, the nearest hospital is fifty miles away and the nearest television studio is 200 or more miles away. In spite of these disabilities, these people produce the majority of cash crops by which Government is run.

Should anybody go to these people and tell them that some Nigerians earn as much as £300-£375 a month, that alone could lead to a revolution. This Government should call in an international economic surgeon who with his assessors will determine the salaries and allowances equitable to various grades of Nigerian workers having regard to the national economy.

I consider that a national salary scale of £100 to £2,000 a year should be the highest any Nigerian worker should be paid. This country should borrow a leaf from India and Israel. Expatriates who are here on contract could be paid any amount depending on the terms of the contract agreement.

Events in Western Nigeria are affecting the nation economically. It is scaring away investors, and I appeal to the Speaker to use his good offices to advise the Federal Government to discharge the cabinet of Western Nigeria of its responsibilities and appoint the Governor as Administrator for the purpose of a Regional election.

**The Minister of Information** (Mr T. O. S. Benson): The Member for Abaja and Ngwó (*Mr Eneh*) is making a very irresponsible statement.

**Mr Speaker** : He has concluded his speech.

**Mr D. O. Enefola** (Igala South) : I rise to support the Second Reading of the Appropriation Bill. In doing so, I would like to congratulate the Minister of Finance for his Budget Speech which was dynamic, impressive, progressive and optimistic.

**Mr Speaker** : It is now one o'clock and sitting is suspended until three o'clock.

*Sitting suspended : 1 p.m.*

*Sitting resumed : 3 p.m.*

**Mr Enefola** : Before the House was suspended for the afternoon I was congratulating the Minister of Finance on his National Budget which is very dynamic, impressive, progressive and optimistic. The fiscal policy of this Government is quite commendable, and we have seen how the Governments of the Federation have put into effect some of the plans envisaged in their Development Programme. We have seen the long-term projects which we hope when completed will usher in an era of happiness and prosperity for this nation.

We would like to commend the Government for the Onitsha-Asaba bridge which has been started and which we hope will be completed in due course. We would like also to thank the Government for their plan to construct the Niger Dam as envisaged in the Six-Year Development Plan, and we hope that the construction will be completed by 1969 as scheduled. In commending the Government for their sound fiscal policy I have some observations to make.

The first point is that I would like to draw the attention of the House to what is contained in the Budget Speech on page 2, paragraph 2, which reads thus :

*If the government is happy, we prosper ; if it suffers financial or economic harm, its misfortune will definitely react on all of us. By the same token, if the citizens of a nation enjoy honest opulence, the State prospers, but should the citizens be overwhelmed with poverty, the condition of the State will be worthy of pity.*

In the first place I would like to say that the expression "if the government is happy, we prosper" *et cetera*, ought to have been put the other way round to read "if the people are happy, the government will prosper" and so

on. It should be so because if we are not happy I do not think the government will prosper ; if the people are not happy I do not think there will be a prosperous government that will continue in office.

I feel the ultimate aim and goal of this government should be to make the people of this nation happy and we can never achieve this happiness and prosperity for our people if the Government continues with their invidious programme of having an unbalanced type of development.

I feel that this Government has got very good development plans and a good fiscal policy, and the ultimate aim of the government is to make this nation happy and prosperous ; but we find that in their move to make this country well-developed in its national outlook, the development going on is not a balanced one. For instance, the Government has already earmarked certain areas which are to be well-developed at the expense of the other areas of the Federation. We feel we should have an economic survey of this country, area by area, so that the Government can know clearly which areas need development and so on. Without this there will still be cries for more states.

Take for example, the Mid-West. The people agitated for the creation of this state and it has been given to them. Now they have been given complete freedom to develop their area in the way they like, and if they had not got their own state they would have been neglected by whatever government was ruling them. If their government neglects them you will have the continual cries that they have been cheated. So if we want to stop the cry for more states in this country we should have a balanced type of development. That is all I want to say on this. (*An hon. Member : Does the hon. Gentleman want more states then ?*)

I am not advocating the creation of more states. The more states you create the more trouble you will have in this country.

**Mr W. O. Briggs** (Degema) : Point of order, Mr Speaker, I do not know whether this is an advocacy for the Middle Belt State—the Middle Belt State which we have been advocating for all these years.

**Mallam Ibrahim Gusau** (Sokoto West Central): On a point of order, the hon. Gentleman was trying to show that the Action Group Government failed the people of the Mid-West.

**Mr Enefola** : I do not say that the Middle Belt is not well developed. The Middle Belt is very well receiving the attention of our Regional Government and we are quite satisfied, but I am going to tell you that our next door neighbours in the Eastern Region are crying to us to help them in the creation of more states. We are happy in the Northern Region. There is nothing worrying us at all. We are not being molested at all.

**Mr D. Bulus Biliyong** (Tangale Waja) : Mr Speaker, Sir, we still need the creation of the Middle Belt State because we are still as backward as we have ever been.

**Mr Enefola** : They are backward there because they joined the A.G. The A.G. are confusionists. Once they are in the right line they will be all right.

**Mr W. O. Briggs** : Will my hon. Friend tell us the great points of development that have been achieved in the Middle Belt, particularly in Idoma area? Can he face a crowd in Idoma area to tell them the place that has been properly developed in the whole of that area? We want him to tell us.

**Mr Speaker** : That is a question.

**Mr Enefola** : The Member for Degema knows very well that wherever the A.G. goes confusion follows them. What we would like to see in this country is an economic survey map of the whole Federation so that the Government may be able to plan on the lines of such a map what areas they are going to develop, what potentialities are there in the area, what natural resources can be found there and what sort of development will be most suitable for such an area in view of their findings.

For example, let any Region of the Federation be surveyed, East, West, Mid-West and North, and let them tell us what mineral and other natural resources are in each Region, how they are going to tap the resources and how they are going to carry out the development of that Region so that we may actually know

what is happening. But instead of such a thing, we find that very many industries are being concentrated in the urban areas generally and in Lagos particularly by the Federal Government.

Most of all the developments for the Federal territory in the Government Development Programme have been concentrated in Lagos and no progress whatever is being made in other places. If at all the Government thinks of other places in their development project, they still think in terms of urban areas. If they do not think of Lagos they think of Onitsha or perhaps Ibadan and if not Ibadan then it is Kaduna. I would like our Government to consider my points so that we can have an even distribution of amenities, true happiness among the people and a prosperous government.

I would like to draw the attention of the Government in my observation to what the President of the World Bank said which was quoted by the Minister of Finance on page 5 of his Budget Speech :

*At the 1963 Annual Meetings of the International Financial Institutions, the New President of the World Bank declared in his Presidential address to the Board of Governors that the Bank would now intensify its support for agricultural development on a broader front, through such means as helping to finance storage facilities and farm-to-market roads, and through the strengthening of agricultural organisations that extend credit and technical help to the farmer. The Bank also promises to make its assistance to industry more versatile than it has been so far, and to do more in the field of education, particularly in the field of technical and secondary education.*

These are very important items to which the President of the World Bank has drawn the attention of his bank when he was making his Presidential Speech. I now want to draw the attention of the Government to three primary phases of development that are very important to this country.

The President of the World Bank is a person who has put it on his shoulders to help the developing countries. He has put into the forefront three main items of development. First of the three items is agricultural development, the second is industrial development and

the third is development of education. I would like these items of development to be top in the mind of our Government. If these three aspects of development do not follow themselves in orderly pace in this country, we are going to face crises and trouble.

I feel that the Government is giving too much attention to industrial development. The Government is devoting more attention to industrial development than to agricultural development. I, as well as many other Members, have been saying it here that Nigeria is not an industrial country. We are an agricultural country and if, in our attempt to create employment for the unemployed, we give more attention to industry rather than to agriculture we are going to fail. We must first of all face agricultural development. I feel that enough attention is not being given to agriculture.

It is when we improve our agriculture with all the manpower and other resources at our disposal that we can establish more industries successfully. I give as an example, Britain or even the whole of Europe. Mostly most of the countries in Europe are mainly industrial and not agricultural. They therefore faced industrial development and found markets for their locally manufactured goods. They found that all their colonial territories were ready markets for them. They got the raw materials needed for their industry from us, sent the raw materials to their factories, developed these raw materials into marketable products and then brought them back to us. These were the days when we were still under our colonial masters. But the situation now is different, we are now independent. What we should do now is to face our own economic mainstay, which is agriculture, develop it in such a way that whatever industries we embark upon must be industries that will consume our own local raw materials first of all.

The next phase of our development should be the finding of markets for industrial goods manufactured by us. For instance, if we manufacture our goods now, already we have local consumption to take care of a good percentage of the locally manufactured goods, then we must try to create trade opportunities and the way we can do this within this country is by having a large combination of companies,

people to join hands so that they can clear these goods from the factories. We should establish these trade combines in the country and from here we can establish markets in other countries of Africa and the world at large.

Up till to-day, despite the fact that foreign firms are said to be withdrawing from retail trade, these foreign firms are still the major agents in retail trade in this country. The Leventis is there, the Kingsway which is a branch of the U.A.C., the G.B.O., and the U.T.C. are all still there. They are still the major marketing traders of all the manufactured goods most of which are imported.

**Mr E. C. Akwivu** (Orlu South-East) : On a point of order, if the hon. Member is prepared to handle super-market trade the firms he has mentioned will be prepared to surrender their business to him.

**Mr Speaker** : I am sure you are not representing them.

**Mr Enefola** : My point is that instead of our people registering as small minor companies, for example if you take the Trade Journal you will find even the Akwivu Company belonging to only one person. Why do they not all come together and form a big company ?

**Mr Akwivu** : If my hon. Friend is prepared to subscribe £50,000 I would not mind accommodating him, but not if he is going to subscribe trouble-making.

**Mr Enefola** : This is a very serious point indeed. Those people who are interested in business—of course not everybody is interested—should join hands and help to establish markets for our manufactured goods in such a way that they will attract foreign aid to establish shops and companies throughout the country and even in other neighbouring African countries. That is the way in which we can project our personality and get our goods to compete with those of other African countries.

This is something that is going on in this country. Our Government is being enticed by some of these industrial countries who make Nigeria a dumping ground for their products. Most of the goods found in the markets are from Europe and Japan. There are some other

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countries which have planned their economy and their import and export in such a way that they manufacture goods mostly for local consumption and as a result have little or nothing to export. Some countries like America, Russia and India, though industrial countries, have planned their economies in such a way that they follow definite lines. This has brought them much happiness and prosperity.

But here we are establishing industries just in order to offer employment to our unemployed citizens. That will not help us. Unless the Government tries to balance these imported goods with those produced here and with those from other countries who do not import goods on a large scale, it will be rather difficult for us to make any appreciable progress.

The next point is that the address of the President of the World Bank was drawing attention to industrial education. If we do not balance our agricultural development with what we import, we will not be doing the good job of helping our people.

I would like to draw the attention of our Government to the urgent needs in our Development Programme. In his speech, the President of the World Bank, said we should have solid facilities in the transportation of goods from the farm to the market. There are urgent needs especially with the increase in our population, and—

**Mr M. C. K. Obi (Afenmai):** On a point of order, the hon. Gentleman has exhausted his time.

**Mr Speaker:** He has not exhausted his time.

**Mr Enefola:** That is why we have been crying and saying that the Ministers should travel round and see things for themselves. We need roads, social amenities and health facilities. All these things can only be done by the co-ordination of the Ministries in the Federal Territory with those of the Regions. Without this, there will not be any real progress.

In these Regional matters, as they call them, it is the Federal Government that should give the initiative because the nationalistic outlook of this country is in the hands of the Federal Government and if we have to give a national outlook to our Programme, the Governments must try to co-operate.

The nationalistic outlook of the Budget Speech is praiseworthy. In page one, paragraph four, this is what it said :

*It is to-day obvious that economic progress cannot be divorced from political interference and national sentiment.*

In paragraph five it said :—

*Nationalism has increasingly become a stimulus to which economic growth responds very actively.*

It is true that nationalism affects economic development very seriously, but I would like to draw the attention of the Government to the fact that the spirit of nationalism with which we achieved our independence and with which we kept that independence for about three years before becoming a republican country, that spirit is giving way to a different brand of nationalism in this country.

It is a pleasure to see that the cold spirit with which we came here during this Budget Session is something that is giving way to the type of unity we have now. There are factors eating into the oneness of this country. The nationalistic outlook of this country is the problem involved. We are in a country that is divided into regions. It is for the good of this country, and we would like to see it like that.

There is something I am going to point out which very seriously affects our nationalism, and if this defect is not remedied, this country is not going to be as nationalistic as is envisaged in this Budget Speech.

Our politicians and leaders must be very careful about their utterances. (*Hear, hear*). They must think deeply. There are people who think deeply, some who think aloud and some who talk before they think. These are the three types of leaders we have.

We hold the present President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria in full confidence. We all know that he is the architect of Nigerian freedom, the freedom we enjoy to-day. But one thing I find is that when he was fighting our colonial masters every speech he made was always weighed before he made it. He gave very serious consideration to things before saying them. I have never heard, not even once when he was a political leader in this country, that he made any speech that set people against one another.

I feel that our political leaders, if we must maintain this nationalistic outlook, should be very careful about what they say. Not everybody is bound to lead a political party. A word from a political leader is bound to influence his supporters to cause trouble. So I am appealing to all our leaders. Secondly, there is another evil that is eating into the spirit of nationalism, and that is undue influence. What I mean by undue influence is this. We have now taken up the reins of the government of this country. There was a time, in 1960 and 1961, when as a stranger to this Parliament, I used to find Europeans filling up the V.I.P. Gallery. But now it is our own people who are manning our affairs.

Nobody agitated for this tribal politics that we find, but I feel that both Ministers and even senior civil servants are becoming people who can be influenced unduly in the discharge of their duties. They either influence something for their own aggrandisement or for their own personal benefit by way of distribution of amenities. We must come out frankly if this is what is going to be happening. We did not see all this in the old colonial days. If we begin to see it now, it is the thing that will break up the spirit of nationalism in us.

There is another evil too that is becoming very common among our people in this country, especially among the civil servants. It is what is called "long leg" or "long hand". We do not want that. It is a very bad thing and it is causing trouble. If somebody is an Ibo man, he must know an Ibo man in a particular employment before he is given a job. If somebody is a Northerner, he must know a Northerner in the upper segment of an establishment before he is employed. This is bad. We must think of ourselves as one. The fact is that if I find that an Ibo man has given a job to his brother, then I shall have to go to my own people.

This will land us nowhere. It will bring trouble. Undue influence and "long leg" must be struck away from the way we discharge our duties.

The other point is about "silent" politicians. At the present time there are so many silent politicians in this country. These silent politicians are nowhere to be found but in the

offices. This is lowering the standard of efficiency of our civil service.

Our politicians and our leaders are so much engaged in tribal, regional and state movement politics that every civil servant likes to buy news papers to read in the office. They read about how the Hausa man is cheating the Ibo man or how the Ibo man is cheating the Yoruba man and so on. This lowers the standard of our efficiency. It is also ruining the economy of the country. When people work hard they become happy and they prosper. If we allow all these petty jealousies and tribal bickerings to affect our work and continue to eat up our economic development, we shall not get any where.

The last point is that we are a free and democratic country. We like the way Nigeria is going. We have maintained our prestige and our honour in the eyes of the world. People respect us and look upon us as a very free country. But at times, freedom can be badly used. We have the fourth estate of the realm, and that is the Press. If we have freedom in this country, we must at the same time know what freedom means.

I feel our newspapers are too free. They are becoming more political than even those who are politicians. Politics is an art and a science. Everybody now is a politician: the newspaper reporter is a politician; the newspaper editor is a politician. Not everybody can play politics in the real sense. The newspapers are causing trouble in this country.

I would not hesitate to tell the Prime Minister and the Federal Government to ban some of the newspapers or, at least suspend them for sometime. I am saying this because there is one newspaper in this country that could be banned straight away, and that is the Nigerian Outlook.

**Mr Speaker:** The hon. Member has exhausted his time.

**The Minister of Labour** (Chief J. M. Johnson): I rise to support the Second Reading of the Appropriation Bill. I believe in brevity, especially when Members are very much anxious to make their contributions. But it will be very difficult—particularly when

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my portfolio ranges over and covers so many subjects—and unfair for me not to deal with them at least briefly.

The scope and emphasis of labour, social welfare and co-operative policies in Nigeria have changed markedly, particularly since our attainment of independence. The national setting within which my Ministry does its work has, during the same period, been undergoing radical transformation.

It is perhaps worthwhile recalling some of these changes which have been the determining factors in shaping my Ministry's programme before saying something about our recent activities and our present programme.

Arising from our Constitution, the Governments of the constituent Regions of the Federal Republic have powers to formulate policies in the fields of labour, social welfare and co-operatives. These Governments are naturally interested in programme affecting these fields. Social and labour policy is, therefore, one of the prominent matters in the forefront of their concern. However, their needs may vary in emphasis.

Thus, it is necessary in the field of labour for my Ministry to find a means of meeting the needs of each Region, to harmonise policies and to evolve, as much as possible, reasonable and acceptable standards for the whole country. To achieve this, I have, with my regional colleagues established a machinery for inter-Regional consultations on both administrative and Ministerial levels.

We are to-day faced with a desperate need to industrialise so as to increase our national wealth. In this process to introduce industry into our economy, we are being increasingly confronted with labour problems somewhat different from those current in the more industrialised countries.

For example, whereas the industrialised countries are now pre-occupied with reaching agreements about standards of working conditions, and related matters, and are less pre-occupied with the machinery for executing these standards since they were well endowed with the necessary state administration we are not only pre-occupied with these standards, but also are concerned with creating the institutions needed to give a practical content and effect to them.

A purely protective legislation, for example, defining standards of working conditions is hardly good enough for us if these conditions are in themselves bad and the means of improving them lacking.

Pre-independence social insurance legislation in this country has mainly focussed attention on benefit payments for injuries arising out of industrial accidents. This concept of social insurance has ceased to make any universal appeal. There is a growing concern for a social security measure which assures reasonable security in times of old age and illness.

There is also more concern to-day with youth problems. The area of social policy has thus tended to expand, to include more and more, the promotions of positive welfare.

These trends have also been reflected in my Ministry's work in the field of social security, workers' welfare, vocational training and guidance, welfare of young people and so forth.

Legislation supplemented by labour inspection is generally regarded as the best method for ensuring that certain standards are maintained in respect of working conditions. But when it comes to the broader type of social policy, including the promotion of economic expansion and greater opportunity and security, then legislation covers only part of the ground.

There has accordingly been a great expansion in the range of instrumentalities of social action. The number of institutions influencing social policy has grown. Not only do trade unions and employers organisations have responsibilities in this field, but also social security institutions, training institutions, employment services, co-operatives, voluntary agencies and organisations for the handicapped and many others.

Collective bargaining is dealing with a widening range of issues. Trade unions and employers organisations, moreover, have assumed responsibilities beyond the scope of collective bargaining in relation to national economic and social policy, through consultative or other machinery.

These trends are reflected in my Ministry's concern with such questions as labour administration, the promotion of better labour-management relations, workers, education and management development, all of which broaden the

base of social policy from an earlier exclusive pre-occupation with legislation.

The evolution in the scope and emphasis of labour and social policy has had its effects not only on the programme but equally upon the structure and organisation of my Ministry. There is now a greater emphasis on specialisation as the functions of the Ministry are rapidly spreading out into specialised fields.

It is against the background of these influences and trends that the programme and activities of my Ministry during the past year or even in future can be better appreciated.

But as hon. Members do realise, programme can never be 'established' or rounded off in a final way. Social realities change; new social problems call for new methods of solution and my Ministry has to be prepared to meet every new situation as it arises.

The adjustment of men to industrialisation and to new methods of production offers a challenge. While it is the policy of the Government of the Republic to encourage a rapid increase in productivity, this can only be done effectively if there is a broad public understanding of the need for applying advanced technology and, particularly, a willingness on the part of workers and their organisations to participate in the introduction of new methods.

The responsibility for spreading this policy and to see to it that it is acted upon is a community responsibility; it is as well a Government responsibility and that of employers and trade unions too. It is something we must all face up to. This is why I am not disheartened by the loss of 93,476 man days which the nation suffered during 1963-64 in consequence of 54 trade disputes which resulted in stoppages of work.

Rather our policy to promote and encourage self-government in industry has been proved sound by events; indeed for every industrial dispute which developed to a stoppage of work, there were many which were settled peacefully and without any publicity by the methods of joint negotiation and conciliation.

This policy of settling industrial dispute by peaceful negotiation, conciliation and voluntary arbitration will, by and large, continue; and the determination and fixation of conditions

of work by collective bargaining process will continue to receive first consideration in relation to other methods.

We have established over the years in this country a system of negotiation and conciliation which is completely voluntary and, judging from the progress we have since made both in the unhampered development of trade unions and in labour relations, I am confident that with tolerance and understanding on all sides, our voluntary system can work whatever situations might develop.

Nevertheless, I realise that the interest of the community at large should be protected during any period of industrial conflict, and a situation should not be allowed to develop where services vital to the life of people could be used as a weapon to stampede Government to grant concessions.

A developing country like ours cannot afford the luxury of industrial actions by trade unions which would destroy our achievement at this difficult period in the life of the nation.

In almost all the new nations of Asia and Africa, strikes are restricted, not because these countries do not share the ideal of "right to strike", but because they regard the period of initial development as one of vital national importance. We share the same experience with these countries and I would like to make a special appeal to our trade unions that any action by them which deprives the community of an essential public service is an attack not on the Government, but on the community as a whole.

The Government has a responsibility to protect the interest of the community and may be driven to a point when any strike that threatens this interest may be made illegal.

**Mr W. O. Briggs (Degema)** : It will not be an easy win for the Minister again if he begins to say all this.

**Chief Johnson** : That does not matter; it is the country that matters, not me.

I am already reviewing the whole system of labour relations in the light of present day development. The Government shall not hesitate to introduce drastic changes in the methods of dealing with trade disputes if it considers it desirable in the public interest.



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My Ministry should properly be in the vanguard of any movement to promote constructive and equitable adjustment of workers and even employers to industrial change. Such adjustment is necessary to prevent purely protectionist reactions, whether from business or workers, which, through a short-sighted effort to defend existing situations, would stand in the way of the general rise in productivity needed to bring about more jobs, higher wages and greater welfare.

To this end it is my intention, during the coming year, to strengthen the Public Relations and Research Services of my Ministry. These services will enable us to carry out, on a more extensive scale, the work of disseminating information through publications ; to provide a more general work of education, especially to bring to the attention of managements, trade unions and employers' organisations, information on practices in agriculture and industry, progressive developments in the fields of labour, social welfare and co-operatives and the results of research. It is my view that these services, along with the Personnel Advisory Service which I have now established in the Ministry, would together provide adequate mechanism for fruitful development.

The question of education at this time of our development is of vital interest to my Ministry, since our experience shows that much of the conflicts which we are experiencing in our industrial life arise as a result of lack of knowledge of fundamental facts. No action taken to redress this situation can be considered too great and it is in this light that we have helped a number of trade unionists to benefit from the training facilities offered by my Ministry and some overseas institutions.

During the coming year, more training facilities will be made available in Nigeria and overseas to selected trade union officials to enable them acquire the discipline and education necessary for building up and running strong trade unions which are essential institutions in the operation of our Industrial Relations system.

On the legislative side, our programme for the coming year includes the examination of the possibility of the extension of the Wages Board Act to trades, not at present covered by the Act, and to areas outside those in which the Act at present operates.

Members will recall that in my Budget Speech last year, I mentioned the difficulties facing my Ministry in the procurement of reliable employment statistics, because of the little patronage being given to my Ministry's Employment Exchanges.

This matter has been examined by the conference of Ministers charged with responsibility for labour and social welfare matters in the Republic in the course of the regular consultations to which I referred earlier. It has been agreed now to set up Advisory Committees on Employment, consisting of representatives of Governments, private employers and trade unions, in places where Employment Exchanges have been established, to advise the Ministry, among other things, on the best ways of improving the Employment Exchange Services.

A committee has already been set up in Lagos and is already making useful contribution to the improvement of the placement services. My Ministry's improvement plans in these areas include the establishment of a special Employment Exchange Branch to deal exclusively with the registration of professional, semi-professional and technical unemployed persons.

There is also a special placement scheme to be established in the interest of Nigerians who are resident in the United Kingdom for a number of years and who are anxious to return to Nigeria if suitable employment can be secured for them. The success of this scheme, it will be appreciated, depends upon the co-operation of the various Governments in the Federation as well as corporations, private employers and commercial bodies.

The scheme itself is an ambitious one in the sense that there is generally much sentimental and emotional values attached by applicants to their skills, the worth of which may be looked at differently by employers. But there is good reason for us to pursue the scheme for much will be gained to rehabilitate our nationals who otherwise would remain indefinitely in foreign countries, especially at a time when our economic plans require the mobilization of all our available manpower resources.

A scheme to make dock employment more productive by decasualising dock labour was launched as far back as December 1962 when

the Dock Labour (Registration and Control of Employment) Scheme came into operation. Under this voluntary scheme, the Lagos Dock Labour Advisory Board, comprising representatives of dock employers and workers, shipping companies and other allied interests was established to advise me on matters connected with the scheme. Much useful experience has been gained from the operation of this scheme and it is now being contemplated to set up a National Dock Labour Board with executive powers covering all the ports in the Federal Republic.

The Employment Market Information and Statistical Unit of my Ministry has since its establishment been doing invaluable job in collecting and compiling statistical information on employment situation for use by the National Manpower Board. These statistical data which cover social and educational background of unemployed persons registered with our Employment Exchanges together with a standard list of all employing establishments in the Republic are expected to form the basis of country-wide survey designed for the purpose of measuring unemployment trends as well as demand for various categories of manpower. When completed, the result will be made available to the Federal and Regional Governments and research organisations.

The draft Dictionary of Occupational Titles for the country, which was prepared by the National Occupation Classification Unit of my Ministry, is now ready and will soon be published. The Register defined 1,130 occupations in various industries, Ministries, Corporations and other private and public establishments in 5-digit codes as these occupations are performed in the country. The Register will serve a very useful purpose in the execution of our National Six-Year Development Plan.

In pursuance of my Ministry's programme to provide for the growing need of our industry, our trade Testing Service is being reviewed in the light of the recommendations of a committee representative of various interests, set up by me. Preliminary steps have in fact been taken towards the implementation of the Committee's recommendations which include, among other things, the establishment in some principal towns in each Region of the Federal Republic a panel of specialist officers for trade testing purposes.

Let me remind hon. Members of my announcement in this House during my last Budget Speech about the conclusion of an agreement revising the 1957 Labour Recruitment Agreement between us and the Spanish Government. The new agreement came into force on 1st May, 1963. I would say that within the short time of its operation there has been a noticeable improvement in the lot of our workers. I am therefore confident that the revised Agreement would go a long way to promote the welfare of our workers in the Spanish provinces.

Up to the 27th February, 1964, 401,922 workers and 3,685 employers have been registered under the National Provident Fund and contributions amounting to over £5 million have been collected. These contributions have been judiciously invested wholly in Government securities by the Investment Committee of the Fund. A National Provident Fund Advisory Council has been constituted to enhance the administration of the Fund.

I am glad to be able to say that the National Provident Fund scheme is already taking its place in the economic and social life of the country. As a social security scheme, it is already paying out benefits to those of its members who have qualified for them. By its investment policy and activities, it is already substantially contributing to the efforts being made by the Government in the promotion of vital economic development.

Progress has been made in the field of co-operative movement in Lagos. In addition to expanding and consolidating the co-operative thrift societies, efforts have been made and will continue to be made to diversify co-operative activities by extending co-operative principles to such new fields as industrial, credit and schools co-operatives and to ensure that the accounts of societies are free from fraudulent practices. A new aspect in propaganda work of the co-operative societies will be to stress the importance of co-operative societies in the general economic planning of the country.

Within the limit of its resources, my Ministry will continue to provide our young people with facilities to enable them develop their talents to the fullest. To this end, active consideration is being given to the opening of more community and youth club centres in the Federal

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Territory of Lagos. New trades will be introduced in curricula of our Approved Schools and youth programmes will be enriched as far as possible with sports and cultural activities.

Last year a new Boys' Remand Home was opened at Yaba with a capacity for 200 boys. The Home, in addition to serving its normal purpose of providing shelter for children in need, serves as a permanent place of care for mentally handicapped children.

Although my Ministry's Adult Probation Service is expanding, there are operational difficulties yet to be overcome. However, the percentage of successful adult probation cases in Lagos is quite high and this is an encouraging sign for the service. On the whole the value of probation rather than imprisonment for first offence is becoming increasingly recognised.

My Ministry in association with the World Assembly of Youths held a Youth Leadership Training Course in Lagos late last year for West African English speaking countries. The course which was attended by delegates from four countries outside Nigeria was the first of its kind to be organised in West Africa. Coming to the subject of sports, I would like to assure members that my Ministry and I are working very hard to see that Nigeria takes its proper place in the world of sports. (*Hear, Hear*). It is not often realised that sports come within the responsibility of each of the Governments in the Federal Republic. Each Government has established a Sports Council for the management, control and administration of sports in its area of authority. In addition the Federal Government has constituted a National Sports Council representative of Regional Sports Councils and other sporting interests. These organisations are doing everything possible to improve the standards in all fields of sports. My Regional Colleagues and I, who have responsibility for sports, consult from time to time and we are confident that efforts now being made by the Sports Councils will bear rich fruits.

In preparation for the forthcoming Olympic Games in Tokyo later this year, I succeeded in securing the free services of four athletic coaches through the generosity of the United States Government. These coaches are now seriously engaged in coaching our athletes in

Lagos, North, East and West. I realise that our new Region—Mid-Western Nigeria—also requires a coach and I do hope that my request for one additional coach will be heard across the seas. From reports which have come to me, our athletes are responding very well to their training and I feel optimistic that they will perform creditably at Tokyo and prove worthy ambassadors of the country.

Another progress made last year was the opening of a Sports Training Centre in Lagos. The Centre is well equipped by modern standards and provides facilities to the citizens of Lagos for the development of their physical fitness. Grants and other financial assistance which were granted by the Federal Government to various sporting organisations last year amounted to £140,000, and plans are now under way to acquire a suitable site in or around Lagos for development as a training and camping ground. All these steps are taken in the firm belief that there is no other road to success in the field of sports than by way of disciplined, intensive and organised training.

From performances last year, we did well generally in all the fields of sports except soccer.

**An hon. Member :** Nigeria beat Ghana last week in cricket.

**Chief Johnson :** Yes, Members will appreciate to-day that Nigeria is leading in all spheres of sports except football.

**An hon. Member :** In what field of sports have we won ?

**Chief Johnson :** I said that we have been winning in cricket, in tennis, in hockey and athletics. I can say that the great United States cannot claim hundred *per cent* leadership in all branches of sports. I think we should be proud of our performances.

**An hon. Member :** What of Boxing ?

**Chief Johnson :** I am not going to mention boxing for the fear that my hon. Friend in front of me will flare up. I want to appeal to hon. Members to try and attend sports meetings whenever they are in Lagos, to cheer the home team.

As I said before, in international events involving cricket, lawn tennis, table tennis, ockey, athletics and boxing at which Nigeria

was represented, we held our grounds creditably and brought laurels home. Unfortunately these events do not receive the same measure of publicity as soccer.

It is necessary to remember these nice records which have contributed as much to our reputation in sports abroad when people talk about our failure in football. It is yet the only sport in which we have done badly. For the past two years, the Federal Government has given every possible assistance towards the improvement of the organisation and administration of soccer. The National Sports Council which now has responsibility for national soccer has gone all out to raise the standard of performance and in endeavouring to create a national team that will be dependable, effective and stable. In addition to the annual subvention to sports generally, the Federal Government has agreed to provide £10,000 annually for the next five years for the employment of soccer coaches of international repute. (*Hear, hear*). It is my hope that, in the coming month, soccer will show improvement to justify the attention and interest shown by Government.

May I record my deep appreciation of the efforts being made by citizens of this great country, both young and old, within and outside this House, to enrich our sporting life by their interest and support.

I beg to support.

**Mr N. D. Ukah** (Owerri North East) :

It is with a deep sense of responsibility that I rise to contribute to the debate on the Appropriation Bill. I note that we are being called upon to authorise the issue out of the Consolidated Revenue Fund of a vast sum of money and to appropriate same for the services of the Federal Republic of Nigeria for the financial year ending on the 31st March, 1965. To approve the expenditure of over £62 million is a serious task and sacred duty, and in doing it we must place in the forefront the welfare of the people who have done to us the great honour of representing them in the highest Legislature of the land.

It is my unshakable conviction based on my experience in local government that, for public funds to be utilised to maximum advantage, those at the helm of affairs must apply to public business the same principles

of economy and the same wisdom and foresight as guide them in their own personal transactions. In other words, we must treat government business as our own, and not as no man's business, if our services are to usher in for Nigeria a new era of progress and prosperity.

The crux on which this year's Budget revolves is our Six-Year Development Plan which demands wise savings as well as prudent use of all available funds. To this end austerity measures were introduced last year but significant results have yet to be seen. We note that the Government is trying to prune down expenditure, but still we are not happy to hear of wanton waste on useless telephone calls, unnecessary postal services, ill-organised delegations and improper use of official vehicles. Is it not a shame to note from the recent Audit Report that a sum of £10,450 was spent on overseas delegations without a supporting statement or receipt? Is it not a shame that the Government should be paying exorbitant house rents while its own houses are not fully occupied? These are the things that should exercise the minds of all patriots to-day. We cannot afford to preach austerity on the Floor of this House and yet allow squandermania in public places. We must screw the waste pipes in all Government Departments and Corporations.

I come to another type of waste which is rarely noticed but nonetheless serious. It is the one caused by delays on our roads due to traffic congestion or poor conditions. Traffic congestion in Lagos has recently assumed such an enormous extent that the Ministry of Works and Surveys should give serious consideration not only to the construction of the second bridge for the Island, but also to the adoption of every means of facilitating movement and transportation. The Minister should consider, among other things, the introduction of tunnel roads, overhead bridges and zebra crossings in the most congested areas as are done in other capital commercial centres all over the world. If you go out of this country to other capitals, such as Niamey, Rome or Lisbon, you will see these things in use. A few months ago we all experienced the harm done to our roads and bridges by over-flooding. The cost of waiting and repairing ran into thousands of pounds. Worse still, some bridges have become death-traps. A glaring example is the Okpala bridge on the Owerri-Aba Trunk "A" road where many lives have been lost in recent

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years. All these things point to the fact that old narrow bridges and drain-like roads cannot cope with modern conditions. The Minister of Works and Surveys should effect the necessary improvements at once. May I also take this opportunity to re-emphasise my plea that urgent action should be taken on the new Port Harcourt to Enugu link which passes through Igrita, Okpala, Okwuator, Nguru, Ahiara, Ekwerazu and Umezala. The Government should promptly look into this important link.

Here, again, I would like to stress that the people of Owerri are very happy about the proposal to construct an aerodrome in Owerri, and they look forward to seeing the project started very soon.

As I was saying before, the economic programme of this country needs a well-organised transport system, and I have every confidence that our able Minister of Transport who has made such a nice contribution this morning will do his best so that the country's economic activities will grow from success to success. We also appreciate the efforts being made by the Minister of Works and Surveys. Nigeria is not a small country. It is indeed a vast country, but like a father who has to cater for the needs of many, the Minister will have to do the best he can. The people of Owerri are looking forward to getting his assistance.

I commend the plan to legalise the local manufacture of spirits and to stimulate a new industry. Illicit gin or *Akamere* or *Kaikai* in its present form is highly injurious to health and may easily lead to illness or even untimely death. But if the Government sponsors a gin brewing factory, it will prove a boon rather than a bane to this country. It will create new employment opportunities and serve as a means of satisfying some local demands for alcoholic drinks.

We are also looking forward to the day when the Government will sponsor a big research into the preservation and bottling of palm wine—*Nkwuenu*. The Government should create a palm wine industry and the siting of this industry and any other industry based on palm produce should be in Owerri North-East where the palm tree thrives best.

Coming to external trade, I note that our balance of payments is still adverse and will

remain so for some years to come. But the reduction of our external trade deficit by £10 million during the past year shows that Nigeria is indeed making rapid economic progress. The Government should be congratulated on this. Further progress can be made during the coming financial year by limiting our imports to what is absolutely necessary and avoiding luxurious and ostentatious living. Enough has been said about the use of long long cars, and we hope that not only long cars but wasteful cocktails and other things that drain our economy should be limited.

We should therefore encourage exports and establish new industries. Above all, the Government should redouble its efforts to raise the prices of our cash crops. This should be done not merely by the casual doling out of grants, but by forming alliances with other producer countries. A palm produce alliance is now overdue. Everybody knows that the palm tree is the pride of West Africa, nay, the pride of Nigeria, but it is surprising to learn that no appreciable improvement has yet been made.

**An hon. Member :** It is our party symbol.

**Mr Ukah :** I know that the hon. Member uses palm tree as his party's symbol in order to acknowledge the importance of palm tree, but all the same, it is just like robbing the palm at that time of the area it thrives.

**Mr P. E. Ekanem (Enyong South) :** On a point of order, although the hon. Gentleman is allowed to ramble, I must point out to him that in the Eastern Region, it is only in the Calabar Province that we have palm produce and not in Owerri Province.

**Mr Ukah :** The Member for Enyong South (*Mr Ekanem*) is so much afraid of my reply that he is walking out after raising an irrelevant point of order. Therefore, there is no need to belabour the obvious. He knows that Owerri is a big palm produce centre.

Now I wish to give a well deserved praise to the Federal Minister of Education. He is a shining example of humility, industry and devotion to duty. We have noticed the friendly relation existing between him and his Parliamentary Secretary. This is worthy of emulation by other Ministries.

The Federal Scholarship Board has set up a record of honesty and impartiality in its

award of scholarships and its Chairman, Mr D. C. Ugwu, deserves congratulations on his good example and administrative competence.

I should like to reiterate that our Constitution should now be amended, according to the wishes of most people in this country, in order that Education may be made a federal subject, if only to lessen the burden on the average man. Members of this Parliament can afford to educate their children, but those who voted us in cannot afford to educate their children without considerable hardship. The average man to-day with practically no income runs expenses on food, clothes, house rents, taxes, medicine and incidentals. It will therefore be seen that the education of his children is his heaviest burden. When the average man thinks of all these burdens, he dries up, anaemia sets in and he feels that life is not worth living. Therefore, the Government cannot afford to be callous over this issue. Something substantial must be done and done quickly to ensure that primary school fees are reduced.

The Government of Eastern Nigeria has taken a wise step to limit fees payable in secondary schools. It also deserves commendation for reviewing its decision on C/S Teachers. In this connection, I should say that no educational plan can succeed if it neglects the welfare of teachers.

**Mr M. B. Afanideh** (Ikot Ekpene South) : On a point of order, I think it will interest hon. Members to know the type of assistance the Eastern Nigeria Government is giving to the parents of children attending primary schools. I think that it is in Eastern Nigeria that scholars pay the highest fees.

**Some hon. Members** : Shame ! Shame !

**Mr Ukah** : I am happy to hear hon. Members shout shame, shame on that man who was kidnapped from Eastern Nigeria.

When a Government limits the amount of fees that can be paid in an institution, there is no motive influencing it other than the protection of parents. Therefore the Government should protect the parents who are bearing too much burden by way of educating their children. After all, we are all parents.

The Eastern Nigeria Government also deserves commendation for reviewing its decision on C/S teachers. In this connection,

I should say that no educational plan can succeed anywhere in the Federation, even anywhere in the world, if it neglects the welfare of teachers.

On our economic set-up, I do not wish to anticipate the reports of the Morgan Wages Review Commission, nor do I share the fear of the Federal Minister of Finance that wage increases might jeopardise the national economy. To peg wages, the Government has also to peg house rents and the prices of building materials and consumer goods. Alternatively, wages may be occasionally revised, but I have to warn that no wage structure for this country will be realistic unless it narrows the wide gap between the higher and the lower income groups. This should be done by increasing from the bottom and decreasing from the top.

All our Governments, Federal and Regional, should now unite in launching a bold programme to reorientate rural development so as to allay the pains of poverty and squalor, and to provide a safety valve for thousands of unemployed people of this country. The Government should give more assistance to farmers and organised groups or Co-operative Societies of men and women. I strongly appeal to our Prime Minister and to all our Governments to try at all times to maintain the goodwill of the masses, especially the rural areas, for the goodwill of the people is a great insurance against intrigue and subversion.

It will be seen that this year's Budget is generous in making concessions, moderate in introducing tariff changes and careful not to cause uneasiness. The decision to mint our own money here in Nigeria and to adopt a decimal system of currency is welcome. But I should suggest that, to avoid waste, it would be better to start minting after the change-over to the decimal system.

And now to our Federal Minister of Finance, Chief F. S. Okotie-Eboh. He richly deserves the recent approbation of our President. Indeed, he deserves the praise of the nation. He has served this country as Minister of Finance for seven years running. He has acquainted himself with the trend of economic thought from Adam Smith to Leonel Robbins. He has gone through the intricacies of modern budgetary practice. He has evolved for Nigeria sound fiscal and monetary policies and has

[MR UKAH]

done his duty with a thoroughness which, in my opinion, is far above the average. I salute him. (*Hear, hear.*)

In conclusion, let me strike a note on stability. Foreign investors have been assured of this. Our Development Plan has been launched and our national unity extolled. But with the census controversy and threats of confiscation of property and deprivation of rights, a dark cloud now hovers steadily over the nation. This is not a sentimental issue. I hope all our Leaders will rise to the occasion. This is a time of trial for all of us in this country.

I think that what will save this country to-day is not incessant preaching of tribalism or the practice of nepotism. We have to condemn nepotism at all levels. What we need to-day are patriots who will place Nigeria first; patriots who will realize what was the motive of our Leaders who fought and got us freedom. We cannot toy with this freedom. We cannot get freedom from Britain and come now at this time when all Africa, nay, all the world, is looking on us, to throw it away owing to selfishness. We must preserve the freedom we have got on a platter of gold. I therefore urge all patriots—and I hope hon. Members are all patriots—to keep cool, calm and collected.

**Shettima Ali Monguno** (Kaga Marghi) : On a point of order, really we would be interested if the hon. Member could address the Chair.

**Mr Ukah** : I have been addressing the Chair all the time, and I want to address the Members through the Chair.

I whole-heartedly support the line of action which most Leaders of this country, including our President, have advised us to take. That is, that no word or deed should find a place in Nigeria to-day which will shatter the unity of this country. Unity will pay a large dividend, but unity is of no use if Nigerians are to become foreigners in Nigeria. I have to emphasize this, that unity is of no use if Nigerians are to become foreigners anywhere in Nigeria. I am speaking from experience; I come from Owerri. In Owerri and indeed all over the East, we have an open door for every Nigerian (*Interruptions*).

**Mr Speaker** : Order. The hon. Member is drifting away from the economic policy.

**Mr Ukah** : Thank you very much, Mr Speaker for reminding me. This only relates to economic policy inasmuch as it will lead to stability.

I would like other people to do what we are doing to promote the unity and stability of this country. I do not think that any true lover of Nigeria will oppose that. I know that what matters most will be the stand taken by our Leaders. But this is the time we all should pray for our Leaders as they are now facing the toughest trial of their time. I appeal to all of them to be equal to the occasion. Particularly I appeal to our Prime Minister to gird his loins and save the nation.

With these comments, I support the Bill.

**Mr Speaker** : Order. I would like to remind hon. Members that most of those who have spoken have taken the maximum time of 30 minutes. With so many Members wishing to speak, perhaps Members might sensibly curtail their speeches and keep away from irrelevancy so that more Members will have the opportunity of airing their views.

**Mr V. T. Shisha** (Iharev Masev) : I rise to support whole-heartedly the Motion on the Second Reading of the Appropriation Bill, and I have a few observations to make.

The Bill, indeed deals with almost all that our Economic Development Programme can well achieve, but I must say that much emphasis was not laid on the primary productivity which we all know is the prime factor in the economic growth of any nation.

More than 85 per cent of our population are farmers, but these farmers do not get any help from the Federal Government to enable them to carry out their work successfully. They work very hard to produce enough food for the increasing population of our country, but they get very little assistance compared with the efforts they make.

This is the time that we should redouble our efforts and keep everything that we know will fetch us money. We must not concentrate only on research work, we must help our poor farmers to improve their method of farming. If these illiterate farmers are aided financially and are taught the scientific method of farming,

I am sure they will produce not only the crops for local consumption but the ones they will export too which would help us increase our external trade and reduce the deficit in our balance of payments.

There is also the question of marketing these products. The production of crops both for local consumption and for export will be useless if there is no good means of transport. We must improve our transport system for our farmers to be able to send their products quickly to the big towns for sale and to the ports for export.

The expansion of our economy depends solely on the improvement of our transport system. If there is large scale production and we have no good means of transport, all the goods produced will be wasted. I am appealing to the Minister of Transport to see that all our means of transport are improved.

May I also draw the attention of the Minister of Works and Surveys to the poor condition of our Trunk 'A' Roads. Hon. Members have drawn the attention of the Minister to the condition of the roads in this country but I do not know whether the Minister is aware of the difficulties and dangers that the people of this country face on our roads.

I think to be able to know what we experience on our roads the Minister of Works should tour all the Trunk 'A' roads in this country at least once a year. I know what usually happens when a Minister is going on tour in this country.

The District Engineer is instructed to see that the roads are in good condition before the Minister sets up from Lagos. The Minister of Works should go on these tours unannounced so that he can see for himself the importance of improving these roads. Some of these roads are even not tarred. For example, there is the Aliade-Lafia-Jos road which connects the North with the South.

It is high time this road is tarred. Many of our traders have lost their lives on that road because of the bad condition of the road. This in fact does not help us in our Economic Programme when many lives are destroyed almost everyday due to the negligence of the Federal Government.

We all know that education is a regional matter but all the same the Federal Government should help the regions. The Regional

Governments are spending a lot of money on education. The Regional Governments spend a substantial portion of their revenue on education in order to produce the man power urgently needed for the development of this country. It is not very encouraging for the Federal Government to leave the Regional Governments to carry this burden alone.

While the Regional Governments spend between 30 per cent and 40 per cent of their revenue on education, the Federal Government spends only 4 per cent of its revenue on higher education. This amount is negligible considering the different sources of income of the Federal Government.

I am appealing to the Federal Government to make yearly grants to the four Regions of Nigeria to help them in their education programme. This grant should be for the improvement of primary, secondary, vocational and technical education. Apart from these grants, the Federal Government should also see to it that more Federal higher institutions of learning are established in the Regions.

The Federal Government as the father of all the other Governments of the Federal Republic should not sit down and allow the other Governments to draw the pace of our education back. It must come out openly and help in the education of our people.

On international and home affairs, I regret to say that while the Federal Government has done excellently well in the international field, it has not done enough at home. The Federal Government has been very slow in the establishment of industries in this country. Unemployment is staring the Government in the face yet the Federal Government is very slow in establishing industries.

The other day, we were told on the Floor of this House that of the 247 industries established in the country between 1960 and March this year, the Federal Government is interested in only six. I think this is shameful. We want the Federal Government to establish more industries so that our people who are not employed can get something to do.

The Federal Government should send its experts to all the divisions so that industries can be established all over the country. For example in my division, Tiv Division, we



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grow cotton, groundnuts, and beniseed in large quantities. The people who produce these raw materials should be encouraged by establishing industries that will take their raw materials.

Finally, may I appeal to the Minister of Communications to provide Makurdi with direct trunk dialling telephone system. If we want to send any call from Makurdi it always goes through Enugu.

I beg to support.

**Mr G. Yilgwen** (Lowland West) : On a point of order, I think it is only fair that hon. Members who did not speak on the President's Speech should be given first chance to speak on the Second Reading of the 1964-65 Appropriation Bill.

**Mr Speaker** : Thank you very much, I will bear that in mind.

**Mr A. F. Odulana** (Ijebu South) : I rise to support the Second Reading of the National Budget introduced by the Minister of Finance to Parliament on the 18th of March.

Many members have spoken on the economic prosperity of this country but when I speak this evening hon. Members will see that my speech contains not only words of wisdom but words worthy of emulation.

Hon. Members should not think of research or development alone, they should also think of how we can provide for our children and the generation yet unborn.

We say we want this, we say we want that. I do not think that we are going to get all the improvements we want unless our imbalance of trade is improved.

I am going to touch three items which relate to our economic development in this country. First, I advise the Government to Nigerianise three important Ministries which cater for the security of this country.

I informed the Minister of Finance, some years ago, that people in high quarters in this country refused to pay direct tax to the Government.

Some firms trade in this country, make all the money here and go back four thousand miles away to submit the account and only send to us a small amount as assessment for

income Tax. This will not suit this country. I am happy to note that a Nigerian has been appointed as the head of the Inland Revenue.

The next one is the Customs and Excise.

**An hon. Member** : There is a Nigerian there.

**Mr Odulana** : He has just been appointed. When did he take office? An expatriate is still there to-day as an adviser. I do not know on what he is advising. The best thing for the Minister is to send him home. We do not want him to see secrets of our security any more.

I must thank the Minister for making a Nigerian the head of that department. I have no doubt that this Nigerian, of whose achievements I have told the Minister of Finance, will be able to do his best. I now come to the Prime Minister and the Minister in charge of Police. Now that a Nigerian is going to head the Police Department, we can rest assured that the security of our country is in safe hands.

As the Commodore of our Navy walked briskly into the office of the Prime Minister to-day, I was happy to note that he is a Nigerian. It is a pride to all of us and I hope that hon. Members will continue to pray for the success of these young Nigerians.

I would like to say something about the economic development of this country. May I say that if our economic development is going to be real indeed, Government must, as of necessity, see to it that Nigerian businessmen all over the country are encouraged to take part, I repeat, take active part, in all our industrial projects, financially and otherwise.

It is the duty of our Government to insulate the Nigerian businessmen from the foreign investors. Government must use its power to knit together genuine and honest Nigerian businessmen, who have the brains, the talents, the business acumen, to make industries grow and flourish but are devoid of the requisite financial impetus to move side by side with foreign investors. Unless this is done, and right before long, we as indigenous businessmen will continue to be drawers of water and hewers of wood to our foreign counterpart and we shall remain as nominal directors sharing no profit.

May I give you some examples of the beginning of some foreign investors like the Gus, Pye, the B.W.A.

The Sudan Government aided their indigenous businessmen and to-day industries of all kinds have come to stay with them. With all the various examples from other countries, especially young emerging nations like ours, it is now crystal clear that if our indigenous businessmen must survive side by side with the foreign investors, our Government must come to their aid. I hope the Minister of Finance and the Minister of Commerce and Industry would save the Nigerian well-meaning businessmen from future business annihilation.

May I now touch the portion of the Budget Speech relating to mineral resources such as oil which is now found in commercial quantities in this country and on the building of an oil refinery in Port Harcourt. The idea is a laudable one indeed. But may I suggest that what is worth doing at all is worth doing well. If we are going to build an oil refinery in this country with all the millions of tons of crude oil at our disposal, let it be built with great foresight. I think it will increase our revenue in future.

Let the refinery be built ; it will no doubt in future bring economic and advantageous prosperity to our teeming population. It is said that things that are half done are never done right. Therefore, no single moment of our economic development should be spent in vain. The oil refinery that is under construction to-day in the Eastern Region is a half baked refinery.

Hon. Members would want me to explain why I said that the oil refinery undergoing construction to-day in the East is going to be a half-baked one. The reason is that it is grossly uneconomic, and it lacks all the good ingredients that can be accounted for in all other countries of the world where oil refinery has been built.

The oil refinery plant designed for Nigeria has no catalytic cracking plant attached to it, and it is only by carrying out this cracking reaction in the presence of a catalyst that increased yield of products of improved quality can be obtained under much less severe operating conditions than in thermal cracking. The present refinery, as I said before, when completed, will lack this catalytic cracking plant which produces Super (High) Grade Oil used for heavy cars.

Nigerian crude oil is known to possess very low sulphur content as compared with the crude oil got from the Middle East and South America (Argentina and Brazil). This low sulphur content is an advantage since it reduces the refining cost usually applied to other crude oil of higher sulphur content. This low sulphur content also makes the products more acceptable in colour and odour, and the products are more easily marketable. For example, high sulphur content in oil causes severe blackening and suspended matters in engines.

This country, Nigeria, will now have to continue to import this high quality grade oil if the catalytic cracking plant is not built in our refinery. The present refinery, as is being planned, will only produce primary products of a simple distillation unit.

It is, therefore, crystal clear that the present refinery when completed will not be meeting the needs of our developing nation as envisaged by the promoters, and it can, therefore, be likened to a man who built a three or ten storey building without W.C. fittings and left the occupants to obtain such facilities at whatever cost anywhere. It simply means that all the people who may own heavy cars like the *Rolls-Royce*, *Cardillac*, *Pontiac*, *Mercedes Benz*, *Austin*, *Humber Hawk* and other high-powered cars will not be benefited by the oil produced from our Nigerian Refinery. It will, therefore, be right to suggest that this is a means of holding our nation to ransom at the advantage of other foreign oil companies who wish to continue marketing their high grade oil known as super oil. This will result in this country continuing to use more of British utility cars and lorries, and we shall continue to have more oil brought into this country by Britain.

We can now ask ourselves a simple question in fairness to our country. We have now built a refinery which can only produce primary products for use of utility cars and lorries. All other useful and important by-products from our crude oil would be left unused. The big question now is, to what use will the promoters of this refinery put the residue from the simple fractionating column of our crude oil distillation now being built at Okaika in Eastern Nigeria? The promoters very well know that if the residue is fed into a catalytic cracking plant a high grade oil like the super oil and many other things like nylon and other clothing materials could be obtained at a very low cost rather

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than spend a lot of money to dispose of the residue as a waste ; they know clearly well that the residue is of no use in the absence of a catalytic cracking plant.

I leave this to the other hon. Members to dilate upon as time goes on.

I will now go to another kind of mineral which the expatriate investory do not like to exploit. Barites ore is a kind of heavy white mineral like a stone. Barites ore is used in large scale in the exploration of oil in all countries where oil is found in commercial quantities, and it is also used in the manufacture of paints.

Members will, therefore, agree with me that economic prosperity will be the lot of the people living in the area where this kind of mineral is found in any part of the world.

As this important mineral ore plays an important role in the exploration of oil in any country where oil is found may I ask the oil explorers in Nigeria from where they get their barites ore. There is no doubt that they get their barites ore from overseas.

Is there any barites ore in any parts of this Federation? Yes, there is. Geologists, after surveying, found large quantities of barites ore in Benue Province as far back as 1958. Samples of this barites ore were sent to Europe and the United States of America for tests to prove the genuineness of this mineral ore.

The result was that barites ore found in Benue Province was one of the best in quality as compared with others imported into Nigeria by various oil explorer in this country, particularly the Shell BP who are principally oil explorers in this country.

After the test a company was formed and named "Nigeria Barites Ltd." The Company approached the people of Benue Province through the proper channel and asked for 9,000 acres of land around the area where this barites ore was found. Permission was granted, and the land was acquired. This is a spot called *Asara*, a small area in Benue Province, and this is where this kind of mineral ore is found.

If this kind of mineral ore is found in large scale in Benue Province as a result of which pioneer and mining licences were issued to a company formed to mine the product, what is actually happening now ? If, at least,

60,000 tons of barites ore are imported into this country annually at a cost of nearly £30 per ton one can therefore imagine that quite over a million pounds of barites ore would be mined from Benue Province if this mineral ore were to be exploited. Alas, the expatriate barites ore company shelved the project in order to allow overseas importation to continue!

**Several hon. Members :** Shame ! Shame ! Shame !

**Mr Odulana :** I am now asking the Government through the Minister of Mines and Power to cancel the licences given to this so-called company immediately, and I request also the revocation of the land acquisition order. Other nations who are interested in Nigeria should be invited to come and mine barites ore in Benue Province so that economic prosperity can go to the people living there and also to the people of Nigeria as a whole.

I have no doubt that the Minister of Mines and Power will investigate this matter properly, and I am sure he will find the position of things as I have given here now. This barytes ore, as I told you is a kind of stone which is as white as crystals. It is used not only in the manufacture of other things from oil, it is also used for the manufacture of paints which are used in most houses in this country.

The oversea investors know what it will mean to them if they begin to use 60,000 tons of this ore every year. If they were to buy it at about £15 to £30 a ton locally, this might amount to about £1 million. The local council in Benue province would have more money in their purse, labourers would be employed in the industry and many technicians would get work to do. They knew that if they continued to import from oversea, the money would benefit their countries. So they continued to import it since 1958.

This is why I am asking all Members to join me to appeal to the Minister of Mines and Power to investigate the matter. We have spoken a lot about the fate of the Nigerian businessman. Much publicity has always been given by most expatriate companies to the question of employment opportunities offered by their respective establishments. It must be realised that they themselves have a stake in providing this employment to Nigerians. Our

independence cannot be complete if Nigerians continue to be hewers of wood and drawers of water in these foreign establishments.

The time has come when our Government must stipulate a definite fiscal policy in respect of foreign investment in this country. We must no longer permit unbridled exploitation of Nigeria's resources and her people.

Quite often, it is argued that Nigerians have no capital to contribute to these ventures ; but I ask : What is capital ? There can be capital by way of goodwill, and there can be capital by way of making land available for special projects. Fortunately, we now have a number of institutional investors such as the provident companies, pension schemes and insurance companies who will, as a result of legislation due to be passed by this Parliament in this Session, have excess funds in their possession.

It is therefore time for our Government to come to the aid of the Nigerian public and, if necessary, pass a legislation to call upon the firms already in Nigeria to offer a percentage of their shares to the Nigerian public as a mark of their confidence in our Government and the general public with whom they have lived all these years in peace and unity.

In this regard, may I direct my appeal to companies like the Unilever concern, the U.A.C., the U.T.C., G.B.O., Chellarams, Chanrai, the B.W.A. Barclays Bank, D.C.O., the Chase Manhattan Bank and others and especially to the many insurance companies operating in this country.

The Insurance (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill passed in this House makes it compulsorily necessary for the insurance companies to invest in Nigeria monies derived from life assurance. This is not enough. They ought to do far more, because in the past all monies made by these companies were taken out of the country to aid other countries abroad.

We cry everyday for loans, and ask our Minister of Finance to go to America and other parts of the world for loans. Do Members know that the money is here in Nigeria ?

I remember the story our great President once told our people. It was about a man who was going to find the excreta of the rainbow. He had been told that if he could find it, he would become very wealthy. When he saw the rainbow that evening, he jumped up for

joy and started his journey. He did not realise that what he was going to find was in his own home. He travelled for many years and he never came back, neither did he get the object of his search. Some years after, geologist surveyed the country and discovered diamond and gold in the very place he lived. This story applies to Nigeria.

We are looking for loans abroad and the money is being collected by all the insurance companies and the big firms in the country in millions of pounds and sent away to their countries. We have no single person who holds any large share in these companies. Can anyone in Nigeria say that he has a share in the U.A.C. to-day ?

**Several hon. Members :** No ! No !

**Mr Odulana :** Kunle Ojora has been made a director and so is Mr Abebe. What kind of directors are they ? They do not earn more than their salaries before their promotion. They do not know anything about the company ; it is just paper talk. That is not the type of directorship we want in this country.

**The Deputy Speaker :** I do not know for how long the hon. Member would like to continue to talk. Under the Standing Orders, he cannot continue for more than thirty minutes.

**Professor Kalu Ezera (Bende East) :** The Member for Ijebu South (*Mr Odulana*) has made the best speech of his life on the Floor of this House, and we want to congratulate him. He has left his *jeun-jeun* politics, and he is now speaking like a nationalist for once, and we would like him to continue.

**The Deputy Speaker :** Would the hon. Member please wind up his speech in one minute.

**Mr Odulana :** Sixty-three years ago, the expatriates in this country established the Bank of British West Africa with only £60,000. There were two Nigerians who owned £50 and £100 in it then. Very cunningly, they bought these shares back from them. To-day, the Bank is worth more than two and a half million pounds. Why is it that we cannot come together to-day to form a gigantic business in this country with whatever we have as capital ? The land is ours, so are the men

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and everything. Even if we start on a low scale to-day, we can rise up like the B.W.A., and the Pye Radio.

I beg to support.

**M. Aliyu Ali Gwarzo** (Gwarzo West) : I rise to support the Second Reading of the Appropriation Bill for the financial year 1964-65. In doing so I would like to congratulate the Federal Government and the Prime Minister in particular for maintaining peace in the country for the last five years since attaining independence, for without peace neither developments nor progress of any kind can be achieved.

Since this Government came into being after the general election in 1959, this great country of ours has made progress in many fields. Great things have been accomplished and history has been made in many ways under the able leadership of our distinguished Prime Minister.

Credit also goes to all our leaders for their team work, co-operation and understanding during the difficult and trying period more, especially the Northern Premier, Sir Ahmadu Bello.

May I take this opportunity to congratulate the Minister of Finance, Chief Festus Okotie-Eboh, on the able way in which he has been conducting the financial affairs of the Federal Government. His success in his job has been so remarkable that His Excellency, the President, Dr Nnamdi Azikiwe, has recently sent him a letter of congratulations.

The Minister of Finance in his Budget Speech raised a number of important issues, and with your permission, Mr Speaker, I would like to make brief comments on some of them. Although most of these points I want to comment upon have already been taken up by some other Members, yet I would like to say a few things on them.

The Minister in his Speech told the House that plans are afoot to change our present currency to a decimal system. I wonder if this change will not cause some loss of revenue to the Federal Government and the country at large when it is introduced. I am sure that the printing and minting of the new currency will cost a lot of money. The withdrawing of the old currency from the general public,

especially the people from the rural areas, might cause some hardship. Our people who have been brought up to think and work in terms of sterling would have to be re-educated to handle the new decimal system. Purchase of new equipment with respect to the decimal currency and the discarding of the old equipment will cost money. A lot of mass propaganda would have to be carried out in order to educate our people in the rural areas as to how the new currency is handled. All these will cost the Government large sums of money and I therefore urged the Government to think very seriously before introducing the decimal system.

The Minister also informed the House—

**M. Sule Abba Bui** (Biu North) : On a point of order, the Members on this side of the House are having another Parliamentary meeting.

**The Deputy Speaker** : Order. May I appeal to the House that the Member for Gwarzo West (*M. Aliyu Ali Gwarzo*) who is speaking does not seem to be very close to the microphone, and these undertone conversations make it difficult for him to be heard.

**M. Aliyu Ali Gwarzo** : The Minister informed the House about the establishment of the new Nigerian Industrial Development Bank which is committed to finance projects in various parts of the country. This news is welcome. I do hope that as many branches of the Bank as possible will be established for the use of indigenous traders.

We also welcome the news that an agreement has been signed by the Federal Government to set up the Nigerian Security Printing and Minting Company Limited for the purpose of printing and minting our own currency. After the establishment of this company the Government should take steps to see that no counterfeit currency is produced by some unscrupulous people. The sort of currency we call *Yan Jebu* in Hausa should not be allowed to weaken our currency.

The Minister also touched upon the question of our balance of payments which he said showed an overall deficit and a large fall in external reserves in 1963. This is rather alarming. We hope every effort should be made to improve the position.

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May I here refer to the trade in groundnut and cotton? There was a poor season last year. Many farmers complained that their crops were bought at very low prices with the result that they found it difficult to pay taxes. I urge the Government to find ways and means of improving the selling prices of our export crops. I would at this stage like to appeal to the Minister of Commerce and Industry to find ways and means of improving the sales of groundnuts, cotton and other products.

Apart from these points in the Minister's Speech, there are a few more points on other matters which I would like to touch upon. These concern the demonstrations by undergraduates.

On a number of occasions we hear of undergraduates leaving their studies and coming to Lagos to stage political demonstrations whenever there is a political controversy. This is very disturbing. It is high time the Government put a stop to this. We cannot accept this interference by the undergraduates who are inexperienced. They may know only the theoretical side of things, but I am sure that they do not know the practical side of them. These students are often biased and they have tribalistic influence.

I now come to employment of Nigerians in the Federal Public Service and Corporations. There are far too few Northerners in these services. In the interest of unity, more Northerners should be employed to fill the vacant posts in places like the Nigerian Railway Corporation, the E.C.N., the Ports Authority, the Navy, the Army and others.

As far as the exploration of oil and other mineral resources is concerned, the Northern Region has been neglected. I appeal to the Minister directly concerned with this subject to bring his influence to bear, to see that oil is discovered in some parts of the Northern Region.

Another point I want to speak about is the Kano Airport. In support of the views expressed by the Government Chief Whip about this airport, I will urge the Minister of Aviation to see that more air traffic is returned to Kano. Everybody who knew Kano Airport during the last war and immediately after the war will agree that it has lost its past glory. All the aircrafts which used to land at Kano are now diverted to Lagos. Kano airport is

an international airport and the Government should continue to use it as such.

I now want to speak about the Police. May I say that the standard of the police work and their attitude towards the general public have improved greatly during the past year. But I must say that there are still cases of highway daylight and all kinds of robberies and thefts. We should like the police to redouble their efforts to combat the menace of robberies, more especially now that the Police Force is going to be headed by a Nigerian.

With these few remarks, I beg to support.

**Mr V. A. Emenogha (Onitsha North):** I rise to support the 1964-65 Appropriation Bill, and to give praise to whom praise is due—that is to the Minister of Finance. He has carried out his duties satisfactorily. His force of energy, his fertile brain, ready wit and appropriate personality had made him an asset, not only to this House but to the whole of the Federation. He is such a wonderful personality in his realm, and we pray that God may give him more years of service to this country.

In presenting his Budget, he stressed the importance of nationalism or what he called 'economic patriotism', which is a pre-requisite to economic growth in modern times, and this pre-supposes the need for unity, peace and love in this country. We all, therefore, should endeavour to refrain from utterances and actions which tend to impeach us one against another, distract our minds, and dissipate our energy which should be concentrated in the planning of our economic growth. The Government has the duty of providing practical measures for ensuring and promoting lasting unity and peace, as indicated by the President of the Republic in his Speech, not only in Africa, but first and foremost in this country.

Misunderstandings are bound to arise. They do arise among families and among people of the same tribe, but there are ways of settling these quarrels without causing much quarrelling and fighting. Using the words of the President, these quarrels may be solved by negotiation, conciliation, mediation or arbitration. Let the Government sometimes make use of the fair-minded men and women leaders in this country in solving differences between one

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tribe and another. These differences are bound to arise occasionally in a human society. But the more we are together, the happier we shall be—each section contributing to the welfare of the other.

Continuing his Speech with regard to oversea grants and loans, the Minister of Finance said that the casual doling out of loans and assistance cannot help the generality of our people or save the economy of our country. What we prefer, he said, is higher price for our cash crops in order to make farmers more productive, more earning and more contributing to our economy. The Minister pointed to certain factors militating against this—mainly the development of synthetics and automation by the more advanced countries and want of sufficient markets for our products.

Synthetic goods are never as good as natural products. Our country is an essentially agricultural country. We should pursue a means whereby we should not only produce but also process our natural agricultural products. Such natural products must be preferred to synthetic goods in the world markets. We can even process our cocoa and some other products and export the finished articles as well as providing them for local consumption. We should not produce raw materials alone.

The processing of products and the knowledge of automation bring to mind the importance and need for purposeful education. Although making education a Federal subject has been reported, this Government should assist to finance education in science subjects, even from the primary school level, by grants to the Regional Governments as a part of our economic planning. Sound scientific equipment training and staffing are a very costly venture, but the right type of education will go a long way to solving our problem and this should start from the beginning. Let scholarships be diversified to touch all aspects of our industrial and economic growth. Scholarships should be based on what an individual can do. By this I mean that when a scholarship is being given to a boy, the boy's aptitude should be known so that he could be made to pursue his studies according to his ability and liking.

When the Russian Parliamentary Delegation visited Onitsha, I asked one of them how it was that Russia which was, to my knowledge, a very

backward country became outstandingly progressive in science. They told me that at the beginning they got their knowledge from the Germans but that education is free in Russia, from the primary school to the university, and that every child is allowed to pursue the course of study which he thinks himself best suited for. By so doing, they were able to raise up the best brains or as one may say, the best brains lying wasted in the villages. There may be Chike Obis, Ziks, Tafawa Balewa, Manuwas, *et cetera* in the villages, but unless they are given a chance, we may never know them and we may never come across them.

My next point is on the mechanisation of our farming. Speaking on automation, there may be advanced types, but I feel there is nothing preventing us from mechanising our farms by importing implements into the country. We can buy ploughing, planting and harvesting implements so that large acres of land can be brought under cultivation.

In Eastern Nigeria, the Government has started what is called community farming, but our land tenure in the East is such that we have what is called fragmentation of land—little families owning little pieces of land. The Government of Eastern Nigeria is at the moment trying to encourage this community farming in the East so that the villagers could then make use of the costly farming implements that I have mentioned above. This is a very serious and welcome Government plan.

Talking about markets, our Government should continue more seriously to explore the possibilities of having an African market as well as seeking new markets in other parts of the world. All we want is where to sell our goods. The Minister of Finance, as well as some other Ministers, have by their world tours made Nigeria known and have attracted capital into this country for our industrial projects. But I very humbly beg to state that some of our Ministers, like the Minister of Commerce and Industry and the Minister of Economic Development, have omitted what I think would help them to achieve a more effective economic planning. They did not tour the country to know it and to know its people. They should know the people, the country and, in fact, all parts of the country in order to be able to assess the potentialities of the different areas.

**The Minister of Economic Development** (Alhaji Waziri Ibrahim) : On a point of order, I must correct this impression before it goes to the country. It is not true that my Colleague the Minister of Commerce and Industry and myself have not toured the Regions. We have both been to the Eastern Region. I was there thrice and my Colleague the Minister of Commerce and Industry has been to the East, West and North. Therefore, I would ask the Member for Onitsha North (*Mr Emenogha*) to please withdraw his statement. If he means that we have not been to his constituency, well that is a different matter. However, we will continue to do more touring than we have done at the moment.

**Mr Emenogha** : If the Minister of Economic Development is correct, then I may say that I am sorry. But Onitsha, from where I come, is a very important commercial centre, and I feel it could have been visited ; and it is no boast to say that when important visitors come to Onitsha, I am one of those usually invited.

This Government, like the heart of a living organism such as the Federation is, should make every corner of the Federation feel its pulse.

It is very necessary for our Ministers to be in more touch with the people than even with all other parts of the world. Let us know them and let them come to us. This brings about a feeling of belonging to one large whole and ultimately brings about unity. I very respectfully invite our Ministers to my constituency.

**Alhaji Waziri Ibrahim** : May I ask my hon. Friend, the Member for Onitsha North (*Mr V. A. Emenogha*) to be fully prepared for a very big reception for us because we shall soon undertake a tour of all the Regions and I am sure my other colleagues will be doing the same. At the same time, when we of the N.P.C come to the East we hope to see many people crossing the carpet.

**Mr F. I. Okoronkwo** (Aba Urban) : May I know from the Minister of Economic Development whether he is coming to the East to buy Members as he did in the West ?

**Alhaji Waziri Ibrahim** : On a point of information, we are not going to buy. We

have got our sense of persuasion and reasoning and we expect to draw our brothers in the East to the N.P.C.

**Chief D. N. Abii** (Owerri East) : May I know from the Minister of Economic Development whether he is coming on a political tour or on a Government tour ?

**Professor Kalu Ezera** (Bende East) : I would like to know from the Minister of Economic Development how much *jeun jeun* he paid to those people from the West and how much he intends to bring to the East ?

**Alhaji Bello Dandago** (Gwarzo East) : On a point of information, I want to tell the Member for Bende East that we did not buy those Members from the East who crossed to our side ; they came to us on honour.

**Mr Emenogha** : I thank the Minister of Economic Development for making a promise to visit my constituency, but I do not want him to expect any entertainment from me if he speaks on the platform of the N.P.C. He should come as the Minister of Economic Development and we shall give him the greatest reception possible.

Anybody who has travelled from Asaba to Onitsha must have noticed the confluence of the rivers Niger and Anambra. The land lying between these two rivers and extending northwards and eastwards is my own constituency. The fertility of the land and other conditions make it a Tenessble of Nigeria, a very fertile spot, very good for sugar industry. Everyone in this country eats sugar and we request the Government to come over to the East and establish a sugar industry there. This will reduce the import of sugar.

The area also abounds in elephants and bush cows, and the area can also be used as a holiday resort as well as for tourists who want to hunt for these animals. Fish, too, abounds and fishing is the main industry of a large section of my people. We pray the Government to help develop the fishing industry and canning as these two industries will reduce the imbalance of trade.

We need important river transport and communication to improve our trade and we hope that the Minister of Transport will come to our aid.



[MR EMENOGHA]

To prevent fighting which often occurs among the fishing groups and to maintain order generally, Government has for over three years now established a police post in my constituency, Onitsha North or Anambra County Area, as it is sometimes called. But up till to-day the policemen live with other families in rented houses. Everybody knows that much familiarity breeds contempt. We demand police barracks so that policemen can live under conditions in which they can work without fear or favour.

The Onitsha North Constituency is vast ; some villages on the river are about fifty miles from Onitsha. We therefore request that a telephone link be extended to the County Headquarters so that urgent messages may be easily sent to and from Onitsha and other places.

One other point I want to make is that in our economic policy efficient staffing of Governments and industrial establishments is very important. To avoid waste, an honest, suitably qualified and efficient worker does more work than two ill informed workers grumbling over what they have to do, not able, for example, to post and close accounts for over one year.

We should eschew corruption and nepotism in the employment of workers for efficiency and progress. We do not want Government to nationalise the insurance business but we want Government to establish its own insurance companies as early as possible, as a great means for raising money locally for our industrial projects.

The Eastern Government has done it—they have the Universal Insurance Company—and it beats my imagination why this Government has not established its own.

**Dr P. U. Okeke** (Onitsha North Central) : On a point of information, I want to say that Anambra Division is by no means neglected by the Government of Eastern Nigeria. It has its own share of amenities as other constituencies in Nigeria.

**The Deputy Speaker** : I think hon. Members could reserve their strength for a fight when they get to the East.

**Mr Emenogha** : I know that there are certain types of development handled by the

Eastern Government and I do not want to go into them, but suffice it to say that a Premier of the East once said :

*The state of affairs in the Anambra area is a legacy of the past. It is not my fault, but I will do all I can to bring about a desirable change.*

That was Dr Nnamdi Azikiwe when he was Premier of the East, and it was only after Zik had read that letter that people began to see the light of progress. If, as I say, we have been neglected it was a legacy of the past which confirms the statement that attention had not been paid to that area.

I am therefore taking this opportunity to bring this situation to the notice of this Government and Government should pay attention to it. Let Government give us some industries. Sir, I beg to support.

**M. Sule Abba Bui** (Biu North) : I have to begin my speech by thanking the Member for Bende (*Professor Kalu Ezeru*) for saying that he was very grateful to the Member for Ijebu South (*Mr Odulana*) and his party the N.N.D.P. for the speech which the Member for Ijebu South made on the President's Speech.

May I thank the Premier of Northern Nigeria, Sir Ahmadu Bello, and his deputy Alhaji Abubakar Tafawa Balewa for the progress so far made towards the unity of Nigeria. I can remember what many people have been saying outside this House about Northern Nigeria. I think that whatever the North will be doing to other people now is in retaliation for what Northerners have suffered in the past in the hands of the people from the East. I can remember that there was an occasion some time in the past when one of the Northerners staying in the East, at Enugu, M. Umaru Altine, sent a telegram to the Prime Minister asking him to rescue them from the hands of the Easterners, because their lands and properties were being confiscated.

**Dr P. U. Okeke** (Onitsha North Central) : On a point of order, you, Mr Deputy Speaker, have ruled on many occasions that we should not discuss tribalism on the Floor of this House, and you have asked us to desist from making references to matters which are now being handled by our leaders. You implored us to keep this particular matter out of the Floor of this House.

**M. Shedarau Ka'a Layya** (Zangon Katab) : I was going to ask the Member for Onitsha North Central whether he was challenging you, Mr Deputy Speaker, for keeping quiet and allowing the Member for Biu North (*M. Sule Abba Biu*) to continue with his speech.

**The Deputy Speaker** : Indeed what passes here as a good joke may be terribly piercing and disturbing outside. Already, the Premier whom the hon. Member is paying tribute to for his contributions has made quite a number of statements, including one publicised yesterday and to-day. And I do not think it is his intention that unpleasant history, real or imaginary, should be reopened.

So, I will appeal to the hon. Member to desist from that line of argument.

**M. Sule Abba Biu** : I think that we from the North are reaping what we have sown in Nigeria because Nigerian independence was won through our efforts. Indeed Nigeria could not have won her independence without the effort of Northerners. Furthermore, without the effort of Northerners and Sir Ahmadu Bello in particular Nigeria could not have achieved its independence peacefully and without bloodshed. That is why praises must go to the Sardauna of Sokoto.

I will now speak strictly on the Budget Speech which was delivered here some time ago by the Minister of Finance. Really, he only deserves our congratulations just for his reading the speech and nothing more.

The Minister of Finance is the controller of the finances of the Federal Government. Yet the Minister had the courage to come here and state that the Director of Federal Audit could not be correct in the report he issued a few days ago on the misappropriation of Government finance. Now people are congratulating him. On what are they congratulating him? Were they congratulating him because he came to this House to make a speech for hours? Instead of the Minister making a proper check on our accounting, he has come here to ask us to discuss the Auditor's report.

Does he want us to take over the responsibility of the Director of Audit? He himself is the Minister in charge of this thing. He should give a direct instruction or reply to the

points raised by the Auditor on this particular issue. On account of his failure to do what he should do, I would like the Prime Minister to appoint an independent tribunal to inquire into the finances of the Federal Government. This is my humble opinion and I give it with all seriousness.

I understand that certain contracts were issued for the construction of the Bornu railway line. I understand also that half of the money voted for the construction work was properly spent while the other half went to the N.C.N.C. campaign vote. I am sure that they are now heaping the money for the forthcoming Federal elections.

**The Minister of Transport** (Mr R. A. Njoku) : On a point of order, I am the Minister in charge of Transport for the past seven years and I do not know that the N.C.N.C. has got any railway contract.

**M. Sule Abba Biu** : I had an occasion in the past to ask the Minister that has just spoken to make a statement on the railway contracts awarded to Dr Ikejiani.

**Dr P. U. Okeke** : On a point of order, Dr Ikejiani is the Chairman of the Railway Corporation; he is not a contractor. Therefore, a contract cannot go to a person who is not a contractor.

**The Deputy Speaker** : It is my duty to protect the right of free speech, but I must warn Members that if they are making allegations they must be prepared to receive them if the other people want to reply. But I would not like Members to start on a thing which, if practised on both sides, may develop into a situation that may get out of hand.

**M. Sule Abba Biu** : Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. But I did not mention Dr Ikejiani's name in vain, for the contract was issued to him indirectly. If the contract was issued in a proper manner what then prevents the construction of that line?

A contract was also issued for the construction of an aerodrome. This same back-door business was introduced.

**Mr R. A. Njoku** : The hon. Gentleman speaking wants to learn a few things. The construction of an aerodrome is managed by the Ministry of Works, not the Ministry of

[MR NJOKU]

Transport. It is true that I get the vote, but I hand it over to my Colleague and the contract is awarded by the Ministry of Works and Surveys.

**M. Sule Abba Biu** : I thank the Minister very much for his explanation. He holds the vote and so he understands the thing.

Going on with my speech, I should now deal with a separate thing, that is communications. From here to Ibadan is 89 miles and if a person wants to speak on the telephone to somebody in Ibadan, he has to dial direct and he will get Ibadan immediately without being told that the call will be through at half nine, ten o'clock, and so on. On the other hand, if he is in Kaduna and wants to speak to somebody in Zaria—a distance of fifty miles only—he will not be able to get through in time. I think the Minister of Communications, who is the Propaganda Secretary of the N.C.N.C. in the West, should develop communications in Northern Nigeria in the same way as he is doing in his own Region.

Again, if a person in Kaduna wants to speak to somebody in Maiduguri, he will not be able to do so because of the bad lines in the North. I call upon the Minister of Communications to formulate a better communication policy and make the development of communications in Northern Nigeria possible.

On pilgrims, I understand that our pilgrims when they go to Mecca suffer as a result of bad arrangements made for them when they are in their camps in Mecca. Their greatest difficulty is that they are put at different camps and in this way they cannot get in touch with their friends. It is very difficult for a pilgrim to see any person with whom he travelled to Mecca when they get there. The arrangement made for pilgrims as far as camps in Saudi Arabia are concerned is very unsuitable.

Some other countries get big places, put all their people there and provide them with all necessary facilities. In the case of Nigerians, they are scattered in different places and camps and they are always in difficulty of having medical facilities. I hope that the Nigerian Government will do something to correct the situation.

As regards Nigerian sports, I think that it is not very good for money to be spent severally by the different Governments of the Federation. Each Region owns its own Sports Commission and each Commission has its own Chairman. Considering the money being spent by these people, I believe that, instead of the different Sports Commissions voting money separately for the running of different sports like football clubs and other bodies like that, it is better for us to have one single Nigerian Sports Commission. After we have done that, then we have to get people, pay them well and these people will be permanent Nigerian sportsmen—footballers, boxers and so on.

It is very difficult to get somebody to play football or take part in any other sport and if he gets an injury nobody will care whether he needs some medical treatment or not.

**Alhaji Waziri Ibrahim** : I just feel that I should at least correct one impression which has been created by the Member for Biu North (*M. Sule Abba Biu*) in regard to the contracts which the Nigerian Railway Corporation has awarded to indigenous contractors on the Bornu Railway Extension project.

To my knowledge (and I am sure the Member for Biu North will be glad to know), some N.P.C. members from Maiduguri have actually been awarded some contracts by the Tenders Board of the Nigerian Railway Corporation.

As a matter of fact, these contractors are known to the Member for Biu North himself and, interestingly, the last contract was signed only yesterday and it is for putting up some of the terminal buildings in Maiduguri totalling about £98,000.

Again, I think when we talk in this Parliament—(*interruptions*)

**The Deputy Speaker** : If the hon. Gentleman on my right persists in the type of interjections and the under-tone insinuations he is carrying on now, the Sergeant-at-Arms may have to be called upon to perform an unpleasant duty.

**Alhaji Waziri Ibrahim** : What I was about to say is that when we talk in this Parliament, we should be honest enough to admit facts.

Another contractor who benefited to a small extent from the contract on the Bornu Railway Extension scheme was from Bauchi. All these people happen to be top N.P.C. members who are contractors and I think that the hon. Member will be pleased to know that.

**M. Sule Abba Biu :** Thank you very much, Mr Deputy Speaker. What I want to say on the contract is that it was not yesterday that it was signed. It was signed long before yesterday.

**Alhaji Waziri Ibrahim :** I bet the hon. Member £100 and I will prove to him that the contract was signed yesterday. If I prove it, he will have to give me £100. Will he undertake to do that ?

Let us be responsible. I am saying again that I will bet the hon. Member £100 and I will prove to him that the contract was signed only yesterday.

**M. Sule Abba Biu :** In continuing my speech, I speak now on health. I wish, if it were possible, that the Constitution of the Federation should be amended so that health services should be directly under the Federal Government. I say this because a place like my own constituency will continue to be neglected in the provision of hospitals if health services continue to be under the Regional Governments.

**The Minister of Finance (Chief F. S. Okotie-Eboh) :** The question of health is a Regional matter and we would not tolerate any Member coming here to indirectly insinuate against any Regional Government.

**The Deputy Speaker :** I thought the hon. Member was advocating the amendment of the Constitution and I think when he shall have succeeded in doing that, we shall certainly listen to points about the provision of health amenities in his Constituency.

**Mr J. O. Taiwo (Oyo North West) :** I think silence is golden. When Members do not have good stuff to present to this honourable House, I think they should maintain silence. For instance, the Member for Biu North (*M. Sule Biu*) has not been saying anything sensible. I think there must be a means by which any Member who gets up to speak is compelled to talk some sense.

**The Deputy Speaker :** I think that every Member of this House is presumed to be responsible. It is the right of every Member to have a say on the Floor of this House, and it is certainly for the generality of Members here to assess the sense in what any Member says in this House.

It is now six o'clock and sitting is suspended till nine o'clock.

*Sitting suspended : 6 p.m.*

*Sitting resumed : 9.00 p.m.*

**Mallam Sule Abba Biu :** I would like to draw the attention of the House to an incident which took place some time ago when the houses of some of the Members here were searched by the police. Whether it was really necessary for the police to have done this I do not know. But in my own opinion this was purely an insult to the Members whose houses were so searched.

It is true that some firearms had already been recovered from some Members but the firearms were licensed. I would have thought that if the police had cause to think that there was likely to be some trouble among Members, inside or outside Parliament, during this Session of the House, the police should have waited to see whether Members would have come with their firearms into the House. I think it was a gross mistake on the part of the police to have gone to search the rooms of some Members in their bid to recover firearms.

I was very much surprised to read in most of the newspapers in Lagos the next day after the firearms incident that these firearms were recovered from Northern Members only. Most of these newspapers carried the story on their front pages and some made it their headlines. I would like the police to take immediate steps to correct this mistake.

The Governments of the Federation of Nigeria continue to say that they want all members of their staff to keep their secrets secret. But to me secrecy is not very much kept in this country. I was told that there is a certain means, perhaps it is a kind of very big frequency transmitter which operates in Kaduna and transmits to America everyday every item of news and everything that we do here in Nigeria. I was further told that it is the Peace Corps that make use of this machine. Items of news are sent to their headquarters at Kaduna

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by the members of the Peace Corps and the headquarters in turn transmits the news on this machine to America. If this be so I would say that we might as well do without the help of any Peace Corps in this country.

Finally, I would like the Tobacco Company to be nationalised because in that Company there is a lot of money. If the Government nationalises this Company, Nigeria will gain a lot of money for that Company will be brought directly under the control of the Government.

**Mr G. K. Dada** (Ekiti North West): We have now been presented the National Budget but although the budget appears to be national I regard it not a budget of happiness or joy to anyone because throughout the Budget Speech there are signs of despair. There are some few cases of course where the budget presents happiness and joy to the few rich ones who have industries and whose articles will now fetch more money because of the increase in import duties on certain articles.

An hon. Member described this budget as a budget of poverty but I would rather call it a budget of gloom notwithstanding some rare aspects of it which will be mentioned in due course. No wonder the Minister of Finance himself was not in his usual buoyant spirit when delivering his speech. Even when he was being quizzed on television by the Press, the Minister of Finance found it difficult to impress the viewers with his explanation of certain thorny points in the budget.

Facts, we all know, are difficult to explain away, the more one tries to do this the more the facts are revealed. It is a matter of fact that the country's imbalance of payments has not been redressed greatly despite the discouragement given to importers by constant increases of import duties. In the words of the Minister of Finance himself he admits as follows—

*I regret to say that our balance of payments remains unsatisfactory.*

A balance of payments which shows a deficit of £26 million is indeed serious.

As revealed in the Budget Speech the reduction in the balance of payments deficit in 1963 was largely due to the welcome rise in exports. Does it not follow then that the most effective

way of correcting the imbalance of payments is by increasing our exports and maintaining good prices for these exports abroad? At the moment, however, while the cost of imported goods is rising that of our export products is falling. Even if the volume of our exports continues to rise, the price for which they sell continues to fall and our balance of payments will always be on the deficit.

Increases of import duties are expected to perform two functions. The first is to reduce the amount of imported goods into the country and thus reduce the amount of money flowing out of the country. The second function is to enable Nigerian made goods to sell more and thus correct the imbalance of trade. But has the increase on import duties in this country performed these functions? What is its impact on the common man? How does it affect the standard of living of the common man?

First of all, increase on import duties on shoes which automatically raises the cost of shoes means a lot to the common man who, before now, had been able to purchase a pair of shoes for the protection of the soles of his feet but who will now no longer wear shoes. There is no doubt that this may affect his health somehow—an indirect effect of the increases of import duties.

What about building materials? In many places in Nigeria, places like Lagos and other important cities, it might be possible for poor people to get houses. But in rural areas it is a necessity that houses must be put up by the common man. What type of house? It is simply a house of corrugated iron sheets, mud bricks and so on, just something to cover their heads. But with the increases in the cost of building materials these poor people will surely suffer.

This constant increase in import duties on basic needs hardly benefits anybody except, perhaps, the Government and the few rich men who will gain by the sale of their articles. So far for the first gloomy side of the Budget.

Another serious and disappointing aspect of the Budget is the revelation that Nigeria's external reserves are falling fast—a fall of £30 million in 1963. This fall, as revealed, was due to the large amount of net outpayments which proved too large to be financed by the

inflow of private capital and by official borrowings overseas. The Minister said he was greatly disturbed at the rate of decline in these reserves. Who will not be disturbed? Such decline only proves that Nigeria's creditworthiness abroad is weakened.

But if the implementation of the Six-Year Development Plan is not to be halted, which may mean disaster, the available money must be used; hence the tapping of Nigeria's reserve must be intensified. Nigeria is not getting as much financial aid from abroad as it ought to get.

This brings me to the third gloomy side of this Budget Speech. External loans are not as forthcoming as expected. Out of the £300 million external finance required, the country has only been assured of £196 million, that is leaving about £104 million. This amount is promised and not actually paid. The country could only be optimistic, according to the Minister, about the remaining amount by the end of the fourth year of the Plan.

On page 48 of the Development Plan Progress Report, it is shown that in a project where over £30 million external loan was expected only five million pounds was received. This is a serious disappointment. Could it be that those we are looking up to for aid are entertaining fears in their minds about the future of such loans? Shall we not then have self analysis of what could create such fears? Or could it be that such countries are so unwilling to help that they attach impossible conditions to such loans? These are for the Government to look into.

The list of the countries which have so far promised loans to Nigeria does not contain Russia or any of the Eastern countries and yet Nigeria is said to be a non-aligned country, friendly both to the West and the East. Could it be that the East is not as willing to help as the West, or that Nigeria has not made any approach to the East for aid? If Nigeria has not made any approach to the East, how does such an attitude conform with the non-alignment policy of Nigeria?

Is it not disappointing that while countries like the U.S.A., Italy, and Western Germany were liberal in their aids, the United Kingdom sticks to stinginess? The United Kingdom

must show some more liberalism and more willingness to help our country to develop, if her people are sincere.

Now, I turn to the brighter aspects of the Budget. It is commendable that the Government has introduced several methods of raising money internally. In fact, part of the Six-Year Development Plan implemented so far was financed largely with Nigerian money—internal loans and receipts from savings of all kinds. The sale of Premium Bonds which must be further explained to the people in the language they can understand, is another major money raising device.

There should be more postal agencies in rural areas so as to facilitate savings. The part played by the Central Bank of Nigeria in the raising of loans for the Development Plan is another aspect of the Budget which deserves praise. The proper management of this Bank will no doubt help in the building of this nation's economy.

The establishment of a Nigerian Industrial Development Bank is praiseworthy. It is hoped that the management of this Bank will be insulated from politics and tribal prejudices so that it may serve all interests impartially. Nigeria has a gigantic plan to carry out in six years. It is in the successful carrying out of this Plan that happiness can accrue to all—the hungry to be fed, the naked to be clothed, the ignorant to be made wise and life in general to be made more pleasant for all. But such a Plan can only be carried out in an atmosphere of peace and tranquillity and of trust and confidence.

Let those, therefore, who are interested in bringing confusion and chaos by their stupid utterances and vain boasts by giving others unpleasant and provocative appellations, beware. For the wise, a word is sufficient.

I beg to support.

**Mr I. O. Chikelu** (Udi Central): I rise to support the Second Reading of the Appropriation Bill. Ours is a Government with an objective. This objective has always been clearly put forward during every Budget Session. Each year, the objective enunciated in the Budget Speech has been vigorously pursued. Our financial limitations have been curbed by approaching countries that are well to do to help us. This is not wrong because even

[MR CHIKELU]

in our homes, we go to our neighbours to borrow what we have not got, with a view to paying back when we are in a position to do so.

As long as the Government goes on in this way, it will always command unalloyed following of the disciplined citizens of this Republic.

Perhaps the most gigantic proposal in the present Development Programme is the Niger Dam Scheme at Kainji in Northern Nigeria. It is encouraging to see how the Government pursues the scheme with an unflinching determination, with technical know-how and much of the materials coming from overseas. This scheme is not an easy one, and the Government has come all out to do all in its power to make this a reality.

The stage reached in the building of the Niger Bridge between Asaba and Onitsha is praiseworthy. The Oil Refinery at Port Harcourt, the completion of which is shortly in view, is a strategic step towards economic salvation. The setting up of a Nigerian Security Printing and Minting Company makes another milestone in our journey towards economic nationhood.

Consultations and studies going on about the proposed Iron and Steel Factory, the Paper Mill and Fermentation Factory, to mention only a few, are hope-raising and confidence-inspiring in the future of this great Republic.

This speech will suffer a defect, if I do not applaud Government's plan to run completely an indigenous Insurance Company to operate in the fields of reinsurance, marine insurance and other areas not covered by Regional Insurance Companies. This is to say the least, the most gratifying proposition to the nation, judging from both the temper and tempo of this House last Saturday during debate on the Insurance Bill. This short survey should convince any doubting Thomas that the Government is fully aware of its responsibility and pursues same with courage.

Government is sustained in office by the goodwill of the governed. I therefore hope that anything that can be done will be done to make people happy in all corners of the Republic. The hope of Enugu miners should be translated into a reality when coal, the attestedly cheapest source of power, is used in

the several composite industries to be opened. All roads leading to the constituencies we represent, are in the language of the Minister of Finance "Farm-to-Market" roads.

At present most of these roads are crooked, narrow, rough and unmaintained. More of these "Farm-to-Market" roads in order of importance should be taken over by the Federal Government for reconstruction, widening and tarring. I hope the Minister of Works would not forget my constituency in this particular regard.

**An hon. Member :** What constituency ?

**Mr Chikelu :** My constituency is Ezeagu in Udi Division.

Time and again, I called on the Minister of Communications to help my people and give them at least one post office. To the dismay of many Members here, much emphasis has been laid on external communication when in fact a letter from one part of the Republic takes a month or more to reach another part when perhaps the contents become stale, and souls seeking rescue lost !

What profit do we derive from things like *Syncom 6* which enabled one of our leaders to converse with an American head of State ? What good does it do to us to spend enormous sums of money on overseas communication when our letters take so long to reach our neighbours in the same Republic ? It is still to be proved that constituencies from where our Ministers come are not *ipso facto* up graded to Ministerial constituencies which willy nilly are regarded as *primus inter pares* in the siting of industries and the sharing of amenities. This practice belies balanced planning in the building of a young nation.

I now come to the most burning question in our Republic now, and that is the question of unity. With your permission I would like to refer to the speech by a personality no less than the Prime Minister of Great Britain. He said, among other things—

*And where better to debate this theme than in the Nigerian Parliament, with the present law givers of the Nigerian nation ; a new partner in the Commonwealth, it is true, in years, but a senior partner in size and in influence in this great Continent of Africa ?*

Perhaps when he said this some of us might have thought that he was playing politics. If he was playing politics he was playing the politics of facts. I think this quotation should bring us into full realisation of the position in which we are held in Africa and the world. The eyes of all the nations of Africa are on us, nay, the whole world. Our armies have maintained peace in the Congo and at present they will be going to East Africa to maintain peace and how awkward would it be if in a short time younger and smaller countries send their own men to maintain peace here. I hope that this day will never come when an event of this nature may take place.

**Several Hon. Members :** God forbid it.

**Mr Chikelu :** I hope therefore, Sir, that hon. Members of Parliament will play their real part in the nation and bring about peace so that the enormous sums of money about to be spent on the development programme will not be spent on waste soil, for land not occupied by people is really a waste. We should be guided by examples so far shown by the leaders.

The President of the Republic is exemplary in his approach to this matter. The Premier of the Northern Region in the speech he made yesterday has given us a very high hope.

The announcement this afternoon that a worthy son of Eastern Nigeria has offered scholarship to children of Northern origin is another step towards our peace. The move of a government controlled newspaper that from twelve o'clock last Monday it would no longer indulge in publications that will foster disunity is step forward and that newspaper should be congratulated and other newspapers should be asked to follow suit.

**An hon. Member :** Which Paper ?

**Mr Chikelu :** Everyone knows it. It is a government sponsored paper, the *Post*. We should all discourage provocative speeches, either in the Parliament or outside Parliament and any utterances by any man in position should be checked. Such things as a leader volunteering to forward 500,000 people to fight should be discouraged. I think that the President of the Republic and the Prime Minister of the Federation have such qualities in them that are a great embodiment of peace.

We should not misunderstand ourselves especially when people behave in their own natural way. For example on the N.C.N.C. benches we often indulge in criticising the Government of which we form a part. The Minister of Finance and the Leader of the House finds difficulty sometimes in controlling his own men, but when he exercises patience he finds that in a very short time the people come to reason. From this, people will know that we are not unreasonable but sometimes we express our feelings and bury the hatchet.

Our colonial masters will be happy if we sell for a mess of pottage the unity we have won and have maintained all these years. Let us disappoint them in the hope they have entertained that we shall crumble. Let us come together as brothers in one nation and continue the nation building so that we shall leave a posterity for our children to bless us for and enjoy.

Sir, I beg to support.

**M. Salihu O. Abdul (Igbirra) :** I rise to support the Second Reading of the 1964-65 Appropriation Bill. The Budget speech is very clear and meaningful and I think that this is an occasion in which we shall have to pay tribute to our Government. There is no shade of doubt that the smooth and steady running of the Federal Government is due to the unique and joint effort of our honest and industrious Prime Minister, Sir Abubakar, and his Cabinet Ministers.

The Prime Minister has in many fields shown clearly that he is an indisputable leader. The Federal Government being what it is, is doing its best to satisfy the greatest number of people. Although people say that only the best is good enough, with much regret, experience has shown that the best is not always good enough.

One of such reasons is that we all represent different areas of the Federation in this House. Though we are bound to speak for the whole nation when we meet here, we must not forget that charity is supposed to begin from home.

I have noticed that once an area is not represented in the Cabinet, there is the tendency of forgetting or neglecting such an area ; but unfortunately all of us cannot be Cabinet Members. There are many rural areas in the



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Republic that have been neglected completely. Members from such areas are placed at a great disadvantage because when we go back for re-election, the people we are representing will definitely ask us to show them what amenities we have brought to them during our five years in the House.

Although this is an ill luck, we cannot blame ourselves to have come from those neglected areas. I do appreciate all that the Government is doing but I shall feel that it could do more, if it wanted to. There is room for improvement.

I am strongly appealing to the Government to help the unfortunate Members from rural areas in the development of their areas. After all the development of these rural areas is the development of the Federation as a whole.

I now turn to the importance of survey in a developing country like ours. The part played by survey cannot in fact be over emphasised because no agricultural plan can be successful without a proper survey. It is survey that will reveal the true size, nature of soil, type of climate, type of rock, *et cetera* of each particular place. True survey facilitates fair distribution of industrial projects all over the country.

We have many types of mineral deposits in various parts of the Federation but owing to lack of detailed survey, such valuable mineral deposits are not yet known.

We cannot dispute the fact that industry throughout the Republic is still in its infancy. I quite appreciate the efforts of the Federal and Regional Governments in this respect.

As I have already said, if the mineral resources in this country are fully exploited, they will no doubt raise the national income, and at the same time provide employment for the unemployed. Therefore, in view of this important question of survey, much more attention is required from both the Federal and Regional Governments.

The main limiting factor of survey is the lack of qualified staff. Young educated elements are not interested in the survey department because they feel that it entails their working in the bush. In order to attract people into this department, therefore, the conditions of service should be improved.

The present number of survey schools in the country is inadequate and efforts should be made to increase the number.

We also need to train people in mining methods and mineral engineering. After this has been done, the problem of treating some of the local ores will then be looked into. All this could be accomplished to a reasonable extent by enlarging the existing mining schools.

Foreign companies and investors should also be encouraged by giving them tax relief for a fixed period at the initial stage of our programme.

Another important issue at this stage of our development, is agricultural research. In view of our vigorous forward-looking population—55 or 56 million—agricultural research is as important as any other project, if not more important. If we are to improve our food crops and to higher yields from all varieties of crops we should also check the spread of pests and diseases which do a lot of havoc to our crops at all stages of growth.

Soil fertility is deteriorating at an alarming speed and for these reasons that I have mentioned, the importance and necessity for effective agricultural research cannot be overstressed.

My suggestions on the score are as follows :—

- (1) Priority should be given to the training of scientists and agriculturists to man our research programme.
- (2) The development programme of the Federal Research Department should be expanded.
- (3) Extensive research work on rice, benni-seed, guinea corn, soya bean, millet, ground nuts and cotton should be carried out with the view to improving the strains and varieties.
- (4) Research on cassava diseases, such as mosaic virus, which causes widespread disease on plants, should receive more attention.
- (5) Research on cocoa fungus disease which is very serious in the Southern provinces should also receive adequate attention. Yams and maize are often destroyed by fungus diseases too. This should also be looked into.

(6) Palm produce is one of the country's export crops and it is therefore, necessary that research should be carried out with the aim of producing high yield and producing disease resistant strains for distribution to the farmers.

(7) Research on improved methods of storage should receive much attention because a fair amount of our crops are often destroyed in storage houses.

(8) For the purpose of demonstration, the Government should try as much as possible to establish many farm centres, evenly spread all over the country, and train youngmen in farming and related matters.

(9) Land tenure and its effects on farming—we cannot talk about agriculture without referring to the complicated and undesirable land tenure system in the country. Of course, the system is more complicated in the Southern provinces than it is in the North.

Nigeria is predominantly an agricultural country and it is therefore, not surprising that about 70 per cent of the population derive their living from the land. Land is in fact, the most valuable property in the country. But in most parts, it is communally owned.

In my own area, Igbirra division, the ownership of any piece of land is often vested in a clan and one clan cannot interfere with another clan in matters regarding land. This means that if a clan less interested in farming happens to own a fertile piece of land, another clan which may be genuinely interested in farming cannot be permitted the use of that land.

The system of mortgaging or lease holding landed properties is not very popular there. Therefore, clans with limited and poor lands are always in difficulty to get good and sizeable farmland.

The evils of communal ownership as it stands in Nigeria to-day include the following—

(1) In many areas, few families monopolise the bulk of the land while many other families have not enough land to meet their needs.

(2) The communal system has no incentive to farmers because of its insecurity.

(3) The system of inheritance often leads to fragmentation of holdings into small uneconomic units which limit efficient farming methods.

We have now seen that our present land tenure system which is based on communal ownership does not encourage good farming in any respect. The whole system should be reformed by both the Federal and Regional Governments for the following reasons :—

(1) Increase in food crops—in view of the growing population, we need to have a specific increase in the production of food crops in order to keep pace with the population. This cannot be achieved where many good farmers are without land and those who have land are without security incentives.

2. Improvement of quality and quantity is necessary. If good farmers are able to get land of their own with full security, then they will be able to give more attention to the application of all possible methods that would raise the yield and improve the quality.

3. On export crops, I should suggest that in view of the world market competition, we have to improve our export crops if they are to fetch high prices.

4. Modification of our system of land tenure will enable our peasant farmers to achieve prosperity. It will enhance the production of both cash and food crops, thus raising the national income and standard of living.

Registration of land title is not yet popular at present except in Lagos and a few other commercial cities and towns. In order to ensure security of tenure, the Federal and Regional Governments should introduce legislation making provision for land title registration throughout the country.

Our agricultural development will be unbalanced without the development of communication system at the same time. Inadequacy of communication facilities in Nigeria is a very big problem. Communication facilities among other factors play a great part in the country's unification. The inhabitants of the country tend to live in groups apart from one another. But unity can only come about through intercourse.

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There are many towns, especially in the Northern Region, that are without any good form of transport. Most of such towns often encounter a lot of difficulties in connection with the evacuation of their agricultural produce. Apart from this, not much trade is possible between such places and other parts of the country.

For a balanced development, rural places ought not to be forgotten. I am therefore appealing to the Government to give some sort of priority to communication throughout the country in general and the rural places in particular.

Mechanisation of farming is necessary in modern times. But this is far outside the reach of the majority of Nigerian farmers at present. It is likely to remain so for some time to come. Our farmers are, no doubt, very poor and worse still, they are widely scattered.

Most of them depend on the simple tools such as the native hoe and cutlass in addition to barely family labour. Credit facilities are remote due to lack of security. Our farmers, unlike most of the British farmers, are illiterate and therefore it is difficult to introduce modern farming techniques and proper use of credit facilities where they are available. The need for improvement and modernisation is not yet appreciated.

Generally speaking, agriculture is the backbone of our country's economy and as far as I can foresee it is going to remain so for a very long time to come.

Industrialisation is only complementary to and, in fact, dependent on agricultural development. The pace of our economic development will continue to be governed by the efficiency with which we handle the problems of development of our natural resources.

I wish to suggest the following solutions to these problems.

Both the Federal and Regional governments should embark upon bold experiments with the following objectives :—

(a) to demonstrate types of farming which will attract young and educated elements hereby raising the standard of farming throughout the country ;

(b) to provide some solution to the present land tenure problems, thus making land available in economic units and on a secure basis to good farmers.

(c) to test and demonstrate planned farming systems which will remove all obstacles in the way of efficient farming.

Efficient and proper use of land can be achieved through combined peasant holdings of certain crops, such as palm plantations, cocoa, *et cetera*. This will facilitate the installation of efficient machines and at the same time reduce market problems.

I beg to support.

**Alhaji Subairu Omar** (Nassarawa) : In supporting the second Reading of the Appropriation Bill, I do not intend to take much of the time of this House. But it appears to me that my appeal to our able Minister of Finance last year about the establishment of a commercial bank in Keffi has not materialised.

I would like to emphasise the necessity of establishing this bank. Most of the people in my constituency are farmers and they contribute greatly to the economy of this country.

If one looks at the National Budget Speech, the last paragraph at page 8, one will find that the Minister stresses the importance of savings. How can these people save when they have no banks. The nearest banking facility available in my constituency is about 150 miles away from Keffi, that is in Jos.

I am not ungrateful for all that the Federal Government is doing for us, but I must appeal to the Minister again to consider most seriously and sympathetically assisting my people by establishing a commercial bank in Keffi or Nassarawa.

A lot of money is being spent on fisheries research. Yet, even the people of Lagos are not getting enough fish for consumption. We still spend millions of pounds on importing fish into this country. This is a critical situation ; we know that Nigeria has sea and big rivers where more fish can be caught. Why should we not have a fish canning factory somewhere in Nigeria.

The role of the Nigeria Police Mobile Unit during the recent Tiv riot is most commendable. I must pay tribute to the constables who lost

their lives. This is one of our internal problems which I want the Federal Government to look into and see that something is done to get these people once and for all stand on their feet.

I want to say it publicly to these people who cause trouble in the country that Northern Nigeria is indivisible whether they like it or not.

I beg to support.

**Mr S. O. Fajinmi** (Iwo West) : The Minister of Finance put this honourable House through a lengthy speech which he named "The National Budget."

**Chief P. Dame-Oboh** (Ishan West) : I want to remind the Speaker that he warned Members against making long speeches. If we want to achieve this, Members should refrain from reading their speeches.

**Mr Speaker** : And refrain also from making unnecessary interruptions.

**Mr Fajinmi** : In my opinion, the Minister's speech which was so brilliantly delivered, deserves a great applause even from University boys. We are assembled here to clamour for the good of this nation. It is not the amount of speeches we make here that counts, but the outcome of these speeches on the ordinary man in the street.

There were many promises made in last year's Budget Speech by the Minister of Finance. I wonder whether all these promises have been fulfilled. Take, for instance, the siting of industries in this country. According to recent figures, 247 industries have been sited throughout the Federation, but not even one has been sited at Iwo, one of the largest towns not only in Western Nigeria, but also in the country.

The time has come when even distribution of amenities should be uppermost in our minds. This is one of the biggest factor in our call for the unity of this country.

It is certainly true that no one developing country can survive without external aid, but Nigeria's dependability on external aid is now becoming a disease. We are termed as beggars in other parts of the world.

The Minister's speech also confirms this when he listed the amount, in cash and kind, promised to Nigeria in the form of loans by some foreign countries.

Can we not tap our resources to the fullest ; how long shall we remain a begging country ? I do not think the Minister's speech deserve to be called "The National Budget." It ought to have been named "The Loan Budget."

I come to the question of buying our locally produced goods in preference to imported ones. May I ask the hon. Minister of Finance if he had ever bought a pair of shoes from the *Omimi* Shoe Factory. Despite the fact that most of our locally produced goods are not good, they are also dearer than the imported ones, which are usually of high quality. I do not see any sense in one buying a crude article at a very high price when one could get better ones at a lesser price. I do not want to belabour this point, for much has been said about it.

I must, however, sound a note of warning. Our Ministers are creating room for suspicion when it comes to matters affecting private concerns. They should declare their stand or go to the street themselves and tell the masses why import duties should continually rise. The new import and excise duties could be best described as Government's tactics to recover from the workers of this country the increases in wages that they might receive as a result of the Morgan Wages Review Commission.

**The Minister of Finance** (Chief F. S. Okotie-Eboh) : *Baba joko*.

**Mr Fajinmi** : The Minister can say *Baba joko*. I am a father to him.

**Mr A. F. Odulana** (Ijebu South) : I think it is unfair for Ministers to interrupt Members when they are speaking. It is not fair to put words in the mouth of Members as they are trying to make their speeches. The Member for Iwo West (*Mr Fajinmi*) has a right to make a speech here, and he should be allowed to do so.

**Mr Speaker** : But the Member for Ijebu South (*Mr Odulana*) is now putting words into the mouth of the Speaker. Let the Speaker say it is unfair to interrupt the hon. Member who is making a speech.

**Mr E. C. Akwivu** (Orlu South East) : The Minister is not, in fact, putting words into the mouth of the hon. Member who is making a speech. He is merely reminding him of the next word in his epistle.

**Mr Fajimi** : I would like the Minister of Agriculture—

**Several hon. Members** : There is no Minister of Agriculture here.

**Mr Fajimi** : Then I would like the Minister of Finance to develop all our reserve forests, which are now being exploited. These forests need to be improved. If other trees are not planted in the place of the ones being hewn down, in the course of a few years time, we will have no timbers in our country any more. Timbers are now vanishing from the forests at an alarming rate.

**Several hon. Members** Timbers ! timbers ! timber of timbers !

**Mr Fajimi** : I am not talking of human timbers, but of logs. I expect hon. Members to understand that.

**Mr P. E. Ekanem** (Enyong South) : On a point of order, the hon. Gentleman must be very, very careful in using the word 'timber' because, on the Floor of this House, the Government both in and opposition Front Benches are replete with "timber of timbers." Therefore, he should be very careful in using that word.

**Mr Speaker** : We cannot hear timber languages here.

**Mr Fajimi** : I think every hon. Member understands what I mean by "timbers". I am just sounding a note of warning that if our forests are not cared for, Nigeria will suffer in future by going to import timbers from Ghana and some other neighbouring countries.

My other point is the question of industry. I said that industry must be evenly distributed to all parts of Nigeria by the Federal Government. Of the 247 industries established in the country, not one is to be found in Iwo and in the whole of Western Region of Nigeria for that matter. If there is any one, I would like the Minister to cite it,

**Chief Okotie-Eboh** : On a point of explanation, it is not true that there are no projects—

**Mr Fajimi** : I do not yield.

**Mr Speaker** : If surely the hon. Member is not yielding, we had better allow him to continue with his speech.

**Mr Fajimi** : I wonder why the Minister is trying to defend himself in the face of glaring facts. There is no even a single factory in the whole of the Western Region established by the Federal Government. I am sure the Minister knows that.

**Chief Okotie-Eboh** : That was why I wanted to tell the hon. Member what I do know.

**Mr Fajimi** : Well, the Minister has to rise on a point of order, not a point of explanation or information. I do not want the Minister's information or explanation. If the Minister had raised a point of order, I would have yielded.

We are only talking glibly of the unity of Nigeria. We are not being fair to ourselves. Industries must be evenly distributed. When an industry is sited in the Northern Region, and another one in Eastern Region, then one also must be sited in the Western Region and one in the Mid-Western Region. The Government cannot build all the factories in the capital—Lagos, or in a particular region leaving out the other regions.

**Mr A. O. Ogunsanya** (Ikeja) : The hon. Member has really been attacking the Government unduly. There was a period between 1957 and 1959 when the Leader of his party and Chief Ayo Rosiji were part of the Federal Government. Why were industries not sited in the Western Region then ?

**The Minister of Communications** (Chief Olu Akinfosile) : If it is correct that industries were not being established in the Western Region, the responsibility lies squarely on the shoulders of the leader of their party, because the distribution of industries is done at the National Economic Council where he is representing the Western Region, and if they failed to do their duty, they must go and criticise their leader and not this Government.

**Mr A. F. Odulana** (Ijebu South): On a point of order, it will be incorrect for the Minister to come here to insinuate against the leader of the N.N.D.P. on this subject. There is no doubt that Chief Akinfosile has been creating troubles for us in the Western Region.

**Mr Speaker**: We must allow Chief Fajinmi to continue his speech.

**Chief Fajinmi**: The Member for Ikeja (*Mr Ogunsanya*), "LLB. (Ikorodu)," is a commoner and he has no respect for Chiefs.

**Mr Ogunsanya**: It is a wrong procedure and out of order for the Iwo Chief to be insinuating that a Prince of Yorubaland has no dignity.

**Mr Speaker**: Order. Members should please try to curtail their superiority complex.

**Chief Fajinmi**: I would like industries to be sited at Iwo. For example, a cement factory could be located at Iwo to help the unemployed people there. If the Federal Government wants unity in this country, every town and every section must be provided with an industry.

Secondly, I would like the Minister—

**Mr P. E. Ekanem** (Enyong South): My point of order is this, that I do not expect Ministers to raise points of order with insinuations, and we are not here summoned this night to keep on listening to whether there are principality and power in Western Nigeria. We are here in the Federal House and we are speaking for the whole country.

**Chief Fajinmi**: I would like the Minister of Works to try to see that all the trunk 'A' roads in the country are well cared for. Many parts of the Ibadan-Lagos Road have been badly damaged. We find so many cars and lorries which have been involved in accidents not because the drivers are careless, but because of the bad condition of the road.

Again, I would like the Federal Government to tar some of the roads in Western Nigeria. There are many untarred roads. The Federal Government should help the Regional Governments, at least by giving them either loans or by taking over the roads. If this is done, it will be a sort of relief to the Regional Governments.

With these few remarks, I beg to support.

**Mr A. A. Odunrinde** (Oshogbo North): It is with the greatest pleasure that I rise to speak on the Appropriation Bill which was presented to this honourable House by the able Minister of Finance. I associate myself with the sentiments expressed by Members of this House with regard to the National Budget.

In my view, this year's Budget makes a significant break with those of the previous years. The 1960 Budget was Christened the **Sovereignty** Budget; in 1961 we had the **Stability** Budget; in 1962 we had the **Mobilisation** Budget; in 1963 we had the **Modernisation** Budget and this year, the **National** Budget. The term "National" is most apt. To nationalise means to render movable or to bring into circulation or to prepare for active service. Indeed, with the attainment of Republican status, and after a year of it, we should prepare all our forces for active service in the fight against the evil things that may tend to retard our progress as a sovereign State. Amongst these evil things are ignorance, superstition, disease, poverty, unemployment and the low standard of living of our people.

I offer my warmest congratulations to the hon. Minister of Finance, Chief F. S. Okotie-Eboh, who spoke to this House for more than four hours on the policy and programme of the Federal Government during the ensuing year and also on the economic programme for the period ending 31st March, 1964. No right-thinking individual will fail to appreciate the efforts of the Federal Minister of Finance in seeing that our country enjoys economic prosperity. We must give praise to whom praise is due.

Now that I have expressed my appreciation to the Federal Government of the day and its leadership, if I am not irrelevant, I would like to seize this opportunity to make a few comments on the activities of the Federal Government with the hope that the Minister in charge will make a categorical statement on the issues involved.

First and foremost, this honourable House consists of Members both from urban and rural areas, and mostly rural areas. It is my view that amenities are partially distributed in this country. Scholarship awards are made to a certain set of people. I could remember when I asked the hon. Minister of Education to award a scholarship to one of the Nigerian

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students in Germany, he agreed to do this but up till now I have not heard anything about the matter again. It appears as if all these scholarships are awarded to people from big towns. The Government has no sympathy for rural areas.

Mr Speaker, I was elected into this Parliament from Ilobu, Ifon, Erin, Owope, in Oshogbo North Constituency in Oshun Division, and I could observe from this Appropriation Bill that this Federal Government had no development plan whatsoever for this area since I was voted in. What does the Federal Government expect me to say to my people during the next elections? That, oh this is a wonderful coalition Government? I am afraid no.

I also want to ask the Minister of Mines and Power to see to the fulfilment of his promise to supply Ilobu, Ifon and Erin towns with electricity.

**Mr Speaker :** Order. If the hon. Member will make less reference to his notes, perhaps. it will be in order.

**Mr Odunrinde :** I do not think, Mr Speaker, that I have gone against the Standing Orders. It is the Member for Enyong South (*Mr Ekanem*) who has, because he raised a point of order but never pointed out anything.

It is high time the three chief towns in my constituency, namely, Ilesha, Ile Ife and Akure were provided with electric light. I would like the Minister of Mines and Power to make a statement as to the time electric light will be supplied to this area. However, I believe that this House understands that my constituency is neglected. The Government should realise that we are all equal if judged on constitutional basis, no matter in what part of the country we come from.

I wish to say that it is my people's wish to have industries established in the Western part of Oshun Division, particularly in Ilobu, Ifon and Erin, in order to offer employment to them and improve their earning ability.

My comment as far as road is concerned is that I am appealing to the Federal Government to convert Oshogbo pass, Ilobu-Ifon-Ogbo-mosho road into a trunk 'A' road. I wish to

express my people's disappointment at the failure of the Federal Minister of Transport to reopen the Iddo Oshun aerodrome. I would be grateful if he could give the matter his immediate attention.

I will not leave the Ministry of Communications untouched. I wish to make a brief comment on the merit of this Ministry which has the very important responsibility of providing efficient means of transport in the whole of the rural areas of Nigeria. Many hon. Members and I, during the debate on the Second Reading of the Appropriation Bill, laid much emphasis on the need to provide postal facilities for the people in the rural areas and also to improve the already existing post offices. I should seize this opportunity to remind the Federal Minister of Communications that my constituency has been using postal agencies for several years now and it is high time he provided us with a good post office which will meet our postal needs satisfactorily.

My constituency—Ifon, Erin and Ilobu in Oshun Division—has a population of over 45,000 people. The postal agencies at Ifon, Erin and Ilobu, all towns which are not up to a quarter of a mile apart, are not properly equipped. Sometimes postal orders, money orders, *et cetera*, are not available and some people find it difficult to cash their postal orders in any of the postal agencies. Oshogbo which is the Headquarters is, unfortunately, far from Ifon, Erin and Ilobu, and as a result of the long distance, letters are not delivered in time. Telegrams tend to become mere letters. I am appealing to the Minister to build for us a Post Office which will be adequately staffed and equipped.

Another point which I would like to raise is about the congestion in the main post offices in the townships. One spends a considerable length of time before being attended to. I suggest that the Minister engages more hands or, in the alternative, opens more post offices. In this case, I hope the rural areas will be given attention too.

In my opinion, the establishment of post offices which are about 15 miles apart will go a long way towards solving our communications problems. Immediate arrangements should be made so that postal agencies can handle telegrams and mails with the utmost efficiency

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and speed. One finds it difficult to understand why on some occasions letters travel faster than telegrams. A letter posted in Lagos sometimes takes four days to reach its destination in the Western Region. In contrast to what obtains in the United Kingdom, our postal services are very unsatisfactory.

Concluding my comment on this Ministry, I would urge the Minister of Communications to build a post office in Irepo, Ifon, Erin and Ilobu, in Oshun Division.

One of the most important issues in this country is the question of publicising Nigeria abroad. Until the Ministry of External Affairs stepped in to undertake the publicising of Nigeria abroad, it was the responsibility of the Ministry of Information. We must bear in mind that the task is to publicise Nigeria and not to publicise the Ministry of External Affairs. The Ministry of External Affairs is charged with the formulation of Nigeria's foreign policy; but there are other things foreigners want to hear about Nigeria besides her foreign policy. The publicity of Nigeria overseas is, therefore, unquestionably the duty of the Ministry whose staff are well versed in the day-to-day events in the country. This Ministry is the Ministry of Information.

When the Ministry of External Affairs established an Information Division, they started with four officers one of whom was a radio announcer and whose duty, as I understand it, is merely reading scripts prepared by others. One other officer was just an Executive Officer drafted from another section into the Information Division. Another officer was merely a Manager of a Foreign News Agency and he never played any part in the collection or dissemination of news. He was, in fact, an Administrative Officer in charge of the News Agency. But in the Ministry of Information, there are men who can publicise Nigeria better, and I wonder why we do not use them.

Now I come to the Ministry of Aviation. I am sure the Minister of Aviation will give a tangible reply to the points I am going to make. I hope also that the Minister's reply will satisfy all the people in Oshun Division. I would like to inform the Minister of Aviation that the people of Oshun Division are anxious to see that the aerodrome at Iddo Oshun in

Western Nigeria is improved and reopened. The people of Oshun Division would like to know why it is impossible for the Minister to reopen the aerodrome. May I know if the Minister is not aware of the fact that the Iddo Oshun aerodrome is one of the oldest aerodromes in the country? My people in Irepodun District Council, which consists of Kobu, Ifon and Erin, constantly travel by aeroplanes to Mecca, Medina, Egypt, Ghana and so many other places. Now, instead of boarding planes at Iddo Oshun, they have to travel to Kano or Lagos in order to board aeroplanes.

I am, therefore, requesting the Minister of Aviation to see to it that this aerodrome is restored, so that the people in this area will not waste their time and money in going to Kano or Lagos aerodromes.

**Mr P. O. Akpan** (Uyo South East) : On a point of order, I think the Member for Oshogbo North (*Mr Odunrinde*) should stop reading his speech because he is not a good reader.

**Mr Odunrinde** : I am appealing strongly to the Minister of Aviation to see to it that this aerodrome is re-opened without any further delay, if possible it should be re-opened this year.

As hon. Members are quite aware, Oshun Division in Western Nigeria is a very important place and, as such, I should be very grateful if the Minister would consider this point and give it his immediate attention.

I beg to support.

**Mr S. U. Idiong** (Ikot Ekpene North East) : I rise to contribute my own quota to the Second Reading of the Appropriation Bill.

**Mr D. D. U. Okay** (Port Harcourt) : On a point of order, the Member for Ikot Ekpene North East (*Mr Idiong*) did not take permission from the Speaker before leaving his seat to speak from another seat.

**Mr Speaker** : I think, with the permission of the House, he may make his speech from there.

**Mr Idiong** : We have been called upon to approve an expenditure of a total sum of £62,275,980 for the year 1964-65. The Minister of Finance in his usual eloquent manner christened this year's Budget as National



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Budget. The name, as it stands, sounds well and good, but a lot is desired by way of distribution of amenities and industries throughout the country.

On the Floor of this House last year, I stated that there were some industries sited in Calabar. In this connection, I would like to refresh the memory of hon. Members to the following "industries" sited in Calabar—

(i) military base along the Calabar-Southern Cameroun border ;

(ii) federal State Prosecutor—solely charged with the responsibility of prosecuting smugglers.

(iii) helicopters—(Interruptions).

**Mr Speaker :** Order. Really, the interruptions are becoming intolerable.

**Mr Idiong :** All these three "industries", as it were, were sited at Calabar with a view to tracking down smugglers who were unfortunately risking their lives. The majority of these people go to Fernando Po purposely to smuggle goods. The Government obviously sited these industries for security purposes and also in order to get more money for the Government. The question now is, what benefits are being derived by Calabarians from these industries? The answer is practically nothing. Hon. Members will therefore see that there are no industries to employ the natives of Calabar.

During a bye-election at Calabar last year, the natives of Calabar were promised a cement factory. The site for this factory was cleared and building materials were carried to Calabar in order to start constructing the factory. But after the elections, these materials were carried back.

**Mr F. I. Okoronkwo (Aba Urban) :** On a point of order, the Member for Ikot Ekpene North (*Mr Idiong*) is misleading this House. The Eastern Nigeria Government has sited a cement factory at Calabar and contractors are busy working on the site. I am afraid the hon. Member is not from Calabar and probably because he is in the habit of changing from one party to another, he does not know what is happening at Calabar again.

**Mr Idiong :** I wonder how long ago the Member for Aba Urban (*Mr Okoronkwo*) visited Calabar to sell his second-hand clothing. Since the people of Calabar rejected the hon. Member's second-hand clothes, he has not gone there again.

The bulk of palm produce in Eastern Nigeria now is got from Annang, Uyo and Calabar provinces. In fact, these products form about two-thirds of the revenue of the Eastern Region.

I urge the Government to raise loan and construct roads and bridges in the rural areas so as to help the farmers to evacuate their produce from their farms.

At the moment, there are no secondary schools in the Calabar Province. Since the Federal Government is responsible for financing the Inter-Regional Secondary Schools, I am appealing to the Government to see to it that one of these schools is established either in Ikot Ekpene, Uyo or Calabar.

For the past four years during the present life of the House, industries have been sited in several parts of the Federation. May I say that the people of Calabar have been forgotten. Now that our people from Calabar have joined the Government, I hope the Government would come to our aid. All my people are now either in the N.P.C. or in the N.C.N.C.

**An hon. Member :** Where are you ?

**Mr Idiong :** I am a Member of the N.P.C., the senior partner in the coalition Government.

Now that the Koko Port has been opened, I hope the Federal Government will improve Opo and Calabar Ports which are natural deep waters. The people of this area would benefit a great deal if these ports were developed. The development of these ports would create more employment opportunities for our school leavers thereby reducing unemployment to the barest minimum.

With these few remarks, I beg to support.

**M. Mutairu Abubakar (Lafiaji Pategi) :** I rise to support the Second Reading of the Appropriation Bill and also to express my gratitude to the Minister of Finance.

As a new Member, I am pleased to have the chance of making some few comments. I am appealing to the Minister of Works and Surveys that a lot has to be done as far as roads are concerned. If we compared our roads in the

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Northern Region with the roads in the other regions, we would see that our roads need more improvement. For instance, most of our Trunk 'A' Roads are not yet tarred. Although we appreciate the efforts of the Federal Government, we urge the Government to tar the remaining roads.

We would also like the Federal Government to convert some Trunk 'B' Roads such as Sharagi Junction to Lafajaji-Pategi roads to Trunk 'A' Roads.

I have little to say about education. I feel that education should be federalised right from the primary to the university level. I feel it would be necessary to introduce free primary education in the Northern Region and that the Federal Government should finance it.

In the National Budget, the Niger Dam project has been included. I note that nothing has been mentioned about Bacita Sugar investigation in Lafajaji-Pategi Division, my constituency. Yet, I am whole-heartedly grateful to the Federal Government for the assistance it is rendering towards the development of the area. I can assure this House that within a few months from now, sugar will be made at Bacita.

I would like to say something about communication. I have to say that my people know the value of a Post Office. My people want to communicate with all parts of Nigeria as well as with other countries. I am sorry to say that only postal agencies are to be found in Lafajaji-Pategi. In view of the importance of my constituency, I am appealing to the Federal Government to build Post Offices and instal a telecommunication system there. I should be grateful if the Minister would include my constituency in the next Six-Year Development Plan, if my constituency has not already been included.

With these few remarks, I beg to support.

**Mr C. A. Odigbo** (Bende West) : I rise to support the Second Reading of the Appropriation Bill which was very ably presented to this honourable House by the Minister of Finance, Chief Festus Okotie-Eboh.

I have observed that most people seem to be very much frightened by the mere mention of the phrase "imbalance of trade". They seem to think that that is something to be feared. But I wish to say that at this stage of our

development, it would be very much surprising indeed if we do not suffer from any such imbalance of trade.

This is so because we are now engaged in a lot of constructional work. We have to import from overseas building materials, machinery and all the other equipment we need for developing this country. Therefore, it is not surprising that our exports are not able to finance our imports.

May I, therefore, ask those who make so much noise about our imbalance of trade to have patience because I believe very strongly that when our industries begin to yield the fruits which they ought to yield, and when we shall have completed some of the constructional work we are undertaking at the moment, we shall be in a position to meet our import responsibilities.

It is pertinent to mention that there are at least three ways by which we can reduce this imbalance of trade. First of all, all the Governments of the Republic should follow the good example of the Eastern Nigeria Government by intensifying the practice of modern agriculture.

Agriculture is our basic source of currency at the moment in this country. The Federal Government should be seriously blamed for its lack of foresight in refusing to promote modern agriculture. There is no doubt that the Federal Government can play a very important part in promoting modern agriculture.

There is always the excuse that agriculture is a concurrent subject and that the Federal Government can only engage in research or make the money available to the Regional Governments. May I say that this is not enough.

I will therefore appeal to the Federal Government to establish an Agricultural Bank so that farmers from all over the Republic can borrow money from the Bank to improve their farms. That is one effective way by which the Federal Government can actively take part in the promotion of modern agriculture.

Secondly, it is also true that the industries we are establishing now will help us reduce our imbalance of trade. Although some of our manufacturing industries are in their

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infancy, they are helping to check the outflow of our currency by supplying some of the goods that we now import.

May I say that the Federal Government has allowed political considerations to affect adversely the growth of some of our industrial activities. I must mention specifically the establishment of an Iron and Steel Industry in this country. Any country that wants to impress the world as far as industrialisation is concerned must first of all think of establishing an iron and steel industry.

We have large deposits of iron ore and coal in this country, in fact, we have all the raw materials needed for the establishment of an iron and steel industry but for more than five years now there has been vacillation and indecision as to whether or not to go ahead with the establishment of this industry merely because of political consideration.

We all know that if we want to build a strong nation we must have our own iron and steel industry unless we want to continue to buy from other nations. If we want to manufacture precision instruments, if we want to build our own railway wagons without having to import the ingots necessary for the building of these wagons, we must have our own iron and steel industry. We have the iron ore and the coal but because we hesitate to agree with the technical experts who advised us that one of the most rural towns in the country is the most suitable place for this iron and steel industry—

**Some hon. Members :** Where ?

**Mr Odigbo :** It is Onitsha. Just because we do not want to face the fact, the Government is thinking of shelving the project.

This Government should be brave enough to face facts, this Government should be brave enough to do what is best for this country. It is not a matter of doing things to satisfy individuals or political considerations. We must ask ourselves some questions. The first question is, is it economical to the country to site this industry at such and such a place ? If we know that it is economical and the industry is an important industry, there is no reason why we should not site it anywhere in the country.

The next question is, which is the best place ? Is it Lokoja, Kaduna, Owerri, Umuahia or Benin ? All the data available show that the best place to site an iron and steel industry in this country is Onitsha. Why is it that the Government is prevaricating ? I would urge the Government not to toy with a very important industry of that nature. I do hope that we would, in the course of the next few months, be told that work on this industry has begun.

The next thing that would, of course, bring more money into this country and thereby reduce our imbalance of trade is tourism. I must again thank the Eastern Nigeria Government for showing the light with the building of a lovely holiday centre at Obudu and other Catering Rest Houses run by the Eastern Nigeria Tourist Corporation.

Travelling through the Northern and Western Regions one would see very lovely places which should be developed to attract tourists into this country. It is unfortunate that the Federal Government does not think this is a very important thing to do.

I do hope the Federal Government will think very seriously about this because this is the way by which we can bring in more capital into this country.

I want to say a few words about our industrial policy, and in that regard I want to talk about the inducement we give to industrialists from overseas. First of all, how much welcome do we give to them as they propose to come into our country ? From my experience we seem to discourage their coming in by the process of our immigration checking.

It appears that if anybody goes into the problem he will find that we are increasingly becoming the most difficult country to get into in this world.

Our immigration system is extremely very difficult. It is like this. If one wanted to enter Nigeria for example from Western Germany one would apply to our embassy in Germany and the embassy has no authority to say yes or no to one's entry. They have to send that application to Nigeria for processing, and that takes about three to four months to process. In fact, our embassies have no authority to approve or disapprove applications for *visa*.

The industrialist who wants to enter Nigeria has to wait for a terribly long time for the papers eventually to go back to the embassy. If they are through the industrialist is informed.

Now, that is a very tardy way of doing things when one wants to encourage people to come into this country. I can cite instances to show that most other countries have embassies with authority to give temporary *visa* which may last up to three or four months during which the immigration department makes the necessary checks on people who enter such a country. If after the normal checking is done, and the person to whom the temporary *visa* is given is not through, then he has to go. I know that if one is going to Germany now one does not need to have a *visa*. One can enter that country and stay for three months without a *visa*. During those three months one must get one's *visa* and all the checking will be done.

I do not see why we should place a very big obstacle in the way of industrialists and others who want to come into this country to help us. The Immigration Department should, in fact, revise its method. I think it was a method devised in the main by our British officers for the purpose of facilitating entry into this country by Britishers but making it extremely difficult for any other nationals. It is time we revised that method because I really feel it is working against our own interest as far as attracting industrialists is concerned.

I was delighted to hear from the Minister of Transport this morning that he has taken up the question of the very dilapidated coaches that normally ply along the Eastern Districts of the Railway Corporation. It is a very sorry thing, indeed, to observe that for years on end one cannot travel comfortably in the eastern sector of the Nigerian Railway. The coaches are awful, and, in fact, the impression we get is that every old coach that is not wanted in any other section of the country is normally dumped in the Eastern Region; for what purpose I do not know. But I am delighted, as I have said, that the Minister of Transport has taken that matter up, and we do hope that in the shortest time possible the coaches that we do see there now will be changed because they actually discourage the people using the railways there.

I wish to thank the Minister of Communications for having at very long last awarded a contract for building a Post Office at Umuahia-Ibeku. We do hope, however, that that Post Office will be equipped with the most modern type of gadgets and that the telephone exchange to be attached to it will also be automatic.

It is necessary for the Minister to do this now because if he does not make it automatic now, he has to do so in the next two years or so, and it would be a waste of money when he has to scrap whatever outmoded type of equipment he has put in now. So, it would be wise for him and it would be in the interest of the country if he instals an automatic equipment once and for all.

I would also appeal to the Minister of Communications in the interest of economy, progress, and industrialisation which are taking place in that town of Umuahia to see that it is linked with Port Harcourt by a direct line. Port Harcourt is our chief port, and the businessmen have a lot to do with Port Harcourt. But at the moment one has to go through Aba to get to Port Harcourt, and very often it is extremely difficult to get through.

I do not see why it is possible to get many direct lines from Lagos to Ibadan but not possible to get a direct line from Umuahia to Port Harcourt which is a shorter distance. There is no direct line to Onitsha. There is not even one single line to Uyo. That is extremely poor. So, we do think that the Minister of Communications will please take note of that.

I am sure it is in the interest of our national progress that when we say we are putting up an institution in a place we should really mean business and show that we really mean business. The Prison at Bende was transferred to Umuahia about three or four years ago, but one needs to be there to see that it is not a prison at all. I do not know how warders are expected to look after prisoners who are kept in an open place. There are no walls, and the fences are as loose as anything. In fact, it does not look like a prison. Any prisoner who wants to escape can easily escape. I think that is unfair to the warders. It is possible for prisoners to run away. The Prisons Department should therefore see to it that a proper wall is built as soon as possible in order to protect the lives, not only of the prisoners, but

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also those of the warders and the general public when these prisoners run away. The place is not only without walls, we have electric poles right up to the premises of prison, and yet the warders have to use ordinary lanterns to keep vigil. The Prisons Department has not fund it possible to supply the place with electricity. This is a very poor and shameful situation and I hope they will look into that as quickly as possible.

**Some hon. Members :** Does the hon. Gentleman want light for the prisoners ?

**Mr Odigbo :** Yes, and for the warders too.

I wish to say that all our talks about the progress of Nigeria or its economic growth will be useless and a waste of time if we cannot live together in peace. I believe that all our efforts in the country and in this Legislature are for the benefit of our people, the common man. We can do everything to make our country really great, but if the people of Nigeria cannot live together in peace, all that will be a sham and waste of efforts.

These are the reasons why I must call attention to the recent trend of events which are bound to be disastrous to the unity of the country. All of us shout from the house tops that we want unity in the country ; that unity must be protected. It is not possible that where there are two or three people living together, one man only must keep peace all the time, while others are disrupting it. It should be a two-way traffic all the time and when it ceases to be so, there must be chaos and confusion. I pray that God may help us to realise that in the past the unity of the country had been held together by a very thin thread, which is the tolerance of the people of the Eastern Region. I ask that everybody should emulate the tolerance of the Easterners. I appeal to all of us to show a spirit of tolerance, otherwise, the fate of this country will be disastrous. All of us belong to this Federation. We are people of one family, but if we cannot live together in the same house in peace, it may be that we have to separate. But I think that the best for all of us is to live together in peace.

I beg to support.

**Mr J. O. Taiwo (Oyo North West) :** In supporting the Second Reading of the Appropriation Bill, I wish to draw the attention of the House to some important matters which have been raised by the hon. Minister of Finance, who has, all along, in fairness to him, held his job very honourably. I should in fact join others in praising him for doing all he could to make the finances of the Federation buoyant. However, we must point out some of the abnormalities that we have noticed.

Actually, Members will notice that in Nigeria, we are living in want in the midst of plenty. I am referring to the reorganisation of our Pharmacy Department in particular. Members will notice that there is a lot of manpower waste in this Department. Most of our boys who are trained either in Yaba or in the University of Ife are not given sufficient work to do or are not given the right type of work for which they are trained in the college. Most of the tablets or drugs and chemicals that we buy for millions of pounds for use in our hospitals and maternity centres could be easily made by these trained hands.

The Government should make use of the opportunity they have and get the required equipments to make the tablets and drugs. By so doing, we shall be saving millions of pounds and we shall also have the satisfaction that we are making our own drugs in our own country. We shall not be depending on foreign countries for the supply of our drugs.

Most Members must have got the circular which the pharmacists' union of Nigeria distributed in the pigeon-holes. If Members had read the circular through, they would have appreciated by now the extent of these people's training and the field in which they could be profitably used. This must take the attention of the Minister of Finance, the Minister of Commerce and Industry and also the Minister of Health.

Sometime ago I had the opportunity of asking the Minister of Health to declare the status of these pharmacists, and I should have expected that after our discussion the Minister could have appreciated the fact that we are not putting these trained hands in their proper places, and as a result of which we are losing much in manpower, in money and in everything that could make for the development of this country.

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I definitely know that counting of tablets in the hospitals is not the real work of these pharmacists. They could be profitably and better employed if only the policy makers of this country could sum up courage and allocate some money for the establishment of a pharmaceutical industry.

We have heard of the establishment of the Nigerian Industrial Development Bank in this country. This is a very good project, and everyone of us supports the establishment of such a bank if only we will make the proper use of it. In making use of this bank, we must divorce ourselves of tribalism when loans are being given out for the establishment of industries, and in the employment of the people who will work in the bank.

Those of us who come from the Western Region have genuine cause to be dissatisfied with the way industries are being sited in this country. It is a fact that we have some industries in the Western Region, but they were established by the Regional Government and not by the Federal Government. It is only fair that the distribution of amenities should be extended to us in the Western Region. It is only by doing so that we can have the much talked about unity in this country. It is not enough to preach the unity of this country by mere words of mouth. We must take positive action that will bring unity to the country, otherwise, the word 'unity' will have no meaning to us.

I now want to touch on our education in this country. I personally disagree with some people who hold the view that education should be federalised, because the pace of educational advancement in the different Regions varies, and I think that each Region can go at its own pace.

I know that a Region is at least entitled to some generosity from the Federal Minister of Education. I believe that all the Regions should be treated equally in the award of scholarships, but as far as I can see, the Federal Minister of Education has been really partial in the award of scholarships. I want to say right away that I know what I am talking about.

As a Member of this House, I approached the Minister of Education on one matter sometime ago, that was about two years ago,

and the Minister was unable to give me a satisfactory answer as regards the award of scholarships.

**The Minister of Education** (Onyiba Aja Nwachuku) : On a point of order, I want to say that when the Member for Oyo North West (*Mr Taiwo*) approached me on the award of scholarships I gave him a satisfactory answer. I told him then that the materials he was presenting to me for award of scholarships were not scholarship grade, and that if he would give the Ministry the names of his people who were qualified, without minding where they came from they would be awarded scholarships.

All we know is that we base our scholarship awards on the best materials. If the member had presented students who were suitable for the award of scholarships, I am sure that the Scholarship Board which is made up of men whose names inspire confidence could have awarded them scholarships without a hitch. Our scholarship award is not meant for the brothers or relatives of the Member of Oyo North West (*Mr Taiwo*). It is meant for the whole Federation, and the award is a reward for academic brilliance. We cannot give scholarships to people who, in the opinion of the Scholarship Board, are not suitable for scholarship. That is why our boys and girls who have benefited from the Federal scholarship awards all over the world are a very good testimony. In fact, last time when I was in Israel I discovered that the student who took the first position in the whole country was a Nigerian. Of all the foreign students in Israel the best student is a girl from Nigeria who is doing medicine. If we had sent the inferior type there, we could not have had such a good result. So, even now, I promise the Member for Oyo North West (*Mr Taiwo*) that if he presents people who are really qualified, they will surely get the award.

**Mr J. B. Eboigbodi** (Asaba West) : On a point of order, it is wrong for the hon. Member who was speaking to come here to tell us the private discussion between himself and the Minister of Education.

**Mr Taiwo** : I have to thank the Minister of Education for his explanation but, with respect, I disagree with him. He was only making a theoretical statement that people who were

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good were awarded scholarships. If he wants to go that deep, the material which I was even referring to then had the best of qualifications he can think of, and I can tell him now that by the grace of God that scholar is finishing up this year. We had to send him. He passed at the same sitting four Advanced Level papers of the General Certificate of Education. I do not know why he was not given a scholarship. And it is not that person alone. Since then we have sent in two persons and they have each time been refused scholarship.

**Mr E. C. Akwivu** (Orlu South East): On a point of order, I think it will be unfair and a very unfortunate thing to get down on record that efforts are being made to influence scholarship awards. If the people the hon. Member is referring to have got the necessary qualifications they should go through the necessary processes. Why should he drag the Minister into it? Why should he bring his personal influence and pressure to bear on the Minister

**Mr Taiwo** : I am not bringing pressure ; I am just quoting examples. We know how the scholarships are awarded. If the Minister will give us the names of the people who have won the scholarships in the past few years, Members will see what I am talking about. Does the Minister want to tell us that it is only from one Region that brilliant people come? We do not need evidence to know that the people who have been receiving the scholarship awards come mainly from one Region. I only want to draw the attention of Members to it. I will leave it to the conscience of Members.

**Onyiba Aja Nwachuku** : I would like the hon. Gentleman who is speaking to remember that the members of the Scholarship Board are drawn from universities and that I am not a member. I am very sure that they will not play any partiality and that they will always choose the best material. If the lecturers from universities and some well-known individuals from Lagos area who are possibly his kith and kin can do their work in the proper way, I do not see any reason for him to come here to argue the point. Those who give these scholarship awards cannot be influenced. And the fact that his brother went to England or to a university does not mean that he was qualified for a scholarship award. One can have the basic qualification for entry into a university,

but that does not entitle one for a scholarship award. If the persons the Member is referring to have Advanced Level G.C.E. papers in Yoruba, Religious Knowledge and British Constitution, those cannot give them the scholarship he wants. These men of the Scholarship Board go through the applications, screen them, vet them and award scholarships to those they think that merit the awards. I am not a member of Scholarship Board and I have no reason to doubt the integrity of those who are members of the Scholarship Board.

**The Minister of Finance** (Chief F. S. Okotie-Eboh): On a point of clarification, I think that if the Minister of Education wants to be realistic about this thing, he should award this man scholarship tonight !

**Mr Speaker** : That is if the Minister can always supply the money.

**Mr Akwivu** : On a point of order, I think, in fairness, that we have been having too many reckless allegations against our own Ministers for some time now. If any Member feels strongly enough about it, and if it is a matter of reckless allegations, allegations can be made from any quarter. I think that Members should be a bit restrained in these allegations. Otherwise, let us declare a free-for-all allegations and let us see who will get the better of it.

**Mr Taiwo** : I am only assuring the Minister of Education. He can do anything. I am not going to apply for scholarship ; I have my job.

I now want to refer to the Ministry of Communications. I have repeatedly on the Floor of this House asked for telephone services for Oyo North. Shaki is such a far place (and it is quite near our border) that I think we must get telephones there.

**Chief Okotie-Eboh** : On a point of information, there are quite a lot of smugglers in Shaki. I know it is near the border.

**Mr Taiwo** : Yes. We require telephones and Police posts there so that we shall be able to curb very well the activities of smugglers. I do not deny that there are smugglers there. They are also in the Calabar and Cameroun areas. So, that has been taken care of by the Minister of Finance. I therefore hope that the Government will help us.

**Chief Okotie-Eboh** : I will come to Shaki.

**Mr Taiwo** : I will welcome the Minister.

Shaki, Oke Iho and Igbetti in Oyo North are in dire need of telephone services. The Federal Government should give us these amenities. Up till now I do not know what we have enjoyed from them. They do not site industries there ; they do not give us scholarships ; they do not come there to prospect for iron ore. We are very rich in iron deposit and we want them to come there and exploit the minerals we have there. We also have rich plantations which can be profitably exploited by the Federal Government. Apart from other advantages, we shall be in a position to provide jobs for our children.

Before I wind up my speech, I have to refer to the agricultural programme of the Federal Government. I would advise the Government to vote more money for agricultural research in order to effect better yield for our yams, cassava and all types of grains. There should also be an elaborate educational propaganda to encourage our boys to go back to the land.

I want also to refer to our roads. I have to praise the Minister of Works for the bit he has been able to do to repair the road between Lagos and Ikorodu. But the bit he has done so far is not enough at all. In the hinterland, for instance, one cannot go from Ibadan to Gbongan or to Ile-Ife two times in a delicate car without coming back to pay a heavy bill for repairs on the car.

I know some of the Ministers will not be able to appreciate this fact because they travel in very big and comfortable cars. I think the time has come for us in Nigeria to legislate against people using big cars. We should follow Ghana in this respect where it is forbidden to ride a car which costs more than £720 on the road. I think that will be saving us a lot of money which will help legislators and civil servants because the initial cost of these big cars is prohibitive and the cost of maintaining them can amount to a fortune. I think I will come to that later on in the Committee Stage.

I was talking of these big cars and lorries which are damaging our roads. Some hon. Members may have noticed that recently we have been having too many big lorries and

tractors plying the Lagos-Sokoto road and other important roads in Nigeria. These lorries and tractors do a lot of damage to our bridges and I think it is high time these lorries and tractors left all these to the Railway. In fact they are stealing the income of the Railway Corporation. Perhaps we shall find it necessary to legislate against these heavy tractors.

I would like to say something about ministerial overseas tours. It is heartening that the Minister of Finance himself said something about this in his speech and I hope he will try to put all he said into practice. Some of these tours are unnecessary and they waste our financial resources. The internal tours of most of these Ministers should also be checked because I understand that whenever they go on tour at home, whether private or official, they are entitled to some of these fat allowances which do not help our finances.

Sir, I beg to support.

**M. Wada Nas** (Kankara Kogo) : I rise to support the Second Reading of the Appropriation Bill ably moved by the Minister of Finance. But I have an appeal to make and that concerns our Ministers. My appeal is not that I am personally against ministerial tours but my point is that in touring they limit their tours as much as possible to this country. It is a pity that our people have been hearing of names like Chief Olu Akinfosile, Dr Jaja Wachuku and Chief Festus Okotie-Eboh, and so on, but they have not seen these people before.

**The Minister of Finance** (Chief F. S. Okotie-Eboh) : On a point of information, Sir, I have been to Katsina about three times and each time I went there my hon. Friend, the Member for Kankara Kogo (*M. Wada Nas*) was drinking whisky somewhere.

**Mr A. F. Odulana** (Ijebu South) : On a point of information, the Member for Kankara Kogo did not say that the Minister of Finance did not come to Katsina. He said the Minister of Finance did not come to his constituency in Katsina. I also want the Minister of Finance to come to my constituency. He is not far away from me but he has never been to my constituency.

**M. Wada Nas** : I am grateful to the Member for Ijebu South. What I am after is that if these Ministers have no time to tour all the



[M. WADA NAS]

constituencies, their Parliamentary Secretaries should have the time. After all, most Members are from rural areas. Unfortunately, we hear over the radio that the Minister of so and so is touring the North, the West, the East and the Mid-West but they never come to our constituencies. I am sure that there are many Ministers who cannot even show Katsina on the map of Nigeria.

**Chief Okotie-Eboh :** I must protest vehemently against what the Member for Kankara Kogo has just said, that Ministers are so daft that they do not even know the geography of Nigeria. It is the greatest insult that can be levelled against Ministers and I am asking the Member for Kankara Kogo to withdraw it. Otherwise I shall ask that the debate be closed.

**The Speaker :** He did not say all Ministers.

**Mr S. D. Lar (Lowland East) :** On a point of order. I want to protest on behalf of my hon. Friend, the Member for Kankara Kogo (*M. Wada Nas*). The Minister of Finance is saying that he will close the debate because of the statement of the hon. gentleman. I do not think the Member for Kankara Kogo is the only man who drinks. There are so many Members of Parliament who drink. Therefore, I am protesting.

**M. Wada Nas :** I should like to appeal to the Minister that it is high time now that the road from Kontagora to Kaduna should be improved. That road is very dangerous. Many lives are being lost there. The road is not straight and the bridges on it are very narrow. Many Members have been appealing to the Minister of Works to do something about this road, but up till now the Minister has done nothing, so far as I can see, to make the road clear and motorable.

I am appealing to the Minister of Communications that Katsina and Funtua should be linked by telephone. During Question Time a Member asked that the link should be from Funtua, Malun Fashi and then to Katsina. I think the right link for that road should be Funtua, Kankara (my own constituency), Dutsinma and then to Katsina.

I beg to support.

**M. Umaru Gella (Mubi) :** I rise to support the Second Reading of the Appropriation Bill, 1964-65. In doing so, I am to outline a few things.

I would like to thank the Minister of Commerce and Industry for his effort to establish some industrial projects to meet the heavy demand of the people of this country. It is gratifying also to note that it is the intention of the Government to do all it can to establish more industries all over the country. I wish to draw the attention of the Government to the fact that the rural areas seem to be neglected and my Province—the Sardauna Province—is among them.

I strongly appeal to the Government to establish an industry in Sardauna Province. The people of Sardauna Province do not fully enjoy the Federal Government's amenities at all and I hope that the Minister will try to see that something is done in that Province.

The Minister of Commerce and Industry should also please make a special grant to Sardauna Province. I will outline my reason for saying this. We here in this Parliament will remember that about two years ago there was a plebiscite in our Province. This I think was a national issue. A few months ago there was also a plebiscite somewhere else in Nigeria. I do not know whether it is because the Minister of Finance is from there, a lot of money was voted by this Parliament for that plebiscite. That was not the case with the plebiscite in Sardauna Province.

That plebiscite was a national one because we were totally cut off before from this Federation, but we voted to form a part of Nigeria. I think if we are not to lose our rights, if we are to look after our constituencies as the Ministers also look after their own, they have to do something for Sardauna Province in particular.

I am afraid I have to say something which perhaps I should not say. I do not know whether the Minister of Finance reserved the money or the vote which should have been used during the plebiscite in Sardauna Province for the Mid-West plebiscite. However, I should like to come back to my point, and that is, that a special grant should be given to Sardauna Province—the former Northern

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Cameroons. I am appealing to the Minister of Finance that a special grant—£6,594,470—should be given to Sardauna Province.

**Chief F. S. Okotie-Eboh** : And two shillings and eight pence.

**M. Umaru Gella** : I thank the Minister of Finance for adding that amount. If we are given this special grant, I think it will help the Sardauna Province. The Sardauna Province is the youngest Province in Northern Nigeria and it is I think the intention of the Federal Government to do its best to see that every corner of Nigeria is developed at the same level as the others.

Members of this honourable House know that everyone fights for his constituency. We have to do that because we had the votes of our constituencies before we came here. Whether we are Ministers or Floor Members it is all the same. We are going back to our constituencies and we have to do something for our people before we can expect their votes again. Therefore, I appeal very strongly to the Minister of Finance to do his best, to use his office and help the people of the Sardauna Province. Let me leave the Minister of Finance for the moment.

I have to say something also about the Minister of Defence. The Minister of Defence gave a great help to Sardauna Province. The Defence Minister built a police station in the Sardauna Province to look after the security of the people. Therefore, on behalf of my entire constituency, I have to thank this Minister.

I should now come to the Minister of Economic Development. I very much appreciate the rapid developments made in this country within these few years. In thanking the Minister, I would like to call his attention to the rural areas which seem to be neglected. I believe most of us here come from those areas and we are quite aware of the bad condition in which the poor and remote villagers live.

Development should not be concentrated only in the main towns but should equally be extended to the rural areas. Our rural areas are badly in need of development.

I will now go over to the Ministry of Education. I am thanking the Government for the laudable work they have done in the expansion of education in the country. This country is developing rapidly in the field of education and this is largely attributable to the industry of the Minister of Education. I hope the Minister will continue to remember and bear in mind the rural areas. More schools should be built in the rural areas.

I would like to draw the attention of the Minister of Establishments to the fact that people coming from the Regions to Lagos face accommodation difficulties. This of course refers to civil servants.

I would like to refer the Minister of Works to the appalling conditions of the Trunk A road from Mubi to Girei in Sardauna Province so as to foster trade between Nigeria and the Cameroons.

The Government, and in particular the Minister of Finance should be seriously urged to establish a customs and excise post in Mubi where the people have been subjected to unwarranted search carried out from house to house. It will also promote trade relations if an exchange bank is established in Mubi to enable the people to change their monies easily, from one currency to another.

There is much need for medical attention in this area. In Sardauna Province at the moment there is scarcely any medical unit. There is no hospital and no medical centre. This not only causes a lot of inconveniences to the people, but also makes life extremely difficult for them.

It will be highly appreciated if the Minister of Information will kindly establish information centres in the rural areas in general and in Sardauna Province in particular, in order to acquaint the people with what is happening both in the country and all over the world.

I appeal to the Minister of Mines and Power to provide Mubi with electricity, bearing in mind that Mubi is the capital of Sardauna Province.

It is a pity to point out the inconvenience caused by the over flooding of the road from Bama to Mubi, during the rainy season thus rendering it unmotorable. I urge the Government to rectify this situation by immediately effecting the necessary repairs on this road.

I beg to support.

[M. UMARU GELLA]

**M Ahmadu Angara Doma** (Lafia) : I rise to support the Second Reading of the Appropriation (1964-65) Bill presented by the hon. Minister of Finance. In doing so, I associate myself with all the sentiments so far expressed by those hon. Members who have spoken previously.

I only want to emphasise that the efforts of the Federal Government towards our primary production is very well known. Agriculture is the backbone of our Federal Republic, and this field requires every care and attention. There should be a very good arrangement between the Federal Government and the Regional Governments whereby agriculture is made a compulsory subject in all our schools right from the primary schools.

**Chief F. S. Okotie-Eboh** : On a point of order, I think we must watch the Member for Enyong South (*Mr Ekanem*) very closely. If we do not find him here tomorrow, we will know he has gone somewhere because I can see him turning over his passport here.

**Mr P. E. Ekanem** : On a point of information, it was the hon. Minister of Finance who impounded my passport. He has only just returned it to me a few minutes ago.

**Mr Speaker** : I suppose he is expecting that you will go on a pilgrimage soon.

**M. Ahmadu Angara Doma** : If we fail to modernise our agricultural system to be attractive right from now, I am afraid the question of unemployment will never be overcome. Even though many factories are being established our standard of living will rise to such an extent that we may resort to rationing as is now the case in some other countries.

Farmers throughout the Federation should be aided technically and financially. Although the Regional Governments are doing their

best towards this, yet more attention is required. The Federal Government does not seem to be doing as much as they should do in this respect.

The Government is doing a lot for the improvement of our Trunk A roads but there are still important roads for it to care for. Despite the frequent promises in this House by the Minister concerned the Aliede-Jos-Makurdi Road which is the main road between Northern and Eastern Nigeria, is still untarred. I remember that on several occasions the Minister gave an assurance to this House that this road would soon be tarred, but up till now there is nothing heard or done about it.

My request to the Federal Government is that Lafia town in my constituency should be included in the Six-Year Development Plan for electricity supply. I would like the Federal Government to investigate all the mineral resources found in my constituency, and at least tap one of these within this Six-Year Development Plan period.

Lastly, I wish to appeal to the Prime Minister to do everything in his power to foster the unity of this country, and to guard the peace and tranquillity which we now enjoy. I ask him to make it a point of duty to invite the Regional Premiers at least twice every year to discuss important matters affecting this country, especially the very delicate ones. We should always remember and bear in mind the dignity of the high offices which each and everyone of these men holds.

I beg to support.

#### ADJOURNMENT

*And it being after 6 p.m., Mr Speaker adjourned the House without Question put, pursuant to Standing Order 5 (10).*

*Adjourned accordingly at 12 mid-night.*

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

Thursday, 26th March, 1964

The House met at 10 a.m.

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

Business Committee

**Mr Speaker :** I have to inform the House that Alhaji Muhammadu Gauyarma reports from the Business Committee that in accordance with Standing Order 55 (1) (c) they have decided that the following Private Members' Motions be placed on the Order Paper for Tuesday, 31st March :

- (1) Improvement of the conditions of service of Police Officers, No. 1260 in the Order Book ;
- (2) Widening of all Federal roads, No. 109 in the Order Book ;
- (3) Retiring age of civil servants, No. 108 in the Order Book ;
- (4) Ambassador to France, Soviet Union, Communist China and Japan, No. 66 in the Order Book ;
- (5) Postal facilities in the rural areas, No. 113 in the Order Book ;
- (6) Ginger-Ale factory in Southern Zaria, No. 125 in the Order Book.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

CABINET OFFICE

Nwaigwe Police Station

**O.120. Mr M. B. Afanideh** asked the Prime Minister, if he does not consider it essential to provide Nwaigwe Police Station with a van to enable the officers there to cope with any emergency in the area, in view of the long distance from there to Ikot Ekpene or Aba Police Station.

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister** (Alhaji Sanni Gezawa): The attention of the Member for Ikot Ekpene South (*Mr Afanideh*) is invited to the reply to Question No. O.72 published in the *Hansard* o 19th March, 1964.

Prime Minister to Tour

**O.121. Mr M. B. Afanideh** asked the Prime Minister when he intends to tour the Calabar, Ogoja and Rivers area, especially the Old Calabar Province, in view of the fact that the majority of the people are anxious to see him and his Federal Ministers.

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister** (Mr S. A. Lana): The Prime Minister hopes to tour Calabar, Ogoja and Rivers area, including the Old Calabar Province, as soon as his other duties permit him.

Mrs Adanma Okpara

**O.257. Mr R. N. Muojeke** asked the Prime Minister, if he will make a statement regarding the circumstances in which Mrs Adanma Okpara, wife of the Premier of Eastern Nigeria, was searched by a team of male police officers at Amukpe on Wednesday, January 29th, 1964, stating the names of the officers involved.

**Alhaji Sanni Gezawa :** The person of Mrs Adanma Okpara, wife of the Premier of Eastern Nigeria, was not searched by police officers at Amukpe on the 29th January, 1964. It will be recalled that during this period campaigns were in progress for the impending Mid-West elections now concluded. In order to combat lawlessness, instructions were given to the Mid-West Police to search all vehicles for offensive weapons. The vehicle in which the wife of the Premier of Eastern Nigeria was travelling, not her person, was subjected to such a search.

It is contrary to Parliamentary practice to refer to public servants by name in the House.

Police at Campaigns

**O.258. Mr N. E. Elenwa** asked the Prime Minister, if he is aware that policemen were being used to intimidate voters during the electioneering campaign in Mid-Western Nigeria ; and if he will prevent such occurrence in future elections.

**Alhaji Sanni Gezawa :** No. Sir.

Assistance to the Mid-West

**O.260. Mr F. C. Ogbalu** asked the Prime Minister, if he will state what help he has given to the Mid-Western Nigerian Government ;

[MR OGBALU]

and how much more help the Federal Government proposes to give to this young region.

**Mr Lana :** The Federal Government made constitutional arrangements for the establishment of the Region and for its administration up to the expiration of the period of six months beginning with the date of the establishment of the Region. The Government also arranged for the enactment of an Act of Parliament which made provision for the Constitution of Mid-Western Nigeria.

Some senior officers of the Federal Public Service were transferred to the Public Service of the Region.

The Office of the Accountant-General of the Federation helped to set up the Treasury organisation in the Region by providing some staff and equipment, whilst an experienced senior officer of the Federal Printing Department was seconded to the Region to assist in setting up a Printing Press for the Government of the Region. The Federal Government also arranged for the secondment of an Economic and Financial Adviser from the World Bank to the Government of Mid-Western Nigeria.

Arrangements for the recent elections into the Mid-Western House of Assembly were made by the Federal Government.

£1 million from the First Federal Republic of Nigeria Development Loan has been on-lent to the Government of Mid-Western Nigeria.

Depending on the resources available to it, the Federal Government will consider any further assistance to the Region if the Mid-Western Government requests it.

**Chief D. N. Oronsaye (Benin East) :** Will the Prime Minister state when the help in connection with the share of assets and liabilities of the former Western Region will be undertaken?

**The Prime Minister :** This is entirely a matter between the Mid-Western Government and the Government of the Western Region.

**Mr W. O. Briggs (Degema) :** Will the Prime Minister also say whether the Mid-Western Government will contribute its quota to the Niger Delta Development Fund in view of the fact that there are some members from the Delta area in the Mid-West?

**The Prime Minister :** The finances of the Niger Development Board are entirely provided by the Federal Government; but the Mid-Western Government will, however, contribute towards the cost of all regional projects in the same way as the Western Regional and Eastern Regional Governments are doing.

#### Police Recruitment Drive

**O.340. Mr Mr I. O. Chikelu** asked the Prime Minister, what steps have been taken so far to popularise opportunities in the Police Force among secondary school leavers.

**Alhaji Sanni Gezawa :** A pamphlet entitled "KEEPERS OF THE PEACE—FACTS ABOUT THE NIGERIA POLICE" has been published by the Police and copies were made available to the public through the Federal and Regional Ministries of Information. Another book, "GUIDE TO CAREERS IN THE FEDERAL PUBLIC SERVICE" published by the Federal Ministry of Establishments, copies of which were distributed to secondary schools, contains a chapter giving useful information about the careers and prospects in the Nigeria Police Force.

In addition to these publications, Senior Police officers go on recruitment campaigns to secondary schools in Lagos and in the Regions. There are excellent opportunities for secondary school leavers. In addition there is a Cadet Sub-Inspector Scheme which requires candidates to possess a General Certificate of Education or a West African School certificate with passes at Ordinary level or credits respectively in at least four subjects including English language and mathematics.

#### Universities Grants

**O.341. Mr F. A. M. Amadi** asked the Prime Minister, what are the formulae for the allocation of grants to the universities by the National Universities Commission; and how far were the formulae applied in the distribution of the grant of £450,000 made in the last fiscal year.

**Alhaji Sanni Gezawa :** The amount of £450,000 paid to the Regional Universities during the last academic session was an interim grant intended to relieve their financial difficulties pending the Commission's detailed examination of the financial needs of the Universities. The amount was allocated equally between the Regional Universities.

The Report submitted by the Commission and a White Paper stating the Federal Government's decisions on the Commission's recommendations, including the basis for allocation of grants to the Universities during the quinquennium 1963-1968, will be laid before this House at its present meeting.

**Mr Amadi :** I do not think the answer given to my question is really to the point. My question requests how the £450,000 was allocated. However, I want the Prime Minister to state whether he took into account the fact that the Eastern Nigeria Government built the University of Nigeria alone and should receive special consideration in the allocation of this amount.

#### Police Posts for Nsukka Division

**O.342. Mr F. A. M. Amadi** asked the Prime Minister, when the proposal to establish police posts at Aku, Umulokpa, and Enugu-Ezike in Nsukka Division will be implemented.

**Alhaji Sanni Gezawa :** Standard Major Rural Police Stations have been recommended for these areas. The implementation of the proposal is receiving consideration with other pressing needs during the current 1962-68 development programme, but the timing will depend on the availability of funds and the order of priority.

#### U.N.O. Census Official

**O.343. Mr E. D. Akinbowale** asked the Prime Minister, why the U.N.O. official who came to Nigeria to help with the 1963 Census had to leave without completing his assignment.

**Mr S. A. Lana :** The Official left Nigeria because his contract had expired.

#### Constituency Delimitation

**O.346. Mr P. O. Akpan** asked the Prime Minister, how soon he intends to set up a commission to delimit the Constituencies for the forthcoming Federal Elections.

**Mr S. A. Lana :** The Prime Minister hopes to appoint a Commission to delimit constituencies for the forthcoming Federal Elections as soon as the final population figures are released.

### EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

#### Diplomatic Missions

**O.122. Alhaji Isa Haruna** asked the Minister of External Affairs, if he will give a list of countries in which Nigeria has opened embassies since 1st of October, 1960.

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of External Affairs (Mr M. O. Okilo) :** Since the 1st of October, 1960, Nigeria has established 7 High Commissions and 20 Embassies in the following countries :—

<i>High Commission</i>	<i>Embassies</i>
Ghana	Belgium
India	Cameroun
Pakistan	Chad
Sierra Leone	Congo (Leopoldville)
Tanganyika	Dahomey
United Kingdom	United Arab Republic
Uganda	Ethiopia
	Guinea
	Ireland
	Italy
	Ivory Coast
	Liberia
	Niger
	Saudi Arabia
	Senegal
	Soviet Union
	Sudan
	Togo
	United States of America
	Western Germany

#### Foreign Mission In Nigeria

**O.123. Alhaji Isa Haruna** asked the Minister of External Affairs, how many countries have opened embassies in this country.

**Mr M. O. Okilo :** Forty-three countries have established Embassies in Nigeria. In addition, there are seven Commonwealth High Commissions and one Consulate of the Kingdom of Greece.

**Mr F. C. Ogbalu (Awka North) :** When does the Prime Minister intend to appoint an Ambassador to Israel ?

#### France

**O.124. Alhaji Isa Haruna** asked the Minister of External Affairs, when he proposes to reopen diplomatic relations with France.

**Mr M. O. Okilo :** As soon as practicable.

**U.N.O. Congo Force**

**O.125. Mr R. N. Muojeke** asked the Minister of External Affairs, what is the stand of Nigeria with regard to the proposal of the United Nations to withdraw its forces from the Congo; and if he will make a statement.

**Mr Okilo** : The primary responsibility for deciding whether or not to request the United Nations to continue its operations in the Congo is one for the Government of the Congo Republic itself.

**Angola**

**O.261. Mr F. C. Ogbalu** asked the Prime Minister, what steps he has taken to bring home to the Portuguese Government Nigeria's opposition to its policy in Angola; and what help the Federal Government has given to the Angolan nationalists in their struggle for Independence.

**Mr Okilo** : Nigeria has played a leading role, since independence, in supporting the cause of the nationalists of Angola and other African territories under Portuguese control. No effort has been spared either by direct action or through various organisations (including the United Nations and all its agencies to impress on the Portuguese Government the necessity for arranging an early and orderly transfer of power to the Africans in their own countries.

The Nigerian Government has given consistent and substantial support to the nationalists of Angola both through the Decolonisation Committee of the Organisation of African Unity and by direct contact with the representatives of the Angolan people.

**Alhaji Aminu Kano (Kano East)** : May I know when the Government intends to recognise the Provisional Government of Angola based in Congo (Leopoldville).

**Mr Okilo** : That is a new question.

**Alhaji Aminu Kano** : The reply of the Parliamentary Secretary on the recognition of the Provisional Government of Mr Roberto does not satisfy me. What I want to know is whether he is aware that some other African countries have already recognised the Provisional Government. Are we going to make the same mistake that we made in the case of Algeria?

**Mr Okilo** : We do not say we will not recognise Mr Roberto's Provisional Government, but the Government will do so as soon as practicable.

**Mr W. O. Briggs (Degema)** : May I know why the Government does not intend to give substantial financial assistance to the Angolan Government in exile?

**Mr Okilo** : The Government has given all material help to all the nationalists.

**O.263. Alhaji Ibrahim Na Maitama** asked the Minister of External Affairs, if he will state why he refused the Minister of State for Commonwealth Relations in his Ministry to hold a press Conference after his return from Ethiopia; and if he will make a statement.

**Mr Okilo** : To the best of my knowledge, the Minister of External Affairs has not refused permission to the Minister of State for Commonwealth Relations to hold a press conference at any time.

**Pilgrims**

**O.264. Alhaji Ibrahim Na Maitama** asked the Minister of External Affairs, if he will state what assistance he has given to Nigerian pilgrims in Saudi Arabia.

**Mr Okilo** : The hon. Member will be aware of the elaborate arrangements made over the last three years to facilitate pilgrimage to Mecca and the holy places. As is well known, our Embassies in Sudan and Saudi Arabia and our other offices along the normal pilgrimage routes devote much of their efforts towards providing all possible assistance for pilgrims to perform their religious duties.

In Saudi Arabia, a Medical Mission as well as a Pilgrim Mission is usually sent during Hadj to assist the Pilgrim Officers in meeting the various needs of our pilgrims. It is proposed to expand the existing facilities and to provide further material assistance in the form of transit camps and shelters in Medina and Taif.

**Mr F. C. Ogbalu (Awka North)** : May I know what assistance has been given to Christian pilgrims going to Rome?

**Diplomatic Missions in Africa**

**O.265. Mr N. E. Elenwa** asked the Minister of External Affairs, whether he is aware that Nigeria has not established diplomatic relations with some important African countries; and whether he will make a statement.

**Mr Okilo** : The Nigerian Government has established diplomatic relations with twenty-three African countries and still intends, at an appropriate time, to establish diplomatic relations with more. The Government regards all African countries as important.

**Nigeria's Ambassadors**

**O.266. Mr N. E. Elenwa** asked the Minister of External Affairs, if he is aware that some of our Ambassadors are so aged that they are unable to perform the social aspects of their duties; and if he will make a statement.

**Mr Okilo** : I am not aware.

**O.347. Mr V. A. Nwalieji** asked the Minister of External Affairs, if he will give a list of countries in which Nigeria has embassies or high commissions.

**Mr Okilo** : I refer the hon. Member to my answer to question No. O.122 asked by the Member for Jos South (*Alhaji Isa Haruna*).

**New African Governments**

**O.348. Mr D. M. Gbolagunte** asked the Minister of External Affairs, why the Government has not recognised the new governments of the Republic of Zanzibar, Dahomey and Congo (Brazzaville).

**Mr Okilo** : The hon. Member appears to be misinformed. Nigeria recognises Dahomey, Congo (Brazzaville) and Zanzibar. Indeed, there is a Nigerian Embassy at Cotonou and a Dahomean Ambassador in Lagos. Also, formal agreement of the Zanzibar Government has been secured for the appointment of a Nigerian High Commissioner to that country.

**Mr A. F. Odulana** (Ijebu South): How does the Minister expect the Member from Ibarapa to know that?

**Mr B. N. Ukegbu** (Owerri South East): Will the Minister explain to the House why the Government has to wait for the United Kingdom to recognise the Government, of

Zanzibar before doing so, thus putting the Government of Nigeria in a shameful position of appearing to be acting under the wings of the British Government.

**The Minister of External Affairs** (Dr Jaja Wachuku): I would like the Member from Owerri South East to withdraw such a remark. Nigeria acts independently of any state. We have bases on which we recognise states. There are certain factors which govern this. If Members want an answer they will get one. (*Interruptions*).

It appears that Members are not interested in the answer!

**Mr D. N. Abii** (Owerri East): Will the Minister kindly tell this House if Nigeria acted on the pulse of the British action. Would he agree?

**Mr F. I. Okoronkwo** (Aba Urban): We would like the Minister to give us an answer to that question because in this country it seems that in matters pertaining to Africa, the Government of the Federation of Nigeria would wait until others take a decision. That is ridiculing us before the eyes of the world and of Africa as a whole. I would like the Minister to give us an answer.

**Dr Wachuku** : I sincerely hope that if Members want an answer they will keep quiet, otherwise if they cause a confusion then they cannot hear the answer.

Now, in recognising a situation, first of all, one does not just rush in, because one may recognise one regime now and may find that the same regime is thrown out the next day when one will be confronted with recognising another one. Therefore, one would allow a situation to settle down by calculation and valuable information to make sure that such a regime is capable of taking control of the whole situation before one gives one's recognition. (*Interruptions*).

If Members would listen, for instance, in the case of Zanzibar, if hon. Members have been following the trend of events, they will remember that the Sultan of Zanzibar left and went to England. It could have been possible, if Britain wanted to bring him back, to restore him. The fact that in the final analysis Britain recognised Zanzibar is a conclusive evidence that there was no intention on their part to



[DR WACHUKU]

bring back the man to make things impossible for the new regime. That explains why the new regime expelled some of their people.

Now, since that was done, it was quite clear that there was no evidence of any extraneous power intending to overthrow the new regime. And I am not going to tell the House what we did behind the scenes in order to make sure that that never happened. So, when we were satisfied that the regime had no threat from any other side we gave our recognition.

Meanwhile, the High Commissioner in Tanganyika is accredited to that state, if Members would like to know.

#### Southern Rhodesia and Angola

O.349. Mr D. N. Gbolagunte asked the Minister of External Affairs, if he will state the degree of help, moral and financial, which Nigeria has given or proposes to give to the struggling nationalists in Southern Rhodesia and Angola.

Mr Okilo : The Nationalists of Angola and Southern Rhodesia, as well as of all other States still dependent African countries know very well the considerable and consistent assistance they have received, morally and materially, from Nigeria. It would not be in the public interest to give any details of this but to take only one salutary example, the records of the Decolonisation Committee set up under the Organisation of African Unity will clearly demonstrate the substantial contribution Nigeria has made to the cause of African freedom.

Shettima Ali Monguno (Kaga Marghi) : In connection with Angola we would like to associate ourselves with what was said, but can the Minister assure this House that the Portuguese Consul who, I think, is now on leave has left finally ?

Mr Gbolagunte : Would the Minister consider the expulsion of Angolan refugees from this country as a greater support to the freedom fighters of that country ?

#### Mr Chou-en-lai

O.354. Mr W. O. Briggs asked the Minister of External Affairs, whether an invitation was sent to Mr Chou-en-lai, the Chinese Prime

Minister, who recently toured the African Continent to visit Nigeria ; and if he will make a statement.

Mr Okoli : Nigeria was not informed or approached at the time Mr Chou-en-lai's Government made their arrangements for his tour of Africa and other parts of Europe and Asia. Since the Government was not aware of his itinerary, or the reasons for his selection of the countries which he visited, it was not possible to extend the invitation to him at any time.

Mr F. I. Okoronkwo (Aba Urban) : Is the Minister not aware that because of Nigeria's attitude towards the Communist Government of China the Prime Minister of China does not intend to visit Nigeria.

Dr Wachuku : I am not aware.

#### Diplomatic Representation

O.355. Chief D. N. Oronsaye asked the Minister of External Affairs, whether he intends to have ambassadors posted to Communist countries in 1964 ; and if he will make a statement.

Mr Okilo : Nigeria has established diplomatic relations with a number of countries in Eastern Europe including the Soviet Union, Poland, Czechoslovakia, Yugoslavia, Bulgaria and Hungary.

An Ambassador has recently been appointed to the Soviet Union. Ambassadors to the other countries listed above and to other countries in which Nigerian diplomatic missions exist will be appointed as and when possible.

Mr W. O. Briggs (Degema) : May I know from the hon. Minister the criteria on which Nigeria should base their policy before establishing diplomatic relations with any other country.

Dr Wachuku : There is no country in the world which gives either to the Parliament or to the public the reason for establishing diplomatic relations with foreign countries.

Mr Speaker : It is now 10.30 a.m. and no further questions can be entertained in accordance with Standing Orders.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

**Chief F. S. Okotie-Eboh :** I think it would be for the convenience of hon. Members if I announce the business of the next week to-day.

As the House will not sit on Saturday the 28th of March and on Monday the 30th of March, the Morning and the Afternoon Sittings of Tuesday the 31st of March will be devoted to Private Members' Business. At a Night Sitting on Tuesday the 31st of March we will continue the debate on the Second Reading of the Appropriation Bill. Wednesday, 1st April, is the final day for the Second Reading of the Appropriation Bill. Thursday, 2nd April, Friday, 3rd April, and Saturday, 4th April, are the first two days allotted for the Committee of Supply.

NOTICE OF MOTION

SITTINGS OF THE HOUSE

**Chief Okotie-Eboh :** I beg to move—

That, this day, notwithstanding the provisions of Standing Order 5 (Sittings of the House), the House shall sit at the following times—

From 10 a.m. till 1 p.m. ; from 3 p.m. till 6 p.m. ; and from 9 p.m. till 12 midnight.

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

**Mr A. F. Odulana (Ijebu South) :** I think the Minister of Finance is being unfair to the hon. Members of this House by asking that the House should sit till 12 mid-night. If the House can be assured by the Minister that all the Ministers including himself, will be present, it would be better.

It has been announced in the *Papers* that he is going to Sapele this evening for the Easter holidays, and he is asking us to come here for a night sitting.

**The Minister of Information (Mr T. O. S. Benson) :** The Member for Ijebu South (*Mr Odulana*) can go to Sapele tonight with the Minister of Finance.

**Mr Odulana :** This is a very serious matter. I do not mind sitting in the night, but where Ministers like the Minister of Finance, put

all Members to task by asking for night sitting, then they are not being fair to us. This is unfair to everyone of us.

I was here last night and the Minister of Finance was not here. I want to see the Minister of Finance here tonight, even though it has been announced in the newspapers that he is going to Sapele. I know his aeroplane is already waiting at the airport, and that is why I rise to oppose this Motion. What is good for the goose must also be good for the gander. I do not mind sitting here till 3 a.m.

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Resolved :* That, *this day*, notwithstanding the provisions of Standing Order 5 (Sittings of the House), the House shall sit at the following times—

From 10 a.m. till 1 p.m. ;  
From 3 p.m. till 6 p.m. ; and  
From 9 p.m. till 12 midnight.

ADJOURNMENT (EASTER)

**Chief Okotie-Eboh :** I beg to move—

That this House, at its rising *this day*, do adjourn till Tuesday next.

**Minister of State for the Police (Mr M. A. O. Olarewaju) :** I beg to second.

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Resolved :* That this House, at its rising *this day*, do adjourn till Tuesday next.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

APPROPRIATION (1964-65) BILL  
(THIRD ALLOTTED DAY)

ADJOURNED DEBATE ON SECOND READING  
(18TH MARCH)

*Motion made and Question proposed, That the Bill be now read a Second time.*

**The Minister of Economic Development (Alhaji Waziri Ibrahim) :** General discussion on the financial and economic policies of the Federal Government cannot be meaningful and complete unless hon. Members have been provided with prior indication of the general economic trends, significant events, development in and outside Nigeria within the past year and a projection of the economic prospects before us.

[ALHAJI IBRAHIM]

I am not trying to forestall what hon. Members have to say on Government policies but rather to provide them with the basic economic data and the ammunition with which to assess more realistically our economic and financial policies, particularly in the context of the Six-Year Development Programme.

I wish, with your permission, Sir, to deal with the activities of my Ministry in five parts :

(i) the way and manner my Ministry has performed and hopes to perform in the areas where I have direct executive responsibility ;

(ii) the important co-ordination functions of my Ministry ;

(iii) the progress of the Six-Year Development Plan and the prospects of the Nigerian economy ;

(iv) a general review of the Nigerian economy ; and

(v) Nigeria and the world economy.

My Ministry is directly responsible for federal agriculture. In the past, we have concentrated mainly on agricultural research for which we have the research departments for Agriculture, Forestry, Veterinary and Fisheries Service. I am also responsible for supervising the activities of the commodity research institutes for Cocoa, Oil Palm and Trypanosomiasis. Research work has now started on kola and coffee and consideration is being given to extending Federal research activities to rubber and other commodities.

The other Institute for which I am responsible is the Nigerian Institute for Social and Economic Research which has recently been re-established as an independent academic body to be equipped for basic research into our fundamental economic problems. A Nigerian will soon be appointed as the Director of this important institute in the near future. In addition to strengthening N.I.S.E.R., my Ministry now works very closely with our Nigerian Universities' Professors and Lecturers.

I firmly believe that in the long run, it is Nigerians who have to develop Nigeria. There is no point in going outside Nigeria for expert advice if we get it locally from our own universities.

I have nothing spectacular to report about the activities of these research departments and institutes since it is in the nature of scientific

research that the accruing benefits are usually of a long term nature. I have listed them to show the wide range of federal activities in the agricultural development of this country.

In order to develop our fishing industry, Government proposes to establish in Lagos in the very near future, a fishing terminal at a total cost of over £700,000 to provide landing and cold storage facilities for our fishing industry. Fish processing industries will also be established near the fishing terminal.

Work has already started on a fisheries research station at Malam Fatori on the Lake Chad. The research facilities at the station will be available to all our neighbouring states bordering on the Lake Chad—the Republics of Niger, Chad, and Cameroun. We are jointly planning the development of the Chad Basin with these countries.

This review of the activities of the Federal Government in the agricultural field will not be complete if I do not mention the proposal to establish a National Agricultural Credit Bank with an initial capital of about £3 million.

We have started preliminary discussions on this project with the World Bank and the U.S.A.I.D. An important project like this should have been one of the first to be started under the Six-Year Development Programme but we have been waiting for the Report of the Agricultural Planning Mission from the United Nations Food and Agricultural Organisation before finalising the details of the project. We hope that the F.A.O. experts will make concrete proposals and recommendations which will assist both the Federal Government and the Regional Governments in further planning the development of agriculture—our most important industry.

Because of the important role we attach to the development of agriculture, an Agriculture and Natural Resources Division has now been established in my Ministry to co-ordinate the agricultural activities of the Regional Governments and promote a national agricultural policy.

The establishment of this new division was part of the reorganisation proposals of my Ministry which have now been completed. We now have within the Ministry of Economic Development what I would like to call the central planning organs : namely, the Economic Planning Unit responsible for national economic

planning; the National Manpower Board looking after manpower budgetting and the manpower requirements of the Nigerian economy and the Federal Office of Statistics.

We have recently recruited an outstanding United Nations expert as the Chief Statistician. We have of course, in accordance with Government policy appointed a very capable Nigerian as the Deputy Chief Statistician to under-study him.

When these central planning organs, particularly the Economic Planning Unit, are adequately staffed, the Federal Government will be in a position to give technical assistance to the Regional Governments. We will then send some of our people to assist the Regions in specific areas where they require outside assistance.

We have also established within the Ministry a permanent Secretariat for the National Economic Council and its Committees. The National Economic Council has recently established Ministerial Committees to cover agriculture, industry and power, national planning and other important areas of strategic significance to the development of the national economy.

Members will appreciate from this long catalogue of responsibilities why we have asked for very generous staff provisions in the Estimates before this House. We are essentially a service Ministry to provide technical advice to the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister and for all the Ministries and try to co-ordinate their activities. Such advice and co-ordination can only be effective if given by those with the expert knowledge and technical know-how. We will therefore accelerate our training programme for our young Nigerian economists.

I regard this function of co-ordination as my most important responsibility. National economic planning and our first National Development Plan in particular, will produce very little results if the activities of the Federal Ministries and the Federal Statutory Corporations on the one hand, and those of the Regional Governments and even Private Enterprises are not properly co-ordinated.

Very often in any large organisation, the left hand does not know what the right hand is doing. This problem is very serious in the case of Governments where two different Ministries may be duplicating their efforts by doing the same thing or taking at the same time

two contradictory decisions yielding several conflicting results.

In the past, primarily due to staff shortages, the question of effective co-ordination has not been as good as it should have been. Besides, some executing Ministries and Statutory Corporations are so used to doing things in their own way that they always look at any efforts to co-ordinate their activities as outside interference. I am determined, however, to ensure that in spite of these difficulties, the economic activities of the Governments in the Republic are co-ordinated in a better way for the benefit of the whole country.

National economic planning involves discipline and co-ordinated efforts. I have, in the course of the past year, held very useful preliminary discussions jointly and severally with leading Nigerian businessmen and Chairmen of Federal Statutory Corporations. I am glad to report that they all share my anxiety to move ahead in this matter of effective co-ordination. Besides, all the Regional Governments have clearly shown that they are ready to tackle our common economic problems as an integral part of a whole.

This review will not be complete if I do not touch on the progress we have made so far in implementing the Six-Year Development Programme. But the details have already been set out in Sessional Paper No. 3 of 1964, and I do not propose to go over the factual story clearly told there. I would like, however, to emphasise that we appear to be too much in a hurry.

The development process is a very slow and painful course to follow particularly, if like the Federal Government, one is anxious to invest one's money wisely. Besides, one requires time to execute capital works and construction projects. I appeal to Members to take these factors into account when assessing the progress we have made so far.

No Government can implement all the projects in its Development Programme within two years. Too many people have expected too much benefit too soon from the Six-Year Development Plan and far too few people have been prepared to sacrifice anything for Nigeria's development. It is understandable that our people should be impatient, but we all owe it as a sacred duty to explain to them that if we as a people wish to develop through a democratic process with freedom of choice, guaranteed

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fundamental human rights and free political institutions, the speed must be slow. We just cannot do it overnight within such a framework.

I do not wish to be mistaken for a gradualist as such. I recognise that in order to preserve national stability, we have to show results sooner than later. If one reads the first Progress Report on the Federal Government Programme with an open mind, one will discover some of the solid achievements attained so far in spite of our many difficulties, obstacles and "bottlenecks".

Several of these difficulties arise from the fact that as a people, Nigerians do not as yet control or determine their own economic destiny. Whether it is in wholesale and retail trade, shipping, commercial banking, insurance, road transport and other basic activities of our economic life, it is the non-Nigerians who control the purse-strings and run the show.

We must therefore judge our performances within this context of economic dependency. No sacrifice is too great for us to Nigerianise retail trade, shipping, commercial banking, insurance and other vital areas of economic activity within the shortest time possible.

This is the clear implication and inescapable inference from "Economic Nationalism," the theme of the "National Budget" we are considering. We must not, of course, under-rate the practical difficulties and the possible consequences of economic nationalism particularly when this is mistaken for isolationism. Whether we like it or not, Nigeria is and will remain an integral part of the world economy but Nigerians must have a greater say in the way our economic affairs are managed.

When I had the honour and privilege to lead the Nigerian delegation to the bi-annual conference of the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations in Rome last November, I developed this theme at great length in my opening address. That address has been reproduced as Sessional Paper No. 1 of 1964.

In that address, I raised in that august world assembly the vexed question of the role of the West African Conference Lines in our economic life and appealed to West African Governments and public institutions to face the monopoly with a united front. I wish

to take this opportunity to congratulate the Nigerian Produce Marketing Company for taking the lead and making public its grievances against the West African Conference Lines. The Company has unanimous support of the whole nation and I assure hon. Members that this is only a beginning and a sign of things to come.

Africans everywhere on our great continent are looking up to Nigeria to take the lead in this battle for economic independence. This was the distinct impression I gathered from the February annual meeting of the Economic Commission for Africa in Addis Ababa. The Conference unanimously adopted our resolution on Africanising retail and wholesale trade on the entire continent.

The other important decisions at that Conference relate to economic integration of the African continent through an African Common Market, an African Payments Union and other long-term institutional arrangements which are being worked out under the umbrella of the Organisation of African Unity.

The Economic and Social Commission of the O.A.U. is already a reality and Nigeria played an active role at the first meeting of the Commission in Niamey. Nigeria is in the forefront in promoting African economic institutions which are already functioning or are about to commence operations such as the African Development Bank and the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning in Dakar where young African economists and planners receive further training and broaden their experience. This is African Unity in practice.

Nigeria's external economic interests are not confined to the African continent. The current World Trade and Development Conference in Geneva will consider the trading problems facing developing countries like Nigeria and I do not propose to deal with our Development Problems in the world context in general terms at this stage.

I would rather end this statement by reviewing the growth of the Nigerian economy in recent years to re-emphasise my earlier point that as a developing country, we in Nigeria are not doing too badly in the economic field. One of the best indicators for measuring the performance of our national economy is the growth in Nigeria's national income or what the economists call Gross Domestic Product.

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The last firm estimates of Nigeria's Gross Domestic Product were produced by Dr P.N.C. Okigbo and his colleagues in respect of the years 1950-51 subsequently published in "The Nigerian National Accounts 1950-57." Recent work in the National Incomes Unit of the Federal Office of Statistics has now up-to-dated these figures by providing estimates of the Gross Domestic Product for 1958-59 to 1961-1962. These in real terms at 1957 constant prices are £952.8 million for 1958-59, £972.6 million for 1959-60, £1,026.3 million for 1960-61 and £1,046.8 million for 1961-62 compared with £910 million for the year 1957-58.

Thus, the year to year growth rate in real terms is as follows :—

1958-59 to 1959-60 .. 2.1 per cent

1959-60 to 1960-61 .. 5.5 per cent

1960-61 to 1961-62 .. 2 per cent

The large difference in the rates is due to the rise or fall in agricultural output, the determining factor in the growth of our national economy.

The average during the three years was 3.2 per cent. The estimates for 1962-63 the first year of the Plan are not yet available but the preliminary figures show that the growth rate will be in the region of this average rate of 3.2 per cent. This is quite satisfactory when compared with the projected average rate of 4 per cent per annum through the Plan period particularly as the first year was essentially a period of preparation and "let us wait and see" particularly in the private sector.

For hon. Members who may be interested in the detail breakdown of the aggregate national income figures, I will with your permission, Sir, have them published in the *Hansard* in the form of a Table.

TABLE

Gross Domestic Products of Nigeria (excluding Southern Cameroons) by Branch of Activity at 1957 prices, 1957-58 to 1961-62\*

	£million				
	1957-58	1958-59	1959-60	1960-61	1961-62
Agriculture .. .. .	471.4	528.3	511.6	536.1	551.6
Livestock .. .. .	57.7	52.5	58.8	61.2	64.0
Fishing .. .. .	13.3	15.0	15.0	15.0	15.0
Forest products .. .. .	14.6	12.9	15.6	16.8	15.6
Mining and oil exploration .. .. .	9.4	6.4	7.7	8.8	8.8
Manufacturing .. .. .	—	22.0	24.6	29.0	30.0
Public utilities (electricity and water) .. .. .	13.1	2.3	2.6	2.7	3.7
Communications .. .. .	3.1	3.8	4.1	3.8	4.0
Building and Civil Engineering .. .. .	40.3	27.0	32.8	32.7	29.6
Ownership of buildings .. .. .	10.3	(10.0)	(10.0)	(10.0)	(10.0)
Transport .. .. .	74.6	75.0	80.9	87.9	84.4
Crafts .. .. .	16.7	(18.0)	(18.0)	(18.0)	(18.0)
Missions .. .. .	15.9	16.4	19.9	21.4	22.3
Government .. .. .	30.5	32.2	38.3	41.5	46.4
Marketing Boards .. .. .	11.7	10.7	10.2	12.1	12.1
Banking, Insurance and Professions .. .. .	2.5	(3.0)	(3.0)	(3.5)	(3.5)
Domestic service .. .. .	5.5	(5.5)	(5.5)	(5.5)	(5.5)
Miscellaneous services (Hotels, Newspaper) .. .. .	2.0	(2.0)	(2.2)	(2.5)	(2.5)
Land development .. .. .	8.2	7.8	7.8	7.8	7.8
Distribution .. .. .	106.5	102.0	104.0	110.0	112.0
Gross Domestic Product at factor cost .. .. .	910.0	952.8	972.6	1,026.3	1,046.8

\* Figures for 1957-58 include estimates for the Southern Cameroons which came to about £20 million.

[ALHAJI IBRAHIM]

It is quite clear from this account that the prospects before the Nigerian economy are very bright and will remain bright if all Nigerians participate fully in our Six-Year Development Plan.

Now, Mr Speaker, this briefly is the account. The battle for our economic freedom has just started and we all know that only the joint efforts of all of us, irrespective of our political differences, can lead us to success. We should all unite and realise that no less than the same measure of propaganda, energy and initiative which brought about our political freedom will bring our economic freedom. So far during the last four and a half years we have spent most of our resources and energy on internal political conflicts which have yielded no benefits either to the country as a whole or to any individual in particular.

Now, I think we have all learned a lesson. We have all found out that political conflicts are useless and that they do not pay us any dividends. The biggest task before us is how to achieve our economic freedom, which we have not got, and which is as difficult as the political freedom which we have got.

My advice therefore, is that we should all, during the next few years, pull our efforts together, put aside political conflicts and tackle the economic problem so that we may bring about better conditions of living for our people.

I beg to support.

**Minister of State for Police Affairs** (Mr M. A. O. Olarewaju): I rise to support the Second Reading of the 1964-65 Appropriation Bill which is now before the House. To prove my wholehearted support, I would like to give a brief but detailed report on the organisation and activities of the Federal Republic of Nigeria Police Force for the period 1963-64.

During the period under review, there were no serious disturbances throughout the Federation of Nigeria. The Nigeria Police successfully provided security arrangements for the treason trials, the Mid-West referendum and, more recently, for the elections to the Mid-Western House of Assembly, as well as for the threatened general strike on the 1st of October, 1963. Of particular interest in these security schemes was the use of helicopter and closed criminal television to observe crowds during the closing stages of the treason trials.

There were numerous visits of V.I.P's from outside Nigeria, and perhaps the most important public occasion was the celebration of the Republic and the installation of His Excellency, the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria on the 1st of October, 1963, when the Nigeria Police not only took part in the celebrations but provided all security and traffic arrangements.

**Chief O. B. Akin-Olugbade** (Egba South): On a point of order, the Minister is making a Ministerial Statement on Police. I think that he should have come there in Police uniform. He is not properly dressed now.

**Mr Speaker**: I do not think that we will ever hope for the day when the Minister will come here in Police uniform.

**Mr Olarewaju**: The Member for Egba South (*Chief Akin-Olugbade*) is a liar and not a lawyer.

Apart from these duties, routine police work has continued throughout the year and police resources have been fully taxed by the increasing ingenuity of the criminal classes, but the Investigation Branches of the Force have steadily increased both their technical and personal efficiency to combat this.

In a drive against corruption, a special Squad of investigations has been created and this is already having considerable effect in dealing with the corrupt members of the Force. It is proposed, very shortly, to considerably expand the branch of the Criminal Investigations Department and widen the scope of its activities.

For the future it is proposed to expand the Police Force to meet its ever-growing commitments. This proposal falls into three categories and they are briefly as follows:

(i) The routine expansion of the Force caused by the increase in population and the need for more policemen to deal with the day-to-day crimes and traffic problems.

(ii) Those items of expansion in connection with the security of the State. In particular, it should be pointed out that it is proposed to raise a further squadron of Police Mobile Force for the Western Region of Nigeria and further to provide special security detachments for each Region for the

protection of Premiers and members of their Governments. In the same way the increases in the Investigation Branches of the Force not only provide further means of combating crimes but also have a direct bearing on the security of the country.

(iii) The third category of expansion is concerned primarily with the security and dignity of His Excellency, the President himself. In this respect it is proposed to establish a mounted squadron and a permanent motorcycle escort to accompany His Excellency on state occasions in order to contribute to the pageantry of such occasions and to provide increased security for the person of His Excellency.

It should also be mentioned that the Nigeria Police continue to maintain a contingent in the Congo as part of the United Nations Organisation there, and the high standard they have set continues to receive favourable commendations.

Lastly, one point though small in itself, needs to be mentioned because of its great significance to the future of the Force. A new section called the Pilot Dogs section has been established in Lagos. Although this section came into existence only a few months ago, it has already shown the possibility of using dogs to combat crimes in urban areas. If the section continues to work as efficiently as it is doing now, there is no doubt that it will be successful and this will make for its future expansion so that it could be used to combat crimes in all the cities and towns of the Federation.

Before I take my seat, I would like to say that it is no exaggeration to say that the Nigeria Police Force is one of the best Forces in the world to-day.

I beg to support.

**Mr J. O. Olaore** (Oshun North East): In contributing to the debate on the Second Reading of the Appropriation Bill, I first of all want to congratulate the Federal Government on all it did to achieve a Republican status for this country on the 1st of October, 1963. Also, I have to thank the Prime Minister, all the leaders of this country, the civil servants and all those who have contributed towards the achievement of the Republican status.

I want to say, however, that political independence without economic independence cannot lead the nation anywhere. We must therefore tap all our resources in order that this nation may be self-sufficient economically. Unless we do this, our independence will only be political independence and we shall continue to be at the mercy of other developed nations in terms of our economy.

It is therefore disheartening to know that after all our efforts our trade balance still stands, unfavourably, at about £26 million, as pointed out by the Minister of Finance. It might be argued that this figure has improved through the efforts of the Government. I should say that much has not been done in this respect. It is no use globe-trotting about asking for loans and loans when our resources could be adequately tapped and developed to produce the much needed capital.

Referring again to the position of our balance of trade or balance of payment, we have to cut our imports drastically. In saying this, I refer to the non-essential goods which we import and which can be produced locally in our country here. For instance, at Vom, in Northern Nigeria, butter is produced, and still we import, I do not know how many tons every year. The centre should be developed to produce the need of this nation. We have potatoes in abundance in the Northern Region and still year in and year out we import thousands of kilos of potatoes into this country. Eggs can be produced by both keepers and poultry farms (and there are lots of them in the country now) but still we choose to import eggs. This contributes in no small measure to the unfavourable position of our balance of payments.

For instance in Israel to-day eggs are being mass produced to such an extent that the nation cannot finish what the poultries there have produced.

Again I refer to the question of fish. We know the amount of stockfish that we import from Norway and other countries every year—up to the tune of about £6 million. If we develop Lake Chad in the North and develop fishing industry in the South here by providing fishing fleets for indigenous fishermen, we shall then import less of the stockfish from



[MR OLAORE]

Norway, and even the Niger Dam which is under construction should help also. This will provide enormous fishing potentialities so that by and large we shall have to depend less on imported stockfish. In that wise it might be necessary, in the nearest future, to ban the importation of these things.

We all know that if we ban the importation of eggs, onions and potatoes—things that can be produced locally—then money will flow to our farmers instead of their having to depend always on cash crops such as cocoa, palm oil, kernel, rubber, *et cetera*. In fact a lot of money will flow to them if we produce these things locally.

We should also find markets for our raw materials. We are depending too much on the West, where the manufacturers are always disgracing our raw materials. Most of these developed countries, it can be argued, are helping us by providing us with loans or financial assistance. As one hon. Member said yesterday, most of these developed countries are now just trying to compensate us for what has been robbed from us.

We should not depend entirely on the Western countries. This is one-sided. We should trade with the Communist countries also. We sell our cocoa, palm oil, palm kernel, rubber, groundnuts only to the Western world. Why not go to Russia, China, Poland, Rumania or Czechoslovakia? These countries need our products and they have the money to pay for them. We should not depend on the West alone in matters of trade. If we enter into trade pact with them, we should be able to get more money or higher values for our products. At one time we exported just about 10,000 tons of cocoa which fetched us about £200,000. This would have fetched us more money if we had alternative markets.

There is only one snag when we sell our cocoa or raw materials to the West alone. They dictate the price for us. When we buy from them they dictate the price and when we sell to them they dictate the price also. There should be a remedy for that if we want to get more money for our cocoa, rubber, palm oil, *et cetera*. If we develop the African common market, then we shall be able to join together and dictate our prices.

In support of my argument regarding the quest for markets in the so-called Communist countries, Ghana, for example, has done it. Despite the fact that her principal product is cocoa, she gets good prices for her products. This brings me to the problem of agriculture. We all know that agriculture is the backbone of our economy. Despite the fact that research is being vigorously pursued by the Federal Government, nothing has yet been reflected on the farmers. They are still doing things in the primitive way—ploughing, hoeing and tilling. The farmers have no modern implements whatsoever. For how long this will continue, I do not know. It seems that after the researches have been made, the results are dumped away in the offices. The knowledge acquired is not imparted to the farmers and they therefore, do not benefit from the research. I think there should be a change in this respect.

Although agriculture is an entirely Regional subject, I think that it is necessary for the Federal Government to be giving reasonable financial assistance to the Regions in order to assist the farmers to improve their agriculture.

Looking through the Federal Government's Development Programme, one would be stunned to note that of the £5 million already spent on agriculture, only £.7 million was spent on agricultural projects in the West whereas £2.2 million was spent in the North; £1.1 million in the East and £1 million in the Federal Capital.

**An hon. Member :** Is the hon. Member a farmer?

**Mr Olaore :** Well, my parents are farmers and I have a farm.

This anomaly is too glaring and it should be rectified. This is quite an unfair treatment to the Western Region as this Region is being slighted by this parsimonious grant. We hope this anomaly will be rectified when the balance of £20 million will be instalmentally distributed.

I now come back to the question of protecting our local industries. The recent excise duty imposed by the Minister of Finance on some goods, as a protection of our local industries, is one-sided and in some respects unfair. For instance, the duty on imported cement has been increased from 30s to 50s an increase of 20s. The excise duty is 15s per ton. This means that only 5s has been imposed as a protection because an extra 1s has been imposed on

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imported cement and 9d on the locally produced cement. This is just a way to camouflage the public. If the Government wants to protect the local industries, I think it should do something more than this. This increase of 15s is really causing havoc because the prices of most of the products being produced from cement have actually been increased by the suppliers. It is, therefore, the consumer who suffers the effect of the increases.

Another thing I want to talk about is the importation of clinker into this country. Clinker is 95 per cent cement and this is being dumped into this country by a country which wants to earn our currency. Since clinker is produced here, the Government should have taken the right step in the right direction, by banning the importation of this chemical into Nigeria. The duty imposed on clinker was 10 per cent and it is surprising to note that no more duty has been imposed on it in accordance with the recent increases in excise duty.

The increase in duty on enamelware has come too soon. The factories have just started producing and cannot even provide one-tenth of the needs of the population. It is also disheartening to notice that duties have been imposed on enamel buckets produced locally. This is very bad and something should be done about it.

Going through the list of countries from which we import and export, it is disturbing to see that Japan has not been co-operating. Despite the specific import licence imposed on goods from Japan, we can see that we import a lot of goods from that country to the detriment of our balance of payment. There are still lots of goods which are not covered by the specific licence but which are being imported through open or general licence. The Government is being asked to look into this question. If in the long run, with all our entreaties and our hands of fellowship extended to Japan, we do not receive a reasonable response as far as the purchase of our agricultural raw materials are concerned, something should be done to cut down our balance of payments.

In the siting of industries by the Federal Government under the development programme it appears that the Western Region has been relegated to the background. The major

developments are concentrated in the North and partly in the East. I am, therefore, asking the Minister of Commerce and Industry and the Minister of Economic Development to tell us what progress the Federal Government is making in the West. No wonder there is no money in the West ! If there are no industries, there will be no contracts, and when there are no contracts, money will not flow in. I am asking the Federal Government to see that most of these industries sited in the North and East are also sited in the West.

Coming again to the question of geological survey, I think that much has been done by this department. There is proof of this, but more could still be done. People in Oshun Division have never seen a geological surveyor in that area. I am quite sure that if this area is properly surveyed, diamond and coal could be discovered. I am then asking the Federal Government to send a team of its geological surveyors to my area.

**An hon. Member :** Where does the hon. Member come from ?

**Mr Olaore :** I come from an area in Oshun Division. I promise that anybody who comes there is going to find something very substantial. We are hard-working in that area. We are no smugglers. We are no distillers of *ogogoro*.

I have something to say with regards to communication in Oshun Division. I have not any grudge for the Minister of Communications regarding the efficiency of his department. Despite his frantic effort, running here and there, to revive his already dying party, nothing has been done. Whenever there is a little rain or tornado, all the telephone lines get out of order. When one tries to dial anywhere one finds that all the telephone lines are out of order.

Telecommunication costs us a lot of money but still there is nothing done. Even when the rain falls it becomes difficult to get Apapa on the telephone. Last week, for instance, on Friday a telegram was sent to me from Aba but I did not get it until the following Tuesday.

Much has been done to curb the activities of smugglers in this country. But I think much can still be done. By curbing the

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activities of smugglers the traders will be able to trade properly and realise some profit on their wares.

Before concluding my speech, I have to say something about the Auditor's Report. It is an eye-sore and a scandalous waste of public funds. It reveals a reckless expenditure. All this should be stopped. The Government should be ashamed of itself, that no effective system has been devised to arrest these reckless expenditures.

I appeal to the Federal Government to take drastic steps against these never-do-wells who find pleasure in squandering public money.

We would like to see a better feature of our financial position when next the Auditor's Report is presented to this House.

I beg to support.

**The Minister of Information** (Mr T. O. S. Benson): We have moved a long way from 1958 when the Minister of Finance presented his "People's Budget". On that occasion the sum appropriated to the service of the Government was £38,267,480. Then followed the "Responsibility Budget" in 1959 for which the sum of £37,539,560 was appropriated. Then, of course, we had the "Stability Budget" in 1960 for £46,604,360.

In 1961 we had the "Sovereignty Budget" which appropriated the sum of £52,904,280. This was followed in 1962 by the "Mobilisation Budget" for £52,084,700, and last year, this honourable House approved the sum of £57,963,180 under the "Modernisation Budget".

The six famous Budget Speeches by the Minister of Finance have been attractively printed and bound together in a single volume which will adorn the book-shelf of any library, private or public.

Now, we are debating the "National Budget" which has been so ably presented by the Minister of Finance. The Budget Speech has been well received generally, and newspaper comments on it have been favourable. It is a realistic Budget and this honourable House is being asked to appropriate the sum of £62,275,980 for the service of this Government in the 1964-65 fiscal year. There is, thus, an increase of about 63 per cent on the 1958 figure.

This is understandable and it is a mark of our advance. In view of the magnitude of the problems of development that face us, I have little doubt all Members will give the deserved support to the Bill. I wish, therefore, to add my quota or congratulations to my colleague and Friend, the Minister of Finance.

I wish now to turn for a few moments to give a review of the activities of my Ministry, which is responsible for all the information media under the Federal Government.

There has been a marked progress in many directions during the past year and the achievements have been significant in certain fields.

As in the past, I should like to begin with the Nigerian Broadcasting Corporation.

The Central Board of the N.B.C. was reconstituted in March 1963, with Dr J. T. Ayorinde remaining as Chairman. Under him the Corporation has made significant progress since its incorporation in 1957.

Perhaps the most important development in the Nigerian Broadcasting Corporation is the appointment of a Nigerian as Director-General of the Corporation. It is a source of personal pleasure and happiness to me that it was so easy to find a capable Nigerian to take over the top post of the N.B.C. Thus I have redeemed my assurance to this House which I made on the 11th of April, 1963, when I spoke on the 1963-64 Appropriation Bill.

With the appointment of Mr E. V. Badejo as Director-General, Nigerianisation of all the top executive posts has been completed. During the year, Nigerians replaced expatriates as Chief Engineer, Chief Accountant and Head of School Broadcasting respectively.

During the period under review, overseas training was intensified, not only for top management personnel but also for the high technical staff. Advantage was taken of the facilities offered by Nigerian universities, particularly the University of Ibadan, to give advanced training to the staff of the N.B.C.

Many hon. Members, I hope, will agree that the News Services of the N.B.C. have improved considerably in the past year. The activities of Nigerian delegations at all international conferences were adequately reported by the N.B.C. for example, the Addis Ababa Conference of African Heads of States held in May 1963.

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The N.B.C. has established a Library Service for its staff both in Lagos and at the regional headquarters.

The number of clients who advertise in the Commercial Service of Radio Nigeria has increased during the past year, thus making it possible for the Corporation to improve upon its revenue earning for the previous year.

In August 1963, the N.B.C. was appointed as the corporation charged with responsibility for running the Nigerian Television Service. The N.B.C. and the N.T.S. now share many common services to their mutual advantage and in the interest of the country.

For the first time since the N.B.C. was incorporated it has started to teach French by Radio. The programme is broadcast once a week, with a repeat, and it appears to be very popular. In the interest of African unity, hon. Members may wish to take advantage of the weekly French lesson and learn the French language.

With the co-operation of American broadcasting organisations and International News Agencies, the N.B.C. was able to transmit live broadcasts of important international events in which Nigeria participated.

The proceedings of the United Nations General Assembly meeting which opened in New York on September 19, 1963, were relayed direct from the United Nations Headquarters in New York to Nigeria on the N.B.C.'s network. This was possible because of an agreement reached between the N.B.C. and the United Nations Radio to utilise equipment on the American "SYNCOM SATELITE" for radio transmission.

It was the first time in the history of the United Nations that the proceedings of any meeting of the august world body was transmitted live from America to Africa through the medium of a satellite. That Nigeria was chosen for this experimental transmission is an indication of her growing importance in world affairs. Moreover, the experiment depended on Nigeria's effective broadcasting system, and the whole effort, one might say, was a direct recognition of this country's position in Africa to-day.

In the field of External Broadcasting the N.B.C. is making a determined drive to reach all parts of the world. Reception reports received from many countries have been

satisfactory. Simultaneous broadcasts in three languages, English, French and Arabic, are now being planned for the immediate future.

I turn now for a brief moment to the Nigerian Television Service. The policy of Nigerianisation is vigorously being pursued according to plan. As the Nigerians assume the key executive and supervisory posts, their expatriate counterparts shall leave the country. In other words, all the expatriate personnel on the staff of N.T.S. are gradually working themselves out in accordance with the terms of the agreement.

During the past year, the N.T.S. has increased its service to approximately 6 hours, two nights a week, 5½ hours one night a week, and 4½ hours four nights a week. The hours of telecast are augmented as events of significance and interest to Nigeria occur.

With regard to the programmes, the aim has been to cater for the varied tastes of the people. There have been children's programmes and women's programmes and there have been serious discussions. Public affairs have played a large part in the past year and will continue to do so. The N.T.S. has publicised the activities of the Red Cross, the Y.W.C.A., the Society for the Blind, Leprosy Relief, Flood Relief, Education Week, the Census, the Savings Campaign, and Public Items.

Programme Services for the Ministry of Health, the small pox campaign, the Six-Year Development Plan have been presented in the interest of public welfare. Thoughts are being given to the possibilities of community viewing and of low-cost television sets, thus increasing television audience. The N.T.S. news bulletins give comprehensive coverage of local events as well as world events. In the field of educational programmes, exploratory talks regarding the educational needs and requirements of Nigeria and the use of television for educational telecasts are now going on. More live Nigerian programmes are being planned.

Under the wings of my Ministry, also, is the Nigerian National Press Limited which is responsible for printing and publishing the *Nigerian Morning Post* and the *Sunday Post*.

Many publications previously produced overseas have been printed satisfactorily by the company, namely the Geological Survey Bulletins and the Lagos Chamber of Com-

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merce Journal, to mention only two. Investigations are proceeding rapidly to enable the company to print the Nigeria Trade Journal which is at present being produced overseas. The newspaper section of the company has shown some progress, too. The circulation of the *Morning Post* and the *Sunday Post* is steadily increasing. The company has played a significant role in the Newspaper Proprietors' Association of Nigeria in order to ensure that the population as a whole is better served than in the past.

The Conference Visitors Unit which was set up soon after the Independence celebrations continues to give satisfactory service. In recent years, many international conferences have been held in this country and the services of the Unit have been invaluable. During the last year there were no less than twelve international conferences, including the successful meeting of the Organisation for African Unity Council of Ministers held last month.

Recently, the National Library of Nigeria was set up as a unit of my Ministry pending such a time that it may be decided to establish the Library as an autonomous body. Through the co-operation of the Ford Foundation of America, the National Library at present has the services, on a temporary basis, of five expatriate librarians all of whom are specialists.

The Library is at present temporarily accommodated at 4 Wesley Street, Lagos, and already has a collection of over five thousand volumes, including two very important bibliographies. The first is the Library of Congress (U.S.A.) printed catalogue, and the other is the catalogue of the British Museum Library.

I shall now turn to the main body of the Ministry which is made up of the Administrative Division, the Printing Division, and the Information Division. All the key posts in the Ministry are held by Nigerians. The Information Division includes the Federal Film Unit, a Photographic Section and an Overseas Publicity Section.

The Printing Division has continued to render good service to the Ministries and Departments of the Federal Government. Among its more recent achievements were the printing of the daily proceedings of the meeting of Ministers of the Organisation for African Unity both in English and in French, and the

assistance which it gave in respect of the setting up of the Mid-Western Government Press. A Nigerian now holds the post of Director of the Printing Division and the Division is completely Nigerianised.

The Information Division, too, has made progress. In accordance with the decision of the Government that my Ministry should continue to supply the men and materials for External Publicity, the post of Information Officers in Nigeria's Missions abroad have now been formally transferred to the Information Division of my Ministry.

Steps have been taken in consultation with the Ministry of External Affairs to post Information Officers to the Missions where the needs are greatest. Appropriate information materials such as photographs, films, simple publications for overseas publicity are being supplied to the Nigerian Missions abroad.

There is a close liaison between my Ministry and the Regional Ministries of Information in this regard. During the year, the Federal Film Unit released six Federal News Review and the following films :—

1. The Speaker's Chair
2. Pandit Nehru visits Nigeria
3. Lagos Teaching Hospital
4. Boy Scouts Jamboree in Greece
5. Cyrille Adoula's visit to Nigeria
6. President Sekou Toure's visit to Nigeria
7. Nigerian Trade Fair (1962)
8. O.A.U. Conference at Addis Ababa
9. The First Chancellor (Installation of Sir Abubakar Tafawa Balewa as Chancellor of the University of Ibadan)
10. Tiger-Fullmer Title Fight (in co-operation with N.T.S.)
11. The First President, Dr Nnamdi Azikiwe.

Arrangements can be made to show these films in the constituencies of hon. Members if requests are made. There are mobile cinema vans for the purpose. In addition to the above, the Federal Film Unit also filmed seven half-hour Panel Discussions on the Six-Year Development Plan.

In conclusion, I should like to say a word or two about the *Nigeria Magazine* which is produced in my Ministry. The *Nigeria Magazine* is publicising, through its pages, the unique position occupied by Nigeria in the field of art.

The well-known ethnographer, Mr William Fagg of the British Museum, has written as follows in his latest book, entitled "NIGERIAN IMAGES":

*"...Of all the known works of African sculpture to which we can safely attribute an age of more than a century, probably at least nine-tenths are Nigerian, and this preponderance appears to increase as more and more antiquities come to our knowledge on and under the Nigerian soil."*

There are sound reasons for the belief that many of our renowned works of art are many centuries old. We should learn to appreciate our rich cultural heritage and spur the present and future generations to the attainment of greater heights in the field of art and culture.

All of us as Nigerians or as Nigerian citizens should learn to appreciate these works of art whether they come from our particular areas or from other parts of this Republic. Through our cultural heritage we can forge a new sense of oneness and unity. Let us endeavour to hold high the torch of unity in this Federation and pass on the torch to our children. We need a new outlook. We need a Nigeria-wide out-look.

I want to emphasise the term "National" in this context. If we appreciate the term, then we must think of Nigeria as one nation in the true sense. The fact that the Members of this honourable House are drawn from all parts of the Federation and the fact that our deliberations here affect the life of every Nigerian directly or indirectly are pointers to the national character of this great Assembly.

This is a critical time in the history of our nation and on this occasion of the National Budget we must rededicate ourselves for Nigeria "our own dear native land." This is a time when all hands must be on deck as the sailors say on occasions of danger.

In this connection, the *Press* of the country have a great part to play. Here in Nigeria the *Press* is free and that freedom should be carefully guarded but, at the same time it must not be abused. The *Press* should desist from fanning the embers of tribalism and from enlarging differences of opinion when they occur. Criticisms should be constructive. Above all, we should learn to respect the opinion of the other man even when that opinion is opposed to our own. That is an essence of democracy.

Mr Speaker, Sir, Hon. Members, these are resting times; these are times that try men's souls. Let us not readily give up the struggle to make Nigeria one united country "where no man is oppressed", and where each part will contribute to the welfare and happiness of the other parts. It is a challenge. Let us not fail in our great task and may God guide us in our search for unity and peace in our fatherland.

I beg to support.

**Mr P. I. Ejukwa (Ikom):** In contributing to the debate on the Appropriation Bill, I would like to mention that no amount of praise to the Federal Minister of Finance, Chief Festus Okotie-Eboh, would be considered superfluous. He has shown quite clearly that with the passage of each day his efficiency in this Ministry increases and confidence is firmly established in the Ministry and in the whole governmental system.

Success in this regard has not, of course, been due to the lone effort of this Minister. It has come through the individual and aggregate efforts of the Members of the Cabinet headed by the pet son of Nigeria, Sir Abubakar Tafawa Balewa.

Now, as far as our economic progress is concerned, I would like to say that steady progress is being made in the implementation of the Six-Year Development Programme. Of the huge sum of £327 million required from external sources for the implementation of the Programme, it is most consoling and gratifying to note that this country has been assured of both loans and grants amounting to over £140 million.

Here, we must not hesitate to thank the United States which has been the highest contributor in this direction. We also owe a lot of gratitude to the World Bank, the United Kingdom, the Netherland Government, the Swiss Government and the Israeli Government for their active participation in the project and their continued interest in us.

We are informed that there is also the possible attraction of £45 million more within a short time for the Niger Dam Project. It must be emphasised, even at the danger of repetition, that our progress has been most encouraging.

The Government should however heed the impending doom which has been constantly preached by economic prophets.

[Mr EJUKWA]

It has been observed by Sir Alec Douglas-Home, the British Prime Minister, when he addressed this honourable House, that although Nigeria is a new member of the Commonwealth of Nations, yet she is great in size and in population. He declared and I quote—

*In order to gain victory over poverty, or if I may put it more positively, the betterment of life for all our peoples cannot be won by one country alone.*

And if I may add, we cannot depend only on the Governments and the organisation that I have already mentioned.

We are all living witnesses to the fact that in so far as the British Government is concerned, within these recent years, three Heads of States have actually visited this country from Britain. You will recall that Princess Alexandra came here in 1960 to represent the Queen of the United Kingdom; the then British Prime Minister Mr Harold Macmillan came, and lastly, Sir Alec Douglas-Home. In fact, we have been playing host to these British high-ups. But Nigeria for many years has been expected to play host to other Heads of States like the late President of the United States who could not come here, unfortunately, before he died; people like President de Gaulle of France, Premier Khrushchev of U.S.S.R.—

**Mr F. C. Ogbalu** (Awka North): I am surprised to hear the Member for Ikom (*Mr Ejukwa*) say that he wants to play host to President de Gaulle knowing fully well the atrocities he committed by exploding atomic bombs in the Sahara and that he has dilly-dallied over French diplomatic relations with Nigeria and many other unwarranted activities that he has perpetrated.

**The Deputy Speaker**: I think the hon. Gentleman is entitled to his opinion.

**Mr Ejukwa**: I am really very grateful to you, Mr Speaker. I would like to remark that we in Nigeria are considered to be very generous and accommodating. If President de Gaulle finds his way to Nigeria, he will be surprised at our own outlook and surely that will help to change his attitude towards us.

I am sure, as I said before, that if statesmen like Premier Chou En Lai, Khrushchev and others are allowed to visit Nigeria to see the potentialities of this country, they would very much like to help us in their own way. We

certainly need capital. The determination of our future balance of payments very much depends upon this. To create this capital we must, of course, command a lot of goodwill and confidence in the eyes of the outside world. It is by this means that the phrase "projection of Nigerian personality" which is profusely used in this honourable House will convey any meaning. You do not project only size and population, nor do we project our persons by speaking too much in world assemblies or carrying out subversion internally. We must apply the fundamental meaning to the phrase instead of talking glibly over it all the time.

To do this we should individually and collectively stop fanning tribal sentiments and avoid asserting political supremacy to the annoyance of those who look at us. We must avoid corruption and bribery, lying and stealing, avoid being bought like marketable commodities—and I say this with apologies to some Members here. We must avoid dishonesty in all its ramifications. Briefly, what I mean is that we must obey the commandments of God and those of the State so that Nigeria can march ahead and become a great nation in this competitive world.

Speaking on our imbalance of payments, this question has almost become a cankerworm in our society. The fact that it is climbing down, however, shows that Nigeria is a gigantic fighter against economic odds. It will be recollected that at one time we were bothered about the position of Britain—our greatest customer—in the European Economic Community. We raised opposition to our becoming an associate member, and in this regard the Prime Minister of this Federal Republic ably presented our case and he won.

The establishment of a West African Common Market in a narrow sense, or the African Common Market in a wider sense, is long overdue. Our Government should continue to take positive steps or even take the lead in this direction so that this long thought of African Common Market should become a reality. As soon as it has become a reality, we should be in a position to find markets outside Nigeria for a lot of our agricultural products, most of which are meantime completely out of the world market—things like yams, cassava and coffee. This will be a great consolation to our poor peasants who will thus conveniently find a way of disposing of their products.

It is understood that the establishment of a National Industrial Development Bank with an initial capital of £2.25 million aims at providing long and medium-term finance to the private sector of our economy. This sounds fine if only the plan works properly. I make this remark in view of the unscrupulous or carefree attitude of most of the Governments of this Federation and even the Corporations in the way loans were given out to indigenous businessmen. Most of the fellows who got these loans have no security. Quite apart from the lack of securities, most people put such money into purposes unconnected with their original plans. A number of projects were ill-planned and poorly executed. This resulted in the eventual loss of public funds.

I would like to suggest that loans from this newly established institution should favour co-operative bodies. It has been of interest to note that by the end of last year deposits in commercial banks amounted to £96 million, but hon. Members may not believe me if I say that these deposits would have increased by half as much or even double if there were commercial banks all over the country, particularly in the rural areas such as Ikom in my Division.

Now, take Ogoja Province for instance—a people full of vim and vigour, and highly enterprising. There is no bank for them to save in or borrow from. Instead, they hoard the money in their homes, with the risk of its being stolen, eaten by ants or used for marriages or burial ceremonies. If the savings branch of the Central Bank or any other commercial bank could render mobile services all over the country, then the people will gradually be relieved of their present difficulties.

I should, at this juncture, like to remark that even though so much emphasis is being laid on national savings, this doctrine is only preached in big towns and not in the rural areas where people appear to be more credulous. Propaganda vans centralise their activities in large towns and places bordering on tarred roads. A majority of the rural population is completely out of the picture, hence no response to this national reawakening. It is therefore necessary to encourage mobile commercial banks as well as the founding of co-operative credit and thrift societies on a national level.

Mr Speaker, if you examine the Estimates, you will notice that there has been a sort of remarkable increase in this year's Budget. Last year when I had the occasion to speak in this House about the trunk 'A' roads from Yahe, Ikom to Calabar—just a distance of sixty-eight miles—the Minister told me that there was no money available and that as soon as money was made available the work would be taken in hand. But I think we should believe the fact that this year's Budget has appreciably increased and I think that money has thus been made available and that work will now be undertaken on this road. I am praying the Minister to take very careful note of this.

I wish also to thank the Government, as well as the East Regional Government, for negotiating a loan of £3.072 million from the United States for the construction of a road from Calabar to Ikom, and I am informed it is going to be a first-class road in the country. We should thank this Government sincerely and the East Regional Government as well. At the same time, I would like to emphasise that even though the intention of this Government is to expand or build new roads, it will be baffling to most of us to see that old roads are not attended to, I mean old trunk "A" roads. If I might suggest, most of these trunk "A" roads should reflect the national set-up of this country. I should rather feel that they should be called national roads instead of trunk "A" roads; trunk "B" roads should be called regional roads and the County Council roads should be called County Council roads. We should try to redesignate most of these things to reflect our sovereignty in this present day.

With regard to the creation of states which has become a sort of thorn in the flesh of a lot of my hon. Friends over there, that is the hon. Gentlemen from Calabar, Members would like to know that after a thorough examination of the estimates, there is no column for the conduct of either a plebiscite or carving out of new states. I think this is in conformity with our Constitution. But if the pressure for the creation of more states is country-wide, then there is the inevitable need to amend the Constitution.

The existing unproportionate size of our Regions does not depict a really true federalism. If we choose to retain the present



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Regions, then steps must be taken to readjust their boundaries to bring about equilibrium.

Alternatively, a State Commission comprising experienced and highly reputed administrative officers, economists and lawyers should be set up to re-examine the States question and recommend the number and composition of each State. The acceptance of such recommendations by the Houses of Assembly and the Federal Parliament should be by a simple majority. If this is done, it would stop certain politicians whose stock-in-trade is to jump from one party to another demanding a C.O.R. State on Monday, Old Calabar State on Tuesday, South Eastern State on Wednesday, and by the end of the week you have Ekanem's State, Brown's State, and so on. This is a very disgraceful affair.

**Mr P. O. Akpan** (Uyo South East) : I do not think it is the intention of the hon. Gentleman to insult anybody in this House by calling a state after somebody's name.

**Mr Ejukwa** : On the question of boundary again, this is fast becoming a plague on the international level as well as national level. Events in Africa are not new to us. Boundary cases between Regions and worse still villages with age-long connections are steadily increasing in proportions. The financial costs of pursuing most of these cases in court have placed most villages in perpetual poverty. Hatred and jealousy for one's own kith and kin is on the increase. In fact, if the situation is not arrested now, the Nigeria Police Force will only be concerned with quelling riots here and there.

In this regard, I wish to confirm the statement of the Member for Eket East (*Mr Eminue*) about the menace of Western Cameroonians on our Eastern border. Our international boundary here must be decided once and for all. We must know the limit of our entitlement to the Cross River. I say this because some months ago, an Afikpo fisherman was molested by the *Gendarmes* for allegedly fishing in their territorial waters near Ikom. No steps were taken by this Government to probe the issue. Near the cattle ranch at Obudu, the Western Cameroons Government is asserting claims. The Federal Government and the Cameroun Republic must negotiate a settlement on the issue.

In ending my speech, I would like to appeal to this Federal Government to undertake the construction and installation of electricity at Ikom. This project is in the Six-Year Development Programme. A lot of these things had been in the programme for ages, but very often most communities become so unfortunate that at the expiration of the programme, a start will never have been made even for the installation of electricity or the reconstruction of roads. So I am humbly appealing to the Federal Government to take steps in installing electricity in Obudu, which is the provincial headquarters—Ikom, which is a growing town, and a town which is noted for its cocoa production.

It is on the strength of the installation of this electricity that it might be decided in due course to have a chocolate industry there. The greatest producer of cocoa in the whole of the Eastern Region is Ikom, and any hon. Member who is familiar with Ikom will not dispute this fact.

I beg to support.

**M. Uwaisul Karani** (Dikwa North) : I rise to support the Second Reading of the Appropriation Bill for the year 1964-65. Before saying anything, I should like to express my disappointment at the way and manner in which the Minister for Ports, Mr Mbazulike Amechi addressed this side of the House. This is insulting and unparliamentary.

**Alhaji Mohammed Muhtari Sarkin Bai** (Dambatta) : The Minister for Ports Mr Amechi himself has regretted the events of this morning and he said he did not know the gravity of the insult. He did not know what it would mean to an Hausa man. Later on, when he found that the situation was very grave he called me outside and tendered an apology. He did not stop there. He went further to write me a personal letter which reads—

*"Alhaji Muhtari, I spoke to you this morning. I am sorry that the signs I made, jeering and heckling annoyed some of your people. It was just a play and I did not understand that it has such a significance among the older people. Please explain to them that I meant no harm. (Signed)*

*Mbazulike Amechi."*

Therefore, on behalf of all the Members of the N.P.C. in this House I accept the apology of Mr Amechi and hope that this will never happen again.

**M. Uwaisul Karani :** In view of what has just been explained, I withdraw my statement.

Well, the presentation of the Budget has been commendable and it will be commendable for ever. All that I should have said have been said before. However, I will try and give my views on some of the other points.

The year 1964 is eventful. It has witnessed various events and one of them is that it was during the year that our first President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria made his first Presidential Speech. The second event is that it was during this year that our newly born Region, the Mid-Western Region, was created. The third event is that it was during this same year that the political emancipation of the Western Region took place. I, therefore, call upon all Westerners to come together and pay heed to what their leaders tell them.

My next item is educational policy. I am concern with the educational policy of the country. The educational policy in the Region as well as the Federal territory needs some adjustment. There are some senior primary school leavers who never go up to the secondary school level. This small education they have is very dangerous because it is not going to enable them to get any job, nor are they willing to go back to the farms and help their parents.

I therefore appeal to the education authorities to allow these primary six school leavers to go to technical schools, such as craft schools or trade centres of one kind or another, where they will be able to obtain a worthwhile career. The fact that they are unfortunate not to secure admission to secondary schools should not be allowed to militate against them, thereby creating unemployment in the country. We certainly cannot employ them because they have not got the requisite qualification; and if they cannot obtain employment they loaf about in the country and constitute themselves into unwanted vagabonds.

I want to speak next on the Police. I am glad that the number of policemen will be increased to be able to cope with the maintenance of peace and order in the country. The

policemen in the rural areas are really suffering. I call upon the Government to look into the interest of those policemen who are serving in the rural areas so that their conditions of service may be made the same as those of their counterparts in townships and cities.

The main difficulty experienced by policemen in rural areas is that caused by lack of adequate means of transport. I have, on many occasions, drawn the attention of both the Minister of Communications and the Minister of Works to this problem. The lack of communication in rural areas makes it difficult for policemen to execute their duties properly. We, therefore, want good roads linking the rural areas to townships and cities. We want good telecommunications so that messages could be transmitted quickly and easily. If these are not done, the progress of this country will, as a rule, be retarded.

It is an accepted fact that undeveloped rural areas can affect adversely the cities and townships in a country. It is the rural areas that bring food and raw materials to the cities and townships. But if people in townships would not care for the improvement of their rural areas, the country as a whole would suffer.

Speaking on industrialisation, I want to say that industries are now being set up only in big towns and cities. These should also be extended to the rural areas since the raw materials usually come from the rural areas.

On the Ministry of Establishments, I want to say that the people of Northern origin have not got their proportionate share in the Federal service. I, therefore, call upon the Minister of Establishments to entrench more Northerners into the Federal service.

I will next speak on embassies. The ratio of Northerners employed as Nigerian Ambassadors to that of Southerners so employed is very insignificant. I would like to see more Northerners employed as Nigerian Ambassadors.

Now I would like to say a word or two about the much debated question of the unity of this country. There is nothing like disunity in Nigeria; what exists is only difference of political opinion, and this is at the regional level. Since Nigeria is regionalised, and since every Region must be left to deal with things within its own locality, those who bring regional matters to the centre are not doing the right thing.

[M. KARANI]

We in the Federal Parliament are acting like fathers to those in the Regions. It is for the Regions to correct any eventualities developing in their Regions, and for the Federal Government to act only in extreme cases. The Federal territory should not take part in anything initiated by the Regions.

I have also noted with pleasure that the exploitation of the Chad is going to take place this year. Since I come from the Chad area, I have a duty to discharge to my people. I am asking the Minister of Communications to establish a postal agency in Gamboru, the key town along the Chad boundary.

I wish to make a short remark on the statement made by the Member for Degema (*Mr Briggs*) when he said sometime ago that nobody's grand father ever conquered or ever attacked his area. I want to tell him that he should not lose sight of the fact that if Sir Ahmadu Bello's grandfathers had conquered his area, they would have brought more light to his area—the light which, to-day, makes it possible for the North to command the majority in the Federal House, the light which makes the North to speak with one voice under the great dynamic leader, Sir Ahmadu Bello. We are on the side of Sir Ahmadu Bello. The North will always speak with one voice and one voice for ever.

With these few remarks, I beg to support.

**Mr E. O. Ifezue** (Orlu North): It is usual for one to begin one's contributions to the Budget Speech with the courtesy of congratulating the Minister of Finance on the way and manner he has presented the Budget. It is also usual to rob in some criticisms here and there. I will not depart from this convention.

I think the Minister of Finance should be congratulated not only by the Members of the Federal House, but also by the whole nation for his seventh Budget proposals. Everybody will agree with me that it is not an easy task to manage the fiscal policy of a young nation like Nigeria.

**An hon. Member**: We are not a young nation.

**Mr Ifezue**: We are young in so far as our independence is concerned.

It requires the courage of a man like Chief F. S. Okotie-Eboh to perform this task.

There are some items in the Budget which should commend themselves to both sides of this House. I take a personal pride in the achievements of the Central Bank. I also commend the Government's efforts in establishing the Nigerian Industrial Bank. I hope that this new Bank will live up to expectation.

It is important to point out, in connection with the voluntary savings scheme, that unless an element of force is introduced initially, it would be difficult to achieve spectacular results. The National Provident Fund is successful because there is some element of force applied. I therefore support the idea of monthly pay-roll deductions, and urge the Minister to introduce it in every part of the Federation immediately.

Last year, I pointed out that our fiscal policy favoured the pensionable civil servants. I have the Provident Fund scheme in mind. To-day, I am saying the same thing. This class of people make no contributions to the provident fund. The question then arises, how does the Government want them to contribute to the Six-Year Development Programme? I am not suggesting that they should be made to contribute to the National Provident Fund, but I am suggesting that the new pay-roll deductions should apply specifically to them.

It is well-known that top civil servants here in Nigeria invest their money only in real estates. Now I come to the subject of external aid. It is surprising to know that enough external aid is not forthcoming for the successful execution of our Six-Year Development Programme. The immediate result of this would be that we might fail to achieve our desired target. The situation, therefore, calls for a close re-examination of our external aid policy.

In this connection, I will suggest that instead of the developed nations giving us raw cash or goods and services, they should buy our raw materials at prices dictated by us. I am sure that our future lies in the successful operation of our export trade. Therefore, I regret to see that adequate provisions have not been made in this Budget Speech to encourage the producers of our raw materials. If there is anything that has suffered international injustice, it is our export trade. That is why our balance of payments must ever remain a vicious circle.

Now and again the United Nations talk about price stabilization. I must say that I have very little faith in price stabilization. All we need do is to struggle to increase the cost of our raw materials and this will enable our farmers to get enough money with which to pay their taxes, thereby contributing effectively to the Six-Year Development Programme.

Earlier on, I said that our fiscal policy does not seem to do justice to all sections of the community. Although this year's Budget did not increase direct taxes, it will be appreciated if the taxes of the low income workers will be reduced. The Minister of Finance should take this opportunity to reduce the taxes of the 'have nots' so that they in turn will drink to the health of the Minister in their homes. Furthermore, the policy of this Government should be aimed at granting tax relief to the people of this country so that their purchasing power will increase. After all, we buy our commodities from the same market. Therefore, the taxes paid by the low income workers should be reduced drastically.

With your permission, may I go back to the question of external aid. I am very happy to see that small countries like Sweden, Netherlands, Canada, Switzerland and Israel give substantial aid to this country.

We have often suggested to the Federal Government to maintain diplomatic relations with all these countries. In this connection, I have Israel in mind. Since 1960, Members from all sides of this House have been asking the Federal Government not only to recognise Israel as a nation, but also to exchange diplomatic relations with her. We should have a residential ambassador in Israel. We are all aware of the fact that Israel's position in the Middle East poses a question, but nevertheless, with our foreign policy of non-alignment, this country must never take sides with the Arab countries. Already we have established embassies with some Arab countries. Therefore, if we are true to our own foreign policy, if we want to interpret our foreign policy correctly then we must have to establish an embassy in Israel without any further delay, otherwise we are taking sides.

It will be noted that Israel has done more than other Middle East countries in the way of assistance. For instance more than three

hundred of our students have been trained there since 1958. Apart from that Israel has undertaken joint ventures with some Regional Governments up to the tune of over £3 million. These are aids in a way. This country should show Israel that she appreciates her efforts by establishing a Nigerian embassy there.

I would like to say that I am surprised to see that the office of the Nigerian Security Printing and Minting Company Limited is situated at the Federal Palace Hotel. The office of such an important company should not be located in any hotel. If it is a Security Company, may I ask the Minister what is it securing? We have enough space in this country where this office could be located. In this connection, I am calling on the Minister of Finance to explain the position of this company to the nation.

On the unity of this country, I notice that many hon. Members have talked about strengthening the unity of this country and I wish to join those hon. Members who have expressed the desire that this country should remain united. We all welcome the talk of unity, but if we want to maintain this unity, we all should cast away tribal sentiments. It is this question of tribal sentiments that causes all the troubles facing this country to-day. Let us show the example.

Hon. Members here are leaders in their one right. Let us go home and tell the people in our constituencies that we must unite and that the unity of this country must be cemented. To achieve this, we must detribalise ourselves. We must not only talk of the North, East, West and Mid-West, but we must talk always about Nigeria. We should not allow the recent trend of events to continue, otherwise it will disrupt our economy. This is why it is relevant to mention the question of unity in this Budget Speech.

Finally, I would like to say something about Government Corporations. Some of these Corporations like the E.C.N. are too profit conscious. It appears the E.C.N. is being run with a view to making profits as if it were a private company. It is a Government Corporation and lives on Government's subsidy. Therefore, it should not be run on a profit basis. Its duty is to see that it satisfies the people of this country and nothing else.

[MR IFEZUE]

The E.C.N. should realise that Nigeria is in a hurry to achieve economic stability. Every constituency or division has got its own Six-Year Development Plan to carry out. These divisions cannot carry out their projects without electricity. In this connection, I have my constituency—Orlu Division—in mind. There are many people who want to establish small industries that will employ ten or twenty people, but since there is no electricity, they cannot operate their projects.

Each time the people of Orlu Division approach the E.C.N. for light, they will say that it is not economical to do so. I would like to take this opportunity to ask the Federal Government with all seriousness to see to it that Orlu Division is provided with electricity if possible before the end of this Budget Session. This is very, very necessary because there are many people in Orlu who have the capital to develop their own area. Since the Government is not coming, we are quite prepared to develop our own area and the only thing we ask from Government is electricity. If the Government can give us electricity to-day, within two years—

**M. Ibrahim Gusau** (Sokoto West Central) : On a point of information, I would like my hon. Friend the Member for Orlu South East (*Mr Akwivwu*) who always speaks of Orlu, his own home town, to register his support for what the Member for Orlu North (*Mr Ifezue*) is saying. (*Laughter*).

**The Deputy Speaker** : Order. I am sure when this Gentleman returns to his seat he might do so. (*Hear, hear*).

**Dr B. U. Nzeribe** (Orlu West) : I want to say that Mr Ifezue is speaking with the collective voice of all Orlu people in the House of Representatives, in the Senate, outside, in the North, East, West, Mid-West and even in Ghana.

**Mr Ifezue** : I do not want to waste the time of the House, but all I do ask is electricity for Orlu. I have made it clear that I want it before the end of this Budget Session—

**Mr J. B. Eboigbodi** (Asaba West) : Since the Member for Orlu North (*Mr Ifezue*) wants the supply of electricity before the end of this Budget Session, I think I will beg the Minister of Mines and Power on his behalf to buy him plenty of torch-lights.

**Mr Ifezue** : Orlu people cannot exchange electricity for torch-lights, unless this is a practice in Agbor. But in Orlu, certainly we do not do that.

I beg to support the Budget and to thank the Minister of Finance for the able way in which he has presented his Budget Speech.

**M. Abba Yola** (Wudil) : I rise to support the Appropriation Bill for the year 1964-65. In doing so, I wish to associate myself with other speakers who have already contributed their quota before me. I also like to congratulate the Federal Government for the good services rendered to this country.

I should like to commence my observations with the attitude of our Press. Several hon. Members of this House have spoken about unity and much was said during the debate on the Presidential Speech. The freedom of the press in this country is too wide. Our newspapers regard themselves as if they are above the Governments of the Federation and because of this, they engage in writing all sorts of things to disunite us. They are responsible for our leaders not coming together, and I would like something in this regard to be done before it is too late.

All the Lagos newspapers are always one-sided. They discriminate against Nigerian leaders particularly Northern leaders. For almost two months now all the newspapers published in Lagos, particularly the *Daily Times* have since dropped the title "Sir" before the names of the great leaders of this country by calling them Alhaji Ahmadu Bello or Alhaji Bello, Alhaji Abubakar Tafawa Balewa. I do not see the reason why these two leaders should not be called Sir Ahmadu Bello and Sir Abubakar Tafawa Balewa. These Lagos newspapers have not dropped the titles of the Nigerian leaders from the South. They still refer to them as "Dr" and "Chief". Whenever the names of the Nigerian leaders from the South appear in the Lagos newspapers, they will be referred to as Dr Azikiwe, Dr Okpara, Chief Awolowo, Chief Akintola and Sir Adetokunboh Ademola. I regard the attitude of the Press in this instance as impolite and irresponsible.

**An hon. Member** : Who wrote it for you ?

**M. Abba Yola :** I wrote it myself. I regard this as discriminatory, otherwise all the titles and knighthoods of all the Nigerian leaders should be dropped; there should be no exception. If they want to drop all the titles and knighthoods they should do so at once; none should be left behind.

These titles and knighthoods were given to our leaders by the British in the colonial days and the Government has not legislated against them. I remember two days ago in this House one Minister was interrupted by an N.C.N.C. Member when he mentioned Mr Abii instead of Chief Abii. I see no reason why Chief Abii should not be referred to as "Chief Abii". If Chief Abii cannot drop his own title, how do you expect Alhaji Ahmadu Bello and Alhaji Abubakar Tafawa Balewa to drop their knighthoods without good grounds?

**Mr F. I. Okoronkwo (Aba Urban):** On a point of order, the Gentleman speaking is irrelevant because he is not talking on the financial policy, but on honours.

**The Deputy Speaker :** If the Member for Wudil (*M. Abba Yola*) will consult Standing Order 26, he will appreciate that you do not have to say anything you like.

**M. Abba Yola :** I am now warning the Lagos papers, and particularly the *Daily Times*, to be careful and take great care over their present discriminatory attitude towards our great leaders of the North. They should put a stop to this type of action otherwise we of the N.P.C. shall call on the Premier of the Northern Region to summon a meeting of the House of Assembly for a motion to ban any newspaper that will not respect his leadership in the North.

What we want to stand for now is peace and unity; therefore I appeal to the press to respect the leaders and give them their due honour without being discriminatory.

I beg to support.

**Chief D. A. Ogunleye (Ede-Ejigbo):** While contributing towards the debate on the Budget I have one important point to make, and this point which is most needed by every community in Nigeria relates to the word "peace". It is a good augury that we in this House preach the gospel of peace among ourselves, and to the people of our respective

constituencies to make them aware that everyone should try to practice the principle of peace and tranquillity.

"Peace on earth towards mankind" was Angel Gabriel's message to the world immediately after the birth of our Lord. But since then the world has not known perfect peace and lasting calm. In Nigeria we have not achieved perfect peace at all, because in the Western Region the people were plunged headlong into political confusion by some over-ambitious political confusionists; and in the Eastern Region the people, especially the leaders, engaged themselves in deepening the gulf of confusion in which the people of the West have found themselves.

Besides, because of discontent and greediness the N.C.N.C. members of the East want to make the Federal Government a liability company by monopolising all the important posts in the Corporations and in the Civil Service. In fact, I should say that the people have so much indulged in this monopoly that if you give them an inch they will go a mile. The North, too, knowing the disease troubling the two Southern states continues the old colonial method of divide and rule.

This situation has culminated into a great conflict which is plunging the country into a census crisis and political upheaval. Instead of our leaders coming together to close ranks, each one of them is claiming the right to political power, forgetting that "power corrupts, and absolute power corrupts absolutely."

What we can liken some of our leaders to are three important deadly sins of the world, *viz.*, people with education without character; wealth without work; and government without God. As you all know these are the three deadly sins of the world to-day, and we must try to abhor them.

I must urge the Prime Minister to quickly seek ways and means through which peace could reign supreme in the whole of Nigeria. For instance, yesterday a Member suggested the formation of a peace committee and said that our national leaders should be members of that committee. May I also suggest that the membership of such a committee should comprise those that are outside the influence

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of any political party. It is only the ecclesiastical officers and High Court judges who are responsible enough to be able to help us better than our leaders.

Another important point I want to make is on the Auditor's report which came out quite recently. The report for the period 1963-64 as published in the *Daily Times* of the 20th and 21st of this month contains a serious indictment of irregularities, squandermania, and disregard for authority.

**The Deputy Speaker** : I think the Minister of Finance told this House (I believe two days ago) that he would be tabling this matter for debate ; and if he is tabling it for debate under Standing Order 26 the Member for Ede-Ejigbo (*Chief Ogunleye*) cannot anticipate it.

**Chief Ogunleye** : I may for that sake leave out a few of my intended observations on that report ; but there is one section of the report, or let me say, a portion dealing with the Ministry of Finance which I want to comment on. For some time now our Ministers and Members of Parliament have been going on overseas tours, but we have not been able to have a detailed account of the overseas expenses.

**The Deputy Speaker** : May I please appeal to the Gentleman speaking once more to desist from that line of argument. If he is in doubt, he can refer at his leisure to Standing Order 33 (2).

**Chief Ogunleye** : I want to leave that point entirely and then come to the question of the image of Nigeria in the outside world.

**The Deputy Speaker** : It is one o'clock ; sitting suspended till three o'clock.

*Sitting suspended : 1 p.m.*

*Sitting resumed : 3 p.m.*

**Chief Ogunleye** : Just before the House suspended sitting this morning, I was trying to mention that it is necessary that Nigeria should put forward a very good image of herself in the outside world. With all seriousness I have to declare that Nigeria to-day has occupied a very important and reputable position in world history and because of this I feel it is very necessary for us to urge Ministers and those Members of Parliament who are often touring, to try to uplift the name of the country whenever they are sent overseas on Government business or errand.

There is a very bad case I have in mind, which occurred during one of the tours of a Minister. This always happens really when the Ministers are on tour. At one time there was the case of one of our Ministers who went overseas on tour with his lady friend and when he got to a certain town the members of the public there wondered if the lady friend was his private secretary as he claimed she was. This was noticed because of the behaviour of the girl—as Members all know, love affair can not be hidden. I do not think that this will speak well of the country.

**The Minister of Finance** (Chief F. S. Okotie-Eboh) : On a point of order, I want this hon. House to realise that the Minister the hon. Gentleman is talking about is in the West and not in the Federal Government. It is not good for this hon. Member to mislead this House. It was a Minister in the Action Group Government.

**Chief Ogunleye** : That is different from what I am referring to. That particular Minister is a Federal Minister.

**Mr M. B. Afanideh** (Ikot Ekpene South) : On a point of order, if the hon. Member feels that it was a Federal Minister, is he afraid to mention his name ?

**Chief Ogunleye** : I want the hon. Gentleman to understand that I do not intend to embarrass anybody.

**Mr Speaker** : I think it is equally embarrassing to all the Ministers to make this type of statement. I think the sooner the hon. Gentleman departs from such statements the better.

**Chief Ogunleye** : This incident happened in Rome, and I think that everybody read it in the papers. What I am saying does not necessarily mean that Members will expect me to call names.

Another case of such behaviour was that a Federal Minister claimed a girl to be his Private Secretary and this girl and her brother went together with that Minister to Malaysia. This lady friend presumed to be his private secretary and together with her brother had to be lodged in a very expensive hotel at the expense of the Government. This is a very, very bad thing.

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**Mr N. E. Elenwa** (Ahoada West) : On a point of order, the hon. Gentleman is imputing improper motives.

**Mr Speaker** : These points are too petty to be mentioned on the Floor of the House. If at all they have to be mentioned, that should be during the Committee Stage. During the Second Reading, we are expected to discuss only matters of general financial policy, and nothing in detail.

**Chief Ogunleye** : All these important shortcomings need very urgent attention and it will be very good if we would only try to represent Nigeria very well when we move out.

I will now go over to Inland Revenue. There should be very strong co-ordination between the Customs and Excise and the Inland Revenue Department in this country. This will help in the proper taxation of foreign firms. Most of these foreign firms do not declare what they realise from their sales. I think the Government should take strong measures to ascertain the best ways of assessing and taxing these foreign firms so as to swell the coffers of our Governments.

Our Government should begin to think of waging an all out war against economic imperialism. They should now start to discourage the agents of the monopolists. It is common knowledge that most of our people have no capital. The vast majority of our people can be described as proletariats.

If the economy of our country is mainly in the hands of our people it will not be wrong for the Government to assume the role of the servant of the people. Since the economy is in the hands of foreigners, and as long as it remains like that, I think that the Government should always think about this.

I said this because of the monopolists operating in this country to-day who are making very huge profits, and as a matter of fact, most of them are much wealthier than the Federal Government itself. Adequate taxes should be levied on them since we have various taxation rates for the common man, the rich man and in fact everybody. This measure will enable the Federal Government to realise substantial revenues from taxation. As long as we continue to have an imbalance of trade this will strengthen the business of

those who exploit us and we shall continue to feel that the independence we have is not worthwhile.

May I suggest that during the six years that we have the Development Plan, the Federal Government should site industries in the rural areas to promote our economic progress and they should encourage full trade and enterprise. The Federal Government should also think of making good our imbalance of trade and should improve the standard of living of our people especially those in the rural areas.

Before mentioning a few points that will help in the development of the rural areas, I want to congratulate the Federal Government on the following achievements which took place during the past four years that we have been Members of this House.

During this period, the Federal Government allowed members of our forces for the first time to join members of the forces of other countries of the world to work with the United Nations in maintaining peace in the Congo. May I also commend the efforts of my hon. Friend the Minister of Finance for the able way he delivered the Budget Speech.

Since we were elected to this honourable House the Government also successfully launched the Six-Year Development Plan. Reading through the first progress report of the Plan, one can safely conclude that the Plan is being handled well.

We also have among the achievements of the Federal Government, the creation of a fourth Region and I hope the creation of this fourth Region will lead to the creation of more states in Nigeria. There is also the establishment of the University of Lagos Medical School, the University of Lagos, and the new Military College in the Northern Region. These are projects which any Member of this honourable House should be proud of.

May I also commend the major role played by the Federal Government in seeing that there is an end to apartheid in South Africa and the role played by our Prime Minister during the last Commonwealth Prime Minister's Conference. The Federal Government also played a leading role in stabilising the price of our cocoa and palm produce. The provision of



[CHIEF OGUNLEYE]

houses for Civil Servants through the Lagos Executive Development Board, the Nigeria Building Society and the African Staff Housing Scheme has also been improved. These are some of the projects which the Federal Government have established during the life of this Parliament and, I am sure, this will make for the progress of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

I now come back to the provision of amenities for the rural areas. The Federal Government should develop the rural areas by opening new factories, schools, banks, and the provision of good roads. Every district council area in this country should be provided with its own pipe borne water, well equipped health centres, co-operative societies, electricity, telecommunications and the provision of markets where these people can sell products from their farms.

Hon. Members have always stressed that agriculture should be given top priority in our development programme. Most of the people living in the rural areas all over the Republic are still using the old method of farming. We should teach our farmers how to use modern farming implements in their farms. If we can teach our farmers a little bit of scientific farming like how to prepare their farm, the manure to use and when to use them they will have increased productivity. The Federal Government should intensify its research and make it available quickly to the people so that they can improve the quality of their produce.

Another point which I would like to comment upon is overseas tours by our Ministers. By now, the economic tours of our Ministers should be bearing fruit. The Federal Government should give concessions to foreign firms wishing to establish industries in this country. Pioneering status should be granted to foreign firms with good intentions to improve this country. If these firms are given pioneering status for the first five years of their existence they will help improve the lot of our people and more will want to establish in this country.

Nigerian students should be trained in citizenship. For our students to be able to work hard and have a sense of belonging to this nation they should be given some training in citizenship. Training in citizenship is very essential. A writer once wrote—

*Breathes there a man with soul so dead,  
who never to himself hath said,  
'This is my own,  
my native land'.*

We must give our students some training in citizenship if we want them to grow up as responsible citizens.

I think hon. Members will agree with me that it is rash for students in our secondary schools, teacher training colleges and Universities, people who are the potential leaders of this country, people on whom lies the future prosperity of this country to be demonstrating against Government measures and to be flouting authority of their tutors and lecturers. These people are under training and they should face their studies instead of thinking of things which do not concern them. I think that in order to check the excesses of these students we should start from the primary schools to inculcate in them discipline and the sense of belonging to the nation.

If one goes to most of our schools all over the Federation one will find that many of our boys and girls have not up to this moment known our national anthem by heart. During my recent tour of some parts of Asia I was really impressed by the way the schools open there. What impressed me was that all over Malaysia the first thing that was usually done before schools opened was to make school children sing the national anthem of that country. There was one thing which was very curious to me there and that was my wonder about how a boy of about seven years old was able to know the colours of his country's national flag. These people have a deep respect for their national flag. If one mentions anything about their national flag they would discuss about it with full respect.

I remember one evening when I was in a shop there to buy things and the national anthem of that country was being sung over a radio, to my surprise the owner of the shop and all his customers there remained at alert for the national anthem. All over this our country to-day one would find that when our national anthem is being played people move about without paying it any attention.

**Mr Speaker:** The Member has one minute in which to wind up.

**Chief Ogunleye :** Besides that, I think we should teach our children to know all the Heads of our States, and, if possible, we should hang the pictures of our leaders in our different schools.

I want to appeal that the Government should give sufficient attention to traffic congestion in Lagos. The only road linking Lagos Island with Apapa is always over-crowded, and I think there should be another road which should link Lagos island with Apapa.

Much cannot be said about the need for another bridge to Lagos Island, and I want to urge that good roads should be constructed to join Lagos and other important towns in the Federation.

Finally, I want to appeal to the Ministers of Economic Development and Labour that much has been said about unemployment in this country and Government should start now to work out a detailed plan through which the problem of unemployment could be solved. Before the Government undertakes to do anything I want to urge that it is high time our school leavers even at primary and secondary levels knew that they should not depend on the Government to look for work. After all the parents who trained them have professions which yielded earnings from which they were trained, and it would not be wrong if our boys and girls also took to such professions until they were able to get a better job.

I beg to support.

**Mr A. E. Effiong-Spatts (Calabar) :** I rise to support the Second Reading of the Appropriation Bill, and in doing so I do not think it is superfluous for me to pour more encomiums than had already been poured upon the Minister of Finance. I would also congratulate the Minister and his staff, and I think they are able men who have worked out this plan. Anyway, the Minister being a politician goes in and comes out, and if he has no good Under-Secretaries as he now has all that he does will flop and what would happen next would be pure criticism.

As a matter of fact the Minister has shown that he is very much versed in his work, and he is, perhaps, educated in it. It is like education. Education has no limit. One must either progress or deteriorate, because one cannot

stand still. But what he has done has shown definitely that he is not standing still. Therefore, I thank him and his Ministry.

Now, turning round to the Budget Speech I have very few things to say. I have not much to say because others have dealt with very many points I had in mind, and it is needless my repeating them. With your permission, Mr Speaker, Sir, I have to read from page 2 of the Budget Speech :

*The doctrine of nationalism holds that humanity is naturally divided into nations, that nations are known by certain characteristics which can be ascertained, and that the only legitimate type of government is national self-government. To-day we have attained nationhood, but this attainment of nationhood is not an end in itself, it is but the means to an end. We should, therefore, not be complacent. It is a factual statement that we are individually and severally so strongly tied to our fatherland that we can neither isolate nor separate ourselves from it without feeling the consequences of our mistake. If the government is happy, we prosper ; if it suffers financial or economic harm, its misfortune will definitely react on all of us. By the same token, if the citizens of a nation enjoy honest opulence, the State prospers, but should the citizens be overwhelmed with poverty, the condition of the State will be worthy of pity. It is the full realisation of this fact that will help to engender in us a true sense of national pride—*

**An hon. Member :** We have all heard that before through a better voice !

**Mr Effiong-Spatts :** The hon. Gentleman cannot understand me because he lives in the bush, and has only come out here to-day.

Now, the next thing is this. What I have to say is that actually speaking the Budget Speech of the Minister of Finance has achieved a lot. He has helped himself and his nation. But poverty still ranges from one place to the other. Nationalism indeed connotes that one must be conscious, and consciousness itself makes one to be a national. But I would say that there are false nationals in politics in Nigeria, and, so, nationalism has failed. Instead of having nationalism being followed by democracy we are having tribalism followed by arithmocracy. I think the whole thing comes to despotism and since despotism is

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practised, nationalism is lost entirely because democracy connotes that as the hands so are men, the government, and the governed. Men, the government, and the governed stand in relation to one another as the hands to each other. For the hands in washing themselves are washed. Even so men, the government, and the governed in helping, aiding, honouring and respecting the self-determination of one another are helped, honoured and respected: but tribalism has put them off entirely.

When we look at the Western Region White Paper recently circulated showing signatures of some people, we would easily see that Governments are instituted by men just for their own protection so that life might be given to them. There is happiness and liberty in life. It is when the Government deprives one of these by means of a Board establishment, which Board must be tribalistic, that one comes out to say one is cheated and then the demand for a state comes out.

When it so happens that one is looking for employment (and I can give examples) and one submits one's application, the next thing is that bribe would be taken from one. If one is unable to get the job, because one is not the highest bidder, one would say it is bad treatment. But one would find that while such a treatment has been given to one, another treatment has been given to a different fellow. We, therefore, need to ask ourselves what is it that we now call "One Nigeria" or unity in Nigeria?

The flamboyant and eccentric talk has brought us into chaos, and our politics has so much deteriorated that I must plead that this type of thing be wiped out. There are a number of things which we must consider very seriously.

Recently, some N.C.N.C. members signed a paper; and that paper was brought to the House here in support of a claim that certain people were being cheated. One can imagine then why we in the Eastern Region cry out daily about having our own state. This is the type of thing that made the people of the Mid-West Region to demand a separate state. The cry will continue for as long as despotism continues in one form or another.

The only thing we can do to retain our cultures and be known as a people is to divide our country into states, so that in my own area,

every Dick, Tom and Harry could apply for jobs and get the jobs without resort to bribery and corruption.

I am not advocating communism. I will never do so. But it was this sort of thing that influenced Lenin after he had come to power in 1917. Between then and 1927, bribery and corruption and all such evils came into the lives of the people. They realise that those in power were only installing their sisters and brothers. When Lenin discovered this, the nation had to return to communism. I am not saying that we should do that.

What Nigeria should do to-day is to realise that though the economy of the country is buoyant, it could still be better and we should find remedies for the ills which are hampering our progress. If we in Nigeria follow the examples of leaders like our Prime Minister, we shall certainly lead Nigeria into a peaceful era. Some of our Ministers are toiling day and night to show us the right direction to our goal of peace, but some of them are over ambitious.

Ambition makes a man mad. Some of our people are so ambitious that they picture heaven within their own hearts. It was the same ambition that overturned the angel called Lucifer who thought he could overthrow God within a short space of time and take over the whole universe.

**Several hon. Members :** Very good, very good.

**Mr Effiong-Spatts :** Some hon. Members do not study natural science. I am a natural scientist. What I am asking our country to do is that we should emulate those who are peaceful.

I want to make it clear that nature provides that one man shall rise and lead the others. Even in heaven, God has some angels higher above the other angels. If some of our leaders try to overthrow the Government of Nigeria, they will only ruin themselves. We want progress.

The Government of Nigeria has been progressing. I know it very well. If anybody says this country has not done anything, that person is merely fooling himself. It takes time to make progress in industry and commerce. Our Budget, instead of diminishing in stature,

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is increasing, but still, some people are still criticising. Anybody who says that Nigeria is not progressing, does so because of jealousy, and it is this jealousy that has placed some of our leaders in very wrong and unfortunate places to-day.

If some of our leaders should think again, they would not do things against the interest of the Government. What we want is absolute marriage among our Regions. Let us not say every time that the East is far from the North or that one part of the Federation is far from the rest. We must work hand in hand, and work towards absolute marriage among all, and not towards divorce between one Region and the other, simply because we feel one region is going to lead the others.

If the majority group is going to lead, and we are annoyed, what shall we do then if the minutest minority comes to rule ?

**The Minister of Finance** (Chief Festus Okotie-Eboh): Can one imagine Itshekiri being ruled by Kano which is in the ratio of six million to sixty thousand.

**Mr Effiong-Spatts** : I very much pray that there should be peace. Let the leaders get together and let us begin to think. Let us go back to the East and tell our leaders that they are riding on the back of a very big dragon. The danger is great. Nigeria should not be disintegrated.

When I went to Lincoln in 1957, everybody I met eagerly asked me where I came from. They wondered whether it was from India and I said it was not. They anxiously brought maps and asked to be shown where Nigeria is and throughout the length and breadth of the place, they were asking questions about our country. Even when we went there recently, under Government sponsorship, we popularised Nigeria as best as we could.

**Several hon. Members** : What did you go to do at first ?

**Mr Effiong-Spatts** : I went on my own in 1957 to finalise my studies for my degree. I am an industrial chemist, and I possess a diploma in natural science and a diploma in political science.

Let us now come to the question of industry. I do not see any reason why our cement should be so dear. After all, clay is available in

Nigeria, so is gypcium and lime. There is hardly anything for the manufacture of cement which we have not got here. As we have got so many of the materials here in Nigeria, I do not see any reason why we should place order for these materials again.

The calories of heat used in the manufacture of cement cannot be anything above 600,000, and that quantity can produce 800,000 tons of cement within the space of a week. If that is possible, I do not see any reason why our cement should be so dear.

The Portland Cement Company was founded in 1851, and it was only this company that continued for a long time; we all know that cement was not so dear. Now a bag of cement from the Portland Cement Company in England cost about 13s-6d and our own is still costing 13s-6d. Were the cement from the Portland Cement Company ordered duty free into Nigeria as that competition with the Nigerian cement may be on the same level? The competition between Nigerian cement and U.K. cement is almost on the same level. The Government should send few people to U.K. to undergo training so that Nigerians would be able to man the industry. Cement industry is not a hard business. It does not require any high intelligence. What the Government should do is to see that there is a reduction in the cost of the cement manufactured in Nigeria. In other countries, this type of industry is nationalised. It will not help us if we nationalise this industry.

I now want to talk about the flour industry. The expatriate owners of this business send to their country of origin about £50,000 every week. We usually borrow money here and there and, if it is possible we could borrow from Satan in order to assist our industries. We should have our own experts who will be in a position to advise the Government on the establishment of all our industries. In this way the money we have borrowed and spent on these industries would yield fruitful results.

We have so many raw materials in this country. I can assure hon. Members that all the things manufactured in the world could be manufactured in Nigeria. I am a trained chemist and I am saying what I know. When experts come to this country, they tell us fabulous stories that before an article could be manufactured here they would require such and such gigantic machines, I can manufacture

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most of these articles. We should not deceive ourselves. The Government should not waste money.

Personnel officers should not become millionaires at the expense of the job seekers. I know of a man who was earning eight pounds a month. He went to a certain corporation for employment in order to earn more money. The personnel officer in charge of that corporation told the man that he would fix him up if he could give him five pounds and a bottle of whisky.

The man gave five pounds and a bottle of whisky to the personnel officer. Immediately after that the man resigned his appointment with the hope of securing a new job in that corporation. After some time the man became impatient.

When I came to Lagos, I followed the applicant to the personnel officer and when we reached the corporation, we were told that the personnel officer had gone on leave. I asked for the man's application, but it was nowhere to be found.

It was there we learnt that so many people had been employed in advance by the personnel officer without the knowledge of the Chairman and the other people connected with the corporation. The people employed by the corporation I am speaking about are from the same tribe. And we always say that we want one Nigeria. Certainly, the man is a Nigerian. What we want in Nigeria is a concerted effort.

I do not want to talk about the census now. When the time comes, people will talk but let us be very careful. My policy is to speak the truth. No one in Nigeria should cause disunity in the name of any leader for selfish end.

Of late, I have been reading in the newspapers that certain people are asking the Prime Minister to sack this Minister and sack that Minister.

Some people have also been asking the Prime Minister to resign. This sort of thing would not help us. There is confusion in Nigeria. Everybody is praying for peace to prevail in the country. If we have not got a man of the calibre of Alhaji Abubakar Tafawa Balewa, Nigeria would have been in chaos.

The Prime Minister has been rendering good services to the country. He is one of the men who has done a lot to unite Nigeria. We should go back to our respective constituencies and inform our people that we should regard ourselves as one, whether we are from the North, East, West or Mid-West. There should be no discrimination at all.

**Chief D. N. Abii** (Owerri East) : On a point of order, I humbly ask you, Mr Speaker, to rule the Member for Calabar (*Mr Effiong-Spatts*) out of order because he is very irrelevant. It is not good for a Member of this House to come here to attack all sections of the community. The Member for Calabar is attacking the East, the West and the North. This is not good at this time if we want to maintain unity in this country.

**Mr Speaker** : Order, order. As far as the arguments of the Member for Calabar are concerned, he is not attacking any Region. He has some facts to support his argument. I have listened to his speech very carefully. He said that instead of quarrelling over minor matters, we should concentrate on our economic development. His reference does not refer to any particular section.

**Mr Effiong-Spatts** : Thank you for your protection, Mr Speaker. All I am saying is that no man is indispensable. No man has the right to fix the boundary of this country. No Region has the right to secede. I want to say that self determination is all we want. We pray this Government to listen to us and give us that which we ask for. This House should respect our opinion. No matter what region we come from, East, West, North or Mid-West, due respect must be given to our opinion. The people of Calabar must be respected.

As a matter of fact it is rather pitiable and sorrowful that there should come up in Nigeria to-day anything to stir disunity among the people. If we delved down into history, it would be discovered that the name Calabar came into existence on the 26th day of April, 1431.

With these few remarks, I recommend that the plans of this Government be accepted and carried out as indicated in the Budget Speech. I beg to support,

**Mallam Albatan Yerima Balla** (Adamawa North West) : Before I make my own contribution to the Budget Speech, I would like to congratulate the Federal Government for the brilliant efforts it has made to increase Nigeria's Budget.

During the period 1955-57, when we were still under our colonial masters the estimates for the whole of the Federation were less than £40 million but we have now had for the Financial Year 1964-65 an estimate of £62 million for the use of our Federal Government. This shows how rapidly Nigeria's economy is increasing.

We know that during our colonial days the economic planning of this country was in the hands of our colonial overlords. Now we are independent. But I want us to realise that no country can be regarded as truly independent, even with its political sovereignty, unless it is economically independent.

Here in Nigeria we have got quite a lot of natural resources to help our economy and secure our economic independence. We have got timber, cocoa, groundnut and hide and skin which are the main sources of our economy.

We cannot, however, attain any reasonable economic stability unless there is adequate co-operation from every section of our country. We from the North have been cheated for a very long time. We have been cheated in almost all spheres of our development. We have been cheated educationally, economically and in many other things. It was only in 1959 or 1960 that we became independent and self-government put off the yoke of British imperialism.

To-day, the destiny of Nigeria is in the hands of Nigerians. The maintainance of the sovereignty of this country is not in the hands of the people of any particular single region, North, East, West or Mid-West. It is in the hands of Nigerians as a whole.

I wish to observe that in Africa we are guilty of three very important offences. We lack the technical and psychological know-how to develop our economy. We lack the manpower to help us man our affairs. We are guilty of serious discrimination in our trade dealings between the East and the West.

When a country becomes independent it must be firm in its decisions in order to win

other nations' respect. An independent country must be able to cater for the well being of its people and must not be aligned to any world power in her trade dealings.

Nigeria has for a long time been trading with countries that compose the Western bloc and I think that it is now high time we started trading with the Eastern countries as well. There is also a great discrimination in the way we receive economic aid from foreign countries. We have always received economic aids from countries like the United States, Western Germany and Great Britain, and there is no reason why we should not receive aids from a country like the Soviet Union.

The only type of economic aid this country cannot accept is that which will be detriment to our national sovereignty. Any economic aid with strings attached will have no room in this country. We should accept economic aid from any direction as long as the aids are free. We welcome aids the application of which will make Nigeria to develop economically.

There are certain things that Nigeria should do in the meantime and one of these things is to raise the standard of living of the mass population of this country. The lot of the Nigerian masses—about sixty million people—should be improved. It is true that the Budget is always passed in this House. We should remember that there are only 312 Members in this House representing different parts of the Federation of Nigeria. I am not convinced that the masses actually benefit from our political independence. They do not know what economic independence means.

The Governments of the Federation, Federal as well as Regional, should realise that the Nigerian masses are the backbone of our economy. The people of the Western Region are the producers of cocoa. The people of the Northern Region are the groundnut producers, and it is the people of the Eastern Region who produce cocoa. All we do here is to pass the Estimates. These masses are hardly benefited from these Estimates to which they have subscribed substantially. They hardly derive any enjoyment far in the interior where they live. These masses live in Adamawa Province, in Umuahia in the Eastern Region and they hardly know what we are doing here. They do not benefit from the Budget. Shall

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we then say that we are passing the Budget for the few intellectuals in this country or for the people of Nigeria as a whole ?

Let me again refer to the Northern Region. There are so many parts of that Region where the roads are not developed. If one goes down to places like Bauchi, Numan, Adamawa and other places in the North in one's car and one has to take that car to, say, the Leventis for service one would be charged no less than £50 on account of damages caused by the bad roads one had travelled.

If we have to talk of communications, we shall discover that so many places in the Northern Region are without adequate means of communications. There are many places without telephones. In a divisional head-quarter like Bama one would expect to find adequate means of communications. But it is surprising that there is no telephone link between this town and Kaduna the Regional capital. The same thing applies to a place like Mubi. If somebody sends a telegram to Adamawa Province it will take seven days before it gets there. The telegram will first of all go through Kafanchan, then to Makurdi, then to Lau before getting to Yola. This is the system of communication that our colonial masters left for us. The Federal Government should try to change it.

The expansion and modernisation of industrial development throughout the Federation should engage the attention of the Federal Government. It is only in big towns like Lagos, Kano Port Harcourt and Ibadan that we have industries. The Federal Government should, with the co-operation of the Regional Governments, establish cottage industries where the masses of this country can be gainfully employed. There is a large number of our children in this country who have completed their primary school education but who have got no work to do. If industries are established throughout the country, the problem of unemployment will be reduced.

I want to say a few things about our education. The Federal Ministry of Education should know that it has a very big job to do. The Government should establish more Inter-Regional Secondary Schools. We heard that three of such schools have been established, but I must say that this number is too small for this great country. We should have these

Inter-Regional Schools established in each Provincial Headquarters in this country.

Many of the Members who have spoken before me have said something about our universities, but I want to speak about the recruitment of lecturers into these universities. We should not allow our Vice-Chancellors to continue the recruitment of lecturers from one particular section of the countries overseas. To recruit lecturers only from countries like Great Britain and America will be one-sided. We must try to get lecturers from Western Germany, France and in fact from all parts of the world. We cannot say that our lecturers must not come from a section of the countries of the world.

Talking on the Ministry of Defence, I must say that the Government has done good work by establishing a Military Academy at Kaduna because a strong army is very important to a new nation like ours. I think that was why the Conference of the Organisation of African Unity at Addis Ababa passed a resolution that an African High Command should be established. It is necessary during this Session of Parliament to table a Motion supporting the establishment of an African High Command. I say this because when there was trouble in Tanganyika recently, several countries expected Nigeria to send her troops there. The same thing happened when Kenya and Uganda were threatened by their armies. What these countries did then was to ask their colonial masters in Britain to help them maintain peace and order. If this African High Command had been in existence, there could have been no need for these countries to call on the British people to help them.

The Nigerian Military Academy in Kaduna should be opened to all African States who are unable to establish their own training academy and who have been sending their boys to countries like Western Germany and Britain for training. If Nigeria can establish an academy which can train people from all parts of Africa, then there will be no need for any country to send its army to these foreign countries for training. The example laid by our colonial masters in the establishment of military training grounds should be followed by African nationalists. If we do not want African States to continue to be manned by France, Britain or Belgium, then, let us establish an African High

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Command. Our independence will not be complete if these colonial masters still have hands in the running of the affairs of African countries.

I am sorry that the Minister of Commerce and Industry is not here now. We have passed a number of Motions in this Parliament to the effect that this country should sign Trade Agreements with Poland and some other countries, but I have not seen any sign that these Trade Agreements have been signed. The Federal Minister of Finance toured parts of Europe, Western Germany, the Soviet Union, China, Japan and some other places and signed so many Trade Agreements but their effect on the economy of the country is not yet felt.

We have continued to send our cocoa, our cotton and other produce from Nigeria to these people who are selling the riches of Africa as agents to the Western powers. There should be no discrimination against any country. We Africans cannot enter into any cold war; we are no manufacturers of nuclear weapons; we are not at war with America; we are not at war with the Soviet Union; but any country which interferes with our independence is our enemy.

We have nothing to say against the N.A.T.O. and the S.E.A.T.O. If we say anything against these countries we shall be labelled as interferers. All we need do is to depend on the economic development of Africa, maintain our independence and decolonise all the countries in Africa which are still under the colonial rule.

I want Nigeria to trade with all countries in the world without any discrimination. There are three stages in the growth of a nation. Nigeria has the potential powers which are dependent on agriculture. When a nation has a potential power it is then that it goes to industrial power, and then again to maturity like Great Britain, France, the United States and the Soviet Union. Nigeria has the potential powers. Why then can we not trade with the other countries of the world and take some advice from them? Our independence will be meaningless if we have to depend solely on our colonial masters.

The Minister of Transport is not here. The airport at Kano which has served the British during the colonial days and which is the best

in the whole of Africa, except the U.A.R., has been diminishing since independence. We are calling on the Minister of Transport to restore immediately the airport at Kano. Maiduguri airport is the next to Kano airport in importance. This airport should be improved. I am calling on the Minister of Transport to bring this matter to the Council of Ministers to enlarge the airport to international standard. When it is improved it will connect Nigeria with the Eastern countries.

I beg to support.

**Alhaji Damale Kaita (Kaura)**: I rise to support the Second Reading of the Appropriation Bill for the year 1964-65. I wish to seize this opportunity to congratulate the Government on its achievement and concrete proposals to raise the standard of living of the people of Nigeria. I wish also to express my gratitude to the Prime Minister of the Federation of Nigeria, Sir Abubakar, for his untiring efforts to place Nigeria—

**Mr J. U. Odey (Ogoja East)**: On a point of order, the Member for Ingawa Kankiya (*M. Ibrahim Maikaita*) is not speaking loud enough. We do not hear him from here.

**Mr Speaker**: Order, the hon. Member should please speak as loud as he can.

**Alhaji Damale Kaita**: The prestige of Nigeria within the continent of Africa is remarkable. This status will continue until Nigeria leads the whole continent of Africa under the leadership of the N.P.C.

The present unrest among the main political parties in Nigeria is unwarranted. I call on Sir Abubakar, the Prime Minister of Nigeria to call a meeting of all the heads of Governments in order to save the country from going into pieces. Some people are asking for an amendment of the present Constitution in order to make it possible for any part of the country to break away. This is not welcome, as Nigeria is one and will remain one for ever. An hon. Member said during his speech that his party would break away from the Federation for some reasons only known to them. The traffic light signal has indicated the red sign to the party in the political journey of Nigeria. The party must stay and reap what it has sown.



[ALHAJI KAITA]

I congratulate the Premier of Western Nigeria, Chief S. L. Akintola, and the entire Yoruba community for their foresight in the formation of the N.N.D.P. The Yoruba which is the second well-cultured tribe in Nigeria is nearly forgotten. Some people have been accusing the N.P.C. of disintegrating the A.G. of Western Nigeria. Now the truth has prevailed. The new deal for Western Nigeria by Chief Akintola has freed the N.P.C. from these accusations. One of the false allegations of the greedy party has come to light.

I am glad to note that the Government will introduce import control in order to encourage locally made products. I wish to suggest that the import of dairy produce and other foodstuffs must be stopped completely. Nigeria is self-sufficient in local foodstuffs. The Government is only required to set up industries at suitable places where the raw materials are produced. The present system of siting some industries is not justified: for example, the siting of a creamery industry in Lagos is not justified. Where are the cattle to feed the industry? I appeal to the Minister of Commerce and Industry to consider setting up a creamery industry in either Katsina or Sokoto Emirate. The reason for my suggestion is that these two Emirates are jointly running a ranch management scheme whereby over hundred thousand heads of cattle are involved. The scheme is the first of its kind in the country. I ask the Minister of Economic Development to show interest in the scheme and allocate some funds for the improvement of this project.

Education is one of the vital subjects for the development of any country. There will be no progress in any nation without education. The standard of education in Nigeria is not uniform; one part of the country is left behind the others due to some circumstances during the British regime. That part of the country which has been left behind in education has made considerable progress within a very short time.

The Federal Government should give the Regional Government sufficient funds for the development of primary education. This should be done according to the number of boys of school age. The Federal Government should also embark on establishing Inter-regional Secondary Schools and Federal

Teacher Training Colleges throughout the Regions. For the unity of Nigeria, the Federal Government should pursue the policy of establishing of higher learning institutions throughout the Federation.

I would like to point out that the present system of distributing amenities by the Federal Government to the Regions whereby the North is not getting its rightful share should be changed. We want the Government to look into its economic, cultural and educational institutions already dominated by the N.C.N.C. and take steps to correct the anomalies.

The efforts of the Government to improve trunk 'A' roads throughout the Federation is commendable. The Minister of Works and Surveys should be congratulated. I would like to suggest that the Minister should consider taking over a piece of road from Munde to Funtua from the Regional Government. This road passes through productive areas and lack of road has set back development in that particular area. I am sure that if there is a good and reliable road, our dynamic Minister of Mines and Power, Alhaji Maitama Sule will set up a machinery to tap the mineral deposits that may be found there.

I appreciate the effort of the Government in building Customs Posts at our Northern frontiers to stop smuggling. The Customs officials are not doing their work for the interest of the country. I am appealing to the Minister of Finance to investigate the unholy activities of these officials at the Jibia Customs Post.

During meetings of the House several Members appeal to the Government for the development of agriculture. The Minister of Finance himself agrees that our economy largely depends on agriculture. I am aware that agriculture is the responsibility of the Regional Governments. But the resources of the Regional Governments are limited, so they cannot undertake the development of agriculture as required. In many places the soil is so poor that it cannot support the people. Soil erosion is very serious, pastures are poor, fuel for domestic use is scarce and rivers and lakes are being silted up. I am aware that the Government had invited some F.A.O. Missions to investigate the possibility of improving agriculture throughout the Federation. This is very welcome and the Government is to be congratulated on its efforts.

The use of fertilisers, techniques of contour ploughing as controlled in scientific farm maintenance, will help to restore fertility to the exhausted and eroded farmland of Nigeria. The Federal Government should grant more money to the Regional Governments in order to help them in the development of agriculture. The principal objective of any Government is to raise the standard of living of its people. The majority of the people of Nigeria are farmers. These farmers are living in the rural areas, and the Federal Government, for the fact that it is N.C.N.C. dominated in the Civil Service and Corporations both at home and in the external services, have denied the rural areas their rights.

The past has gone. In future the N.P.C. must look for good friends to form the Government with, in order to ensure the stability, unity and integrity of Nigeria. The N.C.N.C. must be expelled from the Cabinet. The N.P.C. could form the Government alone, but the N.P.C. leaders are not greedy, like the others. They always wish to share things with their friends.

With these few remarks, I beg to support.

**Mr N. E. Elenwa** (Ahoada West) : In supporting the Second Reading of the Appropriation Bill, I have to congratulate our Minister of Finance on the able way in which he presented his Budget. The mere fact that the Head of State has accorded the Minister of Finance recognition and congratulated him is positive proof that in fact the Minister has done something better for the nation.

Going through both the Budget Speech and the President's Speech, I have noticed that there were no provisions made for Nigeria to be split into States. If one listens to people outside this House, one will find that it is the yearning of the Nigerian population that more states should be created. They say that some Regions are too large whereas others are too small. It is the wish of the public, therefore, that the large Regions should be split. Take the Eastern and Northern Regions, for example. The Eastern Region should be split into two and the Northern Region should be split into four. Already, the Western Region has been split. The Mid-Western Region has been taken off from the Western Region, so the

Western Region can remain as it is. I am saying this not to satisfy the wishes of my people, but because it is the yearning everywhere, even in the North. If Mr Speaker, goes to the North, he will hear the people talking about this same thing.

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Establishments** (Mr Akubakar Isandu) : On a point of order, I am sure the hon. Gentleman speaking does not know anything about our constituencies.

**Mr Elenwa** : I am a Nigerian and I know all parts of this country. I can even tell you something about the Northern Region.

**Alhaji Bello Dandago** (Gwarzo East) : On a point of order, nobody doubts the fact that a person can be a Nigerian, but he can still be an ignorant Nigerian.

**Mr Elenwa** : I think the hon. Gentleman who has just spoken is only trying to crack a joke. He does not understand what I am saying.

As I was saying before I was interrupted, if the large Regions are split, there will be no trouble in this country; nobody will then have the cause to say that this Region is this or that.

Coming to the Ministry of Labour, a number of Members in this House have stated that the standard of sports in this country is deteriorating daily. I feel that as long as sports in this country remain under the Ministry of Labour, so long shall we continue to complain. I think it is necessary for a separate Ministry to be created for sports. The other day, the Minister of Labour (*Chief Johnson*) stated that he had laid aside £10,000 for the employment of experts from overseas. One will then ask oneself the question : If this £10,000 goes to the experts, will it improve the men who are really taking part in sports? The answer is no, it will not. In order to improve the standard of sports in this country, a separate Ministry has to be created for it.

Take, for instance, football. With our footballers scattered all over the country, it is difficult for the Government to assemble them at short notice; and we must not forget that these men are under different employers. What I mean is that footballers should work solely and wholly for the Government, just

[MR ELENWA]

like the Army—every day soldiers go out to practise, whether there is war or not. This should be the case with football. If the men could all be together to practise at specific hours, then there will be improvement in sports. In fact, the real ambassadors we have in this country are Hogan Bassey and Dick Tiger. Nobody will refute the fact that these two men have done much to put Nigeria on the world map.

My next point is on the Ministry of Transport. The question of transport is such that each day one hears people talking about transport difficulties in this country. Last month when some of us travelled to Kano, the Eastern coaches in which we travelled were so dirty and filthy that no human being could ever remain in them. We managed it. It was a question of management. These coaches have all outlived their usefulness. They should be changed immediately.

This also reminds me of the poor catering in the trains. What I have in mind is that when some of our Ministers go on tour of inspection every bit of thing would be decorated in advance for them. When they see these decorations they say, well things are going all well. But the real things are not shown to them.

I am appealing to our Ministers that in due course when they are going out for inspection, at least, they should break protocol and go in to see the real things for themselves.

For a long time now some of our Ministers have been travelling out overseas and to other parts of the world. I have in mind this time the Minister of Works who himself had already travelled out of Lagos to the provinces.

The condition of our roads is so bad that one can hardly see any change ever since our independence. For instance, if one travels out of Nigeria, one will see, for instance in a place like the United States, that they have a one-way traffic system that minimises accidents. I am appealing to the Minister of Works to make sure that our roads are converted to one-way traffic roads. This will really minimise accidents on the roads.

When I talk of the one-way traffic system I have a particular kind in mind. Sometimes when somebody is going to a place like Ikorodu it would be so constructed that a car returning would not see the one going.

**An hon. Member :** Where will the money come from.

**Mr Elenwa :** The money will come from the country. We have a lot of money. We have been borrowing from outside. We can even borrow more. I hope the Minister will take note of this important appeal.

A lot of things have been said about the policies of the Ministry of Information. I have only one point here to make as far as that Ministry is concerned. The Minister of Information should really study the staff position of his external information division.

I have in mind here some of our staff from the Ministry of Information attached to the Embassies. For instance, in New York, there is only one person to run the United Nations and the whole of the United States. This is really deplorable. At times the two Ambassadors have to clash because both of them might require the services of this man from the Information Division at one and the same time. The Ministry of Information should do something in order to improve this disturbing position.

I come now to the Ministry of Defence. The other day, I was at my place and saw a company of soldiers parading and showing their skills and so on and so forth. I would like to remind hon. Members that when we were at school, it was not uncommon for school children to go out and attract other children to their own school if their own numerical strength was poor.

If the intention of the Ministry of Defence is to attract our young school leavers to join the army, I am saying here that already there are so many of these boys who want to join the army but they are not allowed. They are not recruited.

It is really difficult for these boys to join the army. It is only good when such a parade is meant to entice people to join the army. Our boys want to join the army but they are not encouraged. It may be that the system of recruitment is bad.

For instance in Enugu I know of certain instances where boys who wanted to join the army were told that they were not fit for recruitment. The next day when they offered

a bribe of £15 each they were recruited I am saying this with authority. Investigation should be carried out into the recruitment of soldiers.

The policy of the Government with regard to the provision of telecommunication and telegraphic facilities in this country is becoming boring. Everyday hon. Members on both sides of this House ask for one or two things for their divisions. I think it should be made a policy in this country that at least every divisional headquarter should have a standard post office with telephone and telegraphic facilities.

If one goes to some of these divisional headquarters one either sees an old post office which has been standing there for over fifty or sixty years without improvement or nothing at all.

We appeal to the Minister of Communications that whenever he decides to convert these post offices they should be converted into a standard post office. Efforts should be made too to see that postal agents receive remunerations identical to those of civil servants.

The reason why some of these boys go all out to defraud the Government is because they are given what is called allowances. Some of them are married; some are well educated and yet they are given not more than three pounds or two pounds ten shillings a month. This is not enough for a married man to keep soul and body together for a month.

So that we are asking the Minister of Communications to abolish this policy and make sure that these men are properly paid. Nigeria, true to say, is only a developing country, but all the same we cannot afford to pay these people such small salaries and expect them at the same time to give of their best and also be honest. I am therefore appealing to the Minister of Communications to pay these boys salaries and not ordinary allowances.

I would like also to appeal to the Minister of External Affairs to make sure that our embassies are properly staffed. It does not yield any dividend to have an embassy manned by one or two people. For instance, when the Minister of External Affairs and his entourage were going to the United Nations, there was nobody to welcome them at any of the places where their plane touched down. This, to my mind is very bad.

I have to end by saying that a lot of us in this House continue to talk of unity everyday but the irony of it is that it is these people who shout at the top of their voices who act in a way that will bring about disunity in the country. We cannot talk of unity day in and day out without practising it.

It is no use shouting unity in this House and then going out to practise something else. It is my considered opinion that Nigeria will definitely be more united if our leaders mean what they say. It will not pay us any dividends if we shout unity here and practise something different outside.

People who are widely travelled know that Nigeria is held in high esteem as one of the most developed of all the emerging countries of the world and that we were already mature by the time we were granted independence. It will therefore be disastrous for this country, nay for Africa, if we allow the country to be struck asunder because of the census. I therefore suggest that every one of us, leaders and followers alike, should learn to cultivate the spirit of oneness and banish all traces of tribalism in this country.

I beg to support.

**The Minister of Health** (Chief M. A. Majekodunmi): I rise to support the Second Reading of the Appropriation Bill which has been so ably moved by the Minister of Finance.

In supporting this Bill I wish to seize this opportunity to give a brief account of the activities of my Ministry during 1963. For the Federal Ministry of Health, the past year has been one of steady progress during which successful attempts have been made to provide medical facilities for the people of Lagos; and these attempts have been widely acclaimed as being quite satisfactory.

The basic problem in the development of health projects is the shortage of trained personnel at all levels. This is not peculiar to the Federal Territory or for that matter to this country; it is one which has been found to be present, in varying degrees, in all countries of the world both highly developed and emergent.

During the past year, the Government had addressed itself to this problem of shortage of trained personnel in various forms. The

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Lagos University Medical School and the Teaching Hospital both of which were opened in October 1962, have begun to contribute their share to the solution of the problem of shortage of trained doctors.

In this its second year of existence, the Lagos University Medical School now has 54 students on its register, 26 admitted during the first year and another 26 during the second year. These students come from all over the Republic. Of the 54 students now in residence, 14 came from the North and are mostly sponsored by the North Regional Government, and the remaining students are from the South. The standard of both the equipment and the staff of this new school is of the highest and has commanded and won international respect.

The Medical School at present has no separate block of its own and continues to use a wing of the Teaching Hospital as classrooms and laboratories. This improvisation has inevitably deprived the Hospital of about one hundred and twenty beds but the Government is making strenuous efforts to obtain funds to build a separate Medical Block so that the valuable work which is being done on this site will continue.

The Teaching Hospital which is complementary to the Medical School has become indispensable to the medical and health life of this Republic. Here again, the staff is of a high calibre and the record of admission of patients shows that difficult cases are continually being referred to, and accepted and treated in, this Hospital from all parts of the Republic.

In addition, the Teaching Hospital has started a post-graduate course in anaesthetics for Nigerian doctors and this course is being attended by Medical Officers from various parts of the Republic. I wish to assure the House that we are not resting on our oars. The Medical School is still to be developed to its full strength and financial provision has been made for this in the current estimates. Our efforts have not been confined to the training of doctors; we have made advances in other directions.

The Nursing School of the Lagos University Teaching Hospital is fast training Nurses of the highest standards recruited from all parts of the Republic. We have also embarked

upon a new experiment in Lagos for the training of Community Nurses. The experiment began with 200 students, some of whom have already had their Grade II Midwifery Certificate and are given 18 months' training in the field of Public Health with special emphasis on Health Education of the public and patient care.

Those who have not had midwifery training are admitted for a four-year Secondary School Education and are given 3½ years' training in the Community Nurses Training School. The training of the Community Nurse is a comprehensive one. She is expected, when qualified, not only to treat patients who are ill but also to educate healthy patients in the method of maintaining themselves in good health.

This is a new but welcome and progressive departure from the old method of training some nurses who would look after the sick and others who would carry out preventive health work in the community. We now try in this comprehensive training to produce, by the extended and intensive course, a nurse who, when she visits a family, is able to minister to all aspects of the health needs of that family.

The first batch of the fully qualified Community Nurses graduated only yesterday, when I had the pleasure of giving out medals and prizes to them. Out of the 58 girls who sat for the final examination, 57 passed, and one was referred in one subject.

My Ministry is actively examining the possibility of establishing a School of Radiology in Nigeria as well as a School of Physiotherapy to cater for these indispensable categories of para-medical staff. Although our efforts to train staff locally have progressed satisfactorily, yet they are at present inadequate to the exacting demands of our health service.

Consequently, the Federal Government continues to award scholarships both for basic and post-basic training in medical and allied courses.

During the current year, my Ministry has taken a significant step forward in solving the problem connected with the supply of drugs. Although it is expensive to train doctors and to build hospitals, yet experience has shown all over the world that the most expensive single item in the health bill of any family or any nation for that matter is drugs.

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Consequently, a number of advanced countries manufacture drugs for the use of their hospitals and for export. Similarly, a few of the under-developed countries have tried to cut down expenses on health by manufacturing part of the drugs to be used in their countries.

Hitherto, Nigeria has not been in this fortunate position of manufacturing its own drugs. However, we have not been idle in exploring possibilities along this direction. Hon. Members are doubtless aware that we have had in Yaba, for the past few years an experimental drugs manufacturing laboratory.

During the first few years of its existence the laboratory has confined its activities only to the manufacture of perfusions. However during 1963 we have stepped into new fields and have experimented with the manufacture of various tablets ointment and other drugs.

I am very happy to report to this House that the work in the Yaba Manufacturing Laboratory has now passed the experimental stage. The annual production in this laboratory is now 60m. tablets, 126 gallons of liniments, 17,000 bottles of perfusions, 5,000 gallons of syrubs, 1,200 kilogram of ointments, 4,000 bottles of eye-drobs and 6,000 tubes of ointments.

All these tablets and ointments and other drugs which are being manufactured in our laboratory in Yaba have been tested and retested not only in the laboratory and independently in the Chemistry Division of my Ministry, but also they have been submitted regularly to internationally reputable public analysis in Europe and we have obtained in respect of every tablet a certificate showing that in quality and potency they accord to the highest international standards (*Hear hear*).

Among the tablets which are currently being Manufactured in Yaba are, Sulphadimidine which is used for infections of all types ; chloroquine which is used for the treatment of malaria : and Dapsone which is a new drug used for the treatment of leprosy, to mention only a few of the drugs which are being manufactured in the Yaba Laboratory.

The products of the Yaba Manufacturing Laboratory are supplied to all our hospitals in Lagos and we supply perfusions for injections to the Teaching Hospital and to parts of Western Nigeria. We are now at the stage

where we can execute orders for drugs from any part of the Republic : we are also exploring the possibility of manufacturing a particular type of tablet for one of the international health organisations.

Our experiments in Yaba have shown conclusively that Nigeria can become independent or near independent in the field of drug manufacture. The stage is now set for a full-scale manufacture of drugs for the use of hospitals and clinics in this country ; the only obstacle now is finance and I confidently look forward to the day when this Republic, with its teeming millions, will be in the enviable position of supplying drugs to all countries in Africa.

I must now give hon. Members a picture of the activities of the hospitals and clinics in Lagos. Our existing hospitals and clinics continue to be utilised to the full. There is an ever-increasing demand for health facilities in Lagos, partly because of the large concentration of persons and partly because of the acute awareness of our people for the benefits of medical science.

In 1963, the total out-patient attendance in all our hospitals and clinics in Lagos was 1,127,033. In the Lagos General Hospital alone the daily average out-patient attendance is over 1,000. In the Island Maternity Hospital in Campbell Street, the average daily attendance is about 200 and the average daily delivery in the Hospital is 50 babies or 18,000 babies a year in a 200-bed hospital.

All these statistics are very impressive indeed and they are a tribute to the concern with which this Government has always treated its responsibility towards the health of the people. But they are, in addition, a challenge ; they are a pointer to the magnitude of the task facing us in the federal territory.

There is no doubt that in other parts of the Republic the needs of the people for health are as great ; but there is no where in the Republic where this great need is so obvious and the demand for its satisfaction so incessant as in Lagos.

Lagos, being a major port and the capital of this Republic, has become the focal point of all the populations in the Republic. It, therefore, has a health problem peculiar to itself in this country, but similar to the health problems of

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other large sea ports in other parts of the world. The Government is grappling with this problem with tenacity.

Hon. Members will have noticed that the new Out-patient Department of the Lagos General Hospital has been opened since last this House met. This has been a welcome addition to our resources. Of the five Health Centres authorised by Parliament to be built in Lagos, three are nearing completion and will be open to the public in the next few months. These three are located one in Apapa, another in Surulere and the third in St. Johns's Street in Lagos, one of the most congested areas of this city.

The Ministry of Health continues to run a School Health Service in conjunction with Lagos City Council. It will be superfluous to explain the need for extra care for school children at their tender age; the School Health Service together with the Children's Hospital in Massey Street have provided most useful opportunities for detecting cases of ill-health in children at early stages and providing much needed preventive service and cure.

In this connection, I must record the appreciation of the Government for the Mobile Clinic donated to the Federal Government by the Government of Israel which has been put into use for the School Health Service.

The Government has taken positive steps to combat tuberculosis in the Federal Territory. In proved cases of destitution Government has made modest financial assistance to tuberculous patients to ensure that they attend for treatment regularly; this experiment has proved successful in that the attendance for treatment and, consequently, the rate of cure has increased.

Another preventive measure introduced in Lagos is the medical examination of members of the catering trade. All persons in the Federal Territory who handle food consumed by the public, whether they work in Government institutions or private hotels, are medically and bacteriologically examined. This experiment has revealed a number of cases in which food handlers were potential carriers of one type of disease or the other. In such cases, the infected food handler has been taken to hospital and treated free. By this process we hope, in course of time, to make this

food handlers disease-free so that we shall have eliminated from the community one source of infection.

I must now refer to our efforts in the fields of medical research. Hon. Members will recall that the West African Council for Medical Research which was founded and was in existence in pre-independence days has been dissolved. After its dissolution efforts have been concentrated on reorganising research and gearing it to national needs. The process of reorganisation involved is inevitably slow, but the progress is satisfactory. A new Unit has been created in the Research Centres in Yaba devoted entirely to research into the causes and treatment of the very deadly disease of infective hepatitis. The new Medical School in Lagos and the Teaching Hospital have been encouraged to undertake research as early as possible, and I am happy to report that the Medical School has responded admirably.

The National Council on Health on which is represented all the Health Ministers in the Republic and their advisers continue to function well and to examine, in an advisory capacity, matters of mutual interest. All the Ministers of Health in the Republic are agreed that as diseases know no regional boundaries, efforts should be concerted on a national level to fight the great endemic diseases which at present plague the country.

We are now actively planning a national Small-pox Eradication Campaign to commence before long. In this connection, the vaccine laboratory in Yaba will step up its production to about 20 million doses *per annum* so as to be able to produce all the vaccine required for the whole of the Republic in these gigantic efforts to eradicate small-pox from our country. This is a scheme in which all the governments of the Republic will co-operate, and I have no doubt in my mind that when the scheme achieves its objective we shall live behind a country free once and for all from the ravages of small-pox.

Hon. Members will recall that at the last Budget Meeting of this House I mentioned that, in collaboration with the World Health Organisation, the Federal Government proposed to launch a Malaria Eradication Scheme. These twelve months have been devoted entirely to the preparatory stage of that Scheme. The World Health Organisation, with the active

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co-operation and assistance of the Federal Government, has opened an International Malaria Eradication Training Centre in Lagos for the training of senior personnel who will take part in this assault against the long standing citadel of malaria in this country. In fact we have done much more than the training of staff for this project. The pre-eradication stage of the battle has already begun in some of the Regions and this is expected to last from fifteen to twenty-four months before the eradication phase comes into effect. It will certainly be a great day for this Republic when we can boast of having wiped out small-pox and malaria.

The Ministry of Health continues to co-operate with International Health Organisations and to play a worthy role in international health conferences. It is appropriate in this short review to acknowledge our indebtedness to the World Health Organisation and to U.N.I.C.E.F. for continued assistance in the form of advisory staff, Consultants and funds for the purchase of equipment. I should also mention that Nigeria has begun to play a creditable part in the new Health, Nutrition and Sanitation Commission set up by the Organisation of African Unity.

I now wish to refer to some of the criticisms which have been levelled against the Lagos University Teaching Hospital and the Medical School on the Floor of this honourable House and also in the National Press.

On the 10th of January this year my hon. Friend the Member for Bende East (*Professor Kalu Ezeru*) stated in this House that the Lagos University Teaching Hospital which, to all intents and purposes, can be characterised as a multi-million pound white elephant is in many respects in trouble. He went further to say that Members are aware of the various complaints of nepotism, extravagance, squandering, which arise in the Hospital, and we are concerned in this House because we vote for it. On the same day my hon. Friend the Member for Owerri East (*Chief Abii*), referring to the Lagos University Teaching Hospital, stated on the Floor of this House, and I quote—

*"If there is any institution in this country where tribalism has been made to be the weapon of everybody it is in that Teaching Hospital".*

These are very grave charges from two very important and respected Members of this House.

The criticisms which have been levelled against this institution are : bad administration, financial mismanagement and tribalism. I shall start first with administration.

No one claims that the administration of the Hospital is perfect since no human institution is ever perfect. Members will recall that the Bill to establish the Board of Management of the Teaching Hospital was passed by this House only in December 1961, and in less than twelve months since the passage of this Bill, the Medical School has become a reality and was formally opened by His Excellency Dr Nnamdi Azikiwe on the 3rd of October, 1962. In order to make this possible, the staff at the disposal of both the Hospital and the Medical School have had to work almost twenty-four hours a day at the initial stages. Under these difficult circumstances, administrative hitches are bound to occur, but these are the inevitable teething problems of any new institution. The problems involved are not insuperable and the situation is now firmly under control.

The Teaching Hospital has been accused of Financial mismanagement. In the first place, I would wish to assure this honourable House that my Friend, the Minister of Finance, has never indulged the Teaching Hospital with money. As hon. Members will know, the Minister of Finance, both in this House and in private life is a man about whom one would wish that it were impossible to have a more amiable friend ; but when it falls to one's lot to ask for one penny of public funds from him, one has to produce about one thousand pounds worth of explanations before the penny is released to one. Whatever funds have been allocated to us by Parliament have been carefully husbanded. My Ministry is ever vigilant to see that any suspected case of squandering or financial mismanagement is quickly looked into and nipped in the bud. It is my duty, at this juncture, to take this honourable House into confidence with regard to a matter which has been magnified out of all proportion in the Press.

Some time ago, it came to the knowledge of my Ministry that the linen store in that Hospital was being depleted through pilfering by



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unknown persons. Immediately, my Ministry ordered an enquiry into the linen store and it revealed some losses. As a result of this, security measures were tightened up, and I am glad to say that the system is working so effectively that one or two junior members of staff who are light fingered have been caught stealing linen and have been handed over to the Police.

I now come to the criticism dealing with tribalism. While I do not wish to add to the already mounting tension generated by this subject, I feel it my duty to make the position of my Ministry absolutely clear on this issue. I wish to state categorically that the ethnic groups in the Federation are adequately represented on the staff of the Medical School as the following analysis will show. By October last, there were 596 Yorubas to 455 Ibos on the staff of the Teaching Hospital.

**Mr J. O. Ede** (Idoma North) : How many Northerners are there ?

**The Deputy Speaker** : Order. Please, I do not think that there is any reason for Members to be unduly restive. The Minister has only just started; let us wait and see whether he has got some more figures.

**Chief Majekodunmi** : This gives an overall numerical advantage of one hundred and forty-one Yorubas. However, a more detailed analysis of the figures shows that the numerical superiority of the Yorubas is much smaller. The figure I have just quoted included the nursing staff.

Generally the Nursing Service in any Hospital predominantly reflects the majority tribal group in which that Hospital is situated, partly because most of the women in the Nursing Service are married and, therefore, stay with their husbands, and also because girls wishing to come in for training as Nurses quite naturally first seek admission into the Hospital in their own area before trying other places.

If we disregard the Nursing Service, we shall find that taking all the departments together, that is administration, medical staff, staff medical service, medical records, laundry, supplies, radiology, engineering, pharmacy, finance, pathology and catering and maintenance, there are only fifty-nine Yorubas more than Ibos in the Hospital.

**Mr E. A. Mordi** (Asaba East) : The hon. Minister has been giving us the statistics for Yorubas and Ibos. Are these the only tribes in Nigeria? We want to know the number of Northerners in the Teaching Hospital.

**The Deputy Speaker** : May I appeal to the Member for Asaba East (*Mr Mordi*) that I do not think there is any need for bad blood in this debate. I think we still have to maintain our sense of proportion. We have never had occasion yet to resort to any strong power in the Standing Orders, but rather than the House should get out of hand, we may have to call in the Sergeant-at-Arms, if necessary.

**Shettima Ali Monguno** (Kaga Marghi) : If at all there is a section of this House which should complain against nepotism and tribalism in the Teaching Hospital, or in the Ministry of Health, it should be those of us who come from the North. But we have been listening and we have been just waiting for the Minister to mention what is the number of Northerners he has in his Ministry.

**Mr A. O. Ogunsanya** (Ikeja) : I want to say that we are fed up with this talk about tribalism everyday in this House. There must be a halt to it. The man at the head of the Teaching Hospital is an Itshekiri. He is not a Yoruba nor is he any other tribe. This talk about tribalism is usually made a point of accusations and counter-accusations, questioning and answering, with the result that a number of other issues are raised. We must put a stop to any further talk of tribalism.

**The Deputy Speaker** : Hon. Gentlemen, may I appeal to you not to let us continue to pursue what might be described as misdirected indignation.

**Chief Majekodunmi** : Thank you, Mr Speaker.

As I was saying, hon. Members will admit that this is a commendable record when it is realised that Lagos is inhabited by a predominantly Yoruba Community. Of course, other tribes in Nigeria are also represented in the Lagos University Teaching Hospital. For example, there are forty Northerners in the Teaching Hospital, one hundred and twenty-one Mid-Westerners.

I have gone into these details to show that, far from being tribalistic, the Teaching Hospital has become a model of inter-tribal relationship

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where staff is recruited purely on the basis of merit. How many Federal Institutions can stand the gaze of such candid analysis! The Dean who is also the Chairman of the Management Board of the Teaching Hospital is an Itshekiri man from the Mid-West, the Vice-Dean is a Yoruba man.

When it was decided to start the Medical School and the Teaching Hospital in October, 1962, I looked round to see what qualified staff could be recruited to undertake the initial work of starting and building up the two institutions. I advised the Government that the work should be entrusted to Nigerians, our countrymen, because I was satisfied that there were capable Nigerians who could do the work. I, therefore, recommended to the Council that two Nigerians, both of whom have distinguished themselves in the Medical Education, should be invited from Ibadan to be the Dean and the Vice-Dean of the Medical School respectively.

I travelled with these two gentlemen in February 1962, in mid-winter to the United States and Canada to recruit staff for the Medical School. Since that time, they have worked ceaselessly to make the Medical School project a reality; and so, it happened that in October of that year, to the amazement, joy and gratification of all, the Medical School was opened.

This is a great achievement which has no precedent in any other country, and the rapidity with which this School was established has been commended by medical experts throughout the world. Many glowing tributes have been paid to this institution, but with your permission, Mr Speaker, I shall read just one which is contained in the Journal of Medical Education, an official publication of the Association of American Medical Colleges. I quote,

Communications

NIGERIA DEDICATES NEW MEDICAL SCHOOL

by Henry Van Zile Hyde, M.D.

*The dedication of the University of Lagos Medical School with its teaching hospital was a colourful and significant occasion. The ceremony was carried out in the best ceremonial tradition handed down by the British with additional sparkle provided by the bright national African dress and the richly coloured academic robes of English and Irish Universities.*

*Participation by the Governor-General, Nnamdi Azikiwe, and the Prime Minister, Sir Abubakar Balewa, as well as other Nigerian leaders and foreign dignitaries testified to the importance attached to the establishment of the first medical school by a newly independent African state, under wholly African auspices and direction.*

*The Association of American Medical Colleges was represented in the academic procession by its President, Dr Donald G. Anderson, and the Director of the Division of International Medical Education, Dr Henry Van Zile Hyde, who were guests of the Nigerian Government. In their dedicatory speeches, both the Minister of Health and the Dean paid tribute to support that the Association of American Medical Colleges has given to the development of the new school.*

*The setting of the dedication was the school and hospital, located on a one hundred and sixty acre tract in a populous area on the outskirts of Lagos. One year ago, the three hundred and fifty-bed hospital, beautifully and efficiently designed for its typical setting by a British architect, was under construction as a local hospital to serve the surrounding area. In December, the Nigerian legislature established it as the Teaching Hospital of the non-existent University of Lagos. A chain of activities was set in motion, that has demonstrated quite clearly that competent and determined people who are in a hurry, can accomplish great things. At the time of the dedication—ten months after the first move toward a medical school—twenty-eight students selected from over four hundred qualified applicants were dissecting in an airy and well-lighted dissecting room, making benzoic acid in an imaginatively designed, all-purpose laboratory of the Department of Physiological Sciences, composed of seven modular four-student units built of native mahogany and constituting a synthesis of modern American and European ideas of laboratory design. One hundred and twenty beds in the hospital were in use and an outpatient department in operation.*

*At the dedication, the new faculty was in attendance. It included professorial and supporting personnel assembled since February from Nigeria, the United States, Canada, England, and Italy. Dr H. O. Thomas,*

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*Dean and Professor of Surgery and the first Nigerian Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons, presided. Dr Felix Dosekun, Vice Dean and Professor of Physiological Sciences, gave an inaugural lecture on the "The Place of Physiological Sciences in Medicine.*

*Distinguished guests from abroad who participated in the ceremony included the Chief Medical Officer of the United Kingdom, the Minister of Health of Israel, the Vice President of the Royal College of Surgery, the Secretary of the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland, the Provost of Trinity College, Dublin, the Vice Chancellor of the University of Ghana, and the Dean of the Medical School of Toronto.*

*Throughout the ceremony, it was accorded that primary credit for the concept and reality of the new school belonged to the Minister of Health, Dr M. A. Majekodunmi, a distinguished obstetrician and public administrator, who pushed the scheme through against abundant expert advice that it couldn't be done.*

Mr Speaker, I would like seriously to appeal to Members of this House that in criticising our institutions we should weigh our words very carefully, lest we damage some of the things which we ourselves are labouring to build up for the welfare of our people, or worse still, lest we create a distorted image of Nigeria abroad.

Sir, I beg to support.

**Mr J. O. Ede** (Idoma North): I rise to support this Bill. While doing so I want to make a few observations, firstly, on the Speech from the Throne and, secondly, on the main Budget.

The Speech from the Throne was a masterpiece in that it embodied all the internal and external concerns of our country. The seriousness of the problems facing us in Nigeria was well documented. Before I proceed, I have to congratulate our two Leaders of State and Government—The President and the Prime Minister of the Federal Republic of Nigeria—who have actually determined to close ranks and unify Nigeria which is now intact although politically homogeneous. The sort of unity which exists between these two Leaders is worthy of our emulation.

I should like to say a few things about the entire lack of unity which exists in the Regions of our country. I hold as a fact that the energy

which should be spent solely on improvement of our country is being wasted in making oral detrimental statements which are very dehumanising. If it is the firm resolve of the Republican Government to continue to cooperate with other African States and to foster good neighbourliness, what then makes it impossible for the Government of our Regions to foster good neighbourly relations between themselves? I strongly appeal to the Leaders of all the Regions to be conscious of tremendous responsibilities which they bear on behalf of the people and resolve their differences for the good of our country as a whole.

I am sure the policy of non-interference in the internal affairs of other states and peaceful settlement of disputes enshrined in the Charter of the Organisation of African Unity is still incomprehensible to some elements who have not got the interest of Nigeria at heart. I am not intending to arouse controversy, but I am appealing to those who wish to attack the North on any issue at least to show some standard of honesty. We in the North have no reason whatsoever to envy anybody's territory. The neo-imperialists in the country are looking around for new territories to annex because their land is now too small for them. The North has no territorial ambition.

Mr Speaker, may I whole-heartedly seize this opportunity to congratulate all true Yorubas who have placed their destiny and interest above foul politics and who have thought more in terms of posterity than in terms of material gains to individuals and have closed ranks for the entire unity of our country. In the North we are wholly indivisible and, therefore, any attempt by any individual to cause disunity in the North will fail.

I want to comment briefly on roads. I am gravely concerned about the heavy toll on life taken by accidents on our roads. I appeal to the Government and draw its attention to the ugly conditions of our roads. The widening of all bridges to twenty-four feet width as mentioned in the Speech from the Throne will not be enough to help reduce accidents on our roads because accidents do not normally occur on the bridges alone. Something more than widening of bridges on the roads is required. If a road is too wide it encourages reckless drivers to over-speed, and this results

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in more accidents. Bad tarring of roads is an impediment and constitutes a great danger to all road users. Many roads which were previously tarred have burst and have got many pot-holes which cause fatal accidents. Almost all roads in the country to-day have faults and it is high time the Federal Government did something to prevent these roads from taking away more lives.

Since the Federal Government is the background of all Regional Governments, it should take over the responsibility of maintaining all types of roads. In this connection, I mean that all roads should be federalised. There should be no classification of roads throughout the whole Republic as from 1968.

As hon. Members are no doubt aware, agriculture is the mainstay of our economy. If farmers, after harvesting their crops, have not got access to easy transportation of their produce, their progress will be hampered and this automatically means a retrogression of our country's internal and external trade. Therefore, all roads in the country should be tarred in order that unity and easy communication will be achieved.

I would like to speak briefly on education. In order that all Regions may enjoy equal amenities, education in this Republic should be federalised. The present provision of educational amenities is lopsided. The present provision caters only for Eastern and Western Nigeria, but Northern and Mid-Western Nigeria are not yet in the good books of the Federal Government. The Federal Government should try to rectify the position before 1968. If education is made a Federal subject, it would ensure a uniform educational standard throughout the country.

With regard to telephone, I would like to say that at the present, telephone communication in this country is only between the Provincial and Divisional Headquarters. This makes it difficult for an ordinary district to contact a Medical Officer at the Divisional Headquarters when there is an accident. If there is also a state of emergency in a district, it is always difficult to contact the chief District Officer. I am therefore, appealing to the Federal Government to provide every district with telephone facilities. This will make for easy communication between the District Headquarters and the Divisional Headquarters.

I would like to say something about the inadequate representation of Northern Nigeria in the Senate. I feel that Northern Nigeria is being cheated by the present system. The North should not have the same number of Senators as the other Regions. The North being the largest of all the Regions should be represented by twenty Senators, whilst the East, West and Mid-Western Nigeria should be represented in the proportion of twelve, nine and seven Senators respectively.

**Mr F. C. Ogbalu (Awka North):** On a point of order, the hon. Gentleman is reading. He is also becoming irrelevant by not putting forward any concrete proposals, but rather he is wandering away from the debate. We are concerned with the fiscal policy of the Government and not the constitution of the Senate.

**The Deputy Speaker :** Order ! I think the hon. Member is putting forward his own views as to what the constitution of the Senate should be. However, the hon. Member should relate his points a bit more directly to matters affecting economic policy.

**Mr Ede :** The present number of Northern Senators in the Senate is unproportional and was allowed to be so because of an oversight. This should be rectified immediately. The present number given to the North is a slight.

While congratulating the Federal Government for siting industries at certain earmarked areas, may I seize this opportunity to draw the attention of the Federal Government to the economic strangulation and unemployment hovering around Benue Province. May I inform the Government that the River Benue is there to meet the requirements of any type of industry sited in the province. There are mineral resources in the province, which when tapped will provide employment to all the people in the province. What then prevents the Federal Government from siting industries in this province? The Government should come to the aid of the teeming educated masses in the province who are unemployed. We just want one industry to be sited there because half bread is better than none. May I also alert the Federal Government to the state of emergency in the East. There is a break down of law and order in Eastern Nigeria. This break down of law and order has been extended to Western Nigeria by the N.C.N.C.

supporters. The Federal Government should do all that lies in its power to declare a state of emergency in Eastern Nigeria.

The wave of hooliganism and thuggery sweeping across Onitsha and Ibadan since the present political realignment in Western Nigeria has now spread to Abeokuta and other places harbouring non-N.C.N.C. supporters.

Under the pretext of law and order in the East, innocent men of wealth are held at gun point and are either deprived of their wealth or killed suddenly. There, in the East, to-day, many men and women are suffering and dying from serious stabs and matchet cuts.

**Mr F. C. Ogbalu** (Awka North): The hon. Gentleman is misleading the House. There is nothing like a break down of law and order in Eastern Nigeria. I can assure him that there is peace and tranquillity; good order and good Government in Eastern Nigeria. I am therefore asking the hon. Gentleman to desist from this line of action because he is becoming very provocative and if he wants it so, we shall pay him back in his own coins.

**The Deputy Speaker**: Order! As I said at one time yesterday, I think, Members are free to express their views provided they have got their facts, but that Members should not tread on points that may prove explosive. What I would not like to accommodate is being too sensitive.

**Mr Ede**: I do not stand on the Floor of this House to mislead the House. What I am saying is the true fact and I want everybody to listen attentively.

Charity, they say, begins at home and unity like charity must begin at home. Many Professors preach unity on the Floor of this House forgetting that unity begins at home. We cannot have that unity when we have men of dishonest intentions purporting to be the saviours. The Bible says that in order to see clearly we must first of all remove the motes in our own eyes before we attempt to remove those in others?

**Mr F. C. Ogbalu** (Awka North): Quote the Koran.

**Mr Ede**: I am a Christian.

**Mr Ogbalu**: The hon. Gentleman is not a true Christian.

**Mr Ede**: Before any Ibo man comes out to pay lip service as regards the unity of the Federation, he should see that all acts of lawlessness and the sowing of the seed of disunity which is growing by leaps and bounds in the East is completely eradicated. The unity of our country is at stake.

**Mr A. O. Ogunsanya** (Ikeja): On a point of order, if the hon. Gentleman's wife has run away with an Ibo man, he should tell us.

**Mr Ede**: As I have said, the unity of our country is at stake. The tribalistic, nepotic, irresponsible, pushful, forceful and inconsistent Ibo supporters of the N.C.N.C. are the harbingers of disunity in the whole Federation. (*Interruptions*).

**The Deputy Speaker**: Order, order! I am afraid, I do not think we have so far established a principle for using the Floor of this House to single out individual tribes of the country for exhaustive and penetrating attacks. May I ask hon. Members to be a bit more restrained. After all if you think of these things being said, you will find that there are people here who are concerned, and if they start replying—which I would not encourage—the situation might get out of hand.

**Mr Ede**: Thank you. Anybody going through the White Paper containing serious charges against the N.C.N.C. as an enemy of Western Nigeria—

**The Minister of Communications** (Chief Olu Akinfosile): On a point of order, these Members are going to remain in this House with the rest of us—all of us are going to be Members here. I think we should address ourselves to the things which unite us more than the things that disunite us. We should address ourselves to the task for which we are here which is the improvement of the lives of the millions of our country men. They are not concerned about the things that are going on and what I am saying is that hon. Members of this House should make this House the centre of nation-building and not the centre of disruption.

Quite honestly, there are other ways in which we can tackle these problems. I think they are better tackled behind the scenes rather than by

open attack. There may be strangers here from other parts of the world ; not one side of us will be benefited if this sort of way of dealing with ourselves goes on.

I would ask that hon Members help us to remove this debate from the glare of politics as it is going on. It can happen in other places but not here. This is the centre of the nation.

**Chief D. N. Abii** (Owerri East) : On a point of order, I humbly say that the White Paper which the Member for Idoma North ( *Mr Ede* ) is referring to is not for this Parliament at all. He is referring to a White Paper which has not come before us ; therefore it is completely irrelevant.

**The Deputy Speaker** : May I say for the benefit of those it pleases, and those it displeases that while sitting on this Chair I shall not allow any inter-tribal warfare, and any argument tending that way will be certainly ruled out.

**Mr Ede** : As I said earlier, I do not stand on the Floor of this House to raise any controversy. The Budget Speech covers all the affairs pertaining to the welfare of Nigerians and that is what I am speaking of. I would not say anything that would be contrary to the Standing Orders of this House. We are all Nigerians and we have been crying on the Floor of this House for unity.

About this White Paper I was talking about—

**The Deputy Speaker** : Order ! Could you please find another line of argument.

**Mr Ede** : In order to effect a little bit of unity in the Federation, there are some people who have been deprived of their right by being demoted instead of being promoted. The Government should see that those people (irrespective of their tribes) who have been unjustifiably made to supersede their seniors are downgraded. Those who have been left behind should be placed in their proper position. I would like Dr Ikejiani and the other redundant people to be removed forthwith.

**Mr F. I. Okoronkwo** (Aba Urban) : On a point of Order, the speech of the Member for Idoma North ( *Mr Ede* ) is irrelevant. We must put on record that this question of attacks and conspiracy against one tribe must stop or else when the Ibos shall reply I think those who are responsible for these acts will run away.

**The Deputy Speaker** : It is unfortunate that the Member for Aba Urban ( *Mr Okoronkwo* ) should reopen this issue ; but may I take this opportunity to plead with the generality of the Members of this House that it may be to our mutual satisfaction to tell off ourselves, but it is quite a different matter the impression it creates outside.

The *Hansard* is circulated all over the world (and I do not have to preach a sermon) but if Members feel it will help our unity any better I think they are free to go on.

**Mr A. O. Ogunsanya** (Ikeja) : Time and again there has been mention of persons who are not Members of this House and who will have no opportunity to reply. It is out of order, with respect, for individuals who are not Members and who will have no opportunity to reply on the Floor of this House to be attacked ; and it should be said that the individual mentioned, if the allegations are even true, the truth of the allegation can never make the N.C.N.C. vicariously liable. That is the point of order I want to make.

I want to add that if it were certain acts of the N.C.N.C. as a party I think I would say nothing at all. But even if the allegations referred to by the Member for Idoma North ( *Mr Ede* ) were true, he could never, never ascribe those acts to the N.C.N.C. And it is a pity that this trash, often referred to as a White Paper, was allowed to be circulated to Members of this House ; and I think it was a breach of protocol on the part of the Western Government to have had the audacity to bring it here without passing it through the Clerk of the Parliaments.

**Mr Speaker** : I think this White Paper should not be a subject of debate during the Second Reading of the Appropriation Bill.

**Mr Ede** : Thank you very much, Mr Speaker, for your ruling. It has been said that man has a tendency to blame his creator each time he encounters misfortune ; he yields to temptation to count his difficulties, hardships, problems and sufferings, rather than his blessings. Difficulties ought not to be allowed to becloud our vision of God's grace and goodness ; to blame Him for every hard thing we may face in this life, and at the same

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time ignore the good He had done in spite of the fact that we do not merit it, is to show gross ingratitude to Him.

The recent breakdown of law and order in Tiv Division, Benue Province, is bound to create misgivings in many minds. The riot in which many lives, including those of our dear innocent policemen, were lost, was brought about by the political machination of the Member for Jemgba (*Mr Tarka's*) U.M.B.C.-N.C.N.C. alliance. It came to me as a surprise when Mr Tarka in the course of his contribution to the President's Address lashed and levied false accusations against the Northern Government and its innocent officials.

**Mr Speaker :** The Gentleman speaking has one minute to wind up.

**Mr Ede :** If I were the Member for Jemgba (*Mr Tarka*) I would not have hesitated to prove my innocence in the case instead of waiting on the verdict of a high-powered commission which will enquire into the cause of the riot. He has the tendency to blame the Northern Government each time he encounters misfortune caused by his ill-intentions. The same wave of hooliganism and thuggery sweeping across the Eastern Region perpetrated the breakdown of law and order in the Tiv Division.

**Mr V. A. Nwaleji (Nsukka West) :** On a point of order, I think in talking about a breakdown of law and order one should know what it means. The Member for Idoma North (*Mr Ede*) comes here and goes back to his constituency through the Eastern Region and, perhaps, when his rickety car breaks down in the East he calls that a breakdown of law and order.

**Mr Ede :** I want to say that Mr Tarka and his Ibo N.C.N.C. alliance were party to the incidents that took place in Tiv Division.

**Mr Speaker :** The Gentleman speaking has exhausted his time.

**Mr J. O. Igwe (Ezza) :** In contributing to this debate I first of all have to congratulate the Minister of Finance for the way he has presented his Budget Speech to this Parliament in session.

The Minister said a lot about savings and as we are all aware of the importance of savings in the development of monetary stability and its contribution to the realisation of economic

development, let me therefore suggest that a vigorous savings campaign should be pursued and this should be extended to the man in the rural areas.

With the aid of mass education many people are now in a position to make use of modern monetary techniques which facilitates at business in highly developed and commercial countries of the world, and particularly with those with whom we are in association. This country is fast growing into a civilised state where people will no more be expected to carry their monies in raw cash, but to make the best use of banking facilities provided them. In this connection, I hope the Government will continue to make banking facilities available to the entire community, so that their day to day business transactions will continue to take on a new look.

The Government's intention to enter into partnership with printing companies for the purpose of establishing in this country our own security printing and minting is a welcome idea, so far as adequate measures will be taken to ensure that the issuing of this currency becomes a routine matter for the government agency to be entrusted with it. We should ensure that whatever quantity is in circulation corresponds with any increase in consumers' costs and expenditure. It is also necessary that the technicians of government Mints and the government printers should be made to handle all the technical problems entailed in the Minting. The government should ensure that the new currency is put into circulation at the right time and with the right quantity.

To ensure this I will therefore suggest that a secret service branch should be established to check any competitive issuer and run him out of business. Indeed, this is a problem which is bound to arise as our medium of exchange develops very highly.

**Mr Speaker :** It is now six o'clock and sitting is suspended till nine o'clock.

*Sitting suspended : 6. p.m.*

*Sitting resumed : 9.00 p.m.*

**Mr Igwe :** The next point I would like to deal with is to appeal to the Federal Government to carry out a general survey of the mineral deposits in Nigeria. A general survey of every inch of available land in the country should be carried out to locate all the mineral deposits

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believed to exist in abundance in different parts of the country. I am sure that the discovery of these mineral deposits will facilitate the industrial and economic development of this country. I will urge the Government to give special consideration to the survey of the area of the old Ogoja Province, comprising the new Abakaliki and Ogoja Provinces.

The lead and zinc mine at Nyebe near Abakaliki has remained closed for a long time and I will appeal to the Government to see that it is reopened. The Government should come to the aid of any company wishing to open and develop this mine. We have often been told that the price of lead has fallen in the world market. The Government should find markets for these commodities which are still in great demand.

Most of our Trunk 'A' Roads are really in a very bad condition. It cannot be denied that these bad roads are the main cause of many motor accidents which have claimed so many lives in the past. Apart from these road accidents, many vehicles are rendered worthless within a few months of purchase.

In most cases, the maintenance of our roads is carried out by the Ministry of Works. What happens is that unused gravel heaps are left along the roads, and bridges are not repaired quickly. Even when roads are diverted in order to make some repairs, these diversions are allowed to stay for a very long time causing a lot of inconvenience to road users. May I suggest that, in future, the maintenance and reconstruction of roads should be given out to contracting firms if the maintenance team of the Ministry of Works continue to indulge in holding up repairs and thereby wasting public funds.

The Trunk 'A' road between Enugu and Abakaliki is an eyesore. Even though some work appears to be going on on some of the collapsing bridges, I must remind the Minister that this road is in a very bad condition. This road is not only important from the point of view of being a Trunk 'A' road maintained by the Federal Government, it is also an international highway forming part of the main international West African route. This road is also the main approach into the Eastern Region from other parts of the Republic. This road also joins the road from Enugu Airport and the Nkalagu Cement Factory coming into Enugu

town. The condition of the road is a disgrace to this country. I am appealing to the Minister of Works to take immediate steps to reconstruct this international highway which links Eastern Nigeria with Northern Nigeria and the Cameroon Republic.

Another point I wish to comment upon is the Nkalagu Cement Industry. The Nkalagu Cement Company has been making enormous profits and we are all happy about this. I am sure this honourable House will join me in wishing the company more successful years ahead. I am very sorry to say that this company since its inception has not thought it fit to offer any form of encouragement to the youths of this country. The company has not even thought of awarding scholarships either for general or technical education. One would have thought that such a big industrial organisation as the Nkalagu Cement Company should have been liberal enough to offer scholarships to the youths of Abakaliki. This honourable House will be surprised to hear that the company has not been generous at all to the people of Abakaliki Division. What the company did was to put their head office at Enugu where the people will not know what is happening.

I am demanding here, Sir, that the head office of the Nkalagu Cement Factory should be transferred to Abakaliki forthwith. We want to know what is going on in that company, the people of Abakaliki should even have representatives on the Board of the company.

I wish to mention that the present policy by which industries are sited in places either because of political consideration or party patronage in preference to places where raw materials abound is uneconomical and not in the best interest of this country. This reminds me of the deliberate refusal of this Government to consider siting a salt industry at Abakaliki where there are very large brine deposits.

On education, I wish to say that Abakaliki Division is one of the divisions with inadequate educational facilities in this country. No graduate or expert working with the Peace Corps has been posted to any of the seven secondary and teacher training colleges in Abakaliki Division. I am appealing to the Federal Minister of Education to confer with his counterpart in the Eastern Region so that sufficient educational facilities will be made available to the colleges in Abakaliki and Afikpo Divisions.



[M. IGWE]

On the question of the unity of this country, I wish to say that there is a saying that "There is no smoke without fire". One does not need to go too far to find that it is the seed of hatred planted in this country by the former colonial Administrative Officers that is now germinating. This they did by way of sending intelligent reports to London and setting one tribe against another.

May I say that while every effort should be made to restore the peace and brotherliness which had existed in this country, I humbly suggest that a Committee be set up to find the ways and means of combating tribalism once and for all in this country. If this is done, hon. Members will agree with me that we will have everlasting unity in this country.

I beg to support.

**M. Usman Wazirin Kontagora** (Kontagora South East): I rise to support the Second Reading of the Appropriation Bill. In supporting it I would like to congratulate the Minister of Finance for his ability in framing up this Budget and to extend my congratulations to the Government as a whole.

Last year I drew the attention of the Government on the Floor of this House to the question of unemployment which is dangerous to a young country like Nigeria. I advised the Government to modernise the system of farming so that it may be attractive to our young boys who leave school without jobs. I am very pleased to see that the Northern Region has started to open Schools of Agriculture for such boys, and I am sure similar action is being adopted by the other Regions of the Federation. But I would like to know what the Federal Government is doing as its own contribution in this way.

Secondly, I have made several requests as regards the provision of Kontagora with electricity, but still my requests have not met with success. The reply I usually received from the Minister was that such an allocation of electricity is a Regional matter. Such a reply cannot satisfy any Member of this House, because Electricity Corporation is under the Federal Government. I, therefore, beg the Federal Government to support the requests of Members in this connection by contacting the Regional Governments in order that electricity might be provided in all important towns in the country.

Thirdly, I wish to say a few words about the Ministry of Commerce and Industry. There is a great quantity of sheanuts in Niger Province. I do hope the Minister of Commerce and Industry will make all efforts to get a market for it in the coming season or establish an oil extracting industry in the Province.

Before I take my seat, I would like to draw the attention of the Government once more to the present appalling situation of Zungeru town which was the first headquarters of this great country of ours and the birth place of the President of the Republic of Nigeria. We should be proud of this town if only for these two reasons. I, therefore, suggest that certain developments best suited for its fame should be carried out in this town.

I beg to support.

**Alhaji S. A. Olukotun** (Kabba): I rise to support the Second Reading of the Appropriation Bill so ably moved by the hon. Minister of Finance, Chief Festus Okotie-Eboh, which he called the "National Budget".

In supporting the Bill which seeks to appropriate over £62 million for the services of the Republic of Nigeria for the current year, which I want to be well spent, I should like this honourable House to warn the Minister of Finance to stop flying unnecessarily and constantly, as he is now doing, to countries overseas. That is a great waste of Government money.

**Mr J. B. Eboigbodi** (Asaba West): On a point of order, I wish to point out that when Ministers go overseas this country benefits because when they go there they eventually bring back sufficient loans for our industrial development.

**Alhaji Olukotun**: Instead of wasting such sums of money it is better if the Federal Government uses such sums for the tarring of all the Trunk 'A' Roads which have not yet been tarred throughout the Federation. A proverb says: "Charity begins at home." Without good roads no easy communications can be obtained. It is not good to spend thousands and thousands of pounds in going overseas foolishly without good roads and electricity supply to towns such as Isanlu, Egbe, and Okene in Kabba Province.

I support this Bill on condition that this huge amount of money would be carefully and economically spent for the big projects which

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are ahead of the Federal Government. I do not support this Bill if we have to waste money senselessly in the manner that I have pointed out.

I beg to support.

**Mr E. A. Mordi** (Asaba East) : In making my own humble contributions to this debate on the 1964-65 Appropriation Bill, I wish to join all the previous speakers in congratulating the hon. Minister of Finance, Chief Festus Okotie-Eboh, for his speech so very ably delivered. As a matter of fact, praises or encomiums which we shower on the Minister of Finance boils down to a mere fulfilment of mere righteousness because any person who has the opportunity of watching *Omimi* in this Parliament cannot help acknowledging that he is an outstandingly brilliant man saturated with wits sharp but at the same time sweet-tongued.

The hon. Minister has, as in the previous years, found a nickname for the 1964-65 Budget. He calls it the "National Budget". Several designations had been used previously ranging from the *People's Budget to Responsibility, Sovereignty, Mobilisation, Modernisation*, and currently we have the *National*. Each designation significantly describes a stage in the political metamorphosis of our country.

According to the Minister of Finance he has chosen to call this Budget "National", because with the birth of the Republic a new status has been achieved by the country which, according to him, must be reflected in every aspect of our national life. The Minister further indicated the aim of his present Budget, and I quote,

*"It is to be a survey to depict the most important facets of our national economy to map out the changes since our attainment of sovereignty and the subsequent introduction of the Development Programme and to indicate further developments which may be expected in the next few years."*

He introduces his survey with a treatise on Economic Nationalism otherwise defined by him as economic patriotism, and points out that for a country to achieve a worthy and immeasurable economic growth its citizens must be nationally spirited. There must be a clear indication of a sense of national awareness or national consciousness demonstrated in a will to succeed or go ahead in all the aspects of the nation's life. It is this sort of nationalism or patriotism which the Minister described as one

of the intangible ingredients which must catalyse the interaction of the three classical factors of production before a real and dramatic economic growth can be achieved.

Without going into further detail as to how nationalism or patriotism could be called in to play in our economic growth, excepting to make an unimpressive appeal to us to pride ourselves in Nigeria-made things, the Minister went on to assess the Six-Year Development Plan, the achievements made so far, the uncompleted part of the Programme, the financing problems in domestic resources as well as external aids, the success or failure in the rate of flow of finance from the various sources domestic and external—as expected; the pattern that the implementation of the next phase of the Programme will take and all what nots related to it.

The Minister then in very great detail analysed the monetary policy the Government will be adopting to enable it raise funds for the Six-Year Development Programme and for the general improvement of our trade position in relation to other countries. As in his usual budgets he talked beautifully about the financial institutions of his Ministry—the Central Bank and its loans, Savings Certificates, Premium Bonds, Provident Fund, *et cetera*. Although these, in my opinion, are the usual text book theories on foreign trade and balance of payments, Mr Speaker, for people who admire Nigeria as it is to-day, and who want it to continue to be run as it is to-day a kingdom where very few are to have life more abundant and the majority are sentenced to an eternal doom of penury and abject poverty, the hon. Minister's speech will be most appealing but for those who think the same way as I do, who believe that something is wrong somewhere in this country, and that so many are being inhumanly exploited by so few, certainly the Budget leaves them with no remarkable impression. (*Interruptions*)

Mr Speaker, Sir, I humbly solicit your protection, because I know I am treading on a dangerous ground.

I have had the awful privilege of listening to five Budget Speeches in this House—since 1959 when I became a Member. The speeches are always well written and beautifully delivered but with little or no practical result in the life of the nation's economy. For the pre-independence years, I make no quarrel, but for the post-independence years, surely, Sir, the

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majority of the people of this country had the worst deal of their lives.

When the whiteman was controlling power in Nigeria, our society was made up of two strata—a stratum of our foreign overlords who were certainly living on a high plain and the other stratum was that of the generality of Nigerians. The gap between an expatriate and a Nigerian was noticeably wide no doubt, but that between the best-living and the worst-living Nigerian was almost negligible. At that time the best-paid Nigerian civil servant was the Chief Clerk who earned £220 per annum. But one thing was incontrovertibly clear, the poor Nigerian in those days, pursued his business under his European master unmolested, he was not discriminated against, and he who merited justice earned it.

But to-day the story is different. Our nationalists have, thanks to them, shown the whiteman the door but surely, Sir, the white exploitation has been replaced by a worse black exploitation. On top of this, justice and fair-play exist nowhere. Mediocrity is enthroned and meritocracy has been sacrificed on the ignoble altar of nepotism, bribery and corruption. As I said earlier on, when the whiteman was controlling the affairs of this country, the gap between the rich Nigerian and the poor countryman was considerably narrow, but to-day the gap has become widened and deepened immeasurably. The rich are getting fabulously richer whilst the poor are becoming miserably poorer.

One would have thought that the Minister's Budget Speech or the entire Government policy for that matter should aim at remedying the growing anomaly. But instead of this, we find policies worked out which aim at concentrating more wealth in the hands of those who are already saturated with it.

**Alhaji Bello Dandago** (Gwarzo East) : On a point of order, it is a pity that the hon. Gentleman made a general and sweeping remark about this corruption. He ought to have said some Nigerians but when he spoke about corruption to the detriment of all Nigerians without exception and in favour of the whiteman, Mr Speaker, I did not like that. We should always bear in mind that people outside Nigeria read whatever statements we make here.

**Mr Mordi** : There are millions of people in this country to-day who cannot afford more than one meal in a day, and even the one meal

they can afford is not good enough for a goat or sheep. Most families in the rural areas in all parts of this country eat soup cooked with not even a half-a-penny cray fish. More than 10 per cent of the Lagos population have no places to lay their heads. Mr Speaker, if one drives out this night through Lagos streets and sees the number of people who sleep outside commercial buildings, pavements and in market stalls, in the open cold and fraught with the danger of being killed by thieves then one will appreciate how iniquitously unprogressive are our economic policies.

As against these horrible situations of millions going without food and without a sleeping place, we have others—Nigerians too—who keep four or five cars, own six to eight giant buildings for which they have not spent a half-a-penny of their own money, their wives make ten frocks a week with materials costing £30 per yard—and all these at the expense of public funds.

Rightly, in his speech, the Minister of Finance said, and I quote with your permission, Sir—

*If the citizens of a nation enjoy honest opulence the State prospers, but should the citizens be overwhelmed with poverty the condition of the State will be worthy of pity.*

These are the very words of the Minister of Finance.

But unemployment is stinking in this country and the condition in the immediate future, unless something is done, is going to be far worse.

The standard of living of our people is sub-human and with the ever widening gap between the rich and the poor, a congenial atmosphere is being created for revolution. Several people have said this and it is the blunt truth.

The Action Group *coup d'etat* failed in Nigeria because it was political but when a revolution arises from the economic insecurity of the masses, it is bound to be irresistible. History supports this view and Nigeria's case cannot be different.

With our present financial, economic and governmental policies, one is apt to ask—*quo vadis* Nigeria? It is true we told the world that we have embarked on a Development Plan costing £676 million in order to bring prosperity to our suffering population. May I ask how much of this will go into the pockets of the Ministers, senior government officials

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and board members who are in a position to disburse the money, and what proportion will be left for the actual production that will benefit the common man? Even the walls have ears!

Let no one be deceived. All the nefarious, ignominious and contemptible dealings of those who are using their privileged position to feather their own nests are fully known and discussed even in the remotest nooks and corners of Nigeria. But like the proverbial ostrich, they hide their heads in the sand and claim that they are not seen by others.

No amount of swearing on the Bible or the Koran can impress us. After all, people like Fani-Kayode and others who have sworn on the Bible and on the *Olumo* rock are still going strong, perhaps only mercilessly haunted by their conscience.

If our present miserable economic state must be improved, then our Government must become virile Government—bold Government. At the moment it is a dead weight. This does not mean that individually, the Members of the cabinet are inefficient or incapable; not at all.

Truly, our Prime Minister is admittedly a great world figure, cool headed, just, fair-minded, sympathetic and in fact he possesses all the good attributes that one can think of, and he merits them. But nevertheless, I must make bold to say that our Government lacks dynamism. Our economic nationalism is at the freezing point and, as Chief Okotie-Eboh clearly stated, there can be no economic growth without economic nationalism.

I would just give one example. A few days ago a Bill was brought before us in this Parliament. It was a Bill on Insurance which was a real disgrace to all the forward looking citizens of this country and two Ministers were attempting to brain-wash Members of this honourable House many of whom have as much grey matter in their heads as the Ministers themselves. I would like to make this clear: the fact that one is a Minister does not in any way make him more intelligent than those who do not hold ministerial appointments, nor on the other hand, does a Floor Member of this House become foolish because he is not a Minister. I must warn that this attitude of mind of some Members of the Government must be discouraged.

I was challenged by the Minister of Finance when I mentioned that some Ministers have interest in the content of that Insurance Bill and as a result the interest of the Nigerian public has been sacrificed to suit them. I want to make it clear that I accept the challenge. I am calling on the Prime Minister to investigate it and if I am proved wrong, I will resign my seat forthwith.

The Government of this country must be guided by what is good for the majority and not the self-centred minority. Let me be reserved, but for goodness sake, let the Members of our Government cast away selfish interests and give this country a bold and vigorous lead.

Certain aspects of our country's economy must be nationalised if we must make any progress. Our economy must be influenced by active nationalism, not dead patriotism. The theory that the nationalisation of one or two industries will scare away investors is untenable and is unsupportable by events in other African countries. Investment has not flowed into Nigeria more than into Ghana because of Ghana's bold economic policies; in fact, the reverse is the case. Even in our first Progress Report on the Development Programme it has been clearly mentioned that foreign aid has not flowed in up to 33½ per cent of what was expected. What then is the gain we have made by our soft-peddling economic policy? We do not get enough from outside and we fear to exploit the advantages of what is our own.

It is my view that the greatness which we anticipate from our country is not greatness measured by the number of cars a few people can ride, nor in the number of luxurious buildings or government quarters a few privileged ones do enjoy, but by the high standard of living of our masses.

One more point and I am done. Recent events have shown that the instability in the Western Region will continue for many years to come unless a leader accepted by the masses of that Region emerges. In my view, there is one leader so far whose leadership has been acceptable to the majority of the Yorubas.

Since the sickness of one part of the Federation is bound to affect all the other component parts, I am humbly asking this honourable House to forward a petition to His Excellency, the President of the Republic, praying him to exercise his prerogative of mercy on Chief Awolowo so that he can be released to join the

[MR MORDI]

other leaders in the reconstruction work so much needed in the Federation in general and in the Western Region in particular. "To err is human and to forgive is divine."

Finally let me put in a word on the unproductive labour fabulously rewarded in this country, and I repeat, unproductive labour fabulously rewarded in this country. I think that this Parliament has come to stay; after all, it is the highest Parliament in the country. A few days ago people came from the Mid-West and they sat in the Gallery trying to watch us and see how we were debating.

There is no doubt that every other Region in the Federation—not only the Mid-West for that matter—will want to take a queue from this place. But the situation whereby Parliamentary Secretaries and some Members of the Government cannot read out "Answers" which are typed for them in this place is a disgrace to this Parliament, especially when foreign visitors come here to watch us. Personally I do not feel happy about it, it does not reflect any credit on the people of this country especially when it is remembered that some of these people who cannot read out prepared "Answers" are supposed to be earning over £2,000 for that matter. It may be unpalatable, but this is the truth.

I am suggesting that people like Ibrahim Gusau, Shettima Ali Monguno, Alhaji Sarkin Bai and other Members of this House will really be able to reflect credit on this Parliament. But for distinguished visitors to come here from America, India, *et cetera*, and sit in the Gallery during Question time, only to find that somebody instead of answering Question 110 begins to answer Question 113, is a big disgrace to this Parliament.

**An hon. Member :** You want to be appointed ?

**Mr Mordi :** I do not want to be appointed. But what I am saying is that the right thing must be done. There are many intelligent Members here who can be appointed Parliamentary Secretaries.

I would like to go to a few more points which are specifically for the Ministers—

**Mr J. M. Damla (Pankshin West) :** On a point of order, I understand that the Member for Asaba East (*Mr Mordi*) has been asking the N.C.N.C. to appoint him a Parliamentary

Secretary but the latter refused. That is why he is challenging the Parliamentary Secretaries.

**Mr Mordi :** I want to tell the Member for Pankshin West (*Mr Damla*) that I am a graduate and a Principal of a school on a salary of more than £2,000 per annum. It will be meaningless to me to come here and accept the post of a Parliamentary Secretary at £1,800 per annum. If he does not know, he should know that. As a matter of fact, I earn more than a Minister at the moment.

As I said, I would like to make some brief comments on certain Ministries. Very many Members have spoken about rent control here and I think it is really something which the Government must think about very seriously.

I will just tell you a small story. A few days ago a certain gentleman came back to Lagos from my town after his leave. Before he returned, a notice had been served on him by his landlord asking him to quit the premises. The notice was served on every other member of the house. By the time he came back, after about two months stay at home, he had only four days before the notice expired, and he was forced to start looking for another accommodation frantically.

For nearly one month he was lodging here and there with friends. He was unable to find an alternative accommodation. When eventually he succeeded in finding a little room somewhere he was asked to pay five pounds a month. This was not the only trouble. He was further asked to pay one year's rent in advance, that means paying as much as sixty pounds rent in advance. How on earth does one expect a poor civil servant on a meagre salary of about ten pounds a month, to meet such a high rent, particularly when he has a wife ?

And this brings me to the area of Lagos called Ikoyi. When in the colonial era, Ikoyi was built for the Europeans, it was clearly and understandably constructed with the houses scattered about and made the exclusive reserve of the white people for their comfort. But now that we Nigerians have taken over and are managing our own affairs, I think Ikoyi should be re-designed to accommodate two times the population that it now has.

Instead of spending hundreds of thousands of pounds to reclaim certain areas, that money should be spent in putting up additional build-

ings to accommodate all the senior civil servants in Lagos. As a matter of fact some of the compounds now at Ikoyi can take three or four buildings more, but we just find that only one house is left and about two to three acres of land given over to gardening and all sorts of grass lawns, which people are paid to keep clean. I think something should be done in this respect in order to help the people of this country and of Lagos in particular who are really suffering seriously.

On the question of economic development, I would like to mention a point which I failed the other day to emphasise owing to time factor. It is the question of the Mid-Western Region in relation to the Six-Year Development Programme.

I would like to remind the Minister of Economic Development that when this programme was drawn up, the Mid-West area was still part of the West. But since then a constitutional process has taken place and a new Region has been created.

The other day during *Question Time*, a question was asked as to how much the Federal Government spent on the Mid-West during the interim administration, and the reply of the Minister of Finance was "nil". I do not know what that means, but if we are to take it on its face value, I do not think the Federal Government has actually discharged its real obligations towards that new Region.

The Mid-West is in a peculiar position. All the other Regions when they started functioning as Regions had their capitals during the days of the whiteman. Enugu was very well developed. Ibadan was very well developed and so was Kaduna. They all had something on which to build. But it is a very different thing with the Mid-West because in this Region, Benin which is the capital is practically undeveloped and when one remembers what the Mid-West people suffered at the hands of the West under the Action Group regime, one will be in a better position to understand what is meant by 'undeveloped'. One only needs to come to the Mid-West to see it for oneself because seeing is believing.

**Mr Speaker :** The hon. Gentleman has two minutes to wind up.

**Mr Mordi :** What I am saying is that the Mid-West Region started from the scratch and therefore it requires to be helped by the Federal Government. Its difficulties are greater than

those encountered by any other Region. And therefore, it requires special treatment.

As a matter of fact, it was during that short interim administration that the people of the Mid-West Region tasted what is meant by good democratic Government for the first time.

**Mr D. O. Enefolo (Igalá South):** On a point of order, I feel the hon. Gentleman speaking should be grateful to the Government for all that it has done for the Mid-West. Benin is now a regional headquarter and it is left for the people in their self-determination to do everything in their power to develop it. The hon. Member cannot say that because Enugu, Ibadan and Kaduna have been developed, the Federal Government should therefore, look after Benin for the Mid-Westerners.

**Mr Mordi :** As I said, I hope that the Prime Minister and the Minister of Economic Development will take this matter very seriously and bear the Mid-West in mind. I think that in view of the fact that Mid-West is now a new Region there should be a sort of readjustment in the Development Programme, in order to give the Mid-West a special emphasis more than it was given when it was an appendage of the West.

Finally, I would like to speak on the Ministry of Health. Only a few days ago, I happened to be ill and I went to the hospital. I saw a very large crowd and I saw some women and children who had come there as early as six o'clock in the morning. Some of these people were asking for ordinary A.P.C. and codine tablets. They were not supplied. This is a disgrace and something must be done about it.

When the Minister of Health was giving a report about his Ministry he did actually admit that there had been some drugs missing in the hospital. It could be that some nurses had pinched some of the drugs, or that something else had happened. In any case, extra vigilance must be exercised in order to ensure that the people get the best benefit. After all, this is the capital of this country and anybody who comes here expects that it is the best that should be found. But when hospitals are run like local council dispensaries, then it is a tragedy.

I beg to support.

**Mr Abbas Raḥa (Gwoza) :** I rise to support the Second Reading of the Appropriation Bill which was introduced by the Minister of Finance. It is a great credit to him and to the Government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

[MR RAHA]

In supporting the Bill, I would also like to congratulate our great and respectable leader Alhaji the hon. Sir Ahmadu Bello, the Sardauna of Sokoto on his announcement of the 18th of this month which rejected the proposed meeting of the Premiers.

I would like to draw the attention of the Federal Government to the recent survey conducted by the F.A.O. in respect of foodstuffs, but which was not extended to the rural areas, particularly my own constituency in the Sardauna Province where foodstuffs of all kinds are being wasted owing to lack of adequate means of transportation.

I would like the Prime Minister to amend the Constitution particularly the portion of it dealing with the Upper House. How can we justify the representation of a population of two million people by twelve Senators while only twelve Senators represent thirty million people in another place. I am demanding that the Constitution be amended in this respect, because my province, the Sardauna Province, is not represented in the Senate.

This also shows that the Northern Region is being cheated in a big way. I am appealing to the Prime Minister to consider the inclusion of some people from the Sardauna Province in any oversea delegation which might be appointed in the near future. This is necessary because some of them have not gone out before to see how other countries manage their affairs.

About a year ago, on the Floor of this House, I spoke about the confiscation of Nigeria's animals by the people of the Cameroun Republic. This irresponsible act took place at Arboko in Gwoza district. As far as I remember, a charter was signed on the Floor of this House by the member of the Organisation of African Unity. I wish to inform this House that there is no unity between Nigeria and the Cameroun Republic because there is rioting between us nearly every month on the border of my constituency at Gwoza. I am appealing to the Government to look into this matter in order to achieve peace on the border.

I also wish to appeal to the Minister of Works and Surveys to see that more roads are constructed in the Sardauna Province. I would like to draw his attention to the Bama-Uba Road which was constructed in 1959. Up till the present moment, the road is uncompleted and is not therefore motorable. The uncompleted portion of the road between Bama and Soye is very

dangerous and it endangers the lives of the people of the Province. I would like the Minister of Works to assure me that the road will be completed soon, and that it will be motorable throughout the year.

The need for a safe road between Pulka and Kirawa is very strongly felt. This road will link us with the Cameroun Republic with which we do international trade. I must stress that the Sardauna Province is very badly neglected, and it has never enjoyed any facilities provided by the Federal Government.

I beg to support.

**Mr B. U. Ukpog** (Ikot Ekpene Central) : I rise to support the Second Reading of the Appropriation Bill which has been described as the National Budget. I would like to say that the Minister of Finance has gained very great respect from all sides of the House for the Bill which is well worded and suitable for debate.

This National Budget must be national in all respects and in the true sense ; it should not be confined to the city of Lagos. It should be extended to all parts of the country, particularly the rural areas.

I wish to thank the Minister of Mines and Power for the installation of electricity at Ikot Ekpene, my constituency. I must say that the people are looking forward to the day when they would put on the light because they are already tired of looking at the poles.

Electricity is the cheapest means of supplying power to industries, so I appeal to the Federal Government to instal it all over the country for the advancement of the people's welfare and to help business men who would like to build up industries. May I point out that at present, there are no firms and commercial houses at Ikot Ekpene. The ones there before have been removed to places where there is supply of electricity.

Looking round the country, one would find that there are many school leavers who just roam about the streets. There are those who are jobless too. To prevent this type of thing, I appeal to the Federal Government to establish industries all over the provinces. These people would be absorbed into these establishments and this would no doubt lessen unemployment in the country. People who evade tax would then get jobs and would be able to pay their taxes very readily.

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I appeal to the Minister of Works and Survey to convert the Trunk 'B' Road leading from Umuahia to Ikot Ekpene into a Trunk 'A' Road. This road is very important and traffic there is very heavy. While on this question, I must say that the bridge along Aba Road which is three miles from Ikot Ekpene should be widened. Many accidents occur there; the sooner the bridge is widened the safer it will be for the people.

It is very surprising to note that of all the industries established all over the country, none is sited in Anang province. We have enough of farm produce to justify the establishment by the Federal Government either a perfume or a soap industry at Nto Edino in Ikot Ekpene province.

Also, I would like to point out that trade in the area has come to a standstill, particularly in Calabar Province. All the big firms have been removed to Aba, Port Harcourt and Lagos. The only solution to this problem is the extension of the railway to Oron.

At this juncture, I strongly appeal to the Minister of Transport to urge it upon the Federal Government to extend the railway line either from Aba or Umuahia through Ikot Ekpene to Oron. Traders and other business men will rush there to buy and sell when the station has been established. Heavy produce of palm kernel, palm oil, copra, cocoa and other produce will also be carried by the trains to Aba, Port Harcourt and Lagos for sale. Trade will flourish and the people will become very rich and dynamic.

There is a raffia industry at Ikot Ekpene. It is established by a few people. This can be very effective if the Federal Government can finance it. The pottery industry which has been established recently should also be financed by the Federal Government. If this is done, the Government would be able to engage many people to work in the establishments and the jobless ones will also be greatly benefited.

I am appealing to the most respected Prime Minister of Nigeria for the creation of a fifth region in the Old Calabar Province, comprising Annang, Calabar and Uyo Provinces. I am quite sure that all the Members in this hon. House will support the creation of the fifth region as they did when the Mid-West was created. This fifth region will not bring pressure on the Government as the financial position is balanced.

The people in the rural areas do not enjoy amenities and yet they pay tax at general rates. I therefore appeal very strongly to the Federal Government to supply the people with good roads, water, postal agencies, dispensaries and free primary education.

In conclusion, I want to say again that the Federal Government should conduct education as a Federal subject. The teachers in the Regions are tormented in connection with their salaries. Many teachers in voluntary agency schools go without their salaries for three to six months. These teachers have wives, children and a host of relatives to look after. So, I think the Government should give them certain concessions. If the Regions are relieved of this burden, the suffering of the teachers will cease.

In addition, I want to appeal to the Federal Government to award more Federal scholarships to deserving sons and daughters in the Regions.

I wish also to draw the attention of the Federal Government to labourers who work on the roads, streets and other places in the midst of heavy rain and burning sun. These people maintain sanitation in the country and yet they are paid very meagre wages. Since these people do the spade work, I strongly appeal to the Federal Government to see that the wages of these labourers are increased. The scanty salary paid to them is not enough to maintain themselves, their wives, children and relatives. Therefore, something has to be done.

I would like to call upon the Minister of Communications (*Chief Olu Akinfosile*) to strengthen the staff of Ikot Ekpene Post Office. The small staff of this Post Office have been doing their best, but yet they cannot satisfy the demand of the public because of the growing population. Furthermore, the Minister of Communications should think of converting the postal agency at Ikot Akpan to a full-fledged Post Office.

The Minister of Defence should extend the police headquarters in order to accommodate the policemen living outside the premises. In this way, the Superintendent of Police will be able to have close supervision over his staff and response to emergency will be more prompt.

Finally, my praise goes to the God-fearing Prime Minister, the Rt. hon. Sir Abubakar Tafawa Balewa, for his excellent work in the whole Federation of Nigeria.

I beg to support



**Mr V. A. Nwaleji** (Nsukka West) : I rise to support the Second Reading of the Appropriation Bill, for the appropriation of £62,275,980 for the services of the Federal Republic of Nigeria for the year 1964-65. The Minister of Finance deserves praise for his foresight, ability, high intelligence and indefatigability, and I congratulate him on his assiduousness, wisdom and high sense of duty which have enabled him to project this great country creditably all over the world. All sides of this honourable House and the people they represent are very proud of their beloved and tireless Minister of Finance.

The Development Programme already launched by the Federal Government is welcome. We are happy it has made much progress and is still making it. We have high hopes for the continuity of the progress in future. The Development Programme is intended to bring happiness, prosperity and life more abundant to the people of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, and generations yet unborn.

But I am afraid, Mr speaker, that there is one thing working against the ultimate aim of the Federal Government's Development Programme. That is the attempt of some arch-regionalists or tribalists to disunite Nigeria. This attempt is a disgrace to the high reputation which Nigeria has built and maintained inside and outside the country. Many Members have spoken strongly on the Floor of this House in favour of the country's unity. But everyday cases arise of tribal or regional hatred against the people of one particular tribe or region living in various parts of one of the Regions of Nigeria. The outside world will be laughing at the people of Nigeria and their Governments.

On Monday, 23rd March, 1964, the President, Dr Azikiwe, spoke of recent events in the Federation which have made some citizens and inhabitants apprehensive of their fundamental rights. The President himself is the symbol of Nigerian unity.

As students of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria know, according to the Constitution every citizen of Nigeria is entitled to freedom from inhuman treatment, freedom from slavery and forced labour freedom to private and family life, freedom of personal liberty, freedom of thought, conscience and Religion and freedom of expression of opinion.

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Establishments** (M. Akubakar Isandu) : I want to tell the hon. Gentleman that we have read about this in the newspapers and it is enough for us. He should not take it for granted that the President was only speaking against the attitude of the North towards the Ibos.

**Mr Nwaleji** : One of the most fervent advocates of the country's unity, an Eastern Nigeria High Court Judge, Mr Justice Ambrose Allagoa, has shown his own appreciation of the Premier's Speech in the heartiest and most remarkable way by awarding two secondary school scholarships to two students of Northern Nigeria origin—one a girl and the other a boy.

**M. Akubakar Isandu** : On a point of order—Order 26. The hon. Member is very irrelevant.

**Mr Speaker** : Will the hon. Member please turn his attention to the fiscal policy of the Federal Government.

**M. Akubakar Isandu** : I am saying with all seriousness that if we are to tell the truth about what the hon. Member is saying and all the allegations that have been levelled against the Northern Region, I want to say that if our friends think that the Northern Government's attitude against the Ibos is unfair, it is because the Ibos in the North do not regard themselves as Northerners.

**Mr Speaker** : Really the more we set aside this controversial question the better for us. I think in future I will insist on relevancy on fiscal policy.

**Mr Nwaleji** : As I was saying, I would suggest that a meeting of the heads of Government—

**Mr Speaker** : Fiscal policy and nothing else.

**Mr Nwaleji** : So much for that on the unity of Nigeria.

Another very important point in the Budget Speech is the creation of a separate Federal Ministry of Industries. It can be carved out of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry. It seems that the Minister of Commerce and Industry has got too much to do, otherwise there are many suitable places in the Federation where industries ought to have been established. The country has not been surveyed comprehensively to find out such suitable places. A fishing industry can thrive well if established

along the Do River between Nsukka West and Udi Central. Experts have proved that sugarcane can flourish along the Anambra River banks between Nsukka West and Onitsha North Constituencies. The importance of industries as the surest and quickest means of solving the problem of unemployment in Nigeria cannot be over emphasised.

Another thing to improve the economy of the country and provide employment facilities is the tapping of our mineral wealth which exists in many places in Nigeria. Members have often, on the Floor of this House, called the attention of the Minister of Mines and Power to various places in their respective constituencies where mineral deposits exist. Let the Minister be informed now by me, for prompt action, that coal exists at Uvuru in Nsukka West while other minerals are found in other sections of the Division.

It is not mere flattery to say that the Nigeria Police have done very marvellously well in connection with the security of the country and the protection of the people's lives and property. If you survey the activities of the Nigeria Police since Nigeria became independent, you will agree with me that no amount of encouragement is too much for the people in the Police Force. Events have followed one another in which the country would have been ruined in the hands of some wicked people, but the Police cleverly and surprisingly arrested the situation in each case. Plots of a very wicked nature have been discovered by the Police. Angry and violent demonstrations have been calmly brought under control. Disturbances like those on the Floor of the Western House of Assembly, in the University of Nigeria Nsukka, the most recent one in the Tiv Division, and many others, were well handled and quelled down by the Police. In their active service to this nation many Police Officers have lost their dear lives, and I humbly pay tribute to them.

Sometime last year an increase in the salaries of the Police was announced and it was welcomed by hon. Members of this House and the masses of the people of the country. It was disappointing that the increase after all meant nothing. It was only the young constable who got it while senior officers, say, from the Inspectorate rank upwards did not get it. Let the salaries of all rank and file in the Police be revised and made very attractive.

Let senior police officers in the provinces have suitable and furnished quarters. It is disgraceful that the A.S.P. and the Inspectors at Nsukka have no quarters. I am calling the attention of the Minister for Police Affairs to this, that something be done immediately to remedy the situation. There should be quarters for the officers at every Police Post. It is not good for a police officer to be a tenant in the village.

As I have said sometime ago, I cannot get tired of asking the Federal Government in all seriousness to abolish the establishment of N.A. Police all over Nigeria. This establishment, apart from doing any other harm, becomes an agent and a free tool in the hands of any political party in power in that part of the Federation during parliamentary elections. All hon. Members know that the N.A. Policemen receive no training. They remain in office to receive commands and obey orders like slaves. How can they discharge their duty well? It makes one laugh to remember that most of them understand no other language than the vernacular. It is useless to have an establishment of that nature serving a useless purpose.

We have always praised the activities of the Federal Ministry of Education. The Minister, Hon. Aja Nwachuku is a credit to Nigeria. We welcome the cut in the allowance of Federal Government scholarship, and hope that the cut will bring about a great increase in future scholarship awards. As competition is mounting higher and higher as a result of too many students qualifying for awards, it has become necessary that scholarship awards be made, as from this time, on Divisional or Provincial basis. This will make it possible for every Division or Province to get its own share of the Federal Government scholarships.

It is very necessary that provision should be made by the Government for vacation jobs for Nigerian students in Nigerian Universities. In doing this, priority should be given to those students who are not fortunate enough to obtain scholarships.

We want more Inter-Regional Secondary Schools to be built in Nigeria. These should be sited at good centres. The siting of the already existing ones exposes itself to public criticisms. They were sited at the remote corners of the Regions. Who would consider Sokoto and Katsina the most central places in the Northern Region for Inter-Regional Secondary

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Schools? Who would consider Afikpo a central place at all in the Eastern Region for an Inter-Regional Secondary School? And who on earth would consider Warri, when the Midwest State was not created, a central place at all in the Western Region for an Inter-Regional Secondary School? I warn that such a mistake should not be repeated in future.

It beats my imagination and that of every true Nigerian why there has been this frequent defeat of Nigeria by Ghana in football. It is a great national shame to us. I do not think the members of the Ghana team are stronger than members of our own team. Perhaps they are better organised and have more time for practice. The Government should give our own players full time employment, quarter them comfortably enough and pay them sufficiently. Then our own team will have sufficient time for practices and the nation will be save from this type of colossal disgrace.

I beg to support.

**M. Saidu Zango** (Zaria Central): In supporting the Appropriation Bill which was ably moved by the Minister of Finance, I have a few observations to make.

On all occasions the title of the Minister's Budget conveys some sense of nationalism and love to the citizens of this country. I therefore agree with those Members who have said that the Minister of Finance ought to be praised.

I would like to start my contribution to the debate by appealing to the Minister responsible for the Nigerian Army. I have always asked the Minister to improve the condition of the army quarters at Zaria, but it seems as if Zaria sounds like Kaduna, because whenever I ask for improvement at Zaria, which is my constituency, improvement is made at Kaduna. The soldiers at Zaria are still living in round mud huts. A soldier stationed at Zaria will feel neglected when he sees his counterparts at places like Lagos, Enugu, Ibadan and Kaduna living in fine buildings. I hope that the Minister will take immediate steps to build magnificent quarters for our soldiers at Zaria. The old mud huts should go, and we want to see elegant buildings in their place.

I now come to speak on the work of the Minister for Police Affairs. I have nothing to say other than to submit my twentieth

reminder about the request for improvement of Zaria Police Post. In nearly all the other Provincial Headquarters, police posts are impressive, dignifying and worthy of being called police posts. But the one at Zaria, dwarfed by the high Provincial Office building, is unrecognisable by strangers. I hope the Minister will erect a better one soon.

I would like to congratulate the Ministry of Works for what it has done so far to provide the country with modern roads. But still some culverts, bridges and blind corners along the major roads constitute a danger to motorists. I am sure the Minister will do something now about the narrow bridges, culverts and blind corners.

Next on my list is the Ministry of External Affairs. There has been a lot of talk going on for some time now about that Ministry. The Ministry is tribalistic in some of its actions. Almost all the staff sent to various Nigerian Embassies abroad are alleged to have come from the same Region as the Minister in charge of the Ministry. Although I do not share this view, I sincerely call upon the Minister to make a categorical statement, giving details of staff position in the various Embassies so that the public will know the Region of origin of all the personnel serving abroad. This will help in clearing the tense atmosphere. I also hope that the Minister will in future see to it that his Ministry posts to our Embassies overseas people from all the Regions of the Federation and not just people from one Region.

Turning to the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, I will not hesitate to express my disappointment. Throughout the life of this present Parliament I have on several occasions appealed to the Minister in charge to establish some industries in Northern Nigeria. A sugar industry could be established at Makarfi in Zaria Province. It is a well-known fact that there are plenty of sugar-canes at Makarfi and other neighbouring districts. It is common knowledge that all the projects so far initiated in Northern Nigeria are either initiated by the Regional Government or by a foreign body. It will not be out of place if the Federal Government gives a helping hand in the establishment of more industries in the Region. But as the life of the House is fast expiring, and as I am sure that, by the grace of God, the Minister will be returning to this House unopposed, I hope

imported wheat flour by the end of 1963 caused a sharp fall in the quantity and the value of imported wheat. In value, it fell from £1.7 million in 1962 to 0.8 million in 1963. There is also a fall in the value of food. The conclu-

It is quite interesting to note also that unless these things come in, all talks about speeding up industrialisation or speeding up agricultural production would amount to nothing.

On the export side, there is a fall in the

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that this matter will be seriously looked into when a new Parliament is constituted.

May I now answer some of the criticisms made by my hon. Friend, the Member for Bende East (*Professor Kalu Ezera*) on Northernisation policy. I want to assure the Member that there is nothing wrong with Northernisation policy, as there have been in existence before it what are known as Easternisation and Westernisation. What is now added to these two names is "selfishnisation" if there is any word like that. I am sure it is this last word which my hon. Friend (*Professor Kalu Ezera*) wanted the North to shut its eyes against. But, alas, the North of to-day is on the alert and can see and detect any move which is calculated to harm her. I therefore want to assure all Members that Northernisation has come to stay in the North as Easternisation has come to stay in the East.

Also, there are some Members who suggested that Northern Nigeria is too big and that it should be split into a number of Regions. The question of creating more states has been dealt with and there is no need shouting in order to put back the hands of the clock. To such people we can only say that their shout is belated. The North will remain united as it is now. The question of the creation of more states in the North can only be raised by those who wish to see the teeming millions of the North fighting against themselves. The Northerners, as everybody knows, do not like trouble-making, but if forced into it they will have no other alternative than to face the situation squarely.

I beg to support.

**Mr C. Tangul Gaza** (Wukari) : I rise to support the Bill which seeks to appropriate the sum of £62,275,980 for the services of the Republic of Nigeria for the year ending 1964-65. In doing so, I would like to appeal to the Federal Government to give encouragement to the farmers in the rural areas, particularly, the farmers in my constituency. The encouragement that I have in hand should be in the form of loan.

I take this opportunity to remind the Government that medical facilities should be extended to my constituency. For instance, many children die of measles every year. I hope the Minister of Health will ask his medical experts to conduct a research into the causes of the disease and recommend drugs which will prevent such disease from attacking people.

Nigerian Pharmacists must be given ample chance to manufacture drugs in this country instead of importing drugs from overseas.

The last point I want to make concerns the creation of the Middle Belt State. I am appealing to the Federal Government to see to it that the Middle Belt State is created as soon as possible.

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Establishments** (M. Akubakar Isandu) : On a point of order, I would like the Member for Wukari (*Mr Tangul Gaza*) to tell this honourable House whether he is speaking for the U.M.B.C., A.G., N.N.D.P., or U.P.P.

**Mr Tangul Gaza** : I am a member of the U.M.B.C.

With these few remarks, I beg to support.

**Mr P. B. Olatunde** (Ilorin South) : I rise to contribute to the debate on the Budget Speech ably delivered by the Minister of Finance, Chief Festus Okotie-Eboh. In doing so, I have some observations to make and I shall only concern myself with those points that affect my people.

After the General Elections of 1959, this House met for the Budget Session in 1960. Before I supported the Bill, I made it clear on the Floor of this House, that I came from a rural and neglected area of Igbomina in Ilorin Division. The area is so neglected to extent that no Minister has ever visited the place.

There is only one trunk road in this area. It is generally referred to as the Ilorin-Kabba road. This road is in a very bad condition now. During the 1960 Budget Session, I strongly appealed to the Government, on behalf of the people of Igbomina, that the road should be tarred but no improvement was carried out at that time. I repeated my plea during the Budget Session of 1961 and 1962. I again repeated my appeal during the Budget Session of 1963 when the Minister of Works and Surveys gave an undertaking on the Floor of this House that the road would be tarred. The Minister also said that the Ilorin-Kabba trunk road had been included in that year's Estimates.

I am sorry to say that up till the present moment, the road has not been tarred. At this juncture, I shall be grateful if the Minister of Works and Surveys will make a categorical statement in connection with the road.

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should be a high tariff wall against certain countries.

But I think the position should be revised and I hope the Minister of Commerce and Industry, who is at present attending that meeting, will do a lot to help us to level up with the advanced countries who are the consumers of our primary products so that our primary products might have stable prices so that the fluctuation might not affect our development from year to year.

If we take an example from a place like Australia—when there is a large quantity of wool in one year with little grease, the Australian farmer has a big boom. There are all sorts of development taking place. But when in the following year there is a fall, all that the farmer has to do now is to put up the price to meet up what it was in the past year. Anything kept in the form of buffer stock will not be injected into the market so that the supply could meet up the demands of the users of wool.

If we do that, we will have storing facilities for these primary products so that in a year when we have a very good harvest we keep some back and in another year when the harvest is bad, we inject it into the market and still retain the same price.

If we want to go the other way, we can follow Brazil. If the production of coffee is so heavy in Brazil in one year that the price falls, all they do is to dump a lot of coffee into the sea to maintain the same price. If we cannot do that then we must be able to process our own products here and be able to make use of them.

If we must succeed in this we must reconsider the place of agriculture in our development programme. Although 13.6 per cent was the target for agriculture in the first year of the plan, only 6 per cent of the total investment programme for that year was devoted to agriculture.

In his speech to the Twelfth Session of the Food and Agricultural Organisation Conference in Rome in November 1963, the Minister of Economic Development, Alhaji Waziri Ibrahim, gave five reasons for this failure. In other words, although we expected that about 13.6 per cent of our development programme would go into agriculture in the first year, we had only about 6 per cent going into it. I think the Minister was quite honest and he

told the world why we failed to meet up in our agricultural pursuit, and with your permission, Sir, I have to read what he said in Rome.

*We have, however, carried out an intensive enquiry into the reasons for this poor performance of the agricultural sector, and the lessons we have learnt might be of interest to delegates from other countries. The major obstacles we found were: firstly, lack of adequate credit facilities and finance for agriculture and this we are trying to remedy by establishing a national agricultural credit bank in addition to existing subsidiary credit institutions and farmers' co-operatives.*

*Secondly, we lacked the executive capacity in some areas of the planned investment programme. We are, therefore, accelerating our training programme particularly in the professional, technical and the middle grades. We have finalised proposals to strengthen our national executive organization for this purpose.*

*Thirdly, some of the projects included in the plan needed fundamental reappraisal and detailed evaluation, both of which are necessarily time-consuming.*

*Fourthly, our land tenure system requires urgent reform and our land utilisation schemes need to be properly planned. Only less than 10 per cent of our land area is at present cultivated and there is really no land hunger in Nigeria, as such, except on a strictly localised basis. But, like all other underdeveloped countries, we are not making the fullest use of our land resources.*

*Fifthly, our methods and techniques of production were found to be grossly inadequate.*

I think he was quite honest and fair to tell the world what happened. In the first place, we can remedy the first one by what he himself said this morning, that a move is being made to have an agricultural credit bank for farmers.

I think if this is to be done, it should not be a case of one single farmer going to borrow about £1,000 or less. It should be a sort of co-operative farming where people would have a large acreage of farm and plant one product and be able to get loan from the Government to expand it.

The other one is a bit uninteresting because the Minister confessed that the project included in the plan needed fundamental reappraisal.

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In other words, before those projects were put in the plan it did not appear then that they were properly examined. They were just pushed in for experimental purposes. I think if anything is going to be successful in life an attempt should first be made to examine very closely what it will cost and how far it will be successful.

The other one concerns our land system. Anybody who has read the history of Land Tenure in Nigeria—I have forgotten the author—will know that we have small land holdings. I do not know what happens in other parts, but land belongs, for instance in Benin Province, to the Oba of Benin-in-council. He and his council give out land and in most cases they give out just a small portion of land and most of our farmers are engaged in what I may describe as disguised unemployment. They are not gainfully employed.

A farmer of my age may have a farm about the size of this hall and that is all he has. If you asked of his employment he would tell you that he is a farmer. This type of farm is really smaller than an average garden. I think what we require is a large farm where large and varied products would be found and where very good yield would be expected.

The other aspect of the agricultural programme to which the Minister himself referred this morning, and which is a bit alarming to me, was the research section. I cannot understand why we attempt to raise yams from seeds when the tubers are there to be cut and planted.

This experiment, I think, is wasteful. It does not help anybody. No farmer even thinks of it. At the Moor Plantation, one year after the other a little seed like the grain of maize is planted. Another year it may increase in size but if there is bad rain the whole thing is washed off, and the whole experiment starts again. Whereas we have big tubers from the Middle-Belt, from Oyo, and so on which could easily be cut and kept for future use. All we need is not the type of experiment which we have in the *Kew Gardens* but the type which suits Nigerian climate and the Nigerian way of life—particularly in respect to agriculture.

I think the Government should re-examine its proposal about agricultural development in this country because the mainstay of our economy is purely agricultural. Unless we are able to feed the very many mouths we have around us, there is likely to be trouble.

The space for industrialisation is small and the prospect is not all that very bright to begin with. People may not even be attracted just now to go into the factories to work. Even if they did, they must come back home to have some food. Unless there is food, money has no value.

The other aspect which I would like to refer to is the question of unemployment in this country. One would have thought that with this National Budget there would be some sort concession to investors. Not that they would be exempted from certain tax measures but that there might be a small fall in the rate of interest. It is generally assumed that in this country the banks give loan to foreigners and do not give loans to Nigerian entrepreneur.

I think that if the rate of interest is further reduced it would encourage investors to borrow money from the bank and as the borrowing will enable them to invest money into industries and into productive projects, the multiplying effect will be to put up a big project which would provide for so many hands. They will thus be able to contribute their own quota to the national product and at the same time to the national income. This will no doubt, help the national economy. But when this thing is made watertight, I do not see how we can easily expand by keeping the rate of interest at the level in which it is.

The other one which is closely connected with the rate of interest is the question of inflation. We have our currency backed to the tune of about 65 per cent gold. It will not do us any harm if we reduce it to about 55 per cent or 50 per cent so that we may have more money in circulation. I listened when a Member, perhaps from this side, raised a point that Government should print more money. That is not my argument. Governments do not generally print money for the purpose of getting one pound in the hands of every citizen. It must be met up by the amount of gold backing that country has without necessarily causing some harm to the stability of the currency. In our case, I do not think that it will do us any harm if we reduce this backing to some extent so that we may have more money in circulation, and with the money in circulation there will be more fund now for the investors to put into business. If after a short time the Government finds out that there is too much money in circulation, they can use the other fiscal

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measure to mop up this money back. But in the early stage of industrialisation like this, I cannot see how we will like to expand our economy and at the same time keep our backing in such a water-tight compartment. I cannot see how one can make *omelette* without breaking any eggs at all. I think the Government has to do something: either to reduce the rate of interest or to reduce the backing of our currency. I know that our currency commands respect all over the world. Even if it is reduced a little, it will still command that respect.

The type of inflation I envisage is not the one that will lead to a sharp fall in the value of our currency. It does not necessarily lead, at the same time, to a gallop or a runaway inflation. We should be able to control it. Now, if that is done, we may be able to employ more hands and we shall be able to solve to some extent the problem of unemployment in this country.

What everybody is looking forward to in this country is a society where everyone will feel happy and contented. In other words, we are looking forward to an egalitarian society, so that the satisfaction or the happiness of the greater number will enhance the satisfaction and the happiness of all. I think that is an aspect which one has to look up to.

The other aspect which I will like to point out is in connection with the general development of things in this country. Now, there is a lot to be said to convince the ordinary man in the rural area that we have changed sides or have changed hands. The roads are still what they have been. I happened to travel last time to the Northern Region via the Eastern Region to Oturkpo to Kontagora to Kano.

**Mr F. C. Ogbalu** (Awka North): What was the hon. Member looking for?

**Mr Ayeni**: I was expanding my knowledge of this country.

I discovered that even the inter-regional road between the North and the East was horrible. I do not know how people can understand one another when the link between them is so poor. I do not know how they can move between Nsukka and Makurdi. I do not know how a person can travel from Idoma to Idah. The Member for Igala South (*Mr Enefolo*) is so close to me and yet we are so far apart because there is no means of communication. We

supply them with food.

**Mr D. O. Enefolo** (Igala South): I object to this because the Member himself, in the course of his speech, said that there are plenty of yams in the Middle Belt.

**Mr Speaker**: I do not think that the Member for Igala South need worry. After all he looks better fed than the Member for Afenmai North West.

**Mr Ayeni**: The point I was making is that Government should take up seriously the question of providing roads at least to link one Region to the other. All these inter-regional roads should be taken over by the Federal Government and they should be turned to trunk 'A' roads.

On my return journey I travelled through the Western Region via Ilorin, Ogbomosho, Oshogbo and Ilesha. The road was better than the one via the East. So that one can see the disparity. The link between the West and the North in that aspect is better than the link between the East and the North.

In the middle of it all, there is the Mid-West. There is no good link between the East and the Mid-West. The portion of road between Agbor, Benin and Asaba is a death trap, particularly when one gets to Boji Boji. There is one very narrow bridge and there are a lot of accidents along that road.

I think it is advisable for the Government to take care of our roads. Unless the roads are good, it will not be possible for us to develop socially as we are expected to do. And unless there is inter-regional contact, we will not be able to understand one another.

The other aspect is in respect of the Ministry of Communications. Last year when we were debating the Head of the Ministry, I suggested that it was high time we had Nigerian postal order and money order. I think we have them now. We no more have the British postal order or the money order.

But the most difficult thing about that particular Ministry is expansion. One will find that a lot of these post offices and postal facilities are concentrated in the bigger towns, whereas the mainstay of the economy of this country is the rural area. If we from the rural areas fail to bring food to Lagos, all those who live in Lagos will starve. The post office will not help them out of hunger. So I think that the Minister himself who, like myself, comes from a rural area, should give priority to rural

areas in the case of telecommunication. We are normally always cut off. The slightest rain washes away the whole of the thing in places far from Lagos or any of the big towns.

Last Tuesday the Government threw out a Motion calling on them to make education a Federal subject. Those of us who are teachers believe sincerely in the programme. Although it is thrown out, I think that it will come up again some day.

I am not particularly happy about the position of education in some parts of the country. Take away the big towns. As one goes further into the interior one finds that the standard falls. And unless the whole thing is centralised, it is not likely to do us any good. That is why when one picks up the *Gazette* or any newspaper which carries a publication of Federal scholarship awards one will find that most of them are concentrated to boys and girls in the townships. The reason for this is that they have better facilities than those who come from the rural areas. And I think that an attempt should be made to centralise this aspect. I am talking as a teacher and I know what I am talking about. I think that the Minister of Education himself will help us to see that the standard is improved. We do not want to talk of Cambridge standard being the same all over; that is the end of it. We are talking about the start. It is at the end that they all meet at one place; at the start you find that they have a number of difficulties and some of them are not easily solved until you get to the top form.

I have tried to run through the Budget as swiftly as I can. We in the Mid-West are specially looking up to the Minister of Transport to link the East with the West with a railway which will pass through the Mid-West through the Niger Bridge so that all this type of communication problems may be further solved, and our social contact, as far as this country is concerned, may be further improved. Until we are able to meet in other places than this House or football fields, the idea of talking about unity or oneness is nothing less than a sing-song.

I beg to support.

**Alhaji Umaru Maltumbi** (Muri North) : I rise to support the Second Reading of the Appropriation Bill and to praise the Federal Government for its great activities towards the country's development.

It is gratifying that the Federal Government is taking all possible steps to develop the country, more especially in the field of agriculture, health, reducing unemployment and establishing economic projects.

It is very interesting to hear that the Federal Government is intending to construct new bridges of 24 feet wide and building new trunk 'A' roads of a design speed of 60 miles per hour to regulate traffic.

It is my duty to say again that Yola-Takum Road and Gombe-Uman-Yola Roads have been neglected. I want to inform the Government that the existing trunk 'A' road linking Adamawa and Saradauna Provinces to other parts of the country such as the East and the North on the side of the Benue, is worse than any other trunk 'A' road in this country, because it is impossible for 5-ton lorries to pass over the bridges and culverts during summer. I would like the Federal Government to take action to construct and widen the trunk 'A' roads and build two important bridges on Yola-Numan and Mayo Balwa-Jada-Jalingo trunk 'A' roads.

I am a bit grateful to a section of the Federal Ministry of Communications for providing Jalingo town, the Divisional Headquarters of Muri Division, with a sub-post office which helps her in discharging postal services. I still humbly appeal to the Federal Government and the Ministry of Communications to consider linking Jalingo with Lau, which is only 30 miles away, by telegraph lines, and to upgrade the Jen postal agency to a sub-post office. It takes a long time before we get our telegrams, and if we wish to send an urgent telegram to any part of this country we have to travel for 30 miles.

A survey has already been made more than two years ago in order to supply my area with telephone, but up till now nothing has been done. I therefore appeal to the Minister of Communications to take action to see that Jalingo is supplied with telephone.

Coming to public health, I would like the Government to pay great attention to both the rural and Urban areas. In the townships themselves, health problem is also acute. For example, in the Lagos General Hospital people spend the whole day without getting medical attention.

In the field of agriculture I wish to make a point, though this is regarded as a regional



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matter. We are aware that agriculture is the mainstay of every developing country. For that reason, I would like the Federal Government to consider utilising the existing forests in some parts of the country where agricultural products can surely thrive, especially in the Northern Region. I am sure these forests will be beneficial to this country.

I want the Federal Government to pay great attention to the existing prices of our cash crops which are greatly falling down. It is very necessary that Government should take action to increase the price of cash crops, particularly the price of groundnuts, cotton, soya beans, *et cetera*.

On education, I should like the Minister of Education to let technical education go side by side with secondary education and primary education so as to enable the country have enough technicians and also to enable our young generation to be benefited. At present, about sixty to seventy *per cent* of school-leavers are jobless. I hope that they can be useful to the country and at the same time be enabled to earn their livelihood if they are given technical education.

I also wish to appeal to the Federal Government to establish Technical Training Centres capable of holding about 300 students every year in Muri Division. We, representing the rural areas, find it difficult to explain fully to the people of our constituencies how the Government's development plan affects them, because it seems to me that only the big cities and towns are benefited. We all here represent the interest of the whole country and not some big cities or towns alone. This Government must see that the whole country is fully developed.

I am not pleased with the answer given by our able Minister of Economic Development to my Oral Question No. 335. He said that the Regional Governments are responsible for the rural areas. This does not impress me. We all know that there are some aspects of the country's development which are the responsibility of the Regional Governments, but not all. Perhaps, the Minister's reply is the reason for the neglect of the rural areas.

Finally, I wish to congratulate our Prime Minister, Sir Abubakar Tafawa Balewa on his great achievements, generosity, piety, justice and thoughtful mind.

With these few remarks, I beg to support.

**Mr F. A. M. Amadi** (Nsukka Central): I rise to support the Second Reading of the Appropriation Bill. In doing so, I would like to associate myself with those who have given deserving praise to the Minister of Finance for his industry, ingenuity and sagacity. We must realise that he could not have done so much had it not been for the gentle and all-accommodating nature of the Prime Minister, Sir Abubakar Tafawa Balewa under whom he serves, and so whatever credit we give to him, we must also give a lion-share of that to the Prime Minister.

The Budget Speech is, I think, succinct, cogent, realistic, comprehensive, thoughtful and thought-provoking. Like a tireless national upkeeper that he is, the Minister of Finance has a plan and he declares that plan at the very start of his Budget Speech. With your permission, Mr Speaker, I would like to refer to this speech, where he gives us the three cardinal points of his policy. I quote—

*This Budget should, therefore, be a survey to depict the most important aspect of our national economy, to map out the changes in the economy since our attainment of sovereignty and the subsequent introduction of the Development Programme and to indicate the further developments which may be expected in the next few years.*

These, I think, are thought-provoking.

But I would like to offer my own humble suggestions towards the realisation of the stabilisation and consolidation of the national economy which is the aim of this Budget. In the first place, I would like to emphasise that it is very important indeed, in the interest of national economy, to popularise as much as we can goods made in Nigeria. It is true that a Motion to this effect was passed. It is all very well to pass a Motion, but it is another thing to put that Motion into action.

I think that the Government should do everything in its power to ensure that every man and woman in this country has a special interest in things made in Nigeria. There are various ways of doing that. The Ministry of Information is a starting-point. They have got to talk about these things and make the people conscious of the existence of these goods. The Minister of Finance also has something to do here, as has been pointed out by the Member for Afenmai North West (*Mr Ayeni*) who suggested that the Minister of Finance could impose

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heavy import duties, so that we should be encouraged to buy our own goods rather than goods made in foreign countries.

The most important of all is the individual's conviction that for every penny we conserve in this country we are really doing a lot of good in bridging the gap in our balance of payments position which we complain so much about.

Another thing is this question of considering things made in Nigeria as being inferior. I think that it is very true that the taste of the pudding is in the eating. Those who complain that our tyres are not good enough are those who have not even used those tyres. Those who complain that our beer is not good enough are those who have not even drunk our beer. Those who say that our paper is not good enough are those who have not even bought our paper to see how well made and serviceable they are.

It is well-known that, on the contrary, things made in Nigeria are tougher, more durable and more lasting than things made overseas, because we are only starting, and, therefore, we are trying to build up a reputation. Those who have already built up a reputation are rather more interested in making fragile and brittle things which you buy to-day but which break tomorrow, so that you go to the shop again to buy more. We should emphasise that point to our people and educate them by all avenues possible to buy things made in Nigeria. By doing that, we are really promoting the stabilisation and consolidation of the national economy.

Another point is about our agriculture. It is true that industrialisation is very good indeed. When we encourage the buying of Nigerian made goods, we are really indirectly encouraging industrialisation and, therefore, employment. Nevertheless, agriculture is the basis of all these things. Food is, I think, the third essential of life. Without food we cannot even go to work in industry. It is, therefore, very important for us to do something about the improvement of our agriculture.

The first thing that the Government should do to improve our agriculture is to try to mechanise agriculture. After all, it takes perhaps twenty people to produce enough food for one hundred people by the present peasant farming system. It certainly will not take three people to produce enough food for three hundred people when agriculture is mechanised.

We know that it is not very easy to mechanise agriculture because it requires courage, a lot of experimentation and application of the results of the experiments. But I think by the introduction of this Farmers Credit Bank, it would be quite possible for the Government to encourage the peasant farmers, particularly those who are perhaps educated to some extent, to form themselves into little groups or co-operatives so that they can actually mechanise agriculture and produce good quality food for the people who work in factories, busy producing Nigerian made goods. The farmers themselves would also have something fresh and good to eat when they return to their homes.

It does not, however, end there. These farmers want a properly organised system. Again, it becomes imperative for the Government not just to borrow two or three million pounds, throw this sum of money into the bank, and give it to farmers who can get guarantors to sign for them so that they can buy such things as lorries, tractors, etc., in an effort to develop our agriculture. This is not the sort of thing we want.

It would be necessary for the Government to have a clear policy which will control the utilisation of the money so borrowed. That will make it essential, in my opinion, that there should exist in the Federal structure, a Ministry of Agriculture to co-ordinate this work that we want done. It is essential, in my opinion, to have a Ministry of Agriculture in the centre.

We have already seen that the present arrangement by which agriculture is under the Ministry of Economic Development is not very satisfactory because that Ministry has got its hands full with this problem of economic development. The result is that research stations under this Ministry, such as the Moor Plantation at Ibadan, and another one at Umudike, do not work effectively. There is no real work being done there. I am not saying that the research officers are not working, but what I am saying is that what they do does not reach the peasant farmers. If you carry out two million experiments which neither attract nor influence the work of the peasant farmers in the field, then your two million experiments, no matter what their results may have been, are completely useless.

To make sure that the money we are putting into this Farmers' Bank and the arrangements

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we are making for the development of agriculture so as to feed the teeming millions of this country really do produce the effects we require of them, it is necessary for the Federal Government to have a Federal Minister of Agriculture who will co-ordinate the work of this particular department.

One other very important thing which the Ministry will have to face, and face very realistically, is the question of the preservation of farm products. We know very well that a farmer can produce about four or five barns of yams in a year, but there is no means of preserving yams. In just one season, all the yams produced are gone. The same thing applies to many other farm products. There is no worked out system of preserving farm products, with the result that in spite of the fact that one year may be a year of plenty in which the farmer's harvest is very heavy indeed, if the next year is a lean year and the harvest is poor, the people just go hungry because the heavy harvest of the previous year has not been preserved simply because we have not worked out a proper system of preserving the products of the farm.

Let me give a simple illustration. Palm wine is an excellent drink. Those of us who drink palm wine know that. It is very good for the eyes too. But we cannot preserve our palm wine for more than a day. The result is that this excellent drink, in spite of the efforts made by someone who tried to bottle it at Awka, is not available anywhere in Nigeria in a good and fresh form. People in Northern Nigeria cannot drink palm wine simply because by the time it travels by train from the South to the North, it has already gone sour, it has already produced too much alcohol, with an unpleasant taste, so that those who like to drink palm wine will find it too poor to drink. The action of bacteria has gone on so much that the real palm wine is lost. This condition applies to so many of our farm products.

That is another very strong reason why it is necessary to have a Minister of Agriculture who will concentrate on this very important aspect of our national economy—the supply of food to the farmers themselves to begin with, and the workers in the factories, who will have no time to produce food. So, Sir, I do beseech the Government to consider seriously the establishment of that Ministry.

Another very important thing in the national economy is the question of rural areas. It is a perennial subject, I agree. Nevertheless, since most of us come from the rural areas, I think it is only proper for us to make the Government aware of the fact that the people in the rural areas really do not feel the impact of this Federal Government. We must make them know that there is a Federal Government. They do not know that. How can we do that in the interest of the Government itself? Let me illustrate again.

We talk of money, that we want money, savings campaigns and so on. I remember that during one of the sittings we had here, we complained about the national savings campaign. We saw cars moving around Lagos but nothing like that went round the Regions. The very energetic and progressive Minister of Communications acted at once and sent off, at least, one of the trucks to the countryside. They came to my school and they spoke to the boys there. After that speech, not less than sixty boys registered and took out savings certificates.

Well, in the first place, those boys have been taught thrift. They have learned the value of saving. In the second place, money required by the Government is coming in. There is not enough of that campaign. The people in the rural areas do not know that the Government requires money for development. We do not make it possible for them to deposit their money in the Government's ventures.

Again, Sir, I do not see why it should not be possible for postal agencies which exist in most towns in the Federation to sell savings certificates. After all, that is not a very difficult thing to do and it is only one of the ways by which the impact of the Federal Government can be brought forth to the people in the rural areas, and also a way for the Government to get something out of the people in the rural areas for the development of the Federation. This development, of course, must not be one way. It must not be brought into the Federation to develop townships—to develop Lagos, Enugu, Kaduna, Ibadan, Benin, Kano and so on. We must not do that. We have got to think about the person who contributes the money that is used for this development. At least give him something, a little bit, even if it is not very much.

For example, let me touch on this question of electrification. If the Minister of Mines

and Power will conduct a survey, he will find that there are many towns, what we call rural towns in this country that can within a number of years support the electrification of the town. I do not think it a wise policy to wait until a town has grown so much that within one year or two years the overhead expense to bring in electricity to that town will be recovered before the town will get electricity. I think electricity is one of those amenities which should be given to the people in the rural areas just like water.

It is a pity that water is not a Federal subject ; it is Regional, but we can take an example from the Regional Government sometimes. The Regional Government is doing everything possible for people in the rural areas to have pipe borne water. Why cannot this Federal Government step in also and make it possible for the people in the rural areas to have electricity? Let them conduct a survey, find out in which towns we can have electricity stations installed.

There are many towns along the major lines, for instance, going from Enugu to Nsukka, we have many towns where you have enough people to subscribe so as to make the installation of electricity in that place an economic proposition. But, of course, in the absence of any survey to find the possibility of that, nothing will be done. The Minister of Mines and Power will perhaps just concentrate on the big towns, what they call the industrial areas, that bring in money at once. But we must not forget that the initial money used for the construction of the existing electricity came from tax collected not only from the towns but also from the rural areas. So, I am appealing that the rural areas should be brought into the picture. Let them realise that they have got a Federal Government as well as the Regional Governments.

If the Government wants to get more money to improve the economy, I have just a little suggestion to make. There are various ways of getting money. One is by direct taxation and another one is by indirect taxation. There is one weakness, I think, that the Government has at the moment in the question of collection of taxes. I do not think it will be a difficult thing in the granting of licences to most of these shopkeepers to require each shopkeeper to have an automatic cash register. If each shopkeeper is required by law to have an automatic cash register before he gets his permit to operate, then it will be very easy for

the Inland Revenue to know the income of every shopkeeper. An automatic cash register is not a very expensive item.

**Mr F. C. Ogbalu** (Awka North) : It is very expensive.

**Mr Amadi** : It is not very expensive. It should not be too expensive for a shopkeeper who gets thousands of pounds every year if he is prepared to contribute his quota to the development of the town in which he is making his own wealth. He should be prepared to buy an automatic cash register so that there will be no question of cheating the Federal Government. Everybody should contribute according to his or her means. So, I am giving this as a very strong suggestion to the Minister of Finance that he should require these shopkeepers and other establishments that operate to have in their shops, automatic cash registers for easy checking of the intake of the various establishments.

Now, Sir, on the question of the establishment of the Nigerian Industrial Development Bank, I think that is a very welcome proposition. There is only one small note of warning there. We are all witnesses to the operation of the Federal Loans Board. I am not pointing an accusing finger at anybody but I do not feel very happy about the operation of the Federal Loans Board because, again, as I said, we do not know that they exist. We do not see people who are given any encouragement on that and I am only hoping that this new Bank will not play the same tune.

On foreign affairs, not foreign affairs in the sense of the External Affairs Ministry at all, but I am rather thinking about the same fiscal policy and about where we are going to get the money for the development of the country from. I will join my friends who think that it is not a wise policy for a country that declares itself to be non-aligned to concentrate on one of the blocks since there are two blocs now—the Eastern and Western blocks. Why concentrate on the Western block for all requests for loans? In fact, this question of loans has got to be looked at twice, because these loans are going to be paid and I see from reports—the Federal Government Development Programme (1962-68) progress report—that some of these loans are obtained at six per cent.

Let us not bury ourselves so much into debts that will get us into economic bondage.

[Mr Amadi

So, why do we not consider more of asking these people for trade rather than loans? Why do we not develop trade with these people instead of asking them for loans and tying ourselves more and more down as their slaves in the economic sense?

It is my submission that trade with these countries will pay us more and, therefore, the Minister of Commerce and Industry should rather explore the possibilities of our establishing trade links with countries in the East and the West.

We should not depend so much on the Minister of Finance going out for loans. Let us stop going about for loans, we cannot finish all the projects to be established in Nigeria now. After all, the world is over 200,000 years old. We should not expect to finance everything in this 20th century alone, let us leave something for those coming behind us rather than incur debts for which they will curse us. Let us do our best with what we have now, open up trade with the countries around us and with countries in Europe, the Americas and Asia. Let us sell our raw materials to them and get the essential manufactured goods that we require from them.

We should copy other countries like India. What is the point buying long cars which we all ride, they are not necessary? If we must buy big cars why do we not make an effort to have these cars manufactured in this country. We should manufacture the small cars which the people of this country can afford for a start.

**Mr Ogbalu** : There will not be sufficient market.

**Mr Amadi** : It is very difficult to conclude that "there will not be sufficient market" when we have not started production. It is when the product is out that we can see if our people will buy the cars. We should stop getting loans and think about the expansion of our trade.

Before I resume my seat, there is one perhaps delicate point which I would like to touch. I do not know why the people of this country run away from things that appear difficult or things that we think are difficult. I said earlier on in this Session of Parliament when we were debating the Motion for centralisation of education that we have had a number of Constitutional Conferences before. We did not sink because of these Conferences? Why

are we afraid to amend the Constitution? Surely, nobody will agree that the present Constitution drawn up by us with the aid of the imperialists is the best. If we admit that it is not the best why are we afraid to improve slightly this present constitution? I submit very strongly as I have often done on the Floor of this House, that education is a subject which ought to be federalised.

I do not want to press the matter any further because, as I said earlier, even though I know that the Motion is going to be thrown out next time, I am hoping to bring forward that Motion again because it is an essential tool for the building up of the unity and economy of this country. It is wasteful to have education regionalised and, there is nothing that the country gains from regionalising education. We are losing by having five Ministers of Education, five Permanent Secretaries and their array of officers.

Even if we look at it from another angle, we will find that what the Federal Minister of Education is doing for the Federal Territory is exactly or supposed to be exactly what is being done by the Ministers of Education in the Western Region, the Eastern Region, the Northern Region and the Mid-Western Region. If that is the case, why do we not have one Minister of Education? I think that education is a subject which should be federalised and if it requires an amendment to our Constitution we should not be afraid to amend the Constitution.

Finally, the Nigerian Security Printing and Minting Company is a very welcome proposition and I have only a small suggestion to make. Now that we are thinking of minting our own money and thinking about designing new coins and new currencies, why do we not think also about changing the denomination of our currency? Why must we always have twelve pennies make one shilling and not ten pennies make one shilling?

**An hon. Member** : The Minister has said we are going to decimalise our currency.

**Mr Amadi** : I am very happy to hear that we are going to decimalise our currency and it is a welcome step.

Therefore, as great minds think alike, I beg to support.

**Mr F. C. Ogbalu** (Awka North) : I rise to support the Second Reading of the 1964-65 Appropriation Bill so ably presented by the

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Minister of Finance. I shall no longer spend my time paying tribute to him for his excellent performance for this will be nothing compared with that paid to him by no less a personality than the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria himself.

One cannot help but say that seven years of devoted and unbroken service by the hon. Minister has been responsible for or has greatly contributed to this steady, smooth and spectacular growth of our economy and our country's financial and industrial progress in recent years.

We are happy at the flourishing and bouyant state of our commerce, trade, industry and agriculture. This state of affairs certainly is a result of the sound financial and fiscal policy that the Minister pursued. His period of stewardship has witnessed a phenomenal and astronomical increase and growth of our country's financial institutions. It is remarkable that none of them had any perceptible set back or miscalculations, signs of weakness or immaturity of planning.

Our stock exchange, Lagos money market, the Central Bank, treasury bills, Government bonds and securities have waxed strong and shown signs of excellent management, resourcefulness and ingenuity. Their future is great and pregnant with infinite possibilities.

I do not wish to enter an economic debate with the Minister on a number of economic principles he artfully propounded in his Budget Speech for he will emerge the victor. After listening to him, I asked the people around me if he had been a school master, and I do not hesitate to recommend him for an outright appointment as a Professor of Economics and Finance in one of our Universities when he shall have laid down the burden of politics.

I agree with him that this is the golden age of welfare economics and deliberate planning in which state interference or rather, participation in all sectors of economy has been universally acknowledged both by the capitalist and socialist world as a desired economic policy. I can assure the hon. Minister that he carries the whole country with him in whatever proposals he might bring forward in order to bring the greatest good to the greatest number.

Nobody will grudge any amount of state participation in all aspects of our economy as long as the freedom, dignity and rights of individuals are respected. It is true that these

fundamental human rights are deeply entrenched in our Constitution but without the determination, devotion and vigilance of those who operate the machinery of government and the vigilance of the governed, they will be of no avail.

Our country has chosen the path of socialism, whether pragmatic, democratic or collective. Socialism is socialism. The days of unrestrained capitalism or *laissez faire* are gone and gone for ever. This is an era of state legislation and regulation of every aspect of economic life. There may be aspiring capitalists among us but they are few. They can be tolerated so long as they do not constitute a cog in our economic wheel of progress and road to socialism.

Our guiding principle in this connection is that no one should be so rich as to constitute a danger to the society and that we shall aspire to that goal—it may be said like all states of perfection to be unattainable—that is the establishment of an egalitarian society where people would be happier for contributions they make in working hard, making maximum use of their God-given talents for the general good, happiness and progress of their fatherland and of their fellow human-beings.

I agree with the hon. Minister that what we need most now to sustain our economy is economic nationalism. I do not, however, subscribe to extreme economic nationalism or autarchy—and the hon. Minister has, however, not suggested that. Extreme economic nationalism is a two edge sword. It can cut for one, and it can cut against one. What we need is a fair distribution of the fruits of progress between the well-developed countries and the under-developed countries of the world—between the secondary producers and the primary producers. We want to sell to and buy from other countries, and we want other countries to sell and buy from us.

We want our infant industries to flourish without their being nipped in the bud by the manipulations of well-known economic missiles and rockets. We want the relaxation of the stringent international trade restrictions and barriers which for long tilted the balance of international trade perpetually in favour of manufacturing countries. The ever-widening gap between the primary and secondary producers constitute a grave danger to the world peace and must be halted now and brought to a state of equilibrium.

[MR OGBALU]

No nation can be economically self-sufficient. Hitler's Germany learnt this bitter lesson in the last world war. The world is mutually interdependent, and our motto is "Live and let live". When the hon. Minister talked of economic nationalism he had in mind no doubt that Nigerians should prefer Nigerian made goods wherever possible in preference to imported goods. The country needs an Mbonu Ojike at this crucial stage of its economic development.

A few days ago hon. Members were complaining of non-patronage of locally made goods and ascribed the cause to the high prices of these goods. While I agree that with greater economy and managerial skill, it is possible to reduce these prices, however, it is the price which we have to pay for our quest for economic independence, a balanced economy and industrial progress.

We cannot eat our cake and have it. Our industries are infant industries which needed a great deal of encouragement and protection from outside competition and from highly developed countries producing for a wider world market and making use of the economies of large scale production and sometimes with the sinister motive of dumping in the underdeveloped countries. The prices of our locally manufactured goods are consequently bound to be high at this initial stage, and we must have to keep up with it. I suggest that greater and greater protection must be given to our infant industries notwithstanding the resultant effect—higher prices. Men do not live on platitudes or slogans. Economic nationalism is difficult to be achieved in the face of tantalising low priced imported goods sometimes with better finish and durability.

I congratulate those countries which have rallied round to our aid in this our greatest hour of need, and I appeal to others to come forward for it is not yet late. We need help from every quarter. We do not just want to consume what they give us in order to temporarily speed up our present consumption level.

The use to which we have put the past aids and loans justify our demands, dispels fears and ought to increase their confidence in us. In this connection, I have to warn some foreign journalists, gossipers and a host of others who, having received our hospitality, return to their countries to tell tales about our Ministers,

Governments and people in order to scare away those who would have otherwise genuinely helped us. This is an opportunity to tell the world that we make maximum use of whatever aid or loan we get. A doubting Thomas can come and see things for himself. Our ever growing economy and ever increasing national budget are another proof positive that we are also making the necessary sacrifices—desisting from capital consumption in order that the future generation might live better lives and enjoy life more abundantly. It is wrong to say that our comparatively rising standard of living is ephemeral and based on capital consumption of loans from other countries. Rightly has the Minister said that we are no beggar nation.

In this connection, too, I have to say that the absence of loans from the Eastern Countries might have some explanations. It might be that some loans have been given to us but have been unfortunately rejected by the Federal Government. If the Minister of Finance were here I would have liked to have from him information on whether or not any of the Eastern countries have given aids which have been rejected.

There is another very important point, and that is in connection with the establishment of Embassies abroad. I notice in the speech given by the Minister of Finance that a country like Israel had given an enormous amount of loan to this country and have assisted us technologically as well as in expert advice. It is very shameful that up to the present time that country has not been accorded any diplomatic representation. We need vehemently a full and categorical statement and explanation from the Prime Minister on this point. There is the golden rule: "Do unto others as you would like them to do unto you."

I welcome wholeheartedly the establishment of the Industrial Development Bank for which I had previously filed a number of undebated Motions. I congratulate the Government for the appointment of Chief M. N. Ugochuku as its first Chairman. The appointment is wise for such a vital venture must be entrusted in capable and experienced hands rather than in the hands of academic theoreticians with no practical knowledge and experience.

While agreeing with the hon. Minister that its function should be the provision of long and medium-term finance, I shall add that it should

“assist in establishing new private industrial enterprises ; help in the expansion of modern and existing ones ; stimulate private capital both foreign and domestic ; help develop a market for industrial securities.” The Bank should be empowered to help capitalise new industrial undertakings, and to some extent establish and operate enterprises of its own. It should provide managerial and technical aids to enterprises it has decided to finance. Its rate of interest must be moderate ; something like  $3\frac{1}{2}$  per cent must be considered adequate. As for the successful raising of capital, I suggest that the Industrial Development Bank, apart from invitations to foreign banks and governments, should issue invitations to local and indigenous banks, industrial establishments and the public forthwith.

As for the working of the Bank, I suggest that it should give primary attention to financing heavy industries and must resist the temptation and excessive leaning towards light, extractive or processing industries, urban construction and roads which will undoubtedly press hard on it notwithstanding that the State cushioning and initiation of heavy industries will continue. I must warn against the Government falling into the error of merely allowing the Bank to look around for industries

to develop or of instructing it to develop some chosen industries in a given way without strict investigation as to its viability and desirability. When loans are given to enterprises by the Bank, it must make sure that they are used for the purpose for which they were made. I am emphasizing this point because there had been cases in the past when, by Ministerial magic wand and insufficient scrutiny by the Loans Board, loans had been granted without sufficient security. In this respect I refer to pages 13-21 of the Second Report of the Public Accounts Committee, Session 1963-64, printed on the 8th of January, 1964.

I commend the hon. Minister for the effective working of his financial innovations. Firstly, the security and money markets are commendable, that is to say the Lagos Stock Exchange is well introduced. I must say that this embryonic institution has made tremendous progress and its branches should be extended to the Regions if its full impact on our economy is to be realised.

**Mr Speaker :** Order ! It is now twelve mid-night and pursuant to the Order of the House this day, the House stands adjourned.

*Adjourned accordingly at 12 mid-night.*